

CBD NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P25



Paving the way for women in hospitality
Photo by Carmen Zammit

New Indian restaurant Elchi has taken over the Flinders St space occupied by George Colombaris's The Press Club and its owner and head chef Manpreet Sekhon, who now has three acclaimed restaurants to her name, said she was proud to be leading the way for more female chefs to follow suit. *More on p16.*

Greens and tenants join forces to save Nicholas Building

The CBD's premier artistic hub, the Nicholas Building on Swanston St, is still under threat with no clear message coming from the agents about its sale.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

The building houses more than 200 small artistic practices with new ones opening nearly every day.

Just three weeks ago a second-hand book shop opened on the fourth floor.

But there are no assurances about the future of the building with an attempt by the Greens to have it purchased by the state government rejected in Parliament in March.

Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell was on the campaign trail last month to save the building.

"I wouldn't call it an old growth forest but there's an ecosystem in here," she said. "It's bigger than the sum of its parts."

She said the building needed to be protected for the common good. "I want to make the future of the building an election issue."

The Nicholas Building was put up for sale last October with expressions of interest invited in the region of \$80 million.

Director of Allard Shelton, Joe Walton, told *CBD News* that an announcement would be made in December, but the building is still on the market.

Another bidding round is believed to have just been completed and according to the Nicholas Building Association co-director Dario Vacirca, the owners want the building to retain its current purpose.



▲ From left: Luke Sinclair, Ellen Sandell and Dario Vacirca.

"We've had due diligence by the City of Melbourne and investors ready to meet most of the price," he said. "We're calling on the state government to contribute the rest."

Ms Sandell estimated that the shortfall would be less than \$10 million. So far, the state government has not responded positively to the proposal.

Mr Vacirca concedes that the current commercial model works well, and that originality and self-determination are the hallmarks of the building, but he is worried that new owners will turn it into apartments.

Joseph Gleeson moved into a room on the fourth floor to write poetry. Three weeks ago, he decided to sell second-hand books from his room to help pay the rent. All books are price at \$7.50.

Continued on page 4.

Police go "back-to-basics" in new community grassroots approach

WORDS BY Brendan Rees
SAFETY & SECURITY

Local police are going "back-to-basics" to tackle crime and support community safety under a new initiative to be launched in the CBD.

The "Neighbourhood Policing" model will see police work closely with the community and act on safety concerns.

Victoria Police Sergeant Dinah Tremain, who will coordinate the Neighbourhood Policing initiative for the Melbourne police service area, said the initiative was "about going back to true grassroots policework."

"We're not just listening to the community but following through on their concerns and tasking police to deal with them," she said.

"We'll then report back to the community on what has been done."

"The community should be assured we're listening and will continue to listen. Importantly, we'll also act and make sure they know when we do."

A local safety committee involving police, the City of Melbourne, and local groups has been formed and will meet for the first time in June.

The committee will help police determine and prioritise what issues are of most concern to residents, businesses, and visitors in the Melbourne police service area.

Local police stations will keep a register of issues that matter most to their local communities, which will then be assigned to officers to address, with residents to receive progress reports as they become available.

Continued on page 2.

PLANNING, PAGE 03

A Fears grow for heritage-listed Shell House



COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 04

B Enterprize Park works complete



ELECTIONS, PAGE 09

C Labor looks to decade slide at Federal election



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 13

D A few curses at the Comedy Festival



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Police go “back-to-basics” in new community grassroots approach

Continued from page 1.

Police will work with partners such as the City of Melbourne, community groups and government agencies when issues are more complex.

Assistant Commissioner Tim Hansen said the new initiative, which was being rolled out across the state, was ensuring Victoria Police “get the basics of police work right to prevent and deter crime.”

“Police serve the community and we must be accountable to their needs and safety concerns,” he said.

The City of Melbourne’s city safety, security, and amenity manager Dean Robertson said the council was “truly happy to be involved” in the Neighbourhood Policing program, adding safety was a “huge issue.”

“It really is about doing something; when things are raised there are action items taken,” he said.

“[It’s about] how do we do things differently, and how do we look at a way to try and make sure even the perception of safety is okay,” he said in an address to the EastEnders CBD residents’ group meeting in April.

“The city is overall pretty good but if you have an experience or if you see something your perception becomes your reality – and that’s the stuff we need to deal with, so we’re working on that.”

Mr Roberston said the council had begun engaging with the community, with international students being among the first to provide their thoughts on safety.

“We interviewed 20 [students] ... they were reporting to us when they go out, they really think about where they’re going to go, what they’re going to do, what time they will be home and ‘should I be home?’”

“It might be 25 degrees out there, but I think I’ll take my umbrella as a means for defence ... I’m not advocating that ... that’s some of the



▲ Snr Constable Jake Jones speaks with a city worker. Photo: Murray Enders.

things we’ve heard.”
Victoria Police has launched an online community sentiment survey to hear what issues are of importance, how they want to engage with police and how comfortable they feel approaching police and PSOs ●

To participate in the survey:
engage.vic.gov.au/annual-vicpol-community-sentiment-survey-2022



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Another donation for council housing project

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
HOUSING

The Gandel Foundation is the latest organisation to get behind the City of Melbourne’s Make Room project after contributing a \$1 million philanthropic grant towards the \$20 million affordable housing initiative.

The latest funding from the foundation brings the secured amount up to \$12.75 million, following additional funding from the Victorian Government, The Ian Potter Foundation and the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

The Gandel Foundation is one of Australia’s leading private family foundations. Its CEO Vedran Drakulic said the organisation was committed to projects focused on empowering the most vulnerable people in the community.

“The Gandel family is proud to support the City of Melbourne’s Make Room project and Unison Housing, and we are confident that this initiative will create a positive and lasting difference in the lives of so many Melburnians struggling with homelessness,” he said.

The council-owned building at 602 Little Bourke St is being refurbished by Unison, which will construct 50 studio apartments for the city’s rough sleepers. The priority for housing and call outs for funding from philanthropic and corporate sectors comes after recent figures revealed there were between 60 and 90 people sleeping on the streets on any given night.

The council’s health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead Cr Dr Olivia Ball said the city was facing a significant problem due to a lack of public, social and affordable housing.

In addition to the City of Melbourne donating the \$12 million building, \$365,000 has also been included to start the refit.

Set to open in late 2023, the Make Room project will not only contain accommodation and communal living areas, but also housing and homelessness services to support the residents ●

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COLLINS PLACE

Fears grows for future of heritage-listed Shell House

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A controversial plan to redevelop the heritage-listed Shell House and construct a second tower is a step closer to reality after a revised proposal won approval from the City of Melbourne.

But the owners of the acclaimed 28-level building at the corner of Flinders and Spring streets, which was designed by the late Harry Seidler, one of Australia's greatest modernist architects, will need the nod from the state government to get the \$203.5 million project off the ground.

The application proposes to partially demolish the public plaza at Shell House and the century-old Milton House on Flinders Lane, a three-storey building that is also heritage-listed, to make way for a second 32-storey office tower.

The new tower would stand apart from Shell House with a sky bridge linking the two buildings.

In February, the applicant Phillip Nominees submitted amended plans to the council after Planning Minister Richard Wynne said he was "particularly concerned about new buildings cantilevering over heritage places".

According to a council report, the revised plans reconfigured the second tower's floor plate, so it did not overhang Milton House.

However, heritage groups, residents, and the Australian Institute of Architects have expressed concerns that the aesthetic and architectural integrity of Shell House would be destroyed if the plans were ultimately green-lighted.

In January, the application was called in by Mr Wynne after Heritage Victoria refused the application in August 2021. At the time the Planning Minister said there was "no plan for the destruction of Shell House."

At the Future Melbourne Committee on April



▲ An artist's impression of the proposed plaza and office tower.

5, councillors voted unanimously to approve the revised plans after council officers believed there had been a "significant improvement" to the original plans, noting the enhanced pedestrian connections and revised new tower.

Under the plans, the revamped plaza would feature a retail space including a bookshop, flower shop, and open space.

There would also be bluestone paving, marble seating, trees, and natural daylight via a glazed canopy while a landscaped amphitheatre would create "a strong link for occupants to continue through to the café on level three."

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece acknowledged Shell House was one of the "most significant modernist buildings" but believed the Ingenhoven-designed tower was a "striking one".

"It's both striking in its sculptural form, and I also think it's elegant in the way that it adds to the skyline of the city," he said at the council meeting.

But he added, "The decision being taken by council tonight will be followed by several more assessments, including by the Minister and by the state government's heritage and

special advisory council," he said.

"These assessments will ultimately determine whether this development proceeds ... I should note that we are considering this proposal tonight strictly from a planning perspective. The city has previously submitted on the question of heritage and one of the amended motion tonight does go to that."

Cr Reece said if approved by the state government, the redevelopment would be an "important addition to Melbourne's skyline, and one which will come to be considered of architectural significance to the city."

Under the amended plans, Cr Reece said retail spaces that currently front Flinders Lane would be removed but "we're getting a space which presents much more like a public square to the street, and which I think will deliver really significant public benefit and keeps true to the original vision of Harry Seidler for this plaza."

Heritage portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert conceded while he was "still stuck" on heritage concerns, and that "objections are still entirely valid for the updated proposal", he said overall, the application was a "spectacular and significant proposal."

"You can't really fit in a building of this type between Shell House and Milton house without significantly undermining the heritage value of both of those heritage places," he said.

"But it is a spectacular proposal and if the Minister supports heritage, then the Minister should also support planning but on the basis that we've set out here."

High profile businessman and co-owner of Shell House Daniel Besen also spoke at the meeting.

Mr Besen acknowledged the "many layers of architectural history" of the site with the plans "respecting and celebrating Harry Seidler's vision and paying homage to the jewel that is Milton House."

"Our vision is always to develop a building equal in architectural beauty and technical innovation as 1 Spring St ... one that will be an extraordinary addition to the city and skyline of Melbourne," he said.

"We are also very cognisant and very responsive to the voices of Heritage Victoria with whom we worked with for over 14 months, council officers from the City of Melbourne and DELWP [the Victorian planning department] who have had oversight of the project since its inception."

CBD residents group EastEnders president Dr Stan Capp said the proposal was "another example of development at any cost."

"The Shell House has been granted heritage status for good reason and this should not be withdrawn to enable a further development," he said.

"Clearly the revised design is an improvement, but this does not dissuade me from my view that heritage considerations should be paramount."

Milton House was built as a private hospital in 1901 before later becoming a rooming house and then government houses.

Shell House was built in 1989 and won a number of awards including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Victoria Merit Award and the National RAI Award ●



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▲ Virtual reality artist Travers Vanzanen.



▲ Jeweller Amy Sutarto.

Greens and tenants join forces to save Nicholas Building

Continued from page 1.

He doesn't have a business plan. His ideas are mainly literary. He can tell you that Ali Smith, one of his authors, was in a poetry group and that it's hard to get books by Kafka, Camus, Dostoevsky and Marquez who are his biggest sellers.

Since Complete Works closed on the first floor not long before the lockdown, there has been a gap in the CBD's lit culture.

Sticky Institute, the beloved zine publisher, has also moved in from the Campbell Arcade, bringing the building's total to three bookshops and one library.

"We spent our 21st birthday here," said Luke Sinclair, co-ordinator of the Sticky Institute, from his new premises on the eighth floor. "The arcade will be closed for two years while they rejig the design."

The recent surge in bookshops adds to a complement of 10 galleries, as well as jewelers, artists, architects and tailors who occupy small spaces but have a big impact on the city's culture



▲ Bookseller Joseph Gleeson.



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Enterprize Park works complete

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Upgrades to a prominent park on the Yarra River's north bank have finally concluded, featuring new seating, pathways and extra green space about the size of an Olympic swimming pool.

Chief among the upgrades at the new-look Enterprize Park is the expanded lawn area, plus enhanced views to the river, improved accessibility, strengthened connectivity through the park, and reinstated indigenous vegetation.

The park, located between Queensbridge St and Melbourne Aquarium on the river's northern side, had long been earmarked for upgrades that were initially due to be completed in 2020.

The City of Melbourne hopes the upgraded space will become an area where locals and visitors can either be active or unwind.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said enhancing the area as a significant piece of Aboriginal history and identity — much like the council hopes its "city-shaping" Greenline project will achieve — was crucial.

"Enterprize Park was once a gathering place for Aboriginal people and its connection with our First Nations people is profound," Cr Capp said.

"The park now offers our diverse community with an honest and respectful representation of what this space once was."

If completed, the \$300 million Greenline project would see a pathway established along northbank from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

Enterprize Park sits roughly at the halfway point of the proposed four-kilometre green trail, and the council said the recent upgrades represented Greenline's "first milestone."

The park's upgrades are also significant given the council has made no secret of its desire to improve what it sees as an inadequate part of the CBD.

"The north bank of the Yarra River Birrarung



is currently under-utilised, and broadly characterised by a lack of cultural expression, limited ecological or habitat value, poor pedestrian and community connectivity, and a lack of social amenity," draft Greenline plans stated.

The upgrades will also benefit nearby businesses and cultural institutions, including the Immigration Museum located across Flinders St.

The museum's general manager Rohini Kappadath said the improvements breathed new life into one of Melbourne's most important yet relatively unknown historical precincts, and "creates a new, more accessible, and inclusive place for community to get together and spend time in the city beside the river." ●

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University of the Third Age left “frustrated” by council’s “lack of support”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

In a City of Melbourne 2020-2024 strategic plan Melbourne is deemed a great place to age, but according to University of the Third Age Melbourne City (U3AMC) its lack of support from the council in finding a permanent space is telling them differently.

As a global not-for-profit organisation focused on helping semi-retired or retired over 50s to thrive through physical and social activities and stimulating courses, U3AMC’s president Russell Huntington can’t understand the council’s hesitancy.

“We are asking them because they say Melbourne city is a great place to age. If Melbourne is a great place to age, how come the City of Melbourne council can’t provide us with any support,” he said.

“Our organisation is one of 104 U3As in Victoria, and you will find them across the suburbs and in the country areas, but we are the one based in the City of Melbourne.”

Conducting classes in 13 scattered locations between South Yarra and Carlton, including their old Ross House office they now use for a small number of classes, U3AMC is requesting a permanent space from the council to aid local Melburnians in staying active and enjoying life.

Specific requirements for the space have also been provided to the council, with U3AMC seeking a two-desk office area, a meeting room or two for 10 people to meet, an area with access to a hot water supply for tea and coffee and at least three classrooms to accommodate up to 25 members.

The request is not an unexpected one with Mr Huntington stating neighbouring U3As such as Port Phillip and Hawthorn have been provided with “spectacular facilities” by the local government authority of those areas.

“Our target is the City of Melbourne. The reality is about 25 per cent of our members are residents of [the] Melbourne City Council [area], the other 75 per cent live in the inner suburbs,” Mr Huntington said.

“Even though we draw people from outside the CBD, we only offer activities in the city of Melbourne. We do these activities in 13 different locations because we have never been able to encourage the council to give us dedicated accommodation.”

While the membership fees are higher than other U3As due to rental costs and 80 per cent of their revenue being spent on rent for the 13 locations, Mr Huntington said it was not the concern of payment that was the problem.

“We are not concerned about paying the rent, we are frustrated that the Melbourne City Council gives us no priority whatsoever when it comes to making accommodation available,” he said.

“They just very politely say, ‘there are so many other community organisations that want space that we can’t give you any priority at all’, but they don’t bother to explain further.”

Discussions and concerns surrounding the lack of permanency for U3AMC have been paramount throughout

the same period the City of Melbourne has been voicing concerns about vacant shopfronts due to the pandemic.

U3AMC sent a proposal through to the council back in May last year, followed by numerous emails at the end of last year.

It was then in January that a City of Melbourne council survey indicated 13 per cent of street-facing shopfronts were vacant.

While short-term shops have been considered an adequate answer to the problem, Mr Huntington said U3AMC could also play an important role in reactivating the city.

“U3A Melbourne City is a great contribution to keeping seniors and retirees active and it’s also helping the Melbourne city’s economy by getting foot traffic back,” Mr Huntington said.

“We have more than 1000 members and while a tiny number of them might walk to their classes, the other 95 per cent will take public transport to their classes and this means foot traffic in the city.”

“It also means [members] will go to French class and with their friends from the French class will go to have coffee or lunch after.”

Mr Huntington also added that the wide range of classes attended by members and the mission of U3A were “consistent” with what the City of Melbourne considered a priority.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson told *CBD News* that the council’s community and city services team was working through challenges in meeting U3AMC’s specific requirements.

The council spokesperson said that it regularly received requests from different community groups and aimed to manage short- and long-term accommodation requests fairly.

“Community organisations play an extremely important role in [the] city,” the City of Melbourne spokesperson said. “[We] thank them for their vital work and the positive impact they continue to have.”

“Community leasing spaces are more limited in the City of Melbourne than in other council areas, due to higher demand, and limited available space.”

“We are acutely aware of the challenges faced by many organisations in accessing affordable and permanent operating spaces, and we are continuously looking for solutions and accommodation options for community organisations across our municipality.”

While no resolution has yet been found, U3AMC is continuing its push for a space with the hope to have their memberships increase from 1000 back to their pre-pandemic numbers of 1300.

For more information on volunteering or getting involved in social events or the various courses from language to art, fitness and writing, visit the U3A Melbourne City website ●

For more information:
u3amelbcity.org.au

Blaming bike lanes for traffic jams “flawed logic”

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

The CBD needs safe and more reliable alternatives to car usage, and blaming bike lanes for traffic jams was “flawed logic” according to the CEO of Infrastructure Victoria.

Applauding Melbourne’s push alongside London, New York and Paris to become cycling and walking friendly, Jonathan Spear said recent criticism of the city’s new protected bike lanes ignored the lessons of “induced demand”.

“We can’t build our way out of congestion. Numerous traffic studies show that more road space for cars leads to more people driving, further clogging our roads – the induced demand effect,” he said in a letter posted on the independent body’s website, and printed in the *Herald Sun*.

“Understandably, people hate congestion – it’s dead time. As Melbourne’s traffic worsens, more people will look to avoid the city if they feel there is no safe and reliable alternative to sitting in traffic jams.”

“But if we provide alternatives that get more cars off the road, everyone benefits. For drivers, it means less time in traffic and travelling to the city becomes a better experience. For everyone else, the environmental and productivity benefits are huge.”

Speaking on behalf of Infrastructure Victoria – which advises government on specific infrastructure matters and publishes research on infrastructure-related issues – Mr Spear declared that early in the pandemic it identified the risk of city-goers preferring their cars long-term to travel into the inner city.

He said that trend had now materialised, and that as research had confirmed the number one deterrent for would-be cyclists remained a lack of physical barriers to cars, protected lanes were essential.

“Encouraging people safely back on public transport, combined with a network of separated cycling corridors, will get the city moving again and benefit our economy. Flexible start and finish times, cheaper fares for buses and permanent off-peak travel discounts would go a long way



to cut congestion across all forms of transport.”

“If we don’t make a change now towards safe and more reliable alternatives to car usage, our traffic will keep going in the wrong direction. And that will undermine the city’s revival.”

The comments came as Lord Mayor Sally Capp hit back at the “loud chatter” surrounding the City of Melbourne’s cycle lane push.

Speaking at a Melbourne Press Club event on April 6, Cr Capp returned serve to those who claimed the council’s expedited rollout was to blame for traffic jams in the city.

Armed with statistics to counter the claims cycling lanes deter those drivers from coming into the CBD, Cr Capp said the argument did not add up. “About seven per cent of our traffic into the city at the moment is bicycles ... (however) our protected bike lanes take about one per cent of the entire city space made available for transport,” she said.

“Out of more than 23,000 on-street car parks we have across our municipality, 421 of them have been removed for protected bike lanes and parklets. So, we are talking a lot of chatter about something that is really having a very minor impact on the space available for cars, and what we see as a very important space to provide a safe way in for our cyclists.”

She also “categorically” declared the council was not trying to deter cars from travelling in the city, citing those without alternative options, tradespeople, those with a disability and emergency services as reasons that there would “always be space for cars.” ●

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Big office tower next to Melbourne Club approved

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Construction of a 37-storey office tower at the “Paris end” of Collins St is expected to begin next year after the state government gave it the tick of approval.

The proposed 160-metre building, set to cost \$269 million, would sit next to the heritage-listed Melbourne Club at 36 Collins St, built in 1859.

The new skyscraper is also situated on the site of the heritage-listed Melville House (occupied by Australian National University), which would have its facade retained as part of works.

Originally pitched as a 102-metre office tower, developer Dexus last year revealed plans for a far bigger development, increasing the height by more than 50 per cent.

In an agreement with the men’s only Melbourne Club that allowed Dexus to secure a floor area increase and the creation of “airspace lots”, the club will not have to vacate the premises during construction.

After green-lighting the significant project in the CBD’s east end, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the project would create 1100 jobs during construction and a further 1250 ongoing jobs once construction was complete.

“This is exactly the kind of innovative development Melbourne is known for — combining world-class design while protecting our unique character and heritage,” Mr Wynne said.

“We’re making sure Melbourne continues to be the best place for business in Australia — a dynamic and exciting place to live, work and play.”

An application for a 102-metre office tower on site was approved by councillors in March 2020, however under conditions that overshadowing of the popular public forecourt at Collins Place would be reduced — something that was rectified in the new proposal that went before councillors in November 2021.



In that meeting, the council’s planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said the site was particularly important.

“In terms of Australian corporate real estate, this is probably the best business address in the country and so it’s only right that we as councillors look for a building that achieves the absolute highest standards,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

The new development will also feature a new publicly accessible through-link that runs from Collins St, through the building into McGraths Lane, and then on to Little Collins St.

The through-link however is only accessible from 7am to 7pm on most days.

Construction is expected to start in 2023 and is reportedly due to be completed by 2026.

Heritage concerns

The proposed office tower is notable as it is located both on, and next to, sites included on the Victorian Heritage Register.

On the site is the three-storey grand former residence Melville House, built in 1881, which

will have its facade maintained during the works.

A prior permit has already approved demolition to a rear portion of the heritage-listed site.

According to the register, the building is historically significant as “one of the few surviving 19th century residences in the central city.”

“It is representative of the more domestic scale buildings that were occupied by professionals such as doctors and lawyers at the top end of Collins St,” it noted.

“Melville House is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the so-called Boom Style architecture of 1880s Victoria. The lavish use of the stucco decoration is typical of the style but is a rare surviving example of the type in the city.”

However, Stan Capp, the president of residents group EastEnders, expressed concerns about how the development would impact the heritage-listed building.

“I fail to see how we are protecting history by allowing a building of this size and bulk in such close proximity to Melville House,” Dr Capp said.

“It will destroy the northern part of Collins St in this iconic part of Melbourne, which east of Exhibition St has been substantially preserved and has nothing of this magnitude. Certainly, on the south side we see the developments of Collins Place et cetera, but these buildings are well set back and do not detract from the streetscape. Have we not learned already that once these decisions are made, we can never recover from them?”

The new development is also next door to the 1858-built Melbourne Club.

The club is a “rare example of a 19th century purpose-built clubhouse with relatively intact internal characteristics including fittings and fixtures from early decorative schemes, particularly the original bathrooms features.”

Notably, the rear garden holds aesthetic and botanical significance as home to the largest London plane tree known to exist in Victoria along with an uncommon date palm ●

QVM kicking goals in sustainability initiatives

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SUSTAINABILITY

Queen Victoria Market’s (QVM) ambitious goal to reach zero carbon and send zero waste to landfill by 2027 is on track to be achieved.

The 2020-21 financial year saw the market meet its target of recycling 80 per cent of its waste as well as reducing its volume of waste going to landfill by 848 tonnes compared to the previous year.

It also collected 685 tonnes of organic waste, including fruit, vegetables and coffee grounds, which was processed by Yarra Valley Water’s waste to energy facility, producing enough electricity to power 15,655 houses for one year.

Queen Victoria Market CEO Stan Liacos said the “outstanding” sustainability results were being achieved as part of a group effort.

“I recognise our traders and visitors who have individually contributed to minimising the market’s impact on the environment to date,” he said. “From shoppers bringing their own bags and trollies, to traders adapting their systems to minimise waste and energy use, every small action makes a difference.”

“By implementing multiple layers of sustainable initiatives, coupled with a commitment to trader, visitor and community education, we are well on our way to achieving our ambitious zero waste and zero carbon targets.”

Cleaning and waste contractor Ikon Services Australia has also helped to implement several waste reduction initiatives.

Other initiatives include recycling 700 tonnes of cardboard and polystyrene every year and turning offcuts from butchers and fishmongers into pet food at an offsite facility.

Sustainable shopping tours are also held at the market, while night market stallholders are required to use biodegradable plates, cutlery and straws ●

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Labor look to address decade slide as Greens favoured to win Melbourne again

Ahead of the federal election on May 21, CBD News looks at the seat of Melbourne and whether Labor candidate Keir Paterson can halt the party's huge slide in first-preference votes since 2010.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Greens leader Adam Bandt goes into the 2022 Federal Election as red-hot favourite to win the seat of Melbourne for a fifth straight time.

The division of Melbourne, which covers the CBD and suburbs immediately north of the Yarra River to both the east and west, has been dominated by the Greens since 2010 and remains the party's only lower house seat in Canberra.

Held by Labor from 1904 to 2010, the party has since suffered a huge loss in first-preference votes since Bandt's breakthrough victory 12 years ago.

That year, the percentage of first-preference votes dropped from 49.5 (in 2007) to 38.1.

It has continued to slide since, to a record low 19.7 per cent in the last election in 2019.

The candidate tasked with halting this slide and deliver what would be a huge underdog victory for Labor is Kensington resident Keir Paterson.

After winning preselection in August 2021, Mr Paterson has been campaigning since September and said voters had one thing on their mind.

"There's a real mood for change," he told *CBD News*.

"The number of people that we speak to that say 'we just need to get rid of this government' — that is the number one, two and three priority for most of the people I speak to in the electorate."

Born in Carlton and having owned his first home in North Melbourne, Mr Paterson said he had "lived on and off in the electorate my whole life."

And despite having also lived in three different continents, he counts Melbourne as "by far the best city in the world to live in."

He has worked in the mental health space and, most recently, was president of the 50,000-member Bicycle Network, which advocates for more sustainable transport and safer riding.

Mr Paterson said looking at Labor's recent election results "doesn't give you the full picture", referencing the fact Labor's previous candidate for the seat of Melbourne, Luke Creasey, withdrew before the 2019 count due to offensive social media posts that came to light.

However, Labor's primary vote had already dipped well before 2019, something he was determined to turn around.

"I don't have a theory as to why," he said.

"I can say that this campaign that we're running at the moment is probably the most active and, certainly in my view and the view of other observers, the most organised and proactive campaign [in recent elections]. We've got a really good volunteer base and a lot of supporters



▲ Labor candidate Keir Paterson (centre) with a local family.

out there, and we're running a really positive campaign and we're getting a really positive response. I suppose I'm not really focused on the previous elections."

Labor and Mr Paterson are under no illusion as to the magnitude of their upcoming task but remained positive about their prospects.

"We're very confident about this election. There's no question it's a pretty steep hill to climb," he said.

"I feel positive about it, the vibe is good. There's no question that Adam is a strong incumbent, and this seat is a big focus for the Greens, they've got a huge budget and he's spending a lot of money in the electorate ... I'm really motivated to change this government, and we need a Labor majority to change the government. But also, I've become increasingly frustrated by the lack of action of issues like climate change, inequality, job security, aged care, childcare et cetera. And unfortunately, having a member of parliament from a minor party doesn't get us traction on those issues."

Mr Bandt's office did not respond to multiple requests for comment by *CBD News*.

While noting a number of nationwide issues, Mr Paterson said the biggest issue facing the seat of Melbourne — Victoria's smallest electorate at 40 square kilometres — was "definitely the emergence from the pandemic."

"Our CBD has been decimated," he said.

"We need to restore the CBD as our capital. "But the reality is that people aren't going to be working five days a week in the CBD, so we need to reimagine the purpose of our CBD, what it's there for and how it acts as the glue that holds Melbourne together."

Mr Paterson said the biggest surprise during the campaign to date, having spoken with many

people on the ground in Melbourne, was the appetite for a national independent commission against corruption (ICAC).

He said the issue was "spontaneously identified" by about one in three people as their number one issue heading into the May 21 poll.

"The thing that surprised me the most this election — you expect a lot of the prominent issues, you can anticipate those — but the Federal ICAC, and in general restoring integrity and trust to federal politics just comes through as a really high priority for people. They actually nominate that as one of their most important issues, which surprised us," he said.

"I think people are really sick of our federal politics, they're sick of the perception of the lack of accountability and the perception of favouritism and corruption and they want to do something about."

Other candidates contesting the seat of Melbourne in this election include Justin Borg (United Australia Party), James Damches (Liberal), Richard Peppard (Liberal Democrat Party), Scott Robson (Independent), Walter Stragan (One Nation), Bruce Poon (Animal Justice Party) and Colleen Bolger (Victorian Socialists).

Meet the Candidates for Melbourne hosted by Residents 3000 - May 19

CBD Locals will have the opportunity to meet their local candidates at the Kelvin Club on Melbourne Place (off Russell St) on May 19 at 6pm.

Hosted by Residents 3000, Mr Bandt and Mr Paterson will both be present, with other candidates expected to confirm closer to the event.

For more information visit residents3000.com.au or the group's Facebook page ●



Artist shows cost to environment through Money Tree sculpture

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

Money may not grow on trees but a recent sculpture outside the State Library has delivered a powerful message about the value of protecting nature.

Adorned with recycled materials including bushfire-rescued timber, thousands of coins, and keys, the 300kg *Money Tree* art installation, which was made by Victorian artist Michael Moerkerk, celebrated the 40th anniversary of Greening Australia while symbolising the connection between the environment and the economy.

The artwork, which was set up for public viewing until April 11, consisted of 40 branches, each representing every year of Greening Australia's history, as the organisation continues to play a leading role in protecting Australia's environment. Mr Moerkerk said he hoped his 3.5-metre-high sculpture would inspire others to invest in, restore, and protect nature.

"As someone who values nature and has seen first-hand the devastating effects of climate change, living among drought and bushfire-affected communities, I am incredibly honoured to have helped Greening Australia and Bank Australia bring the *Money Tree* to life in such an iconic and central Melbourne location," he said.

"By blending the stump of a reclaimed red gum and harmoniously intertwining it with recycled coins, the tree represents the connection between the environment and the economy."

Bank Australia also teamed up with Greening Australia to mark the 40th anniversary occasion, and to help "dispel the notion that acting on climate change is a costly endeavour."

"Deloitte Access Economics estimates that natural disasters currently cost the Australian economy about \$38 billion a year — a bill set to double by 2060," Bank Australia managing director Damien Walsh said.

Greening Australia chief operating officer Ian Rollins said 40 years was an "incredible milestone" for the organisation, and while what has been achieved to date was "extraordinary," "change has only become more urgent in 2022."



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Worried about CBD renters

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ELECTIONS

Candidates for the Federal Election are out on the campaign trail looking for local issues and this CBD landscape says a lot to the Victorian Socialists.

Colleen Bolger is standing for the Melbourne electorate and she has a different view of the CBD to many.

She sees residents with small balconies, no nearby open space, low salaries and rising rents.

To make matters worse, the letterboxes to high-rise towers are often shut away making it difficult for her to get the message through.

"Many of the residents in the CBD are retail and hospitality workers," she said. "A lot of the time they're on the minimum wage of \$20.33 per hour. Many are not getting that."

She says that wage theft is rife in the hospitality industry and that many workers are not getting a living wage. "Our policy is \$30 per hour."

Restaurants might be able to attract more local staff if they were paid better, she said.

When the Flower Drum announced in their window during restrictions that they were going to open up, Colleen was hopping mad. "They put out a statement they were going to defy the lockdowns," she said.

Keeping workers safe is her motto and she puts in the effort, both in her job as a lawyer for a firm in La Trobe St and as a workplace rep for the Australian Services Union Private.

During the lockdown she campaigned for pandemic leave for infected employees and extra time off for mothers when childcare shut.

"Many of the residents in the CBD are retail and hospitality workers. A lot of the time they're on the minimum wage of \$20.33 per hour. Many are not getting that."



▲ Colleen Bolger out letterboxing for the Victorian Socialists.

Her day job involves litigation on behalf of those suffering from asbestos related diseases such as mesothelioma.

"People continued to get diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases at the same rate during the lockdown," she said. "The courts had to adapt on Zoom."

Colleen is not related to Irene Bolger, the feisty campaigner for the Nurses' Federation, but she approves of her methods.

"It's been nearly 100 years since there was a socialist member in parliament," she said.

"I'm standing in Melbourne because it's a go-ahead electorate. People are young and the two biggest issues are the cost of living and climate change."

She has some choice words to say about past ALP governments and their role in whittling away at workers' rights to strike and takes a swipe at the Greens for now being part of the establishment.

She said it was a pity that the only controversial members of Parliament were those on the right such as Clive Palmer or Pauline Hanson.

"What about the left wing? We need to bring back the idea of people making a fuss. We don't need to play by the rules."

She worries about CBD renters. "Rents are rising at eight per cent per annum and it's predicted that they'll be back to pre-COVID levels by the end of the year. Why can't the government bring in rent controls like they have in Berlin?"

The Victorian Socialists have an office in Trades Hall and are standing 11 candidates for the Federal Election ●

Traders relieved after council waives outdoor dining fees

WORDS BY Brendan Rees
BUSINESS

Hospitality traders in the CBD are breathing a sigh of relief after the City of Melbourne waived outdoor dining fees for another seven months as the city recovers from the pandemic.

Permit fees for outdoor dining and busking have been frozen since the extended outdoor dining program began in October 2020 and were due to be reinstated on April 1.

But at the council's March 29 meeting, councillors endorsed an extension of the program until October 31 after city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell led a motion saying, "Many businesses are still struggling as we move into the winter months" and it wasn't "the right time to impose that fee burden on them."

"They're concerned about ongoing consumer confidence and early this year 74 per cent of them told us they were struggling to survive."

Cr Campbell said outdoor dining "has been critical" for small businesses that had been "hard hit" by the pandemic.

"Not only has it been a safer environment for many of them to trade in, it's allowed them to trade through restrictions, including density limits, and help them - many of whom had suffered severe impacts to their cash flows over the past two years."

For Jenny Grady, general manager The Mitre Tavern Steakhouse in Bank Place, the news of the waiver was warmly welcomed.

"The Mitre Tavern is extremely grateful. The City of Melbourne is obviously doing everything they can," she said.

"It's a small thing, but it's not about the money, it's the actual feeling that they understand what we're going through."

"They're not the government, they can't give us grants, they can't give us staff so it's more that they're doing something to obviously be part of the community."

Ms Grady said business had bounced back, and while not all office workers had returned five days a week, "we're obviously extremely grateful for any customers that come in for lunch and dinner."

But she added, "Our biggest issue is staff. If you're looking for a job, come and see me."

Barry McGrath, the manager at Henry and The Fox restaurant in Little Collins St, said his team was "really thrilled" that dining fees would be waived "because the council is taking into consideration small businesses, especially in the CBD; it's hard enough as it is."

"Staff is still impossible to get, but the city is picking up thank goodness."

Alexander Conway, restaurant manager of Rice Paper Scissors in Hardware Lane, said "any support is always appreciated for sure", adding their revival after lockdowns had so far been positive.

"We're probably busier than we've ever been. It's nice to see people back in the city," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the outdoor dining program had delivered an additional 18,000 restaurant seats across 1500 businesses while creating 100 new jobs.

"We want to entice more people to our city and help traders serve as many customers as possible, and outdoor dining is one way we can do that."

Cr Capp also acknowledged the city was desperately in need of staff in the hospitality, tourism, and retail sectors, and called on all job seekers to consider applying in the CBD.



According to SEEK, there were 5410 hospitality and tourism jobs advertised within the CBD - a 180 per cent increase on 2019's figures.

"Melbourne has some of the most famous hospitality and fashion scenes in the world, so we're calling on anyone who wants a job in these ever-growing sectors to focus on the city and contact our traders directly or apply via job websites," Cr Capp said.

In other developments, the City of Melbourne is currently auditing businesses with outdoor dining parklets after concerns were raised the infrastructure wasn't being used or was "falling apart."

The City of Melbourne's manager of on-street support and compliance Dean Robertson said local laws officers were out in force speaking with hospitality businesses who weren't using or maintaining the parklets.

Parklets were introduced last year to allow outdoor dining along footpaths and in parking spaces, parks and laneways in a bid to revitalise the hospitality industry.

But the cost and responsibility of maintaining the infrastructure had now fallen on businesses after parklets were gifted to outdoor dining venues by the City of Melbourne, Mr Robertson said.

"We've got a couple of restaurants we're monitoring; they only using them to store things in, they're not using them for outdoor dining," he said in an address to the EastEnders CBD residents' group in April.

"If you can't keep the upkeep then you lose it ... we took one off a place last week [mid-April] because they were refusing the upkeep, and they would only put it out when there was an overflow inside."

Meanwhile, applications have opened for small businesses to apply for grants between \$500 and \$5000 for air ventilation and filtration equipment to improve ventilation and help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Applications close June 24 ●

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coronavirus.vic.gov/ventilation





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CBD residents voice their anger over “appalling” state of rubbish

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

CBD residents have launched a war on waste after branding the city’s rubbish problem as “appalling”.

They are calling for action as large, overflowing bins plague public laneways and streets – which residents claim had attracted “abhorrent behaviours” including public urination and graffiti vandals.

Leading a charge to have the matter resolved is resident Jenny Eltham who labelled the state of the city as “absolutely disgusting”.

“I am very concerned about it. It’s just unacceptable. People have forgotten about good waste practice management,” she told *CBD News*, adding the problem had been getting worse since last November.

Ms Eltham said she was “embarrassed” particularly as the city saw a return of visitors and took aim at the City of Melbourne’s waste team for not doing enough.

“We need to take some ownership of it,” she said.

The issue was brought to a head when Ms Eltham delivered a presentation at an EastEnders residents’ group meeting on April 19 in which photos of overflowing bins and piles of rubbish dumped on the ground and blocking footpaths left attendees in shock and wanting “big changes” to be made.

One photo showed a group of people dining outdoors at a café on a Sunday morning while sitting metres away from several overflowing bins at Little Collins St.

“How acceptable is that? Where’s the health and safety?” Ms Eltham questioned at the meeting.

“What will the City of Melbourne do to ensure real and tangible change is achieved because it’s not happening; the waste team isn’t here, they don’t care.”

“The standard we walk by is the standard that we accept.”



The City of Melbourne’s manager of on-street support and compliance as well as city security, safety and amenity, Dean Robertson, who addressed the residents’ meeting, said overflowing bins was “flat out not acceptable.”

Mr Robertson conceded waste in the city was a “complex arrangement” with many bins being serviced by commercial operators but added “regardless of who is picking up the bins we need to take responsibility for the amenity.”

He said, “we need to be better and empty them as much as we can” while also acknowledging that education with businesses was key as photos revealed cardboard and polystyrene were being stacked on top of bins and on the ground.

“I accept responsibility for that, and the City of Melbourne will follow that up,” he said.

“Bins need to be labelled, locked, and that their staff are trained in how to dispose of rubbish be it polystyrene or anything else.”

Mr Robertson said he had met with residents and “identified issues” of concern and believed installing more waste compactors would overall be the “main answer”.

But he added, “We’ve got to know about it, and to know about it, we need it reported or we need to be on the street.”

According to the state’s *Environmental Protection Authority Act 2017*, a business that engages in an activity that “may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste” can be issued a fine of \$363,480 or almost \$2 million in the case of a body corporate.

Victoria Police and the council can also issue on-the-spot fines for littering in public.

A spokesperson for JJ Richards, which is among many operators that supplies bins to businesses in the CBD, said its customers were responsible for ensuring that their bins were not overfilled.

“To assist our customers, JJ’s Waste provides a range of collection frequency options and a locking system to prevent unauthorised use by others. We are currently not experiencing any service difficulties or delays and we invite our customers to contact us if this is an issue for them,” it said.

Stan Capp, president of the EastEnders group, said residents had expressed concerns of personal safety as well as “the perception of an unclean city and the associated overloaded waste bins, and graffiti.”

“The multiplicity of waste collection services seems unregulated with variable collection frequencies and poor security on bins, so they frequently overflow,” he said.

Gwenda, a CBD resident, said city laneways that were being used as rubbish dumping grounds was “absolutely alarming” and suggested “maybe you have to have more trucks on the road to have a blitz for a few weeks or longer to tidy it up quickly and to remind everyone that things can be made tidy.”

Southbank resident Barb Thompson said the steps leading to the Arts Centre spire near City Rd had been strewn with litter and graffiti, which she labelled an “eyesore for the city.”

“It’s a disgrace, we’ve waited at least three

“

What will the City of Melbourne do to ensure real and tangible change is achieved because it’s not happening; the waste team isn’t here, they don’t care.

”

weeks from our original compliant to have something done,” she said.

Rafael Camillo, president of Residents 3000, voiced his frustration over the issue saying cleaning was needed “24/7” and suggested more waste compactors being put in streets or car parks.

He also said businesses need to be “more accountable because they are a part of the community too.”

Speaking on the matter of vandalism, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was taking a stand against illegal graffiti and tagging – with a March blitz seeing the City of Melbourne’s rapid response clean team removing nearly 10,000 square metres of graffiti from the central city.

“The clean team will now move into other neighbourhoods across the municipality to blitz graffiti over the next three months and will continue to respond to jobs in the central city,” she said.

“We’re again calling on property owners and government agencies to work with us to clean up their assets and for visitors to the city to report graffiti using our QR codes, to ensure our city spaces are tidy and inviting.” ●

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Bumper crowds at food and wine festival send tills ringing but not all traders are sold on the major event

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EVENTS

Queen Victoria Market stallholders have delivered a split verdict on the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival which attracted bumper crowds and a lively atmosphere.

It was the first time the event had been held at the market from March 25 to April 9, and while some traders fared better than others in terms of drawing in new customers, most conceded it was a “great activation” for the Melbourne landmark.

QVM chief executive Stan Liacos said he was “delighted” by the event which saw visitation levels up by as much as 20 per cent but stressed “that’s not what it’s mainly about.”

“For me it’s about reminding Melburnians to love and treasure their market and to support many hundreds of traders,” he said.

“There’s no doubt that Melbourne is coming back and it’s good to see the market feeling a positive impact.”

For Nancy Policheni, who runs the Apple corner stall, the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival was a resounding success.

“There wasn’t that much disruption – I go by the takings and our takings were up every day,” she said. “On one Sunday it almost doubled, you can imagine I haven’t seen that in two-and-half years.”

“I would love for it to go ahead again. For me the greatest thing was new faces. I saw a generation [aged] between 25 and 40 that I have never seen before.”

A general merchandise trader, who asked not to be named as they usually preferred not to speak publicly, said their takings were up 106 per cent.

“As far as my business is concerned it was a huge success ... to raise that amount there’s something good happening,” they said.

“We need a reason for people to come to the market and events do that. I walked through the shed one evening, it looked magnificent – there’s no doubt about it.”

“The purpose of the market is creating that energy and the customer experience is number one. We have to move forward with the times, we really do.”

Rocco Modaffari from the Eggsperts stall said the atmosphere at the market was “better than what it’s been definitely.”

Although he said there was a “bit of disruption” setting up in the mornings, “you’ve got to have a bit of pain for a little bit of gain.”

“It’s good to see people back into the city.”

Pat Foca, who runs the Fresh Pear Fruit Supply, said while he was in favour of the event being held at the market because it was a good promotion, “I would’ve liked to have benefitted more from it.”

“Maybe the location of it could’ve been a bit better, but the way the market is structured you can only do so much,” he said.

“It was a different crowd of people that came through which is good. I would be happy to have it again.”



▲ Crowds flock to the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival. Picture: QVM.

However, Rosa Ansaldo, who has been selling fruit and vegetables at the market for 35 years at Rospaul Fruiterers, said the event impacted her “terribly.”

“They closed the centreway and the laneways in the middle of the market and on Queen St – it totally alienated us, and there was a huge amount of noise, terrible music, right behind my head.”

She added, “There was a crowd, but people were just flying through, they weren’t shoppers.”

“It helped all the booze up – to me that’s not correct in a family environment. Call me old fashioned but I just don’t think it’s correct.”

“The advertising is great, it’s great to have it here but it should not have been at the expense of day traders who were not able to trade or were displaced.”

Her comments come as traders in E Shed were given the choice to relocate temporarily or take rent-free leave for the four-week duration of the festival, drawing the ire of some stallholders who felt major events were being favoured over small businesses.

Mr Liacos acknowledged this had affected about four per cent of traders and that “we thank them and trust they understand that it was ultimately in the best interests of the market.”

Other traders such as Tim Moore, who has been running TAMS Jewellery for 50 years, and Brett from the Happy Tuna Seafoods said while the event was good advertising for the market, there was “absolutely no benefit” to them.

“They’re not here to shop, they’re here to have a drink and a feed. It was good for the market, don’t get me wrong ... but we didn’t really get anything out of it,” Brett said.

Frank Fontana, who sells fruit and vegetables at the Fontano Brothers stall, said he was all for activating the market and creating a “good vibe” despite not seeing a great difference in his takings.

“You might get a one in 10 who decide to do a shop. But if you’ve managed to bring an extra 5000 people who normally don’t come to the market, maybe in three months’ time, they can



▲ Trader Frank Fontana said he hoped the festival would see new customers. Picture: Murray Enders.

become a customer,” he said.

He said overall the event went well, but added, “Sadly from what I heard about traders being moved around like they didn’t matter, if it was true, then it’s completely unacceptable.”

Mr Liacos said this year marked what he hoped to be at least a three-year alliance in hosting the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, adding his team would “look to make improvements wherever possible.”

“It makes complete sense to have Melbourne’s premiere food and wine festival based in Melbourne’s premiere fresh food market,” he said.

“The extent of national media coverage was phenomenal. To have to have Channel Nine and Channel Seven national morning programs broadcasting from the market is priceless.”

Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie said her group welcomed “any activity that supports traders” however she said more thought was needed in creating a designated space for major events to minimise disruption to stallholders and customer access.

“Festivals can be really great for the market if they’re done in collaboration and cooperation with the regular traders and complement market business,” she said.

“To facilitate events QVM management has assigned designated spaces for festivals – Queen St and/or the top of J, K, and L Sheds in the upper market. The latter draws visitors through the sheds benefiting traders in the upper market while enlivening the desolate QVM interface with busy Peel St.”

Ms Howie added the Easter long weekend saw massive crowds at QVM “proving the market itself is the main event.”

“It was a joy to see the sheds filled with families and people with shopping bags and trollies enjoying the warm weather and the naturally vibrant market atmosphere.”

The market is now gearing up for its winter night market season which kicks off in June with 40 food stalls and 50 merchandise vendors expected to participate ●

Does the CBD have a TWaT problem?

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

April was arguably Melbourne’s biggest month of events since the start of the pandemic.

People flocked to the city in April for the Comedy Festival, activations around the Formula 1 Grand Prix, the AFL, performances of *Hamilton* and *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, while others simply enjoyed a balmy start to autumn in the heart of Melbourne.

As the CBD continues to emerge from its COVID slumber, the signs are especially positive on weekends.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has said that weekend and evening foot traffic data is “basically back at pre-pandemic levels.”

Cr Capp said in April, in her regular slot on Joy FM, that it was “heartening” to see the resurgence and revealed the council’s data confirmed that some areas of the city were even showing even higher foot traffic levels compared with before COVID-19.

The numbers, too, were strengthening on certain days during the week.

The Lord Mayor said that on Wednesday and Thursdays, pedestrian data – compiled via sensors installed at various points throughout the city – was at around three-quarters of what it was prior to March 2020 when the pandemic began.

On Tuesdays, numbers were at about 65 per cent, or two-thirds of pre-COVID levels. However on Mondays and Fridays, that number slumped to around half. Which begs the question: Does the CBD have a “TWaT” problem?

Those that turn up to their workplace on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays have been branded “TWaTs” owing to their preference to bookend their week working from home (or WFH, to slip another acronym in).

The term was first used prior to COVID-19, however, it has become more prominent as employees shift to a hybrid model of working some days in the office, and others from home.

Many large employers have settled on asking their workers to be present inside the office two to three days a week, and it is perhaps unsurprising the preferences that have emerged. The Monday blues are perhaps lessened without the need to see colleagues face-to-face, while the weekend might have a slightly earlier feel knowing you don’t have to commute on a Friday.

Cr Capp acknowledged that it was an issue.

“Our big challenge now is weekdays,” she said.

“It’s an adjustment as well. Friday used to be our busiest day, our biggest spending day in the city. And, of course, for traders and people making decisions, we’re still in that state of transition, so it’s pretty tough out there. But we’re grateful for every single extra person that comes into the city.”

Describing the shifts as a change of the CBD’s “rhythm”, the Lord Mayor acknowledged that the move to hybrid working was here to stay.

“We understand that negotiating individual flexible working arrangements is important as well. It has been normalised – let’s embrace it.” ●

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More than 100 CBD buildings granted heritage protection as huge review adopted

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HERITAGE

A mammoth review into buildings of significance in the CBD has seen 126 new sites granted heritage protection.

The City of Melbourne's Hoddle Grid Heritage Review — the largest heritage review undertaken by a local government in Australia — was finally adopted at an April 26 meeting.

First initiated in 2015, before being given a broader scope in 2017, the adopted review (now awaiting the Minister for Planning's approval) provides permanent heritage protection to places inside the Hoddle Grid.

The protection does not prevent redevelopment of buildings, but rather ensures future changes are done sensitively.

Notably, it grants heritage status to a number of significant "postwar" buildings developed from 1945 to 1975.

An extensive independent planning panel report conducted as part of the review concluded that while Victorian era architecture of the 1880s financial boom and subsequent Edwardian era buildings were "widely acknowledged, recognised and appreciated", heritage studies generally had "limited regard to the postwar Modernist period of development."

The review has been credited with progressing the notion of heritage beyond purely architectural significance.

"We now have 126 more buildings (and some stronger heritage precincts) in the heritage overlay," the council's heritage chair Cr Rohan Leppert said in a Facebook post, after councillors unanimously backed the review at an April 12 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"This includes many significant post-war buildings, ensuring that Melbourne's layers of history will be able to be seen for generations to come. I couldn't be prouder."

Cr Leppert, who initiated the review in 2015, said he was "spurred on every step of the way by

the tireless Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) advocates."

MHA said the adoption of the review was a "huge step forward."

"This amendment also looked at social significance and Aboriginal heritage sites, an important sign of progress in how we categorise heritage beyond simply architecture," the group said.

Cr Leppert has previously said that Melburnians "may be surprised" that several of the buildings noted in the review had not been granted heritage protection already.

He has argued that heritage overlays were "not about age [but] about recognising the places that have importance to us as a community."

The planning panel recognised that the postwar Modernist period (1945-1975) encapsulated a period of "great societal and economic change" in Melbourne, and that was reflected in its recommendations.

"It represents a period of prosperity, confidence and optimism and expansion marking Melbourne's emergence as an international city, with the financial sector in particular looking to establish a corporate presence. This era of activity had a dramatic impact on the streetscape and skyline of the central city."

The independent panel supported heritage overlay being applied to 126 of 137 sites analysed as part of the review.

The council conceded the nine places (plus two that had been demolished) not recommended for protection was "reasonable".

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said adopting the review felt like a "momentous moment" and was something in which the city can be "very proud".

"It's not every day that a 4577-page report comes before councillors — that gives you a sense of the magnitude of the task that has been undertaken." ●

For more on the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review, read Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies's regular column on page 21.



▲ Red Cross helpers selling cursed sand.



▲ Comedy fans before the show.

A few curses at the Comedy Festival

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
HUMOUR

Behind the scenes of the Comedy Festival there's quite a different story going on to the stony faces waiting in the audience for a laugh.

Ross Noble is on a four-month tour of Victoria and New South Wales so he has to eke out his humour.

He began his stand-up piece *On the Go* slowly and the audience was quite difficult to warm up.

Some had chosen the show because they'd seen Noble on English TV and perhaps they were jaded.

No-one laughed when he focused on a late-comer and told her to sit in the front seat.

Quite frankly, his target, a primary school teacher from Ringwood who couldn't find a park wasn't that funny.

Stand-up comedians make up the bulk of the Comedy Festival and they like to feed off the audience.

Their aim is to get a bit of repartee going which must be easier in some venues than others.

At the Athenaeum the audience was expecting a show and when Noble used his own material he was far more successful.

As an Englishman he has special insight into the Royal family and its foibles, and he was great at impersonating a donkey.

Perhaps Australian audiences are shyer than those in the UK where a colonial mentality has ruled for generations.

The British have raided many countries and are still paying the price. Witness the cursed sand Noble offered patrons at \$5 a pop after the show.

"In 1922 archeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. The discovery bought him and financial backer Lord Carnarvon nothing but trouble," Noble warned. "The two men and everyone involved in the discovery are now all dead, proving that the curse is real."

In a lane out the back of the theatre patrons were offered envelopes of the cursed sand by faux Red Cross collectors.

"The sand enclosed in this envelope is from that very tomb. When scattered in the vicinity of your enemies it will release an evil elemental spirit that will rain back upon them and their pets."

Quite a few fell for his ploy, proving that the British are still having the last laugh at our expense ●

Drive and park at your own convenience plus receive your **complimentary glass of prosecco!**

Collins Place invites you to enjoy a complimentary glass of prosecco with your ticket purchase this May at **Kino Cinema.**

Cut out this ad to redeem the offer.

One drink per voucher and all alcoholic beverages are restricted to persons over the age of 18 years. Offer expires 31st May and cannot be redeemed with any other offer.



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Your City of Melbourne community update

SEVEN REASONS WHY NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IN MELBOURNE



Melbourne skyline and the Yarra River Birrarung at twilight

Love inner-city living? Find out how stamp duty savings can help you make even more of iconic city experiences, eateries and glorious green spaces.

While other property markets have increased, the City of Melbourne has become comparatively more affordable, according to economist Anne Flaherty from realestate.com.au.

'Australia's property market has performed strongly and seen incredible growth over the past two years,' Anne said.

'In the City of Melbourne, we haven't seen significant price rises, so properties are comparatively more affordable for a lot of buyers.

'This can be an opportunity for buyers. Of the properties that have been on the market, many have fallen in value over the past year.'

But it won't last forever.

In our hearts, we know that Melbourne is still one of the world's most liveable cities, and surely it's only a matter of time before it returns to the top of the official rankings.

1. Make the most of massive stamp duty savings

For those who love Melbourne or want to live in the city, the biggest incentives for acting now are perhaps the stamp duty concessions available on new properties.

There's a small window of opportunity for buyers, according to Anne. The concessions have an end date, and it's fast approaching.

'If you purchase a new property up to \$1 million, you get a 50 per cent concession on your stamp duty fees for contracts signed from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

Better still, the offer can be used in conjunction with other benefits, such as the first home buyer concession, off-the-plan deals and more.

2. Save if the new property has been on the market for a while

Maybe you've had your eye on a new property that's come up in your search over the past year or so. Maybe you've wondered why nobody has snapped

it up. Maybe it could be you who does the snapping...

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

You could save up to \$55,000 on properties up to \$1 million.

3. A concession for investors and owner occupiers alike

Imagine being the first person to move into a new city pad, or reaping the rewards while renting out a sparkling new space so your tenants can make the most of city living.

There are no constraints on this temporary stamp duty concession: it's available to owner occupiers and investors.

That means you, first homeowners, downsizers and investors.

4. Newer properties are usually better earners

Newer properties can command higher rents, especially if they are modern and offer good amenities.

'The rents achievable on new properties tend to be higher than rents achievable on a property that's older,' Anne said.

'Any new apartment is more attractive, even than ones that are a couple of years older. Designs look newer, fresher, cleaner.'

No wonder tenants are often prepared to pay a bit more.

'If you can get something new and never lived in, that's more appealing than something that's had more wear and tear.'



San Telmo, Meyers Place

5. Start as you mean to go on

Are you renting in the City of Melbourne and daring to dream that there's a way to embrace inner-city life and own your own place?

You're not alone. Research commissioned by the City of Melbourne found that more than half of first home buyers surveyed are likely to consider buying in Melbourne.

Forty-eight per cent of those already living in Melbourne said they were also considering buying property in the area.

Nearly half (43 per cent) of those looking to buy in the city were in the market for an apartment or unit, with features such as natural light, views and communal areas.

Imagine being the first person to open those blinds to a unique city vista.

6. Look to the future

Melbourne offers a lifestyle all its own. This is the cultural capital, the sporting capital, a magnet for foodies. So many aspects add up to make Melbourne a supremely liveable city.

'People migrating to Melbourne are more likely to live close to the city. They're more likely to live in inner city suburbs compared to people who've grown up in Australia,' Anne said.

Maybe they'll be your new tenants.

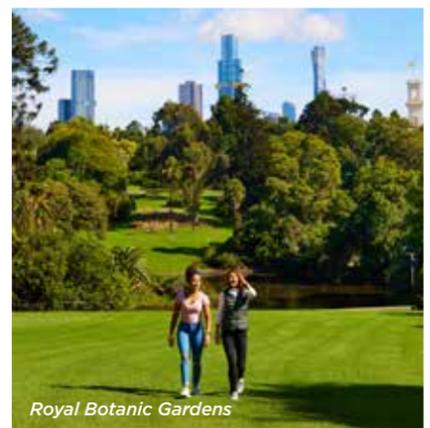
'When migration regains momentum, it's going to be really great for the city, and this will support the recovery in rents and property prices,' Anne said.

'The rental market might be subdued for a while, but it will pick up as migration resumes. And that'll be good news for the city.'

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022.'



Johnny's Green Room is close by in Carlton



Royal Botanic Gardens

7. This is your local

You already know that an extraordinary life awaits amid the laneways of this great city.

There's always another rooftop bar to discover, and a whole grid stacked with the best eateries.

If you're not already living in the city, you can soon roll out of bed and into the orbit of the best baristas in Melbourne. At lunchtime, the Birrarung beckons for a riverside moment.

After work, catch up for drinks and a share plate at an underground hot spot, or explore the length of the glorious gardens that wrap around the city.

Study with the best and brightest and plug into our knowledge economy. Or be part of the conversation as creative thinkers discuss big topics.

Catch a gig, indulge in a feast, go see a show. Best of all? You can wander home afterwards with no need for a long commute.

Find out how you could pay \$0 stamp duty on your next home purchase in the city at realestate.com.au/thisisyourlocal

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BOOK IN TIME TO WRITE A PRIZE-WINNER

Now may be the perfect time to dust off that unpublished short story you wrote during lockdown and enter the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards.

Win up to \$12,000 if your original work is judged to be the outstanding entry across five categories.

Our biannual Creative Writing Awards celebrate the achievements of emerging writers and storytellers, and help ensure that Melbourne's famous literary tradition continues into the future.

Melbourne is a UNESCO City of Literature and has a proud history of great Australian writing, whether readers' tastes run to Helen Garner or Christos Tsiolkas, George Johnston, Alice Pung or our most recent Creative Writing Awards winner, Yamiko Marama.

Melbourne City of Literature research tells us that Melburnians consume more books, magazines and newspapers per capita than any other Australian city.

We know how important writers are to our community and the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards are firmly

grounded in this deep wellspring of literature. In recognising emerging writers, we aim to promote our city as a place of ideas and creativity.

The awards offer plenty of scope across all genres.

This year sees the introduction of a new category. The inaugural Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability will provide an opportunity for underrepresented voices in media and literature.

The Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers will be awarded to an outstanding work that discusses or highlights a uniquely Victorian story of Australia's First People. This prize supports City of Melbourne's ongoing commitment to promoting Indigenous culture and reconciliation.

Winners in each category receive \$2000. The overall winner of the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award will win an additional \$10,000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply for all categories.

The awards close Thursday 30 June.

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

The Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards include the following categories:

- The Dorothy Porter Award for Poetry (up to 100 lines)
- Narrative Non-fiction (no more than 5000 words)
- Short Story Set in Melbourne (no more than 5000 words)
- Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers (no more than 5000 words)
- Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability (no more than 5000 words).



Submit your short story to the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards

MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS IN MAY



Inspire your kids at family-friendly events



Experience virtual reality

Ideas, opportunities and innovation will take over Melbourne's CBD from 9 to 15 May for narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022.

Over seven days, more than 100 events will bring great thinkers and inquisitive learners together for what is the City of Melbourne's annual festival of ideas for a smart and innovative city.

More than 25 venues will be activated with interactive events, panels, workshops and performances, while Little Lonsdale Street will become a knowledge precinct attracting tens of thousands of innovators, gamers, thinkers and leaders.

Highlights of the narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022 program include:

- A keynote presentation on the role of song in maintaining cultural knowledge and traditions, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musician, producer and creative entrepreneur Jessie Lloyd.
- Lord Mayor Sally Capp joins leaders from Melbourne's key tertiary institutions to discuss: Is knowledge more important for Melbourne's future than sport, retail or hospitality?
- Taking the Numb out of Numbers, featuring data journalist, writer and illustrator Mona Chalabi, Data Editor of the Guardian US and host of the popular TED podcast "Am I normal?". Her mission is to enable people to find and question the data they need to make informed decisions about their lives.
- At Library at the Dock, create your own DIY game controller, experience emerging gaming technologies such as eye trackers and new virtual reality devices, and discover locally created indie video games.
- Play rock, paper, scissors with a robot arm, marvel at next generation solar panels and check out the latest inventions to improve city greening and enhance accessibility at Prototype Street.
- An expanded program for kids and families, including a games day and activities, workshops and interactive exhibitions across the city.
- Several Aboriginal-led events, including a focus on urban Aboriginal history and data sovereignty.

• Stories Around the Levantine Table: a series of events that connect cultures and knowledge through the language of food.

More than 80 per cent of the program is free.

Melbourne Knowledge Week solidifies Melbourne's status as a university city.

For program details, visit mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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.

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The “perfect match” for renowned Flinders St venue

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

Before she was even old enough to hold a knife, Manpreet Sekhon found a love for cooking as she watched and learned from her mother in their home kitchen in the Punjab region of northern India.

Now an acclaimed chef in her own right, after recently opening her third restaurant Elchi in the CBD, she is paving the way in a male-dominated industry.

“I think it is very important that everything I do must pave the way for the next generation to do better. I want my work to make it easier for Indian women chefs to get on the stage,” Ms Sekhon said.

Encouraging more female chefs to follow suit so “we can stop putting gender into the conversation”, Ms Sekhon is standing her ground in the industry and making the Flinders St space her own.

Determined to transport Elchi’s diners to India through her “creative interpretation of its traditional fare and bold flavours”, Ms Sekhon is combining her skills in cooking traditional Indian food with her expansive training.

“I grew up cooking with my mother, eating home cooked food with conversations around the dinner table and discussing menus and dishes to be cooked and served at celebrations and festivities,” Ms Sekhon said.

“I also gained knowledge through precious exposure to talented home cooks and fantastic Halwais – domestic catering and street chefs.”

Noticing her skills soar as she learnt from all of her “necessary cuts and burns”, Ms Sekhon’s confidence increased and encouraged her to push the boundaries of Indian cuisine in Australia.

It’s something Melburnians can witness and taste as Ms Sekhon ambitiously showcases not just one sole specific region of India but rather a wide range of dishes from throughout the whole country.

“A huge focus will be on creating a dining celebration of modern Indian cuisine which most people don’t get to experience outside of India. We want to create the next generation of what an Indian restaurant can be in Australia,” she said.

As owner of Eastern Spice in Geelong and Masti in Fitzroy, the Geelong-titled “Curry Queen” fell in love with the former Press Club space on Flinders St, deeming it “perfect” for Elchi.

Still fitted with The Press Club’s distinct curved leather booths and bold gold ceiling lights, the elegant design serves the vision Ms Sekhon was hoping for.

“The venue is the perfect marriage between tradition and modernity, where the world of exciting contemporary Indian flavours meets with a beautiful setting. I knew it would be the perfect setting with an ambiance and clientele to match,” she said.

“This was the first restaurant I have seen in Australia which seemed grand and I fell in love with the gold intricate detailing straight away. I felt like I was back home in India, so it was the perfect match I was looking for.”

Understanding of the “high expectations” that come along with opening a restaurant in the highly regarded and recognised venue, Ms Sekhon feels “empowered to make an impression”, not only as an Indian chef but as a female in a working kitchen.

But getting to this point has not come without its challenges.

“The hospitality sector can pose several challenges to beginners, not least to women. However, I am acutely



aware of the fact that being a woman in the professional kitchen means one has to work all that much harder,” she said.

“I tell any future young women cooks that there is no shortcut. You have to work hard. You have to put in the hours. There is no way around it. That’s the only way to discover your potential and who you truly are.”

Given the circumstances of the past couple of years as well, Ms Sekhon has rightfully earned her place in the renowned venue.

Forced to delay plans to open Elchi in October last year due to both lockdowns and staff shortages, she successfully rescheduled the opening for March 2.

Now open and making the site her own, she is determined for Elchi “to play [its] part in rebuilding Melbourne as the food capital of Australia.”

“It’s really important that restaurants continue to open, and the industry rolls on. People have been cooped up for so long, they’ll be looking for new and exciting things to try,” she said.

Serving up favourites from entrees through to mains, desserts and cocktails, careful attention is taken into not only the flavours but also the presentation.

The 24 carat-gold chicken mussalam’s carefully added delicate gold leaf alone boldly represents Elchi’s mission and name translation of ambassador or talented, and it’s no wonder Ms Sekhon has won the approval of renowned Indian restaurateur Jiggs Kalra and chef Sanjeev Kapoor in the past.

One to watch in a city known for its wide range of delicacies, Ms Sekhon is also planning on intriguing city goers further with plans to introduce a week-long food festival celebrating cuisines from all the different regions of India.

Until plans develop further, she remains focused on making her presence known in the heart of the city through Elchi from Wednesday through to Sunday between 6pm and 10.30pm, with lunch provided on Sunday from 12pm till 3pm ●

For more information:
elchirestaurant.com.au

End of the line for subway traders as Metro Tunnel works kick off

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

It’s an end of an era for traders at a much-loved underground arcade in the CBD as a Metro Tunnel project prepares to get underway.

Tenants at Campbell Arcade under Flinders St were forced to vacate the popular pedestrian thoroughfare by the end of April to make way for a future underground walkway, which will connect the new Town Hall station and Flinders Street Station.

The arcade, built in 1956 ahead of the Melbourne Olympics, will close for at least two years to allow the works to take place, ending years of uncertainty for tenants over the plans and timeline of the project.

For Guy Roseby and Tim Bartold who have run the Wax Museum record shop for 16 years in Campbell Arcade, there was mixed emotions in saying goodbye as they reopened in a basement at 250 Flinders St.

“We’re definitely a well-known piece of the local music fabric in Melbourne and one of the only shops in the CBD,” Mr Roseby said.

“It’s definitely a location that’s become synonymous with our brand and our identity; we feel the new place is the closest we could’ve got.”

“There’s more opportunities to do bigger and better,” he said, adding they would be able to extend their opening hours and host live music events. “We just want to thank the loyal customers and ask them to come down to visit us at our new space.

We want to stay a part of the CBD, which is who we are and a part of our identity.”

The launch of their new store coincided with Record Store Day on April 23 with the celebratory opening including free entertainment.

Another long-standing trader Courtney Joel said he was proud of what he had been able to achieve through The Cup of Truth café over 13 years in the arcade.

“We were number one shop in Australia for a year and number one shop in Melbourne for a few years ... to be able to say that about a coffee shop that’s three metres [wide] is phenomenal,” he said.

“The arcade is closing but I’m not attached to the arcade. I’m attached to my business and my customers; they’re still going to be friends and if we do another shop they’ll still come.”

“At the moment, we’re just going to have a little bit of a break, push through winter and have a little



▲ *Guy Roseby and Tim Bartold.*



▲ *Courtney Joel of the Cup of Truth café.*

hiatus and just reset and I’ll probably start searching for a new shop come spring.”

But he added, “Stay tuned, Cup of Truth is not ending, it’s just beginning.”

Trader Sam Emery, who started a print and workshop store called The Tree Paper gallery in the arcade just before the pandemic, said he was sad to leave particularly as his independent gallery, a separate pop-up space in the arcade, had supported local artists and high school students.

He said he had been contacting real estate agents with the hope of finding a new home.

Another tenant, Brian Hsieh, owner of Sublink computer and mobile phone repair, has now moved to Southbank at a shop called Laptop Kings after entering a business partnership.

“Some people told me they will follow me no matter where I go.”

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) said the arcade’s tenants had known since November last year that major work would begin in May.

It said it had also provided support to tenants over several years including free rent since 2019 and helping secure new tenancies.

“We are currently working through the possibility of long-term tenants being able to return to the arcade after construction is finished, but we are unable to guarantee long-term tenure at this time,” an RPV spokesperson said.

The pink-tiled walls are art-deco shopfronts of Campbell Arcade are heritage-listed. RPV said key heritage features of the arcade would be kept ●

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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

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Retired architect finds his passion for photography

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

When retired architect Ralph Domino discovered a love of photography just before the pandemic hit, little did he know his work would be recognised globally.

But after reading about 150 books on photography during Melbourne's lockdowns and adopting his own style, the CBD resident of 30 years has made an impressive mark on the photography world.

He has won a slew of awards including two recent honourable mentions at the prestigious Monochrome Photography Awards in Europe – a feat for which he still pinches himself with disbelief.

As an architect, he is instinctively drawn to the urban scene with city skyscrapers being one of his favourite subjects.

Of his current exhibition, *Metropolis*, he set out to reinterpret Melbourne's CBD buildings as "highways in the sky". Some have described it as reminiscent of not only the classic 1920s movie *Metropolis*, but also *Blade Runner*, and even the animated 1960s television series, *The Jetsons*.

"My aim is to create images that provide visual stories that are abstract and enchanting."

During lockdowns, he connected with other like-minded photographers and a group called The Creative Collective was formed.

The group of four Victorians share a great admiration for one another's work, channel support and sensitivity as well as a sense of positivity. They are also close friends.

Such is their bond the group recently launched its first photography exhibition called *Reimaginings*, which is being held in the art space of the CBD's Jasper Hotel.

Along with Mr Domino, the artists include Gaye Beal, Renee Stirling, and Lesley Bretherton – with their conceptual images ranging from places and nature to objects.

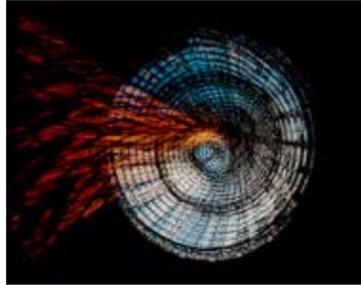
Mr Domino has 10 images on display which so far has attracted the interest of a Port Melbourne business that will look to purchase a series of his photos to decorate their new offices.

But Mr Domino conceded it's not about selling his work, rather getting his name out there.

"You just never know what is going to happen tomorrow," he said.

"I was a late starter, everyone has a head start on me ... but I'm catching up, I'm doing my own thing and attracting attention."

Mr Domino said he never imagined enjoying photography as much



as he has – with his interest having been sparked when he visited Lord Howe Island in NSW in 2018 with a photographic group with the intention of learning about photography and techniques.

"I just got hooked," he said after joining the 14 avid photographers.

"That planted the seed to do photography. It was just so good, there were no hard and fast rules ... it was exactly what I wanted to do, the freedom to be creative."

Today, Mr Domino said while he often faces criticism because his photography doesn't "conform to their rules", he is not bothered.

"The most creative photographers say to always do your own thing and not to be constrained by convention."

"After two years of exploring various genres of photography, I've just developed my own style and technique and I'm not going to give it away," he laughed.

While he admitted his biggest issue was being colour blind, Mr Domino said he had overcome this obstacle by identifying "colours by numbers" using Photoshop which "makes it easy to deal with."

And it is working – he has taken out several awards with the Melbourne Camera Club.

On his very first day of buying a new camera, an image he took of a shoplifter, who was physically caught by security guards while trying to fell from David Jones in the CBD, won the club's Best Photojournalist award.

He was also awarded Best Photographer in 2020 in only his second year at the club.

"It's a good lesson to always have the camera turned on, ready to shoot," he said.

Mr Domino said he was grateful to have his work recognised and will continue pushing himself.

"Someone once said to me if you can't get someone's attention with your images in the first 10 seconds they're going to walk away."

"When you look at my images, your eye is drawn to different elements in the photo that pull you in. If I can do that, I've been successful."

The *Reimaginings* exhibition at the Jasper Hotel runs from March 17 to May 28. Entry is free ●

No joking matter: Push for swimmable river continues

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Despite being the subject of an April Fool's Day joke by the Lord Mayor, the push for a swimmable Yarra River has gathered pace in recent months.

On April 1, Sally Capp Tweeted an artist's impression of the so-called waterslide that would be installed on the river, next to Sandridge Bridge.

"Following the success of the zipline across the Yarra during Summer we're thrilled to announce our latest attraction to bring people into the city – a waterslide into the Yarra for Winter!" the post read. "And yes, I'll be the first to try it! More details to come."

However, the attempt at humour was not well received by some, in particular community-led group Yarra Pools, which has pushed for a swimmable river for several years.

"We couldn't be more disappointed to see that the idea of swimming in the Yarra Birrarung has been reduced to an April Fools joke by our Lord Mayor," the group said in a Facebook post. "This just reinforces the negative preconceptions about our river that we have been trying to change for years. Having a healthy, swimmable Birrarung is no joke. When we look at this render, we see what is possible."

Twelve months ago, the City of Melbourne agreed to "formally assess" Yarra Pools' proposal (for plans for a lap pool, kids' pool and wetlands at Enterprize Park next to Melbourne Aquarium) as part of early plans into its \$300 million Greenline project.

However, in late 2021 the council determined the proposal was not feasible and would not progress with it.

Undeterred, the group has continued its push. Recently it announced a partnership with Regen Melbourne, a network of more than 40 organisations and 600 individuals that share a common vision for a regenerative Melbourne.

The network helps existing organisations push towards a common goal – in this case a "Swimmable Birrarung by 2030" – to coordinate and align their activities more closely.

This "cross-sector uplift" has already facilitated alignment between Yarra Pools, Yarra Riverkeeper Association, N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs (Boonwurrung Yalukit Willam Elder) and a PhD candidate at Swinburne University's Centre for Urban Transitions.

Matt Sykes, Regen Melbourne's project lead for a swimmable Birrarung (the traditional name of the Yarra River, meaning "river of mists" in the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung languages), said collaboration was crucial.

"The key thing is: how do we create collective impact together? And what could that mean for the quality of life, for people and other living things in our waterways, our plants and animals, in Melbourne?" he told *CBD News*.

"This [Lord Mayor's April Fools joke] just reinforces the negative preconceptions about our river that we have been trying to change for years. Having a healthy, swimmable Birrarung is no joke. When we look at this render, we see what is possible."



Sally Capp - Lord Mayor of Melbourne
@LordMayorMelb

Following the success of the Zipline across the Yarra during Summer we're thrilled to announce our latest attraction to bring people into the city - a waterslide into the Yarra for Winter! And yes I'll be the first to try it! More details to come.



▲ The Lord Mayor's April Fools tweet.

Mr Sykes said Regen Melbourne's goals did not just focus on one river-swimming place, rather the creation of a "corridor" of seven to 10 swimming spots along the river, from Docklands to Yarra Bend.

"For locals and tourists it's awesome. But it also creates those ripple experiences for community, for regenerating ecosystems, for regenerating First Nations culture ... and it's not just about the swimmability – it's about all of the dominoes you need to line up to get to that point."

The group's 2030 vision features "stepping stone" achievements during the next two to three years, including a number of "riverbank swimming experiences", where "people aren't actually swimming in the river water yet, but they're getting pretty close" (for example, floating saunas or a swimming area at Birrarung Marr).

And while some may scoff at the prospect of swimming in the Yarra River, pointing to its supposed poor water quality, Mr Sykes – who has conducted in-depth research on swimming in urban environments – said it was nothing other large cities had not overcome.

"You see these global cities transitioning to, or that have become swimmable, and if you look back all of them had to go through some kind of water quality issue and stakeholder challenges. So, the precedents are there, it's just that we need to find our unique approach to making that possible."

He said a swimmable river was a key part of Melbourne's push to be a world-class liveable city and would more importantly pay it the respect it deserved.

"The Birrarung is the lifeblood – the elders talk about it as the lifeblood of our community. It's that thing of caring for country, then country cares for us."

Yarra Pools president Felicity Watson said the group was "excited to be part of Regen Melbourne's Swimmable Birrarung by 2030 project" and advocating collectively.

"It's going to require a huge effort, but we know it's achievable. It has been done in cities around the world, and it can be done here," she said ●



David Schout
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Sex parties on short-stay platforms

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is about to be exposed to sordid details of drug- and alcohol-fuelled sex parties and strippers enriching a short-stay operator in a Melbourne apartment complex.

SHORT-STAY LAWS	SA	NSW	QLD	TAS	VIC	WA
	Draft	Law	Law	Law	Law	Draft
STRATA RULES	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
DAY CAP	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
REGISTRATION OR APPROVAL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
CODE	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
PARTY PENALTIES	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Short-stay action around the nation

NSW: The short-stay operators register is scheduled to become publicly available this month. The legislation introduced in 2021 allowed for operators to be banned for repeated or gross breaches of the regulations. Open access to the register is essential for communities to be able to check on the status of operators. The most important aspect of the NSW legislation is the empowerment of OCs to vote on adopting by-laws (called rules in Victoria) that regulate short-term rental accommodation in their building. For example, an OC in NSW can legally limit short-stays to lots that are the host's principal residence, such as during a temporary absence. This reform is desperately needed in Victoria.

Tasmania: A mandatory registration system requires operators to have planning approval. Platforms like Airbnb can only market and sell permitted, registered and approved short-stay accommodation. The government has suggested that taking further measures should be up to local councils.

Hobart: Hobart City Council has implemented the first stage of a ban on new whole-home, short-stay accommodation in the inner-city area. Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said: "This is really just trying to provide some balance in our housing market in Hobart so it's more affordable and more accessible to people who need to rent a home."

Western Australia: The WA state

government has released a draft planning policy outlining proposed regulations for short-term rental accommodation. The government is proposing a registration system and a cap on the number of nights before planning approval is required. The recommendations also include giving powers to OCs to limit short stays. The draft planning policy is part of the WA government's response to the recommendations of the 2019 Parliamentary inquiry and report, *Levelling the Playing Field - Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia*.

Queensland: Short-stay operators must have council approval in Brisbane and Gold Coast. A recent QCAT precedent has upheld an OC rule to limit short stays, based on a community amenity argument.

Brisbane: The short-term rental of an entire apartment by the property owner requires development approval from the council. The council defines "short-term" as a stay of less than three consecutive months. The development application is assessed by the council against the short-term accommodation code in the City Plan. The council says that its City Plan is designed primarily to ensure that "adjoining (sic) residents or businesses are not significantly impacted by the use."

Gold Coast: In addition to enforcing its approval process, the council has amended its planning laws to ban or regulate so-called "party houses" with changes that have been criticised as inadequate.

Noosa: Not content with waiting for the state government to act, Noosa Council has introduced a registration and approval process, a mandatory code of conduct and a 24/7 council complaints hotline. The council will act as the intermediary between the complainant and short-stay operators. The council also gave itself the power to deploy security services to observe and record activity at properties. The council says it will recoup administration costs through fees and property rates with a special rating category for short-stay properties.

The new laws were enacted after a stakeholder consultation process where the council says it was exposed to the depth of community frustration and anger.

South Australia: The SA government has drafted the *Short Term Holiday Rental Accommodation Bill* with a state-wide mandatory registration system of all listed short-term holiday rentals and a mandatory industry code of conduct. Proposed penalties for breaches range from \$1250 for loss of amenity to \$5000 for failure to register. Platforms like Airbnb could be fined for failure to show a registration number in a listing. Operators could be compelled to pay disaffected neighbours \$2000 in damages – and multiple residents could apply for compensation from an operator. While there is no upper limit on the aggregate payment awarded, it must be "proportionate" to the loss of amenity.

Last and least, Victoria: There is no effective state-wide regulation for short stays. The current, very limited short-stay "party" legislation has resulted in no orders against operators since it was introduced three years ago. On our assessment, Victoria is the least regulated of all states: Operator registration is not required, OCs have no powers to regulate short-stays, and the very low "party" penalties are virtually impossible to enforce.

Come on Victoria, let's catch up with the rest of the country! We are lagging far behind the tames of reforms. "We Live Here" will continue to advocate for the Victorian state government to learn from the progress made in other states and implement urgent reforms ●



HEALTH

Here is the strong evidence on the benefit of exercise for osteoarthritis pain

A diagnose of osteoarthritis (OA) can be a real pain and knowing what to do is challenging.

First of all, you're not alone – osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis and impacts more than 2.2 million Australians. Osteoarthritis most commonly affects those aged over 55 years but can impact those younger.

There are known risk factors for osteoarthritis such as previous joint injury, age and BMI. Common symptoms of osteoarthritis are pain, a

feeling of stiffness, joint swelling and weakness.

These symptoms can significantly impact an individual's ability to participate in life and lead to disability. There is no cure for osteoarthritis but there are a range of treatment approaches to treat the ongoing symptoms of this disease.

There are a few common myths related to osteoarthritis. One of these myths is that exercise is dangerous and can worsen radiological osteoarthritis. This myth can lead to apprehension and fear around movement, in turn leading to further disability.

Another common myth is that a patient's level of radiological osteoarthritis correlated with osteoarthritis-related symptoms. This myth

can instill helplessness in patients and present a significant barrier to rehabilitation.

"Patients can often feel that surgery is their only option", Keiser physiotherapist Nick Nicolaidis said.

A physiotherapist may assist by listening to your concerns and working with you in the prescription of exercise to address symptoms related to osteoarthritis. General practitioners are often the first contact point for patients with a diagnosis of osteoarthritis. Clinical guidelines place an emphasis on self-management strategies and non-surgical treatment options to manage the symptoms of knee osteoarthritis.

Two of the most common non-surgical

treatment options are exercise-based interventions and weight management. Patients are often referred to physiotherapists for the prescription of exercise programs designed to increase a patient's physical activity level.

"It can be understandably quite daunting for patients with osteoarthritis related pain to try to begin exercising," Mr Nicolaidis said.

That being said, Mr Nicolaidis said there was compelling evidence that exercise could reduce pain and improve function in patients with hip and knee osteoarthritis.

"Working with a health professional such as a physiotherapist can be easier than going it alone," he said. ●

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TRADER PROFILE

A true “gift of love” for the planet arrives at QVM

For the best part of the past eight years, Ben Armstrong has been on a journey of implementing changes in his life to ensure he makes a positive impact in the fight against climate change.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

What started with changing his buying behaviours and routines eventually led him to unexpectedly opening Atiyah, a Lebanese food kitchen with a sustainability-first mission.

“I started to implement changes and the passion got stronger and stronger, and then I looked at what I was doing in my career and work, and my work wasn’t giving me purpose and satisfaction,” Mr Armstrong said.

“I needed to look at something that was going to continue this journey I was on.”

Growing up working in the hospitality industry, his life came full circle when he did a thorough look into the industry and was “shocked to learn the impact that hospitality was having through livestock, food waste, water and biodiversity loss.”

“There wasn’t a brand or business with a core focus on sustainability, so I thought there had to be a shift in the industry,” he said.

“Someone needed to get out there and lead the way and show there is a different way to do business that is more sustainable.”

Coming together with his Lebanese mother-in-law, Mr Armstrong soon realised exactly what he needed to do with his life.

“My Lebanese mother-in-law’s passions and mine came together and we came up with this



business. She looks after all the recipes, the food and the culture,” he said.

“It took a couple of years to bring the business together. There was a lot of research on the sustainable strategies not being implemented in hospitality and how we could shift the industry and set an example.”

Standing firm in serving authentically good quality products, Mr Armstrong said they imported their own authentic ingredients from Lebanon after his mother-in-law went to a few different farms and worked directly with them.

Other ingredients not obtained from Lebanon, such as their organic lamb, are then

sourced locally.

“We get our Za’atar ingredients directly from a farm in South Lebanon and we are the only ones from Australia to import from this woman,” Mr Armstrong said.

“We have very strict criteria with suppliers. They have to be either certified carbon neutral by Climate Active like we are, or we look thoroughly at their business and what they are doing to be sustainable and have a positive impact.”

Following the opening of their former Fed Square kitchen, Atiyah opened a pop-up at Prahran Market before continuing on to open a second kitchen at Queen Victoria Market in

March this year.

It is now Australia’s first and only government certified carbon neutral kitchen.

However, Mr Armstrong said despite the great achievement, he would love the gap between his kitchen and others “to be closed as quickly as possible.”

But achieving such a status doesn’t come without careful consideration going into every element.

From innovative electrical and water operations through to composting minimal food waste, compostable packaging and Melbourne handmade uniforms in recyclable fabric, Atiyah is doing everything they can to ensure they represent the kitchen’s meaning of “gift of love”.

“The whole business, everything we have control over is as sustainable as we can take it at the moment,” he said.

Through using every kitchen as a learning curve, Mr Armstrong is able to reassess the most sustainable method of running Atiyah, while ensuring the taste of their traditional manakish made from highly organic flour remains a standout at the Queen Victoria Market.

“We felt it was a good time to launch a brand like this with its really strong sustainability values. It felt like a good story to tell around a time when there was a lot of negativity,” he said.

“And the market is a really good location for our product because it’s street food and it’s really fresh and healthy.”

Atiyah can be found serving authentic street food with a sustainable twist at the rear of the K Shed in Queen Victoria Market ●

For more information:
atiyah.life

CBD LOCAL

Spacious penthouse for sale

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

If you look up at the façade of 1 Exhibition St, there’s a charming row of arched windows on the top storey of this early 1900s office building from Melbourne’s glory days.

Peter and Ruth McMullin have been looking out these windows at the railway lines as they come into Flinders Street station and beyond for 20 years.

They’re moving to a smaller place nearby and are offering up their apartment for expressions of interest.

The McMullins are social people, if not socialites, and in true blue Melbourne fashion were members of boards and hosts of parties during their residence.

“Once a month on a Friday night we had drinks for our contacts,” Ruth said. “They started at 5pm. Sometimes people came straight from work.”

Peter was a deputy Lord Mayor in the ‘90s and they loved living in the city. Their sixth-floor penthouse wasn’t that far removed from ground level, and they had none of the hassles of others attending events.

Their ‘hood included the smattering of cafes down below, George Colombaris’s place across the road early on and an Italian cafe in George Parade more recently with great croissant toasties.

Downsizing creates opportunities. For a price tag of \$2- to 2.2- million, buyers will have the benefit of one of the original apartment conversions in the city with a 17-metre outlook to the south.

There are three bedrooms, all with built-in robes, and a huge living area that feels as spacious as a mansion in Malvern.

In fact, the décor is very Malvern. All of the floors are paved with marble, except for those carpeted in grey.



The bench tops are granite. There is a double fridge, a double oven and a wide bench top cooker. There are even architectural innovations such as the slide out glass shelves for ready entertaining.

This is an executive residence par excellence with a wall for displaying books and two home offices.

The only issue is the tendency of the CBD to sprout up buildings. The sunrise is spectacular, according to the residents, but there is not much sunlight to the capacious terrace.

That hasn’t stopped the proliferation of hardy plants in pots.

The apartment extends over two levels. A view of the spire over the Arts Centre is visible from the bed in the main bedroom and there are bay views from the terrace.

The entire apartment is 270 square metres and the equivalent of a small house.

There’s an IGA down below if you need some quick ingredients which has made it easier for living in the city.

This is a grand penthouse with double doors next to the lifts and plenty of room for spreading out in the new era of working from home.

For further information contact: Gina Donazzan on 0412 430 326. Expressions of interest close on May 17 ●

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HERITAGE

Hoddle Grid Heritage Review

A comprehensive review of unprotected heritage buildings across the CBD, the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review has finally been adopted into the planning scheme by the City of Melbourne.

It follows many years of work by council officers, councillors, submitters and heritage consultants, as well as many more years of advocacy from Melbourne Heritage Action and others.

This amendment finally protects so many heritage buildings that many readers would have assumed were already protected, as well as a few pleasant surprises from the post-war era.

Here are a few of our favourites from the list so stare up at next time you're in the city ...

Greater Western Hotel

Many Melburnians would assume a blue-stone pub built in 1864 would have some sort of heritage protection, but this wasn't the case until 2022, when the Hoddle Grid Heritage review went through its final stages of approval.

Although the pub stopped trading in 2017, this heritage review has at least been enough to save the building as part of a future development where it will once again be used as a corner pub, having been saved from complete demolition by new heritage listing and negotiations between council and developers.

Melbourne House – 354-360 Little Bourke St

Melbourne House was controversially left out of previous heritage studies, and then condemned to demolition for a hotel development, causing controversy from nearby residents. But now, because of this heritage review process, the building will be retained and restored with an appropriately setback addition behind. It doesn't currently look it's best behind ground floor hoardings and blue paint, but just wait a year or two.

Flinders Lane between Spring and Russell streets

It may surprise readers that barely any of the former rag trade buildings surrounding some of our most iconic street art precincts along Flinders Lane were unprotected, but this has been the case until now.

13 Collins St

This heritage study has for the first time comprehensively reviewed many places built after World War Two, including this brown brick gem built in 1970 to a design originally by Roy Grounds, most famous for the NGV, and finished by Karl Popper, an Austrian Jewish refugee who barely escaped from Europe before the war and went on to make a career of residential projects across Melbourne.

You may have looked up at this austere building many times from the tram stop without realising its importance in changing Australian minds to the idea of CBD apartment living.

These just a handful of the hundreds of buildings looked at in the Hoddle Grid review, and the full documents are well worth a look. But with their passing, you can now be fairly certain that just about any building you think should be protected in the CBD, now is ●



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STATE MP

Arts venues at risk: we must save the Nicholas Building and Curtin Hotel



Arts and culture is central to Melbourne's identity. Personally, it's one of the main reasons I love to live here. Hopping on a tram to the Comedy Festival, seeing a show at La Mama, or being able to enjoy a live music gig almost any time of the week or year are some of the great pleasures of being a Melburnian.



It's wonderful to finally see the shows, fun and creativity slowly returning to our city, yet during the past few years, Melbourne has unfortunately lost many of our iconic cultural venues and heritage buildings. The Palace/Metro Theatre is just one example that springs to mind. Worryingly, now two more arts and creative species are at imminent risk: the Nicholas Building and the Curtin Hotel.

The Nicholas Building, a gorgeous art deco landmark on Swanston St, is unique. This heritage building houses a community of more than 200 artists, creatives and other independent enterprises (think artists, writers, shoemakers and more). But now the building is for sale – at



risk of being turned into more apartments.

The Curtin Hotel – a heritage live music venue and pub in Carlton that needs little introduction – is facing a similar fate. Its owners have also put it up for sale.

Heritage arts venues like the Nicholas Building and the Curtin are special and increasingly rare in our city. Once lost, they'll be gone forever. Heritage buildings don't get rebuilt. With the loss of every venue and creative space, Melbourne loses a little more of its cultural heart.

But there is a small window, right now, to save them. The only problem is – the state government is not coming to the party.

For the Nicholas Building, the City of Melbourne and philanthropists are willing to contribute significant funds and support to buy this building and ensure it stays as a hub for creative industry workers. But they need a small amount of support from the state government – something the Labor Government is refusing to do.

For the Curtin – the government could also step in and buy it, but have not committed to do so, despite community groups and unions pitching in with fundraisers and campaigns.

These are unique buildings. There are very few left in our city, and modest funds and support from the state government is all it would take to save them.

If these buildings are sold, it will be a huge loss to our city, to creative worker jobs, and to Melbourne's culture.

During the past few months I've been working hard in the community and in Parliament to try and reverse the state government's position. I'll continue to campaign to ensure they are not lost. If you'd like to get involved, please contact my office by emailing us office@ellensandell.com and we can let you know how you can help!

You can also read more about my plans to support the arts and rebuild a thriving Melbourne CBD at greens.org.au/vic/cbd

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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SKYPAD LIVING

Micromobility infrastructure in vertical villages

Many vertical villages are investigating electric vehicle recharging options, but e-cars are not the only vehicles that need these facilities.

While the demand for electric vehicles (EV) has not grown as fast as initially predicted, it is believed that vehicle charging facilities will increasingly be valued by residents of vertical villages.

In recognition of this, our vertical villages are being encouraged to become "EV Ready".

According to advice from agencies such as Energy Saver (NSW), this starts with a resident survey to gauge demand. Next comes an energy assessment, followed by a consideration of infrastructure and associated payment options.

To date, however, such assessments typically focus on the needs of one type of electric vehicle – e-cars.

But as residents of Melbourne well know, there are other types of e-vehicles – such as eScooters, eBikes and e-cargo bikes. Referred to as micromobility vehicles or personal mobility devices (PMDs), supporters claim several benefits for the rider. These include affordability (e.g., rental/purchase price and running costs, especially parking!), convenience (including satisfying the first- and last-mile transportation gaps), time saving (avoiding traffic snarls) and sustainability (i.e. producing low levels of pollution and/or as a car substitute). Note: mobility scooters and powerchairs are also micromobility vehicles but have a different value proposition.

As regards the benefits for our city, policy

makers cite decreased stress on transportation networks, reduced traffic congestion, reduced carbon footprint and improved transport equity.

This now puts Melbourne's current eScooter trial in a different light – for while some view eScooters as a recreational novelty (annoyance) for tourists, the real point of this trial is to test if these devices can be formally incorporated into Victoria's transport mix. The questions to be answered are: Do they bring the promised benefits? If so, at what cost? And what needs to be changed to effectively integrate micromobility into our existing transport ecosystem?

Victoria is not alone in seeking to so incorporate micromobility vehicles.

In the UK, Baroness Vere stated that in 2023 the UK Department of Transport would legislate for micromobility, establishing a new class of vehicle – a "Personal Transporter".

Meanwhile Paris (France) has begun a pilot project to install 150 dock, lock and charge points for micromobility vehicles across the "Paris Rive Gauche". This project aims to demonstrate how universal charging infrastructure can accelerate micromobility use.

As regards Melbourne, our current schemes promote rental eScooters, meaning that riders do not have to store, recharge or maintain these vehicles.

However, the situation will change if/when significant numbers of commuters choose to purchase their own micromobility vehicle – and want to store, recharge and maintain it at their home.

This will be a particular issue for vertical villages, especially in terms of managing common property.

Indeed, if privately owned eScooters and eBikes become a formal part of Melbourne's

transport strategy, vertical villages may be required to offer supporting facilities.

For example, we may be asked (by residents and/or government) to provide:

- Secure storage: questions here involve availability of space and whether the owners' corporation will allow eScooters to be stored in apartments (consider the wear and tear on lifts and hallway carpets);
- Recharging: issues here include existing access to power and how costs can be paid/recovered;
- Support facilities: might your owners' corporation provide facilities for minor repairs?

In addition to this, thought will need to be given to the authorisation process, as approvals for changes to common property are no easy matter.

Returning to the notion of being "EV Ready", if micromobility vehicles do become officially integrated into our transport system (as is happening in other cities), then vertical villages will need to ensure we incorporate these new micromobility demands into both our EV infrastructure refits and our maintenance plans.

And we need to ensure that government EV support schemes include vertical villages as a priority for funding! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT
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The sourer self of Sean O'Beirne

It's not easy being a critic and Sean O'Beirne struggles modestly with the role in On Helen Garner, the latest in the Writers on Writers series by Black Inc.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

O'Beirne works for Readings as a bookseller and can often be seen around the CBD in a professional role.

But he likes to keep a low profile even though he admires feisty behaviour on the part of authors.

When Garner writes that she yanked the ponytail of a girl being rude to others on the city streets, O'Beirne gives her a big tick of approval.

On Helen Garner is a strong, confessional kind of book, unusual for literary criticism in that O'Beirne is not trying to find evidence for a contention but to express his admiration for Garner.

He loves her strong sense of self and wishes he was more like her.

When he first read *Monkey Grip* as a teenager, he couldn't believe that a narrator could stay so close to self. It was liberating for him to have a model for separating himself from the blokey dominance of the outer suburbs.

To this end, he explores the difference between fiction (he has published a collection of short stories *A Couple of Things Before the End*) and non-fiction in terms of self-exposure.

Garner's oeuvre ranges from the auto-fiction of *Monkey Grip* through fiction involving characters to the non-fiction where she herself has turned outwards to take on causes.

He compares his own reticence, in which he



▲ *On Helen Garner*, Sean O'Beirne, Black Inc, 2022.

reveals through character, to her bolder use of emotion and less-disguised telling.

In *The First Stone* for example, when the students wouldn't talk to her, she wrote: "I wanted to ... shake them until their teeth rattled."

He values this confessional approach because it's a less socially acceptable form of storytelling than the weaker but attractive acting out through impersonation that he employs.

There is no denying that Garner is excellent at attracting the reader's attention to her plight as a writer.

In *Joe Cinque's Consolation* she creates the impression of a broken-down hack onto her third failed marriage who writes the book because she has nothing better to do.

Some who have studied Garner at uni are resentful because she has dirtied up the genre of True Crime with these incursions of self.



But O'Beirne loves these incursions. He is swift to condemn some of her books such as *Cosmo Cosmolino* as "bad" because she stops figuring and lapses into metaphysical mode.

Is O'Beirne overly impressed by Garner's willingness to express emotion, often in the form of rage or astonishment?

Does he undersell his own command of the emotional terrain, particularly disappointment, which features so heavily in *A Couple of Things*, even if it is fiction?

Who could forget the girl who hopes to impress Barry Humphries with her routine or the boy who gorges on candy to carry favour or the boy scout who always keeps a coin in his pocket for a call home?

Some roles are highly visible yet those playing the roles wish to remain invisible and that is their prerogative ●

Sex, drugs, rock and roll, and other owners' corporation issues

You've all heard of illegal parties, the use of short-term accommodation for paid escort services, or prostitution, and there have been numerous reported cases of short-term accommodation being used as drug labs.

These are just a few of the potential issues, happily they are not the majority of cases. However, in addition, apart from the Airbnb and other short-term rental issues, there are issues of noisy neighbours, leaking balconies, animals, and other annoying features experienced by owners' corporations (OC), almost too numerous to mention. We know that they exist, the issue is what can be done about them.

If you are buying off the plan and it's a future prospect, you really have no idea what will happen in the future. You may have control of your apartment, but you certainly don't control three or four hundred of your nearest and dearest neighbours. A good start is to choose a development that has a 24-hour concierge, and at least you then have a fighting chance. However, if you are buying into an existing strata-titled building, then it certainly pays to do your homework. Not by listening to the agent, but by making enquiries with other owners or occupiers in the building.

Recently, there was a case where well-meaning parents provided an apartment in the city for their son, who was unfortunately a drug addict. He then began bringing undesirable people into the building, and while on a drug-fuelled binge, managed to light a fire in the foyer. Not really the sort of tenant, or even owner-occupier who assists in maintaining the value of the building, to put it mildly.

New laws under the *Owners Corporation Act* were introduced in December 2021. Some relevant parts to note are as follows:

- OCs will be able to develop a model rule that regulates or prohibits the drifting of tobacco smoke from a lot to the common property, or any other lot in multi-level buildings.
- OCs will be able to develop a model rule that requires advice to be given to occupiers about fire safety and emergency preparedness plans.
- OCs will be able to make rules about lot owners paying fees by instalments if they are in financial difficulty.
- If a guest of the lot occupier breaches the rules, both the occupier of the lot and the guest are jointly and severally liable for any penalty or compensation payable as a result.
- If VCAT determines that a person has failed to comply with an OC rule that imposes an obligation that is binding on the person, VCAT may make an order imposing a civil penalty not exceeding \$1100 to be paid to the OC.
- Rules are to be of no effect if the rule is oppressive to, unfairly prejudicial to or unfairly discriminates against, a lot owner or an occupier of a lot ●

**The contents of this article are of a general nature only and cannot be relied upon as legal advice. However, if you need legal advice, please do not hesitate to contact any one of our lawyers.*

The Howitt family's life in the inner city in pre-goldrush times

When Godfrey Howitt, his brother Richard and other members of their family decided to settle in Port Phillip in April 1840, Godfrey brought a home with him and that is what you see here.



His prefabricated wooden cottage fronted Spring St in the south-east corner of the CBD and his land, bought in June 1840, ran from Collins St to Flinders Lane. As well as this cottage, Howitt had a large garden, well known to early Melburnians. A practical man, he had thought ahead and brought with him seeds and fruit trees so he could establish a productive garden. The garden was a great success and here he grew delicious melons, figs and grapes, among other things.

Howitt was 40 years old when he arrived in Melbourne and already had an established medical career. He had been a physician at the Nottingham General Hospital and in Melbourne was associated with a number of medical concerns including the Melbourne Hospital and the Benevolent Asylum. Like his brothers, who also came to Victoria, he had wide-ranging scientific and philosophical interests and he was well regarded as a botanist and entomologist. From a Quaker background, he was a philanthropist, too, often working for no fee and leaving his natural history collection and library to the Melbourne Museum and establishing scholarships in Natural History at the University of Melbourne.

Howitt had hoped that life in a less harsh

climate would help improve his son John's health, but that was not to be and the 12-year-old died in May 1843. In letters to his cousin Alfred, who was later to be a much-lauded colonial anthropologist, John provides us with a glimpse of domestic life in the Howitt household. There he got plenty of fresh air, he said, in a house where they could keep their windows and doors open (although not, I imagine, on hot summer days when a gusty northerly wind must have swept dust and detritus through the city streets).

In his letters we learn of the death of their dog, buried in their much-acclaimed garden and hear that John's brother and sister attended Mrs Stevenson's school, as well as exciting reports of bushrangers in the Plenty area. A far cry from life in industrial Nottingham.

This photograph of Godfrey Howitt's early family home is believed to have been taken around 1893, possibly around the time of its demolition, and is part of the extensive images collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. By then Howitt had been dead for 20 years and had not lived in the house for many years. By goldrush times he had moved to a

much grander house on the corner of Spring and Collins Streets, a home with a large brick-walled garden in the English tradition where he and his wife could indulge their passion for gardening.

The wooden cottage, which had stood there for over fifty years when the photograph was taken, is showing its age. It had seen an economic crisis, a goldrush, a period of rapid development, the golden age of "Marvellous Melbourne" and now it was the worst year of another financial crisis that dominated the 1890s. The cottage was demolished not long afterwards.

Here it is derelict, just hanging on. Its wooden roof shingles have been covered over by tin and in one section where they have rotted away, a climber makes its way up the veranda post and emerges through the gaps. The bluestone base of the fence and the bluestone gutters remind us that the house has been there since the early times of white settlement. The gum tree on the right towers above the house and has probably been there since before the Howitts arrived in 1840, but it barely reaches the roof lines of the substantial brick buildings that now crowd out this remnant of the colony's past. And an electric light pole in front of the house reminds us that another time is coming, one that will see this humble wooden cottage disappear as Melbourne transforms itself into a bustling modern city ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

For further information and assistance, contact:
nevileco@nevile.com.au

Aiming for a cleaner well-presented city

The City of Melbourne (CoM) is asking people to report graffiti and waste by scanning the QR code on bins. This is an excellent idea but more needs to be done to help bring the city up to standard.

WORDS BY Sue Saunders

The photos in this article tell the story. What more can be done to spruce up our city? In places it looks like a slum. In other places, there are buildings where imagination and new initiatives following COVID have made the city look sparkling and inviting. Such areas contribute to helping bring people back to the city which helps restore prosperity.

Residents understand that the police (and the CoM?) have the power to issue fines for littering. We also believe that these fines can be up to \$400 per incident. However, while there is mention of fines on the CoM website, searching did not reveal what they were, only where to make your payment!

There is little evidence of graffiti removal being successful. For example, the walls along



the Batman Avenue bridge near Birrarung Marr are full of graffiti. Not a good look for people driving or walking into the city centre.

Here are some ideas for improvement:

- CoM and state government to come up with a catchy litter-free campaign with signs spread across the CBD;



- Signs should let people know that fines apply for littering including dropping cigarette butts;
- Publish prominently the dollar value of the fines that apply;
- Business groups, CoM and possibly police to encourage businesses to clean up the

area outside their premises if located on the street;

- Residents to liberally use the QR Code system and/or the Snap, Send, Solve app to report littering, rubbish collection and the need for street cleaning;
- Accelerate the use of larger shared rubbish disposal systems, garbage compactors and recycling hubs in laneways;
- Continue the graffiti clean-up blitz over an extended period;
- Empty bins more frequently; and
- CoM to organise community clean-up campaigns to collect litter and to clean poorly maintained pavement areas.



Next event – Meet the Candidates for Melbourne

Following on from the enormous success of Residents 3000's April event – Marketplace (pictured above), attended by close to 120 people, the next event "Meet the Candidates" will be held on Thursday, May 19, 6pm at the Kelvin Club. Please refer to our website (residents3000.com.au) or our Facebook page for details closer to the event.

The Neighbourhood Marketplace event, held on April 7 at the Kelvin Club was a resounding success, with the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police, precinct groups, local businesses and services and other community groups all in attendance. Thank you to everyone who came and supported ●

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METRO TUNNEL

Cultural icon Sticky Institute reopens at the Nicholas Building

A Melbourne cultural icon has literally moved up in the world after more than two decades pushing its paper wares in the underground Campbell Arcade, next to Flinders Street Station.



Sticky Institute – renowned for its zines, which are homespun books or magazines – has moved to another nearby creative hub, the Nicholas Building.

"We plan to keep operating as we always have been – so that's supporting the zine community and as many artists as possible," volunteer coordinator at the not-for-profit Samantha Riegl said.

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV), which is delivering the Metro Tunnel, supported Sticky Institute and other long-term tenants of Campbell Arcade to relocate ahead of major construction to connect a pedestrian underpass from the new Town Hall Station to Flinders Street Station.

"Flinders Link" will be a vital connection allowing passengers to quickly interchange between the Metro Tunnel, and Flinders Street and City Loop services, without having to touch off and on their myki.

RPV is managing Campbell Arcade while Flinders Link is built, as the walkway will connect to Flinders Street Station via the arcade.

Ms Riegl said the support for Sticky Institute to relocate had been helpful during a difficult time.

"It's been really great in that people have been able to find us, which we were a bit worried about with the change of location," she said.

"Since Rail Projects Victoria took over the lease, the communication they've had with us

has been really great."

"We appreciate everything they've done to help us get into this new space."

Fellow Campbell Arcade veteran Wax Museum Records is moving to 250 Flinders St, while Sublink PC + Mobile Repair is opening a new store in Southbank.

Campbell Arcade/Degraves Subway will be closed for up to two years from April 30 while Flinders Link is completed. Passengers will still be able to access Flinders Street Station at Swanston and Elizabeth streets.

The key heritage features of Campbell Arcade will be preserved, and nearly all the arcade's shopfronts will remain outside the myki ticket gates.

When completed in 2025, the Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than half a million extra passengers a week during peak times across Melbourne's train network, with access to five new stations and a future rail link to Melbourne Airport.

Visit Sticky Institute at the Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St, Level 8, Room 14 ●

Chinatown readies for a multicultural bonanza

Dust off your Qipao (traditional Chinese dress), your kimono, your sari, or your lederhosen, because Chinatown Melbourne is holding a multicultural festival of epic proportions.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

From 12pm to 9pm Sunday, May 1, Chinatown Square will transform into a sea of colour and festivities with live dance performances, music, food and beverage stalls, and much more to celebrate what makes Melbourne one of the most liveable cities in the world.

Proceedings will kick off with traditional Chinese Masonic Lion Dances, followed by Taiko (Japanese drumming), there will be eating competitions promising to put fear in even the most ravenous entrants, Korean dancing, the famous Melbourne Dai Loong Association Lion Dance Troupes, Northern and contemporary Thai dancing, and live music performances.

State Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Ros Spence, has extended her congratulations to the Chinatown Precinct Association (CPA) and the Melbourne Dai Loong Association (MDLA) for its 2022 Melbourne Chinatown Multicultural celebrations.

"I sincerely thank these two associations



for their service to the Chinese community in Victoria and for generously enabling us to share in this vibrant and ancient culture," Ms Spence said. "Chinatown itself has been a hub for Chinese migrants since 1851 and remains a centre for entrepreneurship and discovery for both Victorians and visitors from around the world."

"As we come together again to celebrate after what has certainly been a difficult time, I wish all involved with this wonderful event the very



best as you reopen your doors and rekindle business relationships and friendships."

"In doing so, you provide Victorians with the opportunity to engage again with the Chinese community which is an essential part of Victoria's multicultural success story and play an important role in the rejuvenation of Victoria after the pandemic. I thank all Chinese Victorians for the enormous contribution they make to the social, economic and cultural prosperity of our state and wish you all a joyous

celebration."

According to MDLA president, Eng Lim, the event will offer shoppers, visitors and tourists with an exclusive opportunity to be greeted by the "gods of prosperity, wisdom and longevity" in their various trading outlets.

The "gods" will offer well wishes, wisdom and health – fortune cookies will be handed out as they roam throughout the streets, buildings and shops, including blessing all visitors and the community at large.

"Enjoy and have a wonderful celebration – with the God of Prosperity, God of Wisdom and God of Longevity. Come gather in Melbourne Chinatown where all the actions are, along with the DJs who, true to the traditional cultural festivities, will warm up the crowd with Chinese, Australian, Korean, Japanese, German, Italian, Greek, Indian, Thai and contemporary music," Ms Lim said.

"That's what our Melbourne Chinatown is – multicultural – and it is one of Melbourne's distinctive and iconic precincts and importantly, the longest continuous Chinese settlement in the Western World."

"Cultural performances will keep you entertained the entire day and night and the whiff from the hawker-style stalls will bring out the "Truly, Madly, Deeply, Scrumptious" food of dumplings, rice, noodles, satays, and various skewers." ●

For more information:
chinatownmelbourne.com.au

PRECINCTS

Having a ball with the Melbourne City North Business Association

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

In its first event as an official precinct group, the Melbourne City North Business Association (MCNBA) attracted some of the biggest names in Australian and international basketball for the inaugural City Slam Dunk and Three-Point Shooting Contest.

Held last month at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology's (RMIT) A'Beckett Urban Square, more than 2000 revellers enjoyed a day of community basketball fun with live music, DJs and food.

The competition's judging panel included South East Melbourne Phoenix CEO Tommy Greer and marquee stars, Mitch Creek and Zhou Qi, along with internationally renowned dunker Guy Dupuy, City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney and Cr Kevin Louey.

MCNBA president Christina Zhao said the turnout exceeded all of her expectations and gave the precinct confidence and momentum heading forward.

"As a precinct, we want to help drive foot traffic back into the northern end of the city. The area north of Lonsdale St has been hit incredibly hard over the past year due to a lack of international students and tourists," Ms Zhao said.

"Precinct events can often be very official, so, we wanted to do things a differently and it was so great to see families of all generations attending the event and interacting with superstars like Mitch Creek, Guy Dupuy and Zhou Qi."

"We now have a really clear vision as a precinct. We want focus on key areas such as sports, arts, nightlife and tourism."

According to Ms Zhao, foot traffic from the event has already sparked collaboration between the precinct and Rail Projects Victoria (RPV), the overseeing department handling the Metro Tunnel construction, which wants to support and promote MCNBA members as



▲ Max Tatter (third place), Kyuho Lee (first place), Harry Love (second place), Mitch Creek, Zhou Qi, Guy Dupuy, City of Melbourne CEO Justin Hanney, S.E Melbourne Phoenix CEO Tommy Greer and Christina Zhao.

part of its North of La Trobe (NOLA) joint venture.

Along with RPV, the MCNBA is developing partnerships with RMIT and Melbourne Polytechnic to offer jobs at member businesses throughout the precinct.

"We have been working with tertiary education institutions to employ students in local member businesses like Panda Hot Pot," Ms Zhao said.

"It is great to create job opportunities for international students, not only within our precinct, but students from all over Melbourne to get employment in our precinct."

"We want people to know Melbourne is back, and we want to say thank you to RMIT, the City of Melbourne and all other stakeholder who supported our first event." ●

For more information:
facebook.com/melbournecitynorth

A fresh face in CBD property

When it comes to property in Australia, there is no bigger name than Ray White.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Well, in fact, when it comes to Australasia, encompassing 1000 individual offices across Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, China and Hong Kong, there is still no bigger name than Ray White.

With a foothold in almost every property market in Victoria, Ray White is looking to grow its presence in Melbourne's CBD, with one agent leading that charge.

Trent Bonnici from Ray White Southbank has carefully built his name and reputation with vendors and buyers throughout the CBD during the past 12 months; a time that has seen seismic shifts in the local market.

"It has been challenging at times with lockdowns thrown in, but working for Ray White, the largest real estate company in Australasia, we had plenty of support throughout and have definitely come out on the other side stronger," Mr Bonnici said.

"Now, we are seeing a huge level of buyer activity, probably for a few reasons. There is still a lot of pent-up demand from lockdown and everyone trying to get into the market before impending interest rate rises."

"There is not a lot of stock on the market at the moment, so, of course less stock means there is more competition for the properties on market."

According to the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) the CBD's apartment market was one of the highest performing in the state, with quarterly growth of 15.3 per cent from December 2021 to March 2022.

That's an increase in \$77,000 of value from \$503,000 to \$580,000 in that period.

Mr Bonnici said much of that growth was being seen in the CBD's heritage or unique property market, resulting in great outcomes for his vendors.

"With the election coming up, a lot of the investor market will sit on their hands during



this time, but we are still seeing a lot of activity from our emotional market; our first home buyers, our downsizers, they will still be the full force in the market," Mr Bonnici said.

"I'm currently in private negotiations for a listing in the Boundary Building at 399 Bourke St. With 24 groups already through and 3000 views online, the demand for heritage homes continues to grow."

"We run the auction process a little more structured than other agencies and I think our results for those properties reflect that. That just comes down to having a watertight plan in place from the start and ensuring that we are being proactive about it and tracking what exactly is going on." ●

For more information:
raywhitesouthbank.com.au

STREET ART

Melbourne is unsafe and it has nothing to do with graffiti

If you have walked around the city lately you would be aware of two things: the homeless people that seem desperate and scary and the expensive attack the council seems to be launching against graffiti.

When I was in high school, I used to draw on the pavement as a busker. It wasn't great money, but it paid the bills as a young punk. Melbourne even had the world chalk drawing champion competition in 1998, but in the late '90s as the heroin epidemic took hold my ability to make money stopped, as more drug-affected people began to beg.

I have no problem with drug-addicted people. It is a mental health issue and that often people on drugs find themselves with very little choice and that their main priority becomes drugs, which is very understandable.

This happened at the same time as the Kennett Government shut many of the psych institutions around the city, like Kingston and Bundoora. And the city has slowly become a place for the homeless, the psychologically disturbed and the desperate.

During the past 20 years Melbourne has fallen even further into a horrid den of disrepair with the ice epidemic and the legal drugs from Club X creating massive problems and desperation, and nobody seems to mind or care.

During the past two years COVID has really brought the issue to the forefront of Melbourne's culture. With most of the laneways developed and most buildings gentrified and the city becoming bland, COVID has created a scenario for the perfect storm.

The junkies (excuse the term) have become desperate and very abusive. It is hard to understand how this has been ignored by local, state, and federal governments. Anybody who has been in the city during the pandemic or even now will notice how brazen these people have become. They have become truly scary and very confronting. I feel it would be a memorable experience for any tourist visiting Melbourne, but not in a good way.

One thing that is memorable for tourists in a good way is the urban art and graffiti culture. Even though many of the lanes have been developed and the city has been heavily gentrified, Melbourne still holds its own on the graffiti, urban art, and fine art cultural milieu.

It attracts thousands of people every year and now that COVID restrictions have lifted they have come back in droves. It's awesome for Melbourne's economy, it's more popular and financially beneficial than AFL, plus it lasts year-round.

According to a recent report in *The Age*, The City of Melbourne has spent more than \$1.1 million on graffiti removal this financial year as it tries to clean up the city. This seems interesting to me as the city is famous for its graffiti, coffee and its laid-back style.

I feel that the efforts and costs to remove the graffiti around Melbourne are misconstrued. And it's not the most important and predominate issue.

If both local and state governments want the city to be clean, surely safety is a far bigger priority.

This money that is being wasted in an unwinnable war against graffiti could be spent to make the city safer.

We need to ban legal drugs from the adult stores and create patrols around the city, and work across government agencies to help these at-risk people and to get them off the street and



help them, and make Melbourne feel safe.

It is a real and very serious problem that needs a realistic conversation. At the moment, it feels as though everyone is ignoring the issue at the expense of safety in Melbourne and its reputation.

I don't know how it can be fixed but it does need to be fixed or Melbourne will end up with a reputation for being unsafe and disturbing.

It seems that everybody is aware of the problem, but nobody wants to discuss it and it needs to be fixed as soon as possible for a number of important reasons.

As part of the war on graffiti, the council has put on anti-graffiti QR codes on every bin around town. This allows citizens to report graffiti and means that everyone will know that the council is doing something about graffiti.

I understand this can be a divisive issue, however, it all seems like a waste of time in an unwinnable war.

Not that I condone any illegal activity, but one of my artist friends has started to change these QR codes by adding a black square with

a marker and it changes the destination of the website.

I think it is an awesome form of culture jamming, and it's really funny. As the council sets up this expensive exercise it all gets hacked by one quick black mark.

Art comes in many forms, and I understand that graffiti isn't for everybody, but I feel that this artist with his dot on the QR codes has created a funny response to the council's program by turning it into a funny installation of sorts.

Anyway, I feel that if you really want to clean up Melbourne, the graffiti is far from the first priority ●



Adrian Doyle

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MUSIC

Caroline No

Popular '60s psychedelic West Coast group The Beach Boys had an obscure song in their catalogue entitled Caroline No. It appeared on their Pet Sounds album.

Fast forward to the 21st century, London and Melbourne and a bunch of sublime musos centred around Caroline Kennedy from The Plums have a great project happening entitled ... Caroline No.

Musos involved in this project, released via obscure Nebraska record label (@grapefruit GY 12-2), include Ian Wadley (Dead Star) The Dirty Threes guitarist Mick Turner and drummer Jim White and Nick Huggins as well.

Grape Fruit Records have the brilliant NZ ambient guitarist Roy Montgomery on their roster, so Caroline No is in great company.

This is the Caroline No eponymous album and first cab off the rank is the challenging and compelling *Anna's On The Radio*. It's a catchy song, swirling cascading decadent guitars sounding at times like the Velvet Underground.

Anna's On The Radio sounds like a sun striped song played on a perfect day. Robert Forster would approve.

Mick Turner is a fantastic guitarist, he started out in Venom P Stinger a crucial Melbourne punk rock band, and in The Dirty Three he could augment and support Warren Ellis on his flights of fancy. The perfect guitarist to play with Caroline Kennedy and Ian Wadley who both played together in Dead Star.

And this brings us to a zeitgeist moment. Dead Star had a massive hit with *Deeper Water*, and when they performed the song live on Network 10's *The Panel*, it electrified share houses all over Melbourne. Friends of Kate Langbroek were switched onto it. A very cool and electrifying performance worth checking out on YouTube.

Anna's On The Radio is a bright edgy song and Caroline Kennedy has done the artwork to the single. This is a redemptive album, explorations in "love, loss and the psychedelic of the everyday."

EARTHRISE FESTIVAL 2022 was a great success with fantastic editions of the Festival held in Bendigo and then in Melbourne.

There's been a real burst on the scene with bands that have Kyuss's mint condition *Welcome To Sky Valley* in their record collection. Plenty of these psychedelic stoner rock bands were on display headlined by the Mighty Khan.

Earthrise is the name of the famous photograph taken by the Apollo Astronauts in December 1968 of the Planet Earth rising above the surface of the Moon as the Apollo spacecraft was orbiting the Moon.

At EARTHRISE FESTIVAL 2022, which fell out of the sky in an organic way, with rooms packed to the rafters, people got the sense that something was happening.

One of the highlight bands that performed at Bendigo and Melbourne was Mushroom Giant. This band has not been going for long, but word is that Mushroom Giant is phenomenal, and its vinyl album is an absolute gem ●



Chris Mineral

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对遗产建筑开发担忧加剧

一项有争议的遗产建筑开发项目计划在修改后获得墨尔本市政的批准，这个项目计划重新开发遗产大厦Shell House，并计划建造第二座塔楼。

Brendan Rees

这座备受赞誉的28层建筑位于Flinders街和Spring街的拐角处，由已故的澳大利亚最伟大的现代主义建筑师之一Harry Seidler设计，目前这个建筑的物主需要得到州政府的同意，才能启动这项耗资2.035亿澳元的项目。

该项目计划部分拆除Shell House大厦的公共广场和位于Flinders巷的百年故居Milton House，这是一座三层建筑，也被列入遗产名录，但要让路为建造第二座32层的办公楼。

新建塔楼将与Shell House大厦分开，但有一座天桥连接两座建筑。

今年2月，就在州规划部长Richard Wynne表示，他“特别关注悬在遗产建筑之上的新建筑”之后，申请人Phillip Nominees向市政提交了该项目修改后的计划。

根据市政的报告，修改后的计划将重新配置第二座塔楼的楼板，因此不会悬在Milton House之上。

然而，遗产组织、居民和澳大利亚建筑师协会表示担心，如果此计划最终获得批准，Shell House的美学和建筑完整性将被破坏。

2021年8月，维州遗产机构拒绝了该申请，今年1月规划部长Wynne先生又让再递申请，他当时表示“没有破坏Shell House的计划”。



在4月5日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，市政议员一致投票批准了修改后的计划，认为比原计划有“重大改进”，考虑了加

强行人道的连接以及对新塔楼的修改。

根据新计划，改造后的广场将以零售空间为特色，包括书店、花店和开放空间。

拯救尼古拉斯大厦

位于市中心 Swanston 街的尼古拉斯(Nicholas)大厦，处在 CBD最重要的艺术中心，现在依然危在旦夕，房产中介没有就其出售发出明确的信息。

Rhonda Dredge

这座大厦里有200多家小型艺术商店，每天都有新业开张。就在三周前，一家二手书店在四楼开业。

这座建筑没有未来的保证，绿党试图让州政府购买，但3月份在州议会遭否决。

墨尔本的绿党议员Ellen Sandell在上个月的竞选活动中提出拯救这座建筑。

她说，为了公共利益，这栋建筑需要



受到保护。“我想让这座大厦的未来成为一个选举议题。”

Nicholas大厦于去年10月挂牌出售，对前来有意向的买家出价约为8000万澳元。

物业管理Allard Shelton的主管Joe Walton先生告诉本报，12月将发布公告，但现在仍然在市场上。

据信，另一轮竞标刚刚结束，根据Nicholas大厦协会主任Dario Vacirca的说法，业主希望该建筑保留其目前的用途。

他说：“墨尔本市政已经对此审慎地作了回应，投资者也已经准备好满足大部分的价格，我们呼吁州政府能资助余下的部分。”

Sandell女士估计，资金缺口不到1000万澳元。到目前为止，州政府还没有对这个提议做出积极的回应。

Vacirca先生承认，目前的商业模式运行良好，原创性和自主性是这栋建筑的标志，但他担心新业主会把它变成公寓。

警察回归社区工作

当地警方将在中央商务区(CBD)推出一项“回归社区”的新举措,来解决犯罪问题,保持社区安全。

Brendan Rees

“邻里治安”模式将使警察与社区密切合作，就安全问题共同采取行动。

负责协调墨尔本警务区域邻里治安计划的维州警官Dinah Tremain表示，该计划旨在“回归真正的社区警务工作”。

她说：“我们不仅仅要听取社区的意见，还会关注社区的担忧，并派警察去处理这些问题。”

“然后，我们将向社区报告所做的工作。”

“我们确保认真倾听社区的意见。重要的是，我们会采取行动，让社区知道解决问题的时间框架。”

一个由维州警察、墨尔本市政和当地社团组成的地方安全委员会已经成立，并将于6月举行首次会议。

该委员会将帮助警方确定和优先考虑墨尔本社区的居民、企业和游客最关心的问题。

当地警察局将对当地社区最重要的问题先进行登记，然后分配给警察处理，然后向社区居民报告进展情况。

当遇到复杂问题时，警方将与墨尔本市政、社团和政府机构等合作进行处理。

维州警察厅助理厅长Tim Hansen说，这项新举措正在全州范围内推广，确保维多利亚警方“正确开展预防和遏制犯罪的基本警务工作。”

他说：“警察服务于社会，我们必须对社区的需求和安全问题负责。”

墨尔本市政的城市安全、安保和便利设施经理Dean Robertson表示，市议会“真的很高兴参与”邻里治安计划，并指出安全问题以前是一个“大问题”。

新建自行车道不是交通堵塞的理由

维州基础设施管理局首席执行官Jonathan Spear认为，中央商务区(CBD)需要一个安全、更可靠的汽车替代方案，他认为将交通拥堵归咎于自行车道是“逻辑不通的”。

David Schout

Spear先生称赞墨尔本与伦敦、纽约和巴黎一起推动自行车和利于步行的活动，他认为对墨尔本新建受保护自行车道的批评，忽视了“诱导需求”的教训。

他在独立机构网站和《先驱太阳报》上发表的一封信中指出，“我们无法建造一条摆脱拥堵的道路。许多交通研究表明，更多的汽车道路空间导致更多的人开车，进一步堵塞我们的道路，这就是诱导需求效应。”



“可以理解，人们讨厌拥堵，拥堵浪费时间。可是随着墨尔本交通状况的恶化，如果人们觉得除了堵车时只能坐以待毙之外没有其他安全可靠的选择，那么就会有更多的人选择避开城市。”

但是，如果我们提供了替代方式，让市区没有那么多的汽车，所有人都会受益。对于驾车者来说，这意味着更少的交

通时间，去城市旅行成为一个更好的体验。对其他人来说，环境和生产力的好处是巨大的。”

维州基础设施管理局旨在向州政府就特定的基础设施问题提供建议，并发表基础设施相关问题的研究报告，Spear先生早在疫情期间就指出，有迹象表明人们更愿意驾车进入市中心。

他说，这一趋势现在已经成为现实，研究证实，对想骑自行车的人来说，最大的障碍仍然是缺乏对机动车的物理障碍，因此受保护的自行车道是必要的。

“鼓励人们安全地乘坐公共交通，加之分隔的自行车道网络，将使城市再次运转起来，并有利于我们的经济。公交车灵活的起止时间、更便宜的票价以及永久性的非高峰时段的票价折扣，将大大有助于缓解各种交通方式的拥堵状况。”

“如果我们现在不作出改变，不提供安全和更可靠的汽车替代方案的话，那么我们的交通将继续朝着错误的方向走，这将破坏这座城市的复兴。”

What's on: May 2022



MEET THE CANDIDATES
 May 19, 6pm @ Kelvin Club
 Hosted by Residents 3000, candidates contesting the seat of Melbourne at May's Federal Election will be present for questions and discussion on Thursday, May 19. For more information visit:
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



MELBOURNE MEN'S SHED
 A shed in the heart of the CBD.
 Melbourne Men's Shed is an inclusive space at Federation Square suitable for the retired apartment dweller, CBD workers, female members, artists, students and guests. To learn how you can join visit:
melbournemensshed.org

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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 STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
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Real Estate

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 Contact our team
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 James Edmundson 0411 456 770
 Will Caldwell 0419 010 270
 Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572
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For a private and confidential discussion
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