

# CBD NEWS

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## A Green wave in a "Teal bath"

Photo by Julian Meehan

Greens leader Adam Bandt was all smiles on May 21 as he was returned to the seat of Melbourne for a fifth consecutive term, while the party expanded its presence in the House of Representatives. The Greens combined with "Teal" Independents and Labor to end nine consecutive years of Coalition-led government. *More on page 5.*

## CBD trader calls time as the city becomes overrun with crime and anti-social behaviour

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A CBD trader fed-up with the city looking "grubby" and being overrun with anti-social behaviour says he will shut up shop once his lease ends next year.

Rikki McAndrew, who owns McAndrew Jewellery on Little Collins St, said the increasing level of crime including drug activity, graffiti, and people running amok was "very frustrating and quite scary."

"It's not just about graffiti. It's more than that. I'm constantly harassed in the city, and I know everybody else is too," he said, adding he had to lock his shop door on occasions.

Mr McAndrew, a CBD resident who has run his shop for the past eight years, said the city was being ruined with many of his customers no longer wanting to visit

anymore because they felt threatened.

He also pointed to some laneways "looking filthy and grotty", which he said should be made appealing as it would be "a great thing for the tourist brochures."

"The respect of the city is gone. Nothing is really being solved, it's being sugar-coated and that's never going to work," he said.

"I want to leave, which is sad. When my shop lease is up in October next year, that's it for me, I'm gone."

Mr McAndrew's concerns come after police arrested and charged a 25-year-old man who allegedly stabbed a shop attendant at a convenience store on the corner of Franklin and Elizabeth streets about 11.30pm on May 18, leaving the victim with serious injuries.

In a separate incident, a 20-year-old woman was taken to hospital after being assaulted while walking with her friends in King St about 5am on May 8.

*Continued on page 4.*

## Plans to transform Elizabeth St in limbo

Three years after the City of Melbourne endorsed plans to pedestrianise large parts of Elizabeth St, the project is now up in the air with zero funding allocated in the latest budget.

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Plans to modernise the car-focused Elizabeth St into a pedestrian haven have been placed firmly on the back burner by the City of Melbourne, with the 2019-endorsed project missing out on budget funding for yet another year.

Works to overhaul and fully pedestrianise certain blocks on the busy street, which contains "poor amenity and constrained walking space", were scheduled for 2020-21, however the council now had no timeline for when it might start.

Its latest draft budget, released on May 17, featured no funding for the streetscape works, and there were now questions about whether it plans to continue with the project.

While the council said it remained committed to the Elizabeth Street Strategic Opportunities Plan, it has provided residents and traders with no public updates despite significant delays.

Only stage one works, at the southern end outside Flinders Street Station, have been completed.

Stage two, which proposed to pedestrianise almost all of Elizabeth St between Little Collins and Little Bourke streets, was forecast to start in 2020-21 but was now nowhere to be seen.

Town Hall has been eerily quiet about the Elizabeth Street Strategic Opportunities Plan, which it has listed as one of just three "major streetscape master plans" in the past two

budgets.

When contacted by *CBD News* the council said the project had been delayed due to COVID-19.

It did not opt to speak publicly about the delays and did not indicate whether it had provided Elizabeth St traders — particularly those along the proposed pedestrianised blocks — any updates within the past 12 months on plans for the street.

With no funding allocated for the next financial year, stage two works — which the council would still need to undertake feasibility studies for — would not begin until the second half of 2023 at the earliest.

### A cramped, unappealing street

In May 2019, councillors endorsed plans to "transform" Elizabeth St by widening footpaths, planting more trees, upgrading lighting and improving street furniture.

Research at the time indicated that, on average, nine in 10 people on Elizabeth St were pedestrians or tram users.

However, the street was largely arranged for vehicle access, despite only six per cent of people travelling in cars.

"Elizabeth St is primarily configured as a vehicle thoroughfare, with almost half the street space being allocated to traffic and parking," the plan noted.

"Walking has been identified as the way the vast majority of people travel along Elizabeth St, yet pedestrians have the least amount of space."

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# Community mourns tragic death of cyclist

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A female cyclist has died in the CBD after being hit by a truck in May, devastating the community.

Police said a truck and a cyclist collided at the intersection of La Trobe and King streets at around 5.10pm on May 17.

The cyclist died at the scene.

The driver of the truck stopped at the scene and has since assisted police with their enquiries.

Police swarmed the scene and cordoned off the area surrounding the collision.

A GoFundMe campaign has been launched online with all donations going towards the victim's family.

The fundraiser's organiser Michael Hossen said following a huge amount of support on social media for the victim, Yukako, he felt the need to help.

"I have spoken directly with Yukako's family, and all donated funds will go directly to them," he wrote.

"Yukako's family have arrived in Australia, and I will meet with them this weekend. I will ensure all funds go to the family to use for the memorial."

"Thankfully, respective governments are assisting with costs, so donated funds can help with any small expenses the family may have."

City of Melbourne councillor Rohan Leppert spoke of his devastation following the incident, saying it was an "appalling tragedy."

"This is what I lose sleep over," he wrote on The Greens party website.

"We don't have many details on the collision ... what we do know is that this is an appalling tragedy, no matter the causes. For the cyclist, her loved ones, and for the truck driver, who will remember this moment forever."

"As a cyclist, as a planner who knows how much safer the city could be, and as a decision-maker who shares responsibility on



▲ Police at the scene of the collision. Picture: Nine News.



“

*... what we do know is that this is an appalling tragedy, no matter the causes. For the cyclist, her loved ones, and for the truck driver, who will remember this moment forever.*

”

Melbourne City Council, every cyclist death and injury tears me apart."

Cr Leppert said cyclist hospitalisations took a huge dive during lockdowns but were back on the rise as traffic returned to pre-COVID levels.

"Most incidents, but not all, could have been reduced in severity or avoided with safer infrastructure," he said in reference to separated bike lanes.

He said the news of the fatal collision broke as the City of Melbourne handed down its 2022-23 budget, which "if ever there was a stark reminder that compassion counts for nothing if nothing changes, and that government's budget decisions are the only real measure of its priorities, this was it."

"We know that we are global laggards when it comes to safe cycling infrastructure, and that we can do better."

The City of Melbourne has spent a record \$16 million on protected bike lanes, with the 2022-23 draft budget proposing to spend \$69.4 million on bicycle related works over the next four years.

Police have appealed for witnesses following the incident with anyone with dashcam footage or information to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 ●

**To donate:**

[gofundme.com/f/her-name-was-yukako](https://gofundme.com/f/her-name-was-yukako)



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▲ The focus area for the Elizabeth St upgrades.



▲ An indicative staging plan released in 2019. Areas with proposed "no vehicle access" are denoted in green.



## Fire engulfs abandoned club

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Police are investigating a fire that tore through a historic building in the CBD during the early hours of May 24.

Emergency services were called to the corner of Lonsdale and King streets following reports fire had engulfed a building at around 12.15am.

More than 50 firefighters fought the blaze, which took 90 minutes to bring under control.

Victoria Police said it was investigating the circumstances surrounding the fire, which had caused major damage to a building believed to be the former Goldfingers strip club, which is housed in the heritage-graded Kilkenny Inn.

The blaze caused traffic chaos as police cordoned off surrounding streets and set up a crime scene.

At the time of going to print, police had not assessed whether the fire was being treated as suspicious as officers were unable to enter the charred remains of the building.

There were also reports of squatters in the building at the time of the fire, but police could not confirm if this was the case.

Fire Rescue Victoria firefighters were on scene for several hours extinguishing hot spots and containing water runoff – with an aerial appliance also on scene.

Anyone with information regarding the fire is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 ●

# Plans to transform Elizabeth St in limbo

*Continued from page 1.*

The council's research indicated that this both frustrated commuters on foot and stymied the nearby retail environment.

"Pedestrian flow is key to the functioning of the city and vital to the economy. Footpaths along Elizabeth St are not wide enough for the number of pedestrians, resulting in overcrowding and poor pedestrian safety and circulation."

As a result, it proposed to redistribute space to achieve a "balance of movement".

It proposed to de-clutter walkways, enable pedestrian priority and extend footpaths.

Not stopping there, the council also admitted in 2019 that Elizabeth St was dull and in need of revitalisation.

It noted there were "entire city blocks" along the street that were "absent of any street trees or other landscape."

Damningly, it said the street offered "little environmental value or visual amenity to the city".

The premise of the plan aligns strongly with the council's Transport Strategy 2030, which broadly aims to redistribute space and rid the CBD of "non-essential vehicles", on the back of key research that suggested nine in 10 trips in the Hoddle Grid were, in fact, on foot.

But as things stand, save for a small block at the street's southernmost end, plans to fix the street have completely stalled.

### A series of delays

Streetscape upgrades on Elizabeth St have a history of postponements, best underlined by those works in the southern end.

Once termed the "ugly duckling" of Melbourne by former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, the southern end of Elizabeth St is primarily made up of fast-food outlets and

convenience stores.

First flagged to begin in June 2017, works to expand footpath space and install new street furniture and trees were pushed back to 2019 due to construction at 276 Flinders St.

In mid-2019, the council again pushed it back to "early 2020".

That then became "late 2020", before shovels eventually went in the ground in early 2021 ●



*David Schout*

JOURNALIST

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# CBD trader calls time as the city becomes overrun with crime and anti-social behaviour

*Continued from page 1.*

And in a third incident, a group of male youths were seen scrawling graffiti on several buildings near King St, Flinders St, and Queensbridge St on May 6.

Police arrested a 22-year-old man who was charged with criminal damage offences; however, officers were still on the hunt for the rest of the offending group.

The City of Melbourne recently undertook a "graffiti blitz" in the CBD as it battled to fight a 60 per cent increase in the vandalism act since the pandemic began.

However, Lord Mayor Sally Capp conceded that, "we don't have the unlimited resources to just keep cleaning."

Little Bourke St, Elizabeth St, Bourke Street Mall, Little Collins St, and the Flinders St and Collins St block were in the top five "high-repeat offended areas," according to a council report in April.

The council's city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said graffiti was a "scourge on our city" with visitors reporting, "It's dirty, it's not the Melbourne I knew; I'm not coming back."

The City of Melbourne is aiming to work with the state government, Victoria Police, and the M9 councils (an advocacy group made up of nine inner city councils) in a "coordinated approach to graffiti deterrents."

Marlene Crowther, who works as a valuer at Keshett Jewellery at Little Collins St, said graffiti vandals had recently targeted the corner of her shop.

"The council have spent a great deal of money removing what is just rubbish graffiti, which is a great waste of resources," she said.



▲ Rikki McAndrew, who owns McAndrew Jewellery on Little Collins St, says he no longer feels safe in the city.

Victoria Police launched Operation Fade in the CBD in February this year, targeting those involved in graffiti and vandalism.

Rafael Camillo, president of local residents' group Residents 3000, said while the removal of graffiti had been positive, he believed more police was needed in patrolling the streets.

President of CBD residents' group East Enders Dr Stan Capp said the graffiti blitz seemed to have been effective but added "this is such a recurring problem that it will need to become part of normal business."

Meanwhile, Mr McAndrew believed "one small problem is revolving into other problems."

"I would be happy to get right out to an outer suburb where they've got their own community." ●



# Council's commitment to "supercharge" Melbourne's creative industries

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE



As visitation to the city increases, the City of Melbourne is turning its attention to the creative industry and looking at ways to support local artists in the recently released 2022-23 draft Budget.

Released on May 17, the council will see to having \$8.7 million invested into supporting local artists, creative spaces and major events.

"We're supercharging our creative industries by investing in what matters," the council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said.

"Thousands of people are flocking to the city again and we want to build on that momentum and bring confidence to our creative community."

Announced in a council media release on May 15, the council has allocated \$4.3 million to grassroots local artists, \$2.4 million for public art spaces and \$2 million for creative spaces.

The creative spaces funding will work on securing new creative infrastructure for independent, small and medium creative sector operators in spaces like offices, rehearsal spaces and cultural production studios.

In addition, the City of Melbourne is partnering with 35 arts organisations and the long-awaited RISING festival is among those on the list.

After many delays, interruptions and three years of anticipation, RISING is finally getting a chance

to entertain the city in all things art, music, performance and ceremony from June 1 to 12.

Through 225 events, 22 commissions and 14 world premieres, 801 local and international artists are going to creatively inspire and transform the city.

As part of the program, a special *The Wilds* festival will be taking place at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and will be stretched out until June 19.

Described as a moonlit forest of stimulation, *The Wilds* is the ideal space to experience what makes Melbourne a space for creatives.

"In such tumultuous times, the privilege and necessity to gather, dance, sing and celebrate artistic expression is not lost on us," RISING co-artistic directors Hannah Fox and Gideon Obarzanek said.

"Melbourne is back and we're over the moon."

RISING festival is funded by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria and Visit Victoria, and as well as the City of Melbourne, the Australian Government and additional sponsors and donors are also supporting its resurgence ●

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# Greens romp home for a fifth consecutive term in Melbourne

*Greens leader and Melbourne MP Adam Bandt enjoyed his best Federal Election yet on May 21, winning a fifth consecutive term with an increased percentage of the primary vote, while his party expanded its presence in the House of Representatives.*

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
ELECTIONS



▲ Adam Bandt makes his victory speech on May 21.

In addition to the emergence of “Teal Independents” helping to dismantle the Coalition Government across the country, the Greens increased its number of lower house seats from one to three, picking up Ryan and Griffith in Queensland.

At the time of printing, neighbouring Melbourne seat of Macnamara remained in doubt between Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May and Labor incumbent Josh Burns, who still looks likely to hold onto his seat despite a swing to the Greens.

Irrespective of the remaining seats in doubt, the cross bench has more than doubled from six seats in the 2019 election to a whopping 15, leaving the incoming Labor Government with only a likely slender majority in the lower house.

Speaking with *CBD News* following his re-election, Mr Bandt said he was “really humbled” to be elected to Melbourne again with an increased vote but said he and his team had worked “really hard” locally through its “people-powered model”.

“We were getting really strong messages of increased support; the question was how big it was going to be. We knew more people would turn to the Greens, but it was great to see so

many seats turn Green for the first time,” he said.

“Melbourne is a really diverse electorate. While we’ve got some of the most expensive real estate in the country, we’ve also got a huge amount of public housing. Part of the reason why there is so much cohesion and respect among the people in Melbourne is that everyone in Melbourne knows that the more equal we are as a society the better off we’ll all be.”

“People now want politics to reconnect with the community – that’s one take away lesson from this election. Across the country people had started to switch off from politics. Our message was that politics can actually make people’s lives better. We can do it in a way that brings the community together.”

Mr Bandt told *CBD News* that some of the feedback he found the “most moving” was from younger people, who he said were delivered “a real moment of hope” by the election result.

“The thing I found most moving was the amount of young people who came up to me,

very emotionally, and said, ‘this is the first time that I feel hopeful about politics in the future,’” he said.

“For a lot of younger people, they just had a decade of terrible government, houses becoming more unaffordable and the climate crisis getting worse, and that’s been their whole experience of politics.”

While many commentators put the May 21 demolition of the Liberal Party down to a repudiation of former Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his government, the results were underpinned by a desire for stronger action on climate, integrity and gender equality.

Between The Greens and the many Teal Independents who ran in traditionally Liberal seats on a strong platform of action on climate, Mr Bandt said a “very clear message” had resonated among voters across the country.

“We’ve just lived through three years of drought, fires and floods and people know we’ve got to get out of coal and gas and take climate action, and that the window to do it is now,” he said.

“You now see that right across the political spectrum, with people now shifting the way they vote to call for more climate action and that is really encouraging.”

“This has always been something that matters to the people of Melbourne and we’re going to work hard to push on that in the next term of parliament.”

As far as Melbourne’s CBD was concerned, he said its post-pandemic recovery would “be a priority for me.”

“Once we know the shape of the government and know who’s responsible for looking after cities, there are a number of issues we would like to raise with the relevant ministers including the push for assistance with recovery,” he said.

“I’ll be pushing hard for support for our creative sector in Melbourne to ensure that as we still deal with the consequences of the pandemic that we’re still able to get those creative and arts events back on their feet and functioning sustainably again.” ●



## Doughnut festival returns to Queen Victoria Market

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
EVENTS

From all things sugary and deep-fried, doughnut-lovers are in for some good ol’ hole-some fun at the Queen Victoria Market.

The Doughnut Festival returns on June 4 and June 5 in a weekend celebration dedicated to the world’s most popular treat.

For sweet-tooths, there will be jam-filled doughnuts, cinnamon sprinkled doughnuts, sugar-dusted doughnuts, chocolate-oozing doughnuts, and even vegan and gluten-free doughnuts, among many others.

For those preferring savoury dishes, there will be a special spaghetti donut from Pasta Face.

Local and market favourites offering a lineup of mouth-watering doughnuts include The American Doughnut Kitchen, Bistro Morgan Bakehouse, OMG Decadent Donuts, Pasta Face, Short Stop Melbourne, Churro Kitchen and St. Gerry’s.

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said they were expecting a great family-friendly event which was one to “do-nut miss”.

There will also be roving performances and a giant inflatable doughnut to take a photo with to celebrate the occasion.

The festival runs from 9am to 4pm at the rear of K and L Sheds, Queen Victoria Market. Entry is free ●



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# Greenline, Queen Victoria Market headline the council's draft budget as rate rise returns

*A record infrastructure spend will see the City of Melbourne pump \$50 million and \$40 million respectively into the Queen Victoria Market renewal and landmark Greenline project over the next 12 months, in a 2022-23 draft budget that signalled a return to rate rises for locals.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The council's latest budget, released on May 17, also responded to a growing need to keep the CBD clean and presentable for large-scale events, with the council beefing up its rapid response graffiti removal team.

The investment in Greenline, a proposed four-kilometre green trail along the north bank of the Yarra River, is the biggest signal yet of the council's intentions for a project it says would be the city's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002.

The \$40 million investment in the next year will be spent to deliver floating wetlands and begin transforming almost 600 metres of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr.

The council has proposed funding one-third of the \$300 million project and will push the state and federal governments to similarly contribute \$100 million each.

The newly elected federal Labor government has pledged \$20 million to kickstart work on the pathway, which would run from Birrarung Marr all the way to the Bolte Bridge.

The council's largest ever investment, the Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal, also benefitted in the latest budget, with a further \$50 million pledged over the next 12 months.

Works to restore the market's heritage sheds will be completed within the year, along with the revamped Food Hall, while construction will begin on upgrades to the Queen St streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed.

However, the news wasn't so good for local residents and businesses already concerned about the rising cost of living, after the City of Melbourne announced a 1.75 per cent rate rise — its first announced increase since 2019.

In 2020, within months of Melbourne's first COVID-19 lockdown, the council announced a freeze on rate increases, while in 2021 it passed on a discount to both residential and commercial ratepayers that saved the majority of ratepayers between \$10 and \$50.

However, this year it opted to increase rates — which contribute around two-thirds of council revenue — in line with the rate cap rise announced by the state government late last year.

The City of Melbourne did, however,



▲ Sally Capp announces the budget. Photo: Murray Enders.

announce a rate discount of up to \$247 for pensioners, which it said was the most generous in the state.

Across the municipality, the council's latest budget featured a record \$837.8 million council spend in the next financial year.

"This is a landmark budget that restores city confidence and continues to invest in Melbourne's momentum," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We've designed a budget that delivers on what matters most — making our city cleaner, delivering more events and bringing people back to the city."

"We're investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create more jobs, more events and more amenities for our residents, traders and visitors."

The council had expected to return to surplus in the upcoming financial year, but this has now been pushed back to 2023-24.

The underlying deficit announced on May 17 was \$11.3 million.

According to the budget papers, this was due to the "unforeseen impacts of the Omicron variant and the sixth COVID-19 lockdown in 2021".

The council's bottom line, however, would be significantly bolstered by a projected \$25 million increase in parking fines and parking fee income compared with the 2021-22 financial year. This was due to an expected rise in CBD visitation.

Cr Capp referred to "robust internal discussions" at Town Hall surrounding the budget and acknowledged the need to "tighten our belts as an organisation."

"There's a lot of pushing and shoving that goes on to get the best results we possible can from what is still a tight financial situation at the City of Melbourne," she conceded at a May 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting held in Docklands.

However, the Lord Mayor said that despite this, the council was buoyed by the strong return of visitors during recent large-scale events such as the Comedy Festival, Formula 1 Grand Prix, AFL games and performances of *Hamilton* and *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*.

Cr Capp revealed that on the Saturday prior to the budget being released (May 14), the city had seen a 172 per cent increase on numbers on even pre-pandemic levels.

"We are getting our mojo back, and our events calendar has really driven a lot of that visitation



▲ A render of the floating wetlands.

and return to the city. It's underpinned 'COVID-caution' turning into 'COVID-confidence' and we are seeing the results in our foot traffic."

Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, while supporting the budget, was critical of investment in cycling infrastructure, which was considerably less than what has recently been committed in neighbouring states.

The Liberal NSW government recently committed \$960 million over four years for active transport upgrades in Greater Sydney, while the recent Victorian budget included just \$7 million for cycling.

Similarly, he said the City of Sydney recently committed \$69 million over four years, which dwarfed the City of Melbourne's recent budget allocation of \$18.2 million.

"I'm going to support this budget, but I don't think that's enough," he said.

"We have considered the last two years worth of active transport improvements in the City of Melbourne to be a peak, but we can't consider it a peak — that needs to be the new normal."

An emotional Cr Leppert, speaking on the same night a cyclist was killed at the intersection of La Trobe and King Street in the CBD, said further investment was crucial.

"If we are truly going to make the most of the finite road space in our municipality and make our streets as safe as they possibly can, we have to lift the spending on active transport to make the city safe for everyone."

Community feedback on the draft budget can be provided on the Participate Melbourne website until June 14, before the final budget will be presented to the council for adoption on June 28.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said this phase was important, and that the council was receptive to changes.

"We do really, really, really value your feedback," Cr Reece said.

"Think about the things you care about in your community. Ask us why something you really care about isn't supported, or is not supported enough, in the budget. Put ideas to us — we listen to them, we will assess them." ●

**To have your say:**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## Election result and the City of Melbourne

WORDS BY *Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece*  
OPINION

It was Prime Minister Paul Keating who once said, "when you change the government, you change the country". He was right, of course. But after this year's federal election, you can also add "and you change the city too".

Cities turn the cogs of our economy and are home to the vast majority of Australians. The City of Melbourne alone contributes more than 24 per cent to the Victorian economy and seven per cent to Australia's overall economy. It is a national imperative that the federal government invests in, and cares for, our cities.

With this in mind, the City of Melbourne approached the leading parties in the federal election with a pro-active agenda of policies and initiatives to support the city.

With the election results now in, local residents have helped elect three members of parliament: Bill Shorten (Kensington) and Josh Burns (Southbank and Fishermans Bend) for the Labor Party, and Adam Bandt (CBD and surrounds) for The Greens.

The election of the Albanese Labor Government means the City of Melbourne will now partner with them to deliver a number of hugely significant election commitments for Melbourne.

First and foremost, we will partner with the Albanese Government to deliver Melbourne's Greenline — a \$300 million city shaping project that will revitalise the north bank of the Yarra River-Birrarung through a continuous four-kilometre-long promenade. Federal Labor's commitment of \$20 million to stage one means we can get on with a project that has the potential to contribute more than \$1 billion in economic uplift and 6400 jobs.

Federal Labor has also committed \$200 million to install 400 community batteries across Australia. In the run up to the election, it was confirmed that a number of these will be within our municipality including in Kensington and Southbank. The City of Melbourne will now partner with the new government on our Power Melbourne project, which will install an entire network of these batteries across the city.

This will contribute significantly to being a city powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and reaching zero net emissions by 2040. Steps that we can take to achieve these targets in major cities will have important impacts for Australia's overall emissions reduction.

The City of Melbourne will also partner with the government to improve Moonee Ponds Creek with a \$5 million investment from Labor's new Urban Rivers and Catchments Fund. These funds will help clean up the southern reaches of the river, delivering key projects from our Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan.

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# No new funds for CBD revival, injecting room in latest state budget

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
POLITICS

The Victorian Government's latest budget contains no new funding for post-pandemic business recovery in the CBD, or any commitment to a proposed safe injecting facility.

But while the state opposition used the budget's release to attack the "slap in the face" to CBD traders, the government pointed to its recent record on post-pandemic city funding.

The 2022-23 budget included \$12.8 million for "trade recovery and global engagement", which included funds for a new office in Paris, something seized upon by the opposition.

"Daniel Andrews has made it crystal clear he cares more about the Champs-Élysées than the CBD," shadow minister for CBD Recovery David Southwick said.

"How can business owners in our city gain the confidence to recover and rebuild when the state government refuses to deliver the support they need and deserve?"

However, the state government said that the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund announced in last year's budget was a two-year fund, and further initiatives were due to be announced "shortly".

It is understood only half of the funding pool, which the City of Melbourne contributed \$100 million to, has been spent.

Initiatives from the fund to date include the popular Melbourne Money scheme, which offered diners a discount on meals within the city from Mondays to Thursdays.

"The Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund is designed to boost the central city economy, renew city spaces and assist CBD businesses as they recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," a Victorian Government spokesperson said.

"Attracting more people to the city is critical to the vibrancy of the CBD and will increase revenue for local businesses."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said delivery of the fund

"continued to build city confidence" and the discount dining scheme had been "incredibly successful" with a flow-on effect of more than \$100 million to the city economy.

Notably, there was no funding in the budget for Victoria's second medically supervised injecting room, which is expected to be located in the CBD.

Former Victoria Police commissioner Ken Lay continues to work on a report, originally due by the end of 2020, which will recommend the most appropriate site.

This was pushed back after the government's initial preferred site, community health service Cohealth on Victoria St — was taken off the table after strong push-back from the council due to its proximity to vulnerable residents and the Queen Victoria Market.

The government is widely tipped to locate the safe injecting facility at the former Yooralla building at 244 Flinders St, which it purchased in 2021.

Treasurer Tim Pallas sent tongues wagging when he said in a budget interview that the government had finally received the report.

"The government is still considering the report we've received from former police commissioner Lay," Mr Pallas said on 3AW.

"We're yet to make a final decision about location and as such any commitment to the resourcing and ongoing operation of a second facility is yet to be made."

However, a state government spokesperson confirmed with *CBD News* that the treasurer had misspoken, and the government was yet to receive the report.

The only commitment the government could make was that the report would be completed in 2022, although it was unclear whether this would be before November's state election.

Elsewhere, there was no funding in the budget for the City of Melbourne's landmark Greenline project; a proposed four-kilometre trail along the north bank of the Yarra River from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge.

The council has pledged to fund a third of the \$300 million project and wants \$100 million each from both the state and federal governments.

And while Federal Labor pledged an initial \$20 million a week prior to the May 21 election, the Andrews Government was yet to commit to Greenline ●

## Doing queue time

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ELECTIONS

CBD residents were forced to queue for 90 minutes at polling booths on Saturday at an election that won't be forgotten in a hurry.

At the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) the queue extended for more than 500 metres.

Queues like this have not been seen since students lined up for food during the pandemic.

The situation was made worse by that fact that there were no polling booths in the CBD, sending residents on reconnaissance missions for short queues.

Sam Bowman, who lives in an apartment above the GPO, first checked out the polling booth to the north of the CBD at Peel St, North Melbourne.

"This morning I went to the one on the north side of the city," he told *CBD News*.

"The queue was around the city block, so I got on my scooter and came here."

Sam arrived at the Convention Centre at about 11.30am. By the time he emerged at about 1pm, the queue extended all the way from Door 10, where voting took place, to Door 1.

"I didn't mind standing in the queue," he said. "But the guy next to me was drunk and I tried to keep him quiet."

Sam said that the last time he voted in an election it took 30 minutes, and the booth was close to home.

"In previous years it was much better. I've always voted in the CBD at offices in Elizabeth and Flinders streets."

Electoral staff told *CBD News*



▲ The queue at the Convention Centre.

that staff shortages and the impact of COVID restrictions made queues move more slowly this year.

But this doesn't account for the fact that there were no polling booths in the CBD. At the last Federal election in 2019, voters were lined up on Spring St next to the familiar terrain of Parliament Station.

Residents were left wondering if the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) based its decision on estimated population figures.

"Who knows?" Sam said. "Perhaps it's because the CBD population has diminished."

An AEC spokesperson said, "Potential voting locations are carefully assessed prior to each federal election. Consideration is given to the geography of local area, population, past voting trends, nearby voting services, travel trends and accessibility."

Queues at MCEC at South Wharf were exacerbated by an influx of voters from nearby Mcnamara, tourists and workers.

One couple down in Melbourne for a romantic weekend without the kids spent 90 minutes of their precious away time in the queue.

They made the most of the experience and filmed their queue time in the big smoke to show their kids on return to Mt Evelyn ●

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# Horse-drawn carriages banned in the CBD

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

Horse-drawn carriage operators say the decision to ban their services in the CBD will destroy their livelihoods, arguing their practice is safe and horse welfare is “very important to us”. But the ban has been widely welcomed by animal rights and transport advocates, with the Roads Minister saying the decision was driven by safety.

“I was shocked that such a minority could have such a big impact on someone’s business,” Unique Carriage Hire owner Dean Crichton said.

“In the 35 years I’ve been in there, we’ve never had a crash where public damage has been done or a member of the public has been hurt.”

“Where is the fairness and common sense in all this?”

The state government pushed ahead with its decision to ban horse-drawn carriages in the CBD, which Roads Minister Ben Carroll said had been driven by a need to “increase safety.”

“We’re taking action to increase safety and traffic flow on Melbourne’s busiest streets as people increasingly return to our city’s roads and footpaths,” Mr Carroll said.

“The planned changes will make moving through the busy Hoddle Grid safer and easier for everyone – pedestrians, drivers, cyclists, delivery vans and trams.”

The ban, which followed consultation with key stakeholders and operators, will come into effect in the middle of June with carriages prohibited within the Hoddle Grid, from Spencer to Spring streets and Flinders to La Trobe streets.

It comes as the RSPCA attended 48 cruelty reports concerning carriage horses during the past five years.

RSPCA Victoria’s policy and advocacy manager, Mhairi Roberts, said the ban was a “significant step forward for the welfare of carriage horses.”



“The CBD poses multiple welfare risks for horses including cars, trams, excessive noise, crowds and oppressive heat in warmer months, all while working on hard ground,” she said.

But Mr Crichton maintained they weren’t cruel to horses, saying, “we spend so much time with our horses – they are family to us, and their quality of life is very important to us, so we ensure they have a good work-life balance.”

“We have more than 100 horses and rotate them regularly. We’re animal lovers. They’re picking on the people who love horses the most.”

After a one-hour meeting with a state government adviser, Mr Crichton was disappointed that addressing any safety concerns wasn’t an option including keeping carriages out of the city Monday to Friday during peak hours.

Mr Crichton said the impact of the ban wasn’t just about him but for “everyone in town, and the thousands of kids that come and pat my horses a week – that’s who I feel for.”

“It’s just absolutely gut-wrenching. I honestly wanted Melbourne to have carriages forever.”

Another carriage operator of 35 years, Ray Whittaker, who conducts rides for pensioners and disabled people, said the ban was “ridiculous” with no consultation or compensation being offered.

“What about the 27 horses I’ve got to feed? I have three or four casual drivers too,” he said.

“

*“The CBD poses multiple welfare risks for horses including cars, trams, excessive noise, crowds and oppressive heat in warmer months, all while working on hard ground.”*

”

“We’re not going to make any money outside the city. We had a few suggestions, and they asked us for nothing.”

Animal activists have long campaigned for the city’s iconic carriages to be banned, which heightened when a horse collapsed and died in North Melbourne in March last year.

But according to Mr Crichton, the horse had died of natural causes before starting work that day. “The vet said it was likely a brain aneurysm as the horse was young, fit, and healthy.”

“Unfortunately, just like people these things can happen, and it was absolutely heartbreaking for the owner.”

City of Melbourne councillor Rohan Leppert said he was “immensely grateful” the Roads Minister had approved the ban, arguing the Swanston St tram route was the busiest in the world and not a place for horses.

Operators will still be able to drive horse drawn carriages outside of the Hoddle Grid, however Mr Crichton said, “Once the city stops for me, I’m out of the picture. They’ve properly smashed by business.” ●



## New sculpture “with heart”

WORDS BY *Rebecca Broadhead*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Sculpture artist Jenny Reddin has installed a sculpture on Little Collins St to inspire office workers returning to the city and spread joy to passers-by.

Ms Reddin said she was “inspired to create a work where the figure is as much described by the empty space as by the crisscross of metal bar.”

The robust two-metre sculpture, which weighs 50kg, draws upon the experience of people finding connection through heartfelt communication and care for one another in community.

The figure resembles a Hellenistic kouros statue, which according to Ms Reddin has “a gentle, good heart.”

“Putting him together was an exercise in balance, form and sheer persistence. He was welded, then pulled apart multiple times because a wrong placement would throw out the entire form,” Ms Reddin said.

“As I was installing him I had numbers of people stop to talk, ask questions and take photos. One couple from Sydney commented on how much more dynamic Melbourne was than Sydney. That’s what we want.” ●

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# New restaurants and bars help revive CBD

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

New bars and restaurants are beginning to spring up in the CBD in a positive sign innovative thinkers are backing the city's revival.

Following two years of lockdowns, the return of bustling pavement cafes and laneway bars has brought the city back to life, with new openings also adding to the positive energy.

Jeremy Schinck, who recently opened Pearl Oyster & Chablis Bar in Bourke St, said the response from diners had gone above expectations.

"We are really getting that clientele that are focused and passionate about what we're doing, it's been a good response," he told *CBD News*.

Mr Schnick, who also operates Pinchy's Champagne & Lobster bar in Bourke St, said while opening a new venue was a gamble, he said, "It's a new experience and we want people to enjoy it."

Boasting an impressive collection of more than 500 Burgundy wines and the largest Chablis libraries in the country totalling more than \$300,000, Mr Schnick said, "It's super exciting, we're doing some things with wine, with burgundy that nobody else in the country is doing."

"The whole project was very expensive for a 28-seat bar. Fortunately, it's delivering what I wanted it to in terms of the ambience of the space, intimacy of the service, and the quality of the product is being appreciated."

Mr Schnick said he had freed up time from Pinchy's as he built relationships with the best oyster growers in the country.

"It fell into place; it was a marriage that evolved naturally. It's a hell of a lot of work but in terms of the brand it evolved naturally."

In terms of his impressive list of wines, which could also be the biggest in the world, he said, "It's something to be proud of for Melbourne" and "very exciting for people who like French wine."



▲ Michael and Zara Madrusan have launched Connie's Italian Diner and Rooftop Terrazza. Photo: Parker Blain.

Another venue to open in the CBD is Connie's Italian Diner and Rooftop Terrazza in Russell St. Launched on April 21, the owners Michael and Zara Madrusan of Made in the Shade Group, said they had created a space that catered to all, from family dining early evening through to late night good times on the dance floor.

"Our venues are renowned for the quality of their drinks and Connie's is no different. We've created a drinks list that plays into the fun that is Connie's while also having the credentials of a great bar," Mr Madrusan said.

Also excited to launch a new venue is Matthew Newman, director of The Stolen Gem in Bourke St, a stylish rooftop offering one

of the best skyline views in the CBD with the "food and the cocktails to back it up".

Mr Newman previously ran the space for events before lockdowns hit Melbourne, which he spent fighting a VCAT battle to bring the bar to fruition.

"The city is obviously still bouncing back ... but it's been busy, everybody has been loving it," he said, adding a key feature was their retractable roof. "We've had a lot of people come in and tag us on social media which has been great, our Instagram following has gone up heaps."

The iconic Madame Brussels rooftop bar is also under new ownership with a young entrepreneur reviving the venue after the previous owners were forced to shut during lockdowns.



▲ Jeremy Schinck is excited about the opening of his new venue, Pearl Oyster & Chablis Bar in the CBD.



The new openings come as City of Melbourne's pedestrian data in April showing foot traffic in Southbank had nudged pre-pandemic levels, reaching 94 per cent of the 2019 benchmark.

The City of Melbourne's small business portfolio lead Cr Jason Chang said things were "definitely looking better" in the city, "but they're not at pre-COVID levels yet" – with Property Council of Australia data showing office occupancy was at 35.7 per cent in April.

"It's good to see people giving it a go and trying their best to have a crack at it," Cr Chang said, but added it was a "two-sided sword" with hospitality businesses facing challenges of staff shortages and rising costs ●



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▲ Travis Martin with the Citywide wash plant.

## New harvest for Citywide

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
SUSTAINABILITY

Sometimes at about noon there will be a long line of street sweepers arriving from the CBD to offload their “harvest” at a large, rather complex wash plant at the Dynon Rd depot.

The tech guys at Citywide have invested in the innovative plant and have it running every day.

The sweepers drop off their mix of litter, leaves, sand and grit which has to be processed.

Since 2016 not one skerrick of street sweepings from the City of Melbourne has gone into landfill, according to depot manager Travis Martin, despite the expense of using the plant.

“None of the street sweepings go into landfill,” he said. “They come here.”

Last month sister publication *North West City News* reported on a new glass recycling plant at the depot that is dealing with the sugary dregs on bottles.

This month another of Citywide’s innovative operations has been revealed to *CBD News* as we step behind the recycling curtain that has shielded some waste disposal processes in the past.

The plant was the first in Australia when it began separating all of the components of the sweep and now other municipalities are beginning to catch on.

“You could say that we’re harvesting this from the road for processing and re-using,” Travis said.

There’s a drop-off point, a conveyor belt, a vibrator, a magnet and various pieces of equipment that divide the harvest into leaves for compost and sand and grit for the construction industry.

Street sweeping would seem to



be the least of the city’s problems in terms of waste management issues, but the process is just becoming economically viable with the rise in EPA levies for landfill over the past three years.

Before that, Travis said, “the cost, I think, was an inhibitor of some ideas. This looks like an expensive exercise. It has been. For some councils the cost of these projects outweighs the good.”

He said that most streets in the CBD were swept every day and that the municipality generates a large volume of waste, sand and grit blown off construction sites and leaves, which add 30 per cent to the volume in autumn.

It is estimated that more than 6000 tonnes per annum come off the city’s streets but the plant is able to process 22,000 tonnes.

The feed material is fed into a hopper, then a wash box, then another wash program with 95 per cent re-use of water.

Travis said the improvement of technology had been the driving force behind the plant as well as the change in attitudes.

“It seems to be with the progression of technology and innovation that different techniques are able to harness waste for re-usable products.” ●

# Melbourne’s hidden gem resurfaces on Little Collins St

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker  
BUSINESS

After spending the past 15 years on the basement level of Flinders Lane, unique contemporary jewellery gallery e.g.etal has decided to become more visible.

While adoring the exclusivity of the space being a hidden secret within Melbourne’s laneway culture, the jewellery gallery is returning to its roots on Little Collins St – the street where it all began 23 years ago.

Describing it as a “necessary move”, e.g.etal’s general manager Simone McNamara said it was time for the gallery to “rise up from the underground.”

“While it was lovely to be this little hidden gem that people could discover, we wanted to bring contemporary jewellery a bit more out in the open and have a more visible public space that could really showcase this art form to a wider audience,” she said.

The move into the new space comes after founder and director of e.g.etal, Emma Goodsir decided to move onto the next chapter in her life and leave the much-adored gallery in the hands of brother and sister duo Chelsea and Jaime Gough earlier this year.

Despite all the changes, Ms McNamara is confident that the vision of supporting artists and showcasing jewellery as an art form is still very much alive in the business today.

“What is really unique about e.g.etal is our approach to supporting artists. When you come into the space the work is presented under each artist’s name, so we don’t have a section that is for just rings or earrings,” Ms McNamara said.

“It really is about looking at each artist’s practices, their inspirations, materials, techniques and about the stories and connections behind the pieces they create.”

“It’s not about fashion, it’s not about things going in and out of trends, these really are pieces that are to be treasured for a lifetime.”

While the street level location now allows the chance to educate newcomers about what contemporary jewellery is and the beauty behind having handmade, authentic and sentimental pieces, e.g.etal is careful not to lose the aspects of what made them different from jewellery store chains.



▲ Simone McNamara.

Photos: Murray Enders.

“There has been a careful approach taken to zoning the space without blocking off all the beautiful advantages of being at street level. There has been an interesting geometric steel window display design that has been designed to create a sense of privacy and that sense of being separated from the street,” Ms McNamara said.

“e.g.etal is definitely a space we want to keep very warm and welcoming, with a sense of seclusion.”

The gallery has also retained and redesigned furniture and cabinets from their Flinders Lane location to not only be more sustainable but to also maintain a connection with the previous space.

Any additional differences made to the space have also been carefully thought through, with their intention being to only aid in further showcasing the 65 diverse artists they currently represent.

“We have gone from the underground monochromatic space to a lot more colour and vibrancy and light. There are a lot of tones from nature and part of the brief of the design was to [represent] the materials our artist’s work with which are from the earth or have some kind of connection to nature,” Ms McNamara said.

Loyal clients and visitors of e.g.etal can now expect a picturesque setting of rich terracotta earth colours, deep greens and blues, wood and stone tones to now occupy the space.

But more importantly, e.g.etal can also be expected to continue being an integral part of the Melbourne arts community, with all changes serving to only represent and showcase more artists to the city.

e.g.etal moved into the new space at 150 Little Collins St on April 22 and is currently operating Tuesday through to Saturday from 10am to 5pm ●

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





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# Shining a *Light* on the moving image

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Light. It's a phenomenon that has mystified humankind for millennia.

The challenge of wrangling and manipulating light has long fed the machinations of artists and scientists alike.

In an Australian exclusive, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) will examine the relationship of light and art in a major exhibition of more than 70 works from the national collection of renowned British art institution, Tate.

*Light: Works from Tate's Collection*, which runs from June 16 to November 13, celebrates ground-breaking moments from more than 200 years of art history, and the artists who harnessed this elemental force through painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, installation and the moving image.

With works like JM Turner's 1805 *The Deluge*, considered one of the earliest examples of harnessing light on canvas; Monet's 1894 *The Seine at Port-Villez*; James Turrell's *Raemar, Blue* and Olafur Eliasson's *Stardust Particle*, there is one question that looms like a shadow over the entire exhibition.

How do static masterpieces like these relate to the moving image?

According to ACMI curator, Laura Castagnini, through a chronological voyage from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to now, the thematic fascinations of light form the symbiotic foundations of a connection between static and moving art.



"Light is the building block of cinema, but it is also a phenomenon that has fascinated artists over the past 200 years. It has inspired artists to make work in all different media and spurred them on to develop innovative techniques," Ms Castagnini said.

"The exhibition takes the audience on a journey through the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries with different sections cross-thematically presented. We have a section on impressionism, a section on Bauhaus photography, or 1960 light sculpture and dotted throughout that history there are contemporary artworks that draw out that thematic connections."

"Take John Constable's iconic seascapes for example. We have paired his serene *Harwich Lighthouse*, with *Disappearance at Sea* by Tacita

Dean from the mid-1990s."

"These two artists, one from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the other from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century are both thinking about a very similar concept, but one is doing it with paint and the other is using the moving image."

The exhibition tests how light can invigorate, deceive and conjure emotions. Its malleability being the essential component that has wondered artists from all disciplines.

As French artist, filmmaker and writer, Jean Cocteau said, "cinema is the form of modern writing whose ink is light."

*Light* is one of three major exhibitions to grace the confines of ACMI's new \$40 million upgrade which will also house a major new commission by contemporary Australian artist



Mikala Dwyer, along with the much-anticipated feature of *Light Music*, 1975, by Lis Rhodes.

As one of the early proponents of expanded cinema, Rhodes positions audiences as both participants and spectators in a work revealing the experimental interrelationship of light and the moving image.

*Light* will also feature a program of talks, where you will see Ms Castagnini host curator Matthew Watts, as well as film screenings, performances, workshops and late-night events ●

**For more information:**  
[acmi.net.au](http://acmi.net.au)

# Feeling *hygge* in the big city

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARCHITECTURE

On May 19, Lord Mayor Sally Capp turned a sod on a new multi-million-dollar mixed use development by Mirvac at the corner of Flinders and Spencer streets.

After the opening ceremony, one of the architects for the project was in Howie Place talking to *CBD News* about his design philosophy.

Live Aston will have two towers, one a build-to-rent (BTR) residential tower and the other commercial, but they don't concern Michael Frazzetto.

When asked how tall the towers were, he said he didn't know. What he calls ego-driven architecture is not his thing. What happens on the ground is.

There will be an arcade adjacent to the lobbies and it will only be five metres wide. "We want to compress the activity down to the human scale and punctuate it with detail in the first five metres," he said.

Michael is director of Six Degrees and the company has made its name in the CBD with its laneway bars, beginning with Meyers Place bar in 1994, and a philosophy that transformed the city.

"Melbourne was dead in the '90s. The narrative of discovery became the Melbourne thing. 'I'm a cool cat' is the key to the vibe. In Sydney they have glitzy venues and events."

Michael trained in Copenhagen under Jan Ghel and his first assignment was to go out into the street and observe.

"Look at the way that woman is walking," Jan said. "She's walking close to the wall because she feels protected. People like edges," Michael said.

Instead of thinking big, Six Degrees thinks small. "We're trying to understand behaviour. What makes people feel comfortable? Humans are very little. They need to be protected like babies."

The success of new developments such as Live Aston won't depend on who the commercial tenants are or what the concierge does to promote it, but the way people move.

"I don't like curated spaces. I don't like signage and way-finding. I want the life of the space to tell me that."

He said programmed events or the hiring of buskers to woo in visitors are just the icing on the cake. "The space has to work on its own merits."

The company got its experience in hospitality and "a bar has to work on a Friday night and a Tuesday morning, for both extroverts and introverts."

Six Degrees recently got a chance to bring these ideas to Docklands. The firm's first mixed use development is Escala at 379 Docklands Drive, a 20-storey residential tower with a six-storey commercial podium, where they are trying to "accelerate evolution."

The site has a 50-metre frontage. In Collins St in the CBD there would be 20 shops. He said it's difficult to work



▲ *Angela Buckley, Sally Capp, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz, Jason Vieusseux.*



▲ *Michael Frazzetto at the Alley Edition in Howie Place, one of his favourite CBD nooks.*

with that scale. "We've tried to break the precinct down into pieces."

There is lead lighting on the windows, a square created by setting the building back and most significant of all, the lobbies to both the residential and commercial buildings converge.

"You have to work hard to get a sense of action, a feedback mechanism," he said. "We're looking at ways of making people more visible. It adds to the safety of urban life."

The first thing that went in was the café. "We made sure that it was protected from the wind and sunny. It passes the newspaper test."

He said a lot of architects don't have time to get to the level of detail at the ground. He said it took three years to get the Live Aston project off the ground and they had to pitch their ideas to MAB Corporation for Escala.

Live Aston, Escala and Riverside Quay all come from studying the infrastructure of the CBD which has been evolving for 150 years.

There are four entrances to Howie Place, providing nooks and crannies for people to hide, a model that comes out of the Danish concept of *hygge*, meaning cosy.

"It's not just about shy people sitting in lanes but what's the appropriate scale." ●



▲ *Rhonda Birchmore at the opening night and (below) red carpet moment for Sally Capp.*

# Dylan fans in the spotlight

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Bob Dylan fans were out in their droves for the opening night of a new musical at the Comedy Theatre last month featuring the great protest singer's songs.

The fans were looking a bit older but claimed they still knew all the words.

This turned out to be a rather wild claim since Dylan produced 40 albums.

When Conor McPherson broached the idea of writing the musical, Dylan couriered all of the albums over for his selection.

Some 23 songs are featured in *Girl from the North Country*, including such old favourites as *Hurricane* and *Forever Young*.

Among the glitterati to arrive for the opening night were the Lord Mayor Sally Capp, musical star Rhonda Birchmore and a host of footballers and TV celebrities.

They were determined to have fun and the music did not disappoint.

The songs were used as part of a free-wheeling Thanksgiving celebration set in the 1930s in mid-west Duluth, Minnesota, Dylan's hometown.

An Irish tyrant, who runs a boarding house, wants to commit his wife, played by Lisa McCune, to an insane asylum and marry off his black adopted daughter, played by Chemon



Theys, to an old white guy.

Race relations are not exactly enlightened in this step back into hokey American life.

There are too many old white guys throwing their weight around, including a doctor and a minister.

Those expecting to see the other side of Dylan, the laid-back drawl with the keen turn of phrase and biting political lyrics will be disappointed.

The songs are sung sweeter, and their content is used to depict rather than critique Depression America, 10 years before Dylan was born.

There is a nostalgic drift to the characterisation, the drifters, ne'er do wells and poor romantics striving for love and understanding as they go about their dead beat lives.

The set was a cross between *Little House on the Prairie* and a cowboy saloon, with plenty of turned timber, if not a rocking chair.

The audience loved it, though, proving that musicals are not meant to be analysed but enjoyed. Critics should stay home!

*Girl from the North Country*, Comedy Theatre, until June 11 ●

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2022-23

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with 11 diverse neighbourhoods. Our draft Budget 2022-23 sets out how we plan to invest in the CBD - Hoddle Grid to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will build Melbourne's momentum.



			
<b>Residential population</b> <b>54,738</b>	<b>Number of businesses</b> <b>8,230</b>	<b>Main occupation Professionals</b> <b>34%</b>	<b>Residents born overseas</b> <b>83%</b>

## INVESTING IN CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne will deliver a record infrastructure program, investing \$270 million in projects across the municipality in 2022-23 to plan for the future needs of the community.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said 'our super-charged infrastructure pipeline invests in Melbourne's momentum - building confidence and creating up to 1,000 jobs at a critical time for our city'.

'We're investing in our community facilities and making important upgrades to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our city,' she said.

New infrastructure investments and upgrades in the CBD - Hoddle Grid include:

- \$50 million for Queen Victoria Precinct Renewal Program
- \$40 million for Greenline
- \$8.4 million for Make Room

- \$8.2 million for Munro Library and Community Hub
- \$6.3 million for major streetscape improvements
- \$4.1 million for Princes Bridge bluestone repair works
- \$3.2 million for Exhibition Street bike lane
- \$1.5 million to improve pedestrian priority in our Little Streets
- \$900,000 for Melbourne City Baths essential improvement works
- \$300,000 for Moomba Festival's parade floats
- \$130,000 for wayfinding signage program, extending signs to priority areas
- \$100,000 for Riverside Skate Park redevelopment
- \$1.2 million for cycle infrastructure
- \$370,000 to reduce speed limits
- \$1.5 million for other green space, infrastructure and cultural projects.

Renewal and maintenance works to be carried out in the CBD - Hoddle Grid in 2022-23 include:

- More than \$10 million on renewal works for roadways, footpaths, drains, kerbs and channels, parks, landscape, banner poles, library collection and property.
- More than \$3.4 million on maintenance works including at our community facilities and other property, for urban forest health, pedestrian infrastructure, wayfinding signage and smoke-free areas.
- Through the Business Precinct Program, we will invest up to \$450,000 annually to support the City, Chinatown, Collins Street, Greek and Melbourne City North precinct associations for business support and activation initiatives.



To find out more about what we're doing in your neighbourhood over the next 12 months, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans).

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.



We're committed to investing in your neighbourhood



Elizabeth Street pop-up library



Melbourne City Baths

## INVESTING IN LOCAL SERVICES

City of Melbourne is committed to providing the highest level of services to our community.

### Libraries and community spaces

At the City Library we provide loans of books and other material to about 9900 members. We run programs for children, teenagers and adults and have a social worker based at the library.

The City of Melbourne also manages the Melbourne Town Hall, Multicultural Hub and Drill Hall, which have bookable spaces for community use.

### Parks and open spaces

We manage and maintain around 20 public open spaces and 2 playgrounds in the CBD - Hoddle Grid. Of particular significance are the Domain Parklands, Kings Domain and Queen Victoria Gardens.



### Culture and tourism

We support the creative sector through venues we manage and operate. In 2022-23 we will support three exhibitions at City Gallery. ArtPlay and SIGNAL provides creative opportunities for families, children and young people throughout the year. We will also deliver six Town Hall Grand Organ concerts this year, and three Federation Bells performances a day.

We run visitor information centres in Bourke Street, Town Hall and at Queen Victoria Market.



### Sporting and recreation venues

The Melbourne City Baths has about 1300 members who make 200,000 visits a year. The venue offers a gym, group fitness, swimming pool, swimming lessons, squash, facility hire and Mikvah Bathhouse.

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# LANDMARK BUDGET INVESTS IN MELBOURNE'S MOMENTUM

**City-shaping infrastructure projects, a stellar events calendar and making the city safer and cleaner are highlights of the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2022-23.**

The record \$837.8 million investment to build city-shaping projects, promote a jam-packed calendar of events, and make the city cleaner and safer will ensure the Melbourne experience is better than ever for residents, workers and visitors.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the draft Budget is designed to make our city cleaner, greener and full of people again.

'The City of Melbourne is the engine room of the Victorian economy so it's imperative that we continue to invest in its momentum.'

'This draft Budget is a record \$837.8 million investment to build momentum, create confidence and deliver essential services for the city and the community.'

'We're investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create a fairer, better-connected, and even more extraordinary city.'

Our draft Budget is big on delivery, job creation and investing in the city's sustained momentum.



*Our draft Budget will build momentum and restore confidence*

## INVESTING IN CITY-SHAPING INFRASTRUCTURE

Our draft Budget includes a record \$254 million on infrastructure to build better facilities, create jobs and supercharge the economy.

Our landmark Greenline project will receive an initial \$40 million to bring it to life, transforming the north bank of the Yarra River - Birrarung into a vibrant promenade.

In another significant milestone for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal, we're spending \$50 million on the planned next stage of the project.

Works to restore the market's heritage sheds will be completed within the year, along with the revamped Food Hall. Construction will begin on upgrades to the Queen Street streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed, making it easier for traders to do business.

The massive infrastructure pipeline will generate up to 1,000 jobs,

providing a significant economic boost for businesses across the city.

Investment in major community infrastructure projects includes \$25 million for the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment. With construction already underway, the new facility will boast a 25-metre pool, gymnasium, multi-purpose courts, community spaces, and accessible change-rooms.

More than \$8.2 million will complete the fit-out of the Munro Library and Community Hub, with the project slated for completion in 2023.

We've also allocated \$13.7 million to repair and maintain footpaths, roads and other city infrastructure. This includes another footpath blitz, as well as new street furniture, wayfinding signage and street lighting.

## RECORD YEAR OF EVENTS



*Events will enliven our city*

We're planning our biggest year of events, investing a record \$33.7 million in festivals, activations and creative initiatives to enliven our streets and laneways, entice visitors into the city, support local businesses and cement Melbourne as the events and cultural capital of the country.

All the city's favourite events will return bigger and better than ever - Christmas Festival, Moomba, New Year's Eve, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week, Melbourne Music Week.

All the fun begins in July when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice - featuring a new immersive lighting display, fire installations, music, live performances and food trucks.

We're drawing again on our constructive partnership with the State Government, to boost community festivals and initiatives, through the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund.

## RATES KEEP OUR CITY SERVICES RUNNING

We continue to create city confidence with this year's budget, and rates have their part to play.

Rates are necessary to keep our city running. Our teams work around the clock delivering essential services from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety schemes.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses, we will return to the normal rates cycle by implementing the Victorian Government's 1.75 per cent rates cap.

This will ensure we can deliver on all essential services residents and traders rely on, as well as continuing to deliver on all major projects.

We will help cost of living pressures for pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$247, the most generous in the state.

To provide ratepayers with a clearer picture of what they're paying, waste costs will be listed as a separate item on rates notices. This brings the City of Melbourne in line with most other Victorian councils.

Finance portfolio lead Councillor Philip Le Liu said investments in the draft Budget will ensure Melbourne remains the engine room of the Victorian economy, while building momentum to create a fairer, better-connected city, and delivering more initiatives than ever before.

'Years of disciplined financial management made it possible to increase investment to support our community as the pandemic steered our city off track over a difficult two years,' Cr Le Liu said.

'After delivering consecutive recovery-focused budgets and providing \$17 million in rates relief, this draft Budget puts us in a strong position to deliver a surplus in 2023-24.'



*We're working hard to keep the city clean*

## KEEPING THE CITY CLEANER AND SAFER

We've listened to our residents and ratepayers, and keeping our city attractive, clean, and safe is imperative.

So, we're doubling down on our efforts to keep the city clean, safe and free from graffiti, with a huge \$33.6 million investment. That's almost \$5 million more than last year to do this.

We're expanding our Rapid Response Clean Team to fast-track graffiti

removal and doubling our investment in high pressure cleaning.

To keep people safe and crack down on antisocial behaviour, \$5.4 million will be invested into critical safety infrastructure and resources, including \$2 million to improve city lighting in areas such as St Kilda Road and the Yarra River's north bank.



*All your favourite events are back*



*We continue to deliver for our community*



Greenline will transform the north bank of the river



Floating wetlands will transform the river

**Green light for Greenline**  
In the biggest vote of confidence yet for the landmark Greenline project, we'll invest \$140 million in the city-shaping project over the next four years. In the next year, a record \$40 million will be spent to create floating wetlands, begin transforming almost 600 meters of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr and continue early works along the north bank.



Backing business with continued support

**FIRST CHOICE FOR BUSINESS**

Our draft Budget invests in making Melbourne the first choice for business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment and visitors to boost spending and restore confidence. We'll spend \$730,000 to extend our Business Concierge service – providing recovery and specialised support, startup advice and mentoring at no cost to more than 15,000 businesses.

A \$1 million commitment for Invest Melbourne will ramp up work to encourage new proposals, attract global headquarters and significant projects, and simplify start-up processes.

More than 60 businesses looking to establish in Australia have already been identified, and Invest Melbourne is actively targeting these organisations to choose Melbourne over any other capital city.

A new digital system to fast-track permits is also set to be introduced, making it even easier for businesses and developers to lodge and track applications for dozens of different permit types, including on-street trading and business advertising.

More than \$500,000 will support 1,500 hospitality venues and 1,000 creatives through the extension of outdoor dining and busking permit fee waivers until 31 October. Since 2020, Council has absorbed \$2 million in permit fees to ease the burden.

**A GREENER CITY**

Our draft Budget includes a \$50 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.

More than \$26 million has been committed to protecting and maintaining the city's parks and gardens, along with an additional \$1.6 million to replace public toilets in Fitzroy Gardens and Carlton Gardens, and \$2 million to improve the southern sports field in Fawkner Park.

The city's green canopy will be vital in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, with \$1.8 million for

the annual tree planting program to add 2,400 new trees across the municipality.

We will continue to build on our commitment to combat climate change and move towards net zero emissions with a \$650,000 investment in the landmark Power Melbourne project – creating a neighbourhood scale battery network to supply renewable energy to the community.

Work in the coming year will focus on engaging with the community, as well as designing and funding the first batteries in partnership with the private sector.



We're turning grey space into green

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Thursday 23 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 28 June.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)



Our parks and gardens are a key part of Melbourne's liveability

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

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

# Awards set to showcase inspirational Melburnians

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

Converting potato waste into Australia's first certified compostable cling wrap has seen Jordy and Julia McKay take their business to new heights.

The couple's idea was sparked after seeing huge amounts of plastic pallet wrap go to landfill during their former careers as a winemaker and an architect, respectively.

Now running a thriving business called Great Wrap, which was launched at the start of the pandemic, the duo is now set to tap into the global market – something they could only have previously dreamed of.

The couple's innovative thinking and bid to end single-use plastics and micro plastics also saw them win the sustainability category last year in the City of Melbourne's prestigious Melbourne Awards, which recognises the positive contributions of individuals and organisations to the local community.

"It's going crazy well, we just got our second factory about four weeks away from being fully commissioned," Ms Kay told *CBD News*, adding they were on the cusp of breaking into the global market.

"We'll be the largest manufacturer of stretch wrap in Australia. We're launching in the US in August, getting set for global expansion, which is really amazing."

Their eco-wrap – which breaks down in less than 180 days once placed in a household compost bin – is produced in a solar-powered factory on the Mornington Peninsula, with their product catering for both households and businesses.

Ms McKay said as part of their journey the team was incredibly honoured to have taken out the sustainability award last year.

"It was pretty exciting for us, and the team loved it as well, it really gave them a sense of pride."

Nominations have now opened for this year's Melbourne Awards, which close June 30.

Now in its 20th year, the Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade – with eight key categories reflecting the way in which programs and organisations contribute to Melbourne as a thriving, forward-thinking city.

This includes community, knowledge and innovation, arts and events, urban design, hospitality, sustainability, Aboriginal Melbourne, and LGBTIQ+.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp encouraged anyone who knew an inspirational Melburnian to nominate their work for a Melbourne Award.

"Over the past two decades, we've been shining a light on the incredible work of so many Victorians who have gone above and beyond to drive innovation, create inclusive communities, ignite our creative sector and share ideas about the future of our city," she said.

"Our people make our city the great place that it is, and we want to showcase their efforts."

Last year's winners included The Torch, a program supporting Aboriginal art in prison and in the community, which took out the Aboriginal Melbourne - Kommargee Ketherba award.

A RMHive app, which was developed to respond to the unique mental health needs of health care workers, was bestowed the knowledge and innovation award.

Businesswoman and Richmond Football Club president Peggy O'Neal AO was crowned 2021 Melburnian of the Year.

The 2022 winners will be announced at the Melbourne Awards ceremony in November as part of a special televised broadcast on Channel 9 ●

For more information:



# Consumer watchdog investigates QVM products not meeting "labelling requirements"

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

Victoria's consumer watchdog has investigated concerns raised in relation to incorrectly labelled products being sold at some Queen Victoria Market stalls, which were found to contain the presence of animal fur.

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) confirmed it had recently carried out independent testing, which "showed that none of the products tested met labelling requirements".

"Consumer Affairs Victoria took immediate action to address breaches and ensure traders and the Queen Victoria Market were aware of their obligations," a CAV spokesperson said.

"Consumer Affairs Victoria will continue to monitor this issue, taking further action where necessary."

A statement from Queen Victoria Market's management said stallholders were required to comply with all statutory rules and regulations related to the operation of their business.

"Queen Victoria Market is unaware of items containing cat fur being sold at the market," it said.

"We do not condone the sale of any goods of this nature and work with traders and relevant authorities to resolve specific situations when they are brought to our attention."

The investigation comes as Animal Justice Party (AJP) MP Andy Meddick said a \$20 pair of gloves, which was recently purchased at the market, was sent off to a testing lab in America, which found a hair sample originating from a domestic cat.

"That [the pair of gloves] was tested in a lab in California. There are not very many of these labs around the world that can actually do this type of testing because the equipment is very expensive," Mr Meddick said.

"The problem that we have is we know that this is not just confined to markets here in Victoria; it's widespread across shops."

Mr Meddick said the AJP had carried out an investigation in 2019 that revealed a "number of products" at markets – not just QVM – that were purportedly labelled as either faux or fake fur "or just not labelled at all" but "they actually tested to be either dog such as Labrador, or raccoon dogs, and other animals."

He said the AJP had worked closely with former Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz to set up a task force "which returned similar types of end results".

“

*We do not condone the sale of any goods of this nature and work with traders and relevant authorities to resolve specific situations...*

”

Mr Meddick said Queen Victoria Market and South Melbourne Market were "the two that were concentrated on at that time" with South Melbourne Market having "acted very quickly and banned the sale of such products" while QVM "determined that they would approach the stallholders".

Following Consumer Affairs Victoria's latest investigation, Mr Meddick said a complete ban on the sale of such products was needed to prevent consumers from being deceived.

"We're looking into the legalities of how you can do that under legislation because importation of goods from overseas is clearly a federal responsibility," he said. Australian Consumer Law requires that fur products are not to be mislabelled so consumers can make informed choices. If a product contains five per cent or more of animal fibre, this should be identified on the labelling.

*The Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations Act 1956* prohibits the import of dog and cat fur into Australia unless the importer is authorised by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection to do so.

CAV said the Victorian Government was currently reviewing the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*, led by Agriculture Victoria.

Advocacy group Collective Fashion Justice has also weighed in on the issue, with its founder and director Emma Håkansson saying it had "consistently found items" at markets "which are unlabelled, or which are mislabelled – genuine animal fur sold as faux fur, products labelled with one species name, when they are, in fact, another species." "We are calling on a state-wide ban on the sale of genuine animal fur, because people deserve to buy clothing that aligns with their values," Ms Håkansson said ●

# The Regent Theatre is getting its very own "glass slipper moment"

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The magic of theatre has been amiss during the past few years, and for many performers like local Melburnian Josh Gardiner, the impact has been felt.

But thanks to venues like the Regent Theatre, good nights spent at the theatre are already ramping up and many performers are getting their opportunity to finally be back in front of live audiences.

Performing in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* at the Regent Theatre, the exact stage where he had his last role in *Billy Elliot the Musical*, which was cancelled due to COVID, Mr Gardiner can't help but "get goosebumps."

"I remember the cast was all crying because we couldn't believe what was happening, and I put my hand on the wall at the Regent Theatre and thought, 'I will never be back here.' I keep pinching myself because I can't believe we are actually doing it," he said.



Growing up in the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, Mr Gardiner moved to the big city after high school and studied musical theatre for three years at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

Upon graduating, his career took off and saw him land a wide range of roles in various different productions, but it is his latest role as the non-traditional character of Jean-Michel in *Cinderella* that has made him feel most at home.

"Jean-Michel is labelled as a bit of a firebrand, so he is full of energy



and I think he is not too far from the person I am and I have always wanted to step into a character that felt natural to me and use my instincts," Mr Gardiner said.

"I keep saying it's a bit of my glass slipper moment because this character fits me like a shoe and that's why I was so drawn to it."

While his character's storyline does involve a "cheeky little love affair" with one of Cinderella's step-sisters as he continuously visits the house to bring his university books to Cinderella, Mr Gardiner said the

production had all the elements people had grown to love about the classic fairy tale.

"We still have big, beautiful costumes and there is a lovely ball scene, and we definitely have the glass slipper and follow Cinderella's love story," he said.

"But you can expect a bit more of a fuller story where she also has a passion for changing the people around her and creating a beautiful world where everyone is kind to each other and living with integrity."

As well as getting to witness Mr Gardiner perform as a refreshing new character, audiences will be able to enjoy the performances of iconic Australian performers Todd McKenney, Silvie Paladino and Tina Bursill.

*Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* started production on May 20 and will be running up until mid-July.

And there is still plenty more in store for the theatre upon its closing night.

The Victorian Government recently announced that it was supporting the Regent Theatre in hosting the

Australian premiere of West End's award-winning contemporary musical *& Juliet*.

The production has only ever been shown in London and Toronto and it follows Juliet, from *Romeo and Juliet*, as she chooses her own fate rather than choosing death.

The production will feature hit contemporary songs and according to Jason Marriner, CEO of Marriner Group – the company which owns and operates the Regent Theatre – CBD visitors were going to be "spoilt for choice."

"We're delighted and very fortunate to have such strong productions filling our theatres at the moment, particularly after the challenges of the last few covid interrupted years. We're also very happy that audiences are confidently returning to the theatre and clearly enjoying themselves again," he said.

"Theatre is a major pillar of Melbourne's major events strategy, and we have a lot to look forward to in the coming years, including the recently announced Australian premiere of *& Juliet* opening at the Regent Theatre in February 2023." ●

# Explaining active citizenship: responsibility, participation and change

*The Victorian state election will be held in November 2022 after the recent Australian federal election and the Melbourne City Council election is scheduled for October 2024.*

WORDS BY *Arman I Rashid, PhD*

These upcoming elections will allow voters to exercise their right to franchise, make choices for representatives and have their voice heard in the political process, which brings to fore the importance of “active citizenship” during elections – and beyond.

## Active citizenship

What is “active citizenship”? It refers to sustained civic engagement in the political process by residents to improve the lives of others and shape the future in a community (Adler & Goggin, 2005). The concept emerges from an empowering political philosophy emphasising not only the rights but also responsibilities of voters in bringing about positive change. In other words, voters have a critical role in democratic governance with their active participation in the political process.

## Improved governance, cohesiveness

An informed and involved citizenry will augur well for better accountability, transparency and responsiveness in all tiers of government – federal, state and municipal. In fact, “active citizenship” entails an interdependent relationship between politicians and voters in upholding democracy, rule of law and governance. Voters have a stake, role and responsibility to participate in the political process for better policy-making and service delivery.

A higher level of civic engagement can

lead to more social cohesiveness in a community, particularly for diverse constituencies like Melbourne. The City of Melbourne is itself home to more than 140 cultures from Aboriginal traditional owners to recent migrants. “Active citizenship” enables voters to develop a sense of belongingness irrespective of their backgrounds by voicing concerns, advocating reforms, and engaging in community activities, thereby playing a constructive role in improving their quality of life.

## Mindset shift

There may inevitably be varying degrees of satisfaction with governance, but this begs the question whether we have played our due role as voters in the first place? The underlying motivations of “active citizenship” can be explained by existential self-interest – quite simply, voters recognising their stakes and making a choice to participate proactively in the political process for their own, family and community wellbeing. It is about taking ownership of what is our own: different tiers of government.

Bearing in mind our collective benefits, “active citizenship” requires a mindset shift that the onus of good governance and positive change lies not only with elected representatives but also ourselves as voters with a role to play. Though voting is a key component of civic engagement, our responsibilities as voters are not limited to election day. It is imperative to have a sustained engagement with the political process in the lead-up to and aftermath of elections if we want to ensure policy decisions are reflective of community needs.

## Road to civic engagement

Given the benefits of “active citizenship”, how can we be more involved in the political process? There is no “one-size-fits-all” formula for civic engagement – the nature and level of participation will depend on our own preferences and circumstances. Something is better than nothing when it comes to fulfilling our ongoing responsibilities as informed and involved

citizenry. Here are some steps for fostering better civic engagement.

## Learn, explore, and decide

Australia has compulsory voting, but it is important to make informed choices in casting our ballots. We need to learn about the Australian political system, parliamentary structure, government tiers, political parties, candidates, manifestos and commitments. We need to have a strong grasp of current issues affecting the electorate, including a self-awareness of values and priorities, before deciding which party or candidate offers the best outcomes for our community. There are many new digital platforms to raise awareness, for instance Polipedia and Vote Compass.

## Connect with our community

We have often lost track of our neighbours, particularly in urban settings. The pandemic has reminded us once again about the importance of community and this is the perfect time for connecting with neighbours again. If we live in an apartment block, there may be opportunities for joining body corporate meetings or organising a resident social gathering. This can help build a sense of belongingness, inclusivity and solidarity based on shared priorities.

## Engage with politicians

It is important to make our voice heard not only on election day but also after that. In fact, voter participation in the political process is arguably even more important after the elections to ensure elected representatives receive feedback, fulfil commitments, and respond to community aspirations. There are many ways to engage with elected representatives, including signing petitions, writing letters, or interacting with their teams through social media platforms. In addition, we can join formal community consultations initiated by city councils from time to time.

## Join a community platform

There are also opportunities to join community groups raising awareness or providing service delivery in our localities. Residents 3000, for instance, is a not-for-profit association founded in 1993 to promote the welfare of Melbourne CBD residents. We organise monthly community meetings, advocate policy reforms, and engage closely with the City of Melbourne and elected representatives. For

more information, please visit the Residents 3000 website.

## Nurture civic responsibility

Last but not least, we can nurture the values and benefits of “active citizenship” among the next generation. We can enlighten children about civic engagement by helping them learn about political systems, electoral processes, political parties, and voter responsibilities during and after elections. This will help young people develop political literacy and civic responsibility to play a constructive role as informed and involved citizens in the future.

## Agency for change

We can start with small steps towards big strides for more active involvement as change agents in the political process. It can begin with more knowledge on the political system, parties, and candidates, while reminding ourselves of the need for sustained civic engagement during elections and beyond. For Melbourne City Council, residents can enrol as voters even if they are not Australian citizens provided conditions for owning or occupying rateable property within the City of Melbourne are fulfilled. For more information, please visit the City of Melbourne website.

Australia is blessed with a democratic system offering “active citizenship” opportunities for voters. It is an opportunity for old and new residents, including migrants from diverse communities, to contribute to our new homeland. Voters have an indispensable role in ensuring accountability, transparency, and responsiveness through participation in the political process, which will translate to a “government of the people, by the people and for the people” envisioned by Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address.

Godspeed democracy and civic engagement! ●

*Arman I Rashid, PhD is a committee member of Residents 3000. He is a political analyst-turned-mental health professional committed to civic engagement and democratic governance.*

**To join Residents 3000, visit: [residents3000.com.au](https://residents3000.com.au)**

## PRECINCTS

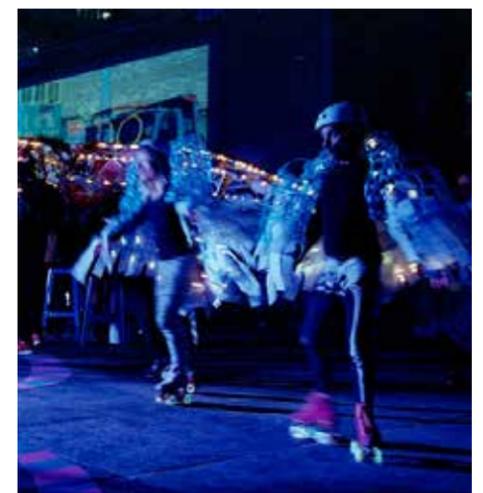
# Winter in Chinatown

“

*As the colder months creep in, there is plenty to warm your bones and celebrate in Melbourne’s Chinatown.*

”

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*



Chinatown’s annual, and ever popular, Dragon Boat Festival returns on Sunday, June 5, with zongzi (sticky rice pudding) making demonstrations, a life storytelling of the Dragon Boat or Duan Wu Festival, and lion dance performances.

Chinatown Precinct Association (CPA) will be giving away free zongzi and Julie’s famous cheese sandwich biscuits. The event will run from 12pm to 3pm acting as a warmup for special “Pop-up Chinatown Treats” market day.

Spanning two weekends, between 4pm and 10pm, June 3 to 5 and June 10 to 12, Heffernan Lane will be transformed into a hawker-style oasis with dumplings, rice, noodles, satay, cakes and more.

“The whiff from the hawker-style stalls will entice you to stay until night; see the transformation of the laneway into a true Night Market with Magical Mirabella Lighting,” CPA vice-president Eng Lim said.

“Come and enjoy the hawker-style eateries,

Asian stores and memorabilia that Melbourne’s Chinatown has to offer and be entertained by the Lion Troupe Performances.”

The markets will coincide up Melbourne’s newest arts and culture festival, RISING, turning Chinatown’s Golden Square car park into a three-level hub of art, performance, parades and rooftop bars.

Smack bang in the middle of the longest continuous Chinatown in the west will be a twisting maze of contemporary art.

Cultures, religions and identities overlap with new iterations of centuries-old folklore with rough concrete pillars, glowing pyramids and a capitalist mega-church; the architecture of a multi-level exhibition of ritual, mythology and digital spirituality ●

**For more information: [chinatownmelbourne.com.au](https://chinatownmelbourne.com.au)**

OC MANAGEMENT

# Tips for committees to build a thriving owners' corporation

*The most important role within an owners' corporation (OC) is that of the committee of management. Working together with the OC manager, it is the committee's role to ensure things are running smoothly. Without good governance, this can be an impossible task.*



We've rounded up some best-practice suggestions to help your committee and community thrive.

### Preparation for the AGM

The annual general meeting (AGM) is an integral date in an OC's calendar. It is the time for all members to come together, discuss issues, understand progress and vote upon the future direction of the OC. It also the best opportunity a committee has to highlight the hard work they do on behalf of all owners and celebrate achievements.

An AGM must be held within 15 months of the previous one, and best-practice is to hold it within three months of the end of the OC's financial year. To ensure the AGM is as productive as possible, committees should ensure they meet ahead of the AGM to review the financials, approve a budget, and head into the AGM with a clear recommendation to owners.

The *Owners' Corporation Act 2021* stipulates that the committee must also provide a report of its activities at the AGM. Generally, the chairperson would provide this report. We recommend sharing a written report along with the AGM notice so that owners have a chance to read it beforehand and bring along any questions they may have.

### Building a strong relationship with your OC manager

The committee will need to communicate effectively, not just among themselves, but with the OC manager, building manager, and fellow owners. Good communication is the foundation of good relationships, and building strong relationships builds a strong OC.

The OC manager will often be the committee's mouthpiece to all owners. They play an important role in keeping things running, by sending out important communications, directives and getting levies issued and paid.

OC managers not only support multiple

committees, but also communicate with owners, tenants, property managers, contractors and more, each day. This means an extremely high volume of calls and emails to manage.

To ensure you get the most out of your relationship with your manager, we recommend avoiding cc'ing them in on committee discussions. Consider alternative platforms for discussion such as WhatsApp. Best practice is to email your manager with the resolution only, to ensure it can be actioned in a timely manner.

Your OC manager is also a wealth of knowledge, resources, and support, so don't be afraid to reach out and see how they might be able to make your life easier.

### Boosting community engagement

Communication to owners, if left to routine items such as AGM and levy notices, can become dry. This may result in low engagement from owners, which is not conducive to a thriving OC.

We recommend that committees also spread positive messages to the community, to share progress and good news stories between AGMs.

Initiatives like community newsletters, electronic noticeboards or WhatsApp groups are all great ways to boost engagement. You can also actively solicit feedback through surveys, allowing owners and tenants to feel heard.

These items can even be tasked to subcommittees, which is a great way to bring additional owners into committee operations.

These are just some ways committee members can improve the operation of their OC, boost community engagement and maximise their efforts on the committee. If you want to learn more, The Knight recently ran a training webinar for committee members on this topic. Access it by scanning the QR code below ●



TRADER PROFILE



# Designs worthy of turning a hobby into a full-time gig

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

While always intrigued by at-home craft projects and activities, Tash Macleod's typical day was spent working in the hospitality industry up until last year.

Sitting in her lounge room in August, she was intently focusing on her latest hobby of creating jewellery out of clay when her entrepreneurial-minded partner Omer Kadioglu suggested they could make something of this new passion.

Deciding to buy all the equipment needed to expand the collection to their friends and family, Tash and Omer soon turned their home project into a full-fledged business under the name Kadio Designs.

"We realised this could be a business and so that's when we applied for the Queen Victoria Market. We moved in at the end of November, and it just grew from there," Tash said.

With Christmas 2021 just around the corner, the time could not have been more perfect for the duo's introduction into the market.

"It was really good for us to start around Christmas because we were able to get the interest of the market and see what people were attracted to, so it was a really good time," she said.

"Then after New Year it was a little bit more quiet [due to COVID] and so that's when we started to try and push our online store."

Pairing Tash's creative and crafty side with Omer's website development skills and their commitment to helping one another with the production side of things, the couple truly became a dream team.

But the task at hand has been no small feat with the production side of things taking many hours of special care and attention.

"We use a modelling clay that is specific for jewellery, so it is very lightweight and strong, and it's just a matter of blending the colours, creating the patterns and then we cut it out into the shapes and bake it in our oven. Then we sand the pieces back for the smooth edges and do the drilling and assembling," Tash said.

Between dedicating three days a week to creating the unique jewellery designs and operating on-site at the market from Thursday to Sunday only to go home and continue working on the business, the couple is currently working seven days a week.

The long hours and days of jewellery-making is something Tash said a lot of people didn't understand.

But while having a small business is a big commitment, it is one they enjoy, especially given that they are now among the close-knit group found at Queen Victoria Market.

"Most of the other businesses are small family businesses and it's such a tight group," she said.

"You would think for a big place you wouldn't be able to be so close with people but everyone really looks out for each other. There is also never the same crowd and never the same day, so there is always such a variety." ●

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

SALVOS

# A tale of two cities

*It was 8am one Monday morning when we received a phone call on our 1800 COMMUNITY number. It was a member of the public who was deeply concerned about a middle-aged woman who was homeless.*

The woman gave the appearance of being slightly more disorientated than usual. The member of the public had obviously paid close attention to the homeless woman because she was able to observe nuanced and subtle changes in the woman's behaviour. The member of the public decided to act as a matter of urgency.

Our team visited the woman near Southern Cross Station. The woman was far more dishevelled than usual. Our team helped the woman with clean clothing and food but she refused further assistance. A few hours later, we received another phone call about the same

woman. Then another call. And yet a further call. All from members of the public.

When our team attended for a fourth time that day about 20 members of the public had stopped to ask if they could assist in anyway. We had people from all walks of life checking in on this woman. It was Melbourne at its best.

One person made a passing comment, but it was profound in meaning. They reminded me that it takes a village, especially to care for people who are vulnerable.

It is easy to hear a story like this and think that all is well and good in Melbourne when it

comes to caring for our most vulnerable. But stark reality hit when, about 24 hours later, we received a call about a man that had been sleeping at quite an opulent suburban railway station. Not only had the man been sleeping at the station for about one year, he was literally sleeping in his own bodily fluids. He was using a park bench as his bed and toilet.

The man was dealing with very complex mental health issues. When Victoria Police arrived to offer assistance, they were surprised that this man had been sleeping at this train station for a year, but he had not been put on their radar by any member of the public.

When we arrived on a third occasion to try and support the man, I encountered one of the more surreal situations that I have experienced in my 30 years as a Salvation Army officer. To get to the man, I had to walk through a group of about 30 people who were in the middle of the road drinking expensive champagne. They had absolutely no idea that about 100 metres away from their party was a man that was literally dying of neglect.

It was then that the edict rang out in my ears, "I am my sister and brother's keeper". Within a 24-hour period, I saw Melbourne at its best and its worst.

The Wurrundjeri people and early settlers to Melbourne strongly upheld the value of, "no-one left behind".

As we all enter a period of uncertainty with cost of living pressures increasing and interest rates rising, it would be easy to turn our focus onto ourselves and our own personal needs. However, if we want to see Melbourne consistently at its best once again, we would do well to heed the words, "it takes a village to care for the most vulnerable," and, "I am my sister and brother's keeper" ●



**Major Brendan Nottle**  
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# Congratulations to 285 cladding winners!

*The latest figures from Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) website show that about 35 per cent of cladding-affected apartment buildings have been selected for financial assistance for remediation works. Only “extreme risk” or “high risk” buildings qualify for state government funding.*

The CSV website shows that a total of 802 buildings have been referred to them by the Victorian Building Authority’s state-wide cladding audit. CSV has assessed these buildings for eligibility and risk. From the total referred to CSV, 285 funding agreements have been signed. Cladding remediation work has been completed on 52 buildings and underway on 151 more buildings.

Around this time last year, the CSV annual report showed the figures were 723 buildings referred, 253 funding agreements, 40 buildings completed and 160 buildings underway.

Cladding remediation work appears to be progressing at the rate of one building per month.

The comparative data also show a consistent funding rate of 35 per cent. In other words, your building has just over a one-in-three chance of obtaining CSV funding to remove flammable cladding.

Owners’ corporations that have been denied CSV support are telling us that the qualification process is opaque. Many buildings have received building orders from their council stating that the cladding is “a risk to life” and yet these dangerous buildings do not qualify for financial support from CSV.

The CSV website also shows that 262 government buildings have been selected for remediation, a number not too dissimilar from the number of apartment buildings selected - 285. You may recall this column expressing disappointment after unsuccessfully seeking an explanation from CSV about how much of

the \$600 million pot of money is earmarked for private apartments versus government buildings. We are tempted to feel vindicated for the predictions that we made in this column many months ago – that half the money would be spent on government buildings.

We can also conclude – if no further buildings are approved for funding – that the average cash subsidy is just over \$1 million per building.

## COVID exposes housing crisis

The COVID crisis has affected us all in so many ways – medically, socially and economically. As the world readjusts, researchers are finding that COVID has also been instrumental in exposing the economic downside of short-term rentals.

Housing researcher Professor Peter Phibbs has been analysing data since before COVID and has found disturbing links.

“COVID really showed there’s a connection between the short-term rental market and rents all across Australia, and indeed across the world,” the professor told *ABC News* this month.

Professor Phibbs has studied the housing crisis in Hobart, which predates COVID. “When housing stock went from short-term rental back to the long-term rental market, in places like Hobart we saw a sharp reduction in rents,” he said.

In the interview, Professor Phibbs estimated that during COVID, rents in Hobart dropped by about nine per cent.

In another study, researchers William Thackway and Christopher Pettit in Sydney found rent prices in the most active short-stay neighbourhoods dropped by up to seven per cent.

The ABC reported Professor Phibbs as saying, the evidence is clear: you cannot have an unregulated short-term accommodation industry and a healthy long-term rental market. “Those two things just can’t co-exist,” he said.

“We need some sort of regulation to limit the spread of short-term rentals so we can enable the long-term rental market to provide homes for so many households that are looking for them at the moment.”

Another expert who backs up this view is Leith van Onselen, chief economist at the MB Fund and MB Super. Mr van Onselen, who has

previously worked at the Australian Treasury, Victorian Treasury and Goldman Sachs, is also concerned that short-term rentals like Airbnb are having a major impact on the rental market, exacerbating Australia’s acute shortage of rental homes.

Last month we reported on the steps being taken in jurisdictions around the country to regulate short stays. Sadly, Victoria lags far behind the rest of the country and the world. We are continuing to lobby for meaningful change in Victoria, and the professor has some salient advice for us.

“Making the regulation is probably the easy part,” Professor Phibbs told the ABC. “Enforcing the regulation can be quite difficult. It’s certainly resource-intensive. It sometimes involves quite long legal processes. It’s important to have some kind of taxing regime where short-term rentals pay for the cost of that regulation through some sort of bed tax.”

We Live Here has been highlighting the favourable tax treatment handed out to the short-stay industry at the expense of all other Australians.

We have also highlighted the woeful inadequacy of the enforcement process in the light-touch legislation known colloquially as the Airbnb bill – the short-stay provisions in the amended *Owners’ Corporations Act 2021*.

Let’s hope the Victorian state government can get behind the economic science presented by respected researchers, study the precedents being set by every other state in Australia, and finally take some real action.

## An unfair committee faces a formidable opponent

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

“I printed out copies for all 500 apartments of the We Live Here article and an article by a retired politician, about my poorly-run five-member committee. A supportive owner-occupier wrote a nice cover letter, calling for new committee candidates. Letters were dropped to all occupants.”

“I had an excellent response. I had tried and failed on four occasions to be elected to this developer-controlled committee. This time the new owners’ corporation laws were on my side – a five per cent cap on proxies and all emails to

be made available.”

“Before I was sent the owners roll, the OC manager emailed all owners to apologise that their emails were no longer private, and they could opt out if they wished. I applied to VCAT for urgent access to the email list. As soon as VCAT issued a case number the manager sent it to me.”

“Many residents offered to help reach other lot owners. Many agreed the property was not being well managed. Big investors responded with alacrity and with proxies. I received so many I had to return some.”

“During the faceless AGM webinar, a seven-person committee was agreed to by ordinary vote. A screen then appeared listing only the five names of the old committee which we were required to vote for first. The other candidates were on a second screen to be voted for only after the first vote was done. Some people had already voted, and I just scraped home in seventh place from 12 candidates.”

N.B. Ms Pohl could have challenged the election process in VCAT but decided to quit while she was ahead.

“At least I’m on the committee where I have the choice responsibilities of our flammable cladding politics and the issues that I took to court in the first instance,” she said.

We hope this story of dogged persistence, coupled with the new OC laws will inspire others to take on dodgy developers.

Congratulations, Nerrida!

## Campaign donations

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



## ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

# Barring – Nganjin: an exhibition of Stolen Generations survivors

*An Aboriginal art exhibition capturing the stories of grief, loss, and resilience from Stolen Generations survivors will be held at Federation Square as part of National Reconciliation Week.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

Hosted by the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT), the exhibition will showcase more than 45 artworks from First Nations’ artists including paintings, weaving, prints, and mixed media – which the Trust’s CEO Tom Mosby said would be a powerful display of truth telling.

Titled the *Barring – Nganjin*, meaning “Our Path Our Journey”, the exhibition will be largest collection of Stolen Generations art in any single exhibition of the KHT, which will also feature work of Link-Up Victoria, a support service for Stolen Generations that helps connect families.

The Stolen Generations are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families under government policy and direction from the 1910s to the 1970s.

Mr Mosby said the trauma of the Stolen

Generations survivors was still being felt by individuals, families, and communities – with each artwork being both a creative response and an act of healing.

“The powerful thing about this exhibition is that it is how the artists actually portray themselves and the trauma through the art so it’s a powerful exhibition that I really encourage all people to actually visit,” he said. “We all hear about Stolen Generations and Reconciliation Week, but the exhibition is something tangible that people can visit and visually reflect as part of their journey towards reconciliation as well.”

The exhibition will be supported by the curatorial assistance of Link-Up Victoria’s Aunty Bev Murray who will also display some of her work alongside collections from Connecting Home, which provides broad-range services for Stolen Generations.

“Art and storytelling are important healing and wellbeing elements in our communities and



this collection of works strongly portray the visual and powerful stories of each individual,” Aunty Bev Murray said.

As part of Reconciliation Week, which runs from May 27 to June 3, Mr Mosby encouraged people to book in a guided cultural walk at KHT.

“People are taken on a tour where it’s looking at the land on which Melbourne is built, pre-settlement history of Melbourne and also the settlement history of Melbourne as well and the impact on Victorian Aboriginal people and communities,” he said.

“We really encourage people to visit us, not only as part of Reconciliation Week.

Reconciliation is something we should all be thinking about all year-round.”

Visitors can also visit the KHT shop which specialises in Victorian Aboriginal products.

*Barring – Nganjin: Our Path Our Journey* opens May 26 and runs until August 28 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Fed Square. Free entry ●

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

## Aurora lands in the CBD

*In a move that will come as welcome news to local parents, the team behind Aurora Early Education has opened its third location at QV Melbourne and its first in the central city.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Sitting picturesquely among the city's rooftops at 8 Artemis Lane, Aurora Early Education QV is a family-owned and -operated provider run by mother-daughter team, Sheela and Simone Edwards.

According to CEO Sheela Edwards, Aurora is guided by its three pillars of "connect, care and create", using curated philosophies to guide all engagement with families and children with a commitment to nurturing a peaceful and loving future generation.

"Our ethos is about partnerships and building a community around our service and responding to its needs," Ms Edwards said.

"We are structured in a way where our families have access to myself or my daughter, so they can reach us in case they need to refer a matter. For parents I think that is key, because they want to know, 'what if something goes wrong?' and 'how can I fix it?'"

With a background in finance and more than 25 years working in corporate environments for organisations like IBM, Time Warner and HCL Technology, Ms Edwards recognised the need for quality early education while Melbourne's



▲ Left to right: Simone Edwards, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Sheela Edwards.

Monday to Friday population continues its return to the city.

Using philosophies honed since opening her first location in Rowville in 2017, Ms Edwards and her team of early educators have revamped their new QV location to create an environment

that is purpose-built, innovative and designed to create the best outcomes for their children.

The space is a culmination of work with leading experts within the early education industry who set out to design an environment guided by the philosophy that the environment is the

child's third teacher.

"For the majority of children, they still need an environment where they will be stimulated and challenged," Ms Edwards said.

"You're teaching them about social skills, you are teaching them about emotional skills because there is a learning happening and that learning is through play."

"With our multi-age program, children are given the ability to become both students and teachers."

"When you learn, you embed 20 per cent of the learning, when you teach, you embed 80 per cent of the learning. As a two-year-old, if I am going to teach someone a little younger than me, the learning outcomes for both children are that much greater."

Ms Edwards' decision to commit to a CBD location was one of both excited anticipation and love for a new challenge.

"I don't think there is any business that doesn't want a CBD presence, it is the location a lot of businesses want to be in," Ms Edwards said.

"We wanted to be courageous, we wanted to be a part of the city coming back to life. It has been a very strategic step to be present in the city and our brand will be responsive to the city."

Aurora Early Education QV caters for children from six weeks to kindergarten and enrolments are now open ●

**For more information:**

[auroraearlyeducation.com.au](http://auroraearlyeducation.com.au)

### CBD LOCAL

## Quietly loyal to the ALP

*It's election day, the sun is shining, and smart CBD residents arrive early at the closest polling booth.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Graham Davey has arrived at 9.30am. He's crossed the river at the Seafarers Bridge and passed the *Polly Woodside*.

He's out of the booth in 45 minutes, having run the gauntlet and cast a vote for the ALP.

There was no-one handing out for the ALP but at least there was a candidate standing this year, unlike the 2019 election.

Graham is what he calls quietly loyal to the ALP. He was radicalised at university in the '60s and remained an ALP voter even when he ran a successful design business.

Graham is one CBD resident celebrating over the weekend to see a change of government after 10 years.

He's happy to air his views about the difference between the major parties in terms of his own personal experience in business.

"Ultimately it [the business] was about making money," he said. "I worked in education and wanted to strike out. I took risks. It was fun to take risks."

He made many friends who were Liberals during that time. "They are nice, well-rounded people but I don't talk politics with them. You can't have a discussion."

He said they are loyal to the Liberal Party like they are to a football team.

"They parade their loyalty. They want to try and change your mind."

Graham is a now a retiree and he has been living with his wife in an apartment near the World Trade Centre for 15 years.

He loves living in the city for the usual reasons



▲ Graham Davey in his 'hood.

but, particularly, because of the diversity along the river.

He likes seeing people about and being close to the issues such as homelessness.

"You're pretty close to people here," he said. "You're sharing a space. If you live in Hawthorn or Toorak, you don't see many homeless people. You see all that here. You're not insulated."

His apartment overlooks the river and even though he's surrounded by three construction sites he likes the feel of the place.

"It's a dynamic area in terms of development. People complain about the wind tunnels, but I think you can prevent them. We live on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor and we get wind, but it doesn't inhibit our social life."

He finds the suburbs too boring. "You're disconnected from the pulse of the city."

He particularly likes the nearby music venues, having recently attended a concert at Hamer Hall and will be uploading artists onto his blog, which has 35,000 followers ●

### METRO TUNNEL

## Artefacts on show at Metro Tunnel HQ for school holidays

*Indigenous artefacts found during the Metro Tunnel's archaeological dig will go on show next month in a rare chance to get up close with the First Nations' history of Naarm (Melbourne).*

The items were found at the site directly behind the Young and Jackson pub on the corner of Swanston and Flinders streets in 2018, where Town Hall Station is now being built.

Before construction could begin on the station – one of the Metro Tunnel's five new underground stations – an archaeological dig took place to recover and document artefacts from the site.

More than 280 indigenous artefacts were uncovered when archaeologists went through layers of the site's history in a painstaking process over several months.

The artefacts, known as flaked stone tools, could have been used as spear tips in hunting weapons, or even implements used to shape objects made of wood, bark and bone.

The nationally significant items will be displayed at Metro Tunnel HQ on Swanston St from June 27 for a limited time.

The award-winning information centre provides an insight into some of the state's biggest ever public transport projects, including the Metro Tunnel.

It features a 3D city model, panoramic theatre, kids' activities and giveaways – with free entry all year round.

Metro Tunnel HQ senior centre coordinator Hedley Imbert said archaeological displays remained one of the centre's most popular



exhibitions.

"I would say there's a lot of interest," Mr Imbert said.

"It's certainly something that's discussed when people come into the centre, and hear the story about the Metro Tunnel Project."

Mr Imbert said Metro Tunnel HQ had become a staple of the school holiday experience for families visiting the city.

"There are fun activities for kids to do that are free of charge and we use the opportunity to speak to the families and tell them about the project," he said.

Crews will soon begin laying track through the completed tunnels as the project starts to recruit more than 100 drivers to operate additional train services when the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025.

Up to 120 new drivers will undergo an intensive 44-week training program to ensure they're ready to operate the 65 new and bigger trains that will run through the tunnels.

Metro Tunnel HQ is located at 125-133 Swanston St ●

# Growing the next generation of Docklanders

*To leave the world better than when you entered it. It is an ideology many are hopeful to live by and one that underpins all teaching at Gowrie Docklands.*

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Gowrie Docklands, now known as Gowrie at The Harbour, since a second location partnering with Docklands Primary School opened in 2021, has been an integral part of early childhood education in the area for more than a decade.

Specialising in long day care programs for children aged between six weeks and five years and an integrated kindergarten program for three- and four-year-olds, the team at Gowrie at The Harbour place an ever-present emphasis on connecting their children with the broader community with the aim of preparing generations of socially and environmentally conscious children.

Hidden away on Seafarer Lane, Gowrie at The Harbour occupies the entire first floor of what would easily be misconstrued as a regular Victoria Harbour office building; however, one step outside the elevator doors will show this building is anything but regular.

Centred around an enormous multi-space playground with fully established flora, Gowrie at The Harbour is an educational oasis for children, staff and parents surrounded by high-rise living and working.

Gowrie at The Harbour executive manager of early learning Nicole Pilsworth said it was imperative the nine classrooms horseshoed the outdoor area to allow for connectivity and development among children of all ages.

"To create such a beautiful space, that people wouldn't necessarily know about until they saw it, it is quite unique," Ms Pilsworth said.



"It is part of who we are as an organisation. Docklands is one of five, soon to be six, Gowrie early learning services whose philosophies all centre around natural play spaces and connecting children with nature."

Without alignment to a formal educational philosophy, Mr Pilsworth said all Gowrie centres used a combination of learning theories such as the Reggio Emilia Approach.

The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy based on the image of a child with strong potentialities for development and a subject with rights ... and grows in relations with others.

"Our educational philosophies are about empowering and enabling children at a young age to become active decision-makers and members in their communities," Ms Pilsworth said.



"If we can educate these children that there is more than their own two- or four-year-old perspective, then by the time they become adults, they have a broader and more informed understanding of the world."

"In non-COVID times, you would regularly see Gowrie children out in the community, visiting the library or going for walks and observing different parts of the bigger wider world. It is something we hold very close with our teaching to ensure children are becoming active citizens in their communities."

According to Ms Pilsworth, during her three-and-a-half years at Gowrie at The Harbour she had seen a marked increase in the number of children attending the early learning centre based in Docklands.

"We've remained that one constant in a world

of uncertainty. We have worked incredibly hard for our staff to stay connected throughout lockdowns and have grown our communication to let families know we are here for them," Ms Pilsworth said.

"We've become an important conduit for families to stay connected, not only with our services but to other families."

Following the opening of Gowrie Docklands Kindergarten in early 2021, Ms Pilsworth welcomed the news from the state government announcement of free kindergarten for three- and four-year-olds.

The \$169.6 million scheme would offer free kindergarten for three- and four-year-olds in funded programs, and reduced fees for three-year-olds in unfunded, sessional kinder.

"It's an exciting initiative. We have been part of advocacy through several different avenues to get that through. It will mean there will be no cost kindergarten for a lot of families in Docklands and, those accessing longer day kindergarten programs, their fees will be subsidised too," Ms Pilsworth said.

"It gives families the flexibility in terms of whether they want short- or long-day kindergarten programs, which will be offered throughout the year, rather than just school terms."

With a turbulent 2020-21 now behind them, Ms Pilsworth and her team at Gowrie are looking ahead to an exciting 2022 and beyond.

"We are looking to rebuild and re-establish the connection with our community partners such as the library and community gardens. It has been a huge detriment to our children that we have not been able to immerse them with the wider community." ●

**For more information:**  
[gowrievictoria.org.au/childrens-programs/docklands](http://gowrievictoria.org.au/childrens-programs/docklands)

# City still a place to call home

“

*Over its residential lifetime, Melbourne's CBD property market has had a long and chequered history. And no period more so than the past two years.*

”

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

With a mass exodus of residents early in 2020 and intermittent lockdowns due to COVID-19, growing international instability and war, along with rising inflation and a bruising federal election campaign, Melbourne's property market, particularly within the CBD, is beginning to slow.

This is causing some caution from buyers and investors.

But, as with all rules, there is always an exception.

The team at Donazzan Boutique Property (DBP) headed by founder Gina Donazzan continue to prove the CBD is still one of Melbourne's most desirable suburbs with a cavalry of strong results.

"I do truly believe what we do and how we



do it makes a difference," Ms Donazzan said. "Our process isn't the run-of-the-mill style, and I won't sacrifice on transparency, integrity and hard work."

"I think you will find that is proven in our results."

Some of Ms Donazzan's recent results

include a three-bedroom home at the renowned Georges Apartments selling for \$2.4 million; one of the rarest heritage penthouse apartments in the city at 1 Exhibition St, featuring expansive views of the Yarra River and Botanic Gardens, again fetching \$2.4 million; and 237 Flinders Ln, another piece of remarkable

period architecture, which, although adjacent to the Metro Tunnel building works, still sold for \$2.15 million.

According to Ms Donazzan, there is an increasing number of people who see the city as a beautiful option for themselves to move, whether that be CBD first timers or locals jumping from apartment to apartment.

Research commissioned by the City of Melbourne found more than 56 per cent of first home buyers surveyed are likely to consider buying in Melbourne, with many citing the allure of the city and a desire to be close to the action.

While 48 per cent of those already living in Melbourne said they were also considering buying property in the area.

DBP director Kim Davey told *CBD News* while their agency continues to defy market expectations, there is one common denominator that is the catalyst for their success.

"I'm obviously a bit biased, but I have a strong belief the results directly correlate to the agent you choose, and no agent knows the CBD like Gina," Mr Davey said.

"You need to go with an agent that continually speaks with her clients every day. Her clients don't look at REA they refer directly to her to get a gauge on the market."

"There are still beautiful properties and beautiful buildings on offer in the CBD, come speak to some of the agents who have been working here for decades." ●

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

# Vertical village “Strata Hub”



*The NSW Government is introducing “Strata Hub” which aims to consolidate core information about strata schemes – but who will it really benefit?*



Information, and its management, is well-recognised as a vital organisational resource, essential for informed decision making. And it is now widely accepted that an organisation’s performance is strongly linked to how well it captures, stores, analyses and utilises its information assets.

However, as a sector, residential strata is not known for its information management prowess.

Indeed, even the management of documents (records) is widely regarded as deficient.

Owners, for instance, often bemoan the availability of their building’s records and point to the difficulties of inspecting these (especially if they are not digital). Owners’ corporation (OC) committees meanwhile criticise the availability of government records (especially those developer agreements negotiated decades past), the

details of which can be spread across a myriad of ever-changing government agencies. Residents are cited as having concerns about knowing key contact-points, such as their building manager or emergency connections.

And all these concerns have also been attributed to prospective purchasers, who, according to the NSW Government, believe that finding information on strata schemes is “just too difficult”.

It is these information deficiencies in strata schemes that are claimed as the impetus for the NSW’s Governments new regulation – *Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Information) Regulation 2021*. This requires all strata schemes to annually submit key information about their building to NSW Fair Trading, and it will then form part of the government’s Strata Hub.

There is, however, another reason for this new system. It goes to the realisation of the NSW Government that it had little information about, and no reliable way of communicating with, strata schemes – a point emphasised during the pandemic.

Hence, the introduction of a new annual reporting requirement for all NSW strata schemes which will come into force on June 30, 2022. Significantly, there is both a fee to submit (\$3 per lot) and a fine if you don’t. There are also obligations to correct or update information within 28 days. Again, fines apply.

So, *what* is being required and *who* can access this information?

With regard to what is required, much of this is straightforward, such as the strata plan number, date of registration, address, number of lots, etc. Interestingly, if your building has a NABERS rating, this must be provided, which

may mark the beginning of this scheme becoming mandatory. There are also requirements for proof of certification (e.g., insurance).

But what has caused a few ruffled feathers is the requirement for the full name, telephone number and email address of the secretary, chair, strata manager and emergency contact person. This issue was recently raised by Jimmy Thomson in his *Australian Financial Review* column, where he speculated that this requirement could cause “a mass exodus of office-bearers.” The rationale given is that strata committee chairs and secretaries likely won’t want to be too contactable by the general public.

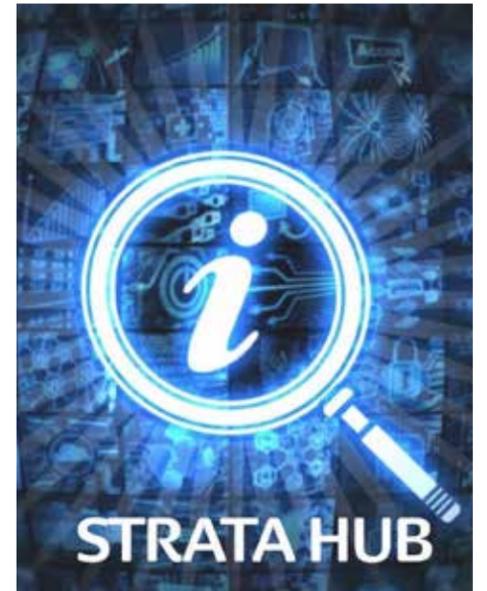
This now goes to who can access this information on Strata Hub, as it has been stated that not all will be publicly available.

Starting with the information custodian, NSW Fair Trading, it is understood it will grant access to other regulatory authorities for compliance purposes. Also, emergency services, such as the NSW police, the ambulance service and NSW’s State Emergency Service will likely be able to view particular details.

Managing agents, owners, residents and members of the public will be able to access *some* information on Strata Hub but not, it is believed, the personal contact details of the secretary and chair. Stay tuned to what level of access will ultimately be made available!

As regards what this might mean for our vertical villages, currently there appears little appetite within the Victorian State Government to follow NSW’s lead. However, now that Pandora’s Box (otherwise known as Strata Hub) will soon open, we may find that the interest of our Victorian regulatory bodies has been piqued.

Our hope, then, is that they do not slavishly



follow NSW. But take the opportunity to consider how such a system, rather than being a reporting burden, could assist OCs with their information challenges ●



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## MUSIC

### Stella Mozgawa

*New York band Interpol wrote a song about a woman called Stella. Well-credentialed muso/producer/drummer Stella Mozgawa who worked with Courtney Barnett on her latest album Things Take Time, Take Time would know this.*

The talented Mozgawa is part of a great band called Warpaint, who have just released a new album entitled *Radiate Like This*. Highlights of this sublime pop/rock album that is reminiscent of The Carpenters are the songs *Like Sweetness*, *Stevie* and *Hard To Tell You*.

Stevie was a song the band first started writing many years ago in a hotel room while on tour. Things take time ...

Mozgawa has also worked with Cate Le Bon, Kim Gordon and Kurt Vile.

Stella had a great chat on 3RRR’s Fee-B-Squared’s Maps radio show about the album.

The chat is online on 3RRR’s on demand section.

In celebration of the new *Warpaint* album Courtney Barnett designed a tote bag for them. *Radiate Like This* is available on yellow translucent vinyl at all the best record stores in town.

Hope Street Recordings have announced a brand-new release from a Naarm (Melbourne) soulful RnB afrobeat infused duo called ZRetro (pronounced Zee Retro). Their eponymous debut album is now available. *Superpower* and *Silly Games* are also available as singles.

Vocalist Zima has a smooth sweet delivery and he and producer 2nd Thought have delivered an excellent slab of vinyl with the assistance on bass of fantastic bass guitarist Horatio

Luna. This album has minimal authentic raw production values and there is an undercurrent element of dub in the mix.

Chris Gill, Triple R radio announcer on Get Down says ZRetro’s debut album is “one of the more important releases of the year.”

The lights were green when local funk musician Harvey Sutherland and his band played an in-store appearance gig at Northside Records in May. The record store was brimming with excited punters eager to hear the self-described neurotic funk of Harvey Sutherland.

He has just released his long-awaited debut album entitled *Boy* which was given a 3RRR album of the week honour. After his EPs *Brothers* (2014) and *Expectations* (2017), Sutherland has delivered the goods with *Boy* (2022). As part of the tremendous RISING Festival that takes place in Melbourne in June, Sutherland and his band will be performing at the Melbourne Recital Centre on June 3 and 4. In the interim, Sutherland is going on a national tour.

On Sunday, June 19, the Reclink Community Cup returns to Melbourne at Victoria Park. This is a worthy fundraising event and involves a footy match between a team of Triple R and 3PBS broadcasters (The Megahertz) and a team of musos (The Rockdogs).

Local garage rock band Bad Bangs new album *Character Building* is out now and in celebration of this they have been on a regional tour of Victoria to promote the album.

The band had a great launch of their album recently at the John Curtin Hotel and since had a brilliant set at Boogie15. Just as awesome was Shelby from Bad Bangs appearing on Nicole Tadpole’s Respect The Rock radio show. Does it get any better than that? ●



*Chris Mineral*  
MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM

## HISTORY

## The three “Rs”: school’s in at the Old Model School, Spring St

*In September 1854, Patrick Davitt and his wife Ellen began their work of instilling the fundamentals of every basic education – the three “Rs” (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) – on the children who attended the newly-built Model School in Spring St.*

The Davitts had been recruited from Ireland to undertake the task of educating young Victorians and aspiring teachers in the Irish system of education, the National Schools system, so it was actually two schools in one – the National Model and Normal Schools but known to us now as the Old Model School. Patrick Davitt was in charge of academics. His wife Ellen looked after the welfare of the trainee teachers and the girls and taught the girls the “various branches of needlework”. A typical education of the time.

Yet this was more than a typical education. The men who led the Model School were first-rate educators. Patrick Davitt, who died in 1860, was a highly qualified teacher, an ex-professor at the University of Paris and an Inspector of Schools in Ireland. The school flourished and within a few months of opening, the pupil numbers had risen from 128 to more than 700. In 1863, another Irishman, Patrick Whyte, took over as head teacher. Whyte, a brilliant scholar and first-rate teacher, was a classicist who taught Latin and Greek. These were not the typical teachers of the time. Nor was this the typical primary school.

This photograph, taken in about 1865, is from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria’s (RHSV’s) images collection and shows you the imposing Spring St frontage of the school with some of its pupils standing out the front. Although you can’t see it here, the building is in the block between Victoria and Lonsdale streets on the north-eastern edge of the CBD. It is just south of the Exhibition Building which now sits

majestically in the splendid Carlton Gardens. The Model School, built in the early 1850s, predated the Exhibition Building by almost 30 years and the school’s nearest neighbours were the working-class residents of Little Lonsdale St, known as “Little Lon”, a street bursting with life, full of small, crowded weatherboard cottages and workplaces and with a developing notoriety as a centre for prostitution.

The Model School was the newly declared Colony of Victoria’s central school, but it was also Victoria’s National Board of Education’s administrative headquarters for several decades. As the name suggests, it provided a model for other schools to follow and had separate girls’, boys’ and infants’ departments as well as a teacher training establishment under the “normal” system. Over its lifetime, the Model School, and state education generally, went through a number of changes, including those imposed by the *Education Act of 1872* that introduced “free, secular and compulsory” education, until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the declining residential population of the CBD meant school enrolments dwindled and the school closed.

In 1905, the year after the closure of the Model School, a new, exciting and at first controversial phase of state education was played out in these buildings when they opened as the Melbourne Continuation School, the Victorian Education Department’s first foray into secondary education.

At the time, there was nowhere for state school pupils who had completed Grade 8, the



final year of primary school, to continue their education, unless they could afford private school fees. Director of Education Frank Tate believed that they deserved their chance at continuing education and so the Continuation School was established. Here aspiring teachers could train, and others could prepare for university entrance.

Although it was co-educational, there was very little interaction between girls and boys at the Continuation School, with separate playgrounds, divided classrooms and a strict rule that boys and girls were not to speak to each other. One female student who attended the school for three years from 1908 remembered that the girls would “never have uttered a word as risqué as petticoat.” She also recalled that when the American Fleet visited in 1908, the principal, Joseph Hocking, was so appalled at the opportunities it created for the fraternising of the sexes that he gave the girls a week’s holiday!

For two decades the Continuation School (called Melbourne High School from 1912) provided secondary education to Victorian girls and boys in these buildings. In 1927, the boys moved off this site to Melbourne High School at Forrest Hill, South Yarra. The girls languished

in increasingly dilapidated conditions on the Spring St site until they, too, moved – in 1930 – to Government House, then to the King Street Central School and finally, in 1934, to MacRobertson Girls High School in Albert Park.

The departure of the Continuation School marked the end of its association with State Education, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. The building was demolished in the early 1930s and the Royal College of Surgeons chose the site as its headquarters. They are still there.

To celebrate the sesquicentenary of the ground-breaking and world-first *Education Act 1872*, the RHSV will hold a conference, “Free Secular, Compulsory”, looking at the history of education in Victoria. October 1 to 2, 2022.

[office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) ●



*Dr. Cheryl Griffin*  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## STATE MP

## Housing in Melbourne is cooked and the Victorian Government just made it worse

*David lives in North Melbourne with four housemates. He loves his rented townhouse and his housemates but says he is disappointed that the “Aussie dream” of home-ownership continues to get further and further out of reach.*

“I don’t know anyone my age who has been able to buy a home without a huge chunk of money from their parents. That’s just not an option for many of us.”

“For me, I don’t have mum, dad or grandparents to turn to for cash, a loan or guarantee, which makes buying a house in the local area basically impossible, even on a good job and stable income,” he said.

David also worries about the constant threat of rising rents and of his home being sold by the landlord, which would force him and his housemates to move out.

“Renters just have so few rights. Everything is stacked up in favour of landlords.”

This is something that I am hearing consistently from young people in inner city Melbourne. They’re stressed about whether they’ll ever be able to afford a home or even stay on top of rent payments while managing stagnating wages and the soaring cost of living.

On top of that, they’re worried about whether there’s any point trying to plan for the future with the threat of worsening weather events as a result of climate change looming over all of our heads.

It breaks my heart to hear how much stress this is causing young people. As an MP, I have consistently fought to make housing fairer. Just recently, in the lead up to the Victorian 2022/23 Budget being announced, my Greens colleagues and I pushed hard for the state government to make this the budget to properly address housing affordability.

We called for a big investment in public housing, a policy for a cap on rent increases and an end to unfair tax breaks for wealthy investors and property developers.

We were really disappointed that the



▲ Ellen talking to North Melbourne renter, David, aged 29.

government decided not to take up these issues, instead cutting the budget of many homelessness services. The government also recently dumped their “social housing levy” after a scare campaign by the wealthy property developer lobby. This was a small tax on property developers which would have gone towards building more public and social housing, but Labor has dropped it.

There was no relief for renters in this budget either, despite comparable countries around the world doing much more to help long-term renters afford to stay in their homes through policies like caps on rent increases.

This year is a state election year, and we’ll be using this year to keep the pressure on both

sides of politics to make housing fairer and tackle the climate and extinction crises, so that all young people can have a future to look forward to. With more Greens in Parliament, we can push the state government further and faster on the big issues.

If there is ever anything that I can do to help you, please get in touch ●



*Ellen Sandell*  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
[OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM](mailto:OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM)

## CRITIC

# Wedded to the literary canon

“

*It's not that often that you get such an ambitious book as *The Lessons* launched in inner Melbourne.*

”

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

The author John Purcell was at Readings Emporium last month on a visit from England.

In person he has quite a swagger that is as impressive as his prose.

“I want to be better than *Middlemarch*,” he said.

An Australian-born author, he has lost the self-deprecating style of the local milieu and now lives in Kent.

*The Lessons* does not have Eliot's poetics, but it is a passionate book that moves along swiftly without the mind-numbing detail that hampers so much local fiction.

One of the characters is Jane Curtin, a famous novelist, who analyses the craft during an interview on stage in New York.

She is a breakout author from the '60s with vague connections to the Tory Party.

“I wanted to make her rich and interesting,” Purcell said.



▲ John Purcell at Readings Emporium.

Her life and that of her niece Daisy are constructed out of Bronte and Austen novels.

They want to have affairs and children, write books, design clothes and follow their hearts without fear.

This proves impossible because of the competitive nature of these desires and the annoying restraints of society.

There's tension in their lives between being dissolute and productive and they don't have the skills to trust their own impulses.

Their major fault is that they love making a fuss and their emotionality turns them into victims.

Purcell writes vigorously, with some great landscape settings and a male romantic lead in the vein of Hardy's *Gabriel Oak*.

The clash between Bohemian and traditional values is a bit dated but should appeal to those wedded to the literary canon.

*The Lessons*, John Purcell, HarperCollins, 2022 ●

## STREET ART



# The problem with urban art

*People really hate bad tags. It is something that has made legitimate and good street art and graffiti hard to navigate.*

The council takes a zero tolerance on tagging, which I can somewhat understand. Graffiti culture has been a major part of Melbourne's culture since the early 1980s and many great artists have started out with graffiti (tagging) on their local milk bar. I certainly did, then I moved to trains, and then to doing pieces. And then I went to art school and the Blender Studios.

Graffiti is not ugly when done well, it is a beautiful form of calligraphy. It is just that if you are not part of the graffiti movement then you have little chance of understanding the art as the culture is exclusionary and if you are not part of it then you will never understand it. That doesn't mean that it is bad or has bad intentions.

Many graffiti kids go on to awesome things, becoming great fine artists or world-famous street artists. Keep in mind that Banksy, Adnate and Rone all started out tagging.

Urban culture is like a sport for young people; they meet up with like-minded people and talk shop and walk many miles exploring the city looking for art.

There are a lot more anti-social things young people could be doing. And it's better than locking yourself in a dark room and playing video games.

I have done a lot of youth work with the City of Melbourne through its Signal program and as the Youth Arts Officer for the City of Yarra for many years, and I have never met a young person who doesn't engage with urban art on some level. It is awesome and cool and young people love it.

The urban art culture is used as one of the main marketing tools of Melbourne and Victorian tourism. And as we artists set up more lanes the marketing teams are quick to push it as true urban Melbourne. It's in every magazine and all over the airport in every terminal.

Melbourne has made so much from the urban art culture and given so little in return.

The reason all these giant skyscrapers are popping up in every lane we create is because street art has made Melbourne cool and rich.

Hosier Lane was once the highlight of Melbourne's urban artscape, voted the number one free tourist attraction in Australia by *Lonely Planet* for many years. The council has done little to maintain Hosier and Rutledge lanes, in fact, I feel they have deliberately worked against it. I personally gave the council a 10-page plan on how to fix the lane, which was ignored.

I would be happy to meet with them any time to try to make urban culture in Melbourne what it once was. The truth, I fear, is that the government wants to develop it and make money from it.

This is not new and has happened in so many lanes: Blender Lane, Electric Place, Lovelands, Union, Duckboard Place, Presgrave Place, Higgson, Literature, and AC-DC just to name a few. All these lanes have been completely changed from construction. Someone is making a hell of a lot of money from these lanes and its art, and it's not the artists. I hope that the government understands how important urban culture is to Melbourne and stops thing about short-term gains, developing a place like Hosier Lane will alter the city in a way that will never be fixable.

The government has a natural hand in the changes that happen in the city on all levels.

Every part of the city has gone through some

form of bureaucratic process. Every tree, every park and every public space has been carefully crafted by governments to make the city the best it can be. In recent years these spaces have become giant towers and have usurped many of the only spaces in the city left free to the young and adventurous.

So, tagging has become easier than making art.

But people need to remember graffiti artists and street artists love this city. Often what happens on the street has nothing to do with the urban art culture. An example of this is a few weeks ago the State Library was hit hard with tags all over the front.

This is not something the urban art culture would do; we have rules about beautiful art and beautiful buildings. It is more than likely a bunch of drunk dickheads from the suburbs came into the city, one of them would have had a spray can and the rest of the story writes itself.

Yet, people use these types of incidences to condemn the movement and hate on graffiti artists. The council has taken a zero tolerance on tagging but has stated that they like "mural art".

I'm not sure who they consult with on this idea. I know when I worked for City of Yarra the graffiti removalists became the unwitting curators of the street, back then I realised this problem and worked closely with the engineering department to ensure that this problem was mitigated.

Last week a famous and kool artist "Getnup" (get'n up) did a beautiful mural in Howey Place – another laneway that has been under construction, and lost much of its awesome art, now all the shops are out of business (the council is ironically giving the empty spaces to artists for a few months but that is a different article). Within a day Getnup's artwork was removed. It was a great artwork that made the space interesting. So, the next day the artist went back to the removed mural and wrote "I will not be obscene" over and over referencing the Simpsons, and the council's rule of removing offensive art within 24 hours.

These artists pay for their own paint, and risk horrible laws that the government keeps tightening, to make the city more interesting. There is a deadening in Melbourne that has been going on for a long time. The creatives make the city kool and the rich people exploit it. Many of the changes that have happened in the CBD cannot be undone and we are very much in danger of creating a bland and deadened city, which has been exploited into mediocrity.

It's a big problem that takes big answers, but it can be done. Hosier Lane can be great again and the city can be the cultural hub it once was, but it would need to take a sacrifice of exploitation by the rich and the people benefiting from its gentrification.

It would need to be envisioned not as a financial opportunity, but as a cultural one. There would need to be understanding and recognition of the problems before we can form the ideas for solutions.

The city is beautiful, and the laneways were the cultural veins of a once internationally recognised creative hub, but that was then. And now ...

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# 伊丽莎白街改造计划搁浅

墨尔本市政在最新的预算中，对三年前批准的伊丽莎白(Elizabeth)街改造计划没有任何拨款，使这个步行街计划由此搁浅。

David Schout

这个在2019年批准的改造项目，将以汽车行驶为中心的伊丽莎白街改造成行人为主的步行街计划，由于遭到墨尔本市政的搁置，又错过了一年的预算资金。

对这条繁忙街道上的某些街区进行彻底改造和全面步行升级的工程原定于2020年至2021年进行，因为这些街区“舒适度差，步行空间有限”，但市政现在没有何时开始的时间表。

于5月17日发布的最新市政预算草案中没有为这个工程提供预算资金，有人质疑这个计划项目是否继续进行。

市政表示，仍然致力于实施伊丽莎白

街战略机遇计划，可是对这个项目的重大延误却没有向当地市民和商家提供公开的资讯更新。

只有位于Flinders街火车站外南端的第一阶段工程已经完工。

第二阶段的工程，计划将Little Collins街和Little Bourke街之间的几乎整个伊丽莎白街辟为步行街，原计划于2020-21年开始，但现在却不见踪影。

市政对伊丽莎白街战略机遇计划一直保持出奇地沉默，在过去的两个预算中，已将其列为仅有的三个“主要街景总体规划”之一。

市政在回答本报提问时表示，该项目是由于新冠疫情而推迟的。



市政没有选择公开谈论工程延迟原因，也没有说明在过去12个月内是否向伊丽莎白街有关街区的商家提供了该改造计划的任何更新情况。

由于没有下个财政年度的分配资金，市政仍需对第二阶段工程进行可行性研究，因此该工程最早要到2023年的下半年才能开始。

# 市中心禁止马车行驶

马车运营商表示，在CBD禁止马车行驶的决定将断送他们的生计，辩称他们的操作是安全的，马的福利“对我们也非常重要”。可是这项禁令受到了保护动物权利和交通安全倡议者的广泛欢迎，维州交通道路部长表示，这一决定是出于对交通安全的考虑。

Brendan Rees

马车租赁公司(Unique Carriage Hire)的业主 Dean Crichton 说：“这个决定让人吃惊，对我们的生意影响巨大。”

“我在这儿做了 35 年的观光马车运营生意，从未发生过损害公共财产或使公众受伤的事故。”

“这项禁令的公平性和常识在哪里？”

州政府推动了在 CBD 禁止马车运营的决定，交通道路部长 Ben Carroll 表示，这是出于“提高道路安全”的需要。

Carroll先生说“随着越来越多的人回到城市的道路和人行道上，我们正在采取行动，加强墨尔本最繁忙街道的安全和交通流量。”

“我们计划将让每个人，包括行人、司机、骑自行车的人、送货车和有轨电车司机等在繁忙的市中心里能够更加安全和便利地通行。”

这项禁令是在与主要利益相关者和运营商协商后制定的，将于6月中旬生效，从 Spencer 街到 Spring 街，以及从 Flinders街到 La Trobe 街，禁止马车行驶。



在过去五年里，RSPCA (皇家防止虐待动物协会)处理了 48 起关于运营马车虐待马匹的报告。

维多利亚RSPCA政策和宣传经理 Mhairi Roberts表示，这项禁令是为“马车的马匹福利向前迈出一大步”。

她说：“CBD的马车给马匹带来了多种风险，包括汽车、有轨电车、过度的噪音、拥挤的人群和夏季的闷热，而且这些马都是在坚硬的地面上行走。”



# 市区犯罪泛滥

一位CBD商家表示，他厌恶市中心的反社会行为泛滥，以及“肮脏”的街区，一旦租约明年到期，他将关门歇业。

Brendan Rees

在 Little Collins 街的 McAndrew Jewellery 珠宝店店主 Rikki McAndrew 表示，市区的毒品、涂鸦和胡作非为的犯罪活动不断增加，“非常令人厌恶和害怕”。

他说：“这不仅仅是涂鸦。我在市中心经常受到骚扰，我知道其他人也有同样的遭遇。”他说有时只得锁上店门不营业。

McAndrew 先生是 CBD 的居民，他在过去八年里一直经营着自己的商店，他说这座城市正在被遭到毁坏，他的许多顾客都因为感到害怕而不再想光顾商店了。

他还指出，一些巷道“看起来很肮脏，这些巷道本应该变得有吸引力，因为这是吸引旅游者的一大亮点。”

“这座城市的尊严已经不复存在了。没有真正解决什么问题，都是表面文章，永远不起作用。”

“我受够了，明年10月我的店铺租约到期我就关门走人。”

警方之前逮捕并指控了一名25岁的男子，他涉嫌于5月18日晚上11点30分左右在Franklin街和Elizabeth街拐角处的一家便利店刺伤了一名店员，导致受害者受重伤。

在另一起事件中，一名 20 岁的女子于 5 月 8 日凌晨 5 点左右在 King 街与朋友散步时遭到袭击，被送往医院。

第三起事件是一群男青年于 5 月 6 日在 King 街、Flinders 街和 Queensbridge 街附近的几座建筑物上涂鸦。

警方逮捕了其中一名22岁的男子，他被控犯有刑事毁坏罪，目前警察仍在搜寻犯罪团伙的其他成员。

# 大力投入创意产业

最近发布的2022-23年市政预算草案显示，随着市中心人流量的增加，市政正在将注意力转向创意产业，设法寻找支持当地艺术家的方法。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

在5月17日发布的预算草案中，市政将投入870万澳元支持当地艺术家、创意空间及相关重大活动。

市政创意墨尔本投资组合负责人 Jamal Hakim 议员说：“我们正在通过增加投资来推动我市的创意产业。”

“成千上万的人再次涌向这座城市，希望在这一势头的基础上再接再厉，给我们的创意社区带来信心。”

市政在5月15日的媒体发布会上宣布，他们已向基层当地艺术家拨款430万澳元，向公共艺术空间拨款240万澳元，向创意空间拨款200万澳元。

创意空间资金将为独立的及中小型创意单位提供办公室、排练空间和文化制作工作室等创意基础设施。

此外，墨尔本市政正在与 35 个艺术机构合作，其中包括期待已久的 RISING 艺术节组织机构。w



经过多次延误、中断和三年的期待，RISING艺术节终于有机会在 6 月 1 日至 12 日期间以艺术、音乐、表演和纪念活动的方式来娱乐这座城市。

通过 225 场活动、22 个委托创作艺术和14个全球首演，801 位本地和国际艺术家将创造性地激发和展演这座城市。

作为该计划的一部分，在 Sidney Myer Music Bowl 将举办特别的 The Wilds 艺术节，并持续到 6 月 19 日。

The Wilds 被描述为月光下的森林感受，是体验墨尔本成为创意空间的理想场所。

# What's on: June 2022



**MONOCHORD**  
A visual installation by Robin Fox  
A powerful laser beam, almost a kilometre long, burns above the Birrarung (Yarra River).  
Nightly 6.30pm - 9.30pm, June 1-12  
[rising.melbourne](http://rising.melbourne)



**FLASH FORWARD LANEWAY FEST**  
Ongoing  
Flash Forward is the epic new creative program taking over 40 city laneways with music, murals and more from the best local talent. For more information visit:  
[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM**  
EastEnders meet-ups  
Representing residents living in the CBD's eastern quadrant, EastEnders host monthly meetings at the Gorman Room, 27 Little Lonsdale St. For more information contact president Stan Capp.  
[eastendersinc@gmail.com](mailto:eastendersinc@gmail.com)



**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](http://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](mailto:walks@residents3000.com.au)



**LANEWAY LEARNING**  
Cheap, fun classes in anything and everything. Weekday evenings in cafes, bars and other spaces around Melbourne. Classes usually have about 20 people to keep it friendly. Online classes available.  
[melbourne.lanewaylearning.com](http://melbourne.lanewaylearning.com)



**NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
Hosted by Residents 3000, come at 4pm for one hour at Green Room, L1 Central House, Baptist Place Laneway and enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours.  
[gardenclub@residents3000.com.au](mailto:gardenclub@residents3000.com.au)

## Business Directory

### Accounting

### Gifts

### Politician

Selling & Leasing the best homes in the CBD.  
**Nelson Alexander**  
846 Bourke St, Docklands 9251 9000

### Childcare

### Health and wellbeing

**Stress, anxiety, fear, trauma, overwhelm, grief**  
Tap4Health provides a safe, non-invasive and effective way of healing yourself for improved wellbeing. Convenient online sessions.  
**tap4health eft practice**  
Rod Sherwin 0418 642 357  
[www.tap4health.com](http://www.tap4health.com)

### Precinct

### Shopping

**QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET**  
For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.  
Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday with plenty of affordable parking.  
[QVM.COM.AU](http://QVM.COM.AU)

### Family Law

### Lawyers

### Real Estate

# CBD NEWS

Want to place an ad? Talk to Jack Hayes  
T 0401 031 236  
E [jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au)  
about how to customise your campaign to our audience every month.



**"Gina Donazzan was in another league.** We had previously spent thousands of dollars with another well-known agency and never even had a nibble. When Gina took over, she arranged an amazing and very well-priced furnishing of our apartment. She organized everything. Nothing was too much trouble for her. Within two weeks she had sold it for a price above what we were expecting. She was so skilful in the negotiations. Gina gets onto things at lightning speed. Always available via mobile and email. We can't thank her enough and highly recommend Donazzan Boutique Property."

Peter - Vendor

**A special person and an outstanding agent. Highly recommended.**

"We have had the pleasure of being involved with Gina with two transactions, both buying and selling of property. Her professional and thoughtful approach resulted in an excellent result, in a timely manner. She is an excellent communicator, honest, hardworking and very generous with her time. Gina is incredibly knowledgeable, driven and a very enthusiastic agent."

Denise - Vendor

**Our experience with Gina Donazzan.**

In searching for a new home after living overseas for 14 years we were incredibly fortunate to meet with Gina Donazzan who possesses enormous experience and a wealth of knowledge in the Melbourne property market, most helpfully in our case, including the CBD. Gina was caring and helpful in her advice and personalised support. She was open and transparent at all times, encouraging and respectful of our time to undertake due diligence and have time to think. Above all else, Gina is the consummate professional, who never loses sight of the human aspect of the relationship she has with clients. We cannot recommend her highly enough.

Purchasers – Norm & Sue

**Gina Donazzan**  
0412 430 326  
[gina@donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au](mailto:gina@donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au)



Melbourne



2x Suburb Winner  
Melbourne  
2022, 2018



Highly recommended  
High level of customer satisfaction

Donazzan Boutique Property, Licensed Estate Agents, Licensed Member REIV, Property Sales and Property Management.