

CBD NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P25



Students are back!
Photo by John Tadigiri

Overseas students are steadily returning to the CBD and to celebrate their arrival, the City of Melbourne hosted a “foodie tour” at Queen Victoria Market where students discovered a true taste of the iconic venue. *More on page 11.*

More residents could be key to CBD’s future: Premier

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said Melbourne CBD’s future vibrancy could depend on increased resident numbers and converting office space into dwellings, as the central city grapples with “permanent” changes.

WORDS BY David Schout
ECONOMY

In a revealing speech to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) on March 5, Mr Andrews was asked about the government’s long-term plan facing the CBD after a permanent shift to hybrid working.

Noting the “permanent” changes as a result of COVID-19, the Premier gave an early insight into where the state government projects a CBD recovery could emerge from.

“There’s been a lot of loud voices and a lot of criticism. That’s fair enough. People are hurting and change is really tough. But, I don’t think we’re going to go back to the way it was,” he said regarding city workers.

“I think some people, for some time each week are going to spend that time working at home. And we need to embrace that and turn that into an important opportunity. I would welcome a discussion about commercial real estate in the city, and about the fact that’s going to change.” “Some businesses are not going to need the floor space that they used to need. If you want to keep the CBD vibrant, then maybe we need to have more people living in the CBD.”

The push to convert office space into residential use has seen pushback during the past 12 months, with critics arguing there was little demand in the property industry to do so.

Others argue that, from a practical standpoint, the move would be difficult given the large floorplates of commercial spaces, which could result in lower-quality housing given the need for natural light in residential buildings.

But Mr Andrews said this was a challenge that could be met.

“I know conversions are difficult because floorplates are not designed for that; draught, ceiling heights and all those sorts of things. But all that — we can work through those things. We can talk about those things. What I’m saying is that some of this will be lasting, but we have to use that as an opportunity. And I think sitting down and talking and being as collaborative as possible is how we will turn those challenges into opportunities for the future.”

It emerged during the speech that there was a gap between the Premier’s and Lord Mayor Sally Capp’s projections for the number of daily workers that will return to the CBD on a permanent basis.

While acknowledging a bounce-back in recent weeks, Mr Andrews said the government expected the number of Monday-to-Friday workers travelling into the Hoddle Grid to eventually settle on just over half of the pre-pandemic figure.

“I think there are some changes that are going to be quite permanent, if not, they’ll certainly linger for a while,” he said.

Continued on page 3.

Continued on page 2.

Calls for a summit as “residents ignored in election priorities”

WORDS BY Sean Car
ELECTIONS

The leaders of the CBD’s two residents’ groups have criticised the City of Melbourne for failing to include city-dwellers in its 2022 election priorities to the state and federal governments, calling for a more “deliberative decision-making process.”

The City of Melbourne recently released two separate documents outlining its list of key advocacy priorities to the federal and state governments ahead of their respective May and November elections.

The council included a range of projects under the headings of “Economic Recovery”, “City-Shaping” and “Climate Change and Renewable Energy” that it says it

would like to collaborate on with both levels of governments.

While acknowledging that the priorities listed by the council were “great”, East Enders president Dr Stan Capp and Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo said they were disappointed that neither document “notably has no mention of residents.”

Dr Capp is leading calls for the City of Melbourne to stage a CBD summit, sponsored by the state government, with key stakeholders to address a number of pressing issues “facing residents and people who come to the CBD.”

“A summit needs to be called involving all key stakeholders, including residents, to find solutions to these problems,” Dr Capp said.

Continued on page 3.

TRANSPORT, PAGE 05

A Bike lanes under fire as traders feel the pinch



COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 08-09

B Residents meet with council CEO



BUSINESS, PAGE 10

C QVM traders fury as events force them out



HEALTH, PAGE 12

D Support from the ground up



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The deadline for the May edition is April 22.

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More residents could be key to CBD's future: Premier

Continued from page 1.

"I think the days of having 100 per cent of people at their desk 100 per cent of the time, in the CBD and in CBDs in the suburbs or regional cities, I don't know about that. I think that working from home works very well for some people some of the time. We estimate we're going to finish up with about 60 per cent back. I talk to big employers, particularly in the CBD, they're probably more like the 50 per cent mark."

However Lord Mayor Sally Capp's expectations were higher.

While Cr Capp did not directly answer *CBD News'* question about the council's long-term projections, the Lord Mayor remained upbeat about the city's prospects.

"The City of Melbourne has seen a significant surge in workers returning to the CBD over the past few weeks. Mid-week, foot traffic at commuter hubs has been at 70 to 80 per cent of pre-pandemic levels," she said.

"Looking forward, a major focus for the City of Melbourne will be maintaining our reputation as both a work and entertainment hub, and we will continue to promote our CBD as a city that earns the commute. We have the best job opportunities right here in Melbourne. Workers wanting to join companies at the forefront of tech, construction, fashion and art will find themselves drawn to the city."

However, Cr Capp conceded that certain changes were permanent and would not return to what they were prior to COVID-19.

The shift to hybrid working has, according to many, been one of the few positives to emerge from the pandemic and, asked whether the council was fighting a losing battle trying to entice workers back into the city, Cr Capp acknowledged the city had a new "rhythm".

"Before the pandemic, flexible work was already gaining momentum," she said.

"Now more than ever, the city has a new



rhythm. We will continue working closely with traders as the city learns about this new rhythm and what that looks like into the future."

The comments came as the council unveiled a new project to minimise COVID-19 transmission in office buildings by retrofitting ventilation systems.

In partnership with the University of Melbourne and CBUS Property, the research project "BREATH" will for three months trial and evaluate different ventilation systems in a vacant CBD building.

The university's researchers will trial three types of ventilation systems and perform a cost-analysis to determine how much each measure will cost per square metre and, at the conclusion, make the findings available to building owners, tenants and partners to inform how best to improve their workplaces.

"This is the first time such a team has come together to solve this massive problem from energy-use and infection control perspectives simultaneously," University of Melbourne's Head of Mechanical Engineering Professor Jason Monty said.

"Our team of fluid dynamics experts will be measuring the complex airflow patterns between occupants that can carry infectious disease. We'll combine that with monitoring energy use, temperature and human comfort to determine the most efficient ventilation systems." ●

Melbourne to come alive After Dark

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
EVENTS

Our city's most famous cultural institutions will come alive with a weekend of late-night programming as part of a new push from the Victorian Government to stimulate inner-city spending.

Art After Dark Melbourne will see the likes of the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Fed Square, Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Museum, among others, extend their opening hours until 1am from May 13 to 15.

The concept, which is inspired by Europe's Night of Museums, is expected to inject millions of dollars into the economy as tens of thousands of visitors converge on Melbourne's CBD for a mixture of free and paid experiences, including visual and performing arts, public programs, installations, live music, food and drink.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said reimagining our city and its many cultural organisations outside of their traditional prisms would be crucial in maintaining Melbourne's claim as the nation's creative capital.

"Our investment in this major new event is supporting jobs in the creative and tourism sectors, while offering another exciting reason for Victorians to rediscover everything Melbourne's night-time economy has to offer," Mr Pearson said.

"Art After Dark Melbourne will bring tens of thousands of people into the CBD, bringing with them a significant boost to hotels, cafes, bars, restaurants and retail shops across the city."

Held in partnership with Visit Victoria, Art After Dark Melbourne will also provide a crucial platform for Melbourne's hard-hit creative industries as they continue through their post-COVID recovery phase. For more information: visitvictoria.com/artafterdark ●

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COLLINS PLACE

Calls for a summit as “residents ignored in election priorities”

Continued from page 1.

He also put a question to the council’s CEO Justin Hanney at the Residents 3000 forum on March 3 as to whether it would establish a People’s Panel so the residents could “better inform the council on community views.”

While both East Enders and Residents 3000 are calling on the council to advocate for better citizen-led representation, community and precinct building, city safety and responding to homelessness, Dr Capp said it was “more about contextualising how they arrive at a priority.”

“It’s fine sharing the priorities with residents and telling us they’ve done them, but if you frame the narrative in a way that says ‘what are the key considerations, and anything we do in the CBD is to protect resident amenity and to develop the life of residents in a way that will encourage other people to become residents’, that’s the narrative I would frame,” he said.

“These [priorities] were the big-ticket items. Why wasn’t ‘resident’ mentioned once in any document?”

While the council has advocated to the state government to extend stamp duty concessions and exemptions for CBD properties for a further 12 months, Mr Camillo said it was important that resident needs were “addressed simultaneously.”

“They want to bring more people by giving them more concessions to live in the city, but at the same time, the basics aren’t getting done. They need to be addressed simultaneously,” he said.

Mr Hanney told guests at the Residents 3000 forum that he was open to the idea of a People’s Panel for the CBD.

“I think they [People’s Panels] are great. We use them and continue to use them, such as on Queen Victoria Market and various projects,” he said.

Among the council’s priorities for both levels of government were delivering Greenline, redeveloping Central Pier, progressing public transport to Fishermans Bend, supporting the development of a First Nations precinct at Federation Square East and co-funding Power Melbourne – a renewable energy program deploying “mid-scale distributed batteries across inner-Melbourne.”



▲ Dr Stan Capp (left) and Rafael Camillo (right).

It has also advocated to the state government to support the return of workers and international students, fix City Rd in Southbank and revitalise Moonee Ponds Creek. Federally, it wants clear pathways from student visas to citizenship and income support payments raised “above the poverty line”, while calling on both levels of government to “overcome labour and skills shortages.”

But Dr Capp said the council’s Community Engagement Policy should be used for deliberative decision making to inform a range of the priorities listed, such as the desire to facilitate and attract the return of international students.

“The City of Melbourne should be partnering with the university sector and the state government in the identification of opportunities to improve the lives of students,” he said.

“Universities are key stakeholders, but what do they invest in the city to make the lifestyle better for students?”

Both resident groups have also called on the council to lobby the state government to reform the planning system in the central city, arguing “poor planning decisions are causing residents to consider leaving the CBD.”

“It is pointless trying to attract new residents if maintain and respecting resident amenity is ignored by decision-makers,” Dr Capp said.

While current rules stipulate that all developments greater than 25,000 sqm are subject to ministerial approval, Dr Capp said this should be increased to 60,000 sqm in the capital city zone to provide the City of Melbourne with greater control over city planning ●



Paterson’s push for Melbourne

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

In less than two months, Labor candidate Keir Paterson will look to return Melbourne as a Labor seat in the upcoming federal election – but he faces an uphill battle.

The Kensington resident, who was born in Carlton and spent his early years in North Melbourne, is looking to oust Greens leader Adam Bandt, who many expect to claim election victory for a fifth straight time.

Most recently president of the 50,000-member Bicycle Network, an advocate group for more sustainable transport and safer riding, Mr Paterson has worked in mental health where he led programs and interventions to make workplaces more psychologically safe and mentally healthy.

In a recent Facebook post, the father of three said his decision to run for Federal Parliament stemmed from a deep affinity with the area.

“I love Melbourne, but it is hurting. Restaurants, pubs and shops are

shuttered, live music is silenced, our tertiary sector is on life support. The lifeblood of our city – the arts – is bleeding,” he said.

“We can’t afford another three years standing on the sidelines of government. An Albanese Labor Government will start the important work of a national reconstruction, committed to leaving no one behind. I want to be a part of that – and I will make sure our community is a part of that too.”

A Labor stronghold from 1904 to 2010, the seat of Melbourne has since become synonymous with the Greens.

On the campaign trail in recent weeks, Mr Paterson said people had expressed a strong desire to “get rid of this Morrison Government” and that “the only way to do that was with a vote for Labor.”

“No seat in the country has been impacted by COVID as severely as Melbourne. We need an MP in Canberra advocating fiercely for Melbourne’s central role in the national post-COVID reconstruction,” he said ●



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Trader's feel the pinch as bike lanes impact business

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

Frustration is growing among CBD traders who say new protected bike lanes are hurting their businesses as a lack of parking turns customers away.

Small businesses have reignited their concerns over the new protected bike lanes being trialled on Exhibition St, which has reduced the amount of motorist lanes and in turn parking space.

"It's badly affected our trade," a café worker said. "Customers are complaining they can't stop the car to grab a quick coffee because they can't find a parking spot."

"This is just another hurdle. Our takings are down 95 per cent to what they were pre-COVID."

"I'm all for cycling to work and saving the environment but at the end of the day, we're making concessions for cyclists making it more difficult for others."

"They certainly don't pay any form of road tax or road registration fees, so I don't understand why all these concessions are being given to them," the worker said, requesting anonymity.

"I've also seen a couple of incidents where ambulances have had to pull into laneways rather than pull directly in front of the building."

"Council hasn't even come to consult with us to ask us our opinion."

Jayson Nguyen, who runs Euroluce lighting store, said clients were also struggling to find a park on weekdays to visit his showroom.

"Sometimes they're driving around for a good 15 to 20 minutes or half an hour until they can find parking," he said, adding he would sometimes have to carry bulky items to customers' cars quite a distance away.

The City of Melbourne has sought to deliver 40 kilometres of protected lanes and pedestrian improvements across the city, saying the project is critical in accommodating the rising number of cyclists – which it found had jumped 300 per



cent in the past two years.

"With more people choosing to ride – and now scoot – we have a duty to provide safe bike lane infrastructure, otherwise there will be inevitable accidents with tragic consequences for all road users," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

She said the council had commissioned an independent transport review, which was undertaken by auditing giant Deloitte, who supported council's work to build protected bike lanes and forecast bike trips to the CBD which would exceed pre-COVID levels.

However, Cr Capp added, "We know there are pressure points in traffic flow throughout the city and we're constantly reviewing how best to manage those. In 2021, we made more than 60 adjustments to alleviate that pressure."

According to council data in February, commuter bike volumes on protected bike lanes around the CBD had jumped 80 per cent month-on-month.

However, Small Business Australia executive director Bill Lang told *CBD News* a lot of road space for motorists was going to waste with cyclists contributing little to the city's economic recovery.

"Customers and cash flow are the lifeblood of any business and more of these permanent bicycle lanes are the equivalent of having a high cholesterol reading stopping the blood flowing," he said.

He said the council's parking revenue was also under "significant pressure because they've got rid of a whole bunch of parks, therefore they've increased the cost of parking per hour for the parks that are left."

"So, what does that do to attract people [to the city] versus going to Doncaster Westfield Shopping Centre?"

A Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce spokesperson was critical of the bike lanes which appeared to be servicing a small percentage of commuters.

"Solving Melbourne's mobility issues requires a multi-pronged approach, and bicycles play a part in a good outcome," he said, but added, "at any one time, if one were to look at a bike lane alongside a road what you would see is a small smattering of bicycles traveling freely next to a road with a long line of stationary cars on it."

"One should never forget who pays for roads."

It's motorists – all motorists. So why inconvenience millions of them for the sake of a small number of cyclists?"

"Perhaps the fairest way to deal with this situation is to have bicyclists pay for the roads and lanes they use – just like motorists do – in the form of a road user tax or bicycle registration and insurance scheme."

"Another unfair aspect that annoys motorists is that some cyclists routinely ignore designated bike lanes and use footpaths and roads instead. Bicycling is a legitimate, eco-friendly way to get around, but cyclists can't have it both ways."

An AusCycling spokesperson said protected bike lanes were essential for people to be safe and feel safe while riding their bikes.

"The booming number of bike riders during lockdown and the popularity of new bike lanes has demonstrated that many Australians want to ride their bikes to work, school or the shops, and they will do so if they are given safe places to ride," the spokesperson said.

"CBD bike lanes will deliver multiple benefits to Melbourne from reduced congestion and parking pressure to less pollution and the many health benefits for those who ride."

A Bicycle Network spokesman said it strongly believed building safer places for people to ride was an important step in any modern city's development.

RACV general manager of mobility Elizabeth Kim said evidence had shown that dedicated bike lanes and paths helped make cycling "a feasible, affordable and sustainable transport option for many."

"The Department of Transport data shows that bike lanes can move three times as many people as one car traffic lane and can help ease congestion and pollution," she said.

"The removal of parking bays for the bike lanes represents only one per cent of the 23,000 on-street car parks across the city."

"Victoria now has an opportunity to develop cycling infrastructure thoughtfully to help ease congestion and make it easier and safer to ride."

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Calls for summit as spate of assaults has residents concerned

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

CBD residents have raised the alarm after a recent spate of assaults in the city heightened concerns about community safety.

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo has renewed calls for more police to conduct foot patrols in the streets after four incidents of serious assault including a stabbing occurred in March.

“For a long time, safety has been an issue and that’s an impact to residents, workers, and visitors. More importantly, visitors, because they can be traumatised and won’t return,” he said.

“The police presence is very, very important.”

In the latest incident, a 57-year-old man was allegedly assaulted after leaving a function on Swanston St about 10.30pm on March 2.

Police said the victim, a Richmond man, was taken to hospital with serious facial injuries after a male allegedly punched the victim to the face causing him to fall to the ground unconscious and was again assaulted while lying on the ground.

On March 12, a man was stabbed at Federation Square about 11.40pm with a group of youths aged 14 to 17 questioned by police.

Two men were also charged with murder after a fatal stabbing in Bourke St, Docklands during the early hours of March 13.

In another separate incident, a CBD resident was “assaulted completely unexpected” while walking home about 9.20pm on February 17. The man was reportedly punched to his face with his leg also injured. His wife, with whom he was with at the time, said “we were quite shaken up.”

East Enders president Dr Stan Capp said he was also concerned by the rise in incidents, and believed a summit needed to be called involving all key stakeholders, including residents, to

“It’s too early to tell whether there is an upwards trend in antisocial or criminal behaviour in the city based off one weekend, however it is common sense to expect more reports of incidents with more people out in the community.”



“find solutions to these problems.”

“Every resident deserves to feel safe at any time in the CBD and residents need to be consulted about their lived experience and proposed solutions,” he said.

“When we discuss the issues of high

importance to residents, safety and security is always one of the first points raised.”

Dr Capp said the establishment of a safety and security committee, as seen in neighbouring Southbank, would be a useful initiative for the CBD.

The issue of safety was recently discussed at a community meeting in which the City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney said that when it worked with police to increase the number of foot patrols, it reduced the amount of Triple 0 calls by around 25 to 30 per cent (read more on pages 8 and 9).

A Victoria Police spokesperson said police were committed to keeping the community safe.

“It’s too early to tell whether there is an upwards trend in antisocial or criminal behaviour in the city based off one weekend, however it is common sense to expect more reports of incidents with more people out in the community,” the spokesperson said.

“We do understand how confronting it can be to witness this activity and the broader impact it can have on how safe people feel.”

“This is why we continue to assess intelligence and run ongoing operations in the city with resources allocated accordingly to wherever they are needed most – be it a major event, public transport hub or nightlife precinct.”

“Uniform police are supported by the Public Order Response Team, Mounted Branch, Dog Squad, Highway Patrol, Transit police and PSOs to regularly patrol the city in an effort to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.”

The spokesperson added police also used CCTV to monitor areas and prevent incidents from escalating.

The series of assaults come as data from The Alfred hospital show the number of stabbing victims it had treated had jumped 50 per cent compared with the December, January, and February period a year ago ●

Workers set to return to Probuild sites

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUILDING

Work was reportedly set to recommence on two key CBD sites previously held by now collapsed construction giant Probuild.

According to reports by the *Australian Financial Review*, construction was set to restart on biotech giant CSL’s new headquarters at the CBD’s northernmost end, and the 65-level Uno residential development on A’Beckett St.

However, the future of Probuild’s other CBD projects, including a 23-level office tower at 1000 La Trobe St, a strata office tower at 130 Little Collins St and an office tower at 500 Bourke St, is at this stage still unknown.

Probuild’s sites were shut down across the country after the construction giant was formally put into voluntary administration on February 24, which left almost 800 employees uncertain of their future.

On March 7, administrators Deloitte reached in-principle agreement with NSW-based construction business Roberts Co to purchase most of Probuild’s Victorian assets.

“Just over a week into the administration and while due diligence is still to be completed, this is an excellent outcome for these parts of the Group’s operations in terms of employment and certainty for sub-contractors, suppliers and other stakeholders,” Deloitte Turnaround & Restructuring national leader Sal Algeri said.

“Roberts Co would be a natural fit in terms of its experience in large-scale projects and its history with various Probuild executives.”

Roberts Co CEO, Alison Mirams said, “It’s not often the right opportunities present themselves under such challenging circumstances. This one aligns with our growth plans into Victoria following a successful launch in NSW over the past five years.”

At the time of publishing the due diligence period was yet to be completed ●

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“An enormous safety problem”: CBD locals meet with council CEO

In an open address to Residents 3000 last month, the City of Melbourne’s CEO Justin Hanney threw the challenge to locals to “come up with great ideas and initiatives” for the city, as he dealt with a number of contentious issues affecting the CBD.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Speaking at the Residents 3000 meeting at the Kelvin Club on March 3, Mr Hanney – a CBD resident himself – presented on some of the council’s current key initiatives before responding to questions from the floor.

The council’s rollout of bike lanes, the current e-scooter trial, safety, homelessness, graffiti and the state government’s proposed safe injecting room for the CBD were among the key issues of concern to residents at the meeting.

While acknowledging that hybrid work arrangements were “here to stay” for many CBD-based companies and their workers, Mr Hanney said “it was fantastic” to see the city “booming” again following the easing of COVID restrictions.

“People are back out and our pedestrian indicators are showing that. The city has been turned back on and major employers are directing their staff back to work,” he said.

“I’ve had a bit of a wrestle with my own organisation because I’m saying we’re back in the office. Our default position is, we’ve got 1600 staff back in the office and we’re doing that to try and lead by example.”

Bike lanes and scooters under fire

In addition to encouraging workers back to the city, Mr Hanney highlighted a number of initiatives the council had implemented during the COVID lockdowns, including activating laneways and shopfronts, installing parklets for hospitality traders, as well as “putting in 10 years of bike lanes in one year.”

The council’s bicycle lane rollout has come under intense scrutiny as the city emerges from COVID, with many residents raising concerns with the CEO regarding pedestrian safety, low cycling uptake, blocking of emergency vehicle access and increased congestion.

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo has continued calls for the council to review bike lanes across the CBD, as residents took aim at bicycles and scooters being ridden on footpaths, as well as reduced space for vehicle access and parking.

“Footpaths are built for people to walk. There are very powerful organisations for bicycles, but no-one is representing pedestrians. Getting on and off a tram is now a very dangerous activity,” one resident said.

“It’s not like Amsterdam where people ride their bikes along the cobblestone,” another said. “Here [Melbourne] people race like they’re in the Olympics.”

“There is an enormous safety problem.”

Another resident also expressed frustration that the council’s consultation with residents over the rollout had been based more on “informing” rather than “engaging”.

But Mr Hanney said the delivery of new bike lanes was based on expert advice and “enormous” community consultation underpinning



the council’s 2030 transport strategy.

He also added that many of the new lanes, such as those recently installed along Exhibition St, were part of trials, and that adjustments could be made accordingly.

“The city has a transport strategy, consultation on the strategy was enormous,” Mr Hanney said. “There is transport planning behind it, you might not agree with it, but there’s evidence behind it.”

“We know there are currently areas of the city where it is unsafe to ride a bike, so we accelerated the amount of bike lanes while the city was shut down. Why do you think we did that? Because the city was shut down.”

“Bike lanes disrupt and with no one in the city we said, ‘right, we’ve got a plan, we’ve got a transport plan’ – we consulted enormously on the transport plan. I saw more consultation on that plan than any other plan I’ve seen adopted by the city. The feedback we received was vast, and it wasn’t just bicycle users.”

“What we’ve done is we’ve put a lot in quickly as trials. At Exhibition St, it’s a trial. There are temporary components to it so we can look at how it actually operates and how can we get input and feedback from people to determine whether it’s working or not.”

In response to concerns raised about bike lanes blocking emergency vehicle access, Mr Hanney said every new lane was installed in consultation with all emergency service providers, while with respect to poor configuration and signalling, he noted that “sometimes, when things go in, there are unintended consequences.”

“They’re the types of things that we’re not always going to get right. What’s the fix? What’s the solution?” he said.

“I promise you, we take a bike lane out I’ll get 200 people saying, ‘it’s not right’, and I’ll get 200 people saying, ‘well done’. It’s always going to be a position of what’s the right decision at that point in time.”

Many residents also expressed safety concerns with the state government’s e-scooter trial, which Mr Hanney said had seen around 60,000 users during its first week.

While scooters illegally riding on footpaths remains an issue of enforcement, Mr Hanney said he expected that the geofencing technology that controlled where scooter riders could travel would only improve as the trial progressed.

“We might not like them, but they’re popular. If you go to any capital city in the world, they have scooters,” he said. “Everyone has got views on scooters. Some people love scooters, some people don’t. It’s a trial.”

“The issue with scooters is that they’re banned from footpaths, and they need to be banned [from footpaths]. Part of the trial we would like to see is better geofencing. The technology is getting better. The trial is going to be really important; your input is really important.”

City safety and homelessness

Local residents and businesses continue to call for more active police surveillance in the CBD amid rising crime and ongoing issues surrounding people sleeping rough.

While acknowledging that the City of Melbourne was only “part of the solution” when it came to housing and homelessness, Mr Hanney pointed to the establishment of the council’s new agency Homes Melbourne as an example of its commitment to the cause.

He said while there wasn’t “a democratic city in the world that doesn’t have homeless people or people with mental health issues in the city”, deinstitutionalisation had seen an “abundance” of people with mental health issues presenting on the streets.

The council has recently launched the Make Room project at 602 Little Bourke St – a building that it owns that will be retrofitted in partnership with Unison, the state government and philanthropic partners to house up to 50 rough

sleepers.

Mr Hanney said “providing pathways” was critical to support people out of homelessness, while raising concerns with the lack of decentralisation of welfare services within the CBD, particularly surrounding the Salvation Army’s headquarters at Bourke St.

“For those of you who live in close proximity here, there is a honeypot without question around the Salvos centre. Why? Because it’s the only facility that is really active within the space except for Ozanam,” he said.

“The pathway can only be support. I struggle a little bit, and this is my personal position, with a lot of the crisis services being offered on the street.”

“It is really critical that people who need food support [can access it], and there is a group that goes out with a washing machine in the back of a van that washes clothes.”

“I’ve got no issues with those services being offered. I think, again once you institutionalise these and they’re done on the streets, that you have institutionalised it.”

“The city’s approach to this is going to be to work to identify at least two locations [for housing] across the city [with] one specifically targeted at women.”

“What we’re seeing is a greater representation of women and older women presenting as homeless on the streets. One is that there are pathways, and that more and more people who require that support can be given that support in a dignified way.”

“I’m not dodging this issue. It’s a real issue but it’s a community and it’s a society issue. Our part from the city is ensuring those terrific groups that provide those magnificent welfare support services to the homeless, can do so in locations where people are there and there’s security.”

“And it’s not 300 people in Brendan Nottle’s place just behind us here and an over concentration in those areas. [It’s that those areas are spread.]”

Mr Hanney added that when the council had previously requested more “proactive policing” in the form of foot patrols from Victoria Police, statistics had shown a significant reduction in calls to Triple 0.

“If you have two police officers walking down Bourke St, there is a sense of safety,” he said.

He also acknowledged the “level of frustration” with graffiti with more than 21,000 reports to the council during the past 12 months – an increase of more than 7000 on the previous year.

He said the council was currently engaged in a “graffiti blitz”, which was as much about “beautifying the city” as it was about “ensuring that the city presents itself as being safe.”

“We’ve broken up the city into smaller pieces, I’ve given every executive – I don’t care if they’re the CFO or myself – everyone on the executive has been given an area, to oversight, to monitor, to keep an eye. We’ve got a QR code, and we are asking you to keep an eye on it.”



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▲ Rafael Camillo (left) and Justin Hanney (right).

“I support a safe injecting room in the city”

The issue of the state government’s proposed medically supervised safe injecting room in the CBD continues to divide the community, with many residents calling on the government to reinstate more rehabilitation beds.

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

The community continues to await the release of a report by former police commissioner Ken Lay that would recommend the best site for the city’s second safe injecting room — believed to be the former Yooralla building on Flinders St.

Seven out of 11 City of Melbourne councillors backed an “evidence-based” approach to the divisive issue on May 25 last year, and referenced the findings of an independent expert panel, which found that the North Richmond site had saved at least 21 lives in its first 18 months and thwarted 271 “extremely serious overdose incidents”.

While the previous council voted against a proposed site near Queen Victoria Market in 2020, the state government has yet to officially confirm the Flinders St site as its preferred location.

In relation to the Flinders St site, Lord Mayor Sally Capp has publicly raised concerns surrounding impacts on local residents and traders, as well as its proximity to nearby hospitals.

The issue was raised with Mr Hanney at the Residents 3000 meeting last month, who asked for a show of hands from the more than 60 attendees in the room as to who supported a safe injecting room in the CBD, and who didn’t. The results were split by around a third to two-thirds, respectively.

“I think I saw about a third of hands go up, so it is about choice, and it probably represents views across the broader society,” Mr Hanney said.

While reiterating the proposal was a matter for the state government, and its best location

a matter for councillors, he told the meeting he personally supported it.

“I support a safe injecting room in the city. Why? Because we’ve got people who use heroin in the city and who die. That’s my personal view,” he said.

“I think of one of my younger daughters – if she was using heroin would I want her using in a safe place? Yes. Do I want her using heroin? Absolutely not.”

“But would I want her to get access to all of the support services? Absolutely ... I’d want her using in a safe space where she wouldn’t die. It’s a tricky one.”

“Ken Lay knows our views, we’ve worked closely with him. But the city’s position, formally, is that a safe injecting room in the city is appropriate.”

But many expressed their opposition to a second safe injecting room at the meeting, with one community member labelling North Richmond as “a disaster” that would “destroy Melbourne” if established in the CBD.

Mr Camillo said the government “should be investing in more rehabilitation beds before considering another injecting room.”

While the government said it had doubled the number of publicly funded beds available since 2014, a report by Victoria’s Health Complaints Commissioner Karen Cusack last year found Victoria only had 530 publicly funded residential rehabilitation beds, compared with nearly 900 in New South Wales.

“Great cities have people coming up with great ideas and initiatives”

As part of his opening address to the meeting, Mr Hanney said while there were undoubtedly faults with the city, he used the opportunity to explore the community to be solutions focused when providing feedback.

“I do appreciate the city; I love the city and I consciously choose to live in the city. I have and continue to do so. I have no desire to live somewhere else,” he said.

“There are faults with the city, no questions asked. I’m happy to respond to those where necessary and defend them when appropriate.”

“But I would say that great cities have people coming up with great ideas and initiatives. They don’t just come from people writing letters to the editor, they come from groups like this. You’re here because you’re passionate about living in Melbourne.”

In what was perhaps just one of many more “great ideas” to come from locals, owner of Degraves St gift store Clementine’s Melanie Ashe asked whether the council had considered an education program for residents and businesses dealing “face-to-face” with people suffering drug addiction and mental health issues.

“[Education is needed] so that we can respond in a manner that is going to be more positive. I’ve been given a few tips from people I know who have dealt with people with drug abuse, because different drugs require a different response and so on,” Ms Ashe said.

“I’m just wondering if this might be a good opportunity for the City of Melbourne, Residents 3000 and our precinct programs to do a really collaborative education program.”

Mr Hanney said, “I think that’s a great idea.”

“I think it’s something we can do in partnership and I’m happy to put resources into it from the city because it’s a real issue.” ●



CBD buses named to go electric by end of 2022

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

In the coming months select buses along seven CBD routes will no longer emit dangerous fumes, as the state government confirmed details of their zero and low-emission buses rollout.

In a move set to improve air quality within the Hoddle Grid, 12 electric buses will be deployed along seven routes that start and end in the CBD.

The move is an initial action as part of a state government pledge to deliver 36 electric buses by mid-2025.

Most transit buses in Melbourne are powered by diesel, the fumes of which have been proven to have an adverse effect on health, particularly in urban environments.

And while the fleet of buses that travel on the seven routes will not be exclusively electric vehicles, public transport minister Ben Carroll said it was a positive start.

“The introduction of electric buses is a win for the environment and also means quieter buses emitting zero emissions in busy zones,” he told *CBD News*.

The announcement is particularly welcome to residents and traders on Queen St, with all seven routes travelling along the busy thoroughfare.

However the news is not so welcome for those on Lonsdale St, which has previously been flagged as the most problematic bus corridor in the city.

Last year the City of Melbourne said that replacing harmful diesel buses that ran along Lonsdale St with electric alternatives would be a “significant step” to reducing CBD air pollution.

The council’s submission to a state government inquiry into the health impacts of air pollution expressed concerns about diesel emissions from public buses and said that Lonsdale St — which saw more than 1000 bus movements a day, serving 16 routes — was an area of particular concern within the Hoddle Grid.

However of the electric buses that will run through the CBD, only bus number 216

(Sunshine - CBD) travels along the street.

“The buses run on diesel fuel, the emissions of which are implicated in human cancer, heart and lung damage, and undermining mental functioning,” the council’s submission read.

“Converting the Lonsdale St bus corridor to zero emissions would be a significant step towards reducing the harm caused by air pollution in the city.”

At peak times, more than 1400 people walked on Lonsdale St between Swanston and Russell streets every hour.

In addition to the 12 electric buses, the government has announced that there will also be 34 “hybrid” buses in operation by the end of 2022.

Hybrid buses emit less exhaust fumes and, in a notable development, will have the capacity to be programmed to switch to electric battery mode in designated “geofenced” zones, including outdoor dining precincts.

These exact zones however are yet to be finalised and will be determined as the hybrid buses are rolled out.

The call to replace diesel buses has become more pertinent in recent months, in particular as some hospitality venues make outdoor dining arrangements permanent as a result of COVID-19, something similarly flagged in the council’s 2021 submission.

During the next nine years, 341 electric and hybrid buses will be introduced into the metropolitan network, including a commitment for five in the first half of 2022.

The pledge was part of a \$2.3 billion contract announced in October between the state government and Melbourne-based company Kinetic to operate a third of the metropolitan bus network, taking over current operator Transdev.

Routes will feature electric buses

- 216: Sunshine - CBD
- 220: Sunshine - CBD
- 232: Altona North - Queen Victoria Market
- 234: Garden City - Queen Victoria Market
- 235: Fishermans Bend - CBD
- 236: Garden City - Queen Victoria Market
- 237: Fishermans Bend to CBD





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QVM traders' fury after being forced to move for the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Queen Victoria Market stallholders have told of their frustration after being forced to give up their spaces to make way for the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, which market management maintains is vital for reigniting Melbourne.

After having battled to survive the pandemic, traders from the market's E Shed were given the option of relocating temporarily for a month or shutting down without being charged for rent while the Food and Wine Festival took place.

The City of Melbourne and the market's management said the festival, which runs from March 25 to April 9, would play a pivotal role in showcasing the city's food and drink culture while promoting and attracting more visitors to QVM.

But for Albert Renwood, owner of the Luggage 2 U stall which he has operated for more than 50 years, he believed there had been no consideration for traders, saying they had been treated with "total disdain".

"Obviously the Food and Wine Festival takes precedence over the day-to-day traders who put their life, soul and energy into this place, it's just a real kick up the backside," he said, adding he had decided to take the month off with rent relief as "they couldn't give me a satisfactory stall."

"I'm more annoyed that you've got a choice; either go home and don't pay any rent or go where we put you, which is usually, and it's been found out to be, a place that is not suitable for your type of business."

"I don't want consultation – we want an input that's acted upon. Let's face it, we're the people on the ground, we know a little bit about it, and I feel it's just a total disregard of us."

Asked if he felt the Food and Wine Festival would help drive foot traffic to the market, he said given it wasn't a permanent activation it wouldn't be of benefit to traders.

"If they were continuing to have a Food and Wine Festival every day of the week for 12 months of the year, yeah [it would make a difference] but this is a once-off plonk, get out of the road, and we want to have this parade."

"It doesn't come into the theme of the market or the fabric of the market, it's got nothing to do with it. It's like having a ping pong tournament there, let's do that, that's a good idea."

A merchandise trader, who wished to remain anonymous, said their business had been disrupted by the Melbourne Fashion Festival and the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

"It just puts us behind, to generate income, to reinvest into the business. We were the strongest ones in there and we'll end up the weakest out of it," she said, adding "there are no signs of where we've gone."



▲ Lawrence Liu has run a pet shop in F Shed for the past nine years.

"We've been bounced around," the trader said.

"To anyone coming in would just think we've disappeared."

"For the Fashion Festival it was one day so we just said, 'okay we'll take the day off.' But the Food and Wine Festival is for four weeks so that's a little more serious impact on your ability to earn a living."

The trader acknowledged the festival was a "great promotion" for QVM, however, they were disappointed by how traders had been displaced.

"I don't know what their strategy is. It has left everyone really anxious and uncertain."

QVM chief executive Stan Liacos said the relocation of traders - which affected about four per cent of traders or 25 stallholders - was "temporary in nature but necessary for the market as a whole".

"Major events are necessary to attract new visitors and a good way to tempt many Melburnians back to the market," he said, adding the Melbourne Fashion Festival had been a "tremendous success".

"It's essential that we reignite the interest of Melburnians. We are resuming our commitment to hosting a suite of major events throughout the year."

Mr Liacos gave assurances that any major event would never take precedence over everyday traders, saying "that would never be the case and to suggest otherwise is being mischievous".

"Our core business is being a market destination, but like all leisure and retail destinations these days, we have to host events to entice new

customers and renew and grow our commercial base. To not do so will be to the detriment of our traders."

When asked about traders' concerns about the appropriateness of major events at the market, Mr Liacos said "I can appreciate that some traders may think that hosting landmark Melbourne festivals in our patch does not help them."

"I, however, strongly disagree as would the vast majority of our traders."

"Why wouldn't you host Victoria's premier Food and Wine Festival in Victoria's premier fresh food venue?"

He added, "Our busiest days/weekends at the market nearly always coincide when we have major events be it either festivals or cultural celebrations."

Mary Lou Howie, president of the Friends of Queen Victoria Market lobby group, said the month-long festival was "causing distress to traders and uncertainty about their viability which will cause further attrition of QVM businesses."

"Clearly the City of Melbourne's agenda is to repurpose and promote the Vic Market as an event space, prioritising events over regular traders who are the backbone of QVM and who are responsible for the market's local, national and international reputation," she said.

Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's creative director Pat Nourse said it was "not the intention of anyone at the festival that anyone gets hard done by in the staging of the event."

"The festival enjoys a lot of national and international attention, and bringing that attention to a wonderful part of the city should be a good thing," he said.

A spokesperson for the PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival said the market was open for normal operating hours on March 3 prior to the runway opening that evening.

"The Melbourne Fashion Festival and David Jones engaged with traders to profile them and include them in the presentation, and catering for the event. The traders have been consulted at every stage of the production preparation in collaboration with QVM management," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, traders in F Shed have expressed concerns about how to plan for their businesses before shed renovations get underway in June this year.

Peter Donnel, owner Don'l Trading Co Pty Ltd, a third-generation business which sells hardware, said he hadn't received anything in writing about whether he would be compensated or relocated when the works took place.

"There is no communication between management and market traders," he said.

"They haven't come and spoken to us in any way to guarantee that we are keeping our businesses."

"What do you do for four months? You've got

a family to support, bills to pay, rent to pay."

Lawrence Liu, who has run a pet shop in F Shed for the past nine years, said his lease expired last December and was now on a month-to-month agreement, which left him feeling anxious about the future of his business.

"I understand renovations are needed to revitalise the market, but I hope I get my lease earlier so I can be guaranteed a spot here," he said.

"Every business needs to plan ahead in the short term and long term, my pet shop business always relies on a local regular customer base, and I think I will lose most of my regulars if we can't go back to business before Christmas."

Mr Liacos said all traders had been informed that they would be offered long-term leases as soon as the works in E and F Sheds were completed over a three-month period.

"It is unfortunate that the fact that the works have been delayed approximately five months is contributing to their anxiety. We understand this and we'll support our traders as we undertake the works, and they will be assured of sound long-term lease commitments," he said.

"We have some terrific traders in a F Shed and we're absolutely committed to seeing them remaining and prospering."



▲ A new 7-Eleven pop-up store is installed at QVM.

Meanwhile, a new 7-Eleven convenience pop-up store which is being set up at the Queen Victoria Market near the new pop-up park, has sparked controversy, with traders saying it "goes against the whole principle of the whole market."

Named the "The Convenient Store", 7-Eleven has teamed up with the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival to bring Melburnians "a retail experience like no other", offering a menu of "reimagined 7-Eleven products".

But questions have been raised about how market traders are "going to be benefit" from a 7-Eleven store with traders saying shoppers "want variety and a 7-Eleven is not variety".

According to Mr Renwood, "If they want to go to 7-Eleven they go to one around the corner, not the market." ●

Bar hours automatically extend after liquor licence reforms

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

City bars, restaurants and cafes can automatically extend their trading hours from 11pm to 1am after the state government sought to streamline processes for ailing hospitality businesses.

Under the reforms, pubs and hotels which previously were required to close at 11pm can now trade until 1am as a right, subject to any planning restrictions that may apply.

It is understood local councils could still veto some applications, although the City of Melbourne was unable to confirm this when contacted by *CBD News*.

Licensed venues will also be able to supply a limited volume of alcohol with takeaway or delivery meals

without having to apply and pay for another licence under the reforms.

The changes come amid concerns about Melbourne's night-time economy after two difficult years as a result of COVID-19.

"These important reforms balance supporting Victoria's hospitality and entertainment industries post-pandemic while ensuring harm minimisation remains a key focus," Liquor Regulation Minister Melissa Horne said.

"All changes have been assessed to reduce both harm to the community and unnecessary hurdles for small businesses, which we know did it really tough during the pandemic."

And while they've been warmly welcomed by venues and industry bodies, CBD residents might worry about how the changes might impact noise-sensitive areas.

Residents in Liverpool St have recently endured a long-standing dispute with developers of an under-construction Bourke St venue, whose application to secure planning permission for liquor service to 3am was denied by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in December.

Further, residents near Russell St's Crafty Squire similarly expressed anger about the venue's plans to open a 400-patron rooftop bar until 1am.

East Enders president Stan Capp has questioned the merits behind what he called an "alcohol fuelled recovery."

However, the liquor licence reforms announced by the state government should create few issues in the CBD, as according to local planning policy, taverns, hotels and nightclubs are allowed to operate until 1am

anyhow.

Further, the automatic extension of trading hours does not apply to specific areas of a licensed premises that have different trading hours and which are separate to the overall trading hours of the premises, such as a beer garden or balcony area.

Twilight focus going forward

At the March 15 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, City of Melbourne councillors considered recommendations from a panel of Melbourne's night-time experts that the council should focus upcoming campaigns on the "twilight" period to both encourage people to the city, as well as keep people in after work.

The Night Time Economy Advisory Committee – consisting of industry leaders and chaired by Cherry Bar owner James Young – earmarked the

upcoming Melbourne International Comedy Festival (March 30 to April 24) and the Grand Prix (April 7 to 10) as "ideal opportunities" to trial the approach.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the city would look to capitalise on the lucrative time slot.

"Melbourne really is a magical place after dark – and unlike Sydney, our nightlife is part of our identity and what attracts people into the city," she said.

"The committee has done a tremendous job in collaborating and recommending solutions to boost our twilight economy. We look forward to considering new ways of supporting businesses who operate around the clock – and backing the thousands of jobs they create." ●

International students welcomed back with a “foodie tour” of QVM

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
 EDUCATION

After nearly two years of Australia’s borders being shut, overseas students are steadily returning to the CBD.

And to celebrate their arrival, the City of Melbourne hosted a “foodie tour” at the Queen Victoria Market where international students discovered a true taste of the iconic venue.

On February 25, a group of students joined Lord Mayor Sally Capp as they wandered through the market’s food halls while stopping to greet traders along the way.

They indulged in the market’s delicious food – from trying different cheeses, appetisers, and antipasto, which was rounded off with a free gelato from Geloso Gelateria.

The council’s education and innovation portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths also joined the celebratory tour where happy snaps with excited students were aplenty.

Karen Adrianharison, who arrived in Melbourne four years ago from Madagascar and completed a Bachelor of Commerce last December, said the day “definitely brought a lot of people together.”

“I met a lot of international students that day. I was impressed the Lord Mayor was there, we had a little chat together.”

Another student Jayden Chenglong of China said the food tour was an “enjoyable experience.”

“As a student I can learn more about the food culture in Melbourne,” the 21-year-old said, who is currently in his final year of studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne.

“I made great connections with other international students. It was one of the most memorable experiences.”

Tarzon Budhathoki, who recently completed a Bachelor of Telecommunications/Engineering and now helps international students gain employment, said the opportunity to network with other students and councillors



“

It was one of the most memorable experiences.

”



was highly beneficial.

“Getting an opportunity to meet our honourable Lord Mayor and councillors and have a conversation was amazing,” he said.

Mr Budhathoki said he had a podcast called *Top Tip with Tarzon* in which his mission was to help international students and graduates “land a professional role easily through branding and networking.”

The City of Melbourne has been at a loss without its international students, but thanks to the easing of restrictions a host of international students are continuing to return.

The number of students has already increased by more than 16,000 in the past two months, but according to Cr Griffiths there is still more to be done to entice students back.

“Despite a steady return over the past few weeks, the number of international students in Victoria is still down by 44 per cent compared to March 2020,” he said.

“By offering a fantastic student experience, we can enhance and protect Melbourne’s reputation as a global education hub and drive students back to the city.”

The foodie tour is one of many activities and initiatives being offered by the City of Melbourne to allow international students to “feel the breadth of the Melbourne experience”.

Other measures include employment and mentoring programs as well as wellness outreach programs for mental, physical, and financial health.

Conversation clubs and language classes at

city libraries and collaborations with Study Melbourne educational institutions and student groups will also be offered.

Programs at The Couch International Student Centre on Bourke St will also resume, and other various activities are in the works to help encourage students to experience the city around where they study.

“Our international students are a huge part of what makes Melbourne such a great place, and we want to do everything we can to ensure their time here is overwhelmingly positive,” the Lord Mayor said.

“They are valued workers in our hospitality and retail sectors, as well as contributing a breadth of experience and knowledge to the fabric of our community.” ●

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First Nations writers are hot

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

Competition was stiff when Kimmy Lovegrove took to the stage at the Comedy Republic on Bourke St on one Saturday night in March.

The city was buzzing with buskers and diners as it finally burst out of its hibernation.

"I didn't know I was a black fella," were Kimmy's opening words.

Everyone laughed. They knew they were in for some "Gammon", an Aboriginal slang word for joking.

"I thought I was Sri Lankan. When Mum told me the truth, I spat a samosa into Nana's face."

Kimmy was one of a mob of performers and writers who converged on the CBD for the literary festival Blak and Bright.

Some were mucking around with their identity like Kimmy, others digging beneath the surface of being a First Nations person in a colonial city.

There were salons, talks, performances, meets with publishers, and readings as the festival built on a great surge of wins by First Nations writers in literary prizes this year.

Veronica Gorrie, a Gunai/Kurnai woman who lives and writes in Victoria, won the \$100,000 Victorian Prize for Literature in January for her memoir *Black and Blue*.

Two out of the five books shortlisted for fiction in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards were by First Nations writers.

And in March the long list for the Stella Prize for women's literature was announced, with five out of the 12 selected books by First Nations writers, one a trans writer by the name of S J Norman.

They were at the festival to talk about their debut book *Permafrost*. "It's nice to have a book shortlisted. It's kind of empowering," S J said.



▲ LGBTQIA salon at The Moat.



▲ Kimmy Lovegrove at the Comedy Republic.



▲ Publisher Aviva Tuffield, of UQP.

Not all First Nations works are big stories set in outback or remote locations. "*Permafrost* is a genre study," S J told *CBD News*. "It reflects on an ongoing interest in colonial Gothic."

Some voices are driven underground in the colonial city and the book has a strong narrator who never really reveals themselves to the

reader.

"It hits a very particular stylistic note," S J said. "I'm interested in ideas of the uncanny."

The publisher of *Permafrost* was also in Melbourne for the festival. University of Queensland Press established a First Nations list 40 years ago and this year it made up 25 per

cent of total production.

"In 1980 we started," publisher Aviva Tuffield said. "Staff members were committed. In 1997 Melissa Lucashenko first published with us. Twenty years later she won the Miles Franklin."

The long road to success can be off-putting for newcomers. They had a chance to discuss their ideas with publishers who pitched their companies in a reversal of the usual practice of making writers perform.

Melissa Kayser of Hardie Grant, who recently commissioned a book by Marcia Langton, admitted that First Nations storytelling was challenging.

"I like things that break the rules a bit," she said. "Part of First Nations storytelling is that it's challenging the establishment."

The truth is that First Nations writers are hot and not all publishers have caught up with the news. Some still shame writers by talking about piles of unsolicited manuscripts.

"We read them all," said Jane Pearson of CBD-based publisher Text.

The First Nations list has become an important marketing tool for publishers and prizes help but you can't rely on them.

"Prizes are a lottery," Aviva said. "Something wins one and doesn't get a mention on another. It depends on judges' tastes. Sometimes they align."

Permafrost excelled in getting on two lists, including the Stella long list. The chair of the Stella judges was Miles Franklin winner Melissa Lucashenko, who said there had been a distinct outward-looking flavour to the pool of more than 220 entries for the Stella prize.

"Many authors focussed on global affairs rather than on the Antipodean alone; much of the short fiction and poetry we read was set offshore, and at least two of the longlisted authors are Australian expatriates. So much for Fortress Australia." ●

Support from the ground up

Poor quality footwear, exposure to the elements and substandard living conditions can have a ravaging impact on the feet of those experiencing homelessness, but a CBD street podiatry program seeks to address these concerns, and a recent study has shown its positive impact runs even deeper.

WORDS BY David Schout
HEALTH

Lachie (not his real name) has an acquired brain injury and has experienced homelessness on and off within Melbourne for a number of years.

His injury affects his behaviour and, over the years, has contributed to him being excluded from some support services.

In 2014, the impacts of sleeping rough had a terrible impact on his feet, and at times he was in excruciating pain due to the effects of wounds, callouses and ingrown toenails.

"I had been complaining about my feet being sore. I had corns and they were uncomfortable to walk on – I'd be walking down the street and step on the wrong angle, and I'd yell out in pain," Lachie said.

"Also, my feet were stinking because my nails were so long. I didn't know that was the reason they smelled at the time – germs get trapped under the nails ... people say your brain controls your body. But your toes control a lot more than you think. You're always on your toes. And for someone like me, I'm on my feet a lot, walking a lot."

It was at that time that Lachie, now in his early 50s, first came in contact with Cohealth, a community health service with a centre in the



▲ Outreach podiatrist Rebecca Mannix treating a patient at Cohealth's CBD community health centre (Picture: Will Hawke).

CBD near Queen Victoria Market.

Importantly, he was put into contact with Cohealth outreach podiatrist Rebecca Mannix, who helped Lachie with his several ailments and, importantly, sorting some reliable shoes to help going forward.

"Bec helped me by getting my toes done. And getting me some reliable shoes. She understands the way you walk," Lachie said.

"I had been told to stop walking around so much because I was burning through too many shoes ... it's the only podiatrist I've ever used. I've never used one before. I wouldn't know how. Bec has a lot of knowledge about walking on the street. She understands where I've been."

Cohealth's outreach podiatry program is just one of many services it provides to vulnerable people within the CBD and surrounds, and in Lachie's case it was an important first step.

While podiatry was the first Cohealth service Lachie used, he has since been looped into a range of others to respond to his additional health and social support needs, including allied health and social work.

Having been in and out of rooming houses,

Lachie has now been approved for NDIS and is living in stable accommodation.

"Although I'm here to look after his feet, the Cohealth team work together to make sure his holistic health needs are met – social, mental and physical," Ms Mannix said.

"Lachie has had bad experiences with many services and has been banned for a few due to some of his reactions and behaviours stemming from his brain injury, but we've been able to work with him and he comes to see us when he needs something."

Study confirms essential, "gateway" care

A research paper co-authored by La Trobe University and Cohealth recently published in the *Journal of Foot and Ankle Research* shed light on the ravaging impacts of homelessness on people's feet, and the vital role of publicly funded, community podiatry services.

It also found that footcare can be the "gateway" to getting someone connected to other services, such as housing support, addiction treatment and mental health care.

Analysis from the research revealed the most



common issues experienced were skin and nail pathologies (68 per cent), biomechanical issues (51 per cent) and acute foot wounds (44 per cent). More than half of people treated by the Cohealth podiatry team had inadequate footwear and nearly one in five required acute wound care.

Overall, Cohealth's team of specialist podiatrists treat nearly 300 people each year, of which nearly half are people who sleep rough, while one in three are living in unstable housing such as crisis accommodation and rooming houses.

"When you're sleeping rough or cycling through rooming houses it's hard to keep feet clean and dry. People often don't have access to basic podiatric items such as clippers, and problems snowball quickly," Ms Mannix said.

"Having flexible, adaptable services that are designed with clients is really important so that they get the healthcare they need quickly and not wait until problems become emergencies."

Community-based podiatry services that use an outreach model are vital to improving the overall health of people who are without a secure home, according to Cohealth.

"Without our podiatry service and outreach model, a great many of our clients would suffer with painful feet, whilst their feet are their only way of getting around," Ms Mannix said.

"A key feature of the community health model is that we can help people with other issues beyond the service they may be presenting for. Everyone has the right to live free of pain, and to have access to high-quality health care." ●

A library with an artistic flair

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Following a series of pop-up libraries opening in and around the city, Little Collins Street's Express Book Bar is cementing itself as a place to creatively escape from the hustle and grind.

With reading booths and artworks situated at the back of the shop, the library not only entices people with their broad collection of best-selling books with business, health, food and fiction sub-sections, but invites readers to stay a while.

"Our Express Book Bar is designed especially for city workers and residents who are looking for a quick and easy way to pick up a great new read," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

Expecting the Express Book Bar to "only grow in popularity" once the hidden gem is discovered, the pop-up library is among a series that has been put in place to "welcome office workers back to Melbourne."

"We're encouraging city workers to pop by in their lunch break and make the most of the incredible facility right in the heart of the city," Cr Capp said.

Funded by both the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government, the pop-up library is part of the \$200 million city revitalisation fund – an initiative aimed at helping support the city's creative arts and culture sector.

The pop-up series already has a food-themed library in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, a child-centric space at Federation Square and a new writer's space on Lygon St.

But it is the Express Book Bar that is tapping into the highly artistic community of Melbourne through showcasing artistic work that is not typically shown in libraries.

A creative move that local Elsa Thorp and artist behind Nature Art, has found to be an exciting opportunity.

"I have always liked the idea of having my work on display and in more public spaces than



▲ *Elsa Thorp.*

an art gallery because not everyone is comfortable to go into an art gallery, so I found it really interesting that they had a nice space in the pop-up for it," she said.

Drawn to "textures and forms rather than colours" due to her background in fine art, and specifically black and white analogue photography, Ms Thorp is reinventing floristry as an art form with her botanical sculptures.

"A big influence of my botanical sculptures is the Japanese style of floristry called Ikebana,

which is really about being quite minimal and focusing on every element and texture," she said.

"The little sculptures [at the pop-up library] also honour Japanese kenzan with the traditional stand the sculptures are on."

With plans to rotate her currently displayed work in the pop-up, Ms Thorp's work continues to provide library visitors with an opportunity to reflect on the everlasting beauty of nature and its "therapeutic benefits".

Alongside Nature Art by Elsa Thorp, Olive Grove Studio's screen-printed chopping boards and clay art jewellery from Studio Vincenza is also on display in the pop-up library.

Situated at 240 Little Collins St, Express Book Bar is found in Shop 5, a recently vacant Creative Space and is open Monday to Thursday 10am to 5pm and Friday 10am to 6pm.

The pop-up library is currently expected to remain in place until June 30 ●

SCOTSCITY CHURCH

New to Melbourne? Starting Uni, or launching into a fresh career? ScotsCity Church is new too! Join us Sundays at 5pm for community, coffee, and Bible Teaching that connects.

scotchurch.com/scotscity

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Asiah (Music)

Phil (Teaching)

5pm Sundays at The Scots' Church
156 Collins St Melbourne
Scots' Church Morning Service 11am

EASTER AT SCOTS' - GOOD FRIDAY 11am, EASTER SUNDAY 11am
St John's Passion (Bach) Good Friday 7.30pm

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Your City of Melbourne community update

SEVEN COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS WHO MAKE MELBOURNE TICK



Rapid Response Clean Team at work

MELBOURNE IS BUZZING AND READY TO WELCOME YOU BACK WITH OPEN ARMS.

As you enjoy life to the fullest, take a moment to appreciate the passionate workers who help make the City of Melbourne safe, beautiful, caring and connected, during the pandemic and year-round.

Here is a quick snapshot of just a few city heroes. Visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au to read our full interviews with these local legends.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER



Nick in the Carlton Gardens with local dog Mishka

From a snake on Spencer Street to a peacock on the run in Kensington, our animal management team has seen it all.

'Lately I've rescued a staffy that was running around a construction site, rehomed a rabbit and waded in a fountain at the Carlton Gardens to rescue a distressed duckling,' animal management officer Nicholas Pecipajkovski said.

'The most rewarding part of my week is reuniting owners with their lost pets. Registration and microchipping are so important.'

While Nick's job has many heart-warming moments, the animal management team performs a critical service.

This includes daily park patrols, responding to reports of barking dogs, animal welfare issues and dog attacks, and assessing compliance among pet shops, animal shelters and pet boarding establishments.

Nick and his colleagues work closely with the RSPCA and police, pursuing fines and legal action where necessary.

'The animal management team is very hands-on and responsive,' Nick said.

'We are out there trying to keep the community and animals safe. We listen to feedback and, when issues arise, we always try to have positive conversations with pet owners.

'As our city evolves, we will continue to work hard to ensure the community has good shared access to parks and public space, striking a good balance between people and pets.'

Please take good care of your pet, be considerate of others and renew your pet registration by 10 April each year. To learn more about responsible pet ownership, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/pets

LIBRARY SOCIAL WORKER



Erin at City Library

Thousands of people with extraordinary life stories pass through the doors of our city's public libraries every week. For community members having a tough time, support is at hand amid the shelves.

Library social worker Erin McKeegan works with people experiencing multiple and complex challenges including, but not limited to, homelessness, addiction and trauma.

She also meets weekly with a network of agencies to connect patrons to the care they need.

'The way libraries are used has completely changed. They are now one of the few public spaces that are free and accessible to all. They are a safe place to come for people who are marginalised or sleeping rough,' Erin said.

In recent weeks, Erin has helped a woman experiencing family violence to connect with a network of support, and assisted a man who hadn't slept for several days after he found himself experiencing homelessness for the first time.

While Erin's job involves listening to traumatic stories, she feels privileged to hear them.

'I like to think that I am hearing people's stories of survival and resilience.'

'With a social worker on staff, the whole library team now has more tools and resources to support people in need. We also get referrals from other City of Melbourne staff, like the maternal and child health team.

'This is a great network to have, and we will continue to listen and learn to improve our service.'

'I like to think that I am hearing people's stories of survival and resilience.'

For more information on homelessness, and how you can help, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/homelessness

PARKS SUPERVISOR



We're planting new biodiversity gardens

Biodiversity gardens are springing up throughout Royal Park, increasing the variety of local plants and attracting even more native wildlife, including insects, birds and microbats.

'There aren't many places in Melbourne where you can see the sky without being blocked by buildings and trees. The grass circle is one of my favourite places,' Royal Park supervisor Chris Nicholson said.

You won't find many deciduous trees in the park, which was redesigned in the 1980s and '90s to 'evoke the original landscape' of bush and grassy woodland tended to for thousands of years by Traditional Owners.

River red gums are among the eucalypts now planted in the park to gradually restore the local population, and two dedicated gardeners have been establishing new biodiversity gardens.

'It's all about increasing the palate of plants in the park, and in turn the palate of birdlife, lizards and skinks,' Chris said.

Over the past two years, the team has planted natives such as kangaroo grass, juncus reeds, wattle and banksias. The Friends of Royal Park have been busy too, planting shrubs and replenishing the understorey.

Tread carefully on your next walk around the park. Kneel for a closer look at the new groundcover and find ruby saltbush in flower, and tiny native bluebells that attract more than 200 species of native bees.

Whether you have a big backyard, a green rooftop or pot plants on your balcony, everyone can help promote urban biodiversity. Request a visit from our team at melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife



Chris in the grass circle at Royal Park

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSE



Cloe with the handy green guidebook given to new parents

Give your baby a wonderful start in life with free support from our compassionate maternal and child health nurses.

The service offers 10 check-ups for children from newborn to school-age, new parents' groups, lactation consultancy, counselling, and additional support for vulnerable families.

'I love working closely with families to ensure they feel supported during the transition to parenthood,'

maternal and child health nurse Cloe Olive said.

'Every family has such potential, and we are privileged to listen and observe, to wonder through the eyes of a child, and create a space where parents are encouraged to do the same.'

During the pandemic, our nurses continued to provide face-to-face support when needed. They also moved many services online and found new ways to provide flexible care, which will help us continue to enrich our services.

'Being a new parent is an emotional roller-coaster, with a great exploration of many themes alongside parenting, including the importance of infant and parent mental health,' Cloe said.

'Resources on social media and online can be overwhelming and contradictory, so it's important for us to provide evidence-based information to help families feel more confident.'

'The journey into parenthood is also a great opportunity to break down an individual's notion of perfection and inadequacy.'

'After all, there are no perfect parents, and there are no perfect children, but there are plenty of perfect moments along the way.'

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/maternalandchildhealth or call 9340 1444.



New mum Megan with baby Lacey



Manu (second from left) with colleagues

GRAFFITI REMOVAL WORKER

Tending to street art and keeping graffiti off city walls may seem like opposing forces, but graffiti removal expert Manu Parashar sees the beauty in each action.

'I've got more than 100 different paints in my unit so we can match the colour of a door or the wall of a heritage building,' Manu said.

Every morning, Manu patrols his section of the central city, both for illegal tags and damage to iconic street art. It's street art that drew him to this job, and his favourite spot is Hosier Lane.

'It's full of beautiful art and the art keeps changing. I go there almost every day, looking for anything which shouldn't be there, offensive words and that type of thing,' Manu said.

'We protect the street art by putting an anti-graffiti shield on the artworks.'

His favourite piece of street art – a portrait of a local dog called Jesse he once patted on his rounds – has long since been painted over. And yet the corner of Hosier and Flinders lanes serves as a reminder of the relationships he has built over time.

'The best part of the job is that we get to talk to people. We listen to them, see how everything is going in their life. They share their stories. We talk to shop owners as well,' Manu said.

'We protect the street art by putting an anti-graffiti shield on the artworks.'

Scan the QR code to report illegal graffiti tagging, and our Rapid Response Clean Team will get on the job.

Scan to report graffiti and street waste



GYM INSTRUCTOR

Boost your physical and mental wellbeing in the welcoming surrounds of your local recreation centre, supported by staff who love what they do.

'I spend my days running classes like high-intensity interval training, stadium circuit sessions and prime fitness classes for our energetic members aged 60 plus,' passionate gym instructor Bill Mooney said.

'I also show potential members the gym and write programs for people to help them achieve their goals. Someone might want to run 5kms, and another might want to hike in Machu Picchu with ease.'

'It's such a feel-good time when we see people achieve their goals. We are as excited as they are.'

Even if you have never been to a gym before, Bill welcomes you to drop by for a tour of North Melbourne Recreation Centre, where he works, or any of our City of Melbourne recreation centres.

We offer world-class facilities and best-practice programs for people of all ages and abilities across our recreation centres, to empower local people and promote community connection.

'Fitness is a continuous journey,' Bill said.

'Ultimately, our job is trying to improve people's lives and this isn't just a physical thing, it's a social thing. It's great to see people who train together becoming friends and going out for coffee.'

To find out more about our recreation centres and plan your new fitness routine, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne



Bill at North Melbourne Recreation Centre

'It's such a feel-good time when we see people achieve their goals. We are as excited as they are.'

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY ACTIVATOR



Nat at the pop-up library

It's time for tech to shine at a pop-up library and make-it space opposite the Queen Victoria Market.

It took just two months for creative technology activator Nathaniel Bott and their team to fill an empty Chinese restaurant with cool gadgets.

'Each piece of equipment on its own is expensive. Too expensive for many to own. So we bring it all together in the pop-up space and make it free for anybody to use,' Nat said.

The badge maker is strategically placed at kid level, so it's easy to obsess over designing a new badge after the family's weekly market shop.

More complex machines – such as the sewing machine, 3D printer and obelisk-like laser cutter – are kept around the corner and away from little fingers. All of it is free to use, and Nat is on hand to help.

'I've found a creative job that matches my weird and varied skillsets,' Nat said.

'People ask us when the pop-up is ending and I tell them that there will be a new library in the area soon, and it will have a bigger makerspace.'

We are developing a new community library at the Munro site, in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, featuring a creative makerspace, library and children's library, family services and a rooftop terrace.

Visit the Elizabeth Street pop-up library at 510 Elizabeth Street to feed your mind with an amazing array of best-selling books and access to wi-fi, as well as the bespoke Make*It Space.

'There will be a new library in the area soon, and it will have a bigger makerspace.'

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

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Melbourne International Comedy Festival: “The best of the best at their best”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Melbourne International Comedy Festival is gearing up for a return to stages throughout the CBD, and three performers in particular are ready to shock and surprise audiences with their choice of content.

While light-hearted topics are generally the sphere many comedians dabble in, three comedians performing in the CBD – Ben Lomas, Annie Louey and Urvi Majumdar – are finding their niche in sharing the heavier experiences they have gone through.

From Urvi's experience of moving to Australia from India as a child and dealing with the complexities of balancing her parents' expectations with her cool girl status to Ben's traumatic hospital experience, nothing is off limits.

And as someone who has “always been drawn to things [she] shouldn't do”, Annie is also breaking the illusion of taboo topics needing to be hush-hush with her ability to find humour in trying situations.

“The show is like a memoir of my life but through the lens of experiences I have had with death, something in Chinese culture you don't talk about as it is bad luck,” Annie said.

“I built the show around wanting to open up and talk about experiences I have had of a near death accident when I was 16 where I became a burns survivor, my dad dying and then eventually working for the funeral home of the same people who did his funeral.”

To really explore the theme of dark humour in its entirety, Annie is working alongside award-winning director Jason Marion for her show *Flirting with Death*.

While keen to “dance with death” in a very surprising way, she also demonstrates her ability to turn horrible experiences into ones that don't control her.

It's something she is doing with her latest web series *From the Hearse's Mouth*, which acts as a clever and insightful promotion for her show, while simultaneously destigmatising the



▲ Annie Louey and Ben Lomas.

topic of death.

Tapping into her love of presenting documentary-style interviews, Annie takes “well known or really funny people who have a good story to do with death” along for a ride in a hearse.

An experience that saw her witness how people can “spin the theme in ways [she] didn't expect.”

Along for one of the rides, comedian Ben Lomas delved into the topic of his upcoming Melbourne International Comedy Festival show *Any Questions?*, when he shared having to sign an approval form for his leg to be removed if it came to that point in his surgery.

Despite enjoying the experience of creating her intimate web series, it is the “electric feeling” of performing live that Annie is most looking forward to at this year's festival – something Ben strongly agrees with.

“I can't believe I am working again! Nothing beats a live audience in the heart of the city, drinking and laughing their arses off. It's good to be back,” he said.

As someone not in the limelight, but rather the producer behind Annie, Ben and Urvi's shows, Heidi Pietzner knows all too well why these three shows are needed in the community.

“I know it is really cliché, but laughter really is the best medicine, and last year the lockdowns really hit the industry hard and it hit the comedians a lot harder along with other affected industries,” Heidi said.

“I was at my lowest but dragged myself out to see comedian Ellen Briggs, and it was then that I realised the power of comedy because she pulled me out of the biggest slump.”

From Ben's “huge and infectious energy” to Annie's ability to “create something light from something very dark” and Urvi's potential to “make girls feel normal about something that would usually make them feel anxious”, Heidi is sure there is something for everybody.

“The thing about the Melbourne International Comedy Festival is it is just one of the best times of the year in Melbourne, it is a very buzzy atmosphere and a very exciting time to go out,” she said.



▲ Urvi Majumdar.

“I have a lot of respect for Annie, Ben and Urvi for getting up and doing what they do night after night, and the months and years of preparation they put into their shows. This is a peak event of the year, so you will be seeing the best of the best at their best.”

Running from March 30 until April 24, this year's festival will feature more than 400 shows all around the city and beyond, with tickets already up for grabs.

For the entirety of the festival, Annie Louey's *Flirting with Death* will be shown at the Melbourne Town Hall and Urvi Majumdar's *Urvi Went To An All Girls School* will be at the Mantra on Russell.

Ben Lomas' *Any Questions?* will be at the Coopers Inn from March 31 to April 10 ●

For more information/tickets:
comedyfestival.com.au/2022

New chocolate gallery offers amazing world of chocolate art

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

For those with a sweet tooth, you are about to walk into a chocolate heaven.

The YESIGN Chocolate Gallery, a new shop at Little Collins St, is filled with bespoke handmade Belgian chocolates – with some of the most extraordinary chocolate art described as “too pretty to eat!”

The shop, which opened last December as part of a City of Melbourne scheme to fill empty shop fronts, is a celebration of everything chocolate – with an array of chocolate treats, chocolate money, and chocolate bars featuring images of the iconic Flinders Street Station, Luna Park, and Hosier Lane.

There are also stunning chocolate paintings created by the shop's owner and chocolate artist Young Chen, which are all edible.

This includes the reproduction of the infamous *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (which took Ms Chen two weeks to make) and a reproduction of the 1889 *Van Gogh self-portrait*, selling for \$1500 and \$950, respectively.

But if that is a little outside of your budget, chocolate treats start at \$6 while gift ideas range between \$20 and \$30, and \$15 for chocolate bars.

“Our chocolates are for art lovers, families, events, wedding favours,” Ms Chen said.

“Customers love the combo of chocolate and art. It even works better in Melbourne as a city of art.”

“The chocolate gallery was born in Melbourne, and we are happy to grow the business here for Melbournians.”

Ms Chen said her dream to open her shop evolved during the start of Melbourne's lockdowns when she was at home “playing around” with chocolate.

“I gradually found the healing and therapeutic



▲ Young Chen is excited to open her new shop, the YESIGN Chocolate Gallery. Photos: Brendan Rees & Murray Enders.

power from the painting process. So, I dreamed of the concept of a chocolate gallery.”

Before the pandemic, Ms Chen started a chocolate business in 2018 where she would sell handmade chocolates with unique edible images at markets, pop ups, and on her online store.

But by opening a chocolate gallery, Ms Chen said it provided an opportunity to let people see “more possibilities about chocolate art” and a “something to remind us to be kind to ourselves and others.”

“We have had some regular clients who come to us whenever they look for a gift idea. The clients who bought our chocolates a few years ago still remember us, and they are surprised that we have a physical shop now.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the City of Melbourne's \$2.6 million Shopfront Activation Program was “breathing new life” into the city by giving artists, makers, and budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to test their business



ideas in vacant spaces.

“Young's pop-up store YESIGN is a great example of the breadth of the program, and we're thrilled that she's using the space to bring her spectacular chocolate designs to Melbourne,” she said.

“Over the coming months, we'll fill dozens more shopfronts across Melbourne with one-of-a-kind offerings to reinvigorate parts of the city that need it most, while supporting our creative and start-up communities.”

The pop-up stores offer everything from fashion and food to music and art, “giving people yet another reason to rediscover our great city.”

The program is jointly funded by the City of Melbourne and the state government, as part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, and will run until August 31, 2022.

YESIGN is currently scheduled to operate until April 30 ●

Kids activities hopping into QVM in time for Easter

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
EVENTS

As April approaches and summer-centric events wrap up for the year, Queen Victoria Market (QVM) is turning its attention to families and children over the Easter school holidays.

With a “Kids Passport” activity already underway, QVM is enticing and educating kids to learn about the various cuisines and produce found at the market, with an “around-the-world” journey.

“Queen Victoria Market has always played a vital role in educating future generations about Melbourne's fresh produce culture and where our food comes from,” QVM's general manager marketing and customer experience Meg Dalla Lana said.

Announced during mid-March, the Kids Passport activity invites kids to pick up a QVM passport from the Visitor Hub on String Bean Alley from 10am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and then venture around the market collecting stamps before ending their journey at the hub once again to claim a prize.

Alongside the Kids Passport, QVM is set to become an Easter extravaganza once the holidays hit.

From Easter Bunny visits on Easter Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 2pm, to a wide range of free activities in the RK/RL shed between the hours of 10am and 1pm, there is something for all families to get involved in.

Kids are encouraged to explore their artistic side through designing fun and colourful Easter eggs on April 12, create a set of Easter bunny ears on April 14 and design their very own fluffy pom pom pet with googly eyes on April 21.

qvm.com.au/whatson ●

Overdose fatalities spark calls for health-based solution

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HEALTH

A CBD-based non-for-profit community health agency that works with vulnerable citizens says there is a lot of work needed to educate the community and “shift perceptions” of people who use drugs.

The chief executive of Cohealth Nicole Bartholomeusz said drug overdoses were a “real tragedy” and a preventable cause of death, and until addiction was recognised as a health issue, it “cannot be solved with a police-first response.”

Her comments come as three lives were tragically lost to overdoses in the CBD in recent weeks, which was confirmed by Salvation Army welfare worker Major Brendan Nottle who warned there had been an increase in drug use as borders opened up again.

Mr Nottle said he was saddened by the news as his team (which is based at Bourke St) continue to work hard with police and the City of

Melbourne to give the vulnerable the support they needed, however, he added “the reality is that group is incredibly difficult group to engage with and to connect with.”

“We’ve got to be thinking right outside the box about how do we move forward,” he said, adding drug use was “right across the city” with Flinders and Elizabeth streets being “hot spots”.

Ms Bartholomeusz said Cohealth was “deeply distressed” to hear of the recent drug overdose deaths.

“Each of these deaths is tragic and preventable, and our thoughts go out to families and friends who are left to grieve the loss of their loved ones,” she said.

“Sadly, these three deaths are just a snapshot of the hundreds of Australians who die of unintentional overdose each year – around five people per week according to the Pennington Institute’s Overdose report.”

Ms Bartholomeusz said as part of its harm minimisation and health-based responses to drug use, Cohealth was connecting people with non-judgemental GPs and workers who

recognised their holistic needs.

But she added, “We have a lot of work to do to educate the community and shift perceptions of people who use drugs in order to eliminate the stigma that prevents people from seeking help.”

“We know that the entire CBD community, including business owners, traders and residents, wants to see a better approach to dealing with drug use in the CBD,” she said.

“We need to keep people within arm’s reach by providing non-judgemental care and services that keep them as safe and healthy as possible while they are using drugs, while also give people opportunities to connect with pathways to recovery.”

“What’s important to remember is that people battling addiction are human beings with families who love them, and with hopes and aspirations, like all of us. They are also very likely dealing with some very big and very complex life problems.”

“Drug use rarely exists in isolation, and many of the people we see in the city who are



We’ve got to be thinking right outside the box about how do we move forward.



using drugs or sleeping rough have histories of trauma, mental ill-health, institutionalisation, family violence and intergenerational poverty.”

The issue of drug use and community safety was discussed at a residents meeting in March in which one business owner suggested that the council consider an education program for residents and businesses to better engage with people suffering drug addiction and mental health (read more on pages 8 and 9) ●

“We need to start thinking about retail”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A small business owner at the much-loved Royal Arcade says shopping vouchers similar to the popular Melbourne Money scheme should be offered to boost the struggling retail sector.

Abbie Siegal (pictured), the owner of French perfumery business and beauty salon Paint n Powder, said while foot traffic was slowly picking up at the boutique shopping arcade at the centre of the CBD, she believed a joint effort from the state government and the City of Melbourne was needed to entice people back to retail shopping.

“All the incentives are about getting people here in the evening, which does absolutely nothing for retail,” she said, referring to football and dining.

“Just getting off the train at



Spencer St or at Flinders St doesn’t do anything to Melbourne, it helps Docklands which is great, and it helps Fed Square and that’s it.”

“We need to encourage people to be in town.”

It comes as the City of Melbourne said that \$3 million had been claimed during the second week of Melbourne Money, which is designed to bring diners back to the city.

The council said \$14 million had flowed directly to businesses as diners claimed 25 per cent back on their bill at restaurants, cafes, and bars.

“We’ve seen our dining precincts full and our stores brimming with customers. Riding the wave of a hugely successful Moomba and the start of the AFL season, Melbourne is well and truly returning to its marvellous best,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

However, retail stores, particularly fashion, who were hit especially hard by the lockdowns of the past two years, have fought hard to stay open

The impact of the pandemic is exposed at the Royal Arcade with *CBD News* having sighted six empty shop fronts with “for lease” displayed.

This included a former games and puzzles shop, which had a hand-written message at the window saying: “The Games Shop 1978-2022. So long, and thanks for all the fish!”

Ms Siegal, whose shop is a second-generation business since being opened in the 1960s by her parents, said she was determined to stay open, but had reluctantly made the decision to move four shops down at

the Arcade, which would be a “much more commercially viable proposition than we are at the present moment.”

“It is a COVID relocation rather than a COVID casualty,” she said.

But moving forward, she said, “we need to start thinking about retail”, which was struggling due to a lack of office workers and a lack of incentives.

The matter was discussed at a recent community meeting whereby a business owner said while some restaurants had experienced a boost with parklets, retailers had been “totally neglected”.

In response, the City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney referred to the council’s business concierge service, saying, “We’ve run some pretty intensive support services for retailers.”

“We asked people to door knock,” he said in reference to council staff offering support.

On a positive note at the Royal

Arcade, a new pop-up shop called Oneiric studios has opened at shop 43, which features a stunning golden spiral staircase.

“We are already so thankful for the positive response to the launch of our first store,” the owners said.

From basic pieces such as tailored pants and shirts to knitwear and outerwear, the owners said their focus was on sustainability and “offer alterations free of charge to make sure every piece fits perfectly and lasts a lifetime.”

“We honour the classic notion of fashion, which encompasses high quality materials and well-tailored styles.”

Another store, Sohum cosmetics, said it was grateful for its many loyal customers “who have continued to support us through the pandemic.”

“There are lots of unique and beautiful stores around Melbourne for everyone to enjoy, we can’t wait to see you all.” ●

AMES supporting Afghan refugees in making Melbourne home

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

Migrant and refugee settlement agency AMES Australia is currently working closely with new Afghan arrivals to ensure the transition to life in Melbourne is as simple as can be.

Following the unsettling events that took place in Afghanistan last August, a large number of Afghan refugees were airlifted out of Kabul and left to make new homes for themselves in unfamiliar cities.

With many refugees now living in temporary SCAPE accommodation on the outer edge of the CBD, AMES has been connecting the affected community with programs that are not only beneficial to their safety but also their wellbeing.

Partnering with the Peter Mac Men’s Shed, AMES hopes to encourage local Afghans to not only meet people from the broader community but to find enjoyment in learning practical skills.

Established by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and accommodation provider Scape, Peter Mac Men’s Shed was originally created for patients at the centre dealing with the stresses of their cancer treatment and to allow them a space to share their experience.

But it was shortly after their opening in December 2021, at the base of the Atira accommodation, that they saw the potential in extending the offer.



It was a move AMES senior management accommodation Maree Symons said was “very generous.”

“Scape and Peter Mac approached AMES about the possibility of inviting some Afghan refugee clients staying at the Atira to use the shed. A number of our clients and children attended the launch and a Christmas party and they had a wonderful time – which included having the kids help with decorating the Christmas tree,” she said.

As a space used to unwind and relax, shed coordinator John Howarth said the opportunity to open their doors to Afghan refugees living in the same location had received good responses so far.

“Although there is an obvious language barrier, we have had lots of the Afghans, especially



the boys, showing great interest,” Mr Howarth said.

“We have built a workbench and the kids have been involved. They are keen to make wooden models of four-wheel-drive vehicles.”

Open to anyone in the facility expressing interest, the shed has found favour with one 11-year-old Afghan child who not only “loves” visiting the shed to help out but also has high hopes to “make a model of a Toyota Land Cruiser.”

In addition to the work done at the Peter Mac Men’s Shed, AMES is also partnering with Life Saving Victoria and the Melbourne City Baths after seeing the benefits of teaching new arrivals how to be safe around unfamiliar waters.

“With summer here and our newly arrived Afghan clients beginning to explore their new

environment, it’s important that they are aware of the danger beaches and other waterways present,” AMES Australia CEO Cath Scarth said.

Alarmingly, Royal Life Saving’s 10-year national study documented 27 per cent of drowning deaths in Australia were people born overseas.

“In Australia the water is everywhere and swimming and enjoying the beach is a very Aussie thing to do. So, we designed the program to give people the basic safety knowledge they need to enjoy the water,” Afghan refugee and program coordinator Jalal Ahmadzai said.

“The program includes a water safety presentation, a tour of the pool facility which is more than 160 years old, followed by activities inside the pool for parents and children.”

Ensuring the experience is a “fun and entertaining” process for all involved, the program takes culture into consideration and has incorporated female-only sessions with female lifeguards and instructors closely monitoring.

One-hundred Afghans have already signed up for sessions at the city baths, with half of the attendees being children, and swimming programs and water safety lessons are currently offered one day a week ●

For more information:
ames.net.au

Residents being heard ...

How a city grows, what kind of place it becomes and whether it is prosperous depends on a small group of decision-makers, each of whom have different agendas and mandates. How do residents fit into the process of shaping our city's development?

WORDS BY Susan Saunders

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has published a document "Victorian Election 2022 – Advocacy Priorities" outlining its vision for the future of city. Of note are some statistics from the document.

- 183,756 residents
- 16,700 businesses
- 910,800 people, live, work, study or socialise in the municipality

As is their role, the CoM focuses on building infrastructure to serve the community and to encourage economic development post-COVID. Its advocacy document is letting state and federal governments and other interest groups know its vision and the most pressing initiatives that are needing to be implemented in the short term.

The business community is driven by pure economics. If it's not able to operate profitably then businesses depart. It is so sad to know that the fall-out from COVID was an 18 per cent loss of retail in the CBD. Melbourne's business community's wellbeing is vital for the city's ongoing relevance.

Residents, a substantial percentage of the city's population, naturally support the local economy by simply living here. This group's focus is largely associated with lifestyle and

amenity. It's a group that can influence the economic and reputational wellbeing of the city.

There are other players influencing the success of a city. State and federal governments whose mandates see the city as just one of several, give priority alongside many other wider community needs.

Melbourne is a university city with a student population considered to be large on the world scale. Students play an important role in contributing to the city's economic health and reputation.

The community comprises a mixed bag of players who make decisions with often long-term effects on the wellbeing of the city and its occupants. It is a "push-me, pull-you" mix of politics and vested interests.

Residents want to have a significant role in shaping their city. It is easy to say that no-one listens when a particular issue is not resolved. But often resolution takes time and many players are involved in implementing change. There is an argument to say that residents are being listened to. Initiatives are being taken by residents' groups to make their views known and these activities should continue to be vigorously pursued. There needs to be continuous effort and that effort will reap results in the long run.

Residents 3000 is a group that actively engages in dialogue with the community and



decision-makers through many channels. These activities allow residents' views to be discussed and communicated widely. Just last month, at our monthly forum, the group welcomed City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney. Justin was able to update the 60-odd attendees with statistics on the effect COVID has had on the city and what is being done to revive the city's economic health, ecological and lifestyle amenities.

A large part of the meeting was taken up with pre-prepared, thoughtful questions from the residents in the audience. There was effective communication happening. Some of the issues raised included:

- People being concerned for their safety from drug-affected individuals;
- Clean up the city, remove graffiti, be vigilant about unnecessary noise and pollution;
- The pros and cons of adding more bike lanes in the city;

- E-bikes using footpaths;
- Continued concern for rough sleepers, homeless and poor citizen behaviour that is not being policed.

Apart from monthly forums, Residents 3000 regularly posts on social media and maintains an informative website. The group encourages residents to take part in "Participate Melbourne" run by the CoM.

This coming month on Thursday, April 7, Residents 3000 will be hosting its annual Neighbourhood Market Place – a 6pm start at the Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place. Each year, this is a well-attended event where members and their guests discover more about the participating businesses and service groups. This is another way people can communicate and be informed. All part of the fabric necessary to grow our city back to pre-COVID levels and then move on to make it again one of the world's most delightful and liveable ●

METRO TUNNEL



Metro Tunnel HQ back in business

Visitors are flocking back to the Metro Tunnel's award-winning interactive information centre on Swanston St, as the city-shaping project continues to reach new milestones.

Nearly 1500 visitors came through Metro HQ over the Labour Day weekend, getting a glimpse of the future of rail travel in Victoria.

The centre is again proving a major attraction for visitors and residents of Melbourne alike, following its reopening in November.

"There were some big numbers – around 500 each day of that long weekend, which is very encouraging and reassuring," Metro Tunnel HQ senior centre coordinator Hedley Imbert said.

"Like all CBD venues, we're gradually building up again as pedestrian numbers start to increase."

Metro Tunnel HQ provides an insight into some of the state's biggest ever public transport projects, including a 3D city model, panoramic theatre, kids' activities and giveaways.

One of the highlights of the centre is the

unique sneak peek at the new Town Hall Station rendered entirely in Minecraft, providing an exclusive preview of all seven entrances and the new underground walkway to Flinders Street Station.

The features are all part of a recent upgrade of the centre.

"We've improved the digital offer – there's interactive touch screens, multimedia and virtual reality goggles," Mr Imbert said.

"These interactive experiences have been introduced to the public to be able to communicate information about the projects in various forms – just to make it a more immersive, interactive and fun experience."

The Metro Tunnel project has entered a new stage of construction, with twin nine-kilometre tunnels now complete, major progress on five new underground stations and preparations underway for crews to lay track through the completed tunnels later this year.

The project will create capacity for more than 500,000 extra passengers a week during peak times across the city's train network when it opens in 2025.

Metro Tunnel HQ will remain open over Easter when Mr Imbert is expecting "bumper crowds" but will be closed on Good Friday ●

CBD LOCAL

Upbeat about Little Bourke St

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Melbourne Money is back and locals are taking advantage of the 25 per cent discount on meals at cafes along Little Bourke St, giving the street quite a lift.

Nick Aristos, a resident of a nearby tower, had just been to West Lake Restaurant to ask about yum cha when *CBD News* met him on March 17.

The previous week he had used the discount for a meal with friends at the Shark Fin Inn.

"I want to buy some chicken feet for a friend," he said. He found out they would be available until 4.30 pm but they won't be eligible for the discount.

The rebate is for meals in the \$40-\$500 range, a far cry from "susso" ration vouchers in The Depression, but an historic measure, nonetheless, to support local cafes.

The doors of West Lake were tragically closed during the last lockdown. Le Charmé across the road was open with a limited menu for takeaway, but most orders were being delivered in yellow Easi bags.

One nearby noodle café was even selling its takeaway partly frozen, for people taking their lunch back to the surrounding towers to thaw out. Eating at home was the norm.

Things have now vastly improved since those lonely days. The noodle café is full of diners and everything is open but, according to Nick, Little Bourke St is still quieter at lunch time than it was before the lockdown.

"The CBD has changed a lot," he said. "During the day it had that corporate atmosphere, people in suits getting coffees. You don't see that as much. You see the evenings are busy with people going out."

During mid-March the Shark Fin Inn was booked out, and diners were waiting outside Niubi, a café with a Malaysian flavour in Heffernan Lane, because one of its dining rooms was full.

"It [Melbourne Money] is good," Nick said. "My friends are taking advantage of it. It gets us all out to have a meal."

"We're seeing queues outside of eateries. Café



▲ Nick Aristos checking out lunch options in Little Bourke St.

culture is really coming back in a big way and restaurants are doing well."

To take advantage of Melbourne Money, with was reintroduced on March 7 for midweek dining, you have to apply online and upload a picture of the receipt but according to locals it's not hard.

Nick stayed in the city during the lockdown. He's an owner/occupier nearby. "It's a good place if you're a bachelor," he said.

The culture of the inner CBD is returning slowly but with a difference. White fluffy dogs are in rather than shirts and slacks.

"Every second person has a Gucci handbag and a white fluffy dog. Because people have been low, tired and burnt-out, they're now coming out and letting their hair down," he said.

"You can go out for a walk, catch a movie, do shopping, get a bit of everything. You feel safe."

The mood is upbeat even if there are complaints about construction sites and constant road works.

Little Bourke St is a place that actually belongs to locals during the day ●

Pilot projects in vertical villages

Vertical villages need improvements tailored to our way of living – but how will pilot projects help?

As the name suggests, pilot projects are about testing.

And currently, there are several interesting pilot projects aimed at vertical villages. Included here is the City of Melbourne's Food Organics High-Rise Pilot, which focuses on diverting food from landfill. To date, the City of Melbourne has looked at residents living in dwellings of up to five storeys. It's now expanding its focus to include residents living in high-rise properties of six storeys and above. The aim is to identify "the unique issues and challenges in food organics collection" that these properties might encounter when using new technologies, such as onsite organics processing.

Also under way, albeit on a more limited scale, is a pilot project looking at the energy efficiency of common areas in vertical villages. The stated aim is to gather data to create energy-use-profiles of the common property of

high-rise residential apartment buildings.

However, while both pilot projects are potentially useful to vertical villages, it must be noted that "pilots ain't pilots" – meaning that the purpose of these two pilot projects are quite different - and not simply in terms of their subject matter.

City of Melbourne's Food Organics project is a "pilot program", meaning it is seeking to test the implementation and operation of an initiative in-context. As such, it is more akin to an experimental trial. In a nutshell, it is a small-scale, short-term tryout aimed at helping an organisation learn how a large-scale project might work in practice.

In contrast, the energy efficiency pilot is a "proof-of-concept" project which aims to determine whether selected approaches can, in fact, capture the type and calibre of required data (e.g., accurate, complete, etc). A proof-of-concept pilot, then, is an exercise which focuses on determining whether an idea can be turned into reality.

While both are pilot projects, a proof-of-concept pilot differs from a trial pilot principally in terms of focus – testing the tools versus testing the complete solution.

And to add to the terminology mix, there are

also "pilot studies". These pilots are different again, as their purpose is to assist the design of a research project and, in particular, test its validity. It provides feedback to the researcher regarding design weaknesses and is used to improve the quality of the subsequent study.

Why is this difference between pilot projects noteworthy?

It has, unfortunately, been the case that vertical villages have agreed to participate in a particular pilot project, based upon promises of shared benefits – but, in reality, the type of benefit returned was of little value to the owners' corporation.

For this reason, and before agreeing to participate, it is important for vertical villages to understand the type of pilot they are to be involved with, and what, specifically, they can expect in return. In particular, there must be clarity about our role, communication (frequency and type) and deliverables.

In terms of deliverables, beware the offer that "a final report will be shared" as these documents are typically tailored to a specific audience (not us!), meaning that the subject matter may only be of marginal relevance to owners' corporations. Indeed, it may be the case that access to the data is of more value to us.

Also view with caution initial promises of "regular communication" as this can quickly drop off once access has been granted.

Some may say that these issues can be sorted through greater attention during the negotiation phase. And largely this is true. However, unfamiliarity with the subject matter, unclear terminology and reference to "accepted approaches" makes difficult determining what is realistic for us to request.

So, what are the take-homes for vertical villages?

We need to walk an informed, fine line between encouraging pilots focused on our mode of living, and ensuring we are not reduced to the status of rubber-stampers. Most critically, we must demand the approaches taken are always "with us" and not "on us" ●



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

Don't be fooled on April Falls Day!



Nearly one in three older Australians have experienced a fall during the past 12 months and one in five of these falls lead to hospitalisation.



Don't be fooled by the play on words, "April Falls Day" on April 1 gives us an opportunity to promote better health for the ageing. Presently, 15 per cent of the Australian population is above the age of 65. That percentage is predicted to grow to 22 per cent by 2050 – that's 8.8 million older Australians!

While advancements in medical, social and

economical health determinants have led to improvements in life expectancy, older individuals are faced with the challenge of ageing well. "Every person should have the opportunity to live a long and healthy life," physiotherapist Nick Nicolaidis said.

It's a fact shared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which recently changed its focus from "active ageing" to "healthy ageing". Healthy ageing is dependent on an individual's experience throughout life which shapes intrinsic factors such as the presence of disease, injury, or age-related changes such as muscle loss or reduced bone health. The WHO defines healthy ageing as "the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age."

Grey hairs are inevitable but a loss in function is not. "We now have research to show that we can decline the rate of age-related changes to bone, muscle and joint health," Mr Nicolaidis said. "We can even improve bone, muscle and joint health in patients who have already experienced a decline due to disease, injury, or ageing."



At least half of the age-related changes to muscles, bones and joints are caused by disuse and unfortunately, only one in 10 Australians over the age of 50 years complete sufficient exercise. Some common conditions impacted by disuse are muscle weakness causing disability, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.

Exercise has been shown to improve joint health by moving the lubricating fluid in joints, increase bone density by providing healthy stress that stimulating bone remodeling, and reduce falls risk by improving coordination and balance.

As described by the WHO, healthy aging is not defined by the absence of disease. In reality, many Australians live with multiple chronic conditions, which, when managed well, these

conditions have little impact on an individual's functional ability as they age. Social engagement, access to high-quality healthcare, regular physical activity and good nutrition are vital throughout a lifespan to age well.

It's never too late to start. At Kieser, you'll start your journey by consulting one of our physiotherapists who will develop an understanding of your health, conduct a thorough assessment and design a tailored long-term exercise program. Our exercise scientists will assist you by working with our physiotherapists to ensure you are exercising safely and effectively.

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

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LAW

Feeling immortal? Why make a Will?

“

If you think you are going to live forever, congratulations, you won't need to worry about a Will; however, you will.

”

We wish nothing more than for you to enter a peaceful afterlife or wherever. It will be even more peaceful if you have given some thought to planning your Will. You can, of course, buy a form for a few dollars at the local newsagent, and good luck, because frequently we see examples where the words that you have placed on the form do not necessarily provide for a distribution of your estate in accordance with your wishes, so the intended beneficiaries are left bereft.

If you lived a complicated life, then you can simplify it with a well-planned Will. It can provide you with the opportunity to speak without fear of contradiction. It is extraordinary how many people fail to make a Will, or do not possess a current one. Many people are not aware that an existing Will becomes void upon marriage. Few people are also aware that a Will made while married is not automatically revoked upon separation or divorce.

These days with the extraordinary rise in the price of housing, even relatively small estates have become somewhat larger. It is no secret that large estates tend to attract large interest. In these days of relatively high divorce rates, and with blended families, the situations become much more complicated.

Superannuation does not necessarily form part of your Will, neither do assets held in companies or trust structures. If you die intestate, that is without a Will, whether you think you're immortal or not, then the *Administration and Probate Act 1958* actually provides a set formula for the distribution of your estate. This will not necessarily accord with your intentions, particularly if you are in a blended family situation.

We also find that many parents want to protect their sons and daughters from future relationships with partners which do not work out. They do not want to see their hard-earned wealth going to that smooth-talking boyfriend or girlfriend they never really trusted.

If one of your children has a disability or has a tendency to excessive drug or alcohol use, you may wish to make provision for their care but not control of the money. For these reasons and those in the previous paragraph a Testamentary Trust may provide you with an acceptable solution. It can also be an effective vehicle for tax planning.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this article is general in nature and does not take into account your personal situation. It is not intended to be relied upon as, nor is it a substitute for specific legal advice. You should consider whether the information is appropriate to your needs, and where appropriate, seek professional advice ●

For more information:
neville.com.au

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Lots to see at KHT

CBD News caught up with Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) CEO Tom Mosby in March to discuss all things art, design and education happening at the Trust.

WORDS BY Spencer Fowler Steen

Having only just recently reopened to the public, Mr Mosby said he encouraged everyone and anyone to come down to Federation Square to enjoy exhibitions showcasing the very best on offer from Victorian metropolitan and regional First Nations' artists.

He said KHT's latest exhibition, *Off The Wall*, was all about mark-making tradition.

"What we have done is commission three Victorian Aboriginal artists," Mr Mosby said.

"We thought we'd do something experimental; we provided large sheets of paper and said, 'do what you'd like to do, we'd like to see your interpretation of people, culture, and community.'"

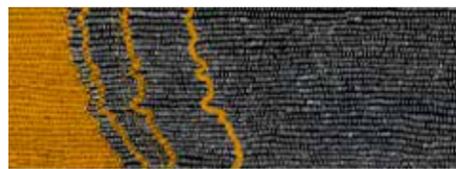
"It's a beautiful, beautiful exhibition."

The other exhibition on display at KHT is *Blak Jewellery*.

Mr Mosby said the exhibition emerged out of KHT's Blak Design program, an initiative created a couple of years ago to address the lack of participation and representation of First Nations' peoples in the design, industrial design, fashion and textiles industries.

"Each year through an expression of interest, we recruit up to about 15 participants from around Victoria looking at metropolitan and regional artists," he said.

"We offer different disciplines and we mentor



▲ Spotted Bonytongu, Charlie Miller.



▲ Protection, Mandi Barton.



▲ Molwa (Shadow) Reflections, Mandi Barton.

the participants through practical sessions around the design process, and also business skills."

"Despite COVID and lockdowns, it's been highly successful, and I strongly encourage people to come to see it."

After reopening to the public in December, the KHT has seen a surge of people flocking to see art in-person, with KHT's famous walking tours around the city also back on.

"People are coming back and wanting to engage in the city, so those tours are a really good way to learn about the settlement and pre-settlement of Melbourne and really get a feel and understanding of Melbourne," Mr Mosby said.

"For us, it's about really encouraging people to come back in-person. Our program and services are available, and we'd really love see people attending the exhibitions."

KHT will continue to run programs and open-forum discussions online ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/kht-online/

TRADER PROFILE

Keeping the baked goods in the family

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

With Easter creeping up, the smell of hot cross buns is already wafting through the air at Queen Victoria Market thanks to Lawrence Lathouras' stall Andrew's Bread Shop.

Including an expansive range of traditional fruit, gluten-free, chocolate, spelt and sourdough options, the bakery knows exactly how to tap into what their customers are on the lookout for – a skill Lawrence has picked up over time from his father.

"My dad bought the shop more than 30 years ago when he was a delivery driver for the bakery, then when my parents were selling the shop, I told them not to," he said.

Not always considering owning a bakery to be in his future, Lawrence was struck with the realisation that he "always thought [the shop] would be in the family."

"It then came down to realising that if we wanted to keep it in the family, I would have to work there," he said.

Now in charge of the family business himself, it has been close to nine years since Lawrence left his career as an electrician behind.

He deemed the "very loyal customers" and "being part of a community" as the reasons why he made the final decision to own the shop.

"A lot of the stallholders are second- or third-generation, or they were working in another shop at QVM and found out another shop was on sale. Shops in the market rarely go to an outsider because people in the market snatch them up," he said.

"Customers are probably the main reason because you get to know them very well and sometimes they don't even need to tell me what they want."

In tune with what his customers are always in need of, Lawrence has recently noticed the



trend of people transitioning away from white bread to more health-conscious alternatives.

This led to his decision to now keep a fully-stocked shop filled with gluten-free bread and different sourdough and dark rye loaves among the many other popular options he sources from local suppliers.

"I have a large range of Middle Eastern breads as they are really popular at the moment. Iraqi bread, Lebanese bread, Turkish bread, all different focaccia with olives, feta, cheese and garlic, and flatbreads seem to be really popular," Lawrence said.

While he has clearly seen the business gain popularity through the Queen Victoria Market's online business, something he was thankful for during lockdown, the thought of expanding beyond QVM is not of interest to him.

Happy to keep the stall local and small, due to

noticing a habit of bakeries losing their quality when choosing to expand, Lawrence said his priority remains in ensuring he meticulously "picks all the best stuff" for his customers.

Something that has seen locals rush to his stall on the Thursday prior to Easter, to ensure they have their hands on one of the 300 to 400 hot cross buns sold at Andrew's Bread Shop on that one day.

Because when quality is there, sometimes it's hard to say no.

Andrew's Bread Shop can be found in the Dairy Produce Hall ●

For more information:
qvm.com.au

HISTORY



The grandeur of Spring St, early autumn 1899

The wealth and extravagance of the 1880s, the era of Marvellous Melbourne, was long gone when this photograph was taken, but it is still evident in the two main buildings you see here – the Grand Hotel on the left and the Princess Theatre on the right.

The ornate Princess Theatre that dominates this streetscape gives no sense of the terrible fate that overtook Victorian society in the 1890s. The collapse of the banks and the suffering that followed overwhelmed almost every aspect of life. It is said that a third of Melbourne's population was unemployed during this decade and many had nowhere to live.

This photograph from the Royal Historical Society's extensive images collection was taken at the very end of the 1890s as people found work again and there was a renewed sense of optimism. The prospect of Australia becoming a nation brought with it a sense of anticipation and about 18 months after this image was taken, Federation celebrations were held throughout the country, especially in Melbourne, which at that time was the seat of the federal government.

The photograph was taken from the intersection of Nicholson and Spring streets looking south. Although undated, it appears to have been taken in summer or early autumn. No one is wearing a heavy jacket or coat, although the obligatory hats are in evidence, and the Princess Theatre is advertising the pantomime *Forty Thieves*, which played in Adelaide at Easter (early April) and opened in Melbourne towards the end of May 1899.

The stillness of this part of Spring St strikes the onlooker. Just around the corner and down Bourke St, there will be the hustle and bustle associated with the main shopping precinct. But here, on this broad and mostly empty thoroughfare there are just three horse-drawn carts, a few pedestrians and a cable tram.

Cable trams had been around for more than a decade when this photo was taken. The tram you see ran on the Clifton Hill line and was soon to turn the corner of Bourke St on its way to Spencer St. It is clearly labelled "Clifton Hill", but the cable trams on specific routes were also allocated their own colour, important at a time when not everyone could read or write. Clifton Hill trams were red. Others were blue, green, yellow and white.

A horse cab is pulled over to the side of the road on the left-hand side of this scene (the Parliament House side). A hansom cab, perhaps? It is a reminder that just 13 years earlier a Melbourne hansom cab featured as the murder scene in the highly successful crime novel *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab* by Fergus Hume. An overnight sensation, this whodunnit took Melbourne to a broad global readership. It is still in print and was made into a television

movie in 2012.

Opposite the horse cab is the Grand Hotel. Built in the 1880s in the Renaissance Revival style, it was one of Melbourne's grandest hotels. It epitomised the opulence of Marvellous Melbourne. Like London's Ritz and Savoy and the Raffles in Singapore, the rich and famous stayed there. It oozed luxury. Soon after it was built it was expanded, its liquor licence was torn up and it was transformed into the Grand Coffee Palace, but this was not to last and, liquor licence restored, it reverted to the Grand Hotel in 1897. The year after (and the year before this photograph was taken), the Federal Constitution was drafted at the hotel. By then, the Grand was financially secure. It is still there, known now as the Windsor Hotel (renamed in 1920), dubbed by some the "Duchess of Spring St".

The star of this scene, though, is the Princess Theatre, designed in the French Second Empire style. The building dominates the streetscape, just as the theatre dominated Melbourne's arts scene for more than a century. Completed in 1886, it replaced earlier theatres that dated back to the middle 1850s. The central pediment features a trumpeting angel, calling out to all who pass that *Forty Thieves* is not-to-be-missed entertainment. Based on the story of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, this was not mere pantomime. Promoted in the press as a "spectacular extravaganza", this "very gorgeous production" began its run in Sydney the previous Christmas, went to Adelaide for Easter and was about to wow Melbourne audiences. It had a cast of more than a hundred, including the key players, chorus, ballet and extras. *The Age* newspaper noted that one of its most striking features was the inclusion of a series of patriotic tableaux ranging from the Death of Nelson to the Spanish Armada and the Capture of Manila.

So, in this one production the audience could bask in the triumphs of the British Empire while gasping at the "oriental" splendour on show ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

STREET ART



I am afraid of police

“

When I was a kid, I was scared of the police – it's something that was taught from my dad as we could never really afford good cars and my dad was constantly worried about getting a canary (defective car notice).

”

As a teen I was a mark-maker, writing on public spaces, trains, everything. This led me to a very justifiable paranoia of the police. As an adult I have tried to avoid them and have come to the conclusion that they are a necessary evil and could even be helpful.

I opened Blender Studios in 2001 at 110 Franklin St, next to the now Blender Lane. I was lucky to have affordable rent with the insecurity of a month-by-month lease. I managed to stay at that property until 2017. This was quite an achievement considering the property had three different owners and this was during the city's biggest gentrification period.

During this time, we were only broken into once and I felt that this was because people wanted to steal our spray paint. It hurt and we reported it, but the police never responded, or called back, or turned up.

Fast-forward to today, we have been forced to move from Franklin St because of rent increases, however, we have found a beautiful warehouse factory just next to Flagstaff Gardens, it has its own laneway, and the space is beautiful and less leaky. Now we must pay proper city rent and it's a lot.

We subsidise the studios for the artists as much as we can, through the Melbourne Street Tours, workshops, and other projects, which also give artists employment in their field.

Another cool way to help pay the crippling rent is that we have set up an Airbnb, we call it the Blender Loft, we made such an effort it is curated down to every last object, it's like staying in a gallery inside a giant art studio, with city views, it is awesome. And we are very proud of it.

A couple of weeks ago, a dodgy-looking guy checked in. He had sent me an email stating that his stay at the Blender Loft was a gift to his daughter for her birthday. So, I thought it would be okay, plus I assumed Airbnb as a company would have safety nets, identification, etc.

In the morning as the first artists arrived for their day at Blender the chaos was revealed. The man that had checked into Blender Loft had trashed the Blender Studios, smashing art, stealing jewellery, breaking and pillaging all of the things Blender holds dear and close to its heart.

We didn't know if the man was still in the Blender Loft so we called the police, keeping

in mind if he was still upstairs in the Blender Loft then it could very quickly become a very dangerous situation. We waited nearly four hours before the police came, we explained that he might be there, and that it was a volatile situation. The police response was that they were understaffed and busy. Eventually the artist had to storm the loft with four artists ready to confront whatever was in there. Fortunately, the man had left, not before trashing the Blender Loft.

The police came four hours later and took photos and stuff. I thought that the man would soon be arrested after, he left his ID, plus we had his photo, fingerprints, and clear video camera footage. And of course, the police could get his details from Airbnb. After a week the police sent an email stating that there was not enough proof, and that the case was closed – a claim Victoria Police has since denied claiming that it's an ongoing investigation.

One of the Blender artists had his computer stolen and the accused hacked into it and began a campaign of systematically taking over his digital life, hacking his socials, accounts, and Menulog. The artist could see the address where the food that the accused had ordered was being delivered. We called the police and they told us, "we have better crimes, there has been a home invasion by three people with knives, we don't have time for this," and then they hung up. There was no comment from Victoria Police.

The artist at Blender Studios has tracked the accused man down to the commission house in Elizabeth St, but they don't want to enact their own justice.

The artists at the Blender Studios feel like they have been abandoned by the police at every level. And this got me to wonder if this was because we are a studio that is heavily involved in the urban art scene. The police and government very recently announced that they are taking a zero tolerance towards graffiti and are spending millions of dollars cleaning the city.

Is it possible that the police are somehow punishing Blender Studios artists or not allowing us the type of justice everyone else gets?

And now that there is a crackdown on graffiti and police are too busy or unwilling to help, does that allow people like the accused to attack homes and businesses with impunity?

I know that tagging isn't for everyone, it's an exclusionary sub-culture that doesn't allow outsiders in. For these young people that get caught making marks and art on the streets, the consequences can be life-changing, should they get such heavy-handed justice while the police ignore far bigger crimes, with potentially far more violent and scary outcomes?

I am now suspicious of the rapidly growing number of drug-affected people that seem to be taking over the city, something that I feel the government and the police should be far more worried about than graffiti. If I was visiting Melbourne from overseas, I would not feel safe.

As for the police, I feel it seems they are not here to help me, and my fear and suspicions have unfortunately returned.

Victoria Police refused to provide a comment ●



Adrian Doyle

ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS

LEARN MORE ON THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM

We must protect Victoria's oceans from gas drilling

Like most Victorians, our beaches and oceans are very special to me.

Before kids, I loved to scuba dive and discover the wonders below the surface. Now, most of my time at the beach is spent paddling in the shallows or exploring rock pools with two pre-schoolers!

Our coasts are home to precious and rare creatures, animals and plant life, but they're also an incredibly important contributor to our economy. For example, the 12 Apostles is one of Victoria's most popular tourist destinations, with more than two million visitors per year in pre-COVID times.

That's why it's absolutely shocking to me that the Victorian Labor Government is expanding gas drilling off Victoria's coast. During the past few years, it's opened up five huge new areas for gas exploration, including right next to the 12 Apostles marine national park.

In the wake of worsening extreme weather events – including the devastating floods in NSW and Queensland right now – governments need to be rapidly moving away from fossil fuels, not drilling for more.

Just a few weeks ago, the NSW Government announced a ban on all new drilling and mining for coal, oil and gas in their oceans. Amid all the tough news right now, NSW's decision to ban new drilling is a welcome positive step forward for climate action.

The Victorian Labor Government needs to join NSW and do the same, which is why last week in Parliament my Greens colleagues and I introduced a Bill to ban oil and gas drilling



▲ Ellen Sandell is joined by Dani from Surfers for Climate at the Victorian Parliament to announce the Greens Bill to ban offshore oil and gas drilling.

along Victoria's coastline too.

We currently don't have many active drilling projects off our Victorian coast, and the few we do have are due to wrap up in the next few years, so the impact on industry or jobs would be very minimal. However, the positive impact on our climate from preventing any future projects and emissions would be huge.

Pushing our state government further and faster on climate action has always been a top priority of mine. While this Labor Government has done some good things when it comes to investment in renewable energy, unfortunately it's also expanding gas drilling. This is on top of the fact that we still get 70 per cent of our energy from burning coal in Victoria, and the state government has no plan to transition away from coal any time soon or to support workers and communities as we do so.

The Victorian Government can't just build renewables with one hand, and drill for more fossil fuels with the other and hope the climate crisis will go away – it doesn't make sense. I think we can do things better.

If you'd like to hear more about our plans to ban offshore drilling, or lend your support to our Bill, you can find out more at greens.org.au/vic/ban-offshore-drilling

As always, if there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch. ●



Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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WE LIVE HERE

Party policy time

With the fragrance of a federal election in the air, we have a sniff of party policies at a national level on short stays.

A policy articulated by the Greens, courtesy of a statement in this masthead by Adam Bandt, national leader of the Australian Greens and federal MP for Melbourne, focuses on the socioeconomic impact of short stays, including housing affordability.

Adam Bandt strikes at the heart of the issue, saying, "It's hard to develop a sense of community when all the apartments around you are being flipped on sites like Airbnb. No one wants to feel like they're living in a busy hotel."

The MP's stance aligns with what we have been forewarning in this column for some time now: namely that as we recover from the pandemic and we kickstart tourism again, it's critical to implement controls on the use of apartments for short stays.

"As we recover from the pandemic, we need to invest in our communities, not simply let the market rip," Adam Bandt said

Adam Bandt's statement has some essential macro and micro elements. It acknowledges the impact of the proliferating short stays on housing affordability and also refers to everyday high-rise challenges and cost imposts, such as accelerated damage to common property and the need for more security.

The statement also refers to the research the Greens have been conducting into policy solutions around the world, many of which have been detailed in this column.

We are looking forward to seeing the major parties issue policy statements, without holding our breath.

Owners Corporations Act – going in circles

The federal Greens' focus on bigger-picture housing issues brings us back to a core issue at the state level here.

Frustratingly, the Victorian Government has been constrained in comparison with NSW. In Victoria, OC rules, called bylaws in NSW, are technically defeated by planning regulations.

This peculiar limitation has seen Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) using the anomaly to exclude the issue from its reviews.

For example, in its *Consumer Property Acts Review Issues Paper No. 2, Owners corporations*, CAV specifically excluded the issue of whether OCs should be able to regulate short stays, deeming it "out of scope". Aggravatingly, CAV in this review also characterised the issue of "short stays" as being limited to the problem of parties.

The main point remains that serious reforms are needed in the planning laws:

"One issue that is beyond the scope of this [CAV] paper is whether owners' corporations should be able to make rules prohibiting a certain use of a lot, where that use is permitted under the applicable planning instrument," CAV wrote.

All the CAV-led reviews and consultations have been risibly powerless to have any effect on the core democratic issue – the devolution of power to communities – despite having a ready model in NSW they could take as a basis and refine.

The so-called "Short-stay bill" has been an unmitigated failure. No recommendations from community consultations were acceded to. Planning issues have been ignored. Despite this, both major parties voted for the bill and it has been embedded, and effectively buried, in Sections 159A to 159F of the *Owners Corporation Act 2006, Version 19* released on

December 1, 2021. The review, promised by the government when it lobbied the opposition for its support, has now been avoided for two years.

Let's stop the government's excuses. The government needs to open a discussion about the challenging intersection of planning and consumer laws – a problem created by the arbitrary legal abstraction of our lives into "departments".

We Live Here will vigorously pursue reforms to the planning regulations to allow self-determination by high-rise communities in Victoria.

Australia lags behind

Globally, there is abundant evidence that short stays have had an immense impact on communities and housing affordability. We anticipate more socioeconomic research will be undertaken to assist regulators in developing workable frameworks for controlling the sector.

One important volume of research is *Airbnb, Short-Term Rentals and the Future of Housing*, by Professors Emeritae Lily M Hoffman and Barbara Schmitter Heisler, published in the USA. This book poses the question: how do Airbnb and short-term rentals affect housing and communities?

The two professors argue that the most disruptive impact of Airbnb and short-term rentals has been in communities where housing markets are stressed. The authors describe how that Airbnb incentivises speculation in residential housing.

The overall effect of short-term rentals, according to the authors, has been similar across countries and cities. Local responses have varied from less restrictive in Australia to increasingly restrictive in the United States and most restrictive in Germany. Shockingly, Australia takes the title of "Highest penetration by Airbnb".

The book claims that while Airbnb has made some concessions, it has not given any city the data needed to enforce regulations efficiently, resulting in costly impacts on governments and ultimately, communities.

With the publication of this book, we are

embarrassed and angry to find Australia classified a laggard, one of the most under-regulated jurisdictions for short-term rentals!

This should be a wakeup call for local, state and federal legislators: take notice of what is happening around the world and learn how to fix the problem here. Lagging behind is not fatal, remaining there is.

Why do we need a dark sky?

We strive to shine a light on the dark corners of the political world. Outside in the physical world, there is a strong argument for allowing natural, celestial light to be revealed in darkness.

Of course, we refer to the night sky and the problems associated with light pollution.

Our attention has recently been drawn to this issue by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) through their Victorian Branch (IDAVic). The main aim of IDA is to maintain the beauty of the night sky for generations to come and to support good lighting fixtures which are also environmentally friendly.

For example, there can be serious unintended environmental, ecological, safety and health consequences from commencing a LED street lighting program without careful planning.

For more information and to learn how you can become involved, visit the IDAVic website at darkskyvic.org.

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 welfare.net ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



Influenza Vaccination Day 2022



In April 2011, the Immunisation Coalition (known as the Influenza Specialist Group back then) held its first free Influenza Vaccination Day at the University of Melbourne's Graduate House, with a large media presence and 16 volunteers to be vaccinated on camera.



This became a regular event, with many of the university's students and alumni, reliant on the vaccination day for their annual flu shot.

By 2018 we had outgrown Graduate House and moved the event to Melbourne Town Hall, and in 2019 we were able to vaccinate 1200 people in less than eight hours.

Then COVID-19 arrived, and we had to modify the event to comply with all of the pandemic safety requirements, particularly social distancing. We are now limited to 500 vaccinations during the course of a six-hour day.

The event is now held in both Melbourne and Sydney, with plans to extend it to all capital cities, once COVID becomes firmly under control. In the meantime, we maintain all of the COVID safe practices, with a limit of 500 vaccinations for the day. For practical reasons, we are unable to offer the flu shot to children (under 18), or to people 65 and over (who require an enhanced vaccine, supplied by the government through the National Immunisation Program (NIP)).

So why offer free influenza vaccinations?

Since the arrival of COVID, and the subsequent measures of control were implemented, influenza almost vanished. However, now that many of the restrictions have been lifted, and travel (both domestically and internationally) opened up, the indications are that influenza will return, with the potential to wreak havoc.

Globally, influenza in a typical year, is responsible for up to 650,000 deaths. In Australia, a typical flu season can kill more people than the national road toll, will cause more than 18,000 hospital admissions, and more than 300,000 visits to the GP.

Influenza is potentially a very serious disease. Some people confuse it with the common cold, thinking that it causes a bit of discomfort, but that life can continue more or less as usual. Nothing could be further from the truth though. Influenza is highly infectious, with the virus able to survive on hard surfaces for more than eight hours and can remain airborne in a

closed room for many hours. It is particularly dangerous for the very young and the very old. It can have devastating effects on pregnant women, as well as those with underlying medical conditions. The vaccine has been used around the globe for many years and is one of the safest vaccines available to us.

So, if you want to protect yourself, and those around you, please come to the Melbourne Town Hall on Friday, April 29 for your free flu shot ●

For more information:
immunisationcoalition.org.au

Local ingredients and history on tap at new watering hole

A new bar in Flinders Lane's Tavistock House is steeped in Melbourne's history, from its location inside one of Victoria's oldest hotels, to its namesake: the now demolished Yarra Falls.

WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*

Its Irish owner Brendan Keown came to Melbourne three years ago via London and Sydney and has probably researched more local history in his spare time than most Melbourne-bred folks.

"I'm a bit of a nerd. I love reading my history," Keown said.

Familiarising himself with the city's past was also part of his former job managing a time capsule cocktail bar at The Espy in St Kilda, which was the reason Keown moved to Melbourne. He can wax lyrical on colonial businessman Alfred Felton, and how the National Gallery of Victoria came to have one of the world's biggest art collections.

"I really like [Melbourne]. I don't think it ever really gets explained very well. People are always like, 'Oh it's very European,'" he said. "I get why people say that, but I think that sells Melbourne short ... I think 'complex' is a better word to describe it."

After witnessing Wurundjeri elder Aunty Joy Murphy's Welcome to Country at his citizenship ceremony in 2019, Keown felt a greater responsibility to engage with First Nations' cultures in a way that is appropriate for a non-indigenous Australian.

"Being an Australian now, you can't just like take pot-shots at the history of this country, you've got to kind of own it a bit as well," he said.

He read more resources and had ongoing paid conversations with local land councils in the process of creating his first venture, which not only serves native botanicals, but pays homage to the historic Yarra Falls.

The City of Melbourne was built around Yarra Falls, which was at the site of present-day Queen's Bridge. Once a meeting place for Kulin Nations Peoples, Yarra Falls was blown up in 1883 to make way for ships and avoid flooding.

All chairs inside Keown's establishment point to a wide, cascading water feature behind the bar, an artistic imagination of Yarra Falls. It has real presence alongside the constellation of second-hand glassware on the ceiling of the narrow room, which seats an intimate 25 patrons. The curved bar top itself is made from reclaimed stringy bark wood. Creating a sense of place was really important to Keown.



"The music is majority Melburnian, Australian, or indigenous artists as well, which is kind of fun," Keown said.

Even the bathroom, affectionately labelled "DUNNY", has Triple R playing on the speakers.

Tying everything together is Yarra Falls' thoughtful seasonal menu. It features a few hearty bar snacks, beers, wine and cocktails, many of which have native ingredients like yam vodka, macadamia liqueur and salted myrtle honey, and are sourced from indigenous-owned and -supporting businesses.

But Keown said they hadn't fastened themselves in a "straight jacket". You can also sip a premium from Taiwan and, of course, an Irish whiskey.

"A bit of the world comes to Melbourne as well. You know what I mean? So we've always got a bit of the world."

Yarra Falls is located at 381 Flinders Lane and is open Wednesday to Saturday, 5pm-1am ●



For more information:
Instagram: @yarrafalls

Pet's Corner

In a league of his own



Thurston the French bulldog was named after rugby league legend Johnathan Thurston.



WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*

Unlike his athletic counterpart, little Thurston still has some growing to do at 13 months old, and owner Marc Constantine laughs that his head has yet to catch up to his body.

Thurston isn't Marc's first pooch. His last dog was sadly euthanised when an attack by a bull mastiff left his staffy more vigilant and aggressive.

"His personality changed after the attack," Marc said.

After some time to heal—and some nagging by his son—Marc brought home Thurston at five months old. There have been no signs of behavioural problems so far. If anything, Thurston is "a bit too

friendly" with the other dogs at the park, so much so Marc has to hold Thurston back and wait whenever dogs pass.

"He'll jump all over them," Marc said.

Loving of animals and humans alike, Thurston is a smart and adventurous dog, who is used to the noises of apartment life on Lonsdale St. His only naughty habit is his overpowering urge to chew.

"He's chewed my couch, chewed my chairs, he has chewed everything," Marc said. "I get him a new toy, and he'll chew the toy box before the toy."

All is forgiven when Thurston adoringly waits at the front door any time the family returns home. He's the companion they needed for city living ●

MUSIC

Waterfall

Charles Jenkins may have found the missing song to The Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour.

The song is *Waterfall*, the third track on Charles Jenkins' latest vinyl record *Radio Sketches* released this year.

The Melbourne singer-songwriter guitarist has delivered this beautiful song to the world, and it has a fantastic film clip to accompany it. This is a companion song to *Do Not Disturb* from Charles Jenkins' 2020 solo album *When I Was On The Moon*.

With *Radio Sketches* (Silver Stamp Records) the album has a warm portrait photograph of Charles Jenkins with his acoustic guitar at the microphone on a stage; a great photo by Steve Cook with a script of the album's title and artist name by cool artist Ash Oswald. In contrast *When I Was On The Moon's* front cover is a picture of a flooded land with just the tops of tall trees jutting through the surface of the water. A desolate scene.

Appropriate too as this record has only Charles Jenkins and acoustic guitar playing into a microphone – a homage to Bruce Springsteen's approach when he recorded his *Nebraska* album perhaps. With *Radio Sketches*, it is a body of work created by a group of musicians assembled by the artist.

The core musicians who played and recorded with Charles Jenkins on *Radio Sketches* were Douglas Lee Robertson, Davey Lane (You Am I) and Peter Farnan. Suzannah Espie makes an appearance on *My Darlin' Gal*. Kudos goes to sound engineer Colin Wynne for mastering the recordings at The Thirty Mile Studios giving a rich, warm texture to the sound. *Radio Sketches* is the result of 3RRR's radio announcer Jonny Von Goes's (JVG) radio show segment where he challenges an artist to write a song/poem about a word or name that he gives them. The opening track to *Radio Sketches*, *Ray Winstone*, is an example. Charles Jenkins has delivered a great collection of songs, inspired by JVG.

Glenn Richards of Augie March with guitarist Dan Luscombe will be performing at the much-loved John Curtin Hotel on Friday, April 8. This is a must-see show.

During lockdown, Melbourne muso Stephen Cummings bought Sweet Whirls official debut album, *How Much Works*, on a digital platform.

He liked the album so much he ordered a physical vinyl record, so he could feel the vinyl audio warmth and read the lyrics. Rocksteady Records Deliveries took care of delivering the goods. Some prayers are answered unexpectedly.

Sweet Whirl, aka Esther Edqvist has been ticking boxes. When an artist pulled the pin on a show due to COVID issues at the recent Brunswick Music Festival (BMF), Sweet Whirl came to the rescue and played the important slot. Her solo set was reminiscent of John Cale. Emily Ulman, head honcho of BMF is now a big fan.

Sweet Whirl loves The Allman Brothers Band, Velvet Underground, Interpol Mudhoney. She's played a gig with the beyond and beneath underground cool Caroline No, Ashes of Dead Star. Her t-shirts are designed by Hann Earles and are superb. Her cover of CCR's *Have You Ever Seen The Rain*, available on her Bandcamp page, is ace. Her music is uplifting and melancholic at the same moment; paradoxical.

The Sweet Whirl band play Max Watts, Swanston St, Melbourne's CBD on June 6, 2022 ●



Chris Mineral

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CRITIC

Chilled author transcends gender

Permafrost is ostensibly a short story collection with disparate settings and different narrators but this could be a ruse used skillfully by the author in a first-person point of view.

The author S J Norman identifies as transgender and goes by the pronoun of "they" on the book's cover.

"They" could be used as a powerful metaphor in this book for the collection of narrators.

Each story has a different one, but the sensibility and style remains constant, with neither the biology nor biography of the narrator foregrounded.

The exception is the first story *Stepmother*, where the narrator is a young girl trying out the things of her stepmother in secret.

"I'd noticed her toiletries bag earlier. She'd left it gaping on the dresser. I had glimpsed into it briefly but didn't have the courage to stick my hand in," the narrator said, almost in a message to spur herself on.

In *Secondhand*, the narrator works in a bookshop and plays tender games with the literary desires of customers while commenting on the pleasures of the industry.

"Every time a new load of books comes in, usually from deceased estates or library sales, they all have to be cleaned and processed, and sanded at the edges if the pages are oxidised ('Foxing' is the sexy term booksellers have for this)."

In *Whiteheart* the narrator describes a sex scene in rural England, leaving the reader to figure out what is happening.

"He was fantastically hairy. Remarkably, the hair that covered his body was as white as the hair on his head."

The writing is coded, descriptive and strongly connected to place. *Permafrost* tells of a journey to meet a friend in an icy region of Japan.

"It's the kind of deep, frostbitten sadness that you might find inside a Russian novel," the friend said. "You might read about it, growing up in the dusty antipodes and think it's beautiful. So, when you're all grown up you run away to the north of Japan, hoping to get a taste of

it. Then along comes the first winter and you realise what you've gotten yourself into."

To use a pun, the writing style and sensibilities of the narrator are refreshingly chilled. S J Norman seems to be saying that letting a story unfold slowly without a prescriptive end is the way forward.

"I think I write for myself," they told an audience at the Blak and Bright festival. "I write for parts of myself, for parts that have been systematically erased."

Norman read the sex scene, describing it as between a trans queer and a sis queer. "It's something you don't see every day."

The novel can be read on two levels. The first sees it as a witty take on contemporary subjectivity, one that feels at home globally, finding solace in an existentialist connection with random encounters.

The second sees it as part of a radical political movement aimed at straight culture which continues to use terms such as "unprecedented" to describe the COVID pandemic as if the HIV one never occurred.

S J Norman said the book aimed to look under the surface of everyday things and explore certain complexities.

"The narrators are distinct characters. They're purposeful but not really explicit," they said. "The point of view has a filmic quality I've been told."

That, after all, is the pleasure of fiction, as opposed to the catastrophising impulse of politics, and this book exemplifies the distinction.

Permafrost, S J Norman, University of Queensland Press, 2021 ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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Quiz



- Gouache, oil and encaustic are all types of what?
- Who are the two approved e-scooter providers in the City of Melbourne?
- Where are the smallest bones in the human body located?
- Who was the first indigenous Australian to become a member of the Federal Parliament?
- Which famous British television chef, journalist and food writer is headlining the 30th anniversary of the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival?
- What is the birth name of Dr. Dre (pictured)?
- In the Boonwurrung language, spoken by the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin nation, what is the name given to the Melbourne region?
- What is the hard upper shell of a tortoise called?
- What year was the first Melbourne Fashion Festival held?
- What term is usually given to the technique of turning sharply when surfing?
- How many official City of Melbourne business precincts will you find in the CBD?
- Tucked away amongst the CBD's many lanes and alleys you will find a piece of street art depicting Bon Scott bursting through a brick

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Paint 2. Lime and Neuron Mobility
 3. Ear 4. Neville Bonner (1971-1983)
 5. Nigella Lawson 6. Andre Komelle
 7. Young 7. Naarm 8. Carapace 9. 1996
 10. Care or carrying 11. Five (Chinatown Precinct, City Precinct, Collins St Precinct, Lonsdale St Greek Precinct and City North Precinct) 12. AC/DC Lane

5x5

No. 010

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

Q		I		K
	N		E	
A		S		Y
	E		S	
T		E		D

SOLUTIONS

QUICK, UNSEE, ASSAY, REUSE, TWEED
 QUART, UNSEW, ISSUE, CEASE, KEYED

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Apr, 2022

Sudoku

No. 010

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

	9		6	8			2	
				5			6	
		1	2		4	8		9
9				3				7
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	7			9				
	2			6	8			3

HARD

5			3			6		
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1	8		4	3				
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			8	2		1		3
	5	1				3		
			2		9	4	1	
		1			4			5

SOLUTIONS

EASY

1	8	6	8	9	7	2	5
2	8	4	5	6	9	7	1
3	7	1	2	5	8	3	4
4	9	3	4	1	2	6	8
5	6	9	7	2	4	5	1
6	9	7	2	4	5	1	8
7	5	1	2	7	4	8	3
8	4	5	7	1	9	3	6
9	2	6	3	1	2	7	4

HARD

5	2	8	4	7	3	9	1	7	6
6	9	3	7	8	1	2	5	4	9
7	1	4	1	7	1	7	2	5	8
8	6	9	3	7	8	1	2	5	4
9	6	1	9	2	2	8	7	4	5
1	8	6	1	7	7	1	5	2	2
2	4	7	4	3	7	3	1	2	8
3	6	1	9	2	2	8	7	4	5
4	5	1	2	7	7	1	5	2	2
5	1	4	3	9	2	6	7	8	3

Wordfind

Theme: Musical instruments

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

T	I	M	P	A	N	I	M	U	R	D
O	G	O	I	R	V	I	O	L	A	
T	U	B	A	V	C	U	K	E	U	C
B	I	O	N	C	I	C	H	E	T	C
A	T	E	O	S	M	O	O	G	E	O
N	A	T	H	R	C	E	L	L	O	R
J	R	G	O	N	G	B	S	I	O	I
O	H	A	R	P	R	A	A	A	N	D
C	O	R	N	E	T	A	N	S	X	I
X	Y	L	O	P	H	O	N	E	S	O
M	A	J	M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| ACCORDION | HORN | SAX |
| BANJO | JAM | TIMPANI |
| BASS | LUTE | TUBA |
| CELLO | MANDOLIN | UKE |
| CORNET | MOOG | VIOLA |
| DRUM | OBOE | VIOLIN |
| GONG | ORGAN | XYLOPHONE |
| GUITAR | PIANO | |
| HARP | PICCOLO | |

Secret message: Orchestra

Crossword

No. 010

ACROSS

- Paradise (6)
- Shock; surprise (8)
- US state (7)
- Liberty (7)
- Myths (7)
- Large reptiles (7)
- Country in Central America (9)
- Land surrounded by ocean (4)
- Cab (4)
- Unnecessary (9)
- Australian currency units (7)
- Stupid (7)
- Famous waterfall (7)
- Waterway (7)
- Traveller (8)
- Redact (6)

1		2		3		4	5	6	7	8
					9					
10							11			
12							13			14
15	16				17				18	
								19		
20					21					
				22						
23						24			25	
26						27				
28							29			

DOWN

- Drew attention to (11)
- Between (5)
- Designer of machines or structures (8)
- Protect (9)
- street (3,3)
- Southeast Asian nation (9)
- Pig meat (3)
- Admirers (4)
- Awesome (11)
- Supplementary (9)
- Plane and rocket industry (9)
- Signal (8)
- African desert (6)
- 2.54cm (4)
- Melodies (5)
- Modern; recent (3)

SOLUTION

H	O	S	I	C	H	E	R	E	A	T	A	V	A	M
V	E	I	H	C	R	E	A	T	A	V	A	M		
T	E	N	N	V	H	C	A	B	V	I	L	I	N	
N	E	A	C	H	E	R	E	A	T	A	V	A	M	
S	I	G	N	E	T	A	T	A	V	A	M			
V	O	D	O	S	T	A	I	E						
I	N	V	I	N	I	X	I	A						
O	I	I	H	E	R	E	A	T	A	V	A	M		
T	S	I	V	L	A	T	A	V	A	M				
D	E	A	N	E	I									
S	V	N	N	V	O	G	S	G	N	E	G	E	L	
O	M	E	N	I	N	H								
W	O	D	E	R	E	A	T	A	V	A	M			
H	E	A	T	A	V	A	M							
H	E	A	T	A	V	A	M							

Codeword

No. 010

17	3	8	16	13	16	8	14	1		10	1	6
23		7		5		7		12		14		7
14	12	13	16	6		23	7	14	2	9	11	13
10		13				14		11		19		11
13	1	23	19	17	9	11		1	21	1	8	13
23				14		16		6		6		
8	Q	18	1	8	7		16	14	24	13	9	12
		8		16		1		9			9	
13	12	13	11	1		4	13	12	12	13	19	8
22		17		23		14			23		14	
13	15	20	19	1	14	11		1	W	1	23	13
20		1		24		21		23		8		8
6	1	23		13	19	9	16	13	11	13	12	6

SOLUTIONS

I	X	P	D	U	L	C	B	J	R	G	W	O
20	22	23	22	23	22	23	22	23	22	23	22	23
A	Z	X	K	F	T	H	S	O	V	M	N	E
13	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

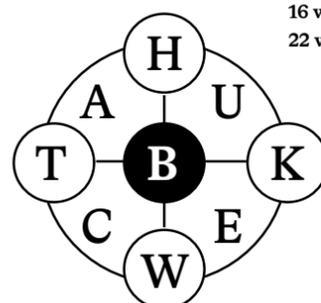
9-Letter

No. 010

Today's Focus:

- 11 words: Good
- 16 words: Very good
- 22 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

abet, abut, bach, bake, back, barrel, barbe, beach, beak, beat, bean, beck, beta, buck, bucket, BUCKWHEAT, cube, tabu, tuba, tube

市民担忧的很多安全问题

上个月，墨尔本市政首席执行官Justin Hanney 在向“居民3000”团体的公开讲话中，要求当地市民一起面对挑战，为本市“献计献策”，来解决一些有争议的影响市中心(CBD)的问题。

Sean Car

3月3日，在Kelvin俱乐部举行的“居民3000”团体会议上，作为他本人也是CBD居民的Hanney先生在回答现场提问之前介绍了市政当前的一些关键举措。

这次会议上市民主要关心的问题包括，市政推出的自行车道、目前电动滑板车的试用、安全问题、无家可归者以及州政府提出的CBD安全注射室问题。

Hanney先生认为，对于许多位于CBD的公司及其员工来说，混合工作安排“将会继续存在”，他表示，在COVID限制放松后，看到这座城市再次“繁荣起来”真是“太棒了”。

棒了”。

他说：“人们都返回出来了，CBD的行人指数显示了这一点。这座城市已经恢复了活力，因为CBD的公司雇主们正在指导他们的员工重返工作岗位”。

“我努力说服了我们的单位员工，回办公室办公。我们的既定要求是，让1600名员工回到办公室，我们这样做是为了以身作则。”

除了鼓励员工返回市区上班，Hanney先生还强调了市议会在COVID封锁期间实施的一系列举措，包括激活巷道和店面，为餐饮业者安装弹出式座位区，以及“在一年内修建了10年的自行车道。”



随着城市逐渐摆脱COVID的影响，市议会的自行车道铺设受到了严格的审查监督，许多居民向首席执行官提出了关于行人安全、骑车人数少、紧急车辆通道受阻和交通拥堵加剧的担忧。

“居民3000”团体主席Rafael Camillo继续呼吁市政审查CBD的自行车道，因为在人行道上还有很多骑自行车和骑踏板车的人，以及车辆通道和停车空间的减少。

部分公交巴士年底电动化

随着州政府确认了零排放和低排放公交巴士的细节，在接下来的几个月里，CBD七条路线上的精选巴士将不再排放有害烟雾。

David Schout

为了改善市中心的空气质量，12辆电动巴士将部署在CBD起点和终点的7条路线上。

此举是州政府的初步行动承诺到2025年年中交付36辆电动巴士的一部分。

墨尔本的大多数公交巴士都是用柴油

驱动的，柴油的烟雾已证明对健康有不良影响，尤其在城市的环境中。

虽然在这七条路线上行驶的公共汽车不会全部是电动汽车，但州公共交通部长Ben Carroll说这是一个积极的开端。

他告诉本报：“电动巴士的推出对环境带来巨大的益处，也意味着在繁忙地区引进了零排放和更安静的巴士。”

这个公告特别受到Queen街居民和商家的欢迎，因为所有这七条公交巴士路线都沿着繁忙的街道行驶。

然而，对于Lonsdale街上的人来说，这个消息并不那么受欢迎，该街此前曾被标记为该市最有问题的公交走廊。

去年，墨尔本市政表示，用电动公交巴士取代沿Lonsdale街行驶的有害柴油巴士



将是减少CBD空气污染的“重要一步”。

市政向州政府提交了一份关于空气污染对健康影响的调查，表达了对公共巴士柴油排放的担忧，并表示Lonsdale街是市中心特别值得关注的道路，该街每天有1000多辆

公共巴士行驶，为16条路线提供服务。

然而，所有这次穿过CBD的电动公交巴士中，只有216路公交巴士(Sunshine - CBD)是沿着这条街行驶的。



欢迎国际学生回归

Brendan Rees and Kaylah Joelle Baker

在澳大利亚边境关闭近两年后，国际学生正逐渐地返回中央商务区(CBD)。

为了庆祝他们的到来，墨尔本市政在维多利亚女王市场举办了一场“美食之旅”，让国际学生真正体验这个标志性的女王市场美食。

2月25日，一群学生和市长Sally Capp一起漫步在女王市场食品大厅，还不时停下来问候商家。

他们尽情享受市场里的美味食物，尝试不同的奶酪、美餐和小吃，最后还享用了Geloso Gelateria店的免费冰淇淋。

市政府教育和创新部门主管Davydd Griffiths议员也参加了这次庆祝活动，多次与国际学生愉快地合影留念。

四年前Karen Adrianharison从马达加斯加(Madagascar)来到墨尔本，并于去年12月完成了商科学士学位，她说这一天“肯

定有许多人聚集在了一起”。

“那天我遇到了很多国际学生。使我印象深刻的是，市长也在场，我们还一起聊了几句。”

另一位来自中国的学生Jayden Chenglong表示，这次美食之旅是一次“愉快的经历”。

这位21岁的国际学生目前正就读于墨尔本大学文学士学位的最后一年，他表示：“作为一名国际学生，我可以更多地了解墨尔本的饮食文化。”

“我和其他国际学生建立了良好的关系。这是最难忘的经历之一。”

还有一位已完成了电信/工程学士学位，现正在帮助国际学生找工作的Tarzon Budhathoki表示，这次能与其他学生和议员建立联系的机会非常有益。

他说：“有机会见到我们尊敬的市长和议员，并进行对话真是太棒了。”

奇妙的艺术巧克力店

对于那些爱吃甜食的人来说，那是走进了巧克力的天堂。

Brendan Rees

位于Little Collins街的YESIGN Chocolate Gallery新店摆满了定制的手工比利时巧克力，其中有一些极不寻常的艺术巧克力被描述为“太美了而不舍得吃！”

这家商店于去年12月开业，是墨尔本市政为填补市区空置店面计划的一部分，该店是用巧克力来庆祝一切，除了有一系列的巧克力糖果和巧克力钱币，还有一些带Flinders街地铁站、Luna公园和Hosier巷标志性图像的巧克力。

店主又是巧克力艺术家陈女士(Young Chen)创作惊艳的巧克力画，都是可以食用的。

其中包括复制著名的戴珍珠耳环女孩(Girl with a Pearl Earring)巧克力画(Chen女士花了两周时间制作)和复制1889年梵高(Van Gogh)自画像的巧克力画，售价分别为1500澳元和950澳元。

店里的巧克力糖果起价是6澳元，礼物创意包装的巧克力价格在20到30澳元之间，巧克力块装的价格则在15澳元左右。

陈女士说：“我们店的巧克力是为艺术爱好者、家庭、以及包括婚礼的各种庆典活动而准备的。”

“顾客喜欢这种巧克力和艺术的结合。



墨尔本作为艺术之城，使这种结合更显完善。

“艺术巧克力商店诞生于墨尔本，我们很高兴能在这儿为墨尔本人提供服务并发展业务。”

陈女士说，她开店的梦想是在墨尔本疫情封锁期间产生的，那时她在家“自己制作”巧克力。

What's on: April 2022



NEIGHBOURHOOD MARKETPLACE
 April 7, 6pm - 8.30pm @ Kelvin Club
 Hosted by Residents 3000, the annual event is inspired by Australia's Neighbour Day - a celebration of communities, friendly streets, encouraging people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood.
info@residents3000.com.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

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

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

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 or phone 0455 858 996 and request attendance details.
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



LANEWAY LEARNING
 Cheap, fun classes in anything and everything. Weekday evenings in cafes, bars and other spaces around Melbourne. Classes usually have about 20 people to keep it friendly. Online classes available.
melbourne.lanewaylearning.com



NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
 Hosted by Residents 3000, come at 4pm for one hour at Green Room, L1 Central House, Baptist Place Laneway and enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours.
gardenclub@residents3000.com.au

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 James Edmundson 0411 456 770
 Will Caldwell 0419 010 270
 Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572
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