

# CBD NEWS

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▲ The Supermelbourne pop-up launch on October 17.

Photo: Dan Castano.

## Campaign celebrates our *Supermelbourne*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
EVENTS

Three iconic Howey Place shopfronts were completely transformed during October in an effort to encourage visitors to celebrate everything that makes our CBD what it is.

Labelled *Supermelbourne*, the vibrant pop-up experience was in place from Saturday, October 22 to Wednesday, October 26, with an underground light and sound installation captivating visitors and locals.

The activation marked the launch City of Melbourne's (CoM) *Only in the City* campaign – a \$4 million integrated marketing program designed to showcase the food, fashion, retail, art, and entertainment on offer in the city centre.

"*Only in the City* is the sum of all of the unique parts that make Melbourne the most liveable city in Australia – where people travel from all

corners of the globe to experience," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Melbourne has a magnetism that comes from our top-tier hospitality, retail and entertainment industries. We want to celebrate those experiences because they only happen here in the city."

The wide variety of events on the program are tailored to specifically represent Melbourne. Among the experiences are spectacular food and drinks, live entertainment, and an immersive underground art, music, and light installation.

For the opening weekend, attendees were also encouraged to go all out with their attire, with freebies up for grabs for the best-dressed visitors. ●

**For more information:**  
[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/only-in-the-city](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/only-in-the-city)



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

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Melbourne’s iconic Fed Square celebrates 20 years  
*Photo by Eugene Hyland*

Melbourne Arts Precinct Co. CEO Katrina Sedgwick, Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos, ACMI CEO Seb Chan and Hoorie Heritage Trust CEO Tom Mosby gathered on October 25 to mark the beginning of a month-long program of celebrations for Federation Square’s 20th anniversary. *Full story on page 10.*

## CBD safety and injecting room on the agenda as candidates make their pitch ahead of Victorian Election

*Candidates vying for the seat of Melbourne in the upcoming Victorian State Election spoke with CBD residents in October about a number of key local and wider issues.*

WORDS BY *By David Schout*  
ELECTIONS

Safety concerns inside the CBD and the state government’s soon-to-be safe injecting facility within the Hoddle Grid were high on the agenda as candidates for the upcoming Victorian Election met with locals on October 13.

Victorians head to the polls for a second time in five months on November 26 and the seat of Melbourne, which covers the CBD and a host of surrounding inner-city suburbs north of the Yarra River, is set to be hotly contested.

Melbourne has been held by Greens MP Ellen Sandell since 2014, when her party prevailed in the electorate for the first time, and in 2018 Ms Sandell narrowly held onto the seat to secure a second term.

While the incumbent MP starts as a warm favourite to claim victory for a third straight time, she faces a stern test in the form of Labor candidate Rebecca Thistleton who has spent the past few months knocking on doors and raising her profile around the electorate.

Both lower house candidates, plus Nicola Foxworthy (Reason Party candidate for Melbourne) and Colleen Bolger (Victorian Socialists) met with locals at the Kelvin Club on October 13, in an event organised by Residents 3000 and discussion

chaired by EastEnders president Stan Capp.

Also in attendance were two upper house candidates for the Northern Metropolitan region in the Liberal Party’s Evan Mulholland and the Liberal Democratic Party’s Paul Silverberg.

The Liberal’s lower house candidate, George Palackalody, was not in attendance.

State and nationwide issues were prominent throughout the evening — namely the cost of living, housing affordability and climate change — as candidates pitched their party’s policies and what they would do to contribute to solutions.

Locally, the decline in CBD safety and the expected safe injecting room near Flinders Street Station emerged as hot-button issues.

When questions were opened up to the floor, a long-term Exhibition St resident detailed two individual cases of violence that she and her partner had suffered in the past six years, and asked what was being done to fix it.

Ms Sandell acknowledged the issue was prominent in recent times and said the Greens had been advocating to Victoria Police for more patrols accompanied by the City of Melbourne and social workers.

She also revealed one policy the party would focus on in the coming years.

“Lots of people have been bringing up with me that they don’t feel as safe in the CBD as they used to, particularly during COVID,” she said.

“One of the biggest things that helps prevent crime is passive surveillance, and we haven’t had as much of that in the CBD. We do have a lot of closed shopfronts, so our policy is for a vacancy tax on empty ground

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## Construction industry delays hamper Queen Victoria Market renewal

WORDS BY *By Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Delays facing the revamp of Queen Victoria Market’s (QVM) new Food Hall as well as sheds being closed for restoration “continues to have a significant impact,” a City of Melbourne report says.

The report cited supply chain difficulties and availability of labour had impacted the market’s \$250 million renewal, with concern also “expressed about the impact of these matters on trader viability and customer attendances”.

“In addition, increased traffic congestion around the

market is impacting on visitor attendance,” it said.

Work to transform the market’s existing food court into a vibrant indoor dining destination began in February 2022, however, the council said that during demolition, it was discovered that existing underground services were in poor condition and required upgrading.

“This coupled with ongoing construction industry delays, including a shortage of materials and challenges with sub-contractor resourcing, means tenants won’t be able to start their fit-outs until January 2023,” the council said in a statement.

“While construction is underway, pedestrians and vehicles are being diverted around the site, but the rest of the market remains open.”

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The deadline for the December/January edition is November 17.

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## Construction industry delays hamper QVM

*Continued from page 1.*

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while the council's major investment in the market precinct was "progressing well" following the completion of restoration works in two-thirds of the market's historic sheds, "unfortunately, the current challenges facing the construction industry are also affecting the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal program".

"We know this is disappointing for the market's tenants, traders and customers, and we'll continue to do everything we can to assist Queen Victoria Market management to entice more customers to the market and support traders," Cr Capp said.

"The Queen Victoria Market is one of Melbourne's most iconic attractions, and we're committed to securing its future, and revitalising the precinct, for generations to come."

Owner of The Hat Project stall at QVM Jenny Pyke said the disruption of the renewal had been "much more difficult" than what she anticipated.

"It's pretty tough going. Just the continued disruption, the customers don't know whether the place is open or not," she said.

"We're spending all our time directing people where to go. It would be great if it could be hurried along and have less impact on the traders."

"It just makes it incredibly stressful knowing we've got a couple more years to go."

The report, which was tabled at the council's September 20 meeting, said the City of Melbourne's 2022-23 budget did not make no allowances for trader rent relief, but non-financial help would be provided.

The matters outlined in the report said it "should be a focus" for the council's market renewal team when an audit and risk committee meeting is held in November.

Cr Capp said key milestones had been reached in August, with dozens of fruit and vegetable traders returning to the newly restored A and B sheds.

"New trader facilities have also been installed in those sheds, improving the way business



owners access essential services and comply with health and safety standards," she said.

Restoration works at E and F sheds are currently under way and the final stage of the project is on schedule to complete in early 2023 as originally planned.

The council is investing \$30 million as part of the precinct renewal program to repair, conserve and restore the market's 12 historic sheds – many of which have been in continuous use since the market's opening in 1878. Eight sheds have now been restored, including sheds A to D, and J to M. The restoration project is scheduled for completion in mid-2023, as originally planned.

However, Friends of QVM president Mary-Lou Howie said trader confidence had hit "rock bottom" with the renewal making it increasingly difficult for customers to navigate the construction to access stalls in the upper market.

"The longer the renewal goes on the more damage it does to its reputation as Australia's premier market," she said.

"We are only halfway there. H and I Sheds are yet to be renovated, then Queen St becomes one big construction site with the building of the proposed Northern Shed, the trader shed which includes lunch, meeting rooms and showers, the gold plating that no trader needs, and the underground waste management system."

"There is no doubt that the future relocation of H and I fruit and vegetable traders for an indefinite period will impact negatively on the dairy, meat and fish halls."

Traders can continue to access the Small Business Mentoring Service and the Trader Connect Program for additional support and advice. ●



## QVM boss Stan Liacos stands down

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

Queen Victoria Market's chief executive Stan Liacos is stepping down from his role after conceding it was the "right time to seek new challenges".

Mr Liacos, who has been praised for steering the iconic market and its 600-plus traders through the pandemic, made the surprise announcement on October 25 after four years in the top job.

Mr Liacos informed the QVM board that he would not seek another five-year term and would finish up at the end of March next year to ensure an effective handover for his successor.

"It was a difficult decision," Mr Liacos said, but added, "I know I'm doing this in a way that ensures a smooth transition to someone who can give the job their all for the next five years."

"I have loved my time at the market and am proud of what has been achieved. I believe it is now better positioned for a bright future than it has been for a long time." ●

Read the full story online:



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# Safety and injecting room on the agenda as candidates make their pitch ahead of election

*Continued from page 1.*

level shopfronts like what is being looked at in the ACT and San Francisco, to try and bring life back to the city, and life that isn't just big beer barns."

Ms Thistleton said that if she were the member for Melbourne and someone had relayed that experience to her, she would "take the time to get down to Exhibition St and have a walk around with them."

"[I'd] look at things like the lighting in the street and whether or not there needs to be mirrors at the end of particular laneways, so that people can see what's going on around there," she said.

"Have a talk with the local police and residents down there to get a sense of what sort of foot patrols there are, how that's being determined."

Mr Mulholland was staunch in the Liberal Party's approach.

"We certainly support community safety and more police on the beat, and giving police the resources they need. And you'll be hearing a lot more from us soon," he said.

The second notable local topic on the night looked at the state government's proposed medically supervised injecting facility, widely tipped to be located at the former Yooralla building at 244 Flinders St — a site the government purchased last year.

An investigation into the most suitable location for the facility, headed by former police commissioner Ken Lay, won't be released until 2023 despite the government initially stating it would be tabled by the end of 2020.

Ms Sandell made her thoughts clear on the most recent delay.

"I think they [the government] have gotten cold feet because of the election," she said.

Discussion on the night was prompted by a 23-year local resident who lives in the Majorca Building (located near the former Yooralla building), who said that she and her neighbours were concerned about the potential facility.

The residents said that while they were not

against safe injecting rooms per se, they had not at this stage had any opportunity for consultation with the government.

Unlike the issue of CBD safety, this issue revealed a clear divide in policies from the parties.

Mr Mulholland said the Liberals "certainly wouldn't be opening up an injecting room in the CBD" while the Greens, who are supportive of medically supervised injecting rooms, were critical of Labor's moves to date.

"They have purchased a building, so it is creating a lot of uncertainty for residents," Ms Sandell said.

"And I think that's exactly not the right way to do it because we do need community buy-in if these things are going to be successful."

Ms Thistleton (a candidate rather than sitting MP) conceded it was difficult to comment without having all the facts at hand but committed to working with locals.

"It's a strange position when you're running for the party of government that's going to be making the decisions but haven't been privy to those conversations," she said.

"But if I was your local member, I would be working really hard to get some really active consultation happening for the people that would be living around this area, as well as businesses."

If the electorate votes in a similar manner to the 2018 election, the lower house is likely to be a showdown between the Greens and Labor.

A clear divide emerged between the two candidates on who will make the bigger impact on Melbourne.

Ms Sandell boasted the Greens' track record on how they've pushed Labor in recent years: "During the pandemic the Greens were able to sit at the negotiating table with the government. We secured things like financial support for renters who lost work during COVID, grants for international students who were struggling to survive, and a lot more."

However, Ms Thistleton said this was simply not enough for constituents.

"The Greens will talk about what they will push for and what they will advocate for and

talk about a style of politics that isn't entirely without merit and isn't entirely different in values to what Labor is presenting. But it doesn't get things done, and it especially doesn't get things done locally. It is not good enough to be standing on the sidelines and offering criticisms of decisions well after the ink has dried."

## What they said

Ellen Sandell, MP for Melbourne (Greens):

"I think it's more important than ever to have Greens and independent voices in parliament, pushing the next government to go further and faster on issues that matter to Victorians and holding the government to account."

Rebecca Thistleton, Labor candidate for Melbourne:

"Sometimes people say that it doesn't matter who you vote for, that the outcome is just the same. But that cannot be said in Victoria — not after what has been achieved [by Labor] in the last eight years."

Nicola Foxworthy, Reason Party candidate:

"The Reason Party represents the change that I want to see in politics. The approach — evidence-based, compassionate and pragmatic — has shown that listening to people, working together, can successfully deliver real results, real solutions to real problems."

Colleen Bolger, Victorian Socialists candidate:

"In regards to the cost of living pressures, socialists talk about it as a crisis of inequality. We need to be talking about it in terms of wage justice and social justice, because it's not the case that everyone is experiencing these issues equally."

Evan Mulholland, Liberal Party candidate (upper house):

"Cost of living is far and away one of the biggest issues in this election. It's all many people talk about. Looking around at the CBD in comparison to what it used to be is pretty heart-breaking. Every 'for lease' and 'for sale' sign to me is a family, is a small business owner that's really struggled throughout the pandemic."



▲ Residents3000 election forum. Photo: Raf Camillo.

Paul Silverberg, Liberal Democratic Party candidate (upper house):

"[Born in the former USSR] I know, quite well, what it's like to have government interfering in each part of your life, and it always ends in failure ... a lot of the policies that I have seen not just over the last two years but particularly coming from the current Labor government, is almost like looking in a time machine." ●



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Gina and Suzie enjoying a coffee outside  
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## Residents' fight to keep Queen St roundabout grows after having not "heard anything"

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A group of residents are begging the City of Melbourne to reconsider its plan to remove a large roundabout next to the Queen Victoria Market, arguing the traffic strategy "is nonsense".

The council has remained steadfast in its intent to remove the roundabout at Queen St and Franklin St including the intersection's green space and mature trees after endorsing plans in December 2019 despite strong opposition from residents and community members who recently said the council had been "discreet" over its plans.

The discontinuance of the roundabout would make way for an area known as the "Southern Site" to be developed by the private sector after an 11,892 square-metre parcel of land was gifted to the City of Melbourne by the state government in 2014 to help fund the \$250 million renewal of the market's precinct.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has boasted that the development would deliver \$520 million to the City of Melbourne's economy with an estimated 326,000 extra visitors shopping at the market each year.

In October, the council confirmed a two-stage competitive process to appoint a developer or consortium for the Southern Site was expected to conclude this year or early 2023 after generating "considerable interest".

But residents – who sent a strong message to Sally Capp and the council in January last year after brandishing placards saying, "Wrong way Sally, go back" in their desperate attempt to keep the roundabout which they described as a "landmark in its own right" – said the "whole process has been deceptive" and they have "not been told when" the future works would occur or whether public consultation would be conducted.

"The purpose of the removal is not for traffic or safety reasons but to allow for the roundabout and road to be closed and sold off as a development site," resident David Legge said.

"We say that Franklin St and the roundabout is a public road that has been used by Victorians to access the market and the city for 150 plus years and that to close a public road and sell it as a development site is outrageous, corrupt and simply disgusting."

Under the proposal, the development would offer



"unparalleled views" of Flagstaff Gardens, and deliver up to 25 per cent affordable housing, with more than 600 total residential units catering for 1100 new residents.

It will also see a 1.75-hectare public open space created within the market precinct.

Planning to remove the Queen St roundabout, as well as the design of the intersection is under way, which would see the northern intersection of Franklin and Queen streets signalised, and bring about "numerous safety benefits for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists," the council said in a recent statement, which had remained unchanged since September last year.

However, residents have not given up their fight to save their roundabout after expressing concern they had "not heard anything".

According to Mr Legge, the southern site development would dramatically affect their neighbourhood amenity, noting the "business case is a fantasy, and the traffic plan is nonsense" as it would "significantly impact the general access for cars to the market".

"The whole process has been deceptive, calling it the 'Market Precinct Renewal' as a justification to change the zoning around the market with no benefit to the future of the market itself," he said.

"The market belongs to all Victorians and should be accessible to all, not just tourists and people on bikes. The only people that will benefit from these changes to the roads and traffic conditions in the area are the property developers. Everyone else will lose." ●

## A stroll down memory lane for Degraeves St personalities

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

They say there's a peculiar connection between taste and memory.

And for Mary Ursini, 80, and her husband Pompeo, 85, who sat for coffee outside Café Andiamo in the CBD one September morning, that could not ring truer.

Time could have stood still for the couple as the waft of coffee and the chatter among customers at the Degraeves St café brought back a flood of happy memories.

Thirty years ago, Mary and Pompeo came across an empty shop space at Degraeves St which, at the time, there was "nothing there" except a dry cleaner, a butcher's shop, and a flower shop.

"My husband said, 'Here is where I want to start something,'" Mary said.

"I thought 'Oh my god, you're joking' because it's nothing. He said, 'We're going to make a go of it here' and so we did."

The couple named the shop Café Andiamo, which means "Let's go!" in Italian – a testament to the way they also conducted the business as it "took off quite quick".

"People just having a good time, people meeting friends, it was beautiful," Mary reflected.

Among their cherished memories was serving Perri Cutten, the founder of the iconic women's fashion house, which occupied the top floor above Café Andiamo at the time.

Returning all these years later to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their café opening in 1992, Mary and Pompeo are proud of what they achieved.

"We loved making something out



▲ *Mary Ursini and her husband Pompeo return to their beloved Café Andiamo in Degraeves St.*  
Picture: Murray Enders.

of nothing and to make it the icon it is today."

To mark the special occasion, the couple caught up for coffee and brunch with Café Andiamo's current staff while marvelling at how much things have changed at the iconic laneway.

"My gosh, these 30 years where are they? I want them back," Mary laughed.

The couple of eight great children sold the café in 1997, a decision that didn't come easy, but Mary and Pompeo are so delighted that the business had stood the test of time.

And they intend to keep visiting Degraeves St with the good feelings that come with coffee.

"I used to have an espresso but began to think I had too much short black coffee. So now, I have a skinny latte, but my husband still has the espresso coffee," Mary laughed.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp congratulated Pompeo and Mary for "following their dreams, and for helping cement Degraeves St as one of Melbourne's most beloved coffee spots".

"We love to see small business success stories in Melbourne, and this is absolutely one of them." ●

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▲ An artist's impression of a \$25 million refurbishment of the CBD's Tivoli Arcade.

## Historic arcade set for \$25 million makeover

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

The CBD's historic Tivoli Arcade will be given a fresh lease of life under a \$25 million revitalisation plan to create a "new destination hub".

Owners of the arcade, Futuro Capital, a Sydney-based investment group, want to revamp the run-down building, which was the former site of the Tivoli Theatre built in the 1860s.

Under the plan, the project would see the arcade's mid-century tower transformed into an A-grade commercial building and integrated with the lobby at 235 Bourke St.

It would also invite "high street retail and up-market food and beverage offerings" while providing an improved link between the Bourke Street Mall and the iconic Rainbow Alley, a previously underutilised public thoroughfare.

Futuro Capital has engaged architects Fender Katsalidis – who designed the Eureka Tower and Australia 108 buildings – to redesign the 38,000 sqm area including the entire ground floor, end of trip facility, level lobbies, and amenities.

"We have embraced the laneway as an opportunity to increase connection with the ground floor plane through a physical linkage," Fender Katsalidis principal Rosie Morley said.

"Our approach has been to strip back the layers of materiality which have been added over time to reveal more of the building's existing structure. The intention is to celebrate this original character and tie it into the fabric of Melbourne's unique laneway DNA."

Set for completion in 2023, connections at various levels within the arcade would be introduced with double-height volumes and an outdoor terrace on the third floor.

Futuro Capital's executive director

Ben Hopkins said the refurbishment, which would feature "top quality retail and commercial users", was expected to be "fully leased" before construction was completed.

"We're already seeing an extensive amount of enquiry from retail and food and beverage tenants, drawn to the building's attractive location, the expansive new commercial entrance and the upmarket retail offering through Rainbow Alley," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp welcomed the project saying it showed a huge vote of confidence in the future of the city centre as it recovered from the pandemic.

"Melbourne's architectural landscape is renowned the world over for our beautifully crafted buildings and inimitable laneways," the Lord Mayor said.

"We're not just a beautiful city, we are a prosperous city. As the engine room of Victoria, Melbourne city's economy contributes a quarter of the gross state product."

"As we continue our sustained economic bounce back, it is thoughtful and quality additions to our CBD – such as this project at 235 Bourke St – that maintain our reputation as the most liveable city in Australia."

Renowned architect firm Bates Smart is also working in partnership with the redevelopment's design by tackling the building's exterior.

The overall development would complement the City of Melbourne's plan to protect, respect and celebrate quality heritage architecture in the CBD, Futuro Capital said.

*CBD News* understands the building became the Tivoli Arcade in 1914 after serving as a theatre, before it was damaged by a fire in 1967.

Futuro Capital and partners Baring Private Equity Asia and SLB Development bought 235 Bourke St through two separate deals totalling \$206 million, which was completed in April 2021. ●



▲ Hardware Lane's 35-year-old red brick surface will be ripped up in favour of bluestone.

## Red bricks ripped up as Hardware Lane revamped

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Hardware Lane's iconic red bricks will be ripped up and replaced by bluestone paving as part of \$2 million works to improve the popular CBD dining laneway.

Despite two-thirds of local survey respondents asking to retain the red bricks, the council said they were "not fit for purpose given the intensity of use and movement" and would not be replaced.

Since installation 35 years ago, the unique surface had become "slippery, uneven and pose a potential safety risk to the public" according to the council.

Most of Melbourne's iconic laneways, such as Degraves St and Hosier Lane, consist of bluestone which is seen as a quintessential aspect of the city.

Hardware Lane's red bricks however, which are particularly prominent on a sunny day, are seen as a quirky outlier in Melbourne's laneway culture.

Owner of Italian restaurant Max on Hardware, Michael Ibrahim said he would be sad to see the red bricks removed. "We've been on Hardware Lane for over 20 years, so we know the character of the laneway. A lot of people appreciate that brick, it's got that real character," he told *CBD News*.

"Even the landlord himself was really disappointed about the change to bluestone. You don't see much of this sort of laneway in the city."

However, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the changes, which would "future-proof" Hardware Lane "for decades to come", were required and that bluestone was "iconically Melbourne for this iconic place".

"I know that red bricks have been associated with Hardware Lane for a long time now but they're not workable, usable or safe and tire very easily," she said at an October 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"Being able to look forward with confidence to the way that this laneway presents, and the ways in which it can be used as well, is a great outcome for the city ongoing and particularly for local traders."

Mr Ibrahim acknowledged that the uneven nature of the paving had become an issue.

"It's a bit of a hazard, actually, even setting up tables there [outside]."

Newly approved designs for the upgrades will also

“

*We've been on Hardware Lane for over 20 years, so we know the character of the laneway. A lot of people appreciate that brick, it's got that real character.*

”

include the installation of lighting above the laneway, 17 new trees to increase canopy cover, street furniture and a pedestrian crossing on Little Bourke St.

The Lord Mayor gave a nod to Hardware Lane's popularity on social media for one of the planned improvements.

"I hope [the lighting] not only adds to the atmosphere and the safety, but I really hope it adds to the 'Instagrammable' element of this famous place," she said.

"[Hardware Lane] is one of our top destinations, and it has therefore I think added pressure in terms of what we expect for our traders and visitors ... it's that high visibility and high usability that has particularly driven the design outcomes and investment."

Several traders expressed concern with the council about the effects of disruption caused by upcoming works, particularly ahead of Christmas, and Cr Capp said this was being duly considered.

"[We've pledged] to minimise that as much as possible, particularly as many are still recovering from the biggest distortion in their trading lives but also as we head into the most busy and vibrant time of the year as well."

The council said it anticipated the works would "occur in sections and predominately after hours".

During COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the City of Melbourne was able to complete disruptive underground works on Hardware Lane while the city was in lockdown.

This included tree removal, structural soil and irrigation system improvements and the installation of storm-water upgrades. ●



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# LORD MAYOR SALLY CAPP

## A vision for a cleaner, greener, busier city

### Elected leaders might expect a few surprises once they're voted into office, but who could predict a once-in-a-century pandemic?

Lord Mayor Sally Capp quickly became a key figure in managing the city's response, a period she says was defined by 'ingenuity and collaboration'.

'It really was a time of collaboration and I've got more telephone numbers in my book than I ever had before,' the Lord Mayor said.

'I can call colleagues in state and federal government. We see efforts to bring Melbourne back better right across the private sector, community sector and cultural institutions. They're all pitching in to say "what can we do?"'

Indeed a typical week for the Lord Mayor features numerous meetings with a huge range of Melburnians and delegates from interstate and overseas.

'This morning I was with a small business owner hearing their great ideas to attract new customers. I applaud people for every single day making the effort to find ways to keep their doors open and people employed and customers coming in. That is so Melbourne.'

She'd recently worked the room at an arts festival launch encircled by acrobats and singers; welcomed an American climate policy foundation impressed with City of Melbourne initiatives; and taken a look at Melbourne Fashion Week planning.

'Ambassadors, residents groups, it could not be more varied. I see the catering staff here at Town Hall at six in the morning preparing beautiful

food for lunches at Town Hall. I'm an early starter and see the city awakening. We are a very big part of that.'

She believes the motivation for running for Lord Mayor held her in good stead for helping manage the city's COVID response and ongoing recovery. Melbourne was the hardest hit city in Australia, with long lockdowns emptying our streets and devastating the local economy - creating major challenges for the city and the Victorian Government, who worked closely together on revitalisation initiatives.

Reflecting on the past few years, she said: 'There were certainly lots of surprises about being Lord Mayor. I think it's important for everyone who takes on a leadership role to have a real passion for something, because there are going to be lots of challenges and the passion keeps you focused and feeling driven.'

'For me, that passion was for Melbourne. I'd had many roles in the past where I'd represented Melbourne or been involved in issues about the city, in roles such as CEO of the Committee for Melbourne, and representation and trade investment roles such as Agent-General for Victoria.'

One of the most satisfying aspects of her role, she said, is making a difference at the local level for Melbourne's neighbourhoods.

'Of course the list of things to do never ends and that can be overwhelming at times. I really focus on the things we can do which helps move me away from the things I can't get done,' she said.

Asked what she's most proud of midway through her term as Lord Mayor, she singles out 'the whole response of City of Melbourne to the pandemic. The Queen Victoria Market renewal was at an absolute stalemate and that is now moving ahead. Also, I'm so proud the city understands we can play a major role in helping people experiencing homelessness by dedicating a building to support them through the Make Room program.'

The Greenline Project to transform the river's north bank 'has excited and galvanised people', she said.

'It's moved beyond just my passion project - it has a business case, initial funding and multiple agencies working on it. I'm also really excited about Power Melbourne and the way we can change the paradigm on renewable energy in cities.'

'This is another reflection for me about the City of Melbourne. We are brave, we are happy to step into the unknown and to say this is important and we should give it a try. I think that sense of taking some risks because it's worth it, because it could and should lead us to better outcomes, that is extraordinary. I used to look at government as a very risk-averse, status quo kind of body, and I look at City of Melbourne and I think, wow, this is an organisation with people with the courage to do the right thing. I think that reflects where our citizens expect us to be.'

'Look at what we've done on the change the date discussion around 26 January - we had the debate, we've done the work. These are difficult conversations and they're challenging but they're important and we take a stand on these things which I think is fantastic.'



Meetings, conversations, decision-making continue apace in her life as there's much still to do, together with all councillors and staff, she said.

'We need to keep delivering on our essential services, to be a cleaner city, and to take bigger aspirational roles in important issues like climate change, being a greener city; and I think ultimately, following the pandemic experience, it's about being a busier city. Melbourne can be a magnet for students, residents, investors, business owners, workers, creatives - whatever your personal passions or professional pursuits are, you can do them here in Melbourne.'

To read the full story and watch the video visit [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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# Greens push to curb short-stay issues

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
STRATA

The Victorian Greens have pledged to try and force the next government to adopt a series of policies to “overhaul the regulation of short-stays in Victoria” ahead of the state election on November 26.

Victorian Member for Melbourne Ellen Sandell told *CBD News* that, if re-elected, she would lobby the new government to address the current “weak regulations” which she said had “turned several buildings in the CBD into essentially unregulated hotels”.

“CBD and Docklands residents tell me they moved to the inner city because they thought it would feel like a vibrant community, but they end up feeling like they live in an unregulated hotel as their apartment building is filled with short-stays rather than long-term neighbours,” Ms Sandell said.

Under the proposal from The Greens, a cap of 180 days a year would be introduced to limit how many nights a year Victorians can rent out a property, while owners’ corporations (OCs) would be allowed to regulate short stays for properties “that are not a host’s principal residence in their building”.

The Greens say it would also push the government to establish a mandatory register of short-stay operators as seen in other jurisdictions, including New South Wales and overseas in cities such as San Francisco and Amsterdam.

Ms Sandell said these “sensible policies” would still allow people to rent out a spare room on third party services like Airbnb or while they’re away for short periods but would discourage businesses and people purely interested in renting out full-time.

“Victoria has some of the weakest regulations of short-stay accommodation in the world. It’s time the Labor Government fixed our laws,” Ms Sandell said.

“By overhauling short-stay regulations we can ensure there is more affordable long-term housing for people available in our inner city,



as well as making sure our inner-suburbs feel like neighbourhoods, not ghost towns largely populated by unregulated hotels.”

“People should be able to rent out a room, or their whole apartment if they go away for a short time, but corporations and landlords shouldn’t just be able to buy multiple properties to put on short-stay websites full-time without regulation.”

A spokesperson for We Live Here – a lobby group established to lobby government for greater regulation of the short stay industry in Victoria – said proposed policies from The Greens were “very welcome”.

“This policy release from The Greens is very welcome as it is very much in alignment with what we have been articulating for some time,” the spokesperson said.

“We hope that the other parties will now come up with some meaningful policies that they would be prepared to implement early in the term of the next government.”

But Labor candidate for Melbourne Rebecca Thistleton dismissed the policy platform put forward by The Greens, stating that the party “had the luxury of never having to deliver on their ideas, because they’re never in government”.

“The Greens cannot explain how short-stay usage caps would be monitored, enforced or even legislated in light of Victorian Supreme Court rulings about short-stay apartments,” she told *CBD News*.

“Real change comes from working with people to harness the power of being in government, we’ll never get a fairer property market if we just get ideas from the sidelines.”

Ms Thistleton said the Andrews Government had already introduced tougher rules for short-stay apartment owners and more powers for owners’ corporations, which she said OC could “regulate within their own bylaws”.

She added that it had also introduced foreign buyer surcharges and a tax on vacant apartments. “There are mechanisms in place to make sure those rules are enforced,” she said. ●



*Sean Car*

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# Police bust drug syndicate in CBD

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
CRIME

An alleged drug dealing syndicate operating in the CBD has been busted after police seized drugs, cash, and prohibited weapons.

Four men were arrested in the sting after officers from the Transit Safety Division along with the Drug Taskforce, Clandestine Laboratory Squad, and the Dog Squad executed a search warrant at an apartment complex in Exhibition St on October 5.

As part of the search, they seized about \$600,000 worth of drugs including 900 grams of methylamphetamine, 100 grams of cocaine, 2900 MDMA tablets, 28 litres of 1.4 butanediol, small quantities of prescription medication, cannabis, LSD, and heroin.

They also seized \$200,000 in cash, two tasers, two OC spray canisters, and two extendable batons.

Police allege the four men were operating the syndicate from the CBD premises.

This included a 45-year-old Melbourne man and a 35-year-old Melbourne man who have both been charged with trafficking a large commercial quantity of drugs.

They were remanded in custody and are expected to appear at the Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on January 25.

A 26-year-old Melbourne man was released and expected to be charged on summons. A 19-year-old Footscray man was released pending further enquiries.

Transit Safety Division First Constable Kevin Murrain said the bust was a “significant result” and police would continue to hold offenders to account.

“This is a significant result and highlights the capability of Victoria Police in investigating crime on our transport network and disrupting the supply of drugs in the community,” he said.

“These arrests should serve as a reminder to those involved in drugs – police are actively targeting you.” ●

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# Melbourne's iconic community square celebrates 20 years

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
EVENTS

Federation Square officially celebrated 20 years on October 26, and the milestone was not lost on the city's central meeting place as it prepares to host a month-long program of celebrations.

The jam-packed October celebrations also coincided with the square's latest decision to this year become part of the newly expanded Melbourne Arts Precinct, spearheaded by Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co).

"With our \$1.7 billion transformation of the Melbourne Arts Precinct underway, Fed Square is set to become an even more significant cultural gateway and a vital link between our arts and sporting districts, and the CBD," Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos said.

Coined "The People's Square", Federation Square is a vivacious space with a multitude of landmarks and spaces to experience.

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia and ACMI started residing in the square during its early days, and were followed by the Koorie Heritage Trust and dining venues Victoria by Farmer's Daughters, Hero, Big Esso by Mabu Mabu and Taxi Kitchen.

Fed Square is an already established community hub within the city, and it is for this reason that in its 20th year it has become a promising addition to the transformed Arts Precinct.

"There is no doubt that Federation Square has had a profound effect on the way our city lives and breathes over its 20 years," Director and CEO of MAP Co, Katrina Sedgwick OAM said.

"Now becoming an official part of the cultural ecosystem that is the Melbourne Arts Precinct, it has a purpose that will be clear and consistent for the community and elevates it as a destination to start your creative journey in the city."

Proving just how much it can do for the creative industry in a short time, the month of



▲ From left to right: Katrina Sedgwick, Director & CEO, Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation, Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Creative Industries, Seb Chan, Director & CEO, ACMI, and Tom Mosby, CEO, Koorie Heritage Trust. Photo: Eugene Hyland

October has seen the square become the ideal place to go for music, film, food, art, conversations and experiences.

The immersive program celebrating Fed Square's milestone came together through the collaboration of the organisations that make up the square.

"Throughout October, Fed Square has been

celebrating our 20th anniversary with a wonderful free program of music, art and conversation presented with some of Melbourne's most beloved organisations," Ms Sedgwick said.

"The world premiere commission of Mia Salsjö's *A Score for Fed Square* by Fed Square and the NGV, to the interactive music machine that is Hexadeca with Melbourne Fringe, to

ALWAYS LIVE's Garage Band featuring 30 brilliant young Melbourne bands, to the video opera *We Will Slam You With Our Wings* presented with ACMI."

"Audiences have embraced these activities but even more so continued to gather and spend time at Fed Square – to be convivial, share a meal or a drink or to just sit in the sun. Fed Square is our square. It is not only a magnificent piece of architecture, it is the heart of Melbourne and has been so for 20 years."

Opened in 2002 and designed by LAB Architecture Studio in association with Bates Smart Architects, the square has always been centred around this idea of being the heart of the city.

This ambitious and contemporary vision and its impact was only further highlighted when in 2019 the unconventionally angled building became the only 21st century building to be heritage listed.

"Conceived and designed to demonstrate the very spirit of federation, the architecture and urban design of Fed Square embodies respect and support of differences, within a coherent and welcoming precinct," Lab Architecture Studio director Donald Bates said.

"Melbourne is a city of experiences and Fed Square has encouraged active participation in civic and cultural life for twenty years, with a 21st [century] architecture that gives a home to diverse and transformative events, exhibitions, and encounters."

Concerns of the square deviating away from being community-focused were raised in 2017 following plans for an Apple flagship store, but attention to its high criticism has seemed to further cement the square as a place for arts and culture. ●

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# Local artist explores the beauty of a forgotten history

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

No longer an urban myth, the abandoned ballroom and third floor of the Flinders Street Station has been reimagined by acclaimed local street artist Rone, who has captured a special moment of the building's bygone era.

Specialising in haunting female portraits, Rone's immersive installation of *Time* will allow visitors to explore 11 themed rooms filled with countless original and recreated period objects, all overlooked by hovering signature portraits.

Currently preparing the space for its ground-breaking opening, Rone is not taking this moment for granted, saying that he is "fortunate" that he never stopped drawing as a child, and decided to explore the work he is now doing.

"The ticking point [for me] was when I created this poster of this calming beauty and I felt it had a more powerful presence than these aggressive [street art] images," Rone told *CBD News*.

"It would decay over time and the paper would be torn or rot, but the beauty would hold in there and it was almost defiant to its fragility, and so I wanted to start exploring this idea of beauty and decay."

As a Geelong-born artist who now lives in Melbourne, Rone has been waiting a long time to fulfil his dream of uncovering the secrets hidden within the walls of Flinders Street Station, and gain access to the 112-year-old site.

"It was one of those urban legends of Melbourne and to get access to it was very difficult," Rone said.

Following his enchanting *Empire* installation at dormant Burnham Beeches mansion, in the Dandenong Ranges, Rone was questioned about what was next on his list.

Not missing a beat, he enquired about Flinders Street Station that had been shrouded for years and quickly learnt that there were no current plans for the space he had so often referred to as his "white whale".

"It has taken more than three years to bring



▲ The Clockroom, 2022.

Photo: Rone.

this project to life and when I began the process back in 2019, no one had really been up [there] for 40 years," he said.

"Though it was a dream come true to finally get the go-ahead, for a long while I wasn't actually allowed into space, so a lot of it had to be done remotely – and then all at the last minute."

Allowed into the space for a quick look, Rone digitally scanned the entire floor so he could develop the installation off-site through using a 3D modelling software, before then bringing it back piece by piece for reassembling.

Leaning on his creative vision of exploring the beauty and decay, Rone's work has become a much-anticipated nostalgic love letter to mid-century Melbourne, and an ode to the station's history as an actively populated venue post-WWII.

"It was all a surprise when I first came in because the space has not only a ballroom but also a dozen more rooms that you have to walk past to get to the ballroom," Rone said.

"Looking into those rooms shifted my ideas

on what the space could be, and I started to realise that once upon a time it was a government administration building, and a bit of a community hub where people could come and meet."

Engaging with a team of more than 120 professionals throughout the process, including set decorator Carly Spooner and sound composer Nick Batterham, the end result of the heritage-listed space is one that will transport visitors seamlessly back into time.

"It's a project that I feel each person will experience in their own unique way," Rone said.

"There might be a cardigan on the back of a chair that resonates with one person, and other little objects that people will find throughout the exhibition that will [remind them of] their grandparents."

"There will also be something that resonates with someone and then their own story starts to come from that, and for me that is the most interesting part because I've created this fictional narrative, but the stories people tell are real."



▲ Artist Rone.

Photo: Tony Mott Photography.

Unique rooms that can be expected within the installation are typing pools, classrooms, sewing machine rooms and public libraries of mid-1900s Melbourne.

While it will provide an in-depth glance into the past, *Time* is only scheduled for a limited future with an end date already in place for January 29 next year.

*Time* has been able to come together with funding support from the Australian Government initiative Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE), which seeks to help reactivate the arts and cultural entertainment industry. ●

For more information:  
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## Last bid to save the Nicholas Building before the election

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
PLANNING

The campaign to save the Nicholas Building for artists has upped the ante with the release of a grand vision for a rooftop garden and performance space by Urban Creative.

The plan includes a pavilion, an urban forest and a green public space with inbuilt solar technology.

A spokesman for the Nicholas Building Association, which is putting forward the plan, said that 75 per cent of the cost of buying the building had now been raised.

Partners in a new tripartite deal are the social impact capital firm Forza Capital, the City of Melbourne and a new purpose-built cultural foundation holding a long-term head lease from levels two to 10.

“The vital last ingredient required to realise this is a commitment from the state government,” Nicholas Building Association spokesperson Dario Vacirca said.

The release of the grand vision is the latest move in the push to get the state government to commit to investing in the project prior to the Victorian election.

The Greens began putting pressure on the state government in April this year with State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell quoted as saying that a shortfall of \$10 million was required to buy the building.

“I’ve been calling on the state government to save the Nicholas Building and have been disappointed by their lack of response,” Ms Sandell said. “Labor will continue to lose inner city seats to The Greens



▲ Artist’s impression of new roof garden.

and independents if they don’t take meaningful action to support artists and creative communities.”

“The state government could easily secure the creative future of the Nicholas Building by committing a small amount of funding. The council, philanthropists and the tenants are all on board, so why is the State Labor Government refusing to come to the table?”

The City of Melbourne has expressed in principle support for the vision of the Nicholas Building Association.

“We welcome efforts to expand its operation and help make itself sustainable through an annual program of cultural and arts events and new public spaces within the building,” Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said. ●

## Unique building providing a “sanctuary” to seafarers misses out on heritage protection

WORDS BY Brendan Rees  
HERITAGE

Volunteers of a charity that supports seafarers have expressed disappointment over a decision to exclude their 50-year-old CBD building from heritage protection, with one likening the process to a “heavy handed approach”.

The Stella Maris Seafarers Centre at 600 Little Collins St, which is land owned by the Catholic Church, missed the final cut of the 121 buildings and five precincts selected for permanent heritage protection announced in September, after the City of Melbourne conducted an extensive review of the Hoddle Grid.

The centre’s volunteers believed their 1972 two-storey building was “clearly of unique design” with its concrete brick structure and blue-green façade, a design not commonly seen in the city. But most importantly, it provided a “strong sense of connection and shared community identity”.

Planning Panels Victoria independently considered all submissions regarding the heritage review, including a report by The Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation for the Diocese of Melbourne, which objected to the Stella Maris Seafarers’ Centre building.

According to the report prepared by heritage consultant Bryce Raworth, it argued that the building was “not of a sufficient degree of significance” to warrant protection either architecturally, socially, or historically.

It added there was “no evidence provided to demonstrate that the building strongly contributes to Melbourne’s identity at a local level”.

In response, Stella Maris committee member Paul Kucera said, “disappointed is one thing,” but added it “raises the question of how does the church that owns the land actually view us when we seem to have a good relationship at a high level [with Archbishop Peter Comensoli].”

“To use an analogy, it’s a bit of a bulldozer effect to really quash the City of Melbourne’s proposal to include our building within the heritage overlay,” he said.



▲ Paul Kucera, Lee-Anne Diano and Seamus Quinn at the Stella Maris Seafarers’ Centre. Photo: AJ Viswanath.

Spokesperson for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Annie Carrett acknowledged the Stella Maris Seafarers ministry – was valuable, but the panel “made a determination on the historical significance of the building itself, not on the significance of the overall history of Stella Maris’ care for seafarers in Melbourne, nor its future works”.

City of Melbourne councillor and heritage portfolio lead Rohan Leppert said the decision to ultimately exclude the Stella Maris centre had been comprehensive but one in which the “council accepted the umpire’s decision”.

“There is no denying the extraordinary contribution by Stella Maris to seafarers and the city, but I am confident that the process to propose, and then exclude, the Stella Maris Centre and seven other buildings was robust,” he said.

The centre’s president Seamus Quinn, a volunteer of 45 years, said their base was a “sanctuary” for the merchant seafarers who visited from all parts of the world including Korea, Ukraine, Vietnam, and India with up to 65,000 docking in Melbourne each year.

To volunteer visit [stellamaris.org.au/volunteer](http://stellamaris.org.au/volunteer) or call 03 9629 7494. ●

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# Huge increase to greening of old buildings needed to hit 2040 net zero target

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
SUSTAINABILITY

The current rate of local buildings being decarbonised per year was nowhere near that required for the City of Melbourne to reach its commitment of net zero emissions by 2040, a report has revealed.

A discussion paper tabled by the council in October stated that, for the council to reach its net zero goal by 2040, approximately 77 buildings would need to undergo a “deep energy retrofit” per annum.

This required rate was “significantly higher” than the current level.

The council has said it would rely heavily on building owners, tenants, industry associates, facility managers and government to reach the target in 18 years’ time.

Commercial buildings (defined as “office buildings, or buildings with some office functionality”) within the municipality were responsible for the majority (60 per cent) of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions. Transforming them into zero carbon spaces was seen as the biggest hurdle to achieving net zero.

“This is the biggest chunk of the conundrum and challenge that we face as we move towards our target,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said at an October 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“I’m conscious that as developers deliver new buildings, they are meeting very high standards around sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation. But our biggest focus needs to be on existing buildings.”

It is predicted that more than 90 per cent of the buildings within the City of Melbourne that will be operating in 2040 have already been built today, underlining the need for a heavy focus on existing buildings rather than new developments.

According to the paper, while the market had begun the shift towards sustainable buildings as a result of changing attitudes and shareholder pressure, there was a “momentum lag” due to current regulations and motivation for change.

“The challenges result from how the building industry works, its fragmentation, and its relationship with the market and regulations,” it read.

“Unfortunately, these challenges lead to inertia ... we have not yet achieved the momentum needed.”

To address this, the paper proposed seven initiatives — drawn up through engagement with more than 60 industry, academic and government representatives — to help reach the 2040 target.

These include:

- Zero carbon leases (a step up from current “green leases”)
- An emissions cap (similar to that in New

York) which penalises poor performing buildings

- A rate reduction for buildings undertaking greening upgrades
- A retrofitting team that works with building owners and tenants

Cr Capp said these were “practical, achievable, impactful steps that we can take as a city”.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council could not reach the ambitious target by itself and would need significant buy-in from all sectors.

“The truth is, the City of Melbourne cannot do this alone,” Cr Reece said.

“We don’t have all the levers that are needed; we can’t make all the interventions that are required to achieve the zero carbon building future that Australia has to get to.”

Underlining just how much the City of Melbourne was reliant on the market to reach its 2040 target, the paper reported that “none of” the council’s efforts to support buildings towards reducing their carbon footprints during the past 25 years “have created the required momentum to get all buildings to zero carbon effectively and at pace”.

Cr Rohan Leppert said a joint approach was required.

“We do know that the property sector in particular doesn’t necessarily always like being told what’s about to happen to them, [but] this can be as collaborative a process as they’d like it

to be,” he said. “We do want to test a whole lot of ideas, so that we know that when we choose which ideas to pursue, there’s as much ownership over why we’re pursuing that particular solution as there possibly can be.”

The City of Melbourne defines Zero Carbon Buildings as “no additional carbon emitted into the environment through the construction, operations and whole-of-life of the building.”

A “zero carbon” commercial building is one which is 100 per cent run on electricity, has a zero-carbon action plan and regular reporting on energy use.

The council has pledged to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 through its “Power Melbourne” initiative, which will install a network of coordinated mid-scale batteries across the city. However, the discussion paper conceded that decarbonising the grid with 100 per cent renewables would “will only get us part of the way” to net zero.

The council has now welcomed community input on both its Power Melbourne and Zero Carbon Buildings initiatives, and locals can have their say until October 31 and November 16 respectively. ●

**For more information:**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## Council’s CEO announces shock resignation

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne chief executive Justin Hanney will stand down from his role after conceding a decision not to declare a donation earlier this year for a yacht race was an “oversight”.

Mr Hanney, whose leadership has been lauded for navigating the council through the COVID-19 pandemic, made the shock announcement on October 19, saying he intended to step away in late December after four years at the helm.

It comes amid a fundraising campaign probe in which Mr Hanney received an undisclosed donation believed to be more than \$35,000 to cover the cost of racing in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

The council’s CEO Employment Matters Committee has been conducting a thorough review of the donation Mr Hanney received through the Australian Sports Foundation — with a council statement saying it had “not identified any decisions that have been influenced by the donation”.

“The committee has also recommended a need for greater clarity and improvements to the council’s personal interest declaration process,” a council statement said.

“Mr Hanney should have declared the donation, something he acknowledged at the time it was brought to his attention and has since rectified.”

In a statement, Mr Hanney thanked the hard-working staff of the council, and wished the organisation well while also acknowledging that serving the community over the past four years has been an “absolute privilege”.

“I would like to thank the Lord Mayor and councillors for the opportunity to lead this great organisation,” he said, adding the council had worked “incredibly hard every day for our residents, businesses, partners and visitors”.

“There are many things that I am proud of but in particular I acknowledge our collective response to the pandemic and giving Melburnians confidence through one of the greatest challenges we will see in our lifetime.”

Mr Hanney said while the CEO Employment Matters Committee report was yet to be finalised, “there is no suggestion of inappropriate decision making”.

“As I have previously acknowledged, I should have nominated the Australian Sports Foundation donation as part of my personal interest declaration process, and this was an oversight.”

Mr Hanney co-owned a yacht with Nick Foa, the former head of transport services at the Department of Transport. He too resigned in September following a government investigation into his role over the donation.

Cr Capp thanked Mr Hanney for his unwavering service, saying he was a “dedicated champion of the municipality and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of its residents and business owners”.

“Justin has transformed the culture at the



▲ City of Melbourne chief executive Justin Hanney will resign by the end of the year.

City of Melbourne, strengthening its focus on performance and achievement, and this will be one of his legacies,” she said.

“Melbourne is a marvellous city which is bouncing back following some of its toughest times and Justin’s outstanding leadership has contributed to this.”

While Mr Hanney’s successor is unknown at this stage, the council said his departure in December would allow “an orderly transition of leadership”.

Mr Hanney was only reappointed as CEO for

a further four years in June — with the contract term due to end on June 30, 2026.

Mr Hanney, a CBD resident of 14 years, was appointed to the top job in 2019, after an extensive background working with the state government.

Since then, he has been praised for implementing an ambitious reform and revitalisation plan to help the city recover from the pandemic, after being the most locked down city in the world.

Other achievements include helping businesses achieve their full potential through the Invest Melbourne initiative and establishing Homes Melbourne to create more affordable housing and new services for people experiencing homelessness.

Another success has been hosting a series of community-held Future Melbourne Committee meetings across the municipality.

Mr Hanney has also led a new neighbourhood planning process and a council-wide commitment to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

He additionally played a central role to the state government’s purchase of the Holden site in Fishermans Bend, for the creation of an employment and innovation precinct.

In an interview with *CBD News* after Mr Hanney was appointed chief executive, he said “I have this mantra with our staff here that we’re here to get things done and if we’re not doing things, providing great service and advancing on issues that matter than we shouldn’t be here.” ●



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# GRANTS HELP NEIGHBOURS PRESERVE HISTORIC STREETSAPES

Passionate Melburnians are making-over their heritage places to help preserve beautiful streetscapes for generations to come.

Heritage plays a key role in making Melbourne a place where people love to live, work and visit.

To preserve the city's unique character, we offer heritage grants to help people complete restoration projects at residential, community and commercial properties across the municipality.

We recently awarded two heritage grants to neighbours on McCracken Street in Kensington.

Ian Porter restored floor tiles on his verandah, and Kensington Neighbourhood House replaced the stained glass on its front-door sidelights.

A common feature on McCracken Street, the sidelights cast a beautiful crimson glow into homes during summer sunsets.

'I was pleased to be able to access a grant to restore our verandah and make it safe, as some of the tiles were broken. The project has been well worth it,' Ian said.

**'When you live in a heritage home, you can modernise the inside to make it liveable, but exterior restoration helps preserve the character of the streetscape.'**

Kensington Neighbourhood House runs educational, wellbeing and social events to bring diverse local people together. Manager Rebecca Smith said restoration helps make the community hub a welcoming place.



Ian and Rebecca chat over the fence at Kensington Neighbourhood House on McCracken Street

'The heritage grants program gave us the opportunity to repair our sidelights, which were cracked and broken, to help restore this beautiful building to its former glory,' Rebecca said.

**'Projects like this help make the Kensington Neighbourhood House a welcoming and friendly place that the community can be proud of.'**

Ian and Rebecca have both lived in Kensington for decades and love the character and community of the suburb.

'Kensington is a very historic area. We love walking our dog, Lucy, down along the old stock route,' Ian said.

Looking to the future, the neighbours will continue to take care of their piece of local heritage.

Kensington Neighbourhood House recently replaced its slate roof, which has made it watertight and ready to face another hundred years.

Roof works are on Ian's wish-list too, and he's also planning to paint his front door to continue to maintain his home's facade.

### About the heritage grants program

First established in 1988, the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund is our local fund for heritage grants, held within the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund. Grants are administered by the National Trust of Victoria.

### How to apply for a heritage grant

Have you been thinking about a project that would transform your heritage place? A little restoration work can go a long way to transforming your building and keeping it in great condition for years to come.

To be eligible, your property must be within a heritage overlay and located in the City of Melbourne. The works must also be visible from the public realm.

To find out more, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritagegrants](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritagegrants)

## More off-leash areas for our four-legged friends

**If there's one thing we know, it's that Melburnians just love dogs.**

For it is our fabulous loyal four-legged friends who encourage us to lead active and healthy lifestyles, and importantly offer companionship like no other.

Since 2018, the number of dogs registered within the City of Melbourne has increased by a huge 44 per cent from 3292 to 4750.

That includes a 20 per cent increase in the past two years alone.

As the number of dogs and dog owners in our city increases, so does the need for everyone to have access to safe and secure spaces in which to frolic.

Council is doubling the number of off-leash dog areas within the municipality.

Over the coming months, there will be more than three hectares of new off-leash parkland added to the existing 16 hectares - that's five times the size of Federation Square.

### New designated off-leash areas for dogs

- Eades Park, West Melbourne
- Kings Way and Moray Street Reserve, Southbank
- Ron Barassi Senior Park, Docklands
- Royal Park (Manningham Reserve), Parkville

### Timed off-leash areas

- Wellington Park, East Melbourne
- Point Park, Docklands
- Riverside Park, Kensington

To ensure everyone can enjoy our parklands safely, timed off-leash access is available between 6pm and 8am from November to March, and 5pm to 9am from April and October.

### Top five dog breeds within the City of Melbourne

1. Cavoodle
2. Greyhound
3. Labrador
4. French Bulldog
5. Mini Dachshund

Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogwalking](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/dogwalking) for details.



We're creating more off-leash parkland for our furry friends



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Your City of Melbourne community update

# How we support food security in Melbourne

**Melbourne is a famously liveable city. We're renowned for the quality of our food and world-class dining and hospitality scene.**

Despite this, in 2021, about one in three residents experienced food insecurity and only 4 per cent of adults consumed the minimum recommended daily serves of fruit and vegetables, our City of Melbourne Community Indicators Survey 2021 shows.

That's why we're taking steps to make sure everyone in the community has access to affordable, fresh and healthy food.

## Community Food Guide and community food map

Increasing levels of food insecurity is a health, social and economic issue.

As a council, we're focused on strengthening food relief initiatives and supporting communities to grow their own food through our Community Food Relief Plan 2021-25.

We have a history of working with the community on food security, and we'll continue to ensure those in need can access food relief.

Our Community Food Guide is a helpful resource for community agencies or anyone in the community who needs information about how to access affordable, fresh and healthy food.

We've also committed to partnering with food relief and other charities – like SecondBite – to provide groceries and meals to vulnerable residents.

We're looking into community food enterprise models, including opportunities to work with Queen Victoria Market traders to redirect edible surplus food that would otherwise go to waste.

This work will help reduce overall food insecurity to 25 per cent by 2025, back to pre-pandemic levels.

Explore our Community Food Guide and food map at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide) to find free or low-cost meals, food banks, community gardens and cooking and growing classes near you.

## Grow your own

Filled with spinach, cauliflower and kale, the crops in Melbourne's communal food gardens in Boyd, Docklands, Drill Hall, East Melbourne, Melbourne University, North Melbourne, Southbank and Kensington are thriving.

We support the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden, established in 2018, which features more than 100 square metres of growing space, an Indigenous garden and fruit forest with more than 30 trees, including figs, apples, citrus, elderberry, and other berries.

Nan Austin, chair of the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden said the growing is primarily in self-wicking beds as the stockyard is paved with bluestone.

'While we make some compost onsite we cannot meet our ongoing needs so we recently purchased two tonnes of compost from the City of Melbourne green waste program,' she said.

'We've done the sums and we're using a whopping 5000 litres of compost each year, which is equivalent to at least five tonnes of food and green waste redirected from landfill.'

As well as feeding members with fresh produce, the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden delivers kilograms of vegetables to a local food pantry to be shared with the community, and collects seeds for reuse in the future. Excess seed is shared at regular plant swap meets.

## Getting creative with our food and garden organics waste

Food and the ways we produce and dispose of it has a huge impact on our environment. In fact, if food waste were a country, it would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gasses.

About 45 per cent of our residential landfill bins are made up of organic waste, which ends up in landfill producing methane gas, odour and contributing to climate change.

We're taking steps to cut this in half, and achieve zero net emissions by 2040, with our new food and garden organics waste service.

Since launching, we've provided 23,000 households in the City of Melbourne with the food and garden organics service, diverting more than 1400 tonnes of organic waste from landfill.

That's the equivalent weight of 46 Melbourne trams.

We've just begun trialling the organic waste we collect as compost for our local parks and gardens in Kensington. We're also about to commence a pilot program, testing on-site food waste processing in up to six high-rise apartment buildings.

Visit [melbourne.compostapak.com.au](http://melbourne.compostapak.com.au) for more information.

## SENSORY GARDEN A DELIGHT FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Enjoy nature, get your hands dirty and enjoy garden-to-plate morning teas at Kensington's sensory garden.

We've created a beautiful garden at Kensington Neighbourhood Centre where local people, including people living with dementia and their carers, can come together for a weekly gardening and social group.

A professional gardener from Cultivating Community is on hand to guide participants through optional light gardening activities designed to ignite the senses and facilitate a connection with nature.

The fun continues with morning tea, often featuring produce grown in the garden, like herbs and edible flowers.

Visits to Kensington Neighbourhood Centre's sensory garden are free, but bookings are essential.

To register, contact Healthy Ageing on 9658 9190 or email [healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au)



Fresh produce at Queen Victoria Market

## IN BRIEF

### MARVELLOUS MELBURNIANS

Celebrating 20 years, the Melbourne Awards are the City of Melbourne's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people and organisations making extraordinary contributions to our community. The awards acknowledge the contribution of 27 finalists in 8 categories: Aboriginal Melbourne – ganbu guljin, arts and events, community, hospitality, knowledge and innovation, LGBTIQ+, sustainability and urban design.

Tune in to Channel 9 at 4pm, Sunday 13 November to find out who wins.

Learn more about the finalists at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards)

### REPORT IT ONLINE

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report issues online around the clock. Get in touch from your smartphone when it suits you and we'll get on the case. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus)

### ORDER YOUR FREE KITCHEN CADDY NOW

Kerbside collection for food and garden organics is now available to residents living in apartment buildings up to five storeys.

Order your kitchen caddy and liners today and help us put your organics to good use.

Visit [melbourne.compostapak.com.au](http://melbourne.compostapak.com.au) for more information.

### A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

At the City of Melbourne, we are committed to bringing people together, fostering communities that connect, care and collaborate.

From supporting new parents, to acting on food security and making sure our city is a great place to age, we're here for everyone.

Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/community](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/community) to learn more.



## KEEP IN TOUCH

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## Council introduces pop-up library on Bourke St

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne opened a new “pop-up library lounge” to the community at 628 Bourke St on October 17.

Themed around lounging and relaxation, the library has reactivated an empty shopfront on Bourke St – transforming the space into a location for workers, visitors and residents.

The library collection caters for a broad range of readers, featuring new bestsellers and books on health, cooking, society and travel.

The Library Lounge is the sixth in the council’s pop-up library series, which began in November 2021. It joins the Elizabeth St Pop-up Library and Make\*It Space, Federation Square Pop-up Library for Kids, Micro-labs, and the mobile library “Mel-van”.

The council said that with more libraries open, the community had increased access to borrow from physical collections. In 2020-21, the collection averaged 2.2 loans per item, whereas in 2021-22, the collection averaged 3.1 loans per item.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who helped launch the new pop-up library lounge alongside councillors Jamal Hakim and Davydd Griffiths on October 21, said it would provide a go-to spot for workers, residents and visitors to meet, relax and unwind.

“Using the magnetic lure of literature, we’re giving Melburnians, visitors and students even more reasons to stay in the inner city,” Cr Capp said.

“Since the pop-up library program began – with more libraries open, weekly library opening hours have increased more than 25 per cent compared to pre-pandemic levels.”

“Our libraries are a lifeline for our creative sector, and our pop-ups make it so much easier and accessible for everyone to utilise the tools and resources our branches offer.” ●

# Providing pathways for emerging local designers to thrive

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Melbourne Fashion Week may be over but the importance of celebrating local talented designers remains a high priority for 2022 Melbourne Award finalist Melbourne Fashion Hub.

Selected within the arts and events category in the City of Melbourne’s 20th year running the prestigious awards, founder and owner of the hub Julia Browne is hopeful it will help create awareness around supporting local talent.

A 2021 report from the Australian Fashion Council revealed that the Australian fashion industry generated \$27.2 billion annually towards the economy, but Ms Browne said a concern around the “shortfall” in training and onshore manufacturing remained.

“It is really important to support local businesses and local designers wherever you can and for Melbourne to get behind our incredible emerging talent and provide pathways for them into the industry,” Ms Browne said.

The hub is a space for emerging designers, who may be current or recently graduated students of fashion institutes, to hone in on their skills and explore their potential in the real-world in more depth.

While fashion institutes can be an ideal place to experiment and learn your craft, Ms Browne said she noticed that after speaking to young graduates and student designers there was a gap in their training that left them unsure how to create a business.

“I realised they were coming up to a lot of challenges with getting into the fashion industry, and so [the hub] became about supporting these amazing creatives with getting into the industry,” she said.

“When you are at fashion institutes, you believe the world is your oyster and then you come out of academia and into the real world and think, ‘what now?’. So, I started to think of how I could facilitate and bridge that gap for these incredible emerging designers.”

This drive of Ms Browne’s to support people gifted with an eye for fashion and styling comes from a love for it herself.

Growing up around fashion, with a mother who created her own wedding dress and an aunty who was a sewing technician, pattern maker, and lecturer, meant her love for good styling only continued to grow.

“I have always loved really good, innovative and experimental styling, and how clothing can help you express yourself or a story, or what you want people to know about you,” Ms Browne said.

“Because my aunty worked with students very early on and I saw the incredible work they created, I was always interested in emerging designers from a very young age of around 10.”

Included within the six-week facilitated program run at the Melbourne Fashion Hub is in-depth training sessions on starting a micro-business, which includes all the nitty gritty details of setting up an ABN and a bank account, understanding your brands values, marketing and PR, and merchandise conceptualisation on a shop floor.

All of this theoretical training is then in the lead up to a pop-up event held at the end of March where the students will all be equipped with the tools they need to competently showcase themselves and their work.

The end result being for the designers to come out of the training empowered to make a difference in the fashion industry by putting people and the planet first.

Running alongside the Melbourne Fashion Hub as



▲ Julia Browne.

Photo: Myles Formby.

finalists with the arts and event category is Melbourne Blues Appreciation Society, Photo 2022 International Festival of Photography, and SalamFest.

Other categories making up the awards are Aboriginal Melbourne – ganbu guljin, Community, Hospitality, Knowledge and Innovation, LGBTIQ+, Sustainability and Urban Design.

The Melbourne Awards will also recognise a Melburnian of the Year, which is to celebrate a role model who has made an outstanding contribution to the city and within their field of work.

As well as the award ceremony taking place in person on Saturday, November 12 at Melbourne Town Hall, it will be televised on Channel Nine the following day.

While it’s a night to recognise the selected winners, it is also a time to acknowledge and celebrate all the incredible hard work being done by all the 27 finalists making up the eight categories.

“We’re looking forward to celebrating the outstanding and inspirational achievements of each and every finalist in what will be a night to remember,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“People make our city the great place that it is – and the Melbourne Awards provide an incredible opportunity to showcase the efforts of ordinary Melburnians doing extraordinary things.” ●

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



## Spring Fling at the Wheeler Centre

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The Wheeler Centre is celebrating the final month of the season with a Spring Fling event that will see an impressive line-up of leading creatives share in sparking imagination through big ideas.

The *Spring Fling: A Short Series of Big Ideas* event will take place from November 2 to 11, with the support of the Victorian Government and City of Melbourne’s joint City Revitalisation Fund.

The funding was designed with the intention to help rejuvenate the city again, and it seems the Wheeler Centre has just this in mind.

“The Wheeler Centre’s Spring Fling celebrates our return to the stage and the rejuvenation of the arts and cultural communities,” Wheeler Centre CEO Caro Llewellyn said.

“[Following] two devastatingly hard years for writers, arts practitioners and organisations like us who are dependent on coming together to enjoy conversation, debate, ideas and entertainment.”

The transformative power of storytelling and conversation will be explored through more than 20 diverse events from leading national and international thinkers, writers and creators.

Events will include in-person conversations, lunches, galas, workshops, performances, and a Friday date night *Meet Cute* special featuring young adult and emerging teen writers.

Among the series guests are UK literary star Natasha Brown, vocal duo Vika & Linda, Australian novelist Helen Garner, 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner Andrew Sean Greer, British neuroscientist Baroness Susan Greenfield, historian and advocate Jackie Huggins and multi-award-winning Pakistani-British writer Kamila Shamsie. ●

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

Join us this month, as our team of experienced agents takes you over what has been driving the Melbourne property market.

### October’s Tips:

1. Your agent is human
2. Self-managing your apartment
3. Purchasing your first property



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# How cultural cringe spelled the end of Marvellous Melbourne buildings, and how locals eventually fought back

*Documentary* The Lost City of Melbourne tells a fascinating tale of a 1950s and '60s demolition spree in the name of progress, and how the city finally found its heritage voice. Director Gus Berger spoke with CBD News about his passion project.

WORDS BY David Schout  
HERITAGE

In the first half of the 1950s, Melbourne was an anticipation-filled, even nervous city.

By 1956, it would be on show to the world with the Olympic Games in town, and like a proud mother hosting Christmas lunch, everything had to be perfect.

But in the lead-up to the games, there was a sense of unease about how the city might be viewed internationally, with the world's cameras fixed on our backyard.

"From the early 20th century onwards, there was a bit of a feeling of embarrassment about Melbourne, on the part of Melburnians," historian Robyn Annear explains in *The Lost City of Melbourne* documentary, which debuted at Melbourne International Film Festival in recent months.

"The feeling that Melbourne really was marvellous, which was part of 19th century Melbourne culture, had completely wilted by the 1950s."

While it might seem absurd now, Victorian architecture at the time was, in fact, "really on the nose" according to Annear, and a cultural cringe began to permeate Melbourne.

The city's grand hotels like the Menzies and Federal — sans ensembles, creaking floorboards and all — were an "extreme embarrassment".

"Progress was the rallying cry, it was a sign that we hadn't progressed enough," she said.

"Once the Olympics were over and Melbourne had kind of cringed, TV came on stream. Things like movies and magazine culture was really giving Australians an idea of what the rest of the world was looking like. We



▲ Collins St, as seen in the documentary (courtesy SLV).



▲ The Colonial Mutual building, demolished in 1960 (picture by Wolfgang Sievers, courtesy State Library Victoria).

felt like country cousins by comparison."

What followed was a period of rapid change, in the desire to progress and modernise.

“

*Progress was the rallying cry, it was a sign that we hadn't progressed enough.*

”



▲ The Lost City of Melbourne director Gus Berger.



▲ The Federal Hotel (courtesy State Library Victoria).

Concrete, steel and glass were in, while things like cast-iron verandahs over footpaths were banned.

A few years following the Olympics, building height limits were removed, and a demolition spree of iconic buildings began.

One of these, the Colonial Mutual building on Collins St, was demolished by "Whelan the Wreckers".

When constructed, the building was "meant to last as long as the pyramids", and the now famous company's ability to successfully complete demolition in a heavily built-up area stamped their reputation in the city.

Whelan then became "part of the fabric of Melbourne, and seen as a sign of prosperity", and their acrobatic and performative demolitions even became a "free show" for Melburnians.

It was this period of demolition and rapid change in Melbourne that prompted Thornbury Picture House owner Gus Berger to take a deep dive into what was a fascinating and sad time in the city's history.

"I've lived in Melbourne all my life and [when looking at photography archives] was like 'that building clearly doesn't exist anymore — what happened to that? What happened to the APA building? Why isn't the Federal Hotel still there?'. The story was always based on curiosity of what happened to these buildings," he told *CBD News*.

"I remember thinking 'why would buildings come down when we're just about to have this big audience coming into Melbourne? And then there was this understanding of 'oh right, Melbourne wasn't modern enough'."

Having previously made a short montage (shown during pre-show trailers) about lost cinemas and theatres in Melbourne (also a significant thread in the documentary), COVID lockdowns were the impetus for an even deeper delve into the history.

Familiar with accessing State Library of Victoria photographic archives, and how to find old film at the National Film and Sound archive, Berger was on his way.

"I mean, my God, no one could ever

compensate me for the time I spent on it. But I think you can do that if you are interested and if you like that process. I found it really fascinating."

After the wrecking spree of the 1950s and '60s, it wasn't until the '70s that a preservation movement began to emerge: "In the '60s I think there was a feeling that there was too much being lost, but it was held by individuals on the street, or shopkeepers; people who probably thought they couldn't do anything about it," Berger said.

As the documentary details, it wasn't until an iconic Melbourne theatre was almost demolished that people decided enough was enough.

"It wasn't until we almost lost the Regent [Theatre] to make way for that big city square that was planned by the Melbourne City Council that people said 'hang on a minute, this is going too far — you've just knocked down this massive building that's taken out arcades and many odd shops, you can't continue and take out the Regent, I used to go there with family' etc. Everyone had these stories ... that was the last straw, a line in the sand. Once the unions got involved and put a green ban on it, and local businesses and people and old cinema workers, they all banded together."

"So, then they probably realised that people had a voice and a say in what was going on. People started to realise something needed to be done, and I think the Regent was a catalyst for that."

By 1974 a new act for protection of historic buildings was introduced — the first legislation in Australia to control privately owned historic buildings.

Through his research, Berger was surprised that the heritage movement did not start until around this time.

"I was definitely shocked at how late that came, but jeez, I'm glad it came because I think that it [demolition] would've continued, and it might've continued for another 10 years. And in those 10 years we could've lost the Capitol, or the Forum, or the Manchester Unity — you don't know what else could've gone because nothing else was protected up until the '70s when they finally had some proper legislation."

At the end of the film, historian Graeme Davison ponders whether he viewed things glass-half-full or half-empty.

"We've retained far more of our Victorian and early 20th century buildings than most cities in the world ... sure, there are many things that have been lost, and there are many modern buildings that don't really stack up. But nonetheless, I think I can tell the story of Melbourne by looking at its buildings. There's enough there of the city that we inherited, to make us feel that we still inhabit a city that is recognisably Marvellous Melbourne."

Berger agrees and is grateful for the incredible buildings that remain.

However, citing the mostly demolished Palace Theatre, he said there was no reason "why we should be complacent".

"Nothing is 100 per cent safe." ●

**For more information:**  
[lostcityofmelbourne.org.au](http://lostcityofmelbourne.org.au)

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MELBOURNE**

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[scotschurch.com](http://scotschurch.com)

# The CBD Rhythm

## Melbourne Now on its way back

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ARTS & CULTURE

Visual art has become a centrepiece of the next election with 200 Victorian artists set to benefit from a second *Melbourne Now* exhibition, announced on October 18 by the state government.

The exhibition will be staged at the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square, a decade after its predecessor in 2013.

Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoloulos announced the new *Melbourne Now* and its “ambitious survey” approach.

Some see the original exhibition as a turning point in the state’s visual arts push while others were critical of its trade fair vibe.

A record 753,000 people attended the exhibition, only to be beaten in number by the subsequent *Triennial*, which in turn added momentum to a new gallery project.

The new FOX NGV Contemporary will be completed at Southbank in 2028, cementing Victoria as a winner in the visual arts stakes.

The Minister said that artists had been busily working on their projects during the lockdown and that the *Melbourne Now* show would be “a place that exhibits the best of ours”.

Gallery director Tony Ellwood confirmed that that *Melbourne Now* was “a complex game-changer” that generated both the *Triennial* and Fox.

He announced next year’s themes which include photographs that push the boundary of the medium, a Design Wall showing products from the past decade, Fashion Now, Jewellery Now, Style, Vessels, Print, civil architecture, a community hall with 22 films, and a performance program.

The first *Melbourne Now* included artists from around Australia but “this will be exclusively Victorian,” he



▲ The Melbourne Now cast.

said, reflecting a stronger state identity that has emerged of the lockdown.

Many of the chosen few were at the launch, wearing their small gold NGV medallions around their necks to signify their participation.

Some artists were present back in 2013 and countered criticism that display areas were allocated to artists like stalls at the Melbourne Show.

“I didn’t mind,” said artist Stewart Russell. “I was given the Great Hall. I made screen-printed flags. I would never have got to fly them on the Westgate Bridge without NGV backing.”

One of the new genre-bending photographers is Danica Chappell who works with camera-less abstraction in a colour darkroom and creates her works by touch.

During the lockdown when she couldn’t get into her studio, she did monoprints which involved blind pressure. Her work accentuates process over product or representation.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is a performance artist whose carefully choreographed video will reference famous cellist Jaqueline Dupre.

“I don’t want people to laugh at me lip syncing Elgar but to get the references,” he said, keeping his own identity under wraps.



▲ Director Tony Ellwood.

The something-for-everyone approach can be a risk. Some of the architectural exhibits in the first *Melbourne Now* were industry focused, contributing to the trade fair critique.

“That’s a bit harsh,” Ellwood countered. “We are putting ourselves out there. No other state gallery has done anything like this.”

*Melbourne Now*, NGV Federation Square, March 24, 2023. ●



▲ Fall From Grace by Enoki.



▲ Stone Motherless Cold will perform at the closing ceremony.

## Feeling a bit introspective

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ARTS & CULTURE

An exhibition at the Koorie Heritage Trust at Fed Square is providing insight into the mindset of the Blak queer artist.

*Fall From Grace* by Enoki (Darcy McConnell) is one of the paintings in the show.

It’s a strong work, making didactic claims on the viewer.

The visuals include adoration of the male form, high-key colour and art references to surrealism and Dylan Mooney.

But as curator Stone Motherless Cold demonstrates, the “decolonising” theme may take quite a bit of work in real life.

Confrontational art has always been part of the Fringe Festival landscape and as history has shown it generally heralds in the new.

Internationally renowned vocalist Tim Minchin performed “a dark ridiculous cabaret” in a small room to shake off the pain of all the rejections he was getting back in 2003.

And leading Melbourne playwright Patricia Cornelius posed beneath a sign saying “Lost Kids” in the ‘90s.

The Fringe, as Cornelius is quoted as saying, is “not TV, it’s not normal, everyday things. It’s celebrating the political, the dark, the outrageous,

that things that you never usually see or hear”.

So, what is a decolonised Blak queer space? Stone says she’s aiming to create a casual vibe so that “people can immerse themselves” in the concept.

The walk-through art exhibition doesn’t do it for her. She’s organised food, chats, word performances, music, life drawing, and a drag show to get people involved.

A few words on the gallery wall advertise the events, all non-ticketed.

The second event in the calendar was a Hazy Lounge Afternoon and included refreshments and word performances.

After a satisfying wait, during which grumbles were exchanged, Stone introduced a poet down from Darwin who had a few pertinent things to say about Victoria.

It saddened her on the train to Moe to see how much of the land had been cleared.

“For an Aboriginal person it’s a cultural reminder of lands being occupied,” Laniyuk said.

Everyone was feeling a bit introspective after her reading and it was clear that the paintings were beginning to have their say, warriors on a decolonising spree.

*A Rainbow of Tomorrows*, Koorie Heritage Trust, Federation Square, until November 20. ●

CRITIC

## Poet gets perfect score

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ARTS & CULTURE

Three of Victoria’s top poets have just left the state and are on their way to Sydney to compete in the Australian Poetry Slam.

The three finalists were selected at a gala event at the State Library of Victoria on October 12.

Just a small select crowd watched the competition in person but the footage is available on YouTube.

Each poet had to read a poem and they were scored by five judges picked randomly from the audience, so they had a lot of cred.

When Paul Bucci got a 10 out of 10 from one of the judges, he must have thought he had a good chance of representing the state.

Paul granted *CBD News* an exclusive interview about his amazing score and the thinking behind his prize-winning style.

“It was very interesting,” he said of the slam, “kind of entertaining and challenging. One bloke was in his 60s. The rest were young, all in angst over issues such as feminism, climate change, mental health. I was piss-taking.”

In fact, *CBD News* can report Paul’s approach was quite shameless. In his first poem, he begged for the judges’ patronage and claimed to be 93 and homeless.



▲ Victoria’s top nine poets compete for the title.

“My home is just a plastic bag beside a car-park wall,” he whined. “Judges please look after me!”

If he won, people would be wanting autographs, he said and he’d “sign them all happily”. He’d be compared to Keats and Shelley and “that will lead to fierce debates about who is best.”

That poem got him into the running, after

which he had to read a second poem to win \$500 and a free interstate trip.

In this round, he was up against four of the state’s best and that’s when he received a perfect score.

His second poem did not mince words. Most of them were in the form of a begging letter to the judges, apologising for the first.

“I’m sorry that I lied when I was here before. I told you I’m 93, when I’m really 94.”

He’d lied about the bag as well. “I live in a wheelie bin where I wrote those poems.”

Trying to bribe the judges “was way out of line”, he confessed. He had to be very “cunning with my punning” and “twitching with my bitching” to save the day.

Three poets were selected to go to Sydney for the final and Paul was one of them.

The last laugh was on him, however. He only had one week to come up with another work of art.

“I’m taking the same angle because it worked.” ●



The CBD Rhythm

A DEDICATED SECTION FOR ARTS & CULTURE IN OUR CITY. TO BE FEATURED EMAIL:

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## The Mediterranean meets the Yarra

*Unless you've been living under a sizable rock or have been avoiding the lower Yarra River for the past seven years, you'll know the semi-permanent floating barge of Arbory Afloat has become just as much a part of Melbourne as a great coffee or a discarded e-scooter.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Back for its seventh season, the team behind Arbory Afloat has turned to the western depths of the Mediterranean (the Balearic Sea, to be exact) with its new iteration: the Balearic Beach Club inspired "Paraiso Afloat".

Drawing inspiration from the four main Balearic Islands – Ibiza, Formentera, Menorca and Mallorca – Arbory Afloat's latest guise transports you to the crystal-clear waters of eastern Spain with tapas, paella and sangria, all the while rocking to the Yarra River's endless current.

"Paraiso Afloat champions dynamic artists, creators, suppliers, hospitality experts and more," Arbory Afloat marketing director Georgie Larkins said.

"Our focus has been on uniting people from a variety of industries to create an inspiring community, along with our very own Balearic Beach Club."

"We're so excited to be welcoming Melburnians back for another year and can't wait to see you on board."

While it seems the winter hibernation of Afloat is getting shorter and shorter, it has



provided the team, spearheaded by a collaboration from Sydney-based, Melbourne-born designer Tamsin Johnson, ample time to reconceptualise the interiors of the 70-metre-long pontoon, with shades of peach, terracotta and their characteristic thatched roof.

From what has grown from a tiny barge, of probably only 100 or so square metres, Afloat now cuts an imposing figure on the banks of the Yarra across its two levels near 500-person capacity.

At the heart of Arbory Afloat's appeal, aside from the novelty of dining on an incredibly underutilised body of water, stands the long running reputation of designing a menu and drinks list that, not only caters to the masses, but furthers Melbourne's reputation as a culinary heavyweight.

After a careful fact-finding mission, Arbory's



▲ Arbory Afloat.

Photos: Arianna Leggiero

culinary director Nick Bennett and executive chef James Gibson returned from Europe with a fresh and refined Spanish-inspired menu featuring pintxos, tapas, bocadillos, raciones, seafood platters and paella, along with Afloat's signature woodfired pizzas.

"Few countries equal Spain when it comes to home-grown produce and varied ingredients. This year's menu will focus on simple but skilled everyday cooking, letting fresh and flavourful ingredients shine," Mr Bennett said.

Expect shared pinxtos and tapas, such as boquerones served with Arbequina Olive Oil and Black Pepper; anchovies and apricots with olives and Torta del Casar; baked scallops with garlic, jamon and parsley crumb or savoury churros infused with Manchego and chives.

Or raciones including Galician-style Fremantle octopus with potato, smoked paprika and lemon or the lamb rump with black olive, capers and pappara.

"High-quality Spanish tinned seafood will be front and centre this year, with an ever-changing pintxos menu and several of our signature pizzas layered with the highest quality Real Conserva Espanol products," Mr Gibson said.

Although Paraiso Afloat conjures an exotic

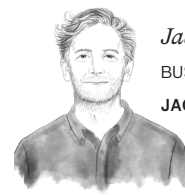


sense of foreign indulgence, activating a previously unused parcel of our city is very much Melbourne; and it follows a pattern from the Arbory team to make use of the unused.

First it was the adjacent space to Flinders Street Station's Platform 13, then growing too big for that, they took to the river's banks, and growing from the success of both exercises, they transformed a discarded piece of heritage Melbourne into a four-storey food, beverage and music mecca.

With the long-standing success of venues like Ponyfish Island and the emergence of a new river player in Yarra Botanica, the gauntlet has been thrown to the next contender to re-shape how we use and interact with one of our city's most important assets, the Yarra River. ●

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



Jack Hayes

BUSINESS EDITOR

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## Changing the CBD's property management landscape

*For those within the inner circles of the property management industry, they know it can often be a thankless job.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

A global pandemic coupled with the biggest rental reforms in history have caused a revolving door of property managers leaving the industry.

Not only is that revolving door causing issues for those within the profession, but it also has a natural flow on effect to the clients it services: landlords and tenants.

Wedging a foot in that revolving door, and changing Melbourne's property management landscape, is Kim Davey and Suzie Inglis from the CBD's eminent boutique and prestige real estate specialists, Donazzan Boutique Property (DBP).

With a combined experience of more than 25 years, Mr Davey and Ms Inglis have carved an unmatched reputation in handling some of the CBD's premium rental properties since adding DBP's property management arm in early 2021, under the stewardship of renowned local agent Gina Donazzan.

Serving as a director since joining DBP, Mr Davey has developed a hands-on approach like few others in the city.

That method, paired with a considered approach to the type and volume of properties under his team's management, has set Mr Davey's eyes firmly on becoming the CBD's number one agent for prestige apartments.

"With our boutique approach, we are always on call. If something happens at the Royal Domain building for example, I'll be there for you on a Sunday having a look," Mr Davey said. "I'm not just relying on our tenant to send photos; I'm using my experience to understand what the issue is and how we can get it fixed."

"The boutique approach is having a balance



▲ Donazzan Boutique Property director Kim Davey.

of being hands on when you need to be and hands off when you don't."

"Because we mainly target the inner-city, we are there to make our clients life easy. If you have a tenant moving out on Wednesday and another moving in on Thursday, and perhaps the property needs a clean, we don't always outsource thus ensuring a seamless transition for our clients, if needs be – we do it ourselves."

According to Mr Davey, he wants to shift the dial of culture in property management.

With an exodus of property managers since COVID (around 30 per cent of the workforce), Mr Davey wants more to be done within the industry to ensure the profession is seen as a tenable and rewarding career.

"In the industry now, you need a balance of Zoom culture and office culture and to blend the two together to make sure all staff are catered for," Mr Davey told *CBD News*.

"For our clients, they know, when you deal with Donazzan Boutique Property, you are dealing with a director of the company, not just



▲ Property consultant Suzie Inglis.

a first-year property manager"

With a careful curation of 140 properties managed by four agents, the DBP team boasts a remarkably low property to agent ratio: resulting in an intimate knowledge of their given property, its tenants, and its landlords.

According to Ms. Inglis, it is not uncommon for large-scale agencies to have each property manager dealing with over 200 properties alone.

"Our sales listings are a good indication of the types of properties we look after in property management," Ms Inglis said. "Our area of specialty is within the heritage and boutique market, but we also manage studio or one-bedroom apartments and everything in between."

"We have always been selectively small and prioritised quality over quantity."

"Every tenancy at a particular high-end apartment building in the CBD, Kim meets them with their condition report and a bottle of marble cleaner because their apartment features Calcutta marble from Italy, and if you use

“  
With our boutique approach, we are always on call. If something happens at the Royal Domain building for example, I'll be there for you on a Sunday having a look.  
”

normal spray on it, you will mark it. That's the kind of attention to detail we give as a matter of course"

"Property management has always been a tough job, even before COVID, but the most important ingredient that made you come to work were the people you worked with. Working with great people and great bosses like Kim and Gina, it provides an enjoyable positive and dynamic environment where you can learn so much."

Ms Inglis told *CBD News* rental yields had grown for the past six quarters and her team was beginning to see competition for rental properties resemble pre-pandemic levels.

While the industry slowly recuperates from a battering past two years, Mr Davey and Ms Inglis are forging a reputation of a considered, tailored approach to property management; catering to the varied and specific needs of the high-end real estate market, while continuing that level of service for all clients within their portfolio. ●

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

STATE MP

# Fixing our health system



*The past few years have been incredibly tough on Victoria's healthcare system and the people who work in it.*



COVID put the health system under incredible pressure and exposed cracks that were just beneath the surface. Our healthcare workers have battled with staff shortages and bed shortages, and, as a result, ambulances have been unable to unload people and get back on the road.

In response, the Victorian Government has announced funding to upgrade and build new hospitals and is trying to entice healthcare staff to move to Victoria from elsewhere. This investment and attention is very welcome, of course, but we also need to look at some of the root causes and systemic issues that are putting the health system under pressure.

When we speak to experts in the health sector, it's clear that one of the big issues is that there are many people in hospitals who no longer need acute care and could be discharged but have nowhere to go.

For example, older people who may need some time in a rehabilitation facility after surgery or illness, or people who are experiencing homelessness and have nowhere to be discharged to.

Victoria is also vastly lacking in facilities and beds for mental healthcare and alcohol and drug rehabilitation. Many of these people could be better cared for in the community, rather than in hospital, but the facilities simply do not exist.



▲ Ellen Sandell with her baby Luca, and Melbourne midwife Roxi, in front of a breastfeeding mural in Collingwood.

If the facilities did exist, they would free up hospital beds for those who do need acute care. It would also relieve some of the burden on our overworked healthcare workers.

That's why we've made these issues the focus of

the Greens healthcare plan for this state election.

Our plan includes funding more aged care, disability, and rehab beds outside hospitals to free up hospital beds and get ambulances back on the road more quickly. It includes employing more

GPs and nurses in community health settings, and the state government setting up their own bulk-billing GP clinics (like they've done with respiratory clinics), so people can get in to see a GP when they need to.

Our plan also looks at preventative health, which may not seem as exciting as cutting a ribbon at a new hospital, but ultimately delivers the best "bang for buck" when it comes to protecting our health. That means investing in free flu vaccines every year (not just this year), increased mental health support with more psychologists in schools and psychiatrists in public clinics, making public dental care available to more people, and decriminalising personal drug use and funding more drug and alcohol rehab beds.

In fact, many of our preventative health policies aren't found in our "health policy" at all – they're in our housing policy, in stopping people falling into homelessness, and in our policy to fund more active transport and limit junk food and gambling advertising.

These preventative measures often are overlooked by politicians at election time but are incredibly important for our longer-term health.

You can find out more about the Greens' plan to fix Victoria's health system by scanning the QR code below: ●



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

CBD LOCAL

# Former refugee sets up law practice

*Ambition underscores many of the moves by young professionals who set up offices in the CBD, hoping to make their mark on society.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Daniel Ajak has a criminal law practice on the fifth and 10<sup>th</sup> floors of a building on Little Collins St.

The lift sometimes gives out wrong information about the level.

But Daniel is clear about his destination. He's due for an adjournment hearing 2pm via Webex and he'll be presenting in front of a city backdrop.

Daniel set up a CBD practice just before the lockdown so he could be close to the courts and mingle with other professionals.

Sometimes he's taken to be a defendant or an interpreter. There aren't many lawyers from South Sudan in the CBD.

"No-one casts any judgment because I'm in a suit but if I was in trackies or personal dress I'd be treated differently," he said.

Even on the job he can be treated with suspicion. "I went to the hospital a couple of weeks ago to see a client. It took one-and-a-half hours. They said, 'you have to go through the legal team!'"

As frustrating as this might be, criminal lawyers learn to expect difficulties and tragic stories.

Daniel's client is in remand on charges of theft and burglary. He broke into a mobile phone store and has pleaded guilty. He's been locked up since August and won't appear in court until March when Daniel hopes to get him out on a corrections order.

"A lot of clients had some turn in life, and



▲ Daniel Ajak in his 10th floor office.

they're led down that path," Daniel said, empathetically. "A lot of my clients are in custody. I get a lot from Legal Aid."

The 31-year-old lawyer's own life has been tough. He moved to Melbourne when gangs of South Sudanese youths were being targeted so he could help, after arriving in Adelaide as a refugee at the age of 13 without his parents.

Four of his five siblings died, and his parents sent him and his older sister out here to make

a new life after 13 years in a refugee camp in Kenya.

"I want to be like my father," Daniel told *CBD News*. "My father is a traditional elder like a chief. He's a member of a group that presides over disputes. If I have similar abilities, I can use them."

Back home, he said, the state doesn't get involved in murder. If someone accidentally kills another, the parties are brought together, and the perpetrator pays the victim's family. He might go



*I want to help them, to show Victorians that young members of the country can go to court as lawyers rather than as an accused.*



to jail for a year.

Unfortunately, justice can't undo troubles. Two of Daniel's siblings died of disease during the war, another from snake bite and a fourth as a toddler in botched-up dentistry.

The young lawyer now has six staff on his books and wants to expand into every state so when South Sudanese people get into trouble he'll be there.

"I want to help them, to show Victorians that young members of the country can go to court as lawyers rather than as an accused."

It doesn't worry him that the firm might grow too big even though that will mean less appearances and more managing of lawyers and systems. "I want to grow," he said.

So far, he's had two trials in the County Court – for rape and armed robbery – and both were acquitted with a jury. A murder case in the Supreme Court was reduced to affray and intention to cause injury at a case conference. He defines a win as an acquittal or a sentence that fits the crime. ●

## It's time to reinstate third-party rights

“

*On the March 5, 2022, in his address to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said, “if you want to keep the CBD vibrant, then we need to have more people living in the CBD”.*

”

WORDS BY *Jenny Eltham*

We have all heard the Lord Mayor Sally Capp applauding Melbourne's CBD livability and encouraging people to make the city their home.

But what you won't hear is the Victorian Government, City of Melbourne nor real estate agents telling prospective CBD purchasers, that



if a property is purchased in the CBD, there is an absence of formal rights of objection and appeal for residents and property owners adversely affected by future developments. It is a case of buyer beware.

Development is inevitable and essential for Melbourne's evolution, but it should not happen in insolation.

For a number of years, the eastern quadrant of the CBD went under the developers' radar but now it is now in their sights.

There has been Charter Hall/Wesley Place development, Shangri-la development, Elms Family Hotel development, Bennett's Lane development and now the proposed La Salle/

Marriner Comedy Theatre development. Like all developments, they have and will continue to impact the lives of residents.

Intrusive noise, invasive dust, loss of sunlight, adverse wind affects and traffic congestion, are some of the physical impacts residents suffer, but it is the psychological impacts that cause the most harm.

Worry about how to tackle the issues, worry about the loss of property value, worry about the impacts of the loss of sunlight and enjoyment of your own home. There are also the many, many hours spent researching and contacting officials, which are hours lost.

But does the state government care? Does the City of Melbourne care? I suggest not.

With the proposed development of the Comedy Theatre and adjacent car park at the corner of Lonsdale and Exhibition streets, the historical fabric of the inner city is again under attack. Not only will households be uninhabitable during demolition and construction, but the public realm and local amenity will also be forever left in a shadow and Melbourne will have lost another part of its historical and architectural diversity. Does the community have a voice? It seems not!

The company behind this development, La Salle Investment Management, on paper, has strong environmental, social and governance goals – “a better tomorrow for all stake holders; contribution to the community life of a neighbourhood where an asset is located; a quality of

life for our neighbours”. High ideals indeed but in truth, there is a very large gap between the rhetoric and the reality! To date the company has refused to consult or engage with their neighbours and the local community.

I suggest if Daniel Andrews genuinely wants to attract more residents to the city, he would have the courage to reinstate the lost third-party objection and appeal rights. The state government and City of Melbourne would be mandating developers engage with the local community. There would be the opportunity for dialogue and not simply a void. Without third-party objection and appeal rights, there is no avenue to seek a review of discretionary decisions that may be without merit or, in fact, in breach of the law.

Residents of the CBD can no longer be treated as invisible; they can longer be treated as a source of investment funds. They need a voice ... and a loud one at that!

### Next meeting

You are invited to our next monthly event: November 3 at 6 pm at the Kelvin Club.

Topic: Owners' Corporation Forum

If you would like to find out about the changes to the *Owners' Corporation Act (2006)* or have a question about how an owners' corporation works, this is an event you should definitely attend.

Please see our website for further information: [residents3000.com.au](http://residents3000.com.au) ●

### LAW

## Is it time to review your will?

*If you are wishing to rehearse your marital vows in front of someone, your wills and estates lawyer may not be the most encouraging audience. Whilst poetically proclaiming your conviction that it will only be death that does you two apart, your lawyer is bound to interrupt you to ask, “and then what?”*

WORDS BY *Peter Nevile*

Although slightly grim, this line of thinking will help preserve your interests and ensure that, after your death, your estate assets are distributed as intended. Indeed, the question does require consideration because marriage automatically revokes any previous will. Upon uttering “I do,” your spouse immediately becomes the primary candidate for the distribution of your estate and any objection can be met with a family provision claim.

A family provision claim is an

application for adequate compensation from an estate. Typically, it is made by an eligible person who has not received a sufficient provision in the deceased's will.

The court will decide whether such a claim exists by considering if the deceased held a moral responsibility and if they failed to uphold their legal obligation to adequately provide for the claimant (Part IV *Administration and Probate Act*).

Marriage imposes an implied moral responsibility to provide for one's spouse and children and, therefore, strengthens the likelihood of a successful family

provision claim. Therefore, it is crucial that you take the time to revisit and review your will.

On the other hand, if you have a less optimistic lawyer, they might even ask you “what if it is not death that does you apart?”

In this case, you will be forced to consider the worst: divorce or separation.

### Divorce

In the instance of a divorce, any terms which applied to your ex-spouse will be immediately revoked, including and appointments and the allocation of assets. However, an agreed property settlement may provide your ex-spouse with an avenue for a successful family provision claim. The claim will take into consideration factors such as existing children, any contributions made by your former spouse to your welfare, the nature and duration of the relationship.

The bottom line is that the legal

consequence of marriage may continue to haunt you, even after a divorce.

### Separation

Conversely, a separation in the marriage will not impact a will. If you maintain your legally married status, your spouse will remain entitled to inherit any assets or appointed roles that they have been named to command. This includes rights to properties left to them and the ability to act as the executor of your estate.

All this might eventually lead to you asking the question “will anything ever do us apart?”

### Excluding a Person from your Will:

The truth is that an eligible person cannot be expressly excluded from a will. However, there are positive steps that you can take to minimise the claims that an eligible person may have.

Some of these include:

- Establishing a protective trust to minimise your owned assets.
- Pre-emptively outlining significant support that has been provided to the beneficiary.
- Preparing an affidavit to accompany your will as an explanation for the reasons behind your decisions when making your will.

At Nevile & Co we insist on congratulating your marriage once we ensure that your interests and assets are secure and will be allocated according to your own intention.

*Disclaimer: This publication contains comments of a general and introductory nature only and is provided as an information service. It is not intended to be relied upon as, nor is it a substitute for specific professional legal advice. You should always speak to us and obtain legal advice before taking any action relating to matters raised in this publication. ●*

## BUILDING COMMUNICATION AT ITS BEST!

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COMMVISION

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# State election – the short answers

*Last month in this column we asked the question of the major parties competing at the forthcoming state election – what are your party’s policies on short-stays?*

We have talked *ad infinitum* with all the parties about regulating short stays. We have engaged with the first, second and third Minister for Consumer Affairs, currently Melissa Horne. We met with former Planning Minister Richard Wynne. We had talks with the Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council David Davis. And we have had ongoing communications with leader of the Victorian Greens Samantha Ratnam.

Despite the pandemic, political turmoil, scandals and factional machinations, we tried to keep engaged with politicians across the political spectrum. We have been providing concerned Victorian politicians with case studies, precedent legislation and regulations from other jurisdictions, expert reports, impact statements and statistics.

In this pre-election column, we will summarise what we know about party policies on short stays.

## Party Policy Scorecard

SHORT-STAY POLICIES	LABOR	LIBERALS	GREENS
STRATA RULES	✗	✗	✓
DAY CAP	✗	✗	✓
REGISTRATION	✗	✗	✓
PENALTIES	✓	✗	✓

▲ The Party Policy Scorecard shows the short-stay policies of the major parties, ranked against We Live Here key policies.

There are four key policies that We Live Here has been articulating in this column since the previous election:

- **Strata rules:** Let owners’ corporation lot owners decide if their building will have short stays. Owners should have the right to regulate short stays by enacting special rules, within a common framework. This should include the right to on-charge

additional costs on a *cui bono* basis.

- **Day cap:** Limit the number of days that an apartment can be short-term let.
- **Registration:** So many jurisdictions around the world already require short-stay operators to register their property, usually at the municipal level and for a cost-recovery fee. This most fundamental regulation will also help governments understand the extent of the industry.
- **Penalties:** Regulations only work if there are consequences for breaching those rules. The penalties must be enforceable and proportionate to the social and economic impact.

## Labor

From previous meetings and correspondence with the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Melissa Horne and her office, we know that the Labor policy is to maintain the status quo until after “a” review. This repeatedly deferred review had been promised in 2020, then 2021 and now it has been pushed out to “between 2023 and 2026”.

The status quo continues to be resistance to any regulation by strata rules, day caps, and even registration, one of the most basic governance tools. Our Party Policy Scorecard shows a tick for the Labor policy on “penalties”. This attribution is exceedingly charitable, because while there are penalties in the current patchwork legislation, they are virtually unenforceable in practice and risibly meagre in quantum. In our extensive review of VCAT cases there has been not one instance where VCAT has enforced a penalty. Zero.

Our dialogue with the minister’s office will be maintained because we trust that empirical economic evidence will eventually have an influence on policy – and we will continue providing that evidence.

We had been hopeful that the departure of Richard Wynne might have afforded an opportunity for a broad review of policy from the planning portfolio viewpoint. We hope this may still be forthcoming from the new Minister for Planning the Member for Pascoe Vale and Legislative Assembly Leader of the House Lizzie Blandthorn.

In Victoria it seems evident that the disconnect between the planning and consumer affairs “silos” of government is at least partly responsible for the short-stay policy disarray in this state. It is therefore perhaps not all that perplexing that the Labor party can only tell us to wait a few more years for yet another review.

Meanwhile there are lessons that can be learned from other states e.g. NSW where the intersection of the NSW equivalents of



planning and consumer affairs portfolios has been recognised and managed, producing some nascent yet remarkable reforms.

## Liberals

Liberal policy is quite hard to discern, given that the last known stance was evinced by the party’s 2018 mass absence from parliament when the short-stay issue came to a vote.

Prior to the last election, We Live Here was equally engaged in dialogue with all the major parties, including the Victorian Liberals.

At the time, David Davis, Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council, declared his party’s support for a legislative review on short stays, making the party’s parliamentary walkout even more shocking.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Liberal Party arguably has had few other distractions that may have relegated our humble edification.

While we remain hopeful of a policy announcement from the Victorian Liberals, it will be a little too late for this pre-election wrap. For now, our Party Policy Scorecard for the Liberals shows no known policies.

## The Greens

Moving along the spectrum, the Victorian Greens have made a welcome announcement that has made headlines, including in the news pages of this issue.

We had been anticipating this policy release for some time. Last year Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell called for regulation

of the short-stay industry, something we have been arguing strenuously for. Our ongoing dialogue this year with Samantha Ratnam further stimulated our expectations.

Now they have proposed a regulatory framework for short stays:

A cap of 180 nights a year for a property to be rented as a short stay.

Allowing owners corporations to regulate short stays where the property is not the host’s principal residence.

Setting up a mandatory register of short-stay operators.

We Live Here is pleased with the Green’s announcement and the concordance with our key policies. We look forward to seeing the details.

## Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton  
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET  
LEARN MORE AT  
WELIVEHERE.NET



# Connect with your local community

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

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

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

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





## STREET ART

## Graffiti is not unsafe

*Melbourne has a problem that's way bigger than graffiti.*

As millions are spent removing graffiti to make the city seem cleaner and safer, the truth is no amount of cleaning will make the city seem safe. There is a problem that is making Melbourne seem ugly and that has nothing to do with graffiti.

As I write this towards the end of October, several incidents have occurred around me during the past week. The first was when the Blender Crew and I were painting a mural just near Bourke Street Mall, we have painted here quite a few times and are familiar with the space.

Anyway, on the last day a guy comes up to us carrying a screwdriver and threatening us. Then he walked down the lane a bit and did a shit. He was so unpredictable, we tried everything to de-escalate the situation eventually we managed to get the guy to move on.

Last week Blender artist, Will, was walking through Flagstaff Gardens when he witnessed a guy put a box cutter to a young ladies' throat, taking her money, he ran Will who jumped in to comfort the young lady and call the police. It turned out she was a Taiwanese national with a PhD in architecture.

A couple of weeks ago I saw this fancy tourist on Elizabeth St, clearly dressed up and going somewhere nice. Anyway, this lady comes out of nowhere and starts abusing the fancy tourist. She was threatening her, pushing her, and saying some horrible things. The girl started crying and



didn't know what to do so I stepped in to distract the angry lady and it worked as the fancy tourist made a getaway.

This was in a period of two weeks; I can think of so many inappropriate and appalling situations that I have encountered while in the CBD during the past few years. I live and work around the CBD and, to be honest, its feeling quite unsafe.

I know these unpredictable people are changing how tourists and the world view Melbourne. It's a hard situation! Most of the people that are acting out in the city have drug and alcohol dependency, coupled with mental health problems.

“

*No amount of cleaning will make the city seem safe.*

”

Many should be in hospital or supported living instead they are left wondering the street vulnerable and confused.

Helping these people will also help Melbourne become a safer place.

To support these people would cost a lot of money and energy. Yet, something has to be done, the issue isn't going to go away anytime soon. The sooner we work out some kind of strategy as a community, the better.

It's a very large problem that is impacting the experience of the city. It really is time to work out what to do, and how to help these people. It would need to be a big shift in consciousness and would require government support from every level.

I feel for these people. The street is not where they should be; they need support, understanding and empathy.

I have brought up this issue before and since then the problem has increased. It is not the graffiti that is making the city unsafe. Graffiti is controversial, and I do understand that some people don't like it, but it certainly isn't unsafe.

It is an artist usurping public space. And it has propelled Melbourne to becoming a cultural superstar.

Graffiti is not what makes Melbourne unsafe. ●



*Adrian Doyle*

ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS

LEARN MORE ON THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM

## QVM TRADER PROFILE

## QVM's very own certified cicerone

“

*After experiencing the hospitality industry in the United Kingdom and finding a passion for introducing people to new experiences and styles of beers, Darren Ivey has found his place at Brick Lane Shed.*

”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

A highly qualified and experienced expert of his field, Mr Ivey has a rare certification as a cicerone, a qualification that is hard to come by and the equivalent to a sommelier (specialist wine steward), but with beer instead.

“There are only a handful of certified cicerones in Australia and the world, and it is a qualification that helps me store and sell beer, make sure the quality is right, and make sure people have an understanding of beer styles and pairings,” he said.

This knowledge means that as the venue manager of String Bean Alley's Brick Lane Shed, he is able to equip his staff with the knowledge they need to then further impart the knowledge onto customers.

“It is good to have this kind of knowledge because we have anywhere from 10 to 20 different styles of beer in the Brick Lane Brewing banner alone,” he said.

“When a customer says they like one particular beer, we are able to communicate with them and send them down the right path of others they may like and want to try.”



▲ QVM Trader Darren Ivey.

Photo: *Simon Shiff.*

The bar was established in December 2019, shortly prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 making it impossible to remain open.

From the unravelling of 2020 to now, Mr Ivey said Brick Lane Shed had battled closures due to COVID and renovations being done to String Bean Alley and seen the venue swap between being a bar and a bottle shop.

“It has been quite up and down, but this year we have been able to consistently run the bar properly and cohesively and it has been awesome,” he said.

“Due to restrictions on travel in the past we hadn't been able to hit that international tourist base as much as we would like, but now we have noticed it is starting to ramp up and we have had really good feedback.”

Equipped with eight beers on tap and a massive fridge with six doors that is filled to the brim with a selection of single cans, cases, and mixed six packs to take away, the Brick Lane Shed has become a mix between the two differing forms it identified as during the pandemic.

Keen on it becoming a space that people can unwind after shopping or working at the market, the bar is also equipped with a flat screen tv for all sports viewing needs, snacks and a rule that BYO food is more than okay.

While beer is Mr Ivey's passion first and foremost, after the opening he soon became aware that an option for non-beer drinkers was also needed.

He now also co-owns Antagonist Spirit with his two business partners, and it is coming up to

its first birthday come the new year.

Operating with a liquor licence as well, Antagonist Spirit is popular for its award-winning gin that people can enjoy on the balcony outside – a perfect place to be when the sun is out.

For a drink-to-go, the Sun Baked Sundae Australian Spiced Rum has also been seen flying off the shelves.

As the customer base ramps up in the alley, success only seems to be growing for Brick Lane Brewing as it expands and becomes part of a new project within the new Munro build.

The Mercat Cross Hotel within the precinct, and Munro build, has announced the brewing company will have the rights to also open a bar within its renovated space.

“We are going to have a big bar called the Brick Lane Market and it will be opening at the start of next year, and it's going to be a great new venue,” Mr Ivey said.

“It will have an upstairs area with 20 taps and a kitchen, and there will also be an amazing space downstairs as well.”

Another overriding positive is that while the Brick Lane Shed may run under the same daytime hours as the QVM market, this new venue will be allowed to open at night.

“Having a venue that can open at night will be not only great for the community but also the market community who will be able to come after work for a drink,” Mr Ivey said.

“This amazing space will have outdoor seating and a balcony overlooking the market, and it will be a really cool environment based around not only quality service but also quality education, and people who want to learn more can.”

In the meantime, until the new bar opens, visitors to the market can visit both Brick Lane Shed and Antagonist Spirits Thursday and Friday between 10am and 3pm, and Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 4pm. ●

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

## PRECINCT

## City Precinct hosts innovative business skills masterclass series

*From September to December 2022, City Precinct is hosting a five-part business skills masterclass series designed to inspire, educate and connect independent Melbourne CBD traders.*

The masterclass series consists of five 90-minute interactive workshops, taught by thought leaders from various fields, at vibrant CBD venues that cover five different topic areas from marketing to wellbeing and Aboriginal cultural awareness.

The masterclasses take a holistic approach to the skills and knowledge small business owners required to thrive in a post-pandemic environment.

The first masterclass of the series was on "The Neuroscience of Wellbeing" taught by Dr Valerie Rytova at the West End Art Gallery, and the most recent one was on "The Tough Love You Need to Hear When Marketing Your Small Business" by Mia Fileman, marketing strategist and founder of Campaign Del Mar at the stunning Athenaeum Library.

Business leaders have enjoyed coming together to learn new skills and network beyond their own industries. Architect Dan Donovan said, "the masterclasses are relaxed but informative and well worth attending. I enjoy meeting other professional people who work and live in the city. It is a good opportunity to network with others outside your industry. Members work together to foster a village approach."

City Precinct is a vibrant community of Melbourne CBD business owners, and the program serves the dual purpose to connect current members and attract new ones.

Breana Dunbar, a portrait photographer located in the stunning Nicholas Building, has embraced City Precinct membership.

"I have been a City Precinct member for a couple of months now and have already been able to attend a number of fantastic masterclasses," she said.

"The small business marketing one was particularly helpful, the presenter was great, and I came away with lots of ideas. The City Precinct community is diverse and friendly, and it has been great to network with other local businesses. I would highly recommend joining!"

The City Precinct has two more exciting Masterclasses scheduled as part of this program. The next will take place on Wednesday, November 16 on "How to Cut Through Social Media in an Overcrowded Market" presented by sought-after content strategist Arielle Thomas.

The masterclass will cover what on earth you should be doing on socials with all these platforms and learn her formula for brainstorming, creating

*"The Masterclasses are relaxed but informative and well worth attending. I enjoy meeting other professional people who work and live in the city. It is a good opportunity to network with others outside your industry. Members work together to foster a village approach."*



and selling through content time and time again.

The fifth and final masterclass will take place on November 30 at the Athenaeum Library on "Mastering

the Art of Communication and Conflict", with renowned mediator and brain-based coach Venita Dimos will teach skills required to master difficult conversations.

The first 20 people to sign up will also have the opportunity to complete a confidential conflict dynamic profile assessment – a global research backed tool that measures your personal conflict patterns and your common conflict triggers.

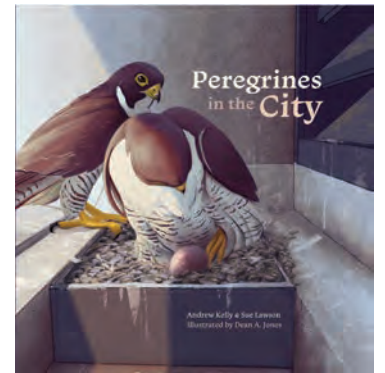
City trader membership (\$50) is open to independent, non-franchise small businesses who derive most of their revenue in Melbourne CBD, and all social, networking and professional development events, including these masterclasses, are free for members.

You can learn more about City Precinct membership and attend upcoming events by visiting our website.

Scan the QR code for more information: ●



## BOOK REVIEW



## A dive into the drama of being an urban predator

*Some teachers might love this picture-book about peregrine falcons in the city because it doesn't anthropomorphise.*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

The protagonists are called tiercels and by page six they are smashing into pigeons mid-air.

They deliver the prey to their eyases waiting helplessly to be fed.

Using technical language, authors Andrew Kelly and Sue Lawson look closely at the lives of these fierce hunters such as the famous pair roosting at 367 Collins St.

Words such as talons, eyas, tiercel and carcass create a rather intense picture of their life on a high ledge.

The falcons hunt, eat and grow, without indulging in the adventures of the typical storybook animal. Is this a good thing?

To warm-blooded creatures such as parents, this focus on the feather and claw of nature in a kid's book might be a little too harsh.

*Peregrines in the city* rejects heart-warming narratives in favour of clear description and close-ups of eggs hatching.

On the bright side, the book is well-observed and researched so that a reader gains a good idea of the life stages of a falcon.

On the more negative side, there is no real attempt at contextualising this tough stance, leaving the reader wondering if the actual birds don't have a bit more fun than is depicted.

Are the eyases really so rude as to "snatch" morsels of food from their parents' beaks? Do they really cough up feathers and bones as pellets?

The answer is "yes". These parents have a thankless task, endlessly incubating and shuffling eggs.

At the back of the book is a list of falcon facts, which is quite impressive, and an account of the nesting success of the Collins St pair.

Apparently, there is no rivalry between falcon nestlings, one adaptation that has obviously been lost during evolution that could have been emphasised.

All in all, with a sometimes minimal text and double page spread illustrations by Dean A. Jones, this book dives straight into the drama of being an urban predator.

*Peregrines in the City*, Andrew Kelly and Sue Lawson, Wild Dog, 2022. ●

## SALVOS

## History speaks again

“

*Henry Reed is a relatively unknown Tasmanian who stood with John Batman on the banks of the Yarra River, right near Queens Bridge back in August 1835.*

”

Batman famously said, "This is a place for a village". Reed responded with a desire to help Batman build a new world – a world that was based on the values of the local Wurundjeri people such as, "No-one left behind".

It was also a world, or at least a city, built on Reed's own values of: No-one left behind; bring the outsider into the centre of the community and feel welcomed; challenge and change systems that produce victims.

Henry Reed's life and especially his values and those of the local Wurundjeri people had such a profound impact on this fledgling city that I believe they helped shape and mould this city into the city that we know and love to this day.

In fact, during the 1890s, Reed's values led to Melbourne becoming known globally as the world's first social experiment. People travelled from across the world to view the city that demonstrated compassion to all, especially the most vulnerable. People were enthralled with the

notion that a city was built on the value of no-one left behind.

Reed's values also flowed into his family and shaped the way they lived their lives. Reed's grandson, Hudson Fysh, was one of the founders of Qantas. Why? Fysh wanted to ensure that no-one was left behind. And what about Reed's granddaughter, Sunday Reed? Sunday and her husband John founded the Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen.

Reed's values also impacted the work of the local Melbournians who were near contemporaries of Reed. Dr John Singleton, a medical doctor and philanthropist, was meeting with Rev. John Horsley, a Methodist Minister, in the City of Melbourne in 1869.

They were met by a delegation of concerned local citizens who organised significant concern about the number of Melbournians, particularly children, who were dying from preventable disease. Singleton and Horsley responded by building the world's first free medical clinic.

It operated in Wellington St, Collingwood. In the 1870s and 1880s, Singleton and his wife, Isabella, made it a habit of waiting outside the Old Melbourne Gaol during the evening. This was the time that men would be released from prison. Dr John and Isabella would inquire if the recently released prisoners had somewhere to stay for the night. If the answer was no, the Singletons would invite the person back to their home.

The numbers that were being accommodated at the Singleton's home were substantial. The fact that the Singletons also had 10 children made space to rest in the house difficult to find. In 1883, Dr John Singleton invited the newly arrived Salvation Army officers in Melbourne to

join the Singletons outside the Old Melbourne Gaol.

Captains James and Alice Barker also made their home available to ex-prisoners. Dr John Singleton then purchased a house, which is still standing today in Argyle St South, Carlton. It became the first halfway house for prisoners anywhere in the world.

As I think about these stories and many others, I see the fingerprints (read values) of Henry Reed and the local Wurundjeri people, all over Melbourne's history. In fact, I see their influence over the things that make Melbourne the great city that it is today. Our city's compassion and care for the vulnerable person is well known. I believe that these values will continue to shape our city as we re-build out of the destabilisation that was caused by COVID-19.

It is interesting to not only reflect on the great work that occurred during the early days of our city. Much of that work was done to address emerging social issues in the City of Melbourne during the 1800s. Much of this work was undergirded and shaped by the values of Henry Reed and the local Wurundjeri people. It is also interesting to note that some of the social issues that were present in Melbourne during the 1800s is still being addressed today.

As I speak with Salvation Army prison chaplains, I hear ongoing reports that there are still some women and men being released from prison with very few, if any, options for support, including accommodation.

As a result, we are working with various partners to rebegin the old Prison Gate Brigade program that was launched by the Singletons and Barkers on December 8, 1883.

The new program will have a new

moniker, "Progressively Getting Better", but will retain the same abbreviation – PGB. Prison chaplains will assess people who are about to be released from prison. They will be looking for people who are absolutely committed to rebuilding their life, with the understanding that they won't be doing this on their own.

The person will be provided with accommodation for 12 weeks. They will also receive an intensive case manager. They will also agree to participate in a program that will be designed to develop living skills, employability and to address the drivers for their offending.

With our partners, we hope to be able to provide longer term housing and employment options for everyone that completes the PGB program. Our plan is to launch the program on December 8, 2022 – 139 years since the program first began in Melbourne.

We believe that the PGB program will be yet another way in which the values of Reed and the local Wurundjeri people are embedded to ensure that Melbourne remains a city that is committed totally – that no-one is left behind. ●



Major Brendan Nottle

COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SALVATION ARMY MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614

BRENDAN.NOTTLE@SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU

## State Election – representing vertical villages?

“

*One in four Victorians live in residential strata – but are our vertical villages on the election agenda?*

”

Multi-owned dwellings, or residential strata, is the way 1.6 million Victorians now live. This includes those who live in townhouses, “walk-ups” and our own high-rise vertical villages.

And, as we well know, state government regulations and policies daily impact upon how we vertical villagers live our lives.

Front and centre of this is Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV). As part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety, one of CAV’s responsibilities is the administration of the *Owners’ Corporation Act 2006*. It is this legislation and associated regulations which defines the scope of what owners’ corporations (OCs) can – and cannot – do.

For instance, this is where limitations are placed upon an OC’s authority to manage short-stay accommodation businesses operating within their residences. This is also the source of restrictions regarding an OC’s ability to improve common property.

In a nutshell, current regulations aim to maintain the status quo which, regrettably, often has the effect of impeding sustainability improvements, as these initiatives typically involve a change of use for common property (e.g. installation of solar panels on facades or rooftops).

The Victorian Government’s approach contrasts with path taken in NSW, where recent legislation – *Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Sustainability Infrastructure) Bill 2020* – has changed the approval requirements, making it easier for OCs to install “sustainability infrastructure” on common property.

There are many other “sore points” for our vertical villages but perhaps most disappointing is our non-inclusion in state government schemes, such as energy efficiency programs which remain primarily aimed at “houses”, leaving out our strata “homes”.



*There are many other “sore points” for our vertical villages but perhaps most disappointing is our non-inclusion in state government schemes.*



This lack of appreciation for residential strata was apparent in a recent meet the candidates event hosted by Residents3000. This event saw no mention of any issues specifically related to high-rise living, with attendees revealing their frustration through comments such as “don’t they know who they are talking to and how we live?”

There is one group which is seeking to make strata living an election issue.

This is the Strata Community Association Victoria SCA (Vic). It is the peak member-based association for service providers to Victorian OCs. Its membership includes OC managers and facility managers, along with industry suppliers such as essential safety measures managers, building maintenance & tradespeople, lawyers, accountants, insurers, property valuers and quantity surveyors.

SCA (Vic) is seeking to highlight the economic importance of Victoria’s strata sector, which they state contributes an estimated \$1 billion in annual economic activity, yet the sector remains largely overlooked by our state government.

So, what does SCA (Vic) see as key election issues for the strata services sector?

They nominate three priorities:

- Protecting and supporting strata consumers: which includes lobbying for a dedicated helpline (operated by CAV) and advocating for a minimum educational standard for OC managers;
- Creating smarter, greener and more liveable strata communities: under which SCA (Vic) is seeking a partnership with Sustainability Victoria to establish a Victorian Sustainability Fund and associated joint projects; and
- Combatting the high prevalence of building defects in strata: here they propose the creation of a building information portal (managed by VBA) and the closing of loopholes in the Domestic Building Insurance scheme.

From the point of view of OCs, while we do not embrace our label as “consumers” (as this relegates us to an unacceptable passive role), there is much merit in SCA (Vic) raising the profile of residential strata with the state government.

It is important that the Victorian Government appreciates our sector’s economic contribution and understands that strata living is now a mainstream way of living for Victorians and, as such, our specific circumstances must be addressed.

To this end, the focus of SCA (Vic) on raising the skill level of OC managers is a much welcomed and strongly supported initiative as improving the calibre of service providers to our vertical villages is essential.

But as our final words are *nihil de nobis, sine nobis* – “nothing about us, without us”. OCs, most especially the elected committees must be part of these decisions and not simply “consulted”. We are not passive consumers. ●



*Dr Janette Corcoran*

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/  
SKYPADLIVING/

## METRO TUNNEL

### Metro Tunnel art celebrates Victorian rail history

*A collection of historical rail images – some dating back nearly 150 years – will be on display in Melbourne’s CBD as part of a Metro Tunnel exhibition to celebrate Victoria’s transport history.*

*Transporting Victoria* showcases images from 1875 to the mid-1950s, capturing the spirit of the time, as much as an insight into the rail infrastructure of the era.

The images, which are on the site of the future State Library Station, will be displayed on construction hoarding on Franklin St opposite Melbourne City Baths until January 2023.

It’s just one of the Creative Program’s projects on display in the CBD right now.

At Scott Alley, near the site of the future Town Hall Station, Jane Fitzgerald’s *The Gloriousness Of Age* is on show until late November.

Fitzgerald has created a stunning portrait of her mother after being selected from the Creative Program’s Artist Pool to create new work on the

theme of “ageing”.

“All too often, we associate age with regression. Yet playfulness, youthfulness and vibrancy remain indispensable threads in the fabric of one’s lifetime,” Ms Fitzgerald said.

“The piece is a bold, youthful defiance of age, as expressed through the wise and matured character of my 78-year-old mother.”

A roller door in the popular Degraives St is now home to *Dancing in the Street* (2022), a work by Collingwood-based botanical illustrator, painter and installation artist Manda Lane.

“This mural is inspired by sunny memories of buying waratahs from local city florists, and walking through the laneways on warm spring afternoons, on route to the train station home after work,” Ms Lane said.



▲ Mo Libre, Erik Yvon.

Photo: Kit Edwards

Elsewhere, Erik Yvon’s artwork *Mo Libre* (Creole for “Be You”) – created in partnership with Christopher Alexander, Jamie Azzopardi, Kiah Crowder-Wyett, Akashi Zari Lee, Osamu Miyagi, Radam Ridwan, Laura Du Ve and Christian Wilkins – celebrates queer identity as part of Melbourne Fashion Week and

will be on show in City Square until mid-November.

Visual and performance duo The Huxleys will bring Christmas Glitz to City Square with *As Camp As Christmas*, celebrating the glory and beauty of Australian flora and fauna – on display from mid-November.

Finally, *Flock Off, School’s Out*



▲ As Camp as Christmas, Huxleys.

Photo: Theresa Harrison

celebrates the student cohort of RMIT’s Bachelor of Design (Communication Design) and their response to returning to campus after two years of remote learning, inspired by Melbourne’s unique environment.

Their images on the theme of birds and fish will be installed on the Franklin St east shed in early December. ●



# What's on: November 2022



**PRESCHOOL POP-UP LIBRARY**  
Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at this storytime with stories, songs, rhymes and activities.  
On the fourth Friday of the month, 10:30am to 11am.  
510 Elizabeth St Pop-Up Library

NOVEMBER 11, FREE  
**THE CLASSIC FILM CLUB**  
Enjoy classic and modern films with The Classic Film Club every fortnight from 2pm to 5pm. Free entry. Tea and coffee provided.  
506 Elizabeth St.  
For more information, call John at 0456 960 321 or 9092 1500.

**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

*You cannot know the meaning of your life until you are connected to the power that created you.*  
**SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION**

**Sahaja Yoga Meditation**  
Beginner meditation classes are free for everyone with Sahaja Yoga Meditation.  
Classes are on every Wednesday from 6:15pm to 7:15pm at Ross House.  
Any questions contact Christine on 0408 085 838.  
www.freemeditation.com.au



**NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
Hosted by Residents 3000, come at 4pm for one hour at Green Room, L1 Central House, Baptist Place Laneway and enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours.  
gardenclub@residents3000.com.au

NOV 23 - MAR 15  
**SUMMER NIGHT MARKET**  
Grab your friends because The Summer Night Market is back at Queen Vic Market on Wednesday nights from 23 November to 15 March (excluding 21 and 28 December).  
No entry fee, just come hungry and ready for a good time.



NOVEMBER 13, FREE  
**HOLDEN CAR EXHIBITION**  
Calling all car enthusiasts.  
The EH Holden Car Club and EJ Holden are coming together to celebrate and showcase a magnificent range of classic and modified EH and EJ Holden cars, on display at Queen Vic Market.



## Business Directory

### Accounting

**rubix**  
business accountants  
Maximising your profits by minimising your tax  
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# 市中心安全注射室提上选举议程

在即将到来的维多利亚州议会选举中，竞选墨尔本席位的候选人10月份就当地和更广泛的一些关键问题与CBD居民进行了交谈。

David Schout

随着即将到来的维多利亚州选举，10月13日候选人与当地人进行会面，CBD内的安全问题和州政府即将在市中心建立安全注射室成为选举议程上的重中之重。

11月26日的州大选，将是维多利亚人五个月内第二次前往投票站。墨尔本的席位将有激烈的争夺，墨尔本席位的选区涵盖CBD和雅拉河以北的周边区域。

自2014年以来，墨尔本议席一直由绿党议员Ellen Sandell担任，当时她的政党首次在选举中获胜，2018年Sandell女士勉强保住了该席位，以确保第二个任期。

虽然现任议员开始成为连续第三次赢得胜选的热门人选，但她面临着工党候选人Rebecca Thistleton的严峻挑战，Rebecca在过去几个月里一直在敲门拜访，提高她在选民中的形象。

两位下议院候选人，加上Nicola Foxworthy(墨尔本理性党候选人)和Colleen Bolger(维多利亚社会主义者)于10月13日在Kelvin俱乐部与当地选民见面，这是一次由Residents 3000居民团体所组织的活动，讨论活动由EastEnders团体主席Stan Capp主持。



出席这次活动的还有北部都市区域的两名上议院候选人，自由党的Evan Mulholland和自由民主党的Paul Silverberg。

自由党的下议院候选人George Palackalody没有出席这次活动。

整个讨论活动中，各州和全国范围内的问题都很突出，即生活成本、住房负担能力和气候变化问题，候选人都在宣传他们政党的政策，以及他们将采取什么措施来解决问题。

在当地，CBD的安全性下降和Flinders街火车站附近预期开设的安全注射室成为热点问题。



# 市政首席执行官震惊辞职

墨尔本市政首席执行官Justin Hanney承认今年早些时候收到一笔游艇比赛捐款而未申报，声称是一个“疏忽”，将因此辞去职务。

Brendan Rees

Hanney先生因带领市政度过COVID-19疫情而受到称赞，10月19日他宣布了一个令人震惊的决定，表示12月底将辞去担任了四年的首席执行官职务。

此事发生在针对他的一项筹款活动调查，Hanney先生接受了一笔未经申报的捐款，据信超过3.5万澳元，是用于悉尼至霍巴特帆船赛的比赛费用。

市政的首席执行官任职事务委员会(CEO Employment Matters Committee)一直在对Hanney先生接受澳大利亚体育基金会(Australian Sports Foundation)的捐赠进行了彻底地审查，市政发表声明称，该委员会“并没有发现任何受捐赠影响的决定”。

市政的声明说：“委员会还建议市议会的个人利益申报程序需要更加清晰和改进。”

“Hanney先生本应申报这笔捐款，他在被提请注意时承认了这一点，并已改正。”

Hanney先生在一份声明中，感谢市政工作人员



的辛勤工作，并祝愿市政一切顺利，同时也致意在过去四年中为社区服务是一种“绝对的荣幸”。

他说：“我要感谢市长和议员们给我机会领导这个机构，”并补充说，市议会“每天都在为我们的居民、商家企业、合作伙伴和游客极其努力地工作。”

“有很多事情使我感到自豪，但我特别感谢我们对疫情的集体回应，并让墨尔本人有信心度过我们一生中看到的最大挑战之一。”

Hanney先生表示，虽然首席执行官任职事务委员会的报告尚未最终确定，但“没有迹象表明有不当决策”。

# 拯救尼古拉斯大厦的最后努力

城市创意公司(Urban Creative)发布了一个屋顶花园和表演空间的宏伟愿景计划，为拯救尼古拉斯(Nicholas)大厦的活动加大了力度。

Rhonda Dredge

该计划包括一个展馆，一个城市森林和一个内置太阳能技术的绿色公共空间。

提出该计划的Nicholas大厦协会发言人表示，购买该建筑的成本现在已经提高了75%。

新的三方合作伙伴是社会影响力资本公司Forza Capital、墨尔本市政和一个新的专门建设文化基金会，该基金会持有从2层到10层的长期租约。

协会发言人Dario Vacirca说：“实现这一目标所需的最后一个重要因素是州政府的承诺。”

宏伟愿景计划的发布是推动州政府承诺在维多利亚州选举前投资

该项目的最新举措。

今年4月，绿党开始向州政府施压，墨尔本的州议员Ellen Sandell指出，购买这座大楼还有1000万澳元的资金缺口。

Sandell女士表示：“我一直在呼吁州政府拯救Nicholas大厦，但对州政府缺乏回应感到失望，如果他们不采取有意义的行动来支持艺术家和创意社区，那么工党将继续失去内城区的席位，让给绿党和独立党派。”

“州政府可以通过投入少量资金，轻松确保Nicholas大厦的创意未来。”“对于这个计划的讨论，市议会、慈善家和租户都在其中，为什么州工党政府拒绝来讨论？”

墨尔本市政已经表示原则上支持Nicholas大厦协会的愿景计划。

# 新的弹出式图书馆

10月17日，一个新的“弹出式图书馆”在墨尔本市政的推动下在Bourke街628号向社区开放。

该图书馆以休闲和放松为主题，重新激活了Bourke街上的一个空置店面，使其成为一个上班族、游客和居民的休闲场所。

图书馆的藏书迎合了广大读者的需求，包括健康、烹饪、社会和旅游方面的最新畅销书籍。

市政于2021年11月开始推出一系列弹出式图书馆，Bourke街的图书馆是其中的第六个，之前推出了Elizabeth街弹出式图书馆、Make\*It Space、联邦广场儿

童弹出式图书馆、微型实验室和移动图书馆“Mel-van”。

市政表示，随着更多的图书馆开放，社区增加了借阅实体藏书的机会。图书的平均借阅率在2020-21年是2.2，而在2021-22年是3.1。

协助推出新弹出式图书馆的市长Sally Capp与市议员Jamal Hakim和Davydd Griffiths在10月21日表示，新图书馆将为市区上班人员、居民和游客提供一个聚会、放



松和休息的好去处。

市长说“利用文学的魅力，为墨尔本人、游客和学生提供更多留在市中心的理由。”

“自从弹出式图书馆计划开始以来，随着更多的图书馆开放，每周图书馆开放时间比疫情之前增加了25%以上。”

“我们的图书馆是我们创意部门的生命线，我们的弹出式窗口让每个人都可以更轻松、更方便地利用我们所提供的工具和资源。”

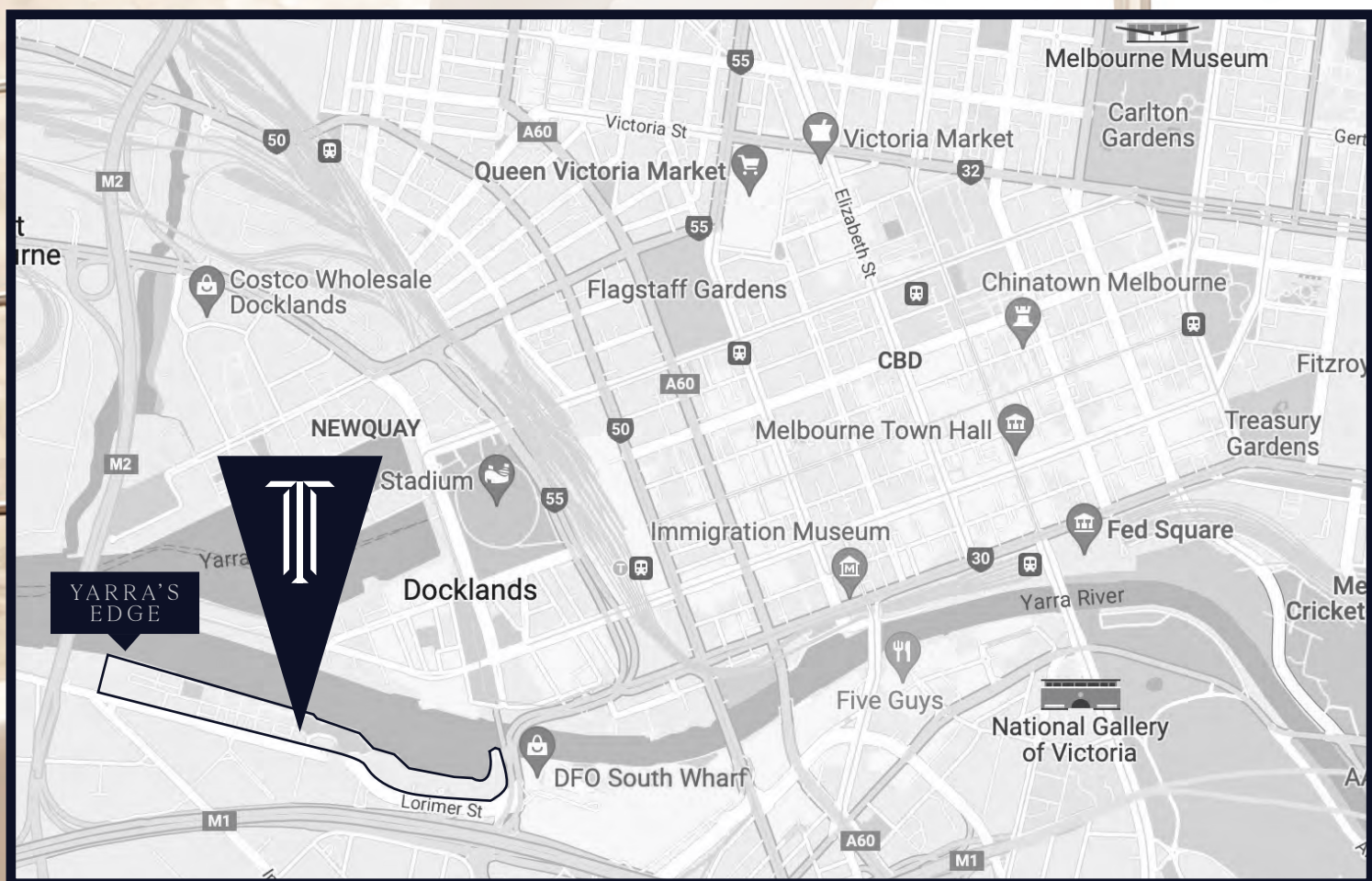
市政的创意墨尔本组合主管Hakim议员说：“弹出式图书馆充满了舒适的躺椅和用于学习和工作的空间，是一个田园诗般的地方，可以尽情享受阅读当前的畅销书籍和其他流行读物。”

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