





## CONTACT

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

## EDITOR

Sean Car

## PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

## ADVERTISING

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

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

The deadline for the April edition is March 17.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Twitter  
@CBD\_News\_3000

Like us on Facebook  
cbdnewsmelbourne

Follow us on Instagram  
@cbdnews

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

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



# Time to shift the narrative to residents

*The constant calls by our Lord Mayor for office workers to return to the CBD, while understandable, continue to demonstrate that the council isn't focusing enough attention on a resident-led recovery.*

WORDS BY Sean Car

EDITORIAL

"The shackles are off," Lord Mayor Sally Capp proclaimed after the state government lifted work-from-home mandates and mask-wearing rules on February 22. "People can now feel confident to come back into the city for work."

The deliberate use of the word "shackles" was undoubtedly provocative, but for many, it isn't a sentiment that's shared.

There can be no questioning that the Lord Mayor finds herself between a rock and a hard place on this issue.

On one hand, she must be the public champion of Melbourne and its COVID recovery – a job she does very well.

Yet on the other hand, she in her own words acknowledges that "the rhythm of the city has changed" and, deep down, must know it will never be the same.

But for an economy worth more than \$100 billion pre-pandemic, centred largely around a bustling CBD, it must be a hard truth for the council to reconcile.

While the Lord Mayor spruiked the advantages of workers "collaborating side-by-side" in a city where "magic happens", a recent Twitter post by a city worker put things into stark context ...

"So we're straight, I'm expected to spend \$15 a day to spend two hours travelling on 'rona-riddled trains, pay for and put my son in outside hours care, and the sole reason I need to do all this is to prop up CBD cafés?"

If COVID has taught us anything, it's that we can do things differently. For many, the need to commute into the office, when they can do it all from home, has already become a thing of the past.

While many, including myself, do miss the tactility of being in an office and prefer meeting in-person than on Zoom, it's become a valuable part of the mix for workers who now enjoy unprecedented flexibility.

And, if the recent Omicron wave taught us anything, it's that many are happy to place "shackles" on themselves when necessary to ensure their own health and safety. This will continue to be a feature of our lives as more COVID strains emerge.

Hence, the Lord Mayor would know as well as anyone that the 9 to 5, Monday to Friday world has shifted, and for the CBD, that means some difficult and robust conversations surrounding its future.

There is no silver bullet to reimagining the CBD. In the short term, workers are but one component. With international borders reopening, tourists and international students will also begin to reappear.

But, what about our residents?

At the last count, there are around 38,000 residents living in the CBD. While this figure pales in significance to the numbers that once flowed through the streets of Melbourne pre-COVID, it's one that's been steadily growing since the establishment of postcode 3000.

It's convenience that underpins the lifestyle in the CBD. And while the council has recently partnered with the state government and realestate.com.au to promote this lifestyle by offering stamp duty concessions and benefits for first homebuyers, it's one that continues to be diminished in preference of office workers and "bringing back the buzz".

At the beginning of the pandemic, residents saw their amenity quashed during lockdowns by the government's decision to extend construction hours from early in the morning until late at night.

Fast forward two years – in this edition, *CBD News* reports a rooftop bar application being issued with a late-night liquor licence close to residential homes, while the way in which the council is embarking on the rollout of more CBD bike lanes is causing concerns for safety and accessibility.

These are just a smattering of issues currently affecting residents, who are too often overlooked. And after two years of a pandemic, where has the real effort been to support residents and, in doing so, promote the city as a great place to live?

Why in neighbouring Docklands and Southbank, can precinct groups there, with the support of the council, initiate Love Your Local style campaigns to get residents connecting with their local businesses? Why nothing of the sort in the CBD?

The physical and psychological shift to reimagine the CBD as anything other than a "Central Business District" is monumental, but those future-shaping conversations around what that vision looks like can only start through actions. Not by just banking on the ways of old.

Workers will always be important, but so too are our residents. The Lord Mayor and the council ought to start championing their causes just as loudly if the CBD is to begin its reinvention sooner rather than later •



Sean Car

EDITOR

SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



  
COLLINS PLACE

THERE'S A  
NEW DAME  
IN TOWN.

Visit

Atrium entry, 35 Collins St  
www.dame.melbourne

DAME



# Police nab unsafe scooter riders in the CBD

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Police have cracked down on unsafe electric scooter use within the CBD after a new hire scheme began in February.

A Victoria Police operation on the first weekend hired e-scooters were available in Melbourne (on February 4 and 5) detected 38 separate offences within the Hoddle Grid, including for failing to wear a helmet, disobeying red lights and carrying a passenger.

Infringements were handed out to riders using both hired and privately-owned e-scooters; the vast majority of which are illegal due to state government legislation dictating they cannot travel faster than 10kmh.

The hired scooters, however, are exempt from those laws as part of a one-year trial scheme signed with three adjoining council areas.

“We just asked people to use common sense and embrace [the hired e-scooters] for what it is, to see if it’s another way of getting around the city,” Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir said.

“We want people to self-regulate here. We don’t want to have to be out necessarily pulling people over because we want them to do the right thing. But let me tell you if they don’t, then we will.”

Up to 1500 scooters are now 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.

Assistant Commissioner Weir said normal road rules applied for those who decided to ride the relatively new mobility option.

“We want people to engage with the trial and



▲ Police book two electric scooter riders on Swanston St.

do it properly, do it sensibly,” he said. “You will be breath tested, you can’t be over the limit the same as a motor vehicle, as part of the trial, you can’t have a passenger, you must wear a helmet ... if people think they’re going to come in and hire a scooter and get on the gas and try and get away from the police well, we will absolutely do our best to safely enforce those rules,” he said.

While electric scooter use has exploded in mostly Europe and North America in recent years, safety issues continue to raise questions about the new micro-mobility option.

The introduction of the hire scheme within the CBD and surrounds has elicited a strong response from both e-scooter proponents and those against their presence in pedestrian-heavy areas.

The City of Melbourne has said “significant data” would be gathered during the 12-month trial to understand how the vehicles could, in the long term, be safely incorporated into the transport network ●

# Local anger at pub’s rooftop plans, but council largely powerless in dispute

*Continued from page 1.*

surrounds and, therefore, we should not be permitting the consumption of liquor on the rooftop after 11pm ... we do take very seriously the rights of citizens in the City of Melbourne — who have been there for a couple of decades now — to sleep after midnight.”

A report from council officers, however, noted that residents should not expect the same level of amenity within the Hoddle Grid as other areas of Melbourne.

“Residents in the surrounding area cannot expect the same level of amenity that may be expected in suburbs outside the central city,” it read.

Conditions were placed on the planning permit including mandated extra noise testing for the site, and that the council could request additional noise testing at any time after the rooftop venue opened.

The case was due to be heard at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) after the council failed to grant a planning permit within the prescribed 60-day time period late last year.

The Crafty Squire is managed by Australia’s second-largest pub operator Australian Venue Co, which operates more than 170 venues nation-wide, including (in the CBD) the Duke of Wellington, European Bier Cafe and Beer DeLuxe Fed Square.

## CBD resident amenity: A juggling act

The issue of resident amenity has perhaps taken on a greater level of importance given the City of Melbourne’s push for homebuyers to consider purchasing and living in the central city.

In October it launched the “This is Your Local” campaign, which promotes the CBD as an affordable places to live, and a way to revive a post-COVID city.

Councillors have even flagged a similar revival of the 1990s policy “Postcode 3000” that



▲ A render of the rooftop proposal.

encouraged people to move into the CBD to prevent city streets city becoming “soulless glass canyons” and “a ghost town at weekends”, according to then Lord Mayor Des Clark.

But the promotion of the CBD as a liveable community must also juggle the desire to be a “24-hour city”; another one of the council’s aims.


As one of the 45 objectors to the Crafty Squire permit put it: “What does council propose to do for residents ... for future proposed plans like this that will affect their quiet enjoyment moving forward? Especially to be able to then regenerate residents moving into the city, which of course everyone wants to promote?”

Cr Jamal Hakim said it was an area of concern, and something the council was watching closely.

“The discussion around noise is something that’s really important in the way we’re crafting our planning in and around the city, and what we want to see out of living in our city,” he said.

“We will be watching this very carefully as part of our continued promotion of living in Melbourne.” ●






www.nevile.com.au

Not Your Normal Lawyers  
In Collins Street

As a visit to our quirky, art filled office will quickly show you, our clients find we are anything but boring.

We do not focus on giving you just legal advice, but on providing you with outcomes and solutions that will help foster a long term working relationship.

Contact Us Today





DINING | ACCOMMODATION | SHOPPING | ENTERTAINMENT



# Dai Loong out on the Moomba Parade

**Monday, 14 March 2022**

+ Follow the Dragon back to Chinatown after the Parade at 12.15 p.m.

+ All shops, including Restaurants and the Chinese Museum will be open

+ Book for your lunch (at 1.00 p.m.) or dinner

+ Come and stay in Chinatown for the long weekend

**CHINATOWN PRECINCT ASSOCIATION INC.  
IS GIVING AWAY FREE BBQ PORK BUN  
AND DUMPLING**

Pick up your bun and dumpling  
from Chine Express  
Shop 9, Paramount Centre

**FREE ENTRY TO THE CHINESE MUSEUM**  
Home of the Dragon, in Cohen Place.  
Open 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.



**TO REGISTER FOR THE DAI LOONG PARADE**

[www.chinatownmelbourne.com.au/moomba22](http://www.chinatownmelbourne.com.au/moomba22)

Enquiries: [contact@melbournedailoong.com.au](mailto:contact@melbournedailoong.com.au)

For any other enquiries: [cpamel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cpamel@bigpond.net.au)



**MELBOURNE  
DAI LOONG**  
墨爾本大龍會



Chinatown Melbourne  
墨爾本唐人街



**VICTORIAN  
multicultural  
commission**  
strengthening our community



# “Shackles” released as work-from-home, mask rules scrapped

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ECONOMY

The removal of two key COVID restrictions represents a releasing of the “shackles” for CBD workers and traders, according to Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

From Friday, February 25, state government advice to work from home where possible and the office mask mandate were both scrapped in what the government called a “safe and sensible return to the office”.

While Victorians would still need to wear a mask in higher-risk settings, the removal of the office edict — which had been described as a “handbrake” on the return of CBD workers by Property Council director Danni Hunter — was crucial, according to the Lord Mayor.

“The shackles are off, and people can now feel confident to come back into the city for work. Good coffees, long lunches, the theatre after work, pre-drinks before footy at the G — the Melbourne we all love is here waiting for you,” Cr Capp said.

“For everyone who has missed the buzz and bumping into their next colleague, their next boss or their next customer, come back to where the magic happens — the city.”

The news is welcome to the hundreds of CBD traders who so heavily depend on a steady flow of workers coming into the city daily.

In the February edition of *CBD News* one trader said the Omicron wave was “as bad as lockdown”, with restaurants and retailers dealt the combined blow of plummeting staff numbers due to high case numbers throughout the community.

The decision about masks and work from home advice (plus the tapering of daily cases) meant that while a return to pre-COVID business activity was not expected, businesses could better plan for a steadier flow of clientele.

Premier Daniel Andrews noted the flow-on effect that lifting the mask restrictions would have on local businesses.



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

“Victorians can head back to work, without needing to wear a mask in the office. And cafes and lunch spots around Victoria can start to welcome back the regulars they’ve missed so much,” he said.

The move represents a sharp shift in government policy.

Less than three weeks prior to the announcement that restrictions would ease, Mr Andrews said masks were “not coming off any time soon” when asked about the prospect of a wide-scale return to the office.

Cr Capp, who had put the hard word on the state government to remove work-from-home advice, said that while a permanent shift to flexible work arrangements had meant the “rhythm of the city has changed”, she was confident workers would return.

“We are doing everything we can to entice you [workers] back because we believe in this city and its possibilities,” she said.

However in comments that could draw the ire of those who have enjoyed the flexibility of working from home, particularly workers who live outside the CBD who have claimed a

*“Reclaim your bedroom as a personal sanctuary, your kitchen for cooking and your lounge room for leisure. Stake your claim in the office and be part of the extraordinary that happens when people cluster to collaborate and innovate.”*



greater work-life balance during COVID, the Lord Mayor said it was time to “stake your claim in the office.”

“We’ve endured two years of ordinary. Two years of staring at the same four walls. It’s time to move, to interact with new faces and to feel that sense of discovery again,” she said.

“Reclaim your bedroom as a personal sanctuary, your kitchen for cooking and your lounge room for leisure. Stake your claim in the office and be part of the extraordinary that happens when people cluster to collaborate and innovate.”

## Standoff ends

The lifting of restrictions for workers signals the end of a standoff between the City of Melbourne and state government about the return to work.

While strongly aligned with the state government on messaging through most of the pandemic, a growing frustration between those at Town Hall and Spring St emerged during the past month.

Groups like the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Property Council and NAB had — unsurprisingly — pushed hard for the return of CBD workers.

A statement from the Chamber’s chief executive Paul Guerra on February 17 had spoken of a growing frustration with the government’s decision to hold off on lifting restrictions.

“The many CBD businesses that rely on weekday trade from office workers have been screaming out for a signal of when and how they can return, and they continue to languish while the bills mount up,” Mr Guerra said.

But while those criticisms were expected, Cr Capp’s growing frustration was evident too.

The Lord Mayor said the issue “showed the power of leadership”, and the “importance of what [the government] says.”

“The advice is ‘work from home if you can’, and that’s meant that hundreds of thousands of people are working from home. That leadership, for the Premier to signal that it is COVID-safe to return to workplaces, that’s something that’s absolutely vitally important,” she said in a Joy FM interview on February 5.

“The first thing that we need to see changed is for our Premier, when he feels it safe to do so, to say ‘come on back to city workplaces’. And it really does underline the importance of leadership. That is what people are waiting to hear.”

In announcing the move, Health Minister Martin Foley said the government had balanced the need to support the health system with the wider benefits of easing restrictions ●

# QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

*online*

Can’t make it to the Market?  
Shop Queen Vic Market Online for the best market fresh produce including fruit & veg, seafood, meat, cheese, bread, eggs, organics, nuts, coffee, wine, flowers and more.

Order by 10am on a market day  
for same day service.

## MARKET FRESH PRODUCE HOME DELIVERED



Home Delivery

or



Click & Collect

[QVM.COM.AU/SHOP](https://qvm.com.au/shop)



ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# REPORT GRAFFITI AND STREET WASTE ONLINE



Our Rapid Response Clean Team helps make the city sparkle

**The City of Melbourne is proud to launch the Clean Melbourne Graffiti Blitz on Clean Up Australia Day.**

Over a fortnight from 6 March, our Rapid Response Clean Team will move through the CBD and city gateways, removing graffiti tagging.

The graffiti clean-up will then move across the municipality to our neighbourhoods, to ensure Melbourne is clean, inviting and looking its best to support the city's recovery.

**Easy online reporting**

City officers are always on the lookout for litterbugs and take a zero-tolerance approach. From cigarette butts to fridges, they'll investigate and issue fines from \$363 to \$9113, depending on the offence.

We remove 6500 square metres of illegal graffiti each month, in response to 2500 reports from the public. This costs ratepayers about \$1.5 million annually.

You can help us keep our beautiful city clean and inviting by using the QR code on this page to report illegal graffiti and street waste in your neighbourhood.

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

Scan to report graffiti and street waste



Rapid Response Clean Team



## NEW KEYPASS TO FAMILY FUN



Get discounted entry to attractions like SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium

Explore magical underwater worlds, snap a selfie with a giant, optical-illusion mural and cruise along the Yarra River – Birrarung thanks to a City of Melbourne initiative attracting families to the CBD.

The Melbourne Attractions Keypass will unlock a 25 per cent discount for tickets to SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium, ArtVo and Melbourne River Cruises when bundled together.

The Keypass initiative is a partnership between the City of Melbourne and online travel agency Klook. Tickets are available to purchase until 31 March.

In addition to the Keypass, you can also snap up 15 per cent discounts for many more popular Melbourne experiences, including foodie tours, ice-skating and boat rental.

Find out more at [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

# FOOD AND ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION EXPANDED

**Keep an eye out for new food and garden organics bins being delivered to 14,000 dwellings in buildings of up to five storeys from late March.**

The first phase of our food and garden organics collection was rolled out to more than 9000 single unit dwellings from last June.

Since then, we've diverted more than 830 tonnes of organic waste from landfill, making it into compost for parks and gardens. We're now developing tailored approaches for apartment buildings.

**Why organic waste matters**

Organic waste in landfill generates methane, a gas which has a climate change impact 25 times greater than carbon dioxide.

That's why it's important to process this waste differently and keep it out of landfill.

By removing organics from the general rubbish collection, we can cut our residential landfill footprint in half, reduce carbon and methane emissions and promote a circular economy.

This project is part of our wider plan to reduce landfill and improve waste and recycling services across the municipality as outlined in our

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

**How to use the new green bin**

You can dispose of things like fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, fish, weeds, and grass cuttings in your new bin. Remember, if it grows, it goes in the new green bin with the lime green lid.



We are expanding our organic waste collection to multi-unit dwellings

We will support residents with information and events as we roll out this service across the municipality.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste)

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.

**Connect with us**

- /cityofmelbourne
- @cityofmelbourne
- @cityofmelbourne





# King St development keeps pub, upgrades “hidden square”

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

A new 23-level office development on King St will keep and upgrade an existing pub and upgrade a “hidden” pocket park in a small CBD laneway, as part of the works.

Plans for the \$95 million development on the corner of King and Little Bourke streets were commended by heritage activists and praised by the City of Melbourne, as planning chair Nicholas Reece said the proposal delivered the “exact opposite” of the “dreaded glass curtain” seen in other parts of the Hoddle Grid.

Councillors gave the green light to developer Argo’s plans for the site between 204 and 232 King St in February, having previously approved a similar (albeit “inferior”, according to councillors) proposal back in July 2020.

After securing approval in 2020, Argo then purchased the adjacent property at 232 King St and enlarged the mixed-use development, which was put to and endorsed by the council.

Importantly, plans include the retention of the existing pub (Hotel Animal) at 204 King St, once home to the 1860s-built Great Western Hotel.

The pub, which does not currently benefit from heritage protection, will receive a new kitchen during works.

“It is commendable that the developers are retaining and partially restoring facades that haven’t yet been heritage-listed,” Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies said in a submission to the council.

“It is also great to see the pub will actually retain its function as a pub post-development, something sadly lacking in many recent pub redevelopments in the CBD.”

Of similar importance for CBD residents, the development includes plans to upgrade the “pocket park” on Brown Alley, with design changes to ensure the character of the laneway (including the use of recycled brick) is retained. James Pearce, director at the project’s



▲ The “refreshed pocket park” along Brown Alley.



▲ An artist’s impression of the new office development.

architects Fender Katsalidis, said the alley would undergo a “wonderful transformation” from largely being a service lane at present, into an “activated people place”.

The small square would be “refreshed” according to Mr Pearce, and Cr Reece forecast it could increase in popularity as a result.

“It is in many respects a hidden square of Melbourne, and I do think that as a result of this development, that square is going to become one of the most popular in Melbourne,” he said.

“And it will become a very popular gathering place for office workers at lunchtime and for all people of Melbourne at other times of the day. I can see and hope of a time when that little square will become a place that is featured in advertisements about Melbourne and showcases those little secret corners of our city which we love so much.”

Overall, the Deputy Lord Mayor commended the positive collaboration between council officers, developer and architect.

“It’s an absolutely outstanding building and it’s going to be a development for which Melbourne can be proud,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

*“It is a very big building, but we have managed to, through clever design, avoid the dreaded, monotonous glass curtain.”*



“The new design delivers a building that has substantially less bulk to it. The use of very clever, deep recesses really breaks up the design. Also, I think we have a very significantly improved frontage along King St, a facade which is very much broken up and very interesting on the eye. It is a very big building, but we have managed to, through clever design, avoid the dreaded, monotonous glass curtain. This is in many ways the exact opposite of that, with lots of detailed design features that make it very visually interesting and appealing.”

Construction was expected to begin this year, and the development was due for completion by 2024.

A planning quirk has meant that while the City of Melbourne was responsible for signing off initial plans in 2020, the new proposal now exceeded 25,000 sqm in total floor area (the cut-off for whether developments are decided on by the council) and it was now in the hands of the state government.

The council’s tick of approval, however, is important when Planning Minister Richard Wynne makes a final decision on the proposal ●



## DISCOVER MELBOURNE'S HIDDEN GREEN SPACES

It’s time to rediscover what’s great about Melbourne’s vibrant CBD.

There’s plenty of lush green spaces nestled within Melbourne’s concrete playground that will have you getting in touch with nature at your doorstep.

Check out Melbourne's first elevated green space at Melbourne Quarter’s Sky Park or unwind at TiTree Park with free WiFi and impressive city views.

Find out more at [melbournequarter.com/oasis](https://melbournequarter.com/oasis) or scan the QR code:



Your inner city oasis awaits at Melbourne Quarter, opposite Southern Cross Station.





# QVM traders gutted after being kicked out of food hall

Continued from page 1.

“Others have come and gone ... out of all the shops we’ve been there the longest probably and it’s been the most successful. It doesn’t make sense,” she told *CBD News*, adding she planned to hold a meeting with QVM Pty Ltd over the matter.

“We’ve participated in everything they’re done, we’ve been out there with ideas, we’ve been in the night market, and Café Gilli [which opened during the pandemic] has proven itself.”

“We never thought in a million years we would’ve lost Verona.”

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said following a competitive process “a really impressive suite of great food attractions” was chosen “that we think will bring a nice contemporary touch to the space.”

“Many of our existing operators have been retained but we will be reinvesting in some new concepts as well,” he said.

“Two of the existing tenants were not successful but one of those operators has two other great businesses in the market and one person was not successful.”

QVM called for interest from potential traders, including all-day cafes, modern Asian kitchens, taquerias, burger and sandwich bars, woodfired pizzas, ramen and noodles, sweets and treats, and juices and healthy choices.

Friends of QVM spokeswoman Mary-Lou Howie said it had been a “traumatic time” for food court traders waiting to know if they had an ongoing business.

“It has been an obscene waste of money for QVM which is financially on its knees, and a huge waste of time and money for affected traders who invested considerable resources coming out of COVID to submit for their livelihoods,” she said.

Ms Howie was also critical over a “serious lack of clear communication” between management and stallholders about restoration work in F shed, with traders having “absolutely no security of tenure and [who] cannot plan for the future of their businesses.”



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp (centre) with QVM CEO Stan Liacos (centre right) celebrate the start of refurbishment works for a new food hall with workers last month. Photo: John Tadigiri.

Work is currently under way to demolish the existing food court, with a new steel roof to be installed in the coming months.

The building will also be re-fitted to create a vibrant indoor dining destination, with more than 80 additional indoor seats.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the new food hall would “become an exciting destination for the market, making it easier for traders to do business, while encouraging more visitors to dine, shop and dwell in the precinct.”

“Our plans have been shaped by feedback from traders who told us the existing 1980s food court was outdated, hampering their potential to innovate and grow,” she said.

“We’re transforming the site with a new roof and flooring, a modern fit-out with new services and amenities, greenery, and additional

space for customers to sit and eat.”

Meanwhile, Mr Bibb said he was considering taking QVM to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to have the decision overturned.

“If things work out, I want to go back for my regulars. Management would have to change as well. They’ve all got big ideas, but no one has had market experience,” he said.

“At the moment I’d be happy to do someone’s dishes or pack shelves at a supermarket or do something a bit different until I get back there if I can.”

Tim Moore, who has been trading at the market since the 1970s selling jewellery, commented that the two unsuccessful traders should have “been offered first right of refusal” if the council or QVM had “any decency”.

“Two of the existing tenants were not successful but one of those operators has two other great businesses in the market and one person was not successful.”



While construction is under way for the food hall – which is part of the \$250 million redevelopment of Queen Victoria Market – pedestrians and vehicles are being diverted around the site. The rest of the market remains open, and the City of Melbourne said several events would be held in the precinct from late March as part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

In other developments, Luke Hilakari, secretary of Victorian Trades Hall Council, has recently been appointed as director of the QVM board.

According to the QVM website, Mr Hilakari “passionately believes that markets play a crucial role in bringing communities together, supporting the livelihoods of families while delivering quality fresh food and goods to local residents.” ●

# Botswana Butchery

New Zealand’s ultimate dining experience arrives at Collins Place this April.



VISIT [BOTSWANABUTCHERY.COM.AU](https://BOTSWANABUTCHERY.COM.AU) TO LEARN MORE



COLLINS PLACE





▲ Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Sheena Watt, left, with staff from RMIT and La Trobe universities as well as representatives from the City of Melbourne, C4NET, Citipower and Powerco, and Victoria's lead scientist Dr Amanda Caples during the launch of the new research facility.

## RMIT leads charge for all-electric vehicles with new research centre

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

A new electric vehicle research facility will be established at RMIT University's city campus, thanks to a \$5.2 million funding boost from the state government.

Situated in the heart of the CBD, the university said the facility would be the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

Dubbed the "Electric Vehicle Living Lab", it will feature charging stations, a regenerative grid, and battery simulators, with capacity to carry out "real" scenario testing.

With Victoria's transport sector currently accounting for 25 per cent of the state's emissions, the major investment marks an important step for the government's goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The state is aiming to have half of all new car sales to be electric by 2030 and its public bus fleet to all be all-electric by 2025 – with research from the lab to help inform a "smooth transition" to sustainable transport.

The facility will be in operation by mid-2023 and create 18 jobs while also providing hands-on training for students.

"We know our local universities have a lot to offer which is why we're working with them, and industry, to build a bright future – while also creating great study, research and job opportunities for Victorians," Higher Education, Training, and Skills Minister Gayle Tierney said after announcing the project's funding on February 15.

Led by RMIT, the \$8.18 million "Supporting the Electrification of

Victoria's Future Fleet" project will also be a collaboration with Monash and La Trobe universities as well as industry partners Siemens, the City of Melbourne, Centre for New Energy Technologies (C4NET) and CitiPower/Powercor.

RMIT deputy vice-chancellor research and innovation and vice-president Professor Calum Drummond said it would develop cutting-edge battery technology and simulate the impacts of "widescale electric vehicle adoption on electricity grid loading, prices and the broader system."

"As well as applied technology development, a full-scale applied research project will inform policy towards Victoria's net zero emission targets in the transport sector, proactively addressing both likely and unforeseen challenges as electric vehicles are adopted at accelerated rates," he said.

James Seymour, CEO at C4NET, said in addition to its support of EV research, it would seek to develop an electric vehicle data library including real-world data on travel patterns, user behaviour and customer responses to tariff signals, and details on the performance of various battery technologies.

Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Sheena Watt said the project was important step "for the future of clean, green transport in Victoria" as well as the state reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund for the research centre comes in response to the significant impact of the pandemic on universities ●

## CBD-focused organisations receive grants

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria (BSRV) has received \$13,950 as part of the City of Melbourne's 2022 Connected Communities Grants program to go towards its mission of greater social inclusion for blind and vision-impaired people in Melbourne.

Understanding the immense impact the COVID pandemic and lockdowns have had on blind and vision-impaired people, BSRV president Maurice Gleeson couldn't be more "appreciative" of the grant.

He said the team was currently in the process of planning walks around the city, discussing "key areas" to be discovered and how to "best meet the needs" of their community.

"Because of the long COVID lockdowns, this grant is an opportunity for blind and vision-impaired people to be reconnected to the city of Melbourne and rediscover the city, because it has changed a lot in a short time with all the developments," Mr Gleeson said.

BSRV was established in 1977 and has continued to develop into a thriving charity that encourages blind and vision-impaired people of all ages and backgrounds to lead healthy and active lifestyles in their surrounding community.

The community grants also saw The Disability Resources Centre awarded \$19,331, which will be used to establish a Buddy Network, a peer support program for people with disabilities.

The centre's campaign officer Ally Scott said it was "delighted and extremely grateful" to have received the funds, saying the new program would address the loneliness, social isolation and helplessness "experienced by so many people with disabilities in the era of COVID-19."

"Volunteers with lived experience are vetted and trained to enable them to give meaningful one-to-one support to others in the disability community who are struggling in these difficult times. Those who are supported are encouraged, where possible, to become buddies themselves," she said.

Ms Ally said funding from the City of Melbourne was of "huge importance", providing critical community work



that would otherwise be impossible.

Charity group The Equality Project also warmly welcomed its \$12,000 grant which will help run its "Beyond the Rainbow" and "LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing" days, both to be held later this year in the CBD.

The Beyond the Rainbow day will be an event for workplaces/organisations to engage with LGBTIQA+ communities while the latter will be about empowering people with tools and strategies to improve health and wellbeing post COVID lockdowns.

The Project's general manager Marnie Southward said her group was "really grateful and really appreciative" to the City of Melbourne for the grant which would help reconnect people following last year's lockdowns.

STEM Sisters Vic Incorporated, a diverse group aimed at empowering women of colour in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, received a \$10,000 grant.

The funds will help the group bring the first-ever Soapbox Science to Melbourne during National Science Week this year, which is a novel public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists and their science.

The Town Hall's latest grants program is worth \$543,322 and went towards 77 different projects that Lord Mayor Sally Capp said would help ensure "residents feel engaged and supported".

Other recipients included the Drill Hall Residents Association (\$15,000), Residents 3000 (\$1550), Rotary Club of Melbourne (\$2000), Rotary Central Melbourne Inc (\$7060), Drill Hall Community Garden Association (\$2000), and Eastenders Inc (\$2000) ●

## Artist makes his CBD debut

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Just two months ago Christopher Theofanous was graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts.

This month he is in an exhibition in the CBD, a swift transition from student to exhibitor.

Every year Blindside Gallery in the Nicholas Building selects the most promising art graduates from RMIT, the VCA and Monash University for a show.

This year Christopher was among three students from the VCA in *Debut*.

The painter's wet-on-wet line-work made a lively impression in an otherwise sombre Grad Show this year and it attracted the attention of the curators.

Blindside offers the exhibition as a stepping stone from college, a time when artists need support.

Christopher said he was happy to perform the role of painter during the lockdown.

"You have loyalty to your subject. It's a job for me. I've



▲ Christopher Theofanous in front of B is for Byzantine.

been sitting it out. I still have paintings to make," he said.

The Masters graduate spent the time studying the paintwork of his mentors and developing his style. "I got interested in the way paint gets on the canvas," he said.

"A lecturer said painting is like a dinner party. You gather all the elements to have a good evening. That's how you make work." ●



When you shop at Clementine's,  
you will be helping over 80 small  
businesses across Victoria.

Supporting locally made since 2011.

Gifts, homewares, accessories,  
fine food.

7 Degrares St Melbourne, VIC 3000  
www.clementines.com.au







# Push for national response to homelessness

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HOMELESSNESS

The leader of a charity who threw his support behind a CBD project last year to create an emergency housing shelter says it “doesn’t surprise” him that a national homelessness strategy has yet to be developed.

“It’s just government in general, they are very slow to adopt anything, and leadership needs to come from the private sector,” Rob Pradolin, the founder and director of Housing All Australians, which focuses on providing affordable housing for the vulnerable, said.

His comments come after the federal government refused to develop a national homelessness strategy, as recommended by a parliamentary inquiry in February.

The Inquiry into Homelessness called on the federal government to develop and implement a 10-year national strategy to address Australia’s growing homelessness crisis.

However, the government rejected the recommendation – with just two of the 35 recommendations from the bipartisan committee fully supported.

Mr Pradolin, whose not-for-profit organisation managed to collect \$4 million worth of donations in paint, linen, and furnishing from big firms to go towards an emergency housing shelter at 602 Little Bourke St, which the state government announced last year would be redeveloped, said homelessness could not be addressed by governments alone as “it requires cooperation and collaboration.”

“We submitted to both the Victorian and the federal government inquiries without any expectations of anything being implemented, because that’s normally what happens,” he said.

“If you don’t do affordable housing, by the time it trickles down all the way, at the end you’re going to keep on getting people who are going to drop into homelessness and that’s costing the economy a lot of money.”

In response to its inquiry, the federal government said it was committed to supporting all Australians, including those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as the nation emerged from the coronavirus pandemic.

“While state and territory governments are primarily responsible for delivering housing and homelessness services, in 2021-22 the Australian Government expects to spend around \$9.3 billion to help improve housing and homelessness outcomes,” it said.

“This includes an expected \$5.3 billion in Commonwealth Rent Assistance to help eligible Australians on welfare payments pay their rent and around \$1.6 billion through the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) to states.”

“The NHHA commits funding each year to states to contribute to improving access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing, including to prevent and address homelessness, and to support social and economic participation.”

Homelessness Australia Chair Jenny Smith said the federal government’s refusal to develop a homelessness strategy was “deeply disappointing, not only for our most vulnerable who desperately need assistance, but also to our homelessness services around the country, who work so hard to help them.”

“Throughout its response, the Federal Government repeatedly attempts to push the responsibility of housing and homelessness onto the states and territories, but it is clear this national crisis requires a national response,” she said.

Kate Colvin, spokeswoman for the Everybody’s Home campaign, said addressing homelessness was a shared responsibility.

“Throughout the government’s response they continually insisted that addressing housing issues and homelessness is just a responsibility for the states, but it’s clearly a shared responsibility so it’s really disappointing that the federal government has not made any additional investments.” ●

# Policewoman takes out top literary prize

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

A former policewoman has won the country’s most lucrative literary prize, worth \$100,000, for her debut book *Black and Blue*.

Veronica Gorrie, a Gunai/Kurnai woman who lives and writes in Victoria, won the Victorian Prize for Literature.

*Black and Blue* is a memoir of her childhood and the decade she spent in the police force.

“I’m so grateful my book’s done so well,” she said, accepting the prize to loud cheers at a ceremony at MPavilion on February 3.

The book deals with “deaths in custody and the way police are killing us,” she said. “We need to raise the age of criminal responsibility.”

The lit awards have a tradition of backing political causes. In 2019, the author of the prize-winning book *No Friend but the Mountain* spoke by phone at the prize-giving ceremony from detention on Manus Island.

The Kurdish journalist Behrouz Boochani has since been released and now holds an academic post.

Three of the past four winners of the prize have won them for debuts and this tradition was continued in other literary categories as the Minister for Creative Industries handed out more than \$200,000 in prizes.

Melissa Manning’s debut book *Smokehouse* won the fiction prize and was published by University of Queensland Press.

UQP had three titles on the fiction short list and a total of five titles in the prize overall, performing well in the Victorian literary stakes.

“I think they’re [UQP] willing to back beyond straight commercial,” Ms Manning told *CBD News*. “They’re a publishing house but at



▲ Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson.

the same time they’re willing to take a chance on different forms.”

*Smokehouse* is a series of interlocking stories that Ms Manning, who lives in Carnegie, states are in the “literary genre”.

She works as a lawyer by day and a writer by night and thinks about the meaning of words she uses in her jobs. “One’s for the beauty, the other is for the function,” she said.

Dylan Van Den Berg won the prize for drama for his play *Milk*. The play also won the NSW Premier’s award, even before it was performed.

Victorian Minister for Creative Industries, Danny Pearson, made the announcements and was photographed buying a book for himself at the Readings stand.

He went for *Tiger Daughter* by Rebecca Lim, winner of the People’s Choice award and a contender in the prize for young adult fiction.

“It’s important we get more Asian Australian stories around in Australia for people of non-migrant background to see in print,” Mr Pearson said.

He said his own mum was a bit of a tiger. “She’s fierce. As I was growing up, I was always surrounded by big, strong women.” ●



▲ Veronica Gorrie accepts the Prize for Literature.

ESTD. Melbourne 2012

### Coffee, anyone?

The Vine Coffee Roasters provides delicious food made from the finest and freshest ingredients. Our talented baristas are on hand to offer high quality coffee/tea options and a variety of breakfast and lunch selections, such as sandwiches, wraps, turkish rolls and salads. Catering is also available.

Come and enjoy great food and friendly service!

@thevinecoffeeroasters

RMIT Building 80, 445 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Mon - Fri: 7am - 5pm

CYP-B500266



# Residents express concern as more bike lanes imminent

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

CBD residents have expressed safety and congestion concerns as the City of Melbourne pushes ahead with creating more cycling lanes throughout the Hoddle Grid.

The council is due to begin works in March at the easternmost end of the CBD that will remove existing motorist lanes on both Spring and Bourke streets to create further protected lanes for cyclists.

In a February 15 meeting with residents' group EastEnders, council transport planner Luke Poland explained the upcoming works and why they were being implemented.

But residents revealed their concerns about the council's accelerated cycling lane rollout, which sought to deliver 40 kilometres of protected lanes and pedestrian improvements across the city.

Chief among the concerns was safety, with both cyclists and motorists worried about left-turning vehicles turning into through-moving cyclists.

"I'm very concerned about that left-turn concept with a bike that may not be stopped at the intersection where you're turning left, but will ride at pace down the hill," one resident said.

"As a motorist you actually can't see them ... we can't just wait for data on a death or a permanent injury. Waiting for data is just ridiculous."

Another CBD local, whose husband is a cyclist, said it was a dangerous situation for those on two wheels and proposed a solution to deal with the issue.

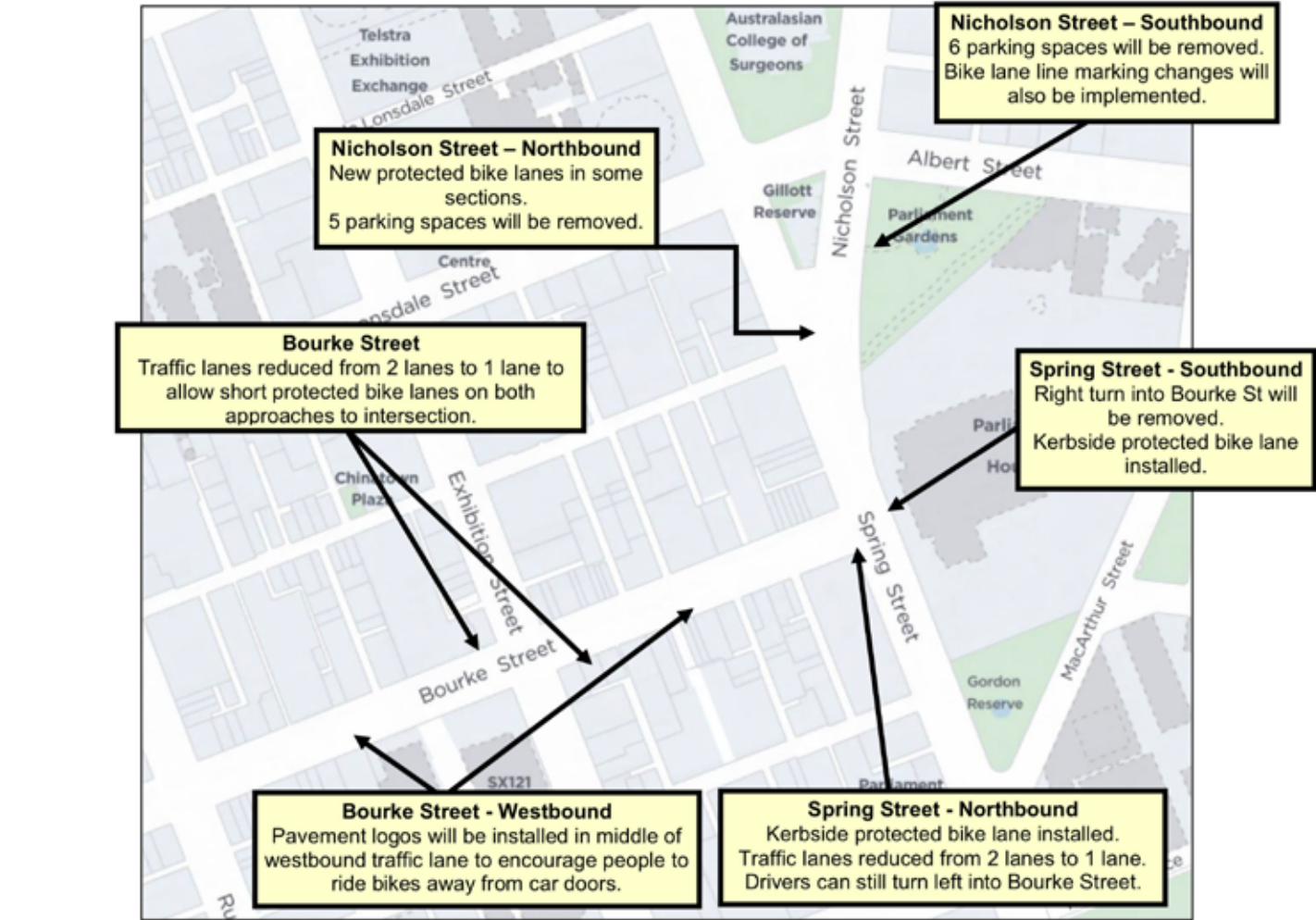
"At the moment they [motorists] ignore that lane and turn across in front of them," she said.

"What would really help the situation was if the pedestrian and cycling light could come on maybe two or three seconds prior to the traffic being able to turn left, so that the motorists actually see the cyclists."

Mr Poland confirmed that the council had received "a lot of feedback" from both cyclists and motorists about the issue and had plans to implement a similar solution.

However, he revealed that an agreement with the Department of Transport stipulated that the council's accelerated bicycle lane rollout would make changes to lane arrangements but, crucially, not traffic signals, which take between six and nine months to deliver.

"It's a very slow and painful administrative process, and we really wanted to deliver a network quickly," he said.



▲ Details of upcoming works in the CBD's east end.

"So we decided, in agreement with the Department of Transport, that we'd deliver the lanes and the tweaks that we'd need to make to signals to support that, we would make at the end of the [18-month] trial period. I acknowledge that in the interim it does require everyone to look out for each other and certainly bike riders to be hyper-conscious of the risk of moving around vehicles on the road."

Residents also expressed concern and disappointment regarding congestion associated with the bicycle lane rollout, whereby traffic lanes have been reduced.

EastEnders president Stan Capp revealed it took a friend, who had visited him in the CBD recently, 23 minutes to travel from a northern section of Exhibition St (at the corner of Lonsdale St) to the southernmost end (Flinders St).

"And there wasn't one bicycle rider on Exhibition St, which was the cause of some frustration to this person," he said.

Another resident said it had become an issue of basic access to their homes.

"As residents we have to have some access, we can't all be on our bikes, and we have to get back to our place of residence. Exhibition St, for me, is ridiculous, because you change lanes about four times before you get down to Flinders St from Victoria [St]. The bike lanes, to me, have created much more impact on the flow of traffic."

As part of the works, motorists travelling southbound on Spring St will no longer be able to turn right into Bourke St.

Residents in nearby narrow streets expressed concerns that drivers would detour to use their street in a bid to get back on Bourke St as soon as possible.

Mr Poland acknowledged there would always be teething issues with the accelerated cycle lane rollout.

However, he referred back to a key aspect of the survey that informed the council's Transport Strategy 2030

*"As a motorist you actually can't see them ... we can't just wait for data on a death or a permanent injury. Waiting for data is just ridiculous."*



— an issue that generated the largest response to a council consultation process.

In it, the survey revealed that 73 per cent of people would be confident cycling with a protected lane all the way up to an intersection, compared to just 16 per cent without a physical barrier.

This, he said, was a key driver to growing cyclist confidence within the city and increasing the overall number of cyclists.

Community consultation on the upcoming works were expected to conclude in February and, if approved, begin in March ●



David Schout  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



## START STRONG IN MARCH

Get a strong start to 2022 with Kieser!  
Join this month to receive:

4 WEEKS FREE

If you join in March you can also save on our Assisted Training 1 membership - pay just \$60/week (save \$49/week).

**KIESER**  
BE STRONG, STAY STRONG

www.kieser.com.au  
Terms and conditions: Offer only available for new Kieser clients who join by March 31st, 2022. Save \$49/week on a Core Membership. Offer does not apply to Flexi memberships. Only available to clients paying privately. Members rates for Physiotherapy will become available on April 1st, 2022.



# Fed-up residents call for better street tree care

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Residents are becoming increasingly frustrated over what they say is a lack of care for street trees in the CBD.

According to Jenny Eltham of the EastEnders residents' group, trees have been "neglected" in Punch Lane and Little Bourke St, leaving residents to carry out their own watering.

"The trees could be better cared for. It's taken me a year to get some real attention for one of the fig trees in Punch Lane which was so badly infested with Amelia bug it was losing its leaves," she said.

"We were hosing it off which is one treatment, but it really needed to be sprayed, which they did just before Christmas, but it needs spraying again."

Ms Eltham raised the issue at the EastEnders meeting on February 15 where staff from the City of Melbourne spoke about the council's urban forest fund grants [with applications closing March 11], along with some other opportunities for community involvement.

However, Ms Eltham argued the funding would be better spent on maintaining existing trees, which she described as a "valuable asset", and suggested that businesses should also be encouraged to "adopt-a-tree".

In a statement, the City of Melbourne said new trees received regular manual watering for the first two years as part of the Young Tree Maintenance Program.



"Once the trees have established well in the landscape, they are taken off this manual watering regime and will typically perform well with rainwater and run off," it said.

"The trees in Punch Lane and Little Bourke St (between Exhibition and Spring streets) have established well in the landscape and are no longer part of the Young Tree Maintenance Program. They were assessed as 'good' in early 2021 and are due for assessment again shortly."

The council added some trees in Punch Lane had been growing in "containerised environments" and would be "monitored separately and given additional water, as required".

The council also said the condition of trees were assessed annually with special maintenance undertaken on an as-need basis including manual irrigation.

However, resident Wendy Syme said some trees in Punch Lane "don't look well at all."

"Council are really good at doing all these wonderful infrastructure things, but they don't maintain anything," she said.

It comes as residents also told *CBD News* that rubbish had built up around the base of trees with plant boxes at parklets also not "looked after" ●



▲ Wendy Syme is among many residents who have voiced concern over a lack of maintenance for street trees.



## PSOs mark a decade of service

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

Victoria's protective services officers (PSOs) have served a decade on the job with the milestone marked with a commemorative patrol in the CBD in February.

The first squad of just 18 officers has now expanded to about 1250 officers.

Officers from the inaugural squad, who graduated from the Police Academy in 2012, wore their original white shirts when they joined today's newer recruits for a commemorative patrol at Flinders Street Station on February 22.

Assistant Commissioner Transit and Public Safety Command Dean McWhirter said PSOs continued to play a critical role on the rail network and beyond.

"Over the past 10 years the role of PSOs has evolved but their focus on keeping Victorians safe remains steadfast," he said.

"Today we recognise their outstanding effort and dedication and look forward to their continued contribution to Victoria Police."

PSOs are at more than 200 railway stations from 6pm until the last train service. They are also deployed to shopping centres, sporting precincts and highly populated areas to help prevent crime and support community safety.

## Uncertain about shopping?

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge and Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

So much of everyday life in the past two years has been conducted at a distance that people have become anxious about shopping.

The City of Melbourne has launched an innovative program to help shoppers regain confidence.

In The Anxiety Shop at the top of Bourke St you can talk about the issue.

Shop assistant Teneille Clarke is a talented interactive performer, and you can share your uncertainties with her.

"My job application said I have enough anxiety to be relatable in an anxiety shop but not too much to be able to cope," she said.

She got the job. She has complex PTSD but that just gives her more material for sharing with customers.

The slogan of the shop is that "weird thoughts are totally normal" and the merchandise by local artists provides an amusing take on the topic and includes t-shirts advising you to "embrace uncertainty", books about "feeling small", posters depicting strange figures, cards, and games.

The shop is one of 16 in the CBD now open where once they were empty, thanks to the shopfront activation program.

"You should visit The Anxiety Shop," said Cr Nick Reece, who spoke on behalf of a report tabled at a City of Melbourne committee meeting on February 15.

The aim of the program is to transform empty shopfronts in the CBD, Docklands and Carlton and participants claim that the opportunity to open a pop-up shop in the heart of the city has been a dream come true.



▲ Teneille Clarke at The Anxiety Shop.

“

*We're just growing leaps and bounds because of this opportunity, and we're all feeling quite confident about ourselves. We would never have considered having a shop in the city. We've actually gone to the next step and actually listed ourselves as a company.*

”

quite confident about ourselves," he said.

"We would never have considered having a shop in the city. We've actually gone to the next step and actually listed ourselves as a company."

He said limited-edition pieces were "reminiscent of street art energy".

Items range from skeleton bandits to bunyip boys [made from shampoo bottles], pride bears, Ayam Kampung [Indonesian street chickens],



▲ Cipta Croft-Cusworth.



babushka dolls, flesh boys, custom dolls, and sculpted found objects.

A council report said almost 100 shops had been activated across highly visible key locations in the municipality.

According to a council survey in January, 20 per cent of shopfronts were vacant across the municipality with a further five per cent temporarily closed due to COVID ●



# Mirvac plans to transform city tower into “world-class asset” as office workers return to the CBD

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

A \$650 million plan to refurbish a tower at the “Paris end” of Collins St and extend it by 15 storeys will be considered by the City of Melbourne.

ASX-listed developer Mirvac wants to revitalise its 1980s office asset at 90 Collins St to create a new “boutique workspace and office destination” for the CBD.

Under the plans, Mirvac will retain and refurbish the existing 21-storey building as well add extra levels to transform it into a 164-metre “new look workplace” as its customers enter a “post-COVID world”.

The revamp of the tower would include an additional 15,000 square metres of commercial space, a new lobby to Collins St, dedicated wellness areas, a connection from Alfred Place to Pink Alley via the ground floor, which would accommodate 3500 workers.

Mirvac said the project, which would take the building to 37 levels, would not have “any adverse impact” to the adjacent heritage buildings at 86-88 Collins St.

Mirvac office general manager Andrew Butler said the refurbishment was part of its commitment to reinvesting in assets with sustainability in mind.

“We are delighted to be able to demonstrate our confidence in the strength of Melbourne’s office market with this proposal to upgrade 90 Collins St into a boutique, world-class asset,” he said.

“In July 2021, we became the first Australian property company to reach net positive carbon, nine years ahead of our 2030 target.”

“Maintaining and refurbishing our existing assets, rather than opting to demolish them, means that we can retain the embodied carbon in the building. This fits our ‘whole life carbon’ portfolio approach, where we consider the carbon emissions produced over the entire lifecycle of a building,” Mr Butler said.

Designed in partnership with architects Fender Katsalidis, Mr Butler said the tower’s “high-quality, tech-enabled” office spaces and “best-in-class” sustainability credentials would be well sought after as companies look to return workers to the CBD.

Mirvac said it had made a commitment to contribute to capital works on Alfred Place adjacent to the site, allowing the City of Melbourne to deliver “an enhanced public realm for the benefit of the wider city”.

By purchasing the air rights of 86-88 Collins St from level three and above, Mirvac said it would ensure that “no further development can occur on this historic site, assisting with the retention of this important Collins St address”.

The proposal will be considered carefully by the City of Melbourne, but if approved Mirvac hopes to begin construction in 2023.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said council looked forward to working with the applicant to ensure “this is a world-class development at the best business address in Australia is one that Melburnians can be proud of”.

“A prime location like this at the Paris end of Collins Street is always going to attract a lot of attention and this application will be considered carefully by our planning



▲ Artist's impression showing the distinct break between new and existing tower forms.



▲ Render of the proposed podium articulation to Collins St.

officers and councillors,” Cr Reece said.

“The sustainable building benefits of the proposed approach is to be commended: building on top of the existing tower, rather than knocking it down, would make this a much more carbon-efficient project saving the equivalent of 2218 car trips around the world in carbon emissions.

“While we support the design concept, we would like to see further work done on the massing of the new addition and on the dialogue between old and new forms.

“This planning process is a fantastic example of City of Melbourne’s commitment to Design Excellence – the proposed design has received feedback from our Melbourne Design Review Panel [MDRP], which has been well-received by the developers and architects.”

CBD residents’ group EastEnders president Dr Stan Capp said in any new development he hoped heritage values of existing and surrounding buildings would be protected.

Dr Capp added the newly formed MDRP also “really needs to look at these really objectively and give advice to council” ●



▲ Dean usually rides a bike.



▲ Watch out for this fence.

## More vulnerable on a scooter

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
TRANSPORT

There’s a spot where the bicycle path beside the Yarra enters the area known as Birrarung Marr on the way into town.

Dean, of Richmond, remembers the details of the terrain only too well.

He was on an e-scooter and suddenly discovered a low fence next to the path.

When the sun is in your eyes, the cross pole is difficult to see. There’s grass on one side, concrete on the other, and a shady tree.

“I saw the bollards but not the silver bar,” said Dean, who flipped over the fence and landed on his head and shoulder.

Luckily the 40-something year-old engineer was wearing his own helmet.

A week after the accident he still had shoulder pain and was booked into see a physiotherapist for an x-ray.

“I’m quite embarrassed,” he said and did not want to be identified, but has come forward because others could make the same mistake.

With scooter fever hitting the city many with diners like Dean are heading off to the CBD for a long-awaited Saturday night out.

Dean, his partner and another couple picked up the e-scooters at the corner of Swan and Church streets and were on their way to a new vegan restaurant when the accident occurred.

“We had to ride on the road and that was pretty scary,” one of the party told *CBD News*. They then joined the bicycle path and that was easier but very busy with people attending

“

*I feel very lucky. I landed on concrete and I’m not a spring chicken.*

”

sports events.

“There was a flood of people coming the other way,” Dean said. “The sun was low. I went out onto the grass.”

That was a mistake, he said, yet any experienced cyclist will tell you that there are multiple sets of bollards you have to dodge to get into town.

“I hit the cross member. I flipped over and landed on by head and shoulder,” he said.

Dean’s hand was puffed up and bruised and his helmet was cracked by the impact.

“I feel very lucky. I landed on concrete and I’m not a spring chicken.”

He advises scooter riders not to go out onto the grass. In fact, he is giving scooters up. The ride cost \$13 but he’s already amassed medical bills of \$100.

“I suspect I won’t use a scooter. They’re quite different to riding on a bike. You’re more vulnerable on a scooter,” he said.

The party continued their journey by tram and got an Uber home ●

# Connect with your local community

**The CBD Community Hub** is a free online space to connect with fellow CBD locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more!

This Facebook group is owned by **CBD News**.

If you’re a local resident or business you can join up here:

[www.facebook.com/groups/melbournecbdcommunityhub/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/melbournecbdcommunityhub/)

**f CBD**  
Community Hub





ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS



**Have your say and help build a more inclusive, sustainable and empowered city, made up of many unique neighbourhoods.**

Understanding and responding to our community is central to the way we work at City of Melbourne and – as we strive to make life better than ever post-COVID – your voice has never been more important.

So we’re asking residents, business owners, visitors and students to share their thoughts about the unique strengths, needs and outlooks of each pocket of Melbourne.

**Your neighbourhood**

While we’re all Melburnians at heart, the services and support needed by each neighbourhood naturally differ, based on their unique demographics, opportunities and challenges.

This is why we’re taking an approach that focuses on our neighbourhoods, to capture, connect and respond to the specific needs of the community in a highly localised way.

Our new neighbourhood approach will focus on the following areas:

- CBD
- Kensington
- North Melbourne
- West Melbourne
- East Melbourne
- Carlton
- Parkville
- Docklands
- Southbank
- South Yarra.

**Localised community engagement**

For the first time, we will develop new and localised neighbourhood plans alongside communities, recording and responding to your ideas in a digital and real-time plan.

Ideas will be considered against Council priorities and presented online alongside relevant resources and project updates to give you a clear understanding of what we are delivering.

.....

**Conversation starters**

1. What makes your neighbourhood unique, and a great place to live?

2. What services, facilities or support would make life better?

3. When you picture your neighbourhood in its ideal state, what does it look like?

.....

TO HAVE YOUR SAY, VISIT  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/central-city-profile](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/central-city-profile)



**COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE COMMUNITY**

This year, we’re holding the second Future Melbourne Committee meeting of each month in community locations across the municipality, to shine a light on the unique needs of each neighbourhood and make it easier for people to engage with councillors and staff.

The locations will include Carlton, West Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, North Melbourne, South Yarra, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Kensington and Southbank.

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





ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# WHY WE LOVE THE CENTRAL CITY

Have you ever tried to count the ways you love the city? It's a trick question really, because the city reinvents itself every day, which means your list of favourites is likely a living thing too.

A restaurant in a car park. Rooftop bars. An underground Mexican bodega. Hidden gold vaults. A concept store in a cathedral-esque space. A cheese cellar. A vertical gallery with a view of Flinders Street.



Secret gardens. Cheeky container bars that spring up between towering buildings. A hole-in-the-wall chocolate shop. Basement vinyl. The Greek Quarter. Australia's oldest Chinatown.

Quietly discovering the stories of the city, such as where there was once a waterfall and a saltwater lake.

Free walks that take you on a quest for hidden gardens, Aboriginal Melbourne, icons and architecture, music legends, the glorious grid, street art. Stumbling across *that* Banksy.

So many layers of street art, from ephemeral paste-ups to monolithic murals. A new generation of artists flashing forward to unlock hidden gems in our beloved cobblestone laneways. Giant light boxes, walls that seem to glow, neon reminders.

A city of literature and knowledge. Bookshops for paperbacks, books for cooks, bookshops in basements and three floors up. A domed reading room. A piano serenade in a laneway library and new pop-up libraries in unexpected locales – even one for kids. A conversation hub. A gallery with a moat and a water wall and blockbusters and a



pink pond. A museum for immigration, another with a rainforest gallery.

People dressed as birds leaping into the river of mists while crowds cheer. Sleek fashion parades in laneways. Comedians in colourful costumes spruiking their new shows. Haunting creatures in a forgotten ballroom.

Pop-up shops. Stately arcades. A shopping complex built around a shot tower, another alongside our first public hospital. Walkways in the sky, connecting upscale retailers in a flurry of fashion, design and food. Artisans and entrepreneurs reinventing empty shopfronts.

The city soundscape. A sunrise walk along the Birrarung. Taking lunch in a pocket park. A twilight run around the gardens. An outdoor feast. A drink after the show. A late-night gig. A city pad or swish hotel to tumble into, with a nod to the old fabric and an eye on the new.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/central-city-profile](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/central-city-profile)



Number of people per household (average)  
**2**



Age (median years)  
**26.3**



Language other than English spoken at home  
**67%**



Residential population  
**54,700**



Number of businesses  
**8,232**

Sources: SGS Population and Jobs Forecast 2020, CLUE 2020, ABS Census 2016



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

## KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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





# Melbourne International Comedy Festival set to grace city stages

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Good old belly laughs are back as tshe Melbourne International Comedy Festival prepares to hit the stages with a sensational line-up of acts.

Kicking off on March 30, and running until April 24, the city will be buzzing with this year's festival to feature more than 400 shows. There'll be plenty of old favourites; Arj Barker, Stephen K Amos, David O'Doherty, Mark Watson, Flo & Joan, Carl Donnelly, and Phil Wang who returns after his Netflix special, with the world premiere of *The Real Hero In All This*.

This year's festival program will also be expanded beyond the city with shows hitting the suburbs through "Neighbourhood Sessions" which will see acts performed at Thornbury, Narre Warren, Werribee, Footscray, Moorabbin, Preston and Broadmeadows.

There will be something for everyone with performances including Comedy Club for Kids and The (Very) Big Laugh Out running all through the school holidays.

Other much-loved annual events filling up the calendar include The Gala proudly supporting Oxfam, Opening Night Comedy Allstars Supershow, The Great Debate, Upfront, plus the National Grand Finals for RAW Comedy, Deadly Funny and Class Clowns.

Local favourites sure to create some hilarious gags include Carl Barron, Becky Lucas, Harley Breen, Sam Campbell, Aaron Chen, Georgie Carroll, Nick Cody, Joel Creasey, Alice Fraser, Luke Heggie, Nazeem Hussain, Sammy J, Jimeoin, Ali McGregor and more ●

For more information:  
[comedyfestival.com.au/2022](http://comedyfestival.com.au/2022)



# A library encouraging childhood imaginations to "run wild"

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

Highlighting the value in nourishing and supporting a child's imagination, the City of Melbourne has opened up a new pop-up library in Federation Square.

A place for a child's mind to roam free, the library is for children of all ages and has an expansive range of fiction and nonfiction literature.

Opened from January 27 and remaining in place until mid-April, the council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said the new library would join other libraries in being the "most accessible local destination".

"[Libraries] are more than just books – they are a place of facts, fun and importantly, a place for everyone," he said.

"Our new pop-up library is the trendiest place for children to immerse themselves in fantastical stories and learn new things – with more than 1200 brand new books, as well as coding robots, fraction board puzzles and

interactive kits just waiting to be enjoyed."

Funded by both the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government, the pop-up library is part of the Melbourne City Revitalisation's \$200 million fund.

As an initiative aimed at helping support the city's creative arts and culture sector, the latest pop-up library is the third in the series and comes after a food-themed library in the Queen Victoria Market precinct and an Express Book Bar on Little Collins St.

"Around 1500 visitors have attended our first two pop-up libraries, taking advantage of the convenient locations, curated selections and the delightful Make It Space – where you can create anything from calico bags to 3D prints," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Our series of pop-up libraries is delighting Melburnians and bringing more people into the city more often."

As well as books and interactive kits, the latest library will also be hosting a range of family-friendly activities over the next coming months of its stay and will aid in bringing life back to Federation Square – a location the

“Our series of pop-up libraries is delighting Melburnians and bringing more people into the city more often.”

City of Melbourne has been striving to invigorate and make known as a globally iconic destination.

"The Fed Square library is the ideal place for parents and kids to discover a whole new fun-filled world," Cr Capp said.

"I can't wait to see young minds explore our latest offering." ●

# Buskers hit a high a note as live music scene returns to city streets

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
ARTS & CULTURE

For drummer Simon Wood, the opportunity to perform live music again with his bandmate in the city streets is a feeling of elation.

He is among hundreds of local talents who will perform in the CBD's streets and laneways during a four-week period as part of a new program to support the music industry, which has been hard -it by the pandemic.

Mr Wood, whose first live music gig was in Southbank in February, said it was a "really good feeling" to perform alongside guitarist Matt Katsis, who together form a two-piece band called Timbakat.

"Obviously through a lot of lockdowns, we weren't actually able to get together to play either to rehearse or to do gigs, particularly when we had tight restrictions," he said.

"We had a lot of fun ... a bit rusty at the start, but as we got through the songs, they all kind of came back and we fell back into the groove."

The \$9 million "On The Road Again" program, a state government initiative in partnership with the City of Melbourne, will see close to 700 busking performances along with pop-up shows.

The initiative, which kicked off on February 17, supports live music coming back across Victoria as the industry recovers from the pandemic.

It comes as the state government announced it would provide \$1.7 million in grants to support artists and businesses across the state.

Delivered through the state "Music Works" funding program, the grants will support 77 music projects involving close to 7000 professionals, allowing artists to record new albums, and make music videos.



▲ Busker Simon Wood, left, with bandmate Matt Katsis performing in the city. Picture: Contributed.

“Obviously through a lot of lockdowns, we weren't actually able to get together to play either to rehearse or to do gigs, particularly when we had tight restrictions.”

Mr Wood, 30, said doing paid gigs was a welcome boost.

"It's a great little kick-starter to get things going again," he said. "I've definitely missed it ... not being able to get out there and put on a show. It's a good feeling. It's like the good old days."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the busking program would showcase "our city's spectacular live music scene with surprise gigs by some of our best and brightest performers."

"Music is central to Melbourne's identity, and we'll continue to work with the industry to support and promote performers, producers and venues as they bounce back," she said ●

For more information:  
[vmdo.com.au/ontheroadagain](http://vmdo.com.au/ontheroadagain)

# Melbourne Money 3.0

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
BUSINESS

The "Melbourne Money" program will return to the city and encourage diners back to the CBD's cafes, bars and restaurants after an additional \$10 million round was recently announced by the state government.

The highly successful program works by reimbursing diners at selected venues with part of their bill back.

The Melbourne Money program is part of a \$200 million package that the state government announced on February 21.

The various initiatives of the package will go towards the recovery of sectors impacted by the Omicron variant, with a heavy focus on impacted areas in both the city and across the state.

"We're encouraging Victorians to experience the best the state has to offer by going to see a show, having lunch with friends or visiting somewhere new," Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula said.

"Business and consumer confidence is critical for our continued economic recovery and that's why we're investing in these programs to deliver a boost where it is needed most."

Out of the original package, \$100 million will be going towards voucher schemes that provide rebates for Victorians in entertainment, dining and travel.

Covered in this scheme, \$30 million will be going towards food and wine experiences in regional areas and suburbs, \$30 million towards theatre, live music and various other forms of entertainment and \$30 million to the Victorian Travel Voucher Scheme.

"This will help businesses in the creative sector while encouraging Victorians to get back to what they love doing," Assistant Treasurer Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said ●



# Melbourne's Food and Wine Festival celebrates 30 years

WORDS BY *Zak Wheeler*  
EVENTS

Renowned chefs from the world over will arrive in Victoria this month to celebrate food, culture and community for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival (MFWF).

Running from March 25 to April 9, the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival will be held at Queen Victoria Market once again with a headline Sunday Lunch hosted by British television chef, journalist and food writer Nigella Lawson.

"I'm thrilled and honoured to be joining the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival in March – the 30th birthday of a great festival in a great food city deserves a great celebration, and that's exactly what the festival will be. I so look forward to seeing you there!" Ms Lawson said.

The event will be inclusive to all food types and dietary requirements, giving all Melburnians and tourists an opportunity to find a feast that will satisfy them.

"Outside, inside, big or small, meat-based or plant-centric, top-dollar or free, wild, family-friendly or both, this festival has a food and drink adventure for you," MFWF creative director Pat Nourse said.

Partners for the event include primary partner Bank of Melbourne, and Visit Victoria acting as a destination partner.

"We're excited, once again, to support the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival in our 11th year as principal partner," Bank of Melbourne state general manager Anna McLiesh said.

Opening events in Treasury Gardens include: **Herald Sun World's Longest Lunch** – The first item on the ticket: three-courses curated by Attica's Ben Shewry showcasing his unique and hands-on methods of cooking, taking place Friday, March 25, 12pm to 4pm.

**Dan Murphy's World's Longest Brunch** – A brunch/lunch combo fit for fans of Melbourne's contemporary Middle Eastern contributions to the city's taste pallet. This will be the second consecutive brunch presented by Dan Murphy's, scheduled Saturday, March 26 10.30am to 1pm.

Some other events hosted at Queen Victoria Market throughout the week include, but are not limited to:

**Snacktown, presented by Grampians and Pyrenees Wines** – Two days of the best global eats from across the city, in one place.

**New Crush** – Showcasing Victoria's best drinks and drinks producers across beer, wine, cider, spirits and non-alcoholic.

**Welcome to the Jungle, presented by Wanderlust** – A celebration of plants, from the indoor variety to Melbourne's best plant-based eating and drinking experiences.

**The Big Spaghetti, presented by That's Amore Cheese** – Featuring pasta dishes across 10 stalls from the likes of Tipo 00, Mister Bianco, and more.

**The Convenient Store, presented by 7-Eleven** – stocks a keen-eyed edit of Victorian food and drink, mixing the high and the low,



▲ Nigella Lawson is thrilled to be joining the MFWF.

*Melbourne is famous for its culinary scene and we support the festival because it brings people into our city to taste the best of what's on offer – and that means more jobs in our local hospitality industry.*

offering a changing array of fresh and snacks from leading Melbourne chefs.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula said, "We're proud to support the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival as it celebrates thirty years of hosting Australia's most renowned foodie event."

"Melbourne is famous for its culinary scene and we support the festival because it brings people into our city to taste the best of what's on offer – and that means more jobs in our local hospitality industry."

CEO of the not-for-profit parent company behind MFWF Food + Drink Victoria Anthea Loucas said, "I'm super proud of this program which highlights the extraordinary food and drink experiences that make Melbourne so special." ●

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



## Melbourne Fashion Festival makes Fed Square the unifying "heartbeat"

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The iconic PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival is set to awaken 2022 with an extensive program of fashion and art coming together in the most creative, celebratory way.

Coming off the back of 2021's City of Melbourne Fashion Week November shows, where some of the most enthralling designers were showcasing their designs in renowned venues, the festival's 10 days of fashion is set to inspire.

With attention on sustainability topics being represented by the *Purchasing Power for the Planet* panel, *The Future of Fashion Resale* talk and up-cycling workshops, this year's festival has a keen eye on fashion circularity.

And there is something for the whole city to be involved in.

"Melbourne is Australia's undisputed fashion capital, and we can't wait to celebrate the industry's creativity, style and flair as part of this year's Melbourne Fashion Festival," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"The event will bring tens of thousands of fashion lovers to our wonderful city, providing a much-needed boost to our city business owners."

From March 3 to 12, the streets of Melbourne's CBD are expected to come alive with colour and adventurous style as runways, exhibitions, pop-ups, workshops, panel talks and performances overtake the city.

The PayPal-sponsored event is already selling tickets for the opening Gala Runway show on March 3 at the Queen Victoria Market and Runway 1 and 2 at Federation Square's ACMI on March 7 and 8.

The festival is eager for festivities to begin, and fashion enthusiasts are needing to get in quick if they want to soak up all the ticketed events the festival has to offer.

Set to become the heartbeat of the Melbourne Fashion Festival, the Fashion District main precinct will be held at Federation Square and is open to the general public as a "place to meet friends and socialise" and for anyone "looking to kick the night off in style".

"We're proud for Fed Square to be the home of the PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival, and many other festivals in 2022," Federation Square CEO Caroline Ralphsmith said.

"We're dedicated to bringing back the vibrancy to Melbourne's CBD. The fashion festival will bring 10 days of dynamic fashion events to the streets of Melbourne set against the backdrop of Fed Square's famous unique architecture."

As a location that partners with "like-minded cultural institutions" in order to bring "compelling art, entertainment, creativity and culture to the city", Ms Ralphsmith is confident Federation Square is the ideal central meeting point for the festival.

Acting CEO of the PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival Yolanda Finch said the new location would also aid in "welcoming and including audiences that may have never engaged" with the festival before.

"The festival's new home at Fed Square in the heart of Melbourne will attract people from all over Victoria, and Australia, as well as passers-by who may want to stop in for a coffee, see a fashion film or a free seminar," Ms Finch said.

"Our aim is to offer a truly democratised experience of fashion that leans into the unifying power that fashion can have among a community, particularly in our collective pandemic recovery, to bring a sense of excitement and buzz back to our city streets and, importantly, a much-needed boost for our retailers." ●

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

## Want to advertise to our hyper-local audience?

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

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

P: 8689 7980 or 0401 031 236

E: [admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au) or [jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au)

**CBD NEWS**





# “Vertical Village” design standards inquiry

*In August last year, Victoria’s Legislative Assembly authorised an inquiry into apartment design standards – but where does this leave our existing residences?*

The Apartments Design Standards inquiry is chaired by Sarah Connolly (elected MLA for Tarneit) who states that:

“The broad nature of our terms of reference allows this inquiry to examine many issues including the amenity and layout of buildings, and access to communal areas, open space, windows and ventilation.” Specifically, this inquiry is tasked with considering:

- Current apartment living standards in Victoria;
- Liveability improvements including communal areas; and
- Initiatives undertaken by other states or nations.

The inquiry received 55 public submissions and February saw two days of stakeholder presentations, which included sessions from the Municipal Association of Victoria, Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), the Housing Industry Association (HIA), Property Council of Australia, Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA), and Engineers Australia.

Councils and government agencies also provided input to the inquiry, including presentations from the City of Melbourne, City of Yarra, Infrastructure Victoria, the Victorian Planning Authority, Victorian Building Authority and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

It will likely come as little surprise to vertical villagers that issues raised included:

- Quality of communal spaces, which noted the need for additional standards for usability and mandated controls for minimum dimensions;
- Access to open spaces, which highlighted the need to more readily “connect with nature”;
- Natural ventilation and the aim of enabling occupants to manage the ventilation of their dwellings;
- Adequate storage facilities, which noted both the need for internal storage and outside facilities to store bulky items (e.g. bikes);
- Building façades, which should be both durable and make a positive contribution to the existing streetscape;
- Transformability (flexibility of layout), which advocated that apartments should be able to be amalgamated or converted for use for another purpose;
- Mixture of types/sizes of apartment schemes, including upper limits placed on the proportion of studio or one-bedroom units.

While vertical villagers may agree that

improvements are needed in apartment design standards, what is also of concern to us are the standards of our existing residential apartments. As is apparent from the above list, many of the desired improvements are beyond the reach of most established buildings – as it is not so easy to add communal spaces or change the mix of apartment types within our buildings.

The danger then is that these improved design standards will have the unintended consequence of making our existing abodes less appealing. And given the sheer number of existing residential buildings, this impact will be significant.

What to do? Retrofits.

There needs to be an intentional focus on retrofitting existing residential buildings. And it is indeed possible to retrofit entire apartment buildings.

Here are two examples:

- *Grand Parc Bordeaux* which transformed three 1960s housing blocks and resulted in the retrofitting of 530 apartments. This project added deep winter gardens and open air balconies to the façade of each dwelling, for which the project received the 2019 *Mies van der Rohe* Award (an annual European Union architecture prize).
- *DeFlat Kleiburg, Amsterdam* which retrofitted one of the largest housing blocks in the Netherlands. Architects oversaw the refurbishment of the structure and communal areas, which then left affordable shells for buyers to customise.

This project won the *Mies van der Rohe* Award in 2017.

It is acknowledged, however, that such whole-of-building structural transformations are rare in Australia.

But what is eminently possible here are focused retrofits – such as ones directed towards energy performance. In fact, sustainable retrofits of existing residential buildings is a major concern globally, with much effort already devoted to devising energy efficiency retrofit solutions. For example, in Portugal they have used alternative building envelopes in retrofits, while projects in Finland have involved multifunctional facade systems. Similarly focused projects (and related studies) have also been conducted the USA, Sweden, Spain and Canada.

The point of importance here is that many nations have given significant attention to designing interventions for sustainable retrofits of their existing residential buildings.

We too need to give attention to finding the optimum set of retrofit solutions for our existing high-rise residential buildings.

Not to do so may leave a legacy of “ghettos in the sky” ●



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

## HEALTH

### You can keep your new year’s resolution!

*By February around 80 per cent of us will have abandoned our new year promises to ourselves and, at year’s end, research shows that eight per cent will have fulfilled those resolves.*

With a great deal of our past pledges going unfulfilled many Australians are prone to making that same mistake year on year. According to the data the most popular resolutions are those regarding physical health, eating habits, and weight loss. With only 17 per cent of the Australian population meeting the national guidelines for both muscle-strengthening activity and physical activity, we begin to understand the popularity of these health-related goals.

Kieser physiotherapist, Nick Nicolaidis recommends that resolutions are made in accordance with SMART criteria. SMART goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

“I would recommend that goals are made using the SMART framework and are behaviour-oriented,” he said.

He added that behaviour-oriented goals focused on adjusting a specific action that would lead to the desired outcome.

“I’ve seen people achieve some incredible outcomes through behaviour orientated goal setting.”

Quite often the hardest step is the first one. After going on your first run or joining a new exercise facility, it’s important to reflect and celebrate that first step. Try to build on this by setting smaller interim goals that relate to your long-term goal.

“Meeting the national guidelines for muscle strengthening and physical activity can seem out of reach to those who are currently inactive. However, it’s possible to achieve these goals with two 40-minute workouts each week,” Nick said. “It can seem like a lot at first but if you can commit to being active two days per week it is a huge step towards achieving your long-term goals.”

The team at Kieser is motivated to help clients achieve their health-related goals. Regular

strength training has been shown to:

- Increase our muscle mass as we age;
- Improve our cognitive function;
- Enhance our quality of life;
- Increase bone mineral density; and
- Improve musculoskeletal health outcomes.

“As a healthcare practitioner, we have a duty of care to promote optimal physical activity habits with our clients.”

Improvements in physical activity levels have consistently been shown to improve health outcomes related to various musculoskeletal conditions. At Kieser, your treatment will involve an initial assessment with a physio to address your musculoskeletal complaint and/or improve your health through meaningful strength training. Our processes and team make it easy for everyone to achieve their health-related goals.

Kieser has a clinic 300 metres from Southern Cross Station at the corner of King and Collins streets ●

**To learn more about Kieser:**  
call 9448 9999 or visit [kieser.com.au](http://kieser.com.au)

*Terms and conditions:* Offer only available for new Kieser clients who join by March 31, 2021. Save \$49/week on a Core Membership. Offer does not apply to Flexi memberships. Only available to clients paying privately. Members rates for physiotherapy will become available on April 1, 2022 ●

## METRO TUNNEL



### Mentoring the next generation of women on the Metro Tunnel

*To mark International Women’s Day this March, the Metro Tunnel Project is celebrating the brilliant women leaders working on our city-shaping project.*

One of them is Nicole McCarthy, a project engineer on the new State Library Station, which is taking shape more than 30 metres below Swanston St.

“I get to go on site, and every time I do, it blows my mind,” she said.

“Standing in the station cavern and seeing how big it is, is amazing. The photos don’t do it justice. You need to see it in person to appreciate how big this project is.”

Ms McCarthy was one of only six women in her first-year engineering class at Perth’s Curtin University.

When she began her career, first in water infrastructure, she didn’t see many female role models in the industry and the ones who did blaze a trail before her faced many hurdles.

“Twenty years ago, I saw women who were five or 10 years ahead of me starting to have children and pausing their engineering careers,” Ms McCarthy said.

“I can see from the number of women working on our projects now that things are improving.”

Ms McCarthy has two kids of her own now and her career is anything but on pause. She is mentoring several young female cadets and graduates and said now was the perfect time to get into the industry, with so many big infrastructure projects in the pipeline.

“All the work we have underway now means there’s a growing need for investment in cadets and graduates,” she said.

“I really enjoy sharing my experience with them and explaining why things are done the way they’re done. I hope that they think I’m a good role model.”

She said working in engineering, especially on major infrastructure projects like the Metro Tunnel, could be incredibly rewarding.

“We have all these pieces of paper that show us how we’re going to do things, but to actually see the progress in person is really satisfying. It gives you this sense of being part of the work that’s come to fruition.”

The calibre of young women coming up the ranks today in the industry is very high, she said.

“They’re all very switched on. I’d probably be daunted if I had to compete against them as a fresh graduate. The world is their oyster when it comes to what they want to do with their degrees.”

To learn more about career development programs and job opportunities at the Metro Tunnel and other major projects, visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/jobs](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/jobs) ●



# Is it time for a Minister for Loneliness?

*I recently had the opportunity to meet with former Conservative British Prime Minister, Theresa May.*

The discussion focused on the issue of loneliness. Former British Labour MP, Jo Cox, did a mountain of work around the issue of loneliness. Jo Cox’s passion for the issue drove her to establish the Jo Cox Foundation. Soon after becoming an MP, Jo set up a cross-party Loneliness Commission with her colleague, Seema Kennedy MP. Jo’s vision was that the Commission would run for one year and work with charities, businesses and the government to turbo-charge the public understanding and policy response to the loneliness crisis. Tragically, Jo Cox was murdered in 2016.

In January 2018, the then British Prime Minister, Theresa May, responded overwhelmingly positively to the Commission’s recommendations by appointing Tracey Crouch MP as the new Minister for Loneliness, committing to creating a loneliness fund and commissioning an England-wide strategy for loneliness.

On October 15, 2018, former Prime Minister Theresa May launched the first cross-government strategy to tackle loneliness which set out a series of commitments to help all age groups build connections.

Highlights of the strategy include plans to build “social-prescribing” into the National Health Service. It also includes the first ever “Employer Pledge” to tackle loneliness in the workplace and a new Royal Mail scheme which will see postal workers check up on lonely people as part of their usual delivery rounds. These initiatives were driven by the world’s first Minister for Loneliness.

In my meeting with Theresa May, I outlined the ever-broadening group of people seeking help from The Salvation Army Melbourne,

located at 69 Bourke St. It was primarily people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Today, it includes international students and migrants who were sponsored by family members who now find themselves on their own. It includes people who are employed but have experienced a relationship breakdown. Why the growing influx of people who you would not expect to see at the Salvo’s? Loneliness is the omni present issue for so many of them.

But the issue of loneliness expands beyond the boundaries of our work with the Salvo’s. It has seeped into most sectors, neighbourhoods, families and individual lives right across Australian society.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, my wife, Sandra and I, established the Red Shield Friendship phone line. Each night we would take calls from people who were lonely. It wasn’t a crisis line or a counselling service. It simply existed for people that wanted to chat. We were completely overwhelmed with the response. People from the corporate world, others with disabilities, students and parents would all call. They were from very different walks of life, but they had one thing in common. They were very lonely.

During our discussion, Theresa May indicated that the Minister for Loneliness was never meant to be a standalone portfolio. Instead, it was designed to work across all government portfolios, to constantly highlight the issue of loneliness. For example, the Minister for Loneliness works with the Minister for Education to ensure young students are being trained in how to identify and address the

issue of loneliness in oneself and in others. The Minister for Loneliness has worked with the Minister for Housing to ensure designs for new public, social and affordable housing enable people entering and leaving their premises to have the opportunity to see and meet their neighbours. They have also discussed the vital importance of creating meeting spaces in new and future housing developments to help address social isolation.

The Minister for Loneliness appears to be playing a critical role in constantly raising the pervasive issue of loneliness. The Loneliness Minister also acknowledges that this is not a new issue and it is one that has been made worse by the pandemic.

The 1949 play by Arthur Miller, *The Death of a Salesman*, highlights the issue of loneliness. It is currently playing at fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne. Willy Loman, a struggling salesman, is driven by the elusive American Dream – to reach “materialism Mecca” and have all one’s ills resolved. But Willy acknowledges that despite the facade of success that he has built for the benefit of his family, he is overwhelmed with loneliness. This is highlighted at Willy’s funeral when only a handful of people attend. His family expected hundreds to attend.

Thomas Wolfe, the author of *God’s Lonely Man* wrote, “the whole conviction of my life now rests upon the belief that loneliness, far from being a rare and curious phenomenon, peculiar to myself and to a few solitary others, is the central and inevitable fact of human existence.”

But the absolute, essential nature of human connection is highlighted by Mahatma

Gandhi, when he wrote, “With every true friendship, we build more firmly the foundations on which the peace of the whole world rests”. Mother Theresa also wrote, “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other”.

As we enter a State and Federal election year, it is time for our political leaders to seriously address the loneliness epidemic that is affecting our nation.

Will it be the panacea to winning an election? Absolutely not. But will it enable our nation to be one that is far more inclusive and compassionate? Probably, yes. These are qualities that we surely, as Victorians and Australians, want to be known by. At the micro level, let me encourage you to check in on others and simply have a coffee with them and see how they are going. At the macro level, if you have opportunity to raise the issue of loneliness in your workplace or local community, please do so. By constantly raising the issue of loneliness and considering, with others, what can be done to address it in your settings, you are well underway in helping another feel included and validated ●



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

STATE MP

## New bike lanes for Royal Parade and Flemington Rd

For several years, I’ve been advocating loudly to the state government to fix the bike lanes on Royal Parade and Flemington Rd.

They’re some of the most unsafe bike routes in the inner city, with bikes squished between moving vehicles and parked cars, and a high rate of awful injuries and accidents.

These are important routes for people getting to and from the CBD from Kensington, Flemington, North Melbourne, Parkville, Carlton, and further afield. We know that safer bike lanes means less congestion on our roads so it’s easier for both cars and cyclists to get around, and cycling is good for our health and environment too.

In my past few meetings with the Treasurer and Transport Minister I have given them fully-costed plans for proper separated bike lanes on these roads and asked that they be funded in the Budget. Therefore, I was so pleased to see that the government recently announced these roads had been earmarked for pop-up bike lanes.

What does this mean, exactly? Here are the details...

The state government has released a proposed map of where it plans to build “pop-up” bike lanes (which will hopefully become permanent). Royal Parade (south-bound only) and all of Flemington Rd are on this map! However, the map is not final, and is open for community consultation before an ultimate decision is made. The government also hasn’t yet decided what “treatments” they will use – that is, whether the lanes will just be painted green, or whether they’ll be proper safe separated bike lanes.

Credit also goes to the City of Melbourne, especially our Greens councillors Rohan Leppert



and Olivia Ball (and previous Cr Cathy Oke) who have worked hard to advocate for this. The City of Melbourne will actually be part or fully funding many of these bike lanes, with a decent chunk of money hopefully provided by the state government.

To make these bike lanes a reality, we need your help! Please go to **vicroads.vic.gov.au/pop-up-bike-lanes** and take part in the community consultation, and tell the state government we urgently need proper safe separated bike lanes on Royal Parade and Flemington Rd.

Well done to everyone who has helped us get to this point! We’re hopefully on the final stretch now.

As always, if there’s anything I can help you with, please don’t hesitate to get in touch: **office@ellensandell.com ●**



Ellen Sandell  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
**OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM**

The SCOTS’ CHURCH

MELBOURNE

Scan for our quick video tour, or drop in and look around in person on Monday to Thursday mornings, via the Russell St door.

SUNDAY SERVICES

11AM - TRADITIONAL, ALL WELCOME

5PM - SCOTSCITY RESUMES FEBRUARY

FULL OF HISTORY

FULL OF LIFE

SCOTSCURCH.COM



ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

# Off The Wall: New exhibition by indigenous artists blows audiences away

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

A stunning new exhibition at the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) brings together the work of three Indigenous artists and their individual experiences of loss and reclamation, as well as stories of their families, culture, and country in Naarm.

*Off The Wall* showcases a diverse range of works produced by Woiwurrung and Yorta Yorta artist Simone Thomson, Yorta Yorta artist Mandi Barton, and Kanolu artist Charlie Miller.

Pierra Van Sparkes, a Kulin Country based Pibbulman Noongar artist and assistant curator at the KHT, said the materials used in the exhibition and the unique installation encouraged audiences to think about the multiplicity of First Nations’ People and their stories.

“I’m so blown away with what the artists have produced,” Pierra said.

“We’ve provided each artist with a 1.5- by 10-metre roll of Stonehenge paper and there’s a mixture of works to be extended from the ceiling and on the gallery floor.”

One of the pieces on display by Mandi Barton, *Burnt Words*, depicts a charred roll of paper with Indigenous words written in ink.

Pierra said the piece spoke about the history of Indigenous languages and storytelling being erased by colonisation.

“In yarning with Mandi about it the burning quality of it, it speaks to this act of quite literally destroying cultural knowledge and family ties,” they said.

“It also speaks to the long history of documenting our people on paper. The Stolen



▲ *Burnt Words by Mandi Barton.*  
*Photo: Christian Capurro.*

Generation was documented on paper and burnt to cover up the uncomfortable past.”

While the piece represents loss, Pierra said the burnt paper also captured the potential for regrowth after initial destruction.

“I think each artist talks about their dual experience of loss and reclamation,” Pierra said.

“Each artist in their own way reflects this idea of Aboriginality and puts their stories of families, cultures, community in one place.”

Having now come full circle, Pierra’s artwork was featured in the Koorie Art Show back in 2016.

But having only been in the new role as assistant curator for six months, Pierra said *Off The Wall* had been in the works longer than they had been at KHT.

“The show itself is such a celebration of black excellence and the many forms it takes,” Pierra said.

“It really speaks to the multiplicity of the ways we tackle ways of life in spaces that



▲ *Darrang Marrup, Tree Spirit by Simone Thomson.*  
*Photo: Christian Capurro.*

weren’t made for us. It’s always such a welcome reminder of how manifold we are and our unique voices that come from that. And sharing space with mob is always great!”

Working with photography, videography and digital media, Pierra said a big influence for them was paying homage to the creative practice they had inherited from their family.

“I projected a video recently that was my own version of a blanket,” Pierra said.

“The idea of that is carrying on my nanna’s practice of making patchwork blankets.”

In their spare time, Pierra said they enjoyed taking a stroll down the Merri Creek, taking



▲ *Emu by Charlie Miller.*  
*Photo: Christian Capurro.*

photos, and spending time with queer and Aboriginal communities.

“I’ve also been trying my hand at sewing; hopefully Nan’s looking down at me and saying, ‘call that a cross stitch?’” Pierra said.

*Off The Wall* is showing from March 5 until May 15, 2022 at the KHT ●

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

TRADER PROFILE

# Ensuring the freshest “weird and wonderful” produce is at your doorstep

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Coming from different career fields, husband-and-wife duo Gary and Janine Hunt took on The Chicken Pantry with one thing in mind – they knew what it felt like to be market shoppers and the kind of businesses they would want to shop from.

Purchasing the small family-orientated business from “friends of friends” when it went on sale in 1997, the couple has been a part of the Queen Victoria Market for 25 years.

Proving that, through all the trials that come with running a small business during the pandemic, family, loyalty and kindness truly is what counts.

“We didn’t know anything about being small business owners at the time, but we knew what it was like to be customers and we knew how to treat other people as we would want to be treated,” Mrs Hunt said.

“We did this then and continue to do so, and everything else we just learnt along the way.”

Being a vital part of the “lovely community” at the Market and the Dairy Produce Hall, many shoppers and stall holders have witnessed Janine’s children grow up from being the kids who once “stood on crates to serve”.

“Everybody knows everyone, and I wouldn’t have a day go by without somebody asking me how my kids and grandkids are,” she said.

“And I know their kids too. I have gone from serving expecting mums to now having their children shop here themselves. I always find it so special.”

Being a part of a loyal community, with customers “from all different walks of life and backgrounds” has been a “rewarding” experience for Mrs Hunt, but it unfortunately hasn’t come without challenges.

Having to compete with major supermarkets alongside Victoria’s COVID restrictions and lockdowns, The Chicken Pantry has been leaning on the Queen Victoria Market’s online shopping service for support.

Operating since November 2020, Queen Vic Market Online now includes more than 3000 unique products from more than 50 independent market traders, with in excess of 220 suburbs on their delivery list.

And the team at The Chicken Pantry is well and truly onboard with the online shopping service that seems to be “a way of the future”.

“The online service is good for the Market because people who can’t get here or are too busy can still access the good produce that we provide for them. It’s slowly building up to be a really good part of our business,” Mrs Hunt said.

The service also allows shoppers to choose from a range of stores that will then have their products packed into a parcel and delivered to customers’ doors in the afternoon, after being collected from the stores in the morning.

“It is affordable and accessible to everybody. Two years is a long time for people to forget about us and move on, but this has kept us in the loop,” Mrs Hunt said.

“We offer produce that is completely different to other stores and people that like our produce are still able to get it which is a good



thing.”

As a market that has always been there for Melburnians, the Queen Victoria Market is now both a place to be, as well as a place to shop online.

And The Chicken Pantry is an example as to why people choose the market for their fresh kitchen needs.

Renowned for specialty products that are hard to find anywhere else and its commitment to “sticking with the farmers [they] know well”, The Chicken Pantry team has extensive knowledge of its products.

It’s this kind of relationship with the farmers and shoppers which has seen Mrs Hunt being asked to judge the Royal Melbourne Show’s poultry numerous times and encouraged renowned chefs to approach the countertop.

“I get very excited when customers I know

love a challenge and love to cook with very different produce. And if chefs have trouble sourcing anything, they also give us a call,” she said.

“People have called me with all sorts of weird and wonderful requests, and it always brings a smile to my face. Family business at the market really is a lovely thing to be a part of.”

For the freshest produce delivered to your doorstep, shop online at Queen Victoria Market ●

**Shop online at:**  
[qvm.com.au/shop](http://qvm.com.au/shop)  
[qvm.com.au/shops-stalls/the-chicken-pantry](http://qvm.com.au/shops-stalls/the-chicken-pantry)



# A stroll along Collins St, 1900

Collins St has long been considered Melbourne’s most fashionable street and these smartly dressed pedestrians reflect the street’s status as a popular place to shop at higher end stores like George’s Emporium, the city’s most elegant store, and at the many milliners, costumiers and glove-makers that lined the street. Collins St was the place to be seen.

Under the leafy trees, away from busier city streets like Bourke and Swanston, you could almost believe you were in the exclusive parts of Paris or London.

A little further west along the street (just beyond the right-hand edge of the photo) is the Block Arcade. In this block between Swanston and Elizabeth streets, anyone who was anyone, and many more besides, promenaded, hoping to be noticed. Fashionistas, courting couples, those who wished to appear part of the elite, were all seen here. The *Argus* newspaper called it a “vast, open-air club with unlimited membership ... a promenade without a band, a carnival without confetti, a Rotten Row without the horses.”

The photographer was standing outside the Melbourne Town Hall looking south across Collins St towards the Queen Victoria Building (later City Square and now the site of the Town Hall Station development). Although the street is renowned for its magnificent “Marvellous Melbourne” era architecture, it is not the buildings that dominate the scene but the people.



Taken on a breezy summer’s day, the photograph shows a woman on the very left of the image hanging on to her hat as she walks westward and the skirts of the woman in the centre foreground billow around her as she walks southward. A man steps up into a tram, heading west towards Spencer Street Station. For the most part, though, there is a stillness here,

almost as though the image has been captured on canvas by an artist sitting outside the Town Hall rather than a photographer. The painterly details are all there: the canopy of shade trees, the dappled light, a little girl in a white sun hat walking towards the camera, her adult companion only just visible behind the striking image of the woman walking away from the camera

across a sun-bleached pavement.

It is as though this were a time capsule. Here the world proceeds at a leisurely pace with little indication of the new world that is about to open up. It is December 1900 and in a few weeks a newly federated nation will be declared. On January 1, 1901, the colony of Victoria will become one of the six states in the new Commonwealth of Australia. Months later, in May 1901, the Federal Parliament will sit for the first time at the Exhibition Buildings at Carlton. The city will be abuzz, huge crowds of holidaying Victorians enjoying the federation arches that appear all over the city. There will be illuminations, firework displays, parades, bands playing in city streets, sporting events and displays by school children to keep people entertained.

There is no sign of that here. Nor of the motorised vehicles that will soon dominate Melbourne’s streets. A new, modern, bustling world will eventually emerge, but for now the unhurried pace of the street is celebrated in this image from the Royal Historical Society’s rich images collection ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## CBD LOCAL

# At work at the Wheeler Centre

*It takes a great deal of patience to publish an anthology of contemporary poetry involving 102 contributors.*



▲ Jacinta Le Plastrier with her baby: *Best of Australian Poems 2021*

A book that is restricted to poems done in a 12-month period adds another set of complications.

Jacinta Le Plastrier is often alone in her office in the Wheeler Centre working through them.

First, she nurtured the book to fruition, making sure galley proofs got out to all those included. Now she has finally taken delivery and is planning media.

“I’ve held back,” she said. This is the first media interview she’s done and she’s proud of *Best of Australian Poems 2021*.

“It’s a slightly larger format than usual,” she said of the elegant trade-sized book. “If you look at some of the poems ... they’re visual poems.”

Since this 2021 poetic snapshot is the first in a series published by Australian Poetry, of which Jacinta is CEO, she can’t compare the content with previous years.

But the anthology nods towards a discontinued annual series by Black Inc and takes it forward into post-lockdown Melbourne.

Jacinta is keen to acknowledge the large contribution by First Nations poets, particularly the work of editor Ellen Van Nerven. “I want genuine First Nations respect,” she said.

A love of writing has dominated the 50-something life of Jacinta, mother of three. She wrote her first poem at the age of 19 and was doing police rounds for *The Age* at the same time.

“You’re trained as a journalist to write to a strict timeline,” she said. “It’s such a discipline. You’re writing for a specific space.”

She says that journalism and poetry have this in common but now she “loves adjectives”, parts of speech that are generally banned in news reporting.

She uses the word “passionate” to describe her approach to poetry. “When I first got the job, I was like an AFL coach,” she said. Now after six years of working six days a week, the word “practical” is more fitting.

Jacinta is the one who got poetry sessions happening in all of the major lit festivals and is arranging readings from the anthology around the country.

She stopped writing for 12 years for personal reasons, but she has rehabilitated her writing self and is working on a book of essays called *not too much to ask*.

She lived by the river, opposite Crown Casino, on the 35<sup>th</sup> floor in a hotel-sized apartment until recently and this helped her view.

She quotes Apollinaire as saying the Eiffel Tower is the shepherdess of the bridges across the Seine and the Arts Centre tower plays a similar role for the Yarra.

“I’m a writer, not an administrator,” she said. “I’ve supported other people’s writing and published thousands of poems.”

A desk set up against the glass on Flinders St launched her back into her craft ●



Rhonda Dredge  
JOURNALIST  
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

## LAW

# Seduction and purchasing an off-the-plan apartment

*Regrettably, the skilful art of seduction, leaving one irresistibly drawn to a place which may or may not be desirable, is sadly becoming lost, replaced by the far less romantic notion fostered by a number of social media apps, including Tinder, Hinge, Bumble, and others.*

WORDS BY Peter Nevile

Allegedly, a “swipe right” will reveal the prospect for romance, notwithstanding the liberal use of Photoshop and profiles that bear little resemblance to reality.

But fear not, the art of seduction is still present, only it appears now in the hands of developers and real estate agents wanting to sell you an off-the-plan apartment. Their techniques vary but are aligned to some extent with the art we used to know. It involves creating wonderful lifestyles around resort-style pools and gyms, gold-class cinemas, and outdoor barbecue facilities. The actual dimensions and facilities of the apartments seem to take a second spot. Embellish with access and walkability to all the restaurants, galleries, and cafes that Melbourne has to offer. Hard to resist.

So, what can we do to protect ourselves from the siren’s lure? Binding ourselves to the mast is a little old-fashioned, and not particularly practical. Having dealt with literally thousands of off-the-plan purchases over the years, several lessons stand out.

Lesson one: This is not a good time to place yourself in the hands of a first- or second-time developer.

You really are taking a big chance as the future level of quality of the project is an unknown. It follows then, that you should look for a developer who has been building apartments for a number of years, preferably at least 10 years. Firstly, if they are still in business that is a very good sign. Secondly, it gives you an opportunity to inspect the apartments they have built and, if possible, to talk to some of the residents. There is little point looking inspecting an apartment block that was built a year or two ago. It will still be bright and shiny. Far better to look at

an apartment block built some 10 years ago or more and see what condition it is in because the condition will affect its value.

It is also important to understand the outgoings, particularly the owners’ corporation (OC) quarterly maintenance fees. In some developments there are a number of OCs. You will, along with a few hundred or so of your closest neighbours, be paying for the cost of maintaining and operation of all common property facilities, including swimming pools and gyms, and in many cases a bevy of concierges providing a 24-hour service as well as the cleaning, light and power. Being seduced generally comes at a cost.

Lesson two: The contracts that you see from developers and their lawyers normally run into more than 100 pages and are structured to favour the developers. They do contain the plans of every other apartment in the building generally, which is why they are so long, but in any event the special conditions are complex and lengthy, and it is a good idea to seek advice about them. The issue is to deal with someone who has a reputation they want to protect. At the end of the day, providing you do your part by paying when required, you simply want to know that you will get what they promise you.

So how best to resist the seduction? Our advice is to always deal with a developer who has consistently delivered what they have promised over many years. They have a reputation to protect.

We have many years of experience not necessarily in seduction but certainly providing you with a legal solution when purchasing an off-the-plan apartment.

We are in your ‘hood.  
neville.com.au ●



# Integrating four-legged city dwellers into the CBD – where is the space?

*For the more than 3700 dogs registered with the City of Melbourne (COM) in February 2021, the lack of readily accessible, safe open spaces for city doggies to play, remains an unresolved issue.*

WORDS BY Joanna Peter – Residents 3000

In early February 2022, Premier Dan Andrews reported that “more than one in three Victorians own a dog and with more people choosing to live in apartments or units without a backyard, dog parks provide a place where they can get outdoors, socialise and exercise their pets safely and close to home.” He announced that the government’s Local Parks program was looking into creating more dedicated parks for pets in Victoria. The same month saw the opening of the 21<sup>st</sup> dog park in metro Victoria – with 10 more planned, but sadly not one is inside the CBD for the city doggies.

For CBD dogs, their “backyard” is likely to be made up from the existing parks in the city – space which needs to be shared by the whole CBD community.

The City of Melbourne’s Domestic Animal

Management Plan (2017-2021) predicted an average growth of 1000 dog registrations a year (though also acknowledging a similar amount may leave the city each year). Nevertheless, nearly 148,000 people called the CBD their home, and despite the pandemic, with some people moving out of the city, the dog population remained, if not increased. As people begin to move back to the city, we can only predict the number of pets in the city will increase and hence there is an urgency to address the needs of this significant group in the community.

Flagstaff Dog Pawrents, a local dog group of about 100 residents and their dogs in the northside of the CBD, have been campaigning for an off-leash area since early 2020. A petition with 480 signatures (20 per cent of which were non-dog owners from the city) asked the council to look at current spaces within the city parks to allow for accessible and safe off-leash areas where city dogs could exercise by playing with their owners and other dogs. Currently owners need to travel for more than 30 minutes from the city to find the nearest “backyard” for their dogs. Think of getting yourself to the gym where you must walk 30 minutes one way, every day before or after work regardless of the weather!

The City of Melbourne, through Participate Melbourne, had already planned to conduct a community consultation called Open Spaces for Dogs. The consultation took place between

March and May 2021 (phases one and two) via an online survey, face-to-face survey, pop-ups, focus groups and the like. The interest and participation were the largest for the CBD with more than 1000 completed online surveys and a further 290 responses from other means ([participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogs-open-space/community-consultation](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogs-open-space/community-consultation)).

**The main findings were:**

- Safety from traffic. Fences were mentioned frequently.
- Sociability: people like the sense of community they find among dog owners
- Facilities: people appreciate dog waste bag dispenser bins, shade, lighting and shelter for themselves in off-leash areas.
- Nature: trees and grass.
- The City of Melbourne needs more dog off-leash spaces.
- Some support “timed access” for dog off-leash dog areas (e.g. off-leash times limited to certain hours each day).
- Dog off-leash spaces can co-exist with other users, provided people are responsible and observe the rules.
- The survey, however, asked the public about the eight existing dog parks near but outside the CBD – most of which are not easily accessible to those who reside within the CBD.
- Despite an overwhelming call for utilising existing parks within the CBD like Flagstaff Gardens and Carlton Gardens, these were not included in the consultation due to the “current policy and regulations relating to the heritage status of these parks.” These parks have already installed facilities that are not usually aligned with the “heritage status”. For example, playgrounds, ball courts, barbecue areas.

In November 2021, phase three of the consultation began, whereby alternatives for the CBD (Eades Park for Flagstaff Gardens and Murchison Square for Carlton Gardens) received “a good response from the community in the earlier phases of the consultation, so further views were being sought”. The results are still pending.

Residents including members from the Flagstaff Dog Pawrents have concerns over the use of Eades Park. The park has a long history of local children using this area as a playground. There is inadequate fencing at the Chetwynd St park, which is next to Kings St and dogs off-leash in a children’s playground is not a good mix. There has also been calls for “timed access” where certain times of the day, these parks are used by dogs and other times by humans. This poses a higher risk for unnecessary angst between dog owners and other residents, as we all know people no longer have regimented lives.

This brings us back to the original question posed by these CBD dog owners, “why wouldn’t the council and Parks Victoria review ways of integrating off-leash areas into existing parks of a certain size in the CBD that will benefit all in the local community?”

The Open Spaces for Dogs project is one that has been long overdue and as a CBD resident for the past 16 years and a member of the Flagstaff Dog Pawrents, I strongly believe there is still scope for refinement of the plans to produce results better aligned with CBD dog community needs. The result will hopefully lead to existing park areas being better used, shared and maintained, rather than resources wasted on new areas that will not serve the thousands of dogs in the CBD community ●

MUSIC

## Wheats

*Melbourne band Masters is on the radar as a pivotal rock band on Melbourne’s music scene in the late ‘60s/early ‘70s.*

Fronted by the great Jim Keays and including the bass player Glenn Wheatley, The Masters Apprentices had a clutch of hits including *Undecided* and their most favourite song *It’s Because I Love You*. The song features the brilliant chorus ...

“Do what you wanna do,  
Be what you wanna be, yeah.”

It is one of the greatest rock songs by a band based in Melbourne.

The film clip is sensational, shot in luxurious cinematic black and white featuring outdoor scenes filmed in the middle of winter, and studio footage of the band playing the song.

The talismanic twins Jim Keays and Glenn Wheatley (aka Wheats) are featured during the chorus, with Glenn Wheatley playing the bass guitar and singing the catchy chorus with Keays, both filmed from cinema left.

Wheatley’s prowess as a bass player can be seen near the end of the film clip where the camera pans from the drummer to Wheatley, and then zooms in on his right hand as he is finger picking the strings. The man can play.

At the end of the film clip as the band walks along the river on a misty, overcast day Wheatley makes room for a band member to walk side-by-side with the rest of the band. Ever the team player.

Years later as an entrepreneur and manager he orchestrated John Farnham’s comeback with the *Whispering Jack* album. There is a photo from that time showing Farnham and Wheatley sitting in a large theatre. Farnham is pointing to Wheatley with his right hand, and Wheatley is holding a bass guitar smiling. A sign that the bass player within was present. *You’re The Voice*, *Burn For You* and *Pressure Down* all have great bass lines with the bass being prominent in the

mix. A secret to Farnham’s success perhaps, Wheatley’s attention to the bass guitar sound.

The Masters Apprentice Glenn Wheatley passed away on February 2, 2022. Condolences to his family and friends; an immense loss.

One of Melbourne’s favourite rock bands Camp Cope will be releasing their third album on March 25 entitled *Running With The Hurricane* through Poison City Records. After receiving much adulation for their second album there is much excitement and anticipation to this new material from Camp Cope.

The Melbourne trio formed in 2015, their song *Jet Fuel Can’t Melt Steel Beams* was a crowd pleaser in their early days. Singer songwriter Georgia McDonald has a vocal style akin now to Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders, Janet English of Spiderbait and Melbourne troubador Kirsty Stegwazi (there is a chance of Kirsty Stegwazi being involved in recording a song with cult folk musician A G Cole in Adelaide for a 7-inch single with stylish artwork).

Georgia is again joined with Kelly Dawn-Hellmrick on the bass guitar and Sarah “Thomo” Thompson on drums and percussion. The album was recorded at Sing Sing Studios in Richmond around March 2021 by Anna Laverty and mixed and produced by Laverty and Camp Cope.

Before the album’s release two tracks can be heard on the band’s Bandcamp page, the title track and a song called *Blue*. They are very catchy songs. The title track is a killer. It really kicks off and elevates in an instantaneous moment when the big chorus kicks in. It’s almost as sensational as Olivier Giroud’s second goal for the Rosoneri against Inter Milan in the Milan Derby. Almost, and that is something.

Camp Cope had a highlight performance on America’s CBS Morning Show just recently, performing *Blue*. Watch it on Youtube. And keep *Running With The Hurricane* ●



Chris Mineral

MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM



# The awards keep rolling for CBD pioneer

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

The CBD’s eminent boutique property expert, Gina Donazzan, has again been hailed as Melbourne’s Agent of the Year by independent real estate reviewing organisation, RateMyAgent.

The award places Ms Donazzan in the top five per cent of agents nationwide for her pioneering work with some of the CBD’s and surrounding suburbs’ most sought after properties.

“I am very humbled by all this, to be recognised once again this way, it is such an honour to receive this award,” Ms Donazzan said. “In an industry that is awash with agencies, to be recognised by a nationwide institution that takes feedback from sellers and buyers alike and conducts their research to arrive to their decision.”

“I am deeply grateful to all my incredible clients who have always been such strong supporters of me over the many, many years and continue to be so.”

“It is because of their faith and trust in me that I have received this award.”

Ms Donazzan is a firm believer that you live your business life just as you live your private life.

Ethics, integrity, honesty and empathy are all characteristics that were instilled in her at a young age from her Italian parents, Marco and Enrica Donazzan, and continue to shine through today.

Although this recognition is for her own work in real estate, Ms Donazzan told *CBD News* it would not be possible without the effort and dedication of her specialist team.

“I have had quality people want to come and join with me, Kim Davey, James Edmundson,

William Caldwell, Suzie Inglis, Rita Jiang and of course the fabulous people in the admin engine room who do an extraordinary job also,” Ms Donazzan said.

“All quality people who are straight up and down, who work incredibly hard at giving their very best, always, who also share the same integrity, understanding and desire for excellence in everything they do, and they do it in spades.”

“We are thriving because we all have the same vision for our boutique brand and for our wonderful clients. Importantly, our clients really value and appreciate the difference we as a firm bring to the table. Let’s face it, there is a lot of talk that goes on, but talk is cheap, actions are what speak volumes.”

After founding her own boutique property agency more than 16 years ago, Ms Donazzan has overseen the sale of more than 600 properties in the CBD and surrounds, cementing her as a legend of local real estate.

Although these figures may sound profound, it is her unwavering commitment to quality over quantity that sees her recognised with reviews and awards like you’ll find from RateMyAgent.

“Once again Gina is exceptional in her market, head and shoulders above other generic franchisees, proving personalised service, integrity and a boutique brand representation is what clients truly value,” one review said.

Now, with glowing acknowledgements and awards behind her, Ms Donazzan is firmly fixed on the resurgence of postcode 3000 and post-pandemic Melbourne.

“How wonderful it is to see our beautiful Melbourne city’s heart starting to beat strong again. With people out and about and enjoying all our fabulous restaurants, bars and cafes that we have on offer here and seeing retail



beginning to bubble again,” Ms Donazzan said.

“We as a firm are big on supporting local business. It is so important to get more office workers back into the city too again as they are a huge part of this wonderful city, not to mention how valued their business is with the cafés and eateries too.”

“In a nutshell we miss seeing these happy people out and about enjoying life again and meeting after work for drinks and long-awaited catch ups.”

“So come on everybody, Melbourne city needs you and there is so much to enjoy here in beautiful Melbourne town.” ●

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

## A dining experience fit for a DAME

“*Dame. A title given to a woman as a special honour because of the work she has done.*”

It’s a title evokes an unmatched level of reverence and prestige.

Drawing inspiration from dames past and present, is Jackie Middleton and her business partner/husband/life partner Simon O’Regan, the couple behind the ever-popular Earl Canteen franchise. They now have their sights set on a new CBD offering with the opening of DAME.

A mirror of its new home at Collins Place, where the 1980s themes of power, capitalism and prestige surrounds you at every turn, DAME is a new and elevated all-day dining cafe with everything from coffee to cocktails and all of the snacks in between.

From concept to concrete, Ms Middleton told *CBD News*, DAME is a long labour of love for a couple whose roots are firmly sown in Melbourne’s hospitality industry.

“It was May 2020 when I came up with the idea; when I slowly realised how iconic Collins Place is,” Ms Middleton said.

“When I did more and more research and began to realise how iconic the location is, it lent itself as an identity for DAME.”



“We think she [DAME] is beautiful, and we are thrilled to add the location and the aspect where you can sit under the beautiful atrium and look out, have a coffee in the morning or a wine in the afternoon.”

With odes to famous dames such as Dame Joan Collins and Dame Nellie Melba throughout its menu, DAME takes you on a trip from its walnut, almond and salted maple granola, yoghurt panna cotta, and seasonal poached fruit in the morning, to confit duck or local Stracciatella in the afternoon.

Expect glossy material, elegant finishes, a marble bar, custom light pieces, and a plethora of fauna throughout.

With work-from-home recommendations no longer in place, Ms Middleton expects a warm reception to DAME from workers and locals alike.

“Our evidence from last year has shown that the bounce-back is incredibly fast,” Ms Middleton said.

“Yes, there are some people who are hesitant or prefer to work from home, but we have seen through our Earl Canteen locations, there is a huge number of people who want to get back to the office,” Ms Middleton said.

“We saw some of our existing stores’ trading at 2019 levels very quickly coming out of lockdowns last year.”

DAME is now open for service from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.

For the remainder of summer and into autumn, they will also be open for “aperitif” hours on Thursday and Friday until 9pm ●

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

 **Jack Hayes**  
BUSINESS EDITOR  
[JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)



WE LIVE HERE

# Fighting an unfair committee

*Nerida Pohl has provided an update on the committee scandal at her inner-city building ...*

“In our building, three out of the five committee members – all supportive of the manager/developer – have been controlling affairs unfairly for the past 10 years – and it needs to stop.”

“It is now 10 years since our managers locked residents out of common property assets that we purchased. This makes our building look decidedly second-rate. Residents are forced to move in and out via the busy street into our elegant lobby instead of via our private, safe and undercover goods lift to the level 2 storage cages. The committee even usurped our residential lounge for their real estate business.”

“All visitors are told the building has no visitor car park and must use the commercial carpark. The car park operator and our owners’ corporation manager share common ownership.”

“The local council has been on the case for five years telling the manager that they must give us back the 50 visitors car spaces and our residential meeting room, and to get large furniture trucks from disrupting the amenity of the street at our front door.”

“Trying to legitimise misuse of our property and without consulting the 500 apartment owners, the stacked committee has spent several hundred thousand dollars of the fees we pay them by engaging lawyers and town planners in appeals to the Planning Tribunal and our local council.” “The managers are interminably dragging out the process to keep us locked out of our property, so all these third parties can continue profiting from using it instead.”

“Last September I thought we had a win; the Planning Tribunal addressed an application by

the manager to annexe our undercover goods lift for the retail area. The Tribunal agreed our undercover loading dock was well built for our use and that the busy commercial street outside our single glass entry door was not suitable for residents’ removal trucks to use. Sadly, the Tribunal finding has not resulted in any remediation.”

“I would like to ensure the owners know what is going on, but the committee is unfairly and actively preventing me from being able to communicate with the owners.”

“Legally, if I ask for the contact details of all owners, the manager must forward the register immediately. In this building, the committee won’t let them. That is why I have had to letter-drop all residents instead of posting 500 letters to them.”

We Live Here believes it is outrageous that a committee and a manager can prevent an owner from viewing the owners’ corporation members’ roll. Committee members should be aware of how their behaviour will be viewed by the courts.

Under the *Owners’ Corporation Act 2006*, members of committees must

- Act honestly and in good faith
- Exercise due care and diligence
- Act in the interests of the owners’ corporation
- Not make improper use of their position to gain a direct or indirect advantage for themselves or anyone else.

If the committee members cannot prove that they acted in good faith, they can potentially lose their immunity under section 118 of the

Act. Then the members would face significant personal liability.

We hope the owners are galvanised by Nerida’s appeal.

If you are having problems with an owners’ corporation controlled by a developer or any vested interests, please let us know.

**Latest version of the Owners’ Corporations Act 2006**

The *Owners’ Corporations Amendment Act 2021* was the result of the long, drawn-out review of the *Owners’ Corporations Act 2006* that began in 2015 and meandered through issues papers, options papers, exposure drafts and several revisions.

With these amendments incorporated, the *Owners’ Corporations Act 2006*, Authorised Version 19 is now available.

The release of version 19 of the Act underlines a notable failure of the government. Since 2018, this Act has had embedded within it the amendments of the *Short-stay Accommodation Act 2018*. The short-stay amendments have yet to go under the public review which was promised for February 2020.

Some of the more significant features of the newly amended act include:

**Five tiers of owners’ corporations**

There are different rules according to the number of occupiable lots, divided into tiers: Tier One, more than 100 individual lots; Tier Two, 51 to 100 lots; Tier Three, 10 to 50 lots; Tier Four, 3 to 9 lots and Tier Five, a 2-lot or services-only subdivision.

**Levies and insurance**

Other changes introduced under the amended Act may reduce insurance and other inequities between lot owners. While ordinary fees levied must still be based on lot entitlement, OCs may separately levy lot owners for:

- an excess amount, or increased premium, attributable to an insurance claim if the

claim was caused by the actions of a lot owner or occupier or guest;

- damage caused to the common property by a lot owner or occupier, if it is not covered by insurance, or if the cost is less than the excess amount.

VCAT has also been empowered to make an order requiring a lot owner to pay the owners’ corporation’s costs incurred for recovering an unpaid amount from the lot owner.

Proxies – five per cent limit

Section 89D of the Act states that a person must not vote as a proxy on a resolution at a meeting of the owners’ corporation on behalf of more than five per of the lot owners, or more than one lot owner if there are 20 or less occupiable lots.


**There’s more to unpack**

We shall look at other aspects of the amended Act, including the *Short-stay Accommodation Act* amendments embedded within it in next month’s column.

You can download the *Owners Corporations Act* and amendments from our website at **welivehere.net/acts**

**Campaign donations**


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



Barbara Francis &  
Rus Littleton

EMAIL  
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET

LEARN MORE AT  
WELIVEHERE.NET




Open 24/7  
genuine kinky escorts  
5 mins to your door  
CBD location

We survived  
COVID-19

RE-OPENED

Fully vaxxed  
girls  
to your door now!!



Top Class of Collins Street

(03) 9654 6351

contact@topclassofcollinsstreet.com.au

CRITIC

# Pandemic time under review

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

An anthology of poems has just been released by Poetry Australia that provides a sophisticated and critical snapshot of a year of pandemic time as experienced by poets.

First up in the anthology, *Best of Australian Poems 2021*, is a poem called *91 Days*, which sets the scene.

Our culture has been taken over by the virus and wordsmiths are seeking solutions.

How can they combat the virus’s worn-out status as a metaphor and deal with the competitive nature of publishing?

Senior poet Ouyang Yu provides one answer in *Advice to a translator of Australian poetry* in which the narrator is asked which poems should be translated into Chinese.

He said to ignore the big guns and go for those poems that first attracted your attention.

“Find whatever that appeals to you at first sight like love and discard the rest,” he advised.

Following his advice, the opening line of *Heating and Cooling in the Time of Isolation* by Jessica L Wilkinson strikes a chord.

“The elastic on my tracksuit pants has given way,” she writes with some honesty, an annoying reminder of expanding pandemic waistlines and the parlous state of leisure wear.

Wilkinson goes on to question the idea of “best of”. What if you are the best bouncer? She asks. “A poet never cooled a fight. Best poet is like best bouncer. The trophy is a little joke.”

Wilkinson works in the creative writing department at RMIT, a grand CBD location across the road from the Wheeler Centre where this anthology was conceived, and she can afford to be provocative.

But there are some softer poems by less established poets who must have been pleased to

be included in a best poems book.

Just 102 were selected out of more than 4000 submissions and the editors did a good job of being inclusive by searching in journals for poems published during the 2020/2021 financial year, even if they weren’t submitted for the anthology.

With so many realities vying for attention, humans’ anthropocentric obsessions come in for some scrutiny “where we is a producer of I solutions”, according to Jake Goetz in the brilliantly explicit *Farming help for a reparative state*.

Not all of the poems are critical. A lovely exception is a poem about listening to a plane land called *Metal bird* by Theresa Penangke Alice, printed also in the Arrernte language of Central Australia.

You can visualise the poet in the desert near Alice Springs searching for words to describe the arrival of the aircraft, perhaps a pleasing moment for her.

Other poems are more distancing or conceptual with not as much sense of where the poet is located geographically.

Lisa Gorton, for example, wrote about the pandemic obliquely by doing research into the pangolin.

Most of the poems have been published elsewhere or performed. The editors Ellen Van Neerven and Toby Fitch went for diversity in terms of style and content and provide friendly notes on all of the people involved in the project.

If you were looking for a trend you might say that 2021 featured little in the way of sonnets and a lot in the way of striking prose and visual poetry.

Poetry Australia has taken on the task of this annual series after Blank Inc stopped publishing it several years ago •







# 居民抗议屋顶酒吧计划

David Schout

一项在Russell 街上的屋顶酒吧拓展计划遭到了附近CBD居民的愤怒反对。

墨尔本市政曾认识到此计划会出现一些问题，尤其是在保护当地居民利益方面。

这家可容纳400名顾客的The Crafty Squire酒吧，计划将营业拓展至屋顶露台并且每晚营业至凌晨1点，因而引起附近居民强烈不满。

住在附近Georges 公寓的居民代表Mike Lauer表示，他知道住在CBD城里与城外不同，但这个酒吧拓展计划有点太过分了。

他说：“我们知道，我们很有幸地住在

这么一座伟大城市中心的美丽建筑里”。

“我们也明白，生活在这样的地方会带来一定的妥协。然而，这并不意味着我们没有权利享受安宁的生活。”

Russell街118号的物业管理主席Jillian Luttin对此计划也同样表示不满。

她说：“噪音将会成为我们这个地区所有人的大问题。这里是一个非常安静的地区，以后将永远改变了”。

两人都指出噪音是当地人面临的最大问题，Lauer先生将毗邻的Portland巷描述为“噪音峡谷”，因为“放大了街道上的一切噪音，而且一直向上”。

然而，市政议员们表示，他们对此无能为力。

这个The Crafty Squire酒吧，前身为The Portland Hotel，受益于“现有使用权”，允许其将业务扩展到拟建的屋顶酒吧，而无需申请新酒吧许可证。

在2月1日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，规划主管Nicholas Reece概述了此评估规划申请的难度。

这位副市长说：“这是一项具有挑战性的申请。”

“我认为，一方面墨尔本市政和市议员欢迎对我们城市餐饮场所进行新的投资，我们认为这个投资是本市夜生活复兴的重要组成部分，并为墨尔本带来活力。另一方面这种特殊的申请也带来了一些舒适性的问题。”



# 国王街开发项目受到称赞

David Schout

位于国王街(King St)上一个新的23层写字楼开发项目,将保留和升级一个现有的酒吧，还将升级一个“隐藏”在CBD小巷子里的小型公园。

在King街和Little Bourke街拐角处的这个开发计划，耗资9500万澳元，得到了遗产保护活动家的赞扬，并得到了墨尔本市政的称赞，市政规划主管 Nicholas Reece 表示，该计划与市区其他地方所看到的“可怕的玻璃幕”“完全相反”。

市议员在2月份批准了开发商Argo在国王街204号和232号之间的计划，此前在2020年7月批准了一项类似的(尽管根据议

员的说法是“劣质的”)计划提案。

在2020年获得批准后，Argo公司购买了位于国王街232号的邻近房产，并扩大了混合用途开发项目，该项目已提交给市议会并获得批准。

重要的是，该计划包括将保留King 街204号现有的酒吧（Hotel Animal），这里曾经是1860年代建造的Great Western Hotel的所在地。

这家酒吧目前没有从遗产保护中受益，在施工期间将获得一个新厨房。

墨尔本遗产行动主席Tristan Davies在提交给市政的一份文件中说：“值得称赞的是，开发商正在保留和部分修复尚未列入遗产名录的外墙。”

“也很高兴看到这个酒吧在开发后，实际上会保留其作为酒吧的功能，这是CBD最近许多酒吧重建中令人遗憾的缺乏的东西。”

对 CBD 居民同样重要的是，该开发项目包括升级Brown巷道上的“小型公园”计划，并进行设计变更以确保保留巷道的特色（包括使用回用砖）。

该项目建筑设计公司Fender Katsalidis的主管James Pearce表示，这条小巷将经历一次“奇妙的转变”，从目前主要是一条服务通道，变成一个“活跃的人群场所”。

根据Pearce先生的说法，这个小广场将“焕然一新”，而Reece议员预测可能会因此而增加人气。



# 电动汽车研究机构成立

在维州政府520万澳元的资助下，一个新的电动汽车研究机构将在墨尔本皇家理工大学(RMIT)的市中心校区建立。

Brendan Rees

该大学称，这个研究机构位于中央商务区的中心，将是南半球首个此类机构。

这个被称为“电动汽车生活实验室”，将拥有充电站、再生电网和电池模拟器，能够进行“真实”场景测试。

维州交通部门目前占该州排放量的25%，这项重大投资标志着政府向2050年实现净零排放的目标迈出了重要一步。

州政府的目标是，到2030年所有新车销售的一半是电动的；到2025年其公共巴士车队全部是全电动的。这个实验机构的研究有助于实现向可持续交通的“平稳过渡”。

该机构将于2023年年中投入运作，并

创造18个就业机会，同时还为学生提供实践培训。

高等教育、培训和技能部长Gayle Tierney在2月15日宣布了该项目的投资后表示：“我们知道当地的大学可以提供很多东西，这就是为什么我们与他们和行业合作，建立一个光明的未来，同时也为维多利亚人民创造良好的学习、研究和就业机会。”

由RMIT牵头，耗资 818万澳元的“支持维多利亚未来汽车电动化”项目还将与蒙纳士(Monash)大学和拉筹伯(La Trobe)大学以及行业合作伙伴西门子(Siemens)、墨尔本市、新能源技术中心 (C4NET) 和电力公司CitiPower/Powercor 合作。

墨尔本皇家理工大学负责研究和创新的副校长Calum Drummond教授表示，该研究机构将开发尖端的电池技术，并模拟“大规模采用电动汽车对电网负荷、价格以及更广泛系统的影响。”

# 街头艺人重回城市街道

对于鼓手Simon Wood来说，有机会与他的乐队成员再次在城市街道上表演现场音乐感到无比兴奋。

Brendan Rees

他是数百名本地人才中的一员，他们将在为期四周的时间内在CBD的街道和巷道上表演，作为支持受疫情重创的音乐产业新计划的一部分。

Wood先生的第一次现场音乐演出是在今年2月份在南岸举行的，他说与吉他手Matt Katsis一起表演是一种“非常愉悦的感觉”，他们组成了名为Timbakat的两人乐队。

他说：“很显然，我们经历了很多封锁期，实际上我们无法聚在一起排练或演出，尤其是在受到严格限制的情况下。”

“我们表演得很开心，开始时有些生

疏，但当我们唱完这些歌曲时，观众们都回来了，我们又回到了最佳状态。”

耗资900万澳元的“On The Road Again”计划是州政府与墨尔本市政合作的一项举措，将有近700场街头表演以及即兴演出。

随着该行业从疫情中的复苏，州政府的这个计划于2月17日启动，支持现场音乐重返维多利亚。

与此同时，州政府宣布将拨款170万澳元，支持全州的艺术家和商家。

该款项将通过州政府的“音乐作品”资助计划，支持77个音乐项目，涉及近7000名专业人士，让艺术家录制新专辑和制作音乐视频。





# What's on: March 2022



## BLAK & BRIGHT FIRST NATIONS LITERATURE FESTIVAL

March 17 - 20

The Blak & Bright First Nations Literature Festival takes over the Wheeler Centre and other venues in the city for Blak stories from across the country.

[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 [rotaryclub-centralmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclub-centralmelbourne@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)

# Business Directory

## Accounting



business accountants

Maximising your profits by  
minimising your tax

PH 9603 0066

[www.rubiiixbusinessaccountants.com.au](http://www.rubiiixbusinessaccountants.com.au)

## Gifts



**CLEMENTINE'S**  
Made & Crafted in Victoria

Clementine's, for your locally made gifts,  
homewares, accessories and fine food

7 O'Graves St, Melbourne | 639 2681 | [info@clementines.com.au](mailto:info@clementines.com.au)

## Real Estate



**DONAZZAN**  
BOUTIQUE  
PROPERTY

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)

## Shopping

**QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET**

For the best fresh produce, gourmet food  
and specialty shopping,  
you can't beat Queen Vic Market.

**Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
Saturday & Sunday**  
with plenty of affordable parking.

[QVM.COM.AU](http://qvm.com.au)

## Family Law



**Pearce  
Webster  
Dugdales**

Working with  
individuals,  
families & business.

Tel: 9614 5122 Fax: 9614 2964  
[www.pearcewebster.com.au](http://www.pearcewebster.com.au)

## Lawyers



**nc neville & co.**  
commercial lawyers

[WWW.NEVILE.COM.AU](http://WWW.NEVILE.COM.AU)

Selling & Leasing  
the best homes  
in the CBD.


**Nelson  
Alexander**

846 Bourke St,  
Docklands  
9251 9000



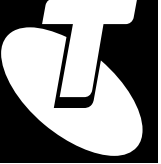
**COLLINS PLACE**

35 Collins St, Melbourne [collinsplace.com.au](http://collinsplace.com.au)



**PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE OPTUS MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT:**  
**Part of Show Court 3, Melbourne Park, Olympic Boulevard  
Melbourne VIC 3000 (RFNSA Site No. 3000379)**

- The proposed facility consists of the addition of new 5G equipment and associated works as follows:
  - Installation of three (3) new panel antennas (0.449m in length) at 11m in height on existing mounts on the existing light poles
  - Removal of three (3) existing panel antennas
  - Installation of twelve (12) new Remote Radio Units (RRUs)
  - Ancillary equipment including but not limited to: new fibre and electrical cabling, replacement of one (1) GPS antenna with two (2) new GPS antennas and reconfiguration of existing equipment on the facility and in the existing equipment room
- Optus regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility in accordance with the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 (Amendment No.1, 2021)* based on the description above.
- In accordance with Section 7 of the C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to Russell Carman of Ventia at [russell.carman@ventia.com](mailto:russell.carman@ventia.com) or Locked Bag 4001, Moorabbin VIC 3189 by **COB Wednesday 16 March 2022.**



**PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE  
MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION  
LOCATED AT MELBOURNE**

**Telstra plans to upgrade an existing telecommunications facility located at  
Oakford Gordon Towers, 43-51 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000  
[www.rfnsa.com.au/3000051](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/3000051)**

- Telstra are currently upgrading existing mobile network facilities to allow for the introduction of 5G to Telstra's network. As part of this network upgrade, Telstra proposes the installation of NR/LTE 2600 (4G/5G), NR26000 (5G) and NR850 (5G) technologies at Melbourne locality and surrounds.
- The proposed upgrade comprises of the removal of six (6) panel antennas and installation of six (6) panel antennas (each no more than 2.8m long). The proposal also includes the installation of three (3) remote radio units (RRUs) on existing steelwork and the installation of associated ancillary equipment. All internal equipment will be housed within the existing equipment shelter located at the base of the facility. Telstra regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* based on the above description.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or written submissions should be directed to Brenda Perez-Torres, Aurecon Australasia via email to: [Brenda.perez-torres@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Brenda.perez-torres@aurecongroup.com) or via post to: Brenda Perez-Torres, Aurecon Australasia Aurecon Centre PO Box 23061 Docklands VIC 8012 by **5pm on 10/03/2022.**





## Agent of the Year Melbourne

Gina is delighted to humbly advise that she has once again received the honour of Agent of the Year for her work in the City of Melbourne and has also rated in the Top 5% Nationally.

Gina is exceptional in her market; this award proves her strong work ethic, personalised service, honesty, integrity, and the true boutique brand has been recognised and continues to be a standout.



For a private and confidential discussion  
around your property needs contact  
**Gina Donazzan**  
0412 430 326



**2x Suburb Winner  
Melbourne**  
2022, 2018



**Highly recommended**  
High level of customer satisfaction

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