

CBD NEWS

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Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P26



▲ Members of the Need to Know team coming together for their fortnightly meeting.

Photo by Murray Enders.

How one zine is helping homeless people with what they *Need to Know*

Not-for-profit health agency Cohealth and the City of Melbourne have joined forces for a unique project – the writing and distribution of a zine – that will help support people with current and past experiences of homelessness. *Continued on page 5.*

Theosophical Society prepares to merge library and bookshop after falling on hard times

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The CBD's Theosophical Society bookshop and library is preparing to undergo a new look after financial pressures forced the charity to consider diverse ways of serving its devoted customers.

Both services have temporarily closed as work gets under way to expand the library within a section of the bookshop's current space as part of a restructure the organisation hoped would draw more people through its doors when it reopens in the near future.

The Society's board decided to merge the bookshop and library - which currently occupy separate spaces at 234

Flinders Lane - after having become a victim of online competitors and COVID-19 lockdowns.

Under the restructure, the library (which will also retain its current space) will take over the management of the bookshop and its space in a bid to save costs.

Stephen Fiyalko, honorary secretary of the Melbourne Theosophical Society, which has long supported and encouraged the study of comparative religion, philosophy, and science, said the change would see a greater emphasis on promoting the library rather than just selling books.

"It will change the whole atmosphere and create a community space for people to sit and read rather than just stand around looking at books," he said, adding the library and bookshop would work "in tandem to achieve the same end".

Continued on page 10.

No decision on injecting room site until 2023

“The state government cited “shifting patterns of drug harms in the CBD” as a reason for the latest delay to the release of a crucial report.”

injecting facility, although this was yet to be confirmed.

The latest state government delay saw City of Melbourne Cr Roshe-na Campbell put forward a motion at the August 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting calling for, among other things, confirmation of the sites currently being considered and an independent review into the amenity impacts of the state's first-ever safe injecting facility in North Richmond.

“[Residents and traders] are sick of being kept in the dark for years, and they want answers now,” Cr Campbell said.

“If this state government is committed to the economic recovery of this city, it's time for it to come clean on its plans for a CBD injecting room.”

However, the motion was defeated six votes to three, a majority of councillors reiterated their support for an injecting facility with wraparound health services within the CBD.

Councillors had similarly voted in favour of a medically supervised injecting room within the CBD during a passionate debate in May 2021, and the latest vote indicated numbers at Town Hall had not shifted within the past 15 months.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp acknowledged the “sensitivity” of the issue but reiterated her backing for the injecting facility.

Cr Davydd Griffiths expressed frustration that, while the motion may not have intended to, the submissions it drew again saw debate regress back to whether the facility was appropriate or not in the city, despite the fact this was now unequivocal according to independent experts.

Continued on page 7.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A report recommending the CBD site to house Victoria's second safe injecting room won't be released until 2023, more than two years later than first planned.

After delays due to COVID-19 and the state government scrapping its initial preferred site, Premier Daniel Andrews admitted in August that the report now won't be released until after the November 26 state election.

Mr Andrews said the reason for the latest delay was due to “shifting patterns of drug harms in the CBD”.

“The pandemic has significantly changed aspects of the CBD including population, foot traffic, drug harms and homelessness patterns,” a government spokesperson told *CBD News*.

“This includes the types of drugs people buy, and where they consume them.”

It is suspected the former Yooralla building at 244 Flinders St, which the government purchased in 2021, is the preferred site for the new supervised

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A Labor candidate's bid for seat of Melbourne



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▲ Tram separator kerbs on Collins St.

Tram separator works underway in CBD

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

More than five kilometres of new tram separation kerbs will be installed within the CBD between now and November, as the state government looks to reduce accidents and major disruptions inside the Hoddle Grid. The raised kerbs, which separate trams from vehicles, will be installed along La Trobe, Flinders, Swanston, Spring and Spencer streets in the coming months.

The separators not only reduce the chance of vehicle-to-tram collisions but, by extension, result in fewer instances of trams emergency braking to avoid collisions, which can prove dangerous for tram passengers too.

Yarra Trams chief executive Julien Dehornoy said Melburnians might be surprised about the statistics surrounding tram accidents.

“There’s an average of three vehicle-to-tram collisions on Melbourne’s tram network each day,” he said.

“These new kerbs will reduce these on many of the CBD’s busiest streets, resulting in faster and safer journeys for cars, buses, and trams.”

The separation kerbs — which are made using recycled materials including old tram windows — also made it harder for vehicles to illegally block trams, which can wreck havoc with journey times, especially during peak hour.

Emergency vehicles can still mount the kerbs to respond to urgent situations.

Last year, the state government’s first round of works saw kerbs installed on Collins, Bourke and Elizabeth streets, which it claimed had already reduced vehicle-to-tram collisions by around 30 per cent.

The government’s latest budget included funds to deliver six new level-access tram stops along La Trobe St.

“We’re investing more than ever before to make Melbourne’s tram network into a more modern, accessible and safe mode of transport,” Public Transport Minister Ben Carroll said.

“This investment is keeping Victorians safe, making our tram network more reliable and creating hundreds of jobs.”

The project will be delivered between now and November, with work sites moving progressively in sections along each of the routes.

Notably, La Trobe St will have separation kerbs installed along its entire length. For CBD residents, works will take place at night-time from Sundays to Thursdays (no work on Friday or Saturday nights) and noise levels are expected to be “low-to-medium” according to Yarra Trams.

There will be temporary overnight road and parking closures, with localised detours near work sites as required.

Access to properties, businesses or emergency services, however, will be maintained throughout. ●



Feral cat colonies found

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Colonies of feral cats are wandering the streets of the municipality; a City of Melbourne report has revealed.

According to the council’s draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022– 2025, it was aware of “several unowned and feral cat colonies” in the city that were “unwittingly exacerbated by residents who regularly feed these cats, making them difficult to contain”.

The problem was found in 2021, when the number of unwanted and unowned animals was a result of “the presence” of feral cat colonies in the municipality among other contributing factors.

“We are aware of a number of unowned (feral) and semi-owned cat colonies throughout our municipality which are being managed with the view of reducing the number in each colony,” the report said.

The City of Melbourne does not currently have a cat curfew or a council order relating to cat confinement, the report said.

However, it noted the trespassing and nuisance complaints relating to owned cats had reduced and the council’s animal management team continued to respond to all complaints.

In 2017, *CBD News* reported the council had intended to introduce proactive cat trapping programs to reduce the number of stray cats, as well as responding to complaints about trespassing cats. ●



Victorian Opera 2018 Lorelei © Pia Johnson



COSTUMES TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Collins Place exhibits the Victorian Opera Costume collection as part of M/FW Fashion Capsule Series

This capsule is part of the M/FW Fashion Capsule series presented by Creative Victoria and showcases the work of three talented designers from different productions.

On display in the forecourt at Collins Place as part of M/FW from 13th September – 18th October.

Visit collinsplace.com.au for details.

M/FW

Spike in dog attacks, barking complaints

WORDS BY *David Schout*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The number of reported dog attacks within the City of Melbourne has doubled in the past two years, as the council considers ways to deal with increased pet ownership.

After a significant increase in local dog and cat numbers during COVID-19 lockdowns, dog attacks increased from 58 in 2019-20 to 113 in 2020-21, a figure that remained consistent in 2021-22.

The figures were revealed in the council's draft *Domestic Animal Management Plan* for the next four years.

The council said that while higher pet numbers and better awareness of how to report attacks had likely contributed to the rise, it was nonetheless worrying.

"Dog attacks sadly and significantly impact the lives of all people involved. Victims are often left with significant financial expenses as a result of hospital or vet bills and suffer physical and emotional trauma as a result of dog attacks," the report read.

"Further, dog attacks seriously impact the lives of dogs – many victim dogs suffer life-long trauma following an incident."

An investigation into the attacks found that most attacks and "rushes" occurred while the owner was with their dog, which the council said indicated that some dog attacks were "able to be prevented through appropriate care and control".

Due to the "significant increase" in pet ownership, the council said there was now heightened demand for open space areas.

A survey of hundreds of local pet owners had suggested increased enforcement.

"Community engagement and feedback highlights the need for an increase in the number of patrols conducted by the [animal management] team, highlighting the need for more enforcement where people fail to meet their obligations as a dog owner in the City of Melbourne."



▲ Reports of dog attacks and nuisance complaints have risen sharply in recent years

The report indicated a number of key initiatives to reduce the risk of dog attacks, including:

- Desexing of dogs
- Early socialisation and training of dogs
- Ensuring animals are not permitted to wander at large
- Educating the community (particularly children) about bite avoidance and how to behave around dogs
- Educating the community and enforcing the requirements with respect to dogs accessing public places with their owner

The draft plan also revealed a sharp rise in nuisance complaints related mostly to dogs.

Barking complaints rose 30 per cent in the two years to 2021, while reports relating to leashing of dogs in public places [dogs not on leash where they are supposed to be] have more than doubled in that time, up from 83 to 200.

"[These increases are] believed to be due to more people being home more often, providing opportunity for them to hear dogs bark. The pandemic has also seen people utilising local parks more often, creating greater competing use of these spaces," the report read.

Despite having almost 8500 registered dogs and cats within the municipality, a figure that has doubled within the last 10 years, the City of Melbourne's animal management team has not increased during this time and remained at just four officers.

Councillor Rohan Leppert questioned whether this should be enhanced, not just to beef up response teams but also to improve preventative measures.

"Our team must be so efficient to be getting on with their job, but they are possibly going to be facing even more work in the future and we might need a few more animal management officers," he said.

"During COVID the pressure on open space in particular for dog off-leash – and on-leash for that matter – and the threat of dangerous dogs and what that means when they interact with the public means that we need our [team] out there educating the public so that we're not only ever responding to formal complaints. Once you do that, that's when you recognise that something's gone wrong - when actually in an ideal world, when we expand these dog

off-leash areas, we would play a really important educational role there as well."

Dogs and cats are required by state law to be registered annually, and are also required to be microchipped and wear a council identification marker (a council-supplied registration tag) when outside their premises.

In April 2022, the City of Melbourne had 4750 registered dogs and 3740 registered cats.

New pet registrations increased from 894 in 2019 to 1260 in 2020 before surging again in 2021 with 1528 new registrations.

The council, which has recently introduced seven off-leash areas and a dog prohibited area, said this highlighted a "clear upward trend".

What locals are saying about pets:

- 74 per cent of respondents feel it's fairly important or very important (59 per cent) for dog waste bags to be provided to owners
- 68 per cent of respondents felt it was important for there to be a greyhound off-leash area
- 57 per cent of respondents would like more promotion relating to dog leashing rules and responsibilities
- 51 per cent of respondents stated it is fairly important or very important that dog training events continue
- 50 per cent of respondents felt it was important for officers to be present at community events
- 33 per cent of respondents stated they "always" or "very often" observe dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be, and dog waste not being picked up.
- 19 per cent of respondents stated they very often or always see cats in the street at night
- 10 per cent of respondents stated dogs annoy or intimidate people or other dogs

(Based on a City of Melbourne survey of 465 people in May 2022) ●



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Labor candidate begins campaign to claw back Melbourne from Greens

Kensington resident and former journalist Rebecca Thistleton will attempt to unseat Greens incumbent Ellen Sandell and wrestle the seat of Melbourne back into Labor hands at the November state election.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
POLITICS



▲ Labor's candidate for Melbourne, Rebecca Thistleton, with eldest child Tommy.

A public servant who also served as a media advisor for recently retired planning minister Richard Wynne, Ms Thistleton was Labor's sole pre-selection nominee for Melbourne.

The seat has been held by The Greens since 2014 when the party prevailed in the electorate for the first time, before narrowly holding onto the seat in 2018 when Ms Sandell secured a second term.

The Greens now gunning for a third, Labor candidate Ms Thistleton has been tasked with shaking things up.

The 37-year-old began campaigning in July ahead of the November 26 election and said a number of issues had emerged in door-knocking and speaking with locals on the street.

"The hospital and hospitality workers around the city feel like they'll be locked out of the rental market here or have to live with sub-standard conditions," she told *CBD News*.

"Labor's new rental standards and rule changes have made a big difference, such as allowing for 10-year leases and making it easier to rent with pets. But there is still more work to be done and more awareness of renters' rights and landlords' responsibilities."

Ms Thistleton said that the environment was another key issue heading into the election and was adamant that electing a member for

Melbourne who was part of the government in power could deliver tangible change.

"Without the effort from Victorian Labor, national emission reductions would be far less than they are," she said.

"The Greens have been sitting in the federal parliament and the state parliament all that time and have done nothing to help make that happen. You have to be in government. That's what I want to do for the voters of Melbourne."

The mother-of-two grew up in Goulburn, NSW, and studied journalism in Canberra before moving to Melbourne in 2009.

After working as a property journalist at the *Australian Financial Review*, in 2015 she shifted to the other side of the media landscape to work as an advisor for Mr Wynne.

Since the start of 2020 she has worked for Cladding Safety Victoria, the government agency tasked with rectifying residential apartment

buildings affected by high-risk combustible cladding.

Ms Thistleton credits her journalism days as crucial to her political outlook.

"[I was] looking at market drivers and how planning and building policies shape cities and development," she said.

"My reporting experiences brought me to this point because I've witnessed how people live their lives at the margins or are doing it tougher than they should be. How we live is changing and I want to be a strong voice in those changes."

Ms Thistleton said that, as a young mother, the decision to run in Melbourne was not an easy one but pledged to give everything to unseat what she claimed was an ineffective Greens party.

"I have two small kids, so I've had to think carefully, particularly as the underdog in the

race. But no matter the result, I'll know I've worked as hard as I can to be the Member for Melbourne. The Greens couldn't name five tangible things they've done for the inner city in almost eight years. I get out and talk to people, I listen, and I want to be inside the government that gets things done."

An issue that continues to emerge in Melbourne is where Labor will locate the state's second safe injecting room, after a 2020 independent report advised that the North Richmond facility had saved at least 21 lives in its first 18 months and required help dealing with demand.

The government had promised that former police commissioner Ken Lay would table a report by the end of 2020 that recommended the most appropriate CBD site to house the facility.

However, on August 12 Mr Andrews said this report now wouldn't be ready until 2023, which would represent a delay of more than two years.

Ms Thistleton said she could understand the frustration of locals and business owners who would like an answer.

"All options must be thoroughly investigated to give a new injection centre the best chance of success. Traders and residents are frustrated, as are the social services and ambos who deal with people overdosing," she said.

With around three months to go until election day, Ms Thistleton said she presented as a strong option for local voters to make a difference.

"I'm listening to people, but I want to be a big voice for them inside that government. Working with the decision-makers is how I can push for change." ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

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How one zine that shares lived experiences is helping homeless people with what they need to know

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
 COMMUNITY

Not-for-profit health agency Cohealth and the City of Melbourne have joined forces for a unique project that will help support people with current and past experiences of homelessness.

The project will involve the writing and distribution of a zine called *Need to Know*, which will be centred around providing both advice and information about services for people living on the streets.

Zines are small self-published works of text and images that are photocopied to make a limited number of physical prints.

Within the editorial committee of eight who meet fortnightly at the Kathleen Syme Library in Carlton, where they are provided with free printing and a space, are Cohealth peer workers with lived experiences of homelessness.

One of the Cohealth peer workers now assisting with leading the zine is Caitlin Gough, who is using her personal story and experience of when she became homeless during the pandemic to help others share their story.

"You can't learn what we know, you have to live it. It's coming from the inside, it's not the outside speaking in," Ms Gough said.

Currently living in temporary accommodation, Ms Gough said she was "proud" to be sharing her experience through the zine, despite still finding it tough.

The zine includes advice on how to get a vaccination certificate if you don't have a phone, updated lists of food, shower and laundry services, and will soon share articles about going through rehab and caring for your pet while homeless.

While already seeing its positive impact following a demand for an increase in copies to



be printed, Cohealth peer worker and *Need to Know* editor Spike Chiappalon said "the process is as important, if not more, than the outcome".

"There's also the psychosocial aspect [for the members] of hanging out with other people with a shared experience and having a common goal," Mr Chiappalon said.

"We decide collectively what will be in each edition, then we all go away and do research, talk with people, and share our findings. Everyone is involved every step of the way with writing, researching, printing, and deciding where to distribute."

Through the project, the City of Melbourne's Kathleen Syme Library has also been able to provide upskilling opportunities through

graphic design tutorials and digital literacy support.

But more importantly, Mr Chiappalon said the opening of the library's doors through the project has also helped break stereotypes that are often associated with people experiencing homelessness.

"There's a myth that homeless people are lazy or criminals, and that stereotype leads to people withdrawing from social participation, or even from occupying public spaces that they are entitled to, like libraries," Mr Chiappalon said.

To further break the stigma and encourage homeless people to feel comfortable going into libraries and accessing resources, the 300 hard copies of the bi-monthly *Need to Know* editions

“

There's a myth that homeless people are lazy or criminals, and that stereotype leads to people withdrawing from social participation, or even from occupying public spaces that they are entitled to, like libraries

”

can be collected from Melbourne Town Hall, community centres, youth spaces and City of Melbourne libraries.

"We're doing everything we can to ensure our libraries are a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone in our community – no matter their circumstances," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Melbourne is a caring city, and we believe everyone deserves access to vital services and safe spaces to connect with others.

"We're proud to support Cohealth's *Need to Know* zine initiative by providing a safe space for its contributors to share their stories and experiences." ●



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
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Lord Mayor says more office workers needed to give CBD businesses the confidence they need to keep trading

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has called for a review of the state government's work-from-home advice as the measure was taking a toll on small businesses in the CBD.

New data from the Property Council of Australia's latest Office showed Melbourne's occupancy rate had dropped from 49 per cent to 38 per cent for the month of July.

By contrast, the figures revealed that other major cities had maintained an average occupancy rate of more than 50 per cent – with Perth leading the charge at 71 per cent.

The Lord Mayor said unless the return-to-office rate improved, business owners were "running out of choices" with many "on their last legs, trying desperately to stay alive".

After six months of consecutive growth, Melbourne saw its first decline in July, in what Ms Capp described as "a sharp but unsurprising blow that is rattling our city traders".

"An indefinite extension of the current work-from-home advice will continue to impede our city's ongoing bounce-back," she said in a statement.

"Victorians know what to do to stay safe and slow the spread. Most Melburnians heed the advice from the state government and our health officials."

Council data from early August showed commuter activity at the Flinders St Station underpass during the morning peak hours was down by 54 per cent on the pre-COVID 2019 benchmark.

At Bourke Street Mall, foot traffic had increased slightly but was down 40 per cent overall on the pre-COVID 2019 benchmark while general pedestrian activity near Town Hall was at 86 per cent of the pre-COVID 2019 benchmark.



The CBD's Block Arcade manager Grant Cohen backed the Lord Mayor's call for clarity, saying the current work-from-home advice "doesn't make sense" as the city was busy on the weekends.

"The city is pumping on the weekend; the Arcade is packed ... there really is an exciting buzz around town on the weekend," he said.

"It doesn't make sense they are being told to work from home. If it's full on the weekends, what's the problem with having it full during the week?"

"People aren't sitting in solitary confinement at home. They're still going down to the local café. It would be no different to being in the CBD."

Tri Lee, manager of the N Lee Bakery Café on Little Collins St, which is located near a government office tower, said business was down 60 per cent of normal trade, and he was desperate

for more workers to return to offices. He said without the support of his landlord, he would struggle to survive.

A trader in the city, who asked to remain anonymous, said while they supported the call for more office workers to return, they questioned what help was being given to support retail business owners.

"Every single initiative she [Sally Capp] has brought in has been to support anything that happens after 4pm. From discount parking to food vouchers, to Melbourne Money; everything is about hospitality and entertainment, nothing is about retail in the CBD," the trader said.

The Property Council's acting Victorian executive director Adina Cirson said the latest figures should "serve as a wake-up call to our policy makers and business leaders that we can't take our foot off the pedal when it comes to CBD recovery".

"It's clear from these figures that government advice about working from home, especially internal policies for public service colleagues, has seriously dampened any momentum for a broader return to the office," she said.

Small Business Australia chief executive Bill Lang told *CBD News* the state government "continues to show disregard for businesses" and that "clear, direct leadership" was needed.

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Paul Guerra said every business and leader had "a role to play and can lead by example".

"We always knew winter was going to be challenging but now that we've passed the peak for COVID-19 and other infections, let's set a target to get back into the office in a meaningful way from the start of September," he said.

However, as reported earlier this year by *CBD News*, Premier Daniel Andrews said while he acknowledged "people are hurting and change is really tough" in relation to the hybrid working model, he conceded, "I don't think we're going to go back to the way it was".

"If you want to keep the CBD vibrant, then maybe we need to have more people living in the CBD," he said.

Shadow Minister for small business and the recovery of the CBD, David Southwick, said hybrid working may be here to stay "but it's clear Daniel Andrews' three-day-a week target for public servants isn't close to being met".

At the City of Melbourne's July 26 meeting, councillors voted unanimously that the Lord Mayor write to the Minister for Industry Support and Recovery, seeking an "accelerated delivery" of the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund to support the city's post-COVID recovery.

The letter to the Minister would also ask what efforts were being done to support the return of office-workers back to the city. ●

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COLLINS PLACE

Collins Place exhibits Victorian Opera collection for Fashion Week

ARTS & CULTURE

Discover the skill that goes into creating stories on stage with a selection of garments from Victorian Opera's extravagant costume collection.

This display is part of the Melbourne Fashion Week (MFW) Fashion Capsule series presented by Creative Victoria and showcases the work of three talented designers from different productions.

Discover Mel Serjeant's pieces, which tell the traditional story of the magpie on Wadawurrung Country in *Parrwange Lifts The Sky*.

These intricate and impressive dresses from Marg Horwell was used in Lorelei, while Anna Cordingley's costumes for *Sunday In The Park With George* are an ode to famous impressionist masterpieces, featuring work from Mel Serjeant, Marg Horwell and Anna Cordingley.

On display in the forecourt at Collins Place as part of MFW from September 13 to October 18.

For more information: collinsplace.com.au ●

No decision on injecting room site until 2023

Continued from page 1.

"Nothing substantive has changed since that time in terms of the medical and scientific evidence that backs up a need for safe injecting facilities," he said.

Where is the Lay report?

Former Victorian Police commissioner Ken Lay was appointed in July 2020 to find the most suitable CBD location for the state's second safe injecting room — a hygienic place where people can inject drugs in a supervised health setting.

Early that year an independent expert panel had found that the North Richmond site had saved at least 21 lives in its first 18 months and thwarted 271 "extremely serious overdose incidents".

It concluded that North Richmond required help dealing with demand, and that the next location should be within the City of Melbourne.

When Mr Lay was appointed, the government said that a report would be handed back within six months.

However, this has been pushed back on numerous occasions, firstly due to COVID-19 preventing the required consultation with relevant stakeholders, but more notably the government scrapping its initial preferred site.

That facility — community health service Cohealth on Victoria St — was subject to strong pushback from the council due to its proximity to vulnerable residents and the Queen Victoria Market.

While councillors were against that site on Victoria St, a majority have maintained their backing for the facility within the CBD.

Opening a safe injecting facility in the CBD is ultimately a state government decision, but as the key stakeholder the council's approval is vital.

Soon after the government had moved on from the Cohealth option, Mr Lay told the City of Melbourne in May 2021 that his report would likely be completed in "eight to 12 weeks".

However, Cr Capp revealed the council had received "no new information" since that time.

The Premier has now said the report was now "expected to be completed by early next year".

It is understood the government asked Mr Lay to extend his investigation to include targeted engagement with the likes of Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police to ensure his advice was informed by their current insights.

There were growing frustration among some traders and residents about the report's delays.

Small Business Australia executive director Bill Lang said it created uncertainty among traders.

"There are business owners with leases coming up for renewal," he said.

"The property owners in those areas, they don't know. Every business owner and property owner in Melbourne has this increased uncertainty due to the government's refusal to release the list of locations being evaluated."

Researchers call for more rooms

Australia has only two supervised injecting facilities; in Sydney's Kings Cross (opened in 2001) and in North Richmond (since 2018).

They are designed to benefit vulnerable and marginalised people who inject drugs, and are particularly aimed at people who inject drugs in public settings.

Recent research from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre suggested it's not just the CBD that should house a safe injecting facility.

It found that more facilities should be considered across metropolitan Melbourne to overcome the distance barrier for people to access the service.

Upper House MP and Reason Party leader Fiona Patten told *CBD News* that while the issue was at times divisive, constituents on the whole recognised it as positive.

"Obviously there is always a range of views on progressive measures, but the evidence is that safe-injecting rooms

not only reduce harm, they save many lives and the majority of the community supports such harm-reduction measures," she said.

"Crucially, three-in-four people seeking help through using these facilities engage with services that help them find and remain on a path to recovery."

CBD safe injecting room report: Timeline

- **July 2020:** Ken Lay AO APM appointed to determine the best CBD site for Victoria's second safe injecting facility. Report due "by the end of 2020".
- **November 2020:** Timeline "has not changed", according to government.
- **December 2020:** Mr Lay requests to "extend consultation into the New Year", which the government accepts.
- **Early 2021:** Government scraps "preferred site" on Victoria St.
- **May 2021:** Mr Lay tells the City of Melbourne the report is likely to be completed "in the next eight to 12 weeks". The council backs room in the CBD.
- **May 2022:** No funds in budget for injecting room but government commits to releasing report by end of year.
- **August 2022:** Premier Daniel Andrews says report now expected in early 2023. ●

Archaeological dig exposes remarkable snapshot of Melbourne's 19th century

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HERITAGE

An archaeological dig has unearthed a trove of treasure dating to the pre-gold rush era as work takes shape for a 20-storey office tower in the CBD.

The site, on the corner of Little Lonsdale St and Bennetts Lane, is currently being excavated by archaeologists from Extent Heritage as part of a Heritage Victoria requirement before a large build begins on a new tower comprising offices, food and drink shops, and retail.

As exclusively reported in the August edition of *CBD News*, the archaeological project has revealed a fascinating snapshot of Melbourne, exposing remnants of terraces and cottages — including brick fireplaces — descending into the soil as well as a range of 19th century artefacts.

Extent Heritage's chief executive Ian Travers said the excavation had revealed a time when Melbourne was one of the "roughest and toughest" areas in the city.

"This time capsule contains an



▲ Archaeologists find remnants of terraces and cottages as well range of artefacts during a dig at Bennetts Lane.



important cultural record of the hundreds of generations of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people who lived along the creek valleys and on the gently sloping ground to the north of the Birrarung, now known as the Yarra River," he said.

Among the artefacts found include a food storage jar, a Bears Grease

container for hairstyling, an ink well, ceramic dolls, tools, and shoes.

Mr Travers said an important component of the work was identifying any buried Aboriginal cultural deposits that may exist as evidence of occupation and use of pre-contact Aboriginal times.

"The current excavations will

help to further our knowledge and understanding of former use and land management, along with the social and economic growth of a rapidly flourishing post-contact Melbourne," he said.

Developers Perri Projects and Pellicano will incorporate the newly discovered artifacts within the new tower build as well as re-purpose some of the bluestone and brick materials salvaged during the excavation.

"The project has also been designed to respect and respond to the heritage of the wider precinct, including the Wesley Church directly across the road," managing director of Perri Projects David Scalzo said.

"We are also exploring the opportunity to reintroduce live music to the precinct, a part of Melbourne's modern cultural heritage and hope to have more to say on this soon. The end result will be a rich and layered corner of the CBD."

Mr Scalzo said the tower, known as the Bennetts Lane project, would be a landmark project that will build on and retain the character and history of some of the city's oldest buildings

while creating a "vibrant new place for Victorians to work and play".

Lord Mayor Sally Capp described the archaeological dig as a "fascinating buried landscape" underneath Melbourne.

"This vital work by Perri Projects and Pellicano means we can uncover more about the history of Melbourne, and further ensure its bright future through confidence-inspiring development that will enhance the city landscape and create jobs," she said.

In addition to Heritage Victoria, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Aboriginal Corporation, the Traditional Owners, and the Registered Aboriginal Party of the land are also working closely with the project's team. Public tours of the site were held during August. ●



Brendan Rees
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Iglu provides a supportive home away from home for students

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
EDUCATION

The return of international students to the city has been a slow-growing process, but notable purpose-built student accommodation Iglu Melbourne City is ensuring it is there every step of the way with doors wide open.

Situated overlooking the Queen Victoria Market, Iglu offers independent experiences with an instant community, and it is one of the founding members of the Student Accommodation Council.

The Student Accommodation Council is a recently formed division of the Property Council of Australia (PCA), launched by executive director Torie Brown and Scape CEO and inaugural chair Anouk Darling.

The purpose of the new division is to represent and advocate for Australia's purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA) sector and to provide safe and secure housing for students as they return to their studies in Melbourne.

"Young international students become life-long ambassadors for our country – it is crucial they have the best possible experience studying in Australia," Ms Brown said.

"Purpose-built student accommodation provides a supportive, safe and fun environment for students while they study, live and work in Melbourne."

As one of the more established facilities, with another location in South Yarra, a new property due to open opposite the Flagstaff Gardens, and interstate facilities in Brisbane and Sydney, Iglu has a wide range of choices for students to aid not only with their studies but also with forming lasting connections.

It is this lasting impact that Ms Brown said



was important due to the additional benefits the students also added to the City of Melbourne.

"Having students living in and around the CBD provides an instant sugar-hit to local businesses, increases city vibrancy and injects much needed skills into the local workforce," Ms Brown said.

"As well as providing pastoral care, student accommodation operators encourage new

friendships and connections through facilitated activities and common spaces which ensure students don't become socially isolated."

Making up the floor space of the Iglu entry is a welcome area and front desk where students can access 24/7 staff support. While all spaces of the building are well-secured to ensure safety of the students comes first, the addition of the noticeboards, touch-screen communication

monitors and the personal letterboxes adds a touch of home and community.

This attention to detail and creating a home environment for all is seen across all PBSA builds as they are Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant and strive to assist students with hearing and visual impairments, and those who are wheelchair-bound.

Iglu also has a cinema, study rooms, bookable meeting spaces, a gym, laundry, game and multi-purpose areas and a basement for bike storage.

The study rooms in particular are vitally important for students at this time as they undertake their tertiary studies both in person and online. The study nooks also allow for students to study in private outside their bedrooms while still being within sociable quarters, but a desk is still supplied in students' bedrooms if they prefer.

The Franklin St location consists of 594 beds and like many PBSA buildings they have studio rooms and multi-shared apartments available.

Each bedroom comes with its own bathroom, a kettle, toaster, fridge, cleaning supplies such as vacuum and mop and broom, both wardrobe and underneath bed storage, and the ability for each student to control their own heating and cooling.

Not far from Iglu Melbourne City, are two other founding PCA Student Accommodation Council members – Journal Student Living and Scape – all of which have a goal to see the city thrive through the welcoming back of students.

The Student Accommodation Council has come at a time when student numbers are set to increase, following 181,000 students arriving to Australia in the first half of this year, and the hope is for the available accommodations to only further entice students to Melbourne. ●

QVM powers up with solar panels as city gears towards net-zero

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SUSTAINABILITY

The Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has taken a significant step in its sustainability goals with new solar panels expected to cut its power bill by \$100,000 a year.

The project – set to be completed in mid-2023 – will see more than 1500 solar panels installed on the market's huge rooftop, covering an area equivalent to three Olympic swimming pools.

The City of Melbourne announced in August it had powered up 650 new solar panels with another 900 to be installed in the coming months in a move that will not only save electricity costs but reduce the landmark's carbon emissions by 1300 tonnes each year.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the "major investment" would play a significant role in the council becoming a zero-carbon city by 2040.

"We're doing everything we can to reduce our environmental impact and build resilience to ensure Melbourne is one of the world's most



sustainable cities," she said.

"We're championing sustainability through our renewal program by incorporating solar power, stormwater harvesting and on-site organic waste recycling – making it easier for

traders to run their businesses, while reducing the market precinct's environmental footprint."

"The market's new solar power system will cut costs and carbon emissions, providing flow-on benefits for traders, the environment

and the City of Melbourne."

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said the market was proud of its long-term pledge to renewable energy including a recent focus on waste management.

"Solar panels were first introduced at the market in 2003 when 1328 photovoltaic panels were installed with support of the City of Melbourne – it was the largest of its type in the Southern Hemisphere at that time," he said.

"The installation of this new solar system, along with other sustainability initiatives such as recycling 80 per cent of the market's waste, up from 50 per cent three years ago, means we are on target to achieve our mission of zero net carbon emissions by 2027."

By harvesting sunlight, the solar panels will generate a total of more than 900,000 kilowatt hours a year – enough to power 205 Melbourne households.

The council's environment portfolio lead councillor Rohan Leppert said its infrastructure priorities were in response to the world's climate emergency. ●




Wax Museum Records

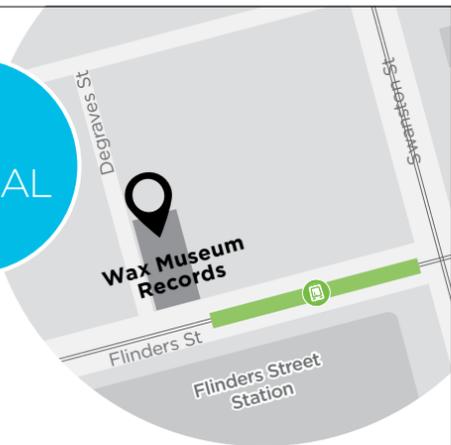
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The festival putting children's emotional resilience and wellbeing first

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

As a response to the lasting impact of the pandemic on children's mental health and wellbeing, The Big Anxiety Festival's Children's Sensorium program is confronting the issue head on.

The Melbourne Naarm cultural festival is a partnership between RMIT University and UNSW Sydney, and is being collaboratively produced by RMIT Culture and Yarra Ranges Council.

While the Naarm festival officially starts on September 21 with a long list of events designed to promote curiosity, insight and action through the sharing of lived experiences, the Children's Sensorium started on August 19 in RMIT's Design Hub Gallery.

Children's Sensorium curator Grace McQuilten has seen the impact of the pandemic on children first-hand through her own daughter's experience, and she said while the issue was becoming more recognised, many families were still suffering.

"There is some pretty strong evidence showing the significant impacts of lockdown, school closures and a menacing virus circulating on young children and their sense of wellbeing and safety in the world," Ms McQuilten said.

"It probably manifests for a lot of families in behavioural issues from their children because mental health issues aren't always picked up or obvious."

Reflecting on psychologists' and support services' long waiting lists as motivation for having a children-focused program at the festival, Ms McQuilten said the program was a positive and upbeat experience for the children.

"We have worked with a group of contemporary artists to create a space for children where they can connect with their senses, explore



▲ *Children's Sensorium Art Magic Remnant by Hiromi Tango, photo by Dean Beletich and image courtesy of the artist and Sullivan+Strumpf.*

their feelings in a safe environment and learn some basic strategies around mindfulness, being in the body, deep breathing and regulating their emotions," she said.



"Art in itself, and of itself, is a fantastic way for kids to process complex feelings and experiences." Within the Sensorium there will be things for

kids to touch, smell, look at and listen to, all of which are there to encourage them to be in the present moment.

Artistic direction was also received from Boonwurrung elder N'arweet Carolyn Briggs, through a soundscape with audio from nature, water and stories, and teaches kids how connecting to country is an important aspect of wellbeing.

Kids have also been involved through the production of the program, with a co-design aspect visible in displays of their artwork.

The Children's Sensorium is particularly suited on children between the ages of four and 11, but the positive impact of art on mental health through this sensory experience can also be beneficial for older kids and adults.

Using creative responses that stretch beyond the medical or clinical model, the festival's co-directors Scientia Professor Jill Bennett (UNSW Sydney) and Professor Renata Kokanovic (RMIT University) aim to reposition mental health as a collective community-based cultural responsibility.

According to Scientia Professor Bennett, "arts are the best means we have for sharing complex experiences."

"[Arts] is a pathway that can show us what we may not know about ourselves and others, and it also shines a light on relationships and social settings that help or hinder mental health," she said.

"We have seen evidence that the arts can make real and meaningful transformations and change."

The Big Anxiety will run until October 15 and coincides with National Mental Health Month. ●

For more information:
thebiganxiety.org

New library and community for QVM's Munro site

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

The Munro Library and Community Hub is on track to transforming the Queen Victoria Market precinct following positive feedback from the community.

The plans to move forward came after the schematic design of the library and hub was unanimously endorsed by City of Melbourne councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 2.

"It's exciting to see our vision for the Munro Library and Community Hub begin to take shape, which offers us an enormous opportunity to breathe new life into this unique corner of the city," Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said.

"By 2040, we expect to welcome more than 24,000 new residents to the area, making it one of the fastest growing neighbourhoods in the city."

Community consultation has been widely conducted for this project, with the council receiving 318 community member responses when engagement was carried out earlier this year from January to March.

From the responses, the council said that wellbeing and connecting with locals in the community were top priorities for people in the area, with the data to be considered as part of planning for the library's collections and programs.

The council has also worked closely with Traditional Owners and Elders throughout the planning process to ensure the space honours Aboriginal culture, celebrates First Nations knowledge systems and welcomes the Aboriginal community.

"We've listened to Melburnians, and we know that there is an increasing demand for inclusive access to public spaces and amenities in this area," Cr Reece said.

The library and hub's proposed design has



▲ *Render of library reading room. Six Degrees Architects.*

been developed by leading Melbourne architecture firm Six Degrees Architects and will occupy three storeys of the \$500 million five-storey Munro development, which was completed late last year.

Included in the endorsed design are a

dedicated children's library, a family services centre, a community rooftop terrace for outdoor reading and activities, a creative makers' space, two sound studios, communal study and events spaces and bookable meeting rooms.

The council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said the hope of all of the endorsed features was to ensure the library was not only a place to study, but also a space where the community's imagination, learning and wellbeing thrived.

"Libraries are the most inclusive and accessible public space we have. We want Munro to become a place that sparks imagination and provides plenty of opportunities to expand minds and transform the lives of Melburnians," Cr Hakim said.

The 3100 sqm library and community hub is set to open to the public in late 2023 with goals of achieving a five-star green star rating – an internationally-recognised rating for excellence in sustainable design and construction. ●



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Theosophical Society prepares to merge library and bookshop after falling on hard times

Continued from page 1.

“We’ll still have the same function; there’ll be books for sale, there’ll be all the stuff that we have currently for sale, but we’re going to open up the central part of the bookshop.”

Mr Fiyalko said the restructure was a necessary cost-cutting measure as the bookshop had fallen on hard times, particularly in the wake of the pandemic.

“The bookshop has been with the Theosophical Society for many years, and it was a very strong part of the organisation, contributing a lot of income and promoting theosophy over a long period of time. But when Amazon came on the scene, it was in a steady decline,” he said.

“We’re taking a whole different approach to how we’re going to be presenting ourselves to the public as well as promoting theosophy.”

Mr Fiyalko said the library, which was relocated to Flinders Lane in recent years after calling Russell St its home for 40 years, was an “unrealised asset” to the community that few people knew about, which the society wanted to change.

He said some ideas being considered was dedicating half of its retail stock in books towards the library’s collection as well as using the new space to conduct talks on books and musical performances.

While conceding the change may not



▲ Stephen Fiyalko, honorary secretary of the Melbourne Theosophical Society, said a restructure of its organisation to save costs will see its library better promoted.

be accepted by everyone, Mr Fiyalko said the charity had “tried to do it in a way that

accommodates the needs of ourselves but the community as well”.



We’re taking a whole different approach to how we’re going to be presenting ourselves to the public as well as promoting theosophy.



His remarks come as more than 4000 people have signed an online petition claiming the library and bookshop were “under threat of closure” and called for the “reinstatement or compensation” of staff who were laid off.

But Mr Fiyalko was quick to reassure that neither the library nor bookshop were closing, instead it was downsizing and changing its current format as well as recruiting staff.

He said those critical of the changes had his full sympathy but any suggestion that both services would ever close was “misinformation”.

“We’re making a proactive decision to try to reduce the losses that we’re having so we can maintain it indefinitely and put the savings into something more productive.” ●

Lack of on-street parking leaves many city-goers eager to “get out”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

Many small businesses and delivery drivers say they have had enough of on-street parking being taken away, arguing that it has made it less appealing to come into the city.

Adding to the concerns commonly raised around Exhibition St parking, frustrated traders on Collins St say they have been left further confused by the further loss of on-street parking.

While many of their customers could often find on-street parking on Little Collins St and Flinders Lane, this is no longer the case due to planter boxes, barriers for extended outdoor dining and no standing signage now being in place.

Owner of You Day Spa Helen Cacopardo said she and many other business owners were “unhappy” with what had been happening in the city around parking during the past 12 months.

“I had a client [who] went to three different parking complexes and they were all full because there were no on-street parking spaces, and she had to end up cancelling the appointment,” Ms Cacopardo said.

“Not everyone can catch public transport and sometimes it is not convenient for people

to take public transport or ride a bike as they may be coming from Carlton and then want to go out to South Yarra or Dandenong.”

“If you want people to create business in the city you have to make it easy for them. If they can find a one-hour on-street parking space, they can come in and see me and then they may walk past a shop or a cafe. It all creates business.”

Another small business owner, who wished to remain anonymous, also spoke to *CBD News* about the negative impacts the lack of parking has had on her business, recalling four particular incidents where parking has caused customers to not return.

“When you are a small business you hear it on the ground from your clients, but when someone is running a big store, they don’t really know what is going on,” the business owner said.

“I had one client who had a foot operation and was moving around with a [knee scooter] and she came in with her husband for a nice shop and to have lunch, but they couldn’t get a park. She said she was never coming back [to the city] and I haven’t seen her since.”

The business owner has also noticed the difficulty for her delivery drivers who are having to drive around and around until they can find a park.

Flinders Lane has been a trouble spot for

many delivery drivers, with one driver, who was “lucky enough” to grab the one free space allowing him to open the back of his truck, saying getting the space meant his “challenge was done for the day”.

“If you aren’t lucky enough, you have to park further down in no standing zones, and I don’t come to work to get fined,” the driver said.

“When I work in the city, I can’t wait to get out.”

The sighting of delivery trucks ducking in and out of no standing zones is a common occurrence on many of the laneways and streets surrounding Collins St and Spring St, which often have no-where else to go.

In response to the rising difficulty for transport workers, Transport Workers Union Victoria secretary Mike McNess said, “transport workers must be considered in any road-related decisions made by councils and government across the state.”

“Limited access for transport workers was most noticeable in Melbourne’s city initially but it is now becoming a trend across the state.”

“The workers who service businesses and the community by road need to be able to do that safely and efficiently.”

Mr McNess added that appropriately located loading zones and express bus lanes were both solutions to this problem, and consultation was

taking place to address the infrastructure in the city.

In the City of Melbourne’s 2030 Transport Strategy, it was recorded that a significant proportion of kerb space was dedicated to on-street parking and over the past 15 years the supply in the city has been reduced by 22 per cent.

The report also outlined that due to only a “small number of people” using on-street parking, the space could be better utilised to accommodate deliveries, service vehicles, pick-ups and drop-offs, public space, wider footpaths and bicycle lanes.

Despite many city-goers reporting parking being taken away, the council also told *CBD News* that there had been an increase of just under 100 “parking spaces” since 2019 across Collins St, Flinders Lane, Little Collins St, Bourke St, Russell St and Howitt Lane.

These spaces included free, pick up-set down, short-term, metered, disabled and permit parking, loading and construction zones, and parking for buses, motorcycles, car share and taxis.

The council’s transport strategy also states there is little evidence parking is essential for retail performance, but small businesses along Collins St are rebuking the statement, claiming the council never once consulted them for their opinion on the matter of the on-street parking removal and how it has impacted them. ●

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Curtain falls for historic cinema as owners look to revitalise the space

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

One of the CBD's longest running cinemas is preparing to close after more than 70 years.

The Crazy Horse adult cinema on Elizabeth St – which formerly housed the Star Newsreel Theatre – will shut in October before demolition is expected to get underway.

However, the cinema, which shares a space with the Curlow House and Club X, will undergo a revamp and be turned into an “adult retail boutique” shop, with the old square cinema screen possibly being kept.

“It’s very sad. We wouldn’t be doing this if we didn’t want to. And that’s one of the reasons why we’re trying to adapt how we can keep the screen and all of that into the model so that the history is still there,” Jill Mellon-Robertson, a spokesperson for the cinema’s owners, Club X, said.

“We’re not getting the patronage that we used to get because when you look at what’s happening on the internet now people don’t have to leave the lounge room; they go on to Only Fans, and they don’t have to go anywhere.

“We have to keep reinventing ourselves, we have to keep finding another model that works as we’ve always done.”

Ms Mellon-Robertson said it was an “exciting time” ahead as she worked with the owners to revitalising the space into a “very upmarket” adult store geared primarily towards the LGBTIQ community as a “safe place for them to investigate their sexual wellness and their sexual identity”.

“We’re thinking that we might keep screen and we might show some of the old films but



▲ Jill Mellon-Robertson, Club X spokesperson, owner of Crazy Horse cinemas.

Photo: Patt Basilio.

tastefully - nothing that would be graphic or that you would consider to be pornographic in the show,” she said, adding that the screen could be used to show runway shoots, with the space also including a hair salon.

The cinema opened in 1951, which lasted until the introduction of television before it was re-named Star Theatre from 1963 when it went over to screening feature films. By 1974 it had been re-named Star Adult Theatre and was then re-named Crazy Horse XXX adult cinema theatre in 1985.

The grand building still features an old ticket

booth as well as original seats covered in red faux leather.

While the cinema was coming to an end, Ms Mellon-Robertson said it was a “bittersweet” moment as she worked with the owners to cater towards a wider audience in a safe environment.

“We’ve always been discriminated against because of the industry that we’re in. We are seen as the sleazy, sex entertainment venue, and we are anything but because our venue is well managed.

“We have had lovely community groups coming to that venue for 35 years.” ●

Appeal for information following Lonsdale St robbery

CRIME

Victoria Police Embona Taskforce detectives are investigating following a robbery in Melbourne in June.

Police have been told a 20-year-old Melbourne man was walking by himself down Lonsdale St when he was approached by three men walking towards him from the opposite direction on Saturday, June 2 about 3.25am.

One of the three men stopped and turned towards the victim, before threatening to assault him and making demands for his belongings.

The victim handed over his AirPods, and the three men walked away towards Russell St.

Police have released images and CCTV of a man who they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

The offender is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, approximately 20 to 30 years of age, average height and build and was wearing black clothing and a red beanie.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have been driving in the area at the time with dashcam vision or anyone with CCTV to come forward.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. ●

Smoke-free zones could be extended

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Smoking and vaping could be banned across certain parts of the city as the City of Melbourne looks to extend its smoke-free zones.

The council will consider whether entry points to major transport hubs should be designated as smoke-free, alongside council-owned and -managed properties like Town Hall, community sporting hubs and civic spaces.

“The City of Melbourne is working to ensure more residents, workers, visitors, and families can enjoy our beautiful city without health concerns,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“The rise in e-cigarette usage has been alarming, especially among our younger generation.”

Under the plan, the council will upgrade existing signage at current smoke-free areas to prevent the rise in e-cigarette use.

The mooted expansion comes as the council’s smoke-free Melbourne policy has seen marked successes since its endorsement in June 2021, including a smoke ban on McKillop St, following community consultation.

Quit Victoria director Dr Sarah White said non-smokers breathing in smoke increased their risk of cancer, stroke, and heart disease as well as triggering asthma attacks.

Tobacco Free Portfolios CEO Dr Bronwyn King backed the council’s proposal as it not only saved lives but protected the environment and amenity of the city. ●

Lord Mayor takes away key learnings from Singapore trip

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has vowed to ensure Melbourne reclaims the title of the world’s most liveable city after drawing inspiration from her recent visit to Singapore.

Ms Capp said among her priorities was to combat graffiti and city cleanliness, which she conceded was the “number one issue” members of the community had raised with her.

During her trip to Singapore from July 31 to August 4, during which she attended the World Cities Summit, Ms Capp said she was impressed by “how easy” it is for people to report issues like graffiti in Singapore via an app.

“I’m keen to explore how we make it even easier for people to report issues in Melbourne,” she said.

“The QR codes on bins have been hugely successful and the more data we can collect the more we are able to analyse the data – where are the hot spots, the popular times, and who are the perpetrators.

“It helps us focus on prevention, which is the ultimate goal, to reduce the amount of graffiti we need clean up.”

Ms Capp noted she was particularly interested in Christchurch’s approach, which involved community groups banding together to remove graffiti.

“They are given the tools and equipment to clean up graffiti and vandalism, and it gives them a sense of ownership over what their city looks like.”

Overall, the Lord Mayor said she the summit was “a great opportunity” to promote the City of Melbourne and learn from other city leaders from around the world.

She gave four keynote speeches and participated in a range of forums and meetings – in which spoke about the City of Melbourne’s city-shaping projects such as Power Melbourne and Greenline.

“Melbourne’s reputation abroad cannot be understated. Melbourne is held in such high regard for our efforts to tackle climate change as well as our culture and hospitality offerings.

“I met with a number of business and industry



leaders who are looking to Melbourne for investment opportunities. Our Invest Melbourne team [is] already working with many of them to ensure Melbourne is their investment city of choice in Australia.”

Among the leaders present at the summit was the mayor of Vienna, which is currently the world’s most liveable city.

“That’s a title I’m determined to bring back to Melbourne,” Ms Capp declared.

“My learnings from Vienna reiterated that we’re heading in the right direction, and we will continue to prioritise greening our city and investing in active transport, the arts and events.” ●

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New CBD public art intervention reveals Elizabeth St's hidden waterway

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Buried beneath bustling Elizabeth St lies a hidden waterway, and emerging artist Joy Zhou is hoping to excite and intrigue people about its discovery through a new sound-based public art intervention.

The intervention which will take place across Elizabeth St, Therry St, and Bouverie St, will also pay particular attention to acknowledging the journey the creek has been through on Wurundjeri land.

Coming to Melbourne as an immigrant, Ms Zhou said discovering the city's history and the underground Williams Creek waterway was "surprising" to hear and the reason she organised the activation.

"I was really hoping to bring awareness to the existence of this unknown and unseen scenery underneath the city landscape which we occupy in everyday life," she said.

"It will be a temporary public art intervention where details and a QR code will be on the ground for people to discover the urban view of the surroundings of this urbanised creek while listening to the speculative version of the audio I created."

Ms Zhou's *Creek Chat* activation is among one of the 18 recipients of the latest city activation grant round, which has seen more than \$800,000 go towards supporting the upcoming events and pop-ups.

The \$1.75 million grant program is part of the joint City of Melbourne and Victorian Government's \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, and successful grant recipients have received up to \$50,000 to support the delivery of their idea.

The council's city activation portfolio lead Cr Roshena Campbell said the council was doing everything it could "to breathe new life into Melbourne".

"We know events are driving Melbourne's recovery, which is why we're supporting a diverse range of new activations, performances and activities to keep visitors coming back to the city and putting dollars into local traders' pockets," Cr Campbell said.

In addition to the *Creek Chat* which starts August 29, an augmented reality experience of the past and future of Melbourne will also be seen through *Remember the Wild*.

Queen Victoria Market precinct, Lygon St and Alexandra Gardens will farewell the wintry season with *Winter Sessions*, and spring will be celebrated with *Florals by the Docklands* and *Bike Valet* in Docklands. ●

Turning attention to sustainability this spring

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
SUSTAINABILITY

As spring returns this year, so too does Federation Square's month-long festival Sustainable September.

Put on hold for two years, the festival is back with a green-focused bang, ready to promote a healthier and more sustainable planet for future generations through family-friendly events and activities.

Presented by Fed Square and major partner Bupa, the square will host a multitude of events throughout the month, including film screenings, panel discussions and interactive events.

While the festival ultimately focuses on fun during September, Fed Square said it is also aimed to "empower us to make the right choices, so we can do our part to nurture our health, environment and the community."

On September 3, Fed Square's The Atrium will become a Vegan Market and the ideal destination to get your hands on everything from food to homewares with the added bonus of it all being plant-based, cruelty-free and vegan.

A Zero Waste Festival will also be held on September 17 to encourage people to rethink waste through the use of practical solutions. The event will be presented by Zero Waste Victoria and panel discussions will be conducted with sustainability experts.

Other events taking place throughout the month include:

- **Yarra River Keepers Clean Up** – A community clean-up of the Yarra River will be held on September 3.
- **Sustainability Storytimes** – The City of Melbourne's pop-up library for kids will be open on September 17 between 11am and 2pm, filled with books about food, sustainability, health and community.
- **Total Ethics Fashion with Collective Fashion Justice** – Find out different ways to create a more ethical and sustainable fashion industry from expert panel discussions, practical workshops and demos.

A Zero Waste Festival will also be held on September 17 to encourage people to rethink waste through the use of practical solutions. The event will be presented by Zero Waste Victoria and panel discussions will be conducted with sustainability experts.



- **Follow the Green Brick Road** – ACMI, The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and the Koorie Heritage Trust are inviting kids to follow clues to special artworks and discover how art can help people think about important issues.
- **Green Workshops** – Yoga classes, worm composting lessons and sessions for kids on turning waste into wearable items will be running throughout the month. Entry-by-donation proceeds will go to the Black Duck Foundation.
- **This is Planet Earth** – An especially-curated exhibition at &Gallery in the Atrium will explore the work of artists who reflect on the human impact of the environment, sustainability and climate change in their work. ●



For more information:
fedsquare.com/events/sustainable-september

Readers get to work

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

The first of the lockdown novels has been released, *Dinner with the Schnabels*, by Toni Jordan, forcing readers to get cracking.

The protagonist in this closely focalised novel is an anxious architect from Canberra.

Simon's business went bankrupt, and he lost his house during the lockdown.

The novel opens with the arrival of an unexpected house guest whom he has to squeeze into his already overfilled flat.

Downsizing is the theme of this novel as Simon and his family try and deal with less space, less money and less status.

The novel does not explore the day-to-day realities of the lockdown but uses it as a backdrop for the economic downturn.

The architectural profession with its interchangeable adjectives, its blue-sky jargon and communications-heavy ambitions, is the target.

Jordan will be at the Melbourne Writers Festival in September for a face-to-face session with readers.

She's a Melbourne-based writer and *Dinner with the Schnabels* is très local with its ironic depiction of millennials but its gushing sentimentality when it comes to family is more Brisbanian where Jordan was born.

The focus of this year's festival is ambition, and the "good" dad is one who keeps it in check.

Better to lounge around the flat in day pyjamas that to be out at all hours on the job in a fancy car.

The festival is modest compared to past years when it ran over two weekends and was scattered all over the CBD in surprise venues with performance pieces and large dramatic themes such as love and death.

It is back to being the talkfest it always was,



▲ Anja working her way up to the writers' festival.

with the best always residing in the fiction section where novelists have a chance to look at the emotional detail.

There might be a bit too much in the *Schnabels* as the boy from Canberra takes a while to sink into the more casual lifestyle of the flat-dweller.

A walk-up flat is not too onerous, and he's the one who is too precious to realise where his artistic talents really lie.

He's been too busy angsty to get on with the job of making ends meet and creating great spaces for his family.

Toni Jordan will be at the State Library on September 9. Other local fiction writers with a good turn of phrase, Emily Bitto and Paul Dalla Rosa, will also appear during the four-day festival.

Lockdown themes will be addressed more explicitly in some of the more polemical sessions such as *Are We All OK?* and *Nihilism Makes*

Life Worth Living.

A good story can't be forced and as the program states, our attitudes towards work may never be the same again.

Melbourne Writers Festival, September 8-11. ●



For more information:
mwf.com.au



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
R.DREDGE@HOTMAIL.COM

Fed Square becomes a Wellbeing Village

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
HEALTH

For Melburnians who have spent the first half of the year unsure how to have a healthier and happier lifestyle, a weekend in the heart of the city may just be the answer.

From Friday, August 26 to the following Sunday, Federation Square is transforming into a Wellbeing Village with workshops, classes, information stands and marquees, food trucks and film screenings.

Director and CEO of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation Katrina Sedgwick OAM said the Wellbeing Village was important to show visitors different ways they could put their health and wellbeing first.

“The Wellbeing Village at Fed Square encourages Victorians to explore a range of wellness activities, discover important mental health resources, and take part in fitness and creative classes,” she said.

“Mental health, recreation and wellbeing play a crucial role in everyone’s lives and hosting these activities in the heart of Melbourne in the civic heart of Melbourne – Fed Square – positively reinforces this across our community.”

On the list of events and activities are yoga classes, a VicHealth Future Health activity zone, a wellbeing experience at the Peninsula Hot Springs marquee, a silent disco and an option to mix your own smoothie on a spin bike with Bike n’ Blend.

A Beyond Blue bus and a Love Me, Love You marquee will also be onsite for visitors wanting to gather mental health resources.

Presented by Fed Square and VicHealth, the event is all about looking after both all aspects of your health, with main stage speakers also scheduled to share their personal stories on the Saturday.

Beyond Blue community speakers Emily Unity and Jake Russell will start the segment by sharing their journey of hope, recovery and



▲ Wellbeing Village Yoga.

Photo: Liam Neal.



▲ Bike n’ Blend.



▲ Koorie Heritage Trust Mindfulness Walk.

resilience when dealing with a mental health condition.

Love Me, Love You founder Lance Picioane will then speak on overcoming adversity through diversity, before additional segments *Plant the seed: Urban Farming 101* and *Sound Healing* are presented.

The Sunday will then wrap up with a screening of *Inside Out* – a family classic that teaches

kids about navigating their different emotions and how to communicate them. ●

For more information:
fedsquare.com/events/wellbeing-village



The politics of handmade

EVENTS

In the bad olden days, women used to sit in a corner knitting and stitching and no-one took much notice.

Now their handmade crafts are not only valued but used politically.

Kate Just, a lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts, is a political knitter.

Her work and a statement about her practice is on display at *Handmade Universe*, along with some extraordinary cosmic and geographical fabrications. ●

Handmade Universe
State Library – Free
Until February 2023

For more information:
slv.vic.gov.au/handmade/

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Your City of Melbourne community update

SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

TONY'S MEMENTOS OF MELBOURNE

Everyone knows you can find almost anything at the Queen Victoria Market and Tony Pierrakos started with hammocks.

'I first started working at the market around 1999, working with a friend selling Mexican hammocks. He had a great business, so I did that for about two years, then I said 'let's be serious, I'm a photographer!'

More than 20 years later, his photography business, Intone Photography, has shown Melbourne in all its moods – and is a recipient of a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award.

Tony shoots the images and then displays them at the market, selling them to people from all over the world seeking a memento of Melbourne.

After his first few years working from a market stall, he moved to the String Bean Alley when it opened with its repurposed shipping containers.

'That's when it felt like a little art gallery,' Tony said. 'Customers really took me seriously as an artist there.'

As a boy he was taken often to the busy market by his parents. A birthday present of a camera set him on the path to telling countless stories through images.

His subject matter ranges from urban to regional, taking in the Yarra Birrarung river, the MCG and city laneways as far afield as the Otways and also some European locations.

Customers arrive from all over the world.

'One of the best parts of my job is meeting all the great customers. They just want something to remember Melbourne by.

'When you get someone from Paris saying how much they love Melbourne, that's a special thing to hear. We are blessed with such a beautiful city and they just want a photo – maybe a skyline or Hosier Lane.

'Also, if you have a relative overseas and you're going to visit them you might want to give them a gift, such as an image of Melbourne.

'People coming from Perth to see a footy game might pop into the market and want to get a souvenir too. At the same time people look for art work for their house that's nice and affordable, so I get locals, regional, interstate and overseas customers.'

Composing scenes over the decades, he's seen numerous changes in the city he knows so well.

'The laneways, restaurants and coffee shops, street art and murals, all came to life.'

Yet by 2020, Melbourne retailers were hit hard when the pandemic began. So Tony found a way to keep an idea alive. His book *STILL Melbourne* is a collection of photos taken during the lockdowns when Melbourne was hard to recognise, its streets and shops almost deserted.

'I had to do something so I just combined walking and exercise with taking photos and I thought it's something we'll probably never see again in our lifetime.

'I wanted to stay connected with my Instagram followers, so every week I went out and took photos and people really loved them.'

Back at the market between lockdowns, his photos caught the eye of bookshop owner Jaye Chin-Dusting.

'She said "I think there might be a book in this".'

The result? The two collaborated on the book *STILL Melbourne*, a fine record of an extraordinary time.

Tony found the beauty in the bones of a city that would survive the downturn and recover.

'We're so proud of the book, I love it to bits,' he said.

'It's not sad - it's not a book about the lockdown, it's a book made during the lockdown. There are empty streets but there are beautiful images too. It's been a dream come true for me.'

Intone Photography is at String Bean Alley (M Shed) at Queen Victoria Market.



Tony Pierrakos of Intone Photography

ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Melbourne is full of fantastic small business success stories.

We celebrate the people behind inner-city businesses that have stood the test of time with our Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Awards, previously known as the Lord Mayor's Commendations.

Among the recipients are legends who have been in business in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. We also name a Small Business of the Year – the latest winner is sleek North Melbourne design studio Grafico Group.

You can learn more about all the amazing businesses we've honoured over the years at melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards

KEEP IN TOUCH

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

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Patricia Chircop from Knovus



Patrick Coppel from MAKE Designed Objects

MAKE DESIGNED OBJECTS AND KNOVUS

Treat yourself to sleek Scandinavian homewares and sustainable knits brought to you by Carlton businesses honoured in the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

MAKE Designed Objects and Knovus have been named finalists in the Small Business of the Year Award.

Every beautiful product on the shelves at MAKE Designed Objects on Elgin Street must earn its place amid the other thoughtfully designed homewares, clothing and accessories.

'A MAKE product must perform well when considered for its design appeal - both aesthetically and

theoretically, its environmental soundness, its durability, its necessity and, in some cases, its humour,' owner Patrick Coppel said.

Over on Grattan Street, Knovus is doing impressive work at the nexus of design, innovation and zero-waste manufacturing.

'I enjoy coming up with innovative solutions for a wide range of knit products including medical device components, furniture and sports accessories, and of course fashion,' owner Patricia Chircop said.

MAKE Designed Objects is located at 194 Elgin Street and Knovus is located at 90 Grattan Street in Carlton.



Michael Cardamone of Amiconi Restaurant

AMICONI RESTAURANT

Great food and even better service is the key to good hospitality, according to West Melbourne restaurateur Michael Cardamone.

Tucked down the west end of Victoria Street, just a few minutes walk from Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Market, you'll find Amiconi Restaurant.

It's the go-to spot for locals and visitors alike - those craving fresh calamari, crumbed eggplant and a carefully-crafted, superbly seasoned bowl of pasta.

It's the spot with blissfully classic signage and where the walls are veiled with the faces of its smiley, loyal patrons.

This year marks 40 years of service from Michael, and we've recognised his efforts in this year's Lord Mayor Small Business Awards.

'Creating friendships and treating everyone as if they're a part of our family is at the heart of everything we do at Amiconi,' Michael said.

Amiconi Restaurant is at 359 Victoria Street in West Melbourne.



Dr Leila Zamani

DR LEILA ZAMANI

Feel cared for and walk away with a healthy smile after you visit dentist Dr Leila Zamani, who's been in business in Melbourne for 15 years.

We've recognised Leila's lasting success with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award.

'Dentistry is very rewarding: whether I am taking pain away from people, helping them to get over their fear, giving them nice teeth to smile with, or helping them to have their dental health back,' Leila said.

As a lover of sport, art galleries and cosmopolitan cities, Leila loves running a business in the heart of Melbourne.

'Coming from Iran, I was born and bred in a big city. I love the vibe of a busy city with people around,' she said.

'I'm hoping to stay in business for many years to come, to continue to look after city people.'

Dr Zamani Dental Practice is at Level 6, 488 Bourke Street in Melbourne.



Eileen Carney from American Rag

AMERICAN RAG

Meet the woman who's been bringing vintage style to Melbourne streets for 30 years.

It took some fancy footwork for Eileen Carney to secure a shopfront in the new Melbourne Central complex in the early 1990s.

People told her there was no market for second-hand clothes. And yet, having grown up in New Jersey where the vintage rag trade was emerging, Eileen trusted her instincts.

Vintage was coming to Melbourne, and she was just the person to bring it.

She lovingly stacked her tiny shopfront with America's finest vintage jeans, outlandish coats and party dresses.

It was an overnight success. American Rag branched out to the new

Southgate complex in 1994 and stayed for 28 years. American Rag in QV Melbourne has been a fan favourite for 14 years.

'I love everything in my shops. I love super-old glamorous vintage, old t-shirts, old denim, everything in between,' Eileen said.

She estimates that American Rag has imported and rehomed some 300 tonnes of quality vintage gear over the past three decades.

And she's still going strong. We recently recognised Eileen's lasting success with a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award.

Find American Rag at 15-17 QV Terrace in the QV Melbourne shopping centre.

BUSINESS

World-class fertility treatment comes to South Melbourne

Dr Moses Abe, an internationally recognised obstetrician, gynaecologist, and Monash IVF specialist, has recently relocated his highly-regarded Melbourne Fertility Clinic to South Melbourne to better service the inner-city community.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

Specialising in the fields of obstetrics, gynaecology and reproductive medicine, Dr Abe's experience in fertility spans three decades and his clinic offers a vast range of a high-quality medical and support services difficult to find elsewhere.

Dr Abe is a registered medical practitioner who studied and practiced in Ireland and the UK before moving to Australia in 2010, where he has been servicing communities around Victoria ever since.

With an ever-growing demand for fertility services in South Melbourne and its surrounds, he told *CBD News* that he recently moved his clinic from Carlton to the South Melbourne Medical Hub on Cecil St to fill a desperate void in the region.

Melbourne Fertility Clinic specialises in a range of services, including fertility check-ups, egg freezing, advanced laparoscopy for endometriosis and infertility, ovulation induction and intrauterine insemination, genetic screening and surrogacy, among many others.

But it is perhaps the clinic's cutting-edge partnership with Monash IVF – a trailblazing Australian research institution internationally recognised for its work over 50 years in the space of invitro fertilisation (IVF) – which is



the most sought-after of its services.

Dr Abe said it was the opportunity to work with Monash IVF and the likes of pioneer figures such as Professor Gab Kovacs which had inspired him to move his practice to Australia all those years ago.

"When I finished my training in the UK, the question was: where to practice?" he said.

"I was inspired to be part of that team [Monash IVF] that had been so diligent in giving their time and energy to see people achieve their dreams. It was definitely the inspiration I got from those colleagues that attracted me here."

Monash IVF, which celebrated its 50th birthday this year, was responsible for the world's first IVF pregnancy in 1973 and it has since continued its legacy to achieve countless "firsts" in the field of reproductive medicine.

Dr Abe said being part of the organisation not only gave Melbourne Fertility Clinic's patients first access to the biggest advancements in science, but also in education, awareness and treatments.

"The research is ongoing and every couple of years there's always something big to come out of Monash IVF, so it has been one of the world leaders in fertility services around the world for a very long time," Dr Abe said.

"The advances that have come out of Monash IVF have been absolutely phenomenal. In fact, tens of thousands of babies have been born out of Monash IVF in the past 50 years. But it's not just about IVF; it's also about fertility awareness and treatments outside of IVF as well, so they provide vital education."

With a lot of stigma often attached to the sort

“

I was inspired to be part of that team [Monash IVF] that had been so diligent in giving their time and energy to see people achieve their dreams. It was definitely the inspiration I got from those colleagues that attracted me here.

”

of services that Dr Abe specialises in providing, he said that the past 20 years had seen a "big shift" in the range of patients from diverse backgrounds seeking support.

A long-held believer that fertility should not be limited to anyone, Dr Abe said Melbourne Fertility Clinic offered a very inclusive service to everyone from singles, same-sex couples and transgender people.

Its support team is made up highly trained administrative staff, specialist nurses, counsellors, social workers and Monash IVF scientists, who Dr Abe said all worked together on a daily basis to provide the best for patients. ●

For more information:
melbournefertilityclinic.com.au
or call 1300 916 756

Cleaning up Melbourne's property management game

“

Managing director and owner of inner-city real estate agency Re-Define Real Estate Philip Middlemiss has seen a thing or two during his 21 years in the industry.

”

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

After recently purchasing a new business with a portfolio of more than 500 properties, Mr Middlemiss was shocked to see the state of property management in Melbourne's inner city.

From forged, out-of-date or incorrect documentation to properties without essential services; he knew something needed to be done.

Now, he is on a crusade to clean up the industry, for the benefit of not only his growing business, but the rest of Melbourne's property management game.

"Our industry is in a state of flux. The recent changes to legislation, including the introduction of the bi-annual safety checks, have created more work for agents," Mr Middlemiss said. "Combined this with the effects on rents due to COVID-19, which have caused mass movements



of people in and out of the city. The inner-city agent, is very busy indeed."

"Some of the practises we have uncovered include people other than the owners signing documents, agents telling rental providers "not to worry about safety checks, no one is checking", and renters having to go without essential services for prolonged periods of time, as the rental providers don't want to spend the money to fix the issue."

"My competitors are going to hate me for shining a light on this, but property management in Melbourne needs to be cleaned up and we need to support those who are leading the way in the industry."

According to Mr Middlemiss, with an

investor market that consists dominantly of overseas owners, the property management industry is primed for local agents wanting to cut corners when it comes to property inspections and dodging new legislation.

At Re-Define Real Estate, Mr Middlemiss's team of 12 staff work across 400 different properties, an unusually high agent-to-property ratio, to ensure his staff provide the best possible service for their investors.

"Throughout the pandemic more than 4500 property managers have left the industry nation-wide," Mr Middlemiss said. "A lot is due to the condition's property managers have been forced to face, particularly during routine inspections."

"Aggressive animals, undressed tenants, hoarding, drug use and plenty of dirty underwear, we have seen it all recently."

In an attempt to shake up the way his business and the industry functions, Mr Middlemiss has forgone the traditional idea of a property manager in exchange for a term he feels is more apt: "relationship managers."

He has introduced fair representation for both the rental provider and the renter, which has levelled the playing field when it comes to getting this done.

The job of his relationship managers is to proactively educate and communicate with investors to keep them abreast on changes to legislation and the state of their property.

Mr Middlemiss has also revolutionised the traditional role of a property manager by forming a new business, Respect Residential, which offers inspection services for local agents and those wanting to "self-manage".

"I have a number of clients interested in the service, even agents on the Gold Coast, asking if I can fly up and help them," Mr Middlemiss said.

"They don't have the time or people to inspect apartments, but for less than \$100 a year, they can get someone to do it for them."

"Routine inspections are a vital role when it comes supporting both the Rental Provider and the Renter alike. With such busy schedules due to the recent legislative changes, an agent or now property owner can now employ a professional to do the job for them." ●

For more information:
re-define.com.au



CBD agent recognised as one of organisation's finest

Sam Fenna of Belle Property Melbourne & Carlton was named the 2022 Customer Experience Agent of the Year at the 2022 Belle Property Hockingstuart Victorian State Awards night this month.

Held at The Park in Melbourne, the award ceremony was an opportunity for the Belle Property and Hockingstuart network in Victoria to celebrate the exceptional talent and achievements of all its people in the state during the past 12 months, in addition to shining a spotlight on the ongoing successes, resilience, and strength of the national premium real estate group.

"I am incredibly proud to receive this award. An outstanding customer experience is what I strive to provide every single day, and to receive a perfect score from each vendor and buyer I have worked with in the past 12 months is extremely satisfying. Their support means so much to me, I am very grateful," Mr Fenna said.

Mr Fenna has worked for Hockingstuart and Belle Property in the Melbourne CBD for seven-and-a-half years.

He began his career in 2014, progressing to a sales agent and auctioneer, and was recently appointed as a partner in the business.

"We are incredibly proud of what Sam has achieved in the CBD and congratulate him on his award win. He is a true asset to the Belle Property/Hockingstuart Melbourne & Carlton team and the network as a whole," CEO of Belle Property and Hockingstuart Peter Hanscomb said.

Mr Fenna services Melbourne city in residential sales. ●

For more information:

sam.fenna@belleproperty.com
and 0437 309 715

QVM TRADER PROFILE



New group of refugee traders live their dreams at QVM



A man who fled civil war in East Africa more than two decades ago is among a new group of refugees realising their dreams at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM).



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

Aimen Abu Beker recently opened his business called African Elegance at the iconic market, which offers a range of traditional and modern African dresses, clothing, and accessories designed in Melbourne for all sorts of occasions.

The achievement is a far cry for Mr Abu Beker who, along with his family, fled civil war in Eritrea before seeking refuge in a Sudanese camp. They spent nearly three years there before being granted a refugee visa to Australia in 2003.

Today, Mr Abu Beker is celebrating the opening of his stall at QVM which will see him work alongside his friend and business partner Saleh Siraj, also an Eritrean refugee who was

kidnapped and tortured by a Sudanese gang until his family paid a ransom.

The pair's success story comes as QVM announced a new partnership with Thrive Refugee Enterprise, which supports refugees and asylum seekers to open their own businesses at the market.

In addition to African Elegance, the new group of refugees trading at the market include Samar Chami (Salma By Nature), Tahla Gok (Mediterranean Pastry), and Zeritu Darago (Darago Leather).

Ms Chami, who previously worked as a journalist and TV news broadcaster for 20 years in Lebanon before arriving in Australia in 2019 to find safety, now has a different life offering handmade natural soaps and candles at her QVM stall – a cultural tradition she learnt while watching her grandfather extract olive oil on their farm in Lebanon.

At Mediterranean Pastry, Mr Gok makes Turkish sweets including baklava, shortbread, cookies, and tulumba at his stall after having served in the Turkish Army for three years before arriving in Australia in 2018.

He worked as an Uber driver before meeting business partner Kadir. With the help from Thrive, the pair were able to buy a Turkish baked goods business that had been running for 10 years.

The Darago Leather stall is an Ethiopian family-owned business, which stocks handmade and handcrafted leather products and accessories. The business also operates as a social

enterprise by providing women from socially and economically marginalised backgrounds – many of whom have suffered sexual abuse or are fleeing domestic violence – with training and employment pathways.

Thrive Refugee Enterprise executive chairman Huy Truong said there were significant benefits in allowing refugees to start businesses in Australia but noted it's "not easy when these new arrivals have no social or financial capital to leverage their natural talents".

"Queen Victoria Market is helping refugees overcome these disadvantages through the provision of invaluable opportunities like opening stalls at the market. It is these opportunities which are invaluable long-term," he said.

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said he was thrilled to create a partnership with Thrive which built on the market's long association of supporting business owners and multi-generational families from around the world.

"We're particularly excited about the new partnership with Thrive as it provides an opportunity for the market to consciously rekindle and foster relationships with immigrant business owners," Mr Liacos said, noting this had somewhat declined in recent years alongside the changing socio-economic make up and gentrification of inner-city Melbourne.

Research by Thrive showed almost 30 per cent of refugees will start a small business by their 10th year of being in Australia, but Thrive's mission is to bring this forward within their first three years. ●

LAW

"The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers"

An often-misquoted phrase from Henry VI, Part 2, Act 4, Scene 2 for those who would like to follow this further. It's frequently used by those who seek to denigrate the profession or are simply unhappy with their present lawyer.

WORDS BY *Peter Nevile*

However, a closer reading of that particular passage in Shakespeare will enlighten the misguided. In fact, Shakespeare is acknowledging that for any autocrat to prosper, it is necessary to remove freedom. That of course, is one of the fundamental purposes of the lawyer and the law, to protect the rights of the individual.

So, let me implore you, before you take up the cudgels, to stop and have

a better understanding of how best to deal with your lawyer so you will not be tempted to use or paraphrase this quote.

Over the years, I, and many other lawyers, have been placed in a position where a client will provide a very much foreshortened version of their instructions, favouring only their point of view, and leaving out many salient and relevant facts. Alternatively, they will present us with a huge box of unsorted documents and other forms of

communication.

In the first case it forces us to spend a great deal more time trying to elicit the whole story. In the second case, wading through a large box of documents not in any particular order also takes time. In both cases, its effectively a waste of your time as a client, because it is occupying our time, which does not normally come all that cheaply.

So, the first step to ensure you are paying the minimal amount of money is to be organised when you

consult your lawyer. In most cases, a brief summary, followed by a chronological history of events, is extremely useful and will enable your lawyer to get to the point.

Perhaps the second thing that needs greater clarification is that before your lawyer can provide you with an estimate of fees, and I strongly recommend that you discuss and understand how your fees are calculated and exactly what they are for, your lawyer will need to understand both the nature and scope of your instructions. If the initial question is how much it will cost, the answer is basically, "how long is a piece of string?"

In some circumstances, particularly in litigation, and in the emotionally-charged area of family law, it is of course difficult to come up with a price to cover the totality. Whatever it

may be, in both situations, conduct of the matter is much akin to peeling an onion. After one layer comes the next, and so on.

It's impossible to predict exactly what the other side is going to do, or how they will react to communications from your side, and the responses which must be addressed accordingly. It is however possible to provide estimates to certain waypoints.

The third and final thing I would like to say about dealing with your lawyer is ensure that you feel confident in their ability. Particularly their ability to communicate with you in language you can understand. If they fail in any one of the three points, and they are certainly not in any way exclusive to other attributes of your lawyer, then perhaps you might reconsider Shakespeare's quote or find another lawyer. ●

Our city's waste and recycling services, an AGM, and 30 years to celebrate

The recent Forum 3000 on August 4 saw a lively discussion about city waste management – a topic that concerns us all.

To begin, Michelle James, the City of Melbourne's community liaison for CBD residents, presented the council's Participate 3000 community consultation results. Key take-aways were that residents wanted more initiatives to improve safety in the city (top concern), more greenery, more non-commercial/people-friendly spaces and to maintain the freeze on late night venues.

The new CBD Neighbourhood Portal is worth a visit: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/cbd-neighbourhood-portal/priorities

Waste management is a complicated topic

Donna Portis and her team, who are responsible for waste and recycling services in the City of Melbourne, gave a presentation.

Dealing with waste in a modern, densely populated city centre is not a simple matter. There is e-waste, chemical waste, cardboard, charity goods, hard waste, organic, cigarette butts, glass, batteries, and tin cans, just to name a few. Today, as citizens of a crowded planet, we are concerned about disposing of waste intelligently. Recycling as much as possible is a top priority.

Donna Portis and Jorja Pindor, who have recently taken the lead roles at City of Melbourne, have wide responsibilities. Their team's aim for the future is to improve services in many areas such as:

- Reducing trucks on the road
- Increasing graffiti removal services
- Waste reduction through recycling
- Improving the standard of street cleaning
- Addressing the litter problem
- Contributing to safety initiatives for all city occupants.

One aim is to extend the food organics collection based on experience with current trial areas surrounding the CBD. Trials for high-rise dwellings in the CBD are planned to start soon.

The City of Melbourne website and the CBD Neighbourhood Portal provide a convenient place to report issues.

Residents' concerns

As with any active forum, there was some robust discussion and comments provided by residents. Topics covered included residents continuing to complain about the need for 60 contractors collecting rubbish within the small CBD Hoddle Grid. Why are the collections made early in the morning causing a noise problem for the sleeping population? While compactors are a good idea in



principle, some are noted to not be working properly. One complaint was that even after 12 months of effort, the City of Melbourne was not able to fix a problem of a compactor restricting access to a building and using up too much pedestrian pavement, apart from constantly breaking down.

A question about the availability of smaller compactors was raised without a definitive reply being provided.

Residents supported the idea of more recycling, more intelligent separation of waste. Will the plan to double recycling in future be implemented? There was some comment about the need for a more "hands on" approach.

Bins in laneways are unsightly. Policing of the policy that they must be put away each day was not being carried out.

In the interest of expressing their views, the residents felt that the City of Melbourne waste management division seemed to be detached from reality. Ideas were good but execution was poor. Residents thought that their concerns were not being properly addressed.

More education

Further comments noted that there are still



problems with cigarette butts littering the streets and not being recycled correctly. There is a need to motivate people. Everyone to play their part – residents, workers, students, visitors.

Commenters agreed that there was a need for MORE education. Waste management and intelligent recycling was a two-way street. Efforts by both council and the people who live, work, and play in the CBD were needed.

Extensive educational waste signage being available on the City of Melbourne website in different languages was praised. However, it is up to building managers and OC committees to do their part and set the example for those living in the building. Persistence is the key. There are always new people coming to the city who are not familiar with the "way we do it".

These were some of the positive suggestions made during the discussion phase of the evening. Despite some negative comments, the tone was one of people wanting to do better with waste management to continually improve the amenity of city living.

Residents 3000's AGM with Lord Mayor Sally Capp – Thursday, September 1 at 6pm at the Kelvin Club

This coming month we welcome the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp who will address residents and guests at our AGM.

Following formal proceedings, there will be music, refreshments and we understand that our president Rafael Camillo, is organising a special cake (per a gift from the Brunetti Oro on Flinders St) to celebrate the association's 30-year birthday.

Details to be posted on our website residents3000.com.au and by email. ●



Sue Saunders
COMMITTEE MEMBER OF
RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



Saying it with roses

It's not all politics for the flower guy outside Town Hall even though some of his best customers work within it.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Peter Savva is present every afternoon and evening until 9pm and he likes a chat.

People can't help confide in him as they select a bouquet for a special occasion.

"It goes in one ear and out the other," he took pains to explain to *CBD News*. "I block it out."

But what he can reveal is that Lord Mayor Sally Capp is a lover of flowers, Deputy Lord Mayor Nick Reece goes for the natives and, surprisingly, Greens councillor Rohan Leppert is not a customer as he heads off on his bike.

Peter moved to the CBD six years ago and lives on the 23rd floor of a tower in Lonsdale St.

It's not all bees and nectar at his new home base. The body corporate fees are steep and he's heard of desperate people living nearby.

On a more positive note, his move to the CBD saves quite a lot of travelling time from Doncaster where he used to live.

The florist business has kept him busy for 27 years, just a small drop in the ocean in terms of flowers and the Town Hall.

He says there's probably been a florist outside the Town Hall since the 1800s.

Jonquils called "Early Cheer" have just come in, as has wattle. But roses are the most popular. "The Lord Mayor buys them all," he said.

Peter never goes to meetings even though he feels part of the Town Hall team.

"It's bad for business if you get too involved," he said. "I look, listen but don't say nothing. You don't know which way the wind's going to blow."

He is happy to go on the record that the current Lord Mayor "is the best of the lot". ●

Show's over at the Palace Theatre

“The lights are on outside the Palace Theatre on Bourke St, but the show won't go on.”



demolished in secret”.

As an unintentional nod to the cultural vandalism of the development, retro-style theatre globes have been installed under the awning of the hotel entrance, referencing a long theatre and live music history that no longer takes place on the site, thanks to the hotel development.

Peeking behind the development doesn't make things much better, as the street sign for Amphlett Lane appears down Little Bourke St. The street sign honouring the Divinyls' Chrissy Amphlett once pointed down to the brick backstage entrance of the theatre used by the band, where corridors were lined with decades of music posters.

The view now looks down towards the fire escape for the low-rise glass box, a compromise when height limits in part hoped to save the theatre were put in place squashing plans for a much larger tower.



As an unintentional nod to the cultural vandalism of the development, retro-style theatre globes have been installed under the awning of the hotel entrance, referencing a long theatre and live music history that no longer take place on the site, thanks to the hotel development.

Around the corner, the Comedy Theatre has proposed a development that involves building a new tower above and keeping the theatre operational and intact as a heritage place, showing an alternative history where the Palace was also still host to live music and theatre.

Le Meridien will most likely advertise the hotel as a vibrant part of Melbourne's theatre district, but in reality, they've done little more

than help a rogue developer vandalise our social and built heritage for a marginal profit. ●



Tristan Davies
PRESIDENT
MELBOURNE HERITAGE ACTION
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Vertical village winter blues

Melbourne definitely had a frosty winter, but did we have to shiver?

August saw the release of a report by Better Renting – Cold and costly: Renter Researchers' Experiences of Winter 22 – which claims that our winter indoor temperatures are often lower than home temperatures of much colder countries.

Funded by Energy Consumers Australia Limited, this project highlighted the extent of our "indoor-cold" and emphasised the link with poorer respiratory health, poorer cardiovascular health and adverse mental wellbeing, all of which place additional stress on our overburdened health system.

In fact, according to University of Adelaide researchers, Associate Professor Baker and Research Associate Daniel from the School of Architecture and Built Environment, 26 per cent of people across all housing types are unable to stay warm at least half of winter. They claim there is a pervasive myth in Australia that

hot weather is the greatest danger to our health, while, in reality, it's more likely cold weather will kill you.

So, what counts as "indoor-cold"?

According to The World Health Organization (WHO), to promote health and wellbeing, the recommended minimum home temperature is 18°C.

And why are we failing on our indoor temperatures?

The key culprit is poor design, and, in particular, inadequate insulation. This is because heat readily escapes through poorly insulated walls, ceilings and, notably, single-pane glass. The simple truth is that many colder countries are better at designing, weatherproofing and insulating, and, as a consequence, have more efficiently heated homes.

But surely, as many of our vertical villages are less than two decades old, we would have well insulated apartments? Our floor-to-ceiling glass windows and walls, a common feature of our high-rise abodes, would *certainly* be double glazed.

Regrettably, this is not the case.

This design fault was specifically highlighted

by researchers from Melbourne University who were looking at the flip side of our "indoor-cold" predicament – that is, they investigated how Melbourne apartment designs coped with excessively high temperatures. In their 2017 examination, researchers modelled both old and new apartment designs in Melbourne, including an example of recent best practice design. Their finding was that most west-facing apartments – and quite possibly those in other orientations – would fail international standards.

"Hot-boxes in summer and ice-boxes during winter" – not the tag found in most marketing promoting our vertical villages.

The way forward, as agreed by researchers investigating both heat and cold scenarios, lies with introducing standards, as these would not impose significantly higher costs on new constructions.

The big problem, however, lies with retrofitting existing apartment buildings.

Here the challenges are manifold, starting with the absence of solutions tailored to our high-rise context. It remains the case that many available solutions, such as retrofitting

double or adding secondary glazing, are designed for houses and are prohibitively expensive or not suitable for residential apartments.

Consider whether these panes might fit in your lifts!

Added to this are the needed approvals. Subject to your building's rules, you will likely need authorisation from your owners' corporation and if you are renting, then your landlord will also need to authorise (and fund!).

This said, better insulation of residential apartments is a health and wellbeing issue. And maybe the time is fast approaching that we vertical villagers needs to engage with health rights organisations, such as WHO, to shine a light on our systemic vulnerability. ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

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STATE MP

A day in the life of a Greens MP staffer

If you've ever called, emailed, or popped into Ellen's office, there's a good chance you've spoken to one of us.

WORDS BY *Jordy, Fern and Amy*

With Ellen on a short period of maternity leave, we thought we'd share a bit about what we do and what we can help you with.

An MP's day is almost as varied as it gets. When Ellen is not at the Victorian Parliament, fighting for climate, affordable housing, and integrity, she can often be found at community events, celebrating our community's diversity and connection; at local schools, learning about what needs to be fixed to give our kids the best possible education; and meeting with other MPs, councillors and community groups to achieve local wins.

Meanwhile, our small team is behind the scenes supporting Ellen and our community.

Jordy is our go-to person for support for



▲ Ellen's team, from left to right: Amy, Fern, Ellen and Jordy.

residents. She knows all the ins and outs of getting local issues resolved.

"Every day is different – that's what I love about this job. You'll often find me on the phone with Ministers' advisors, the council, schools, local organisations, and residents. I do a lot of work with public housing residents on maintenance issues in their home or following up housing and transfer applications with the department to make sure people live

in a house that is right for them. I also stay on top of local issues, regularly meeting with local community groups and supporting them however we can. For example, I'm currently working with artists and residents in the Nicholas Building to support their campaign to stay in the building which is being sold. I'm also working with staff at Docklands Primary School to help them get much-needed safety upgrades."

Fern is our policy expert. Her head is filled with information about renewable energy and threats to nature.

"Right now, I'm working on the Greens' climate and environment policies as we head toward a state election in November. This involves researching renewable energy technologies, like batteries and offshore wind farms, and working with stakeholders – such as environment groups, coal workers, and scientists – to ensure our policies reflect the changes we need to tackle the climate crisis. My job also involves meeting with local environment groups from right across Victoria. I love supporting these groups to get environmental issues raised in the State Parliament. It's so satisfying when these campaigns get great outcomes. Earlier this year,

I was thrilled when East Gippsland residents stopped a giant mineral sands mine, which threatened local farms, rivers, and wildlife."

Amy makes sure all the great things Ellen does for our community are shared through Ellen's website, emails, and social media.

"My day could include going to parliament or community events with Ellen and taking photographs, preparing petition pages on local issues, pitching stories to local newspapers (like this one), sending emails to our supporters, and designing flyers, stickers or posters. Today I'm working on a plan to spread the word about the awesome climate initiatives that Ellen and Fern have been working hard on. Did you know that the Greens have a plan to help one million Victorian families get their homes off gas?"

Our team is always available to help local residents. If there is ever anything we can do to support you, please do not hesitate to get in touch! ●

To contact Ellen's team:
office@ellensandell.com

FIONA PATTEN MP

So much for integrity

In recent days, the Andrews Government teamed up with the Opposition to continue to deny reproductive rights to women.

WORDS BY *Fiona Patten*

They claim to champion women's rights.

But they lack appear to lack the courage of their convictions. Could it be they bowed to the power of the Catholic Church with an election around the corner?

They teamed up to vote against legislation I introduced into the Victorian Parliament to prevent publicly funded denominational hospitals to continue refusing women access to abortions and family planning services.

They also voted to continue to

allow denominational hospices to continue to deny the rights of each of us to assisted dying, under strictly controlled circumstances.

So much for integrity! Basic human rights are being denied in publicly-funded denominational hospitals, even though these institutions receive hundreds of millions of your tax dollars every year.

Were you aware hospitals, including the Mercy and St Vincent's, do this? Most people I've discussed this with are shocked to discover these cruel realities. They are amazed hospitals could even contemplate such sinful injustice.

Religion is a blessing to many amid

the mysteries and vagaries of existence, but imposed religious faith has no place in the public health system. Institutions, by legal definition, have no conscience.

The reliance of some institutions on the false construct of institutional conscientious objection has no rational, legal, or moral basis.

My Bill is about fairness and decency. It protects abortion rights and extends abortion and family planning services and ensures end-of-life rights.

It also extends access to abortion and contraception across all hospitals that get taxpayers' money.

It does not undermine any rights

of people within the private health system, where people have choice over service providers, some of which receive no money from the public Treasury.

Rather, it protects individuals' rights from institutional edict – a hospital will not be able to prevent a doctor from performing legal procedures.

Patients in the public health system should not have to depend on their postcode for access to the full panoply of public health services.

The Bill has zero impact on the rights of individual medicos to refuse certain services on the basis of personal religious conviction or conscientious objection.

Speaking of integrity, the ongoing fallout of the Labor Party's branch-stacking and misuse of taxpayers' money to fund blatant political work shows the party is in

lamentable need of cleaning up its own dirty backyard.

And in recent days, the Opposition Leader Matthew Guy's claim he takes integrity seriously was shredded by evidence he was aware of, indeed potentially party to, an attempt to get around political funding rules by hitting up a billionaire Liberal donor for \$100,000 to top up the salary of his then chief-of-staff, a man with no political experience who resigned in disgrace.

In public policy, the perfect should not prevent the good. And in life, the ideological should not prevent the rational.

The fight against the wrongs of the denominational hospitals is unfinished business. I will not let it rest in peace until it's fixed.

Fiona Patten MLC is Leader of the Reason Party ●

Looking Beyond

I have been working in the city with The Salvation Army for the past 20 years. It is amazing to think that what we successfully trialled and tested 20 years ago is exactly what is required today.

I'll never forget going out on our nightly outreach van to a location, ironically called Salvation Lane, in East Melbourne.

There was a man in his 30s by the name of John (not his real name). We visited him for three months without a single engagement from John.

Our visits ended up amounting to nothing more than checking that John was still alive.

Then, amazingly, after asking John if he would like a coffee every night for three months and receiving absolutely no response, something happened. Three fingers appeared at the top of John's sleeping bag in the shape of a "W".

The "W" was followed by the raising of an index finger.

John was finally engaging and requesting white coffee with one sugar, followed by a thumbs up.

This was the depth of our engagement for the ensuing three months.

It was important that we remained consistent and friendly and not be put off by the lack of connection with John.

After about six months, John finally emerged from his sleeping bag.

Still there was no verbal communication.

We tried different workers and volunteers

engaging with John, but to no avail.

Then one night, John became very agitated.

Rather than retreating and passing judgement on John as, "one to stay away from", our team continued to try and sensitively, patiently, and respectfully connect with him.

Finally, it happened.

John spoke.

John was articulate but clearly dealing with very complex mental health issues.

We discovered that John had some court hearings pending.

John's offending was related to his survival. He stole food from a local supermarket simply to survive.

Australia's social safety net is actually the envy of the world.

However, we still hear and see stories of the John's of the world far too regularly. It is the story of a person who is absolutely eligible for income support from Centrelink, but often due to significant mental health challenges, the person is unable to navigate their way through the Centrelink system.

There are many people, like John, who end up before the courts and even in prison, because their offending is related to their circumstances and unfortunately, in many cases, their

circumstances are never fully addressed.

In 2004, Centrelink ran a pilot program, where, instead of waiting for a highly vulnerable person to present at a Centrelink office requesting support, Centrelink decided to try and take their "office" to them.

A Centrelink worker worked full time with The Salvation Army Melbourne at our Bourke St office in 2004.

This meant that the Centrelink worker was based in our cafe that supports the most vulnerable people who access the city.

The Centrelink worker also worked on our nightly homeless outreach van.

The level of engagement that the Centrelink worker had with highly vulnerable people was astounding.

There were people that were rough sleeping that had lost their identification.

They had no idea how to rectify the situation, so they simply gave up.

There were others that had visited Centrelink offices but due to frustration with the system, they were asked to leave the building.

Again, the individuals involved had no idea how to resolve the issue, so they simply gave up.

Having a Centrelink worker meeting them in the park where they were sleeping was a great way to rebuild trust with the system.

The Centrelink worker, being experienced in navigating the system, was able to resolve many issues.

People were able to receive income support and were able to start to rebuild their lives once again.

Services Australia, who have oversight of Centrelink, has reached out to four services around the country, including The Salvation Army Melbourne.

They have rebegan the Centrelink worker pilot.

In the first week of operation, the Centrelink worker based at Bourke St was able to assist 60 people.

Not only were they given assistance and helped to navigate the system, but most importantly, they were given hope.

Suddenly, they realised that they are not on their own and that the system can actually be their friend, not their foe.

This is a superb initiative undertaken by Services Australia, and they are to be congratulated for thinking outside of the box to prevent the most vulnerable from falling through the gaps.

Hopefully this pilot will become business as usual for Centrelink so that, in 20 years' time, we are not having to trial this idea as a pilot for the third time. ●



Major Brendan Nottle

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WE LIVE HERE

Tourism sector calls for short-stay day limit

Tourism industry groups want Victoria to follow other states, including NSW, and impose a limit on the number of days per year that properties can be let as short stays.

The Victorian Tourism Industry Council and the Accommodation Association of Australia have each called on the Victorian government to create a level playing field for all operators.

Accommodation Association chief executive Richard Munro said while Victoria had among the most short-stay listings in Australia, there was little government oversight. "It's largely unregulated," he said.

In NSW, 180-day limits have been implemented in numerous coastal and regional districts and much of Sydney. Victoria is yet to even contemplate this basic regulation, leaving apartment residents exposed to well-documented, ongoing issues caused by short-stays.

The Accommodation Association, which represents caravan parks, regional motels and hotel chains, is also pushing for the short-stay sector to meet similar safety standards to commercial operators, including large hotels.

It's fascinating to see the tourism sector openly berate a state government that got itself very cosy with Airbnb, purportedly to "boost tourism".

Four years ago, the short-tenured Trade and Innovation Minister, Mr Dalidakis admitted to Parliament that "I visited Airbnb's office [in San Francisco] in a visit to North America". (Hansard, August 7, 2018, page 46). It was earlier reported by *The Age* that Premier Daniel Andrews had visited Airbnb in San Francisco in 2015 as part of an Emergency Management Victoria initiative.

After waiting four years for a review – four more years?

We continue to hope for an epiphany in Spring St – the irony of having the tourism

sector attack the government's inaction on short-stay accommodation.

Alas, elevating inertia to an art, the government this month quietly announced that again it would defer its review of short-stay legislation – to an undefined date sometime in the next four years.

In 2018, the government committed to a "post-implementation review" in 2020, as a sop to the broad opposition. It was tantamount to admitting that the legislation was deeply flawed.

COVID intervened and the promised review was delayed until 2021, and then re-promised "maybe" for 2022.

This month the Leader of the Victorian Greens, Samantha Ratnam, speaking to an adjournment action in parliament, sought a formal response on the long-overdue review.

The government has just published its word-salad response on the parliament website (you can find the link on our website, welfarehere.net):

"As the tourism sector was heavily disrupted during the pandemic, the post-implementation review will be undertaken as part of the mandatory statutory review of the recent legislative reforms to the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006*, which is due to be undertaken between 2023 and 2026. Combining the reviews will allow for more extensive data collection to be undertaken and assessment of the amendments, while also ensuring consistency with the broader review into owners' corporation legislation and regulation."

Having deciphered that rather abstruse announcement, we are left asking this: why wasn't the short-stay legislation included in the overall review in the first place?

Playing the COVID card, the government says we could be waiting another four years before the topic of short-stay regulation is even considered in Victoria – a total wait of eight years. With a forthcoming state election, Victorian apartment dwellers are entitled to more than a vague mollification. We deserve a firm commitment to a fixed date for the review – this year!

Meanwhile, other states and territories have

already got down to business and implemented solutions. Is it any wonder the tourism sector is fuming with frustration in Victoria?

NSW tests lowering short-stay limit to 90 days

Attention, state government of Victoria: the **NSW Department of Planning** has approved a "Gateway Determination" for a planning proposal to reduce the number of days of non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in parts of the Byron Shire from 180 days to 90 days.

The proposal follows an Economic Impact Analysis, commissioned by the NSW Government, that found allowing 90-day caps is the most effective way to support the long-term housing pool.

The proposal is designed "to mitigate the significant impacts of short-term rental accommodation on permanent rental housing supply, amenity, local character, and community, while still allowing for a diverse and sustainable base of tourist accommodation options to support the local economy."

The NSW government-approved proposal is an exemplar of regulatory changes that are progressing with enviable velocity in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania, particularly for apartment buildings.

Must Victorians gaze disconsolately over the borders as our interstate neighbours tackle, and solve, the socioeconomic problems associated with short-stays?

We understand that The Greens will keep pushing the Victorian Government to bring forward the legislative review and get moving on short-stay regulation sooner. We Live Here will keep making ourselves heard, too, until social equity and economic logic prevail.

Ban on developers locking residents into energy contracts

As an example of how the same state government can achieve results where there is a will, we have a significant win to report.

Victorian apartment developers will be banned from signing any private deals that would lock residents into a contract with an electricity retailer – known as an "embedded

network" deal.

Embedded networks can deliver massive undisclosed profits to developers via an opaque "management fee" or margin structure. Although the quantum is usually undisclosed, residents can reckon the secret margin within a reasonable tolerance. For example, if your apartment is paying \$50 per month above the best available electricity supply rate, and your building has 200 apartments, the calculation is easy. Remember to add a similar estimate of the markup on the common area electricity costs too.

The good news is that state Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio has introduced a ban on embedded networks in new residential buildings, taking effect from next year. There are exceptions where buildings run on 100 per cent renewables. We applaud the state government for this initiative to proscribe an egregiously ethically practice.

This leaves the question of existing buildings with conventional embedded networks, which the government says it will address "soon".

Meanwhile, conventional embedded network managers are feeling immense pressure from soaring compliance costs. Residents in some buildings suffering with needlessly higher prices because of an embedded network might, just might, be lucky enough to see the private deals implode naturally rather than having to wait for government action.

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 welfarehere.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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HISTORY

Once an ancient waterfall, now a busy port

This photograph was taken in 1906 from one of the tallest buildings in Melbourne at the time – the nine-storey Commercial Travellers Club. The photographer is facing west, towards the area we know today as Docklands.

Although it is hard to imagine the landscape before white settlement, it was once a fertile wetland and for many thousands of years and countless generations of Wurundjeri people it was a hunting and fishing ground, a meeting place for ceremonies and trade. Although the built landscape has changed many times over since 1835, this is still the land of the Kulin, Victoria's first people.

Rivers and waterways played an important role in traditional culture and in the history of Melbourne's development. You see here the Yarra Turning Basin (sometimes referred to as the Swinging Basin) a busy, bustling industrial

space and passenger terminal, at least until 1930 when the Spencer Street Bridge with its low clearance prevented ships from travelling this far up the river.

Queen's Bridge, with its flat arch design, was opened in 1890. It intersects this photograph and marks one of the most significant sites in Melbourne. Here was once an ancient waterfall that divided saltwater from freshwater. The waterfall was the reason Melbourne was established here, fresh water being a vital resource for the new settlement. The churning water below the falls also created a basin, the turning point for those earliest ships coming into Melbourne with their cargoes of goods and immigrants.

This is Queen's Wharf and, in the days before trains and decent roads, this is where ships brought cargoes and passengers into what was then the very centre of the city. Here were wharves, the Customs House (now the Immigration Museum), the warehouses storing the items that made life worth living – tea, sugar and, as Australia grew rich on the sheep's back, its economic lifeblood, wool. Long before the mall in Bourke St or elegant Collins St with its Block Arcade and impressive shopfronts, this was a busy, bustling centre of commerce



and industry.

Off in the distance (to the right in the photograph) is the Melbourne Fish Market with its turrets and copper spires. Opened in 1892, it covered a huge area near Spencer St and was a hive of activity in the early hours of the morning. A steam train snakes its way past the market along the railway viaduct heading for Flinders Street Station. The skyline is smudged with smoke from factory stacks to the city's west. And on the left of the image the solid presence of the six storeyed Robur Tea House reminds us of the dominance and dependability of this staple of the Australian diet.

Along the eastern edge of the Turning Basin is the Howard Smith Company's passenger terminal, prominently advertising on its rooftop daily steamer journeys to Portarlington and Geelong. The company began its coastal service to Geelong here in 1854 and later diversified into coal mining, steel production, stevedoring, travel, railway rolling stock building, sugar production and retail. These ships are steam ships although, earlier, the area would have been full of white sails. This is progress. And so are the telegraph poles lining Flinders St and the cable trams (one in Flinders St, another crossing the bridge), although the main form of transport is

still horse and cart.

The crane on the southern edge of the Turning Basin reminds us that cargoes are loaded and unloaded here. And in the foreground of the photograph are the Banana Alley vaults, built in the early 1890s. Once used to store produce before it was taken to market, the vaults became redundant in the 1930s when Queen's Wharf was no longer accessible, and they fell into disuse for a long period.

When I first came across this image, I was reminded of a poem I learned at school – *Cargoes* by John Masefield. It's a poem that was written about the same time that this photograph was taken, and it was its third verse that resonated:

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack,

Butting through the Channel in the mad March days,

With a cargo of Tyne coal,

Road-rails, pig-lead,

Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.

In his celebration of British coastal cargo vessels, Masefield brought to life the busy industry of the docks. The staccato sounds of his words in this final verse of the poem evoke a long-remembered soundscape, just as this photograph evokes a part of Melbourne's history that is long gone. It's a far cry from the ancient waterfall that once graced this spot, but as I listen to the rhythms of the poem and close my eyes, I see again the sights and sounds that spoke to me so vividly 60 years ago in my primary school classroom and imagine what it was like to be there at Queen's Wharf in its heyday. ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

CRITIC



▲ The salon at Sarah Scout Presents in Collins Street



▲ "Acapulco" (Caitlin), Kate Daw, 2009

Ideas for the mantelpiece

A memorial exhibition for Kate Daw who died during the lockdown is prompting art students and those who knew her to examine her style more closely.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Kate was head of painting at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) until her death from breast cancer.

She had a quiet sensibility in her work that was moving.

Members of the VCA village have responded to her aesthetic in this exhibition and it's fun exploring what the new works have in common with Kate's.

She had great respect for the moment and a casual regard for description.

The closest in sensibility are paintings by Jon Campbell and Casey Jeffrey because of their harmonious colours.

Kate played around with surfaces but not too much.

She loved vintage and flowers but always with a sense of restraint.

Her paintings have an intrinsic poetic that most of the other works strive for.

Sarah Scout Presents is the perfect setting for them with its elegant parlour and small rooms.

Kate was teaching painting when issues of virtuosity, materiality and politics were big.

She engaged in the discourse, but her work remained modest, mostly oil on linen or on found objects such as a blackboard.

She loved text and included it to great effect in some of her most winning works.



▲ "Untitled (dayflower)", Kate Daw, 2020



▲ "Highlights of the Ballet" Kate Daw, "Your Hand in Mine", Jon Campbell 2022 (right)

One 16-part work with Stewart Russell includes excerpts of text from novels by Iris Murdoch, Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf and E M Forster.

Perhaps she was a collector of nostalgic references to good manners and refined feelings.

"She washed the remaining three cups and saucers and put them away, wiped down the hand basin and opened the windows."

Painting is part of the domestic and offers small signs of hope.

Even big ideas need to be polished for display on the mantelpiece.

Love, Work (For KD), Sarah Scout Presents, until ●

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Faces of the CBD

What's the vibe of this year's Melbourne International Film Festival?



ARIEL

I went to the opening and saw *Of an Age* by Goran Stoleveski (Australian film director). It was absolutely brilliant. It's a coming-of-age film about being a young queer man in the '90s. It summarised the sh***y feeling of suburban Melbourne and feeling like you didn't fit in.



FEROZ

This is my first movie. It's an animation based on an Afghan family and I'm from Afghanistan. I've never seen one in my life.



ROSE

I think they've been very well-attended. Mostly the films have a clap at the end. That's how you tell. My favourite was *Prayers for the Stolen*, a Mexican film.



LAWRENCE

I like the different films from all over the world. You turn up and watch them. I've had everything from really bleak to joyful and humorous. Mutated irradiated children... if you're at home you will pause. At the MIFF you're committed like everyone else. I'm into arty. I went through the bleak occupied territories. How can you be happy if you're not sad?

MUSIC

Cam Butler

Before there were rock stars, Ignacy Paderewski was a rock star.

The brilliant classical pianist was honoured by the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBG) and given the privilege of planting a commemorative tree, in 1904. Something that Nick Cave experienced many decades later.

Paderewski's influence can be heard in the music of Melbourne's Cam Butler. In the way he phrases his arpeggios, his chord progressions, his fantastic orchestral composition, the superb ebbs and flows prominent from his phosphor luminescent Silver Ray days.

Solar (Kasumien Records) – Cam Butler's latest solo album – is a further exploration of building a musical suite, with recurring themes and motifs appearing on the album. Butler teams up again with Andy Papadopoulos on bass, and Mark Dawson on percussion. Andrea Keeble is the orchestral string collaborator, continuing a great musical rapport with Butler.

Solar is a work of fantastic, melodic guitar lines, fluid bass lines, propulsive drumming and gorgeous string orchestration. This is the

realm of Herzog, Tarkovsky, Ry Cooder, approaching Paderewski. Butler's music gives you Panavision, CinemaScope, 35mm epic grandeur vistas. The evocative *We Need Help* has a beautiful video filmed and edited by Haley Rose.

Title track *Solar*, reminiscent of Miles Davis's *Sketches of Spain*, devolves into bizarre, demented Mickey Mouse fantasia, mops and buckets going helter skelter, then re-emerging at altitude. *Solar* covers a gamut of emotions, brooding, rollicking, more joyous, mournful, celebratory. *Cold Summer* is pure Lalo Schiffrin Magnum Force, sensational.

Cam Butler Orchestra will be performing on Saturday, October 1 at Primrose Potter Salon, Melbourne Recital Centre. Visual artist Haley Rose will bring the light and video projections.

Cam Butler and his 1986 Gibson Les Paul, with additional Bigsby Tremolo, enjoys performing in Ron S Peno & The Superstitions. A cracking rock 'n' roll group fronted by the enigmatic singer of singers, Ron S Peno (Died Pretty), their latest album *Do The Understanding* is brilliant; *Lovelight* the standout track.

Gunditjmarra Bundjalong man Archie Roach, the great song man with such memorable songs in his repertoire like *Charcoal Lane*, *Took The*

Children Away and *Down City Streets* gives inspiration and support to many musicians and creative artists. Respect and condolences to his friends and family at his passing away. The work continues with the Archie Roach Foundation.

Consummate Blues musician Jeff Lang was magnificent playing at the celebration of legendary PBS announcer David Heard's life at the Rainbow. During lockdown, Lang teamed up with guitarist Alison Ferrier to create the band High Ace. Their debut album, *Snowcap Menace*, is an exhilarating departure from their established terrain. High Ace are fantastic; they let the machines rock.

In an oblique strategy, the High Ace approach is to record songs, play them backwards, write down what it sounds like, then re-record with re-written, assembled words and sounds. Somehow, this High Ace music works a treat. Catchy and peachy.

Nick Cave once recorded The Seekers' *The Carnival Is Over*, and for many this paved the way to discover The Seekers and the crystalline, Fifth Element voicings of the enchanting Judith Durham. Warren Ellis, the violinist from The Dirty Three, music soundtrack partner with Nick Cave has written a compelling

memoir that centres around the piece of gum Nina Simone left behind, after performing at the Meltdown Festival in London, curated by Nick Cave.

In Nina Simone's *Gum* (Faber & Faber), Ellis mentions the great Massachusetts poet, Emily Dickinson and her herbarium (pressed plants and flowers). There are pictures in the book of this herbarium. Appropriate for a Victorian muso's memoir, for in the 19th century, Ferdinand Mueller, the first director of the RBG founded and built the Melbourne Herbarium, now on Birdwood Terrace.

Mueller was the superstar, rock 'n' roll botanist of his time, apart from his great scientific work, he organised Moonlight Balls at the RBG grounds on full moon nights. Mueller would have the ONJs of the time performing.

Sublime Melbourne. ●



Chris Mineral

MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM

Town Hall Station shaping as a new city landmark



The spectacular interior of the Metro Tunnel's new Town Hall Station has been revealed, with platforms that stretch from City Square to Federation Square, more than 30 metres below Swanston St.



New images of the station show its vaulted arches soaring up to 10m above 19m-wide platforms – some of the widest metro platforms in the world.

When it opens in 2025 the station will feature a major public artwork by Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, adding to Melbourne's reputation as the nation's cultural capital.

Lozano-Hemmer's works are held by museums around the world including the National Gallery of Victoria. He's exhibited work at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA), Dark Mofo and Federation Square.

Progress on construction at Town Hall Station is also powering ahead in the leadup to the start of train testing in the tunnels in 2023.

Crews have poured more than 2000 cubic metres of concrete to form the surfaces of the station's signature arches. More concrete pours have formed the slab foundations for the station's platforms.

At the same time work has stepped up on installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment in the station, including tunnel ventilation fans in the City Square entrance.

Work is also continuing on the pedestrian underpass that will link the new station to Flinders Street Station and City Loop services.



▲ Town Hall Station construction progress showing the vaulted arch ceiling over the platforms.



▲ An artist's impression of Town Hall Station, opening in 2025.

station's platforms.

Two 50m-high tower cranes are being installed over Swanston St to allow crews to dismantle the acoustic shed over the station site at City Square.

After being a Melbourne CBD feature for four years, the shed will be dismantled piece by piece, with specialist crews removing each panel and the tower cranes lifting the pieces onto trucks for removal.

Work will soon begin on the station's upper levels and above-ground entrance at City Square – one of seven station entrances that will take people to Metro Tunnel services and, in 2029, Melbourne Airport Rail services.

Town Hall Station will be a new gateway to Melbourne landmarks such as Federation Square, ACMI and St Paul's Cathedral. ●

STREET ART



Oh, the beautiful, the laneways

Fresh paint drips down the wall as an artist risks litigious and possible physical consequence. His friend stands at the front of the lane keeping an eye out for a ubiquitous threat. The spotter is flighty as the artist is taking longer than expected.

Standing in the cold dark laneway in the dead of night keeping an eye out, both the artist and the spotter are risking much in order to create, adding a beautiful artwork to the front of a laneway on the edge of the CBD.

The laneway has the smells and stains of time. Built as part of the Hoddle Grid, the laneways were used for deliveries, sewage collections, and often, a cold hard bed for suburban bohemians' who missed the last train.

As the artist is putting on the final touches to what he thinks is one of his best artworks to date, the spotter yells, "spotted"; they had been busted, and a cop car veers up the main street.

Fortunately, the artist had already stashed his paint in a hiding place and he and the spotter, sprint off running down the lane to hide in a hiding spot that they had fortuitously located earlier.

Within seconds the cops drove around the corner with their lights flashing and their spotlight searching around the lane, driving slowly one of the police gets out with a torch and decides to search the lane.

Carefully looking in every nook and crevasse, less than a metre away the artists are frozen in fear felling like a lion's pray as they hear the police radio, praying that the vigilant police officer doesn't notice them.

Just as the light was about to reveal them a message came over the radio and the officer retreated to the car. The car slowly moved down the lane the spotlight searching as the flashing lights fill the artists' senses. The car passes the artists and makes its way to the end of the lane and turns into a main street.

The artists wait five minutes, silent, still frozen by fear. Eventually they climb out of their

hiding spot, grab the paint and quickly leave in the opposite direction to the police. The excitement and rush of creating an illicit artwork, and then nearly being caught was exhilarating. The boys talked quickly, reliving the experience like an old war story, then went back to their studio, dumped the paint, and went home.

One of the most beautiful experiences that urban artists get is going back to see the artwork that they created the next day. They can self-critique, photograph it, and potentially put it online for the entire world to see.

As the artist was photographing his piece, an old homeless guy came up to him and started talking about the new artwork stating that it was a great addition to his laneway. The artist asked why it was his laneway, to which the man told him that he had lived in the laneway for nine years.

He began to talk about the history of the laneway and all that he had seen over the years. The artist began to look at the laneway in a different light, thinking about all the marks on the walls, all the scuffs and scratches, all that had happened, since horses and carts used the laneway.

Each of these marks have their very own story – a moment in history, a part of the Melbourne story.

The artist had a wave of affection come over him. He loves the laneway and he realised that his artwork was just another story in a thousand stories that made up the random aesthetics of the lane.

He decided to give the homeless guy the lunch that he had packed for himself. The man was so happy; they shook hands and the artist started walking back to his studio.

He was moved by the whole experience and thought to himself that the laneways of Melbourne were the heart and soul of the city, and that the art smelt and stained within them made them the cultural veins and heart of our beautiful Melbourne. ●



Adrian Doyle
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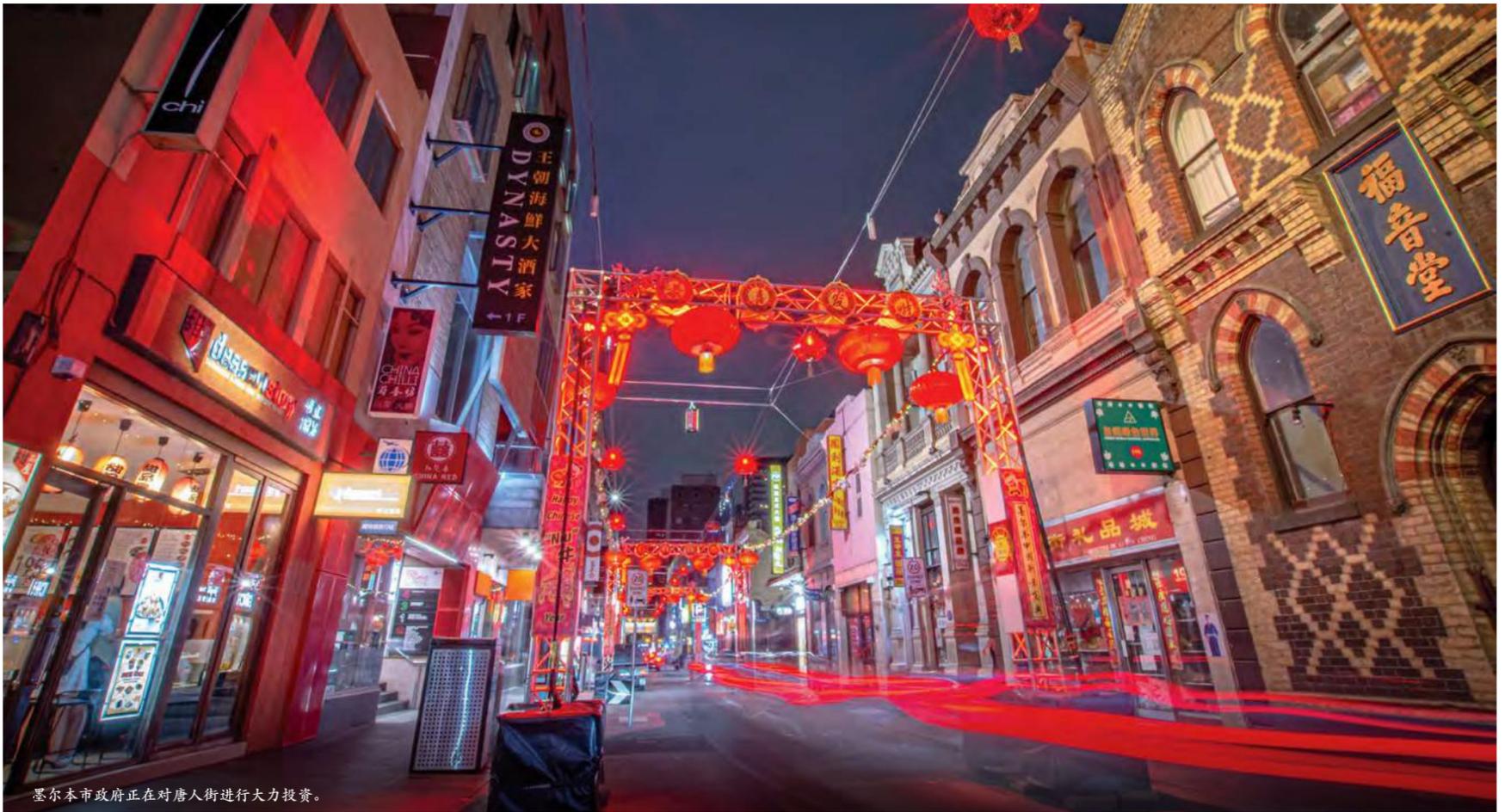
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唐人街新气象



墨尔本市政府正在对唐人街进行大力投资。

墨尔本唐人街是南半球现存最古老的唐人街之一，其悠久历史可以追溯到19世纪50年代的淘金热时期。

从那时起，这条热闹的小巷每年都吸引着数以百万计的游客到访。

虽然在过去的两年中唐人街略显萧条，但墨尔本市政府现在正全力以赴，对唐人街进行大力投资，使其在疫情后能重现活力。

墨尔本市市长莎莉·凯普(Sally Capp)表示，墨尔本唐人街位列世界前十，在经历两年疫情后，能顺利恢复繁荣、重焕生机并不令人意外。

市长说：“为吸引更多游客并带动消费，我们正在加强清洁工作，并提供街区商铺所需的基础设施。”

2021至2022年，唐人街街区清理的涂鸦总面积超过4000平方米。

在接下来的一年里，市政府将投入超过100万澳元的资金用于高压清洁项目，并花费15.2万澳元购置新的照明装置，加强街区照明并扩大照明范围。

2020年，市政府曾在唐人街安装红色和金色灯笼，而本次的全新灯笼式照明装置将穿插其中，使街区的独特氛围更加浓厚。

令人振奋的是，得益于市政府的商业区计划(Business Precinct Program)，新成立的墨尔本唐人街协会将在本财年获得政府拨款。

这笔资金将用于支持举办一系列新活动，增加唐人街地区的游客到访量，带动消费。

商业和全球机会委员会主任、市议员雷示人(Kevin Louey)表示，唐人街是墨尔本市最重要的旅游景点之一，因此我们必须努力使这里重现辉煌。

市议员雷示人说：“我们很自豪能为唐人街投资并与本地企业合作，确保这个标志性街区能在疫情后继续发展壮大。”

市政府实行的唐人街振兴方针使许多人兴奋不已，兼任唐人街Niubi和一鲜(Fishpot)两家餐厅董事总经理的Raymond Pang就是其中之一。



Niubi及一鲜(Fishpot)餐厅董事总经理Raymond Pang、市长莎莉·凯普和市议员雷示人，共同庆祝市政府对墨尔本地标性街区——唐人街的投资

Pang先生说：“作为唐人街商户，我觉得活跃、热情的氛围和干净的环境是最能吸引游客和顾客的。”

“感谢墨尔本市政府为振兴唐人街所作出的努力和投资，使这里重新焕发活力，希望以后也能继续支持我们和唐人街其他优秀商户。”

“让我们共同为墨尔本唐人街努力，使这处市中心的历史遗产胜地重现辉煌。”



唐人街的世界级美食和周到的服务吸引了众多游客，胡同餐厅就是其中之一。
图片来源：What's On Melbourne



唐人街将安装新的矩形灯笼式照明装置

如果您想了解更多关于墨尔本为亚洲社群、游客和国际学生提供的服务，请关注墨尔本官微，或扫描下方二维码。



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新建Munro图书馆和社区中心

根据社区的积极反馈建议，建造Munro图书馆和社区中心可以大大改观维多利亚女王市场区域。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

在8月2日举行的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，墨尔本市议员一致通过了该图书馆和社区中心的方案设计，使该计划又推进了一步。

副市长Nicholas Reece说：“很高兴看到我们Munro图书馆和社区中心的愿景开始形成，提供了一个巨大的机会，为这个城市的独特区域注入新生命。”

“到2040年，我们预计该区域将迎来超过24000名新居民，成为本市增长最快的街区之一。”

该项目已广泛征询了社区的意见，在今年1月至3月开展的社区参与活动中，市政收到了318份社区成员的反馈意见。

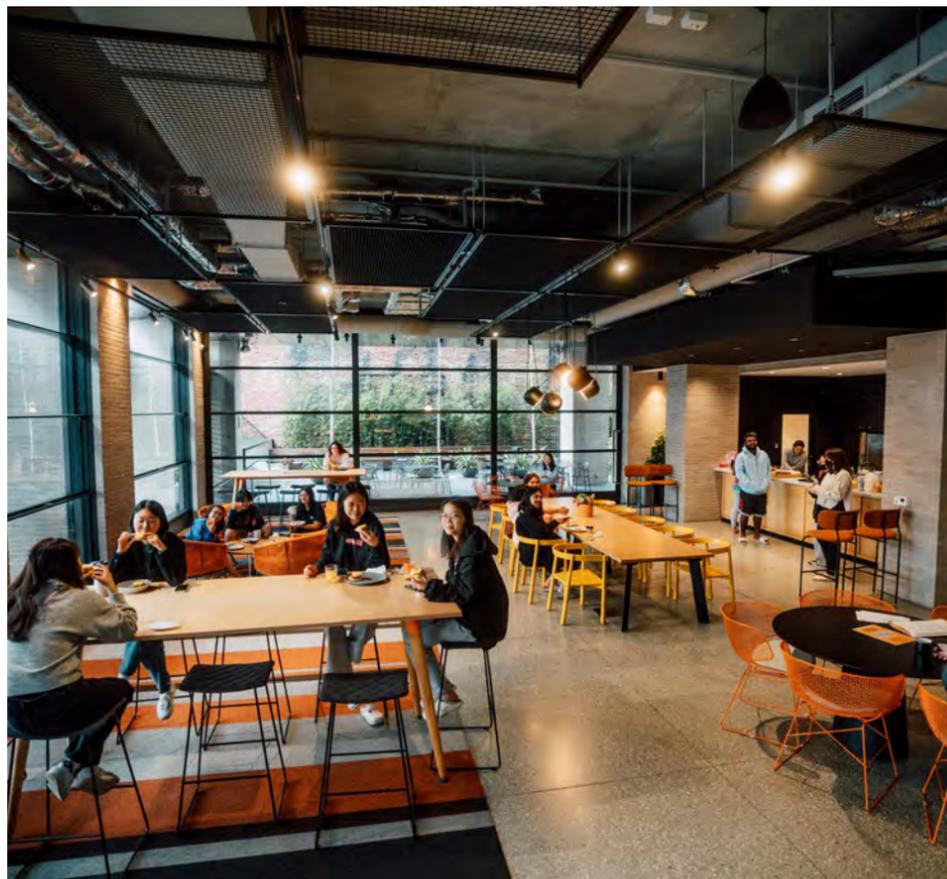
根据这些回复，市政表示，社区的福祉和居民的联系是该区域的首要任务，这些数据将视为图书馆收藏和项目规划的一部分。

市政还在整个项目规划过程中与原住民及其长老密切合作，以确保该空间尊重原住



民文化，传承原住民的知识体系，欢迎原住民社区。

副市长Reece说：“我们听取了墨尔本人的意见，我们知道这个区域居民对公共空间和公共设施的包容性需求越来越大。”



留学生的海外之家

国际学生返城速度缓慢，但国际学生住宿中心(Iglu Melbourne City)继续敞开大门，确保为留学生提供完整的住宿服务。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Iglu位于可以俯瞰维多利亚女王市场，为学生提供即时社区的独立体验，是学生住宿委员会(SAC)的创始成员之一。

学生住宿委员会是澳大利亚房地产委员会(PCA)最近成立的一个部门，由执行董事Torie Brown和Scape公司的首席执行官兼首任主席Anouk Darling发起。

成立该部门的目的是代表和倡导澳大利亚专门建造学生宿舍(PBSA)部门，并为返回墨尔本学习的国际学生提供安全可靠的住房。

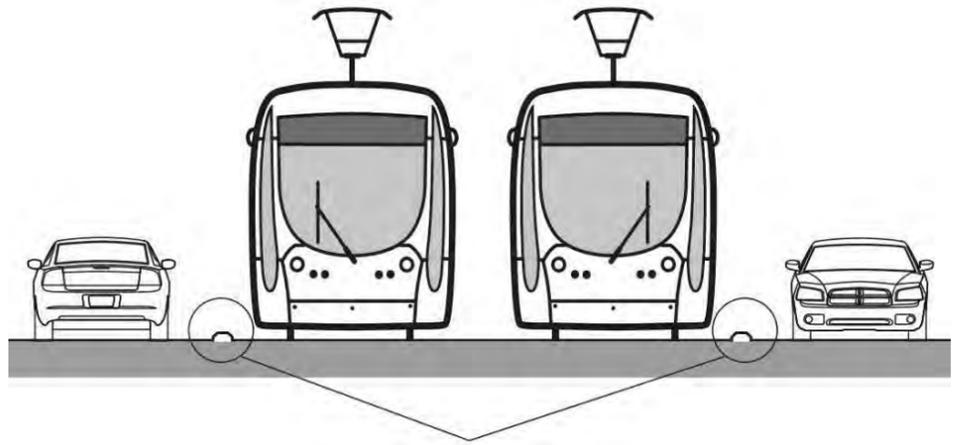
Brown女士说：“年轻的国际学生将成

为我们国家的终身大使，为此他们在澳大利亚拥有最好的学习经历至关重要。”

“专门建造学生宿舍为在墨尔本学习、生活和工作的学生提供一个支持的、安全的和有趣的环境。”

Iglu所建造的设施更趋成熟，一个物业在South Yarra，还有一个新的物业在Flagstaff 花园对面即将开放，在布里斯班(Brisbane)和悉尼(Sydney)也都有其物业设施，Iglu为留学生提供广泛的服务，不仅有助于他们的学习，也有助于形成持久的联系。

Brown女士说，正是这种持久的影响非常重要，因为国际学生还为墨尔本市带来额外的好处。



市区修建电车分离路缘

从现在到11月，市区内将修建超过5公里长的新电车分离路缘，州政府希望由此减少市内的交通事故和重大交通中断。

David Schout

在接下来的几个月里，沿着La Trobe街、Flinders街、Swanston街、Spring街和Spencer街，将安装有轨电车与其他车辆分开的凸起路缘。

安装分离路缘不仅可以减少电车与其它车辆的碰撞，而且还可以减少电车为了避免碰撞而紧急刹车的情况，这种紧急刹车对电车乘客也是危险的。

雅拉(Yarra)电车公司首席执行官Julien Dehornoy说，墨尔本人可能会对电车事故的统计数据感到惊讶。

他说：“在墨尔本的电车线路上，平均每天有三次电车与其它车辆相撞的事故。”

“安装新分离路缘将会减少CBD许多繁

忙街道上的交通堵塞，让汽车、公共汽车和电车行驶得更快、更安全。”

分离路缘也使其它车辆更难违规阻挡电车，特别是在高峰时段。分离路缘由包括旧电车窗户在内的回收材料制成。

紧急车辆仍然可以越过路缘以应对紧急情况。

去年，州政府的第一期工程是在Collins街、Bourke街和Elizabeth街安装分类路缘，据称已经因此减少了大约30%的其它车辆与电车碰撞事故。

政府最新预算包括了在La Trobe街沿线修建六个新的无障碍电车站的资金。

维州公共交通部长Ben Carroll说：“我们比以往任何时候都投入得更多，使墨尔本的电车网络成为一种更现代、更便捷、更安全的交通方式。”



市区需要更多上班族

市长Sally Capp 呼吁重新审视州政府在家工作的建议，因为来CBD的上班族少，就意味着小企业商家继续受到打击。

Brendan Rees

澳大利亚房地产委员会(Property Council of Australia)办公室最新数据显示，墨尔本7月份的入住率已从49%降至38%。

市长Capp表示，市中心在连续6个月的入住率增长之后，7月份出现了首次下滑，她称之为“不出意外地剧烈下滑，令市区商家不安。”

她在一份声明中说：“无限制延长目前在家工作的建议将继续阻碍我们城市的持续反弹。”

“维多利亚人知道如何保持安全和减缓

传播。大多数墨尔本人听从州政府和我们的卫生官员的建议。”

市长指出，除非市区的复工率提高，否则商家业主“处境艰难”，迫切需要有一个清晰的前景。

市长说：“他们中的许多人已经濒临绝境，拼命想坚持下去。”

“目前的居家工作建议严重影响了人们的信心、行为和生活。”

市议会数据显示，在早高峰时段，Flinders街地铁站地下通道的通勤活动与2019年COVID之前相比下降了54%。

在Bourke街步行商业区，8月初的人流量略有增加，但与2019年COVID之前相比总体下降了40%。

What's on: September 2022



WINTER NIGHT MARKET
Melbourne's much loved Winter Night Market is back at Queen Victoria Market after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, running every Wednesday evening from June 1 to August 31 2022. For more information:
winternightmarket.com.au



FLASH FORWARD LANEWAY FEST
Ongoing
Flash Forward is the epic new creative program taking over 40 city laneways with music, murals and more from the best local talent. For more information visit:
whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM EASTENDERS MEET-UPS
Representing residents living in the CBD's eastern quadrant, EastEnders host monthly meetings at the Gorman Room, 27 Little Lonsdale St. For more information contact president Stan Capp.
eastendersinc@gmail.com



MELBOURNE MEN'S SHED
A shed in the heart of the CBD.
Melbourne Men's Shed is an inclusive space at Federation Square suitable for the retired apartment dweller, CBD workers, female members, artists, students and guests. To learn how you can join visit:
melbournemensshed.org

WALKING WITH NEIGHBOURS - LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
Residents 3000 hosts monthly walks around the CBD and surrounding areas each month on Thursday evenings at 6pm. For meeting times and information contact:
walks@residents3000.com.au



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