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Puzzles & Trivia P25



Much-loved festive staple spreads Christmas joy
Photo by Jeff Busby

The official opening night of award-winning *A Christmas Carol* kicked off on Friday, November 18 at the Comedy Theatre, leaving audience members positively buzzing and filled with Christmas cheer. *Full story on page 17.*

“No real advantage to city address”: 123-year-old business leaves Queen St for the suburbs

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

The Commonwealth Key and Property Register has remained a company people and businesses can rely on since 1900, and now, after being located in the Melbourne CBD since 1908, it is time to move on.

Founded in Sydney prior to Federation, the company has been able to keep its name while continuing to run as a private non-government organisation, with the sole purpose of being a loyal and honest service people can depend on.

“Our service provides a person who carries important keys, such as business safe and master keys, or expensive electronic car keys, with an identification tag they can put

on their keys for only \$25 a year,” Commonwealth Key managing director Bryan Wheeler said.

“On the key label is a registered number on one side and on the other side are instructions for the finder to hand the keys to the nearest police station for a \$50 reward.”

The company’s relationship with the police means it will then receive a call regarding the registered number on the tag, and the name and address of the finder who will receive the monetary reward.

Someone from Commonwealth Key will then contact the owner to let them know their keys have been found and call the police back with only the name of the person collecting the keys, with no more personal details being shared.

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Development boom sees Melbourne top \$2.5 billion in planning applications

The City of Melbourne’s post-COVID recovery is on track to record more than \$2.5 billion in new development applications this year, signalling a robust investor appetite in a growing property market.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

New data showed the council was set to assess more than \$1 billion in new developments for 2022 – the first time since 2019 – with a further \$1.5 billion of state-assessed development projects having been proposed for the municipality so far this year.

More than 600 planning applications worth an estimated \$800 million have come before the council this year, with 85 per cent of applications for brand new developments while the rest covered amendments to existing permits.

According to the data, the CBD remained the hottest property market with 200 new development applications, with the majority covering new businesses and shop fit-outs.

Carlton came in second with more than 70 developments, mostly for residential properties or additions to heritage homes. Development applications had also increased in Kensington within the new Arden and Macaulay precinct.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the development boom was a testament to the resilience of Melbourne after two years of COVID disruption.

“It’s heartening to see developers continuing to invest heavily in the future of our city,” he said.

“With residential occupancy levels now back to pre-COVID levels and a record number of new hospitality venues opening in the city, it is no wonder that development applications have taken off.”

Cr Reece said there was little doubt Melbourne remained the number one destination for new developments, declaring the “buzz is back and 2023 is shaping up as a year of exciting possibilities for Melbourne”.

“As development interest continues to grow it’s never been more important for the City of Melbourne to prioritise high-quality design, architecture and amenities to ensure the best outcomes for everyone who lives, works, studies or visits our city.”

Cr Reece said the vision to transform West Melbourne into the next Fitzroy or Collingwood under the West Melbourne Structure Plan – which had so far seen a \$230 million development proposal made for a West Melbourne Waterfront Precinct – was also gathering momentum, with some distinctive planning applications being approved.

Major state-assessed developments

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Plan for new tavern sparks residents' fears

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

PLANNING

A proposal to establish a new licensed tavern in the CBD has seen the City of Melbourne receive 52 objections fuelled largely by residents' fears of noise and unsociable behaviour.

An application for a planning permit from Liquor Plan was lodged with the council to open a new venue at the Fairfax House building located at 392 Little Collins St, which consists of 31 residential units on the upper floors.

If approved, the application plans to turn most of the lower ground floor of the building into a tavern and feature a stage, three seating areas to the back of the venue, and a kitchen.

The tavern would cater up to 80 patrons and operate at reduced opening hours than initially proposed in response to community feedback – with closing times of 11pm Friday and Saturday and 10pm on all other days. Music would not be played after 9pm on any day via conditions.

At the time of publishing, the application was considered at the council's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22, during which council management recommended councillors grant a planning permit.

According to the council, the application was acceptable as the hours, patron numbers, and the venue management meet relevant planning scheme requirements and policy for the site's central city location.

However, residents of the building expressed concern about the location of the venue, as well as noisy patrons, reverberation of noise off buildings, and a potential for anti-social behaviour including intoxicated patrons.

They also cited concerns of health and air quality impacts with regards to patrons smoking, and the possibility of patrons entering the residential part of the building.

In response, a council report said the applicant had submitted an acoustic engineering report which confirmed the venue's use would comply with the Environment Protection



▲ There is a plan for a new tavern on the ground floor of the Fairfax House building at 392 Little Collins St.

Authority's noise protocol.

Under the plans, background music is proposed to be played within the tavern during business hours.

"The applicant has advised that may include acoustic or lightly amplified live music entertainment," a council report said.

"Noise will be regulated as a result of the indoor nature of the tenancy. Conditions will also be included to restrict noise levels associated with live music to those in accordance with the EPA Noise Protocol, this will also extend to the stage area shown on the plans."

However, with the proposed reduced opening hours, the council report said the applicant "did not seek to formally amend the proposal to reflect these changes".

"Therefore, the proposal considered as part of this assessment is that which was subject to notice with the proposed opening hours."

The proposed venue would have an entrance area off Little Collins St with no external area associated with the tavern use.

Anti-social behaviour and adverse impacts on public health and safety would be "limited by the scale of the proposal" and the venue management plan which would "require the operator to encourage patrons not to loiter around the site after leaving the premises", the council said.

The council also pointed to the entrance of

the residential building being separate from the tavern entrance and the residential entrance being clearly signposted and only accessible via a security fob/key.

The council received three letters of support which cited a lack of similar venues in the area for residents and the added vibrancy such a use would bring to the area.

Fairfax House was identified as having a significant grading in the council's Heritage Inventory March 2022 (amended October 2022).

Community alarm over end to late-night liquor licencing

A freeze on late-night liquor licences in the inner city would end under a re-elected Labor government, sparking community concerns it would increase violence and anti-social behaviour.

Since 2008, the state government has paused the issuing of liquor licences that would allow venues to serve alcohol past 1am.

The freeze, which was first introduced by former Premier John Brumby, has been aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm and crime in the Stonnington, Yarra, Melbourne, and Port Phillip local government areas.

However, Premier Daniel Andrews said the ban would be lifted to allow venues to apply for new trading hours, with each licence application to be judged on its merits.

The government would also pour \$34 million into Victoria's music industry.

But the scrapping of the ban has prompted community concern that late-night drinking is the right approach to revitalising the city in the wake of the pandemic.

Earlier this year a state government spokesperson told *CBD News* that the freeze would continue until June 2023, "subject to some exemptions".

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo said he surprised by the announcement with fears it would increase public anti-social behaviour and violence. ●



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“No real advantage to city address”: 123-year-old business leaves Queen St for the ‘burbs

Continued from page 1.

While seeming to be a simple service, it is one that has continued to successfully serve many of the business’s larger clients, such as the MCG and Village Cinemas, both of which have been on board for many years.

It has also seen the company record a 90 per cent success rate in returning lost keys to their rightful owners.

As a proud owner of the business since 1971, Mr Wheeler and his wife also expanded into creating the Keypass Photo ID in 1989, allowing people to have another registered ID other than a driver’s licence or passport when going into licensed venues.

Despite selling off that part of the business to Australia Post more than five years ago, it was an example of the company’s strong reputation and legacy Australia-wide.

Now after its dedication to the CBD, and being one of its more longest-standing businesses, its strong ties to Queen St won’t stop the company from believing better options lie beyond the 3000 postcode.

“When I took over the business, having the Queen St address was prestigious and useful, but now there is no real advantage for us to stay in the city over the suburbs. The city address used to mean something to people, and these days it means nothing,” Mr Wheeler said.

“I believe the City of Melbourne could have a lot more say in understanding what it takes to make a business run, but the biggest problem is that many people involved in making the decisions don’t talk to people who are in the game and experiencing it.”

“They can do, and should be, doing a lot more to encourage businesses to come back.”

Citing the current difficulties of driving and expensive parking in a city determined to minimise its convenience, Mr Wheeler is using his own business advice of “having an open mind



▲ Commonwealth Key managing director Bryan Wheeler.

and being able to see the big picture” to realise the “tremendous advantage” of the suburbs.

And he said he was not the only one thinking the same after dealing with thousands of businesses who were in agreement.

“Talk to anybody who is in business and you will hear the same stuff, and after 50-plus years of being in business in the city, I see what is going on and it stinks,” Mr Wheeler said.

But never one to dwell too long on the negatives, he confidently assures that Commonwealth Key will continue to be a service people and businesses can trust, no matter where it is located.

“People who lose keys are not stupid, they are

Citing the current difficulties of driving and expensive parking in a city determined to minimise its convenience, Mr Wheeler is using his own business advice of “having an open mind and being able to see the big picture” to realise the “tremendous advantage” of the suburbs.



▲ Old Commonwealth Key records spanning over 100 years.

For more information:
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This exhibition was organised by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria.

Top left and background: **Jožef Tominc** *Man in Ottoman dress* 1830–40 (detail), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Purchased with funds donated by Luisa, Simona and Luca Valmorbidia in memory of Carlo Valmorbidia, 2010; Centre: **Alexander McQueen** *Look 30* (detail), from the *Dante* collection, autumn–winter 1996–97. Photo © Robert Fairer © Alexander McQueen. Model: Kristen McMenamy; Bottom: **Alexander McQueen** *Look 15* (detail), from the *Horn of Plenty* collection, autumn–winter 2009–10. Photo © Robert Fairer © Alexander McQueen. Model: Kamila Filipcikova

Development boom sees Melbourne top \$2.5 billion in planning applications

Continued from page 1.

for 2022 included a \$750 million development over the Goods Shed in Docklands, and a \$264 million development at RMIT Village in North Melbourne. And for the first time, the data revealed the City of Melbourne's suburbs making the most appeals against new developments.

East Melbourne topped the list, with more than double the number of planning appeals going before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal compared to any other city neighbourhood.

The CBD had the second-most amount of appeals, while West Melbourne and Docklands had the fewest.

While the rise of new development applications was a promising sign of an economic bounce-back for the city, new occupancy data from the Property Council of Australia, however, showed Melbourne was lagging behind every other capital city, with only 45 per cent of offices in use in October. This was up from 41 per cent in September but still below the yearly peak of 49 per cent in June.

On the busiest days of the week, Melbourne's office levels were just over half full at 60 per cent, which was slightly higher than the average occupancy levels in Sydney. But less than a third of workers – 32 per cent – made the trip to their desks in the city on the quieter days – as opposed to 40 per cent in Sydney.

The Property Council's Victorian executive director Cath Evans said while it recognised the efforts of businesses and the City of Melbourne "pulling out all stops" to try and bring back office workers, the return had not eventuated to the levels they'd hoped for.

"While flexible working arrangements will continue to be a feature of our new post-COVID economy, it is a fact that the office plays a crucial role in maximising productivity and collaboration and leads to better learning and development outcomes for employees," she said. ●

Council deaf to noisy rubbish truck complaints in Hosier Lane

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A CBD resident has expressed frustration over an almost daily pre-dawn garbage collection which starts as early as 1am.

But the City of Melbourne has maintained that rubbish pick-ups "can occur any time" within the area of Hosier Lane so long as it "does not create an ongoing noise nuisance".

Local resident Mark, who asked that his surname not be used, said he was regularly awoken by garbage trucks in his street which usually occurred between 1am and 3am.

He said he had kept a noise log sheet of when the City of Melbourne-owned company Citywide operated collections, which he had passed on to the council along with photos identifying a collection truck.

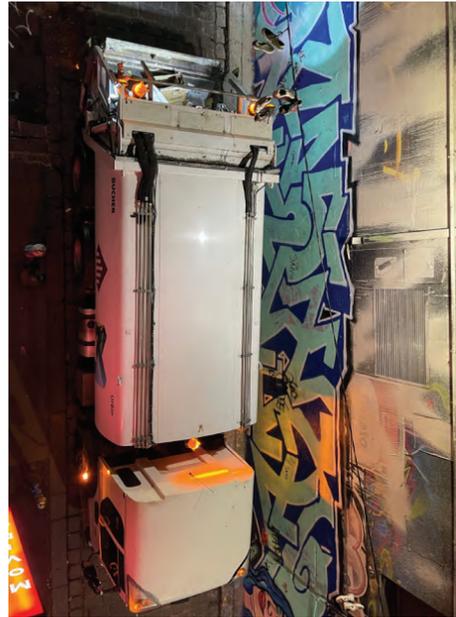
To his frustration, he said he had received no communication or feedback from the council nor "any action," which he said was a "totally unacceptable response".

"This current repetitive cycle has been ongoing for over a year now," he said. "In the past I was advised by the City of Melbourne that there would be no waste collections on Hosier Lane between the hours of 11pm and 6am and requested by the City of Melbourne to keep them informed if this was not the case."

The City of Melbourne said all noise nuisance complaints reported were investigated including the consideration of collection times and waste truck frequency.

But according to Mark, he was disappointed the matter had yet to be addressed and "I have still not been provided with answers".

In an email correspondence to Mark, the council stated, "While I can appreciate your frustration with the persistence of this issue, City of Melbourne will not take action or respond to further reports unless you are able



▲ A waste truck captured operating just before 3am on a Saturday.

to provide a completed noise log as requested" – which Mark said he was aware of and had provided to the council including a photo of a waste truck on Saturday, November 5 just before 3am.

In 2019, the City of Melbourne had advised two waste companies of noise complaints in the Hosier Lane area "which does not have restricted hours for waste collection".

Garbage trucks were deemed a serious issue by Lord Mayor Sally Capp in October 2018, after residents lobbied the council to clean up the system.

About 40 different waste collection companies are licensed to pick up garbage in the city, as well as Citywide. ●



Helen Macpherson Smith Trust moves on from Windsor Place building

PROPERTY

Philanthropic organisation the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust (HMST) has sold its office building at 27 Windsor Place in the CBD having occupied the three-storey heritage building for the past 10 years.

The philanthropic trust, which was established in 1951 and has provided more than \$130 million to various Victorian charities over the past 70 years, purchased the property in 2011 for \$2.695 million, according to CoreLogic.

Constructed in 1895 as a two-storey home, the property at 27 Windsor Place is one of the last remaining buildings of its kind, and has since been refurbished into a 267 sqm fitted-out office space complete with a large rooftop terrace.

Offered as a vacant possession, its understood real estate agency JLL has sold the property to a new owner-occupier. JLL was contacted for comment by *CBD News*.

As it looks to move to a new, larger premises, HMST CEO Debra Morgan told *CBD News* that the organisation would "try to stay in the CBD if we can". ●

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DEPUTY LORD MAYOR NICHOLAS REECE

Think big and act local

Now in his sixth year as a City of Melbourne councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said he was inspired to stand for election after being part of a citizens' panel.

"My first encounter with the City of Melbourne - apart from having been a resident and working in the city - was running a citizens' panel that helped develop a 10-year council plan back in about 2014. That experience really opened my eyes to all the important touchpoints local council has in people's lives.

"I have been very fortunate to have a career in public service working for a Prime Minister and premiers, not-for-profits like *The Big Issue* and Movember, as well as having been a lawyer and in business. Having got under the bonnet at Town Hall I was struck by a sense that I could bring all that experience together and make a real difference.

"The thing I love about the City of Melbourne is that you get to think big and act local.

"We tackle some of the toughest issues going around such as economic recovery after the pandemic, homelessness or climate change - but we do it in ways that make a real difference to people's daily lives."

"We also turn up every single day and deliver all those key services that make the city hum. There is a lot of pride to be found in keeping the city, clean, green, bustling, buzzing, healthy, smart and safe."

The Deputy Lord Mayor says sustainability and design excellence are two priority interests in his role as head of the City of Melbourne's planning portfolio.

"We have a big role to play in making Melbourne a truly sustainable city - we are leading the way in moving to zero emissions and zero waste.

"Two thirds of emissions in the City of Melbourne come from buildings - so having more environmentally-friendly buildings is a critical part of the pathway to us being a sustainable city."

The Deputy Lord Mayor said he was proud of the work being done at the City of Melbourne to lift standards of design and architectural excellence.

"Too much crap was being built. So we've introduced a design excellence program which for the first time includes a Design Review Panel and a Design Excellence Advisory Committee.

"We've put in place new standards so Melburnians will see more buildings that they can be proud of, that give back to the city more than they take.

"Buildings that have high quality materials that will stand the test of time, with green roofs and walls, energy efficient, sustainable transport enabled, and delivering high levels of amenity.

"I want Melbourne to be the Copenhagen of the south, a city that people from all over the world visit because we are an exemplar of architectural excellence, urban design and green buildings."

Having been part of council before and during the pandemic, he regards 'Melbourne in lockdown' as his biggest challenge.

"As a city councillor I was coming into Town Hall a lot during that period and it was an absolute tragedy to see those empty streets. Cities without people are sad and scary places.

"COVID-19 was a one-in-100-year disruption for Melbourne and we were the hardest hit municipality in the country economically.

"Melbourne was really tested during the lockdown and the mettle of the council was tested too. I think the city rose to the challenge and showed Melburnians, and the world, our character.

"For example, when nine public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington were put into hard lockdown without warning, there were issues getting food supplies in. The City of Melbourne stepped up and played a coordinating role through our community centre to get vitally needed supplies to people in need."

He's also proud of City of Melbourne's support for international students during this period.

"They were left high and dry without work and without any form of welfare support.

"So we stepped in with food vouchers for students which they could redeem at the Queen Victoria Market - we made a very clear statement about the students being part of Melbourne, part of our community, good young people who needed our care.

"Melbourne Town Hall was also set up as a community health vaccination hub that was open to everyone - it became a popular vaccination centre for homeless and marginalised people, international students, people on temporary permit visas, and anyone else who fell through the cracks of the health system.

"We were there at the coalface, as the level of government closest to the people. The City of Melbourne was there for them."

Now that the economic outlook is more promising, he says council's support for business, events and city activation are all bearing fruit.

"The city has gone through some really tough times, but now there is a real sense of excitement as the recovery takes off."

"Recent data shows a record number of new hospitality venues opening. The buzz is well and truly coming back to Melbourne and it's new and exciting, and different. Melbourne right now is a city of possibility."

In distilling his approach as a councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said: "No issue too small, no issue too big. I absolutely love helping people with day-to-day problems around the city, fixing things for them. I also love being part of something bigger than any of us. The survival, then the recovery, and now the reinstatement of Melbourne as the world's best city - bigger, better and brighter than ever before."

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Five key questions for the CBD in 2023

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

The CBD continued its post-COVID recovery in 2022, and while there was cause for concern for some in the state's epicentre, others might view the near future with their glasses half-full. Looking ahead to 2023, we take a deeper dive into the biggest issues and points of interest.

Here's the five key questions facing the CBD in the next 12 months.

1. Will the safe injecting room finally open?

One of the most prominent CBD topics in recent years, the state government originally said it would have an answer to this question by the end of 2020.

Now, almost two years on, it still has provided little clarity amid a growing number of delays.

The latest, citing "shifting patterns of drug harms in the CBD", saw the government announce that no decision would be made until after the November 26 state election.

Assuming the current Labor government holds onto power (the election result was not known when *CBD News* went to print), will it announce the heavily-specified-upon former Yooralla building on Flinders St as the site for the state's second supervised injecting facility?

The government purchased the building in 2021 and most expect this to be the location, although a long-awaited review that will advise on the final site — being conducted by former police commissioner Ken Lay — was yet to be released.

Either way, we know the new medically supervised injecting room — a hygienic place where people can inject drugs in a supervised health setting and overdoses can be treated — is almost certain to be within the CBD.

A 2020 independent expert panel found that the state's first-ever site in North Richmond had saved at least 21 lives in its first 18 months and thwarted 271 "extremely serious overdose incidents".

However, it required help dealing with demand, and deemed the City of Melbourne — which has the second-highest ambulance attendances for heroin overdoses after the City of Yarra — the most appropriate municipality.

It is generally accepted that the most appropriate place for an injecting facility in the City of Melbourne was within the CBD.

The government's first "preferred site" on Victoria St was scrapped after strong council pushback due to its proximity to vulnerable residents and the Queen Victoria Market.

2. Can Sally Capp secure state and federal funding for Greenline?

The Lord Mayor's legacy Greenline project, which she made a key part of her 2018 by-election and 2020 general election strategies, has got off to a solid start.

Since draft plans were first released in May 2021 for the \$300 million project, which proposes a four-kilometre green trail on the north bank of the Yarra River from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, an implementation plan was



then endorsed by councillors in late 2021 before independent economic analysts gave it a strong tick of approval in September this year.

Consultancy group Ernst & Young said Greenline would deliver more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent.

According to the council, construction will officially begin in mid-2023 on the city-shaping project, which Cr Capp has said represented Melbourne's "biggest transformation" since the opening of Federation Square in 2002.

"Site one" includes a new 450-metre boardwalk at Birrarung Marr.

However, the Lord Mayor still has a lot to do, namely, securing huge levels of funding.

It is proposed the \$300 million project will be funded via a three-way contribution of \$100 million each from the council, state government and federal government.

So far, the federal government has committed \$20 million to the project, while the state government is yet to come to the table.

The council needs further commitment for the entire project to be fully realised, however Cr Capp said the recent business case was a very strong start.

"[It] helps set us all up for success, as we continue to work with key stakeholders on the delivery of Greenline, particularly in relation to our discussions with state and federal governments," she said in September.

3. Can the CBD's "new rhythm" work for all?

The Lord Mayor, and the City of Melbourne in general, have liked to stay on-point with public messaging in the post-COVID city.

First it was about "bringing back the buzz" to Melbourne, a phrase they may now put out to pasture after a strong few years.

Now that the buzz has indeed come back, especially in thriving night-time and weekend economies according to recent foot traffic numbers, focus has shifted to a new oft-repeated phrase: the city's "new rhythm".

"Our central entertainment district is thriving. But our central business district remains a cause for concern. We know the city is moving to a new rhythm," Cr Capp acknowledged in recent months.

In short, this is an acknowledgement that

Melbourne has irretrievably changed as a result of COVID-19.

The notion of a five-days-per-week office worker has all but gone as a result of the seemingly permanent shift to juggling working from home alongside in-person work.

The "new rhythm" is, essentially, having less people within the Hoddle Grid from 9am to 5pm on workdays, and especially Mondays and Fridays which have proved popular WFH days.

So, can this work long-term? Can the small business owners who rely on daytime trade be economically sustainable under the "new rhythm"?

It's a considerable concern, and one the council was looking to address.

It has set a fairly ambitious target of having less than five per cent shopfront vacancies within 12 months (down from the current level of 17 per cent) and has a positive outlook on the city's economic future.

Without doubt, the return of international students — a sizeable chunk of the CBD's pre-COVID population — will help the city's economy.

But the new rhythm has already been, and will continue to be, tough on some.

4. Will the bike lane "pause" be lifted?

One of the more controversial CBD stories in 2022 was the City of Melbourne's decision, in June, to defer the rollout of protected bike lanes inside the Hoddle Grid until July 2023.

The move so incensed Melbourne's cycling community that protests formed outside Town Hall and an incredible 1100 submissions were made to the council, the vast majority of which urged it to reconsider the deferment.

Tempers flared and emotions were high, largely as a result of the council's inability to communicate a move that was not as controversial as many were led to believe.

Shovel-ready jobs inside the CBD were not being "paused", as was reported, nor was the council having second thoughts on the wider bike lane rollout.

Rather, it wanted to take stock and work its way through certain traffic issues that had arisen from the introduction of protected lanes.

For example, the installation of bike lanes on Queensbridge St, which connects the Hoddle

Grid with Southbank, saw traffic lanes reduced from four lanes to two and congestion rose sharply as a result.

The episode was an own goal by the council; the Lord Mayor admitted its messaging was "confusing" while Greens councillor Rohan Leppert said the optics as a result of council messaging were "shocking".

However, despite these concessions, the council still did vote (despite 33 public submitters urging them not to) in favour of the deferral in this financial year.

So, will CBD works continue again from July onwards?

New lanes are slated for Bourke St (between Spring and Russell streets), and according to the council the timeframe for those works is 2023-24.

5. Will QVM renewal keep up with targets?

The renewal of Queen Victoria Market is one of the City of Melbourne's biggest-ever projects, and the \$268 million overall investment represents a significant chunk of capital works spending.

In this financial year alone, the council is spending a cool \$50 million.

When the latest budget was announced in May, the council made a number of commitments to projects that would be finished by June 30, 2023.

These included works to restore all 12 heritage sheds, and a completely revamped Food Hall, while construction would also begin on upgrades to the Queen St streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed.

However, as reported in the most recent edition of *CBD News*, these commitments are now looking somewhat shaky.

A recent council report indicated that supply chain difficulties and availability of labour had impacted the market's renewal timelines.

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.

When combined with the ongoing construction industry issues, this has meant that tenants would not be able to start their fit-outs until the New Year, which was later than expected.

It is understood that eight of the market's 12 historic sheds — many of which have been in continuous use since opening in 1878 — have been restored.

However, the council has committed to its original timeline of mid-2023 to complete the final four sheds.

Sticking to these timelines will be essential to the council delivering on the wider commitment to finish overall market improvements by the end 2024, and broader precinct renewal commitments by 2026. ●



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JOURNALIST

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Top honour for the City of Melbourne's major Hoddle Grid Heritage Review

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HERITAGE

One of the most comprehensive heritage reviews to be undertaken in the CBD, which saw more than 100 buildings being protected, has earned the City of Melbourne a prestigious planning honour.

The council took out the strategic planning project award for its Hoddle Grid Heritage Review at the 2022 Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Victorian Awards for Planning Excellence on November 11.

The heritage review was the largest of its kind to be undertaken by a local government in Victoria and the first review of heritage buildings to be conducted in the central city since the 1990s.

Permanent heritage controls were ultimately given to 121 buildings and five precincts within the Hoddle Grid, including Hardware Lane, Flinders Lane, the Waiters Club restaurant, the Hill of Content bookshop, and the Victoria Club building.

The award follows the State Government's decision in September to approve an amendment to the Melbourne Planning Scheme allowing new heritage protections to buildings across the city.

"I am thrilled that the City of Melbourne's brilliant heritage planners have been honoured with this award," Cr Rohan Leppert, the council's heritage portfolio lead said, who also initiated the heritage review in 2016.

"The scale of this project is unprecedented

in local government in Victoria. From the Aboriginal histories to the thematic studies of Melbourne's complicated layers of development, this project has set a new mark for heritage planning."

In announcing the award, the PIA recognised the heritage strategy team and Aboriginal Melbourne at the City of Melbourne for their extraordinary efforts.

"The Hoddle Grid Heritage Review is a comprehensive strategic project which recognises post-war and social significance together with the adoption of a co-research model to assess Aboriginal significance," the PIA said in a statement.

"The judges found the project's collaboration with community, including First Nations and multi-disciplinary input, is visionary in its approach, that offers transferability to other scenarios."

It also noted the project had set a new benchmark for cultural heritage assessment, "engaging with both thematic and spatial analysis to reveal a deep understanding of Melburnians' strong connection to their city".

"It is effective in implementation and provides leadership in identifying and recording Aboriginal significance of places and how these places can be protected."

The council's planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece previously said that the heritage review was a major step to protecting significant buildings for generations to come, and was something to rejoice "for those who have been heartbroken by the loss of too many of



Melbourne's heritage buildings".

The awards night was held at ZINC Federation Square at the PIA's Victorian Celebration of Planning Dinner.

The night recognised organisations that showcase leading practice across a range of planning disciplines, while also promoting planning success. ●



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Two charged following Bourke St fatal stabbing

CRIME

Victorian Police Homicide Squad detectives charged two men on November 4 following the fatal stabbing of a man in Melbourne's CBD on Sunday, October 30.

With assistance from Gang Crime Squad and VIPER Taskforce, warrants were executed at two residential properties in Delahey and Seabrook on November 4.

A 23-year-old Seabrook man and a 20-year-old Delahey man have both been charged with murder, affray, intentionally cause serious injury and intentionally cause injury.

The duo faced Melbourne Magistrates' Court on November 4.

The charges follow an incident where emergency services were called to Bourke St at around 5.45am on October 30 following reports of a group of people fighting.

Two men sustained stab wounds and were conveyed to hospital in a critical condition where a 20-year-old Cranbourne man later died.

The second man remains in hospital. Detective Inspector Dean Thomas from Victoria Police's Homicide Squad said, "I understand what we saw in Melbourne over the weekend has shocked and concerned the community."

"There were a number of instances of young males displaying a willingness to engage in violent, knife-related crime, resulting in the death of one male and serious injury to a number of others."

"Carrying knives will result in tragic outcomes for all parties concerned and the ramifications are severe and life-changing."

"A young man has senselessly lost his life, and a number of families now face a lifetime of grieving."

"Victoria Police made it a priority to find those responsible for this young man's death and hold them to account."

"These arrests follow an exhaustive investigative effort from the Homicide Squad and the Gang Crime Squad and are testament to Victoria Police's strong focus on holding those who commit acts of violence to account."

"It's critical that those who choose to engage in this kind of violent behaviour understand that they will be identified. Police will ensure that all necessary resources are utilised to identify those responsible and hold them to account."

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the incident, has video footage or further information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au ●

Weapons seized, nine arrested in major police operation following stabbings

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A series of Victoria Police operations in the CBD and Carlton has seen an alarming number of weapons seized, including dagger swords, machetes, an axe, and box-cutters.

Nine people were arrested for armed robbery, weapons, and drug-related offences as part of Operation Omni, a beefed-up police presence conducted over the weekend of November 12-13.

The operation came after a stabbing in Bourke St during the early hours of Sunday, October 30 left a 20-year-old Cranbourne man dead, while another two men were stabbed in another incident on King St on the same night.

Two men have been charged with murder in relation to the Bourke St incident, while another four men have been charged with affray.

The major operation involved police from the Melbourne Embona Taskforce and the VIPER Taskforce and Transit unit, which resulted in three dagger swords, two machetes, one axe, two box cutters and two switchblade folding knives being seized.

Among the 647 people searched by police was a 22-year-old man who was caught carrying a flick knife on Collins St. He was issued an

infringement notice for possession of a controlled weapon without a lawful reason.

Seven males, allegedly linked to three armed robberies in Southbank and the CBD, were allegedly armed with edged and controlled weapons, stealing mobile phones and personal cards from their victims, with one of the victims suffering minor injuries. Those arrested were mostly aged between 15 and 17, with an 18-year-old from Deer Park also arrested after they were seen trying to leave the city at Flinders St Railway Station about 1.30am on Sunday, November 13.

Police said all outstanding property was recovered and returned to the victims, with edged weapons also seized. All males arrested have been released with intent to charge on summons, while the investigation continued.

Police also arrested a 21-year-old man at Southern Cross Railway Station where officers allegedly found a small quantity of cannabis, an unlawful possession of prescription drugs of dependence and a switchblade folding knife.

Among the 12 vehicles intercepted during the operation was a 1999 Hyundai Excel on Gratton St, Carlton in which police allegedly uncovered a small quantity of cannabis, an axe, a machete and two box cutters.

The driver, a 33-year-old man, was arrested and charged with weapons, drugs, and

outstanding warrant offences.

Operation Omni regularly runs across different areas of Victoria to detect weapons, protect community safety, gather intelligence, and deter anyone from carrying weapons.

Under the *Control of Weapons Act 1990*, Victoria Police can declare an area a designated area for weapon searches.

These operations are intelligence-led and centre around locations where previous incidents may have occurred, such as licensed premises, transport hubs and shopping centres.

Victoria Police Acting Superintendent Troy Papworth said each life lost to senseless violence was one too many.

"In an ideal world, we would never have to run operations such as these, however we make absolutely no apologies for targeting those carrying weapons and looking for trouble," he said.

"Knowing where these people socialise, who they associate with, and where they are most likely to offend, gives us the best chance of preventing serious crimes from occurring."

"Operations such as these complement the work being done by detectives across the state every day managing high risk persons of interest, such as bail compliance checks, patrols of high-risk community locations, and the execution of search warrants." ●

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Huge win for cyclists as Princes Bridge gets separated lane

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

A physically separated bike lane has been installed on one of the most prominent routes into the CBD, in a huge win for cyclists.

Those using pedal power can now travel without fear of looming vehicles along Princes Bridge, the river crossing for Melbourne's busiest bike corridor, Swanston St-St Kilda Rd.

Cyclists have been calling for separated lanes on the prominent bridge for years as drivers, in particular taxis, have often paid little attention to the previous "painted" lanes.

The new kerb-high barriers ensure the northbound lane can be exclusively used by cyclists.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said these and other separated bike lanes installed throughout the city were crucial.

"Princes Bridge is an iconic Melbourne attraction, in the middle of one of the busiest cycling routes in our city," Cr Capp told *CBD News*.

"We've been working hard to improve the roadway, undertake important waterproofing and install a new set of bluestone lane separators for the northbound bicycle lane."

"These upgrades will help to ensure this busy thoroughfare remains safe for all road users."

Kerbside protected bike lanes separate bike riders from motor traffic, and the physical barriers have been proven to both increase the confidence of cyclists and improve the chances of getting people on two wheels.

The council's 10-year Transport Strategy released in 2019 — which remains its guiding document on transport matters until 2030 and was backed by an independent review in late 2021 — noted that would-be cyclists are far more likely to jump on two wheels with protected lanes.

A survey completed for the report found that just 22 per cent of cyclists are confident riding alongside cars on a painted bike lane, while that number rose to 83 per cent with kerb-high separation.

The new separated cycling lanes are part of wider works on Princes Bridge, which also



▲ A kerb-high barrier was installed in early November.

(Picture: Twitter @michael_of_melb)



▲ Taxi drivers often paid little attention to the previous "painted" bike lanes.

(Picture: Twitter @JulieMilland)

include a multi-million-dollar project to repair the bridge's iconic bluestone.

The works, which the council allocated \$4.1 million to in the 2022-23 budget, include

cleaning existing bluestone blocks, resetting bluestone blocks that have shifted out of alignment, and general conservation works to ensure the longevity of the bridge.

“

These upgrades will help to ensure this busy thoroughfare remains safe for all road users.

”

St Kilda Rd works near completion

For cyclists travelling in the opposite direction — southbound out of the CBD and down St Kilda Rd — significant bike lane works were almost complete at the time of publication.

As one of Victoria's busiest transport corridors and one of the most dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians, the state government told *CBD News* that stage one works between Linlithgow Avenue and Dorcas St would be completed before the end of 2022.

Stage two of the project, between Toorak Rd and Union St, started in November and was expected to be completed by mid-2023.

Around 3500 cyclists ride along St Kilda Rd daily, and the government said cyclists were more likely to be seriously injured by car-dooring (where a driver opens their door in front of an oncoming cyclist) on St Kilda Rd than anywhere else in Melbourne.

"We're working to make St Kilda Rd safer for the 300,000 people who use it every day by physically separating drivers and cyclists," a government spokesperson said.

"When completed the bike lanes will integrate into the new Anzac Station precinct, being built as part of the city-shaping Metro Tunnel Project providing all Victorians with better access to our renowned St Kilda Rd." ●

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COLLINS PLACE

Green your balcony this holiday season

Looking to transform your balcony into a greener and lush space over summer?

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne's Gardens for Wildlife project team has shared a few tips with residents that could not only help improve their outdoor areas but also do their bit for the environment.

"Whether you have a great big backyard or an inner-city apartment balcony or terrace, everyone can play a part in supporting a diverse array of wildlife in our shared urban environments," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said. The municipality is home to 239 species of birds, 12 reptiles, seven frogs, and more than 1500 species of insects.

"Even small balconies can play host to a variety of wildlife – from birds and bees to insects and everything in between," Cr Capp said.

"The Gardens for Wildlife program provides Melburnians with handy tips and tricks to create healthier ecosystems and thriving biodiversity in our city."

While there were challenges around greening balconies, including sunlight, shading from neighbours, and balustrades creating reflective sunlight heat, the program offers some good choices to help support biodiversity in the city.

These include using indigenous plants rather than native plants because they were well adapted to local soils, weather, and conditions.

Indigenous plants are also easiest to maintain once established and need little watering or fertilising, while also being relatively free of pests and diseases.

A striking example is Murnong, the yam daisy which has long, narrow slightly toothed

green leaves with distinctive drooping buds and bright yellow flowers. It grows to a height of 30cm to 50cm and flowers between July and November.

The council, which has a partnership with Bili Nursery in Port Melbourne, has listed the following top 10 indigenous plants:

- Kidney Weed
- Purple Coral Pea
- Tussock Grass
- Flax Lily
- Yellow Paper Daisy
- Yam Daisy, Murnong
- Austral Stork's Bill
- Bushy Needlewood
- Native Fuchsia
- Hop Goodenia

The Gardens for Wildlife team said when greening a balcony, the most important thing was to manage the expectations of one's space while being realistic of the type of wildlife you could attract.

But above all, it said balcony gardens were "really exciting" with an opportunity to "think a little bit differently".

The City of Melbourne is also encouraging residents to volunteer as wildlife garden guides to help preserve the city's biodiversity and protect habitat in community, school, home, and rooftop gardens.

CBD resident Katherine McPherson has been volunteering since 2018 and said the learning experience as well as the connections she had made with the council and her neighbours had been invaluable.

"I really wanted to start introducing native plants into Guildford Lane to support the small birds, the butterflies, the insects that were starting to emerge naturally. People walk up to the lane and say this feels like a community," she said.

"It just brings such joy – I didn't really know

"I really wanted to start introducing native plants into Guildford Lane to support the small birds, the butterflies, the insects that were starting to emerge naturally. People walk up to the lane and say this feels like a community."



anything about plants when I first started, especially indigenous plants, so it's been great learning." ●

For more information:



Pasko Sa: a Filipino Christmas for our seafarers

EVENTS

Melbourne's Filipino community is inviting the wider community to celebrate Christmas and the hard work of our seafarers this festive season with their annual Pasko Sa event at the Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre on Friday, December 2.

This year's Pasko (Christmas in Filipino) Sa will be a celebration of all things festive, from traditional street food and the famous lechon (whole roast pig), to glittering parol lanterns, cultural dances, joyful carols and live music.

Australia is an island nation that relies heavily on shipping for supplies, from fresh produce and medicine to cars and heavy equipment, and COVID-19 highlighted how crucial seafarers are to the maritime industry.

There are around 295,000 Filipino seafarers serving on boats plying the oceans at any given time and in the Port of Melbourne alone, more than 60 per cent of all seafarers on port-call are Filipinos; many of whom will be away from

their loved ones this Christmas.

Victoria's Philippine consul general the Honourable Maria Lourdes Salcedo has welcomed the community proposal to hold the Pasko Sa celebrations in Melbourne this year in dedication to seafarers: Alay sa Marinero (offering to the sailor), with the much-loved Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre Melbourne (SMSC), one of 300 Seafarer Service Providers worldwide, agreeing to hold the event.

Tickets are limited, so book your tickets now at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Proceeds from the night will buy Christmas care packs (a SIM card to call family on Christmas Day, toiletries and food) that Stella Maris will give to seafarers docking in Melbourne in December.

For more information, contact Mila Cichello on 0408 800 288. ●

Tickets: [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



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Council targets less than one in 20 vacant shops next year

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has set a drastic goal to fill empty shopfronts throughout the city, aiming for less than five per cent of vacancies in 2023.

The goal represents a huge shift in a short time and would constitute a 70 per cent drop in empty shops within the next 12 months.

As it stands, almost one in six shopfronts throughout the municipality sits vacant, largely stemming from the economic impact of COVID-19.

This rate (17 per cent), however, had already improved significantly from its peak in November 2021 when more than 30 per cent of shops sat empty following the city's sixth lockdown.

A recent report updating councillors on the progress of its 10-year Economic Development Strategy (EDS), endorsed last year, said strong progress had been made.

"While the current vacancy rate of 17 per cent is still high, it does represent significant improvement and provides confidence in the economy's potential for ongoing improvement and recovery," it read.

However, the City of Melbourne now wants to go further.

As part of the EDS update, the council had now "targeted a shopfront vacancy rate of less than five per cent by 2023".

While progress had been made in populating empty shops throughout the city, it is understood that some of the rehhabited shops within the last 12 months were "COVID-closed" venues — those temporarily closed, or "hibernating" due to the pandemic — that have now opened again with the widespread easing of restrictions.

Filling genuinely vacant shops (from which a small business has left for good) appears to be the far more difficult task for local and state government in the post-COVID era.



▲ The City of Melbourne wants to reduce empty shopfronts from the current rate of 17 per cent to less than five per cent by next year.

The council has attempted numerous ways of ensuring empty shops across the municipality as a result of COVID-19 were repopulated, including its \$2.6 million "shopfront activation program" which sought to transform empty shopfronts into creative spaces, bespoke displays and pop-up shops.

The program has allowed budding entrepreneurs, artists and artisans to test their business ideas in a retail or creative space that is vacant due to the pandemic.

For their part, landlords are covered by insurance while their space is kept tidy and is showcased how it could be utilised for future tenants.

A number of these participating businesses have operated or are currently operating throughout the CBD, including:

- G'Day Kitty (253 Elizabeth St)
- Harlow (Shop T23 The Strand, Driver Lane)
- Hats for Spring Racing (G7, 234 Collins St)
- Infra/Structure (Ground Floor, Shop 5, 10 Pesgrave Place)
- Mr Cuff (6-8 Howey Place)
- The Naughty Vegan (30 Hardware Lane)
- This is not a toy store (265 Little Collins St)

In addition to the ambitious goal of reducing empty shopfronts to under five per cent, the council also set further "interim targets" for the 2023-24 financial year as part of the Economic Development Strategy.

This included an increase to the Gross Local Product from \$107 billion (pre-COVID baseline) to \$120 billion and the number of jobs

“

The momentum that we're seeing in the city right now gives us a sense of moving beyond recovery and is really showing positive signs of jobs growth and productivity

”

from 497,000 to 525,000.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that recent months had suggested the economic outlook for the city was strong, although acknowledged there was still a way to go.

"The momentum that we're seeing in the city right now gives us a sense of moving beyond recovery and is really showing positive signs of jobs growth and productivity," Cr Capp said at the November 8 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"We are mindful, of course, that the rhythm of the city is changing, has changed and will continue to change as that new rhythm settles, and this means that there is inconsistency, there is uncertainty, and there is ongoing hardship for many small [business] traders still and it's important that we keep recognising those different experiences across our economy."

The Lord Mayor said the "ambitious but achievable targets" sent a strong message.

"We want our residents, our business owners and our ratepayers to know that we are definitely not sitting idly by, but together with our team we are actively driving our city's economic development." ●



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Push for swimmable Yarra River by 2030 continues

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ENVIRONMENT

The campaign to create a swimmable Yarra River in central Melbourne by 2030 continues, with leaders converging for a key forum in November.

Overseen by alliance group Regen Melbourne, 35 figures from business, non-profits, universities, state and local governments convened to further develop the vision for a “Swimmable Birrarung” (the traditional name of the Yarra River, meaning “river of mists” in the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung languages) within eight years.

Earlier this year, Regen Melbourne for the first time convened a core group of organisations that were already pushing for a cleaner, sustainable and ultimately “swimmable” river.

These included the likes of Yarra Riverkeeper, Yarra Pools, and the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council.

This “cross-sector uplift” has continued throughout 2022, and on November 17 saw key figures converge for a design forum that, among other things, looked at the major obstacles/challenges to the vision and highlighted project interventions to work on in future.

Later that day, a community workshop was hosted that saw students, public servants, activists, swimmers and authors share stories of their connection to the Birrarung, and their hopes for the “life force that runs through our city”.

Strategy lead at Regen Melbourne Kaj Löfgren said the project continued to evolve.

“This Swimmable Birrarung initiative exists to regenerate the Birrarung Yarra River and in doing so reconnect all Melburnians to the local environment,” he said.

“By working together, we can make this seemingly crazy idea feel possible, and perhaps even inevitable.”

Swimming in the Yarra River is not uncommon even just a few kilometres outside the



▲ Swimmable Birrarung by 2030 Picture: Regan Melbourne's Swimmable Birrarung by 2030 campaign site.

central city.

The Yarra Yabbies swimming group gathers on most days around Deep Rock, 4km up-river from the CBD.

The Regen Melbourne alliance campaign is hopeful of eventually seeing a diverse series of swimming places within a “swimmable corridor” between Dights Falls in Abbotsford all the way down through the CBD/Southbank, Docklands and to Port Phillip Bay.

The group has added some star power to their push, too, with Olympic gold medallist Michael Klim backing the campaign.

“I heard about this great project that you’re all working on, about making the Yarra swimmable ... I think it’s a great idea, let’s make it

“This Swimmable Birrarung initiative exists to regenerate the Birrarung Yarra River and in doing so reconnect all Melburnians to the local environment”



happen,” Klim said in a video message.

“I’d love to be the first one to take those strokes in the Yarra.”

While many have scoffed at the prospect of swimming in city reaches of the Yarra River pointing to its supposed poor water quality, representatives from Regen Melbourne who have conducted in-depth research on swimming in urban environments have previously told *CBD News* it was nothing other large cities had not overcome.

Prior to the November 26 Victorian Election, the Greens promised \$40 million to realising the Yarra River Strategic Plan, part of which includes a desire to continue the tradition of swimming in the river. ●

Labor pledges \$400K to Chinese New Year Festival

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

A re-elected Victorian Labor Government says it will provide \$400,000 for the Melbourne Chinatown Chinese New Year Festival.

As part of a \$12 million program to “support multicultural festivals and events, across our state”, Premier Daniel Andrews and Labor’s candidate for Melbourne Rebecca Thistleton announced the commitment to support Chinatown’s annual Chinese New Year event.

“For more than 42 years, the Melbourne Chinatown Chinese New Year Festival has delighted and entertained Victorians, with up to 100,000 people coming together to enjoy the entertainment and attractions,” a statement from Premier Andrews said.

“Victoria’s cultural diversity is what makes our state great – and multicultural festivals and events are an important way to celebrate the contribution communities have made – and continue to make.”

“Labor is doing what matters – we’ll support multicultural festivals and events that celebrate dance, music, language, art and food, making sure they’re bigger and better than ever.”

Ms Thistleton said her party would “keep doing what matters” in backing important Chinese community celebrations in the CBD.

“Victoria’s Chinese community is an essential part of Melbourne’s story and our Chinatown is the oldest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. This investment will celebrate and share that contribution,” she said.

The commitment by Labor, which followed other funding pledges for numerous other cultural events around the city such as Chinese New Year in Box Hill, is understood to have been pushed behind the scenes by City of Melbourne councillor Philip Le Liu. ●

Affordable housing to be pursued as part of A’Beckett St sale

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne says it wants to “incorporate into the potential sales terms” an incentive for a future developer to provide affordable housing at an A’Beckett St property which it is putting on the open market.

In June this year, the council listed four of its properties for proposed divestment, after deeming them as unsuitable for any of its current or future “community, social or recreational infrastructure services”.

A property at 100-104 A’Beckett St, most recently used as a staging post for the council’s cleaning program during COVID-19, was among the four properties proposed for sale, along with 47-49 Canning St, Carlton, 505-513 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne and 30-38 Gatehouse Drive, Kensington.

The A’Beckett St property, which has a heritage overlay, had been home to a council-operated childcare centre prior to the pandemic but has now deemed surplus to requirement after not being used for any council services since 2021.

A community engagement report into the proposal, which was considered by councillors at its November 22 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, found that among the 250 respondents to the mooted sale of 100-104 A’Beckett St, 81 per cent supported its retention.

Many of the respondents in favour of retaining the building said they supported its use for affordable housing or other community services such as childcare or “other community use”, while many wanted to preserve its heritage.

But while the council was expected to move ahead with selling the property, the report tabled at the November 22 FMC meeting said there was potential for the sale of A’Beckett St to “deliver on City of Melbourne’s Affordable



Housing Strategy 2020-2030”.

The report said the council would seek to do this by “providing purchasers an incentive to undertake the development of social/affordable housing on the site”.

Councillors were expected to support the recommendation after the December/January edition of *CBD News* went to press. ●



Sean Car
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Melbourne Theosophical Society turns a page with new-look bookshop

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The CBD’s Melbourne Theosophical Society (MTS) has announced its iconic metaphysical bookshop and library has reopened with a new-look community space.

The bookshop was temporarily closed while a new fit-out was undertaken as part of a restructure designed to revitalise MTS’s charitable services and draw more people through its doors.

The Society’s board decided to merge the bookshop and library, which occupied separate spaces at 234 Flinders Lane, after having become a victim of online competitors and COVID-19 lockdowns.

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

The bookshop, which launched on November 24, will now open on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 4pm.

A new portal lounge will be a feature of the new space allowing patrons to comfortably read or buy books of interest or enjoy weekday book talks, music and discussion groups for customers and members “to enjoy for many years to come,” according to MTS’s acting president Stephen Fyalko.

He said the new design would be more cost effective and better promote theosophy along with MTS’s courses and other activities, in part through the reading, borrowing, and selling of books.

“The MTS is uniquely and credibly placed, with no ties to any religion or ideology, to provide impetus and meaning to the truth – in a time of rising suffering, fear and despair – that we can practically work together to make the world a much better place in our own lifetimes,



▲ Melbourne Theosophical Society acting president Stephen Fyalko celebrate the reopening of its bookshop and community space.

especially for our children,” Mr Fyalko said.

Later this year more open space will be created with a central reception area for access to the library, bookshop, Portal Lounge, meditation room and meeting room where other events and courses will be offered.

The MTS said unfortunately the bookshop would no longer be able to take on-line or in-store book orders as such transactions were now dominated by online booksellers with whom the MTS was unable to compete.

“Patrons will of course be able to purchase books found in the library from these sources should they wish to do so,” Mr Fyalko said.

“The T.S. Bookshop will continue to maintain a large and contemporary collection of relevant books and resources and will welcome patron advice on books to be purchased for the library or bookshop.”

Mr Fyalko apologised and asked for understanding for any inconvenience caused by the organisational and physical restructure which he characterised as “necessary growth which will benefit all customers into the foreseeable future”.

The MTS welcomes to everyone to visit, use the facilities and/or become a member. ●



▲ Block Arcade (1967). Photo: Mark Strizic. Image courtesy of State Library of Victoria.



More vintage Melbourne

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

HISTORY

A sequel to *Old Vintage Melbourne* has been released, this time a compilation of photographs taken between 1960 and 1990.

Many of the photographs focus on the CBD and were collected from the archive by lawyer Chris Macheras.

The first book, published in October 2021, arose out of an Instagram account.

Mr Macheras began posting the pics on social media to beat the pandemic blues and the project has grown from there.

According to publishers Scribe Publications the book “provides a fascinating glimpse of a time that is familiar and yet different, when significant changes started to affect the city and its suburbs”.

“As historic city buildings were demolished and streetscapes altered, Melbourne embraced modernity. The skyline grew, and so did suburban shopping centres.”

The social media page attracted almost

80,000 followers within a year.

“It was just a little project that I started just out of interest, there was no real intention behind it for it to become what it’s become,” Mr Macheras told *CBD News*, but added he was spurred on by his followers to publish his work in print.

What began as a project to escape the monotony of lockdown has now blossomed into a sequel. “This sequel is my love letter to Melburnians who grew up here throughout the decades depicted in the book; 1960-1990,” Mr Macheras said.

“While there is a focus on Central Melbourne, the book goes out to the suburbs, and I think it captures elements of our culture that shaped our city today.”

“You will find images that provide an insight into things like food and wine culture, fashion, sport, immigration, architecture and more.”

“There was a huge appetite from my Instagram followers. I recognised that they were always engaging with photos from these decades because they were there. It was the fact these photos trigger a nostalgia that is heart-warming and endearing.” ●

Magpie Meals Project soars in to help battle food insecurity

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

COMMUNITY

Collingwood Football Club has been provided the opportunity to continue collaborating with Meals with Impact after being selected as a 2023 City of Melbourne Connected Community Grants program recipient.

The grants program has provided the Magpie Meals Project with \$20,000, which will help it to continue to grow and offer its services into the new year.

Established in February, the project not only provides employment for women of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, but allows them to co-design, produce and deliver culturally appropriate meals for vulnerable communities in Melbourne.

Collingwood AFL, AFLW and netball players will also continue to volunteer their time to cook alongside the employees.

The development of the project comes as food insecurity rises, and the lack of culturally appropriate food that became clearly apparent during the COVID lockdowns has only confirmed the importance of supporting this project.

“Last year, one in three Melburnians experienced a degree of food insecurity, so we’re eager to work with Collingwood and Meals with Impact to make sure that our most vulnerable are supported,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“We’re proud to support a project which not only provides women with meaningful and fulfilling employment pathways but is also dedicated to ensuring all Melburnians have access to nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food.”

Magpie Meals Project is one of 74 community not-for-profit organisations that have received up to \$20,000, and of the 74 selected, 38 per cent were first-time applicants.

When selecting the recipients for next year,



Cr Capp said it was important to select projects that “deliver impactful and empowering outcomes for our residents and communities”.

Upon being recognised for the work done to support those who were more vulnerable in the community, Meals with Impact co-founder Harris Ryan expressed his thanks to the council.

“[The] funds from the City of Melbourne will greatly assist the operational activity of the Magpie Meals program, [as] we rely on funding to employ more women to produce relevant food support for Melbourne’s culturally diverse communities,” Mr Ryan said.

“We thank the City of Melbourne for seeing the value in this program and allowing us to continue this work in 2023.” ●

More funding for CBD revitalisation

ECONOMY

The Victorian Government has announced a further \$50.4 million has been provided to the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a partnership between the government and the City of Melbourne.

Announced by Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Ben Carroll on November 1, the latest round of funding includes \$25.4 million for projects to attract businesses from diverse industries and help encourage more people to visit, live and work in the inner city.

The funding includes a \$4 million investment “to boost the state’s social enterprise sector” by helping to create Australia’s first dedicated precinct at Queen Victoria Market to enable the “sector to grow, innovate and create around 100 jobs”.

A further \$10 million will support

Melbourne’s status as a leading international student city, supporting upgrades to the Study Melbourne Student Centre and creation of arrival packs for newly arrived students from around the world.

The government says it will also provide \$5 million toward a new “pop-up live performance venue” to attract new audiences and activate “underused parts of the CBD”. According to government documents revealed by *The Age*, the pop-up venue was being proposed for Docklands by live music company Live Nation.

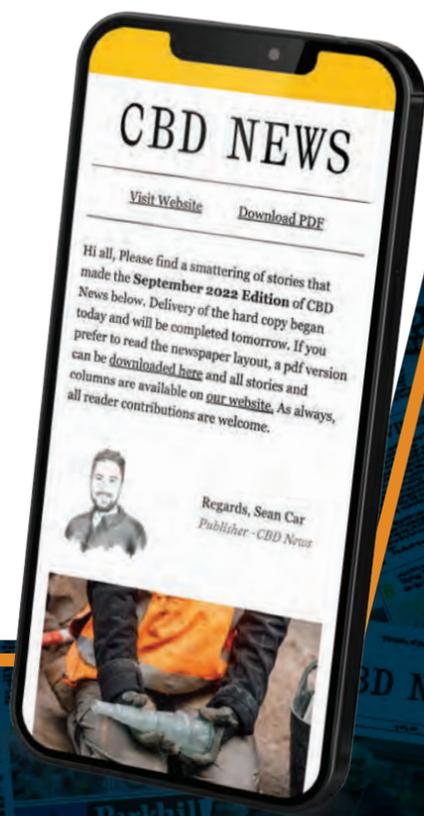
In response to the impacts of COVID-19, the government’s \$200 Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund and \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, has provided funding for festivals, events, public infrastructure works to bring people into the city. ●

CBD NEWS

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Your City of Melbourne community update

SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Get set for Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations

Welcome 2023 in spectacular style with the city's biggest-ever New Year's Eve celebrations.

We know Melburnians have missed the chance to celebrate together, so we're marking the end of 2022 in style.

If you're planning to head into the city, the best place to see the fireworks is from one of our four Celebration Zones. But you can see them from anywhere you can see the city skyline, or even watch on TV.

Here are six ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in Melbourne:

1. Be dazzled by a firework display from 30 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for family-friendly fun like live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and extra fireworks at 9.30pm.
3. Book a table at one of the dozens of hospitality venues offering special New Year's Eve feasts.
4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by the Falls Festival.
6. Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

Safety remains our number one priority and a detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing

of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and other emergency services.

Revelers are encouraged to plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues and act responsibly.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the city and the Christmas Festival are supported by the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund - a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/nye

City sparkles in light of new photography tours



Slow down and see the city in an unexpected light with a festive series of city photography tours.

Borrow a 35mm film camera for the day and get tips for framing the city like a pro, in a festive series of photography walking tours.

The two-hour Christmas Film Photowalks are designed to reveal the city's understated gems.

Even if you've spent your life in and around the city, there's still something new to discover every day, according to City Precinct president Carly Michael. Her family ran iconic Michaels Camera and Video in Elizabeth Street for 45 years.

This new series of walking tours is designed to enhance your photography skills, slow your pace and open your eyes to places and small businesses you've never seen before.

'With all the Christmas decorations and activities happening in the city,

we think it'll be a beautiful way to see the city,' Carly said.

'There's something magical about taking photos with film,' Carly said. After the tour, the film will be converted to digital files, ready for our social feeds in peak sparkle season.

The tours will also introduce participants to small business owners and artisans in postcode 3000.

'What makes Melbourne unique are the laneways and the small quirky businesses you find when you're looking for something else,' Carly said.

City Precinct received funding for its Christmas events through the Melbourne City Recovery Fund - a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

TO BOOK, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au and search 'Christmas Film Photowalks'

Shine local: Christmas in your precinct

Christmas in the city: Explore epic Christmas Festival events across the CBD. Look for the Roving Drag Santa in Degrafs Street and nearby laneways on 3 and 4 December. Christmas Film Photowalk: 4 to 8 December. Christmas Walking Tour: Saturday 10 December.

Roller Rink giveaways in Carlton: Look for Italian Christmas biscuit giveaways, roving performers, and gift vouchers for iconic Carlton shops, from 10 to 24 December.

Kensington Christmas Fair: Live music on the main stage, free activities, performers, magicians, face painting, food and gift stalls, giveaways and Santa. Saturday 3 December in Bellair Street from 10am to 4pm.

Little Korea Christmas Festival: Korean culture and street food, with market stalls, music and decorations. Sunday 18 December in Little Lonsdale St and Healeys Lane from 11am to 5pm.

Christmas cheer in North and West Melbourne: Enjoy choirs, buskers, giveaways and roving Christmas characters. Look for Santa in a fire truck. Enter the Christmas raffle, go late-night shopping and enjoy free gift-wrapping.

South Wharf Christmas Choir and Film: Family carols concert and screening of *The Grinch* on the Common Lawn on Dukes Walk in South Wharf. Sunday 18 December from 5pm to 8pm.

Gift-wrapping on Collins Street: Gift-wrapping in Howey Place. From 10am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas, starting 8 December.

Laneway party in the Greek Quarter: Music, performers and Greek treats from local venues. Waratah and Heffernan lanes, Sunday 18 December from midday to 4pm.

Twilight markets in Docklands: Stock up on stocking-fillers at the District Docklands Twilight Christmas Market on 10 December from 3pm to 8pm. And at the Docklands NewQuay Twilight Xmas Market on 17 December from midday to 8pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Your City of Melbourne community update



HOW TO HAVE A TREE-MENDOUS CHRISTMAS IN MELBOURNE

Roller-skate in Carlton, swing on a giant bell and head to the iconic Myer Christmas windows to celebrate 100 years of Disney this festive season.

The Christmas Festival is well underway, with decorations bringing colour and joy to every corner of the city.

Fed Square has been transformed into Christmas Square with Santa's workshop, our stunning 16.5 metre LED Christmas tree and festive entertainment galore.

Our popular Christmas Projections have returned to Town Hall, plus a new showstopping projection on Flinders Street opposite Fed Square.

We've also welcomed back the String Bean Alley Christmas Night Markets at Queen Victoria Market, the giant Christmas Maze in Docklands and the Christmas Carnival at Birrarung Marr.

Pillars of Light, a Chanukah celebration for all Melburnians, and Koorie Krismas, a First Nations celebration at Fed Square, are also bringing communities together in celebration.

Exciting additions to this year's festival program include:

- a roller-skating rink in Carlton
- a pop-up playground at Queensbridge Square with bell swings, a dance floor and an interactive orchestra
- the Christmas Eve Circus Spectacular, bringing festive cheer to Town Hall.

We're also supporting small events across the city, such as Christmas markets, workshops and laneway parties, through our Christmas Collective grants program. So there's plenty more to discover.

The Christmas Festival runs until 25 December.

All attractions are free, except the Christmas Eve Circus Spectacular, which is raising money for the Good Giving appeal for Make Room - a City of Melbourne project creating new pathways out of homelessness.

Major partners include the Victorian Government, Fed Square and TAC.

PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Make a difference to Melburnians in need this Christmas by donating to our Good Giving program.

Homelessness is a complex and confronting issue that can affect anyone at any point in their lives.

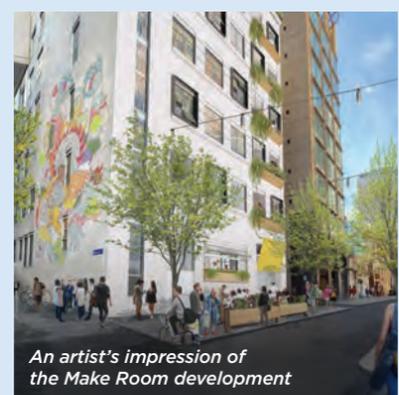
We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing. That's why Homes Melbourne, a special entity of the City of Melbourne, is committed to ending homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

By donating to our Good Giving campaign this festive season, you will support Make Room and help those who need it most.

About Make Room

We're stepping up to address homelessness by working in partnership with the Victorian Government, Unison, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The \$20 million Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services, and other support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they are connected with long-term housing. We are currently raising funds to complete a dedicated floor for women, who are the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness in our city.



An artist's impression of the Make Room development

How to help

By giving direct to Make Room, you are helping provide for people's immediate needs and deliver the crucial, long-term support they need to exit homelessness.

Donate at lmc.org.au/makeroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whats.on.melbourne.vic.gov.au



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Ukrainian war refugee embraces new life at Queen Vic Market

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

Queen Victoria Market trader Khalilulla Dydar counts every day as a blessing. It was only in February that he and his family were dodging missile strikes in Ukraine after their home came under threat from a wave of Russian attacks.

He and his 45 extended family members were separated by the war after Russian forces attacked Odessa, destroying the city's military infrastructure and residential homes, which saw dozens of innocent people killed and wounded.

"Our children heard the alarms and the rockets and were scared. We were forced to shelter in underground cellars," the 32-year-old recalled.

"At first when the war started, I didn't want to leave but then my brother called me from Kyiv. He said he could see Russian tanks from his apartment on the 12th floor.

"We made the decision that life would not be possible if we stayed," Khalilulla said, adding that he and his brothers went to Romania while other family members in Kyiv fled to Poland.

But with nowhere to live they decided to go to Germany where they met another hurdle in not being able to speak Polish or German, which made Europe a "difficult place to make a new life".

"I Googled countries where English was spoken and where we could go without visas," Khalilulla said, after which they found themselves land in Ireland.

But after hearing about an opportunity for



▲ Khalilulla Dydar at Queen Victoria Market.

Ukrainians to come to Australia, Khalilulla applied for a humanitarian visa which saw he and his wife, and three children arrive in Melbourne on July 9.

Khalilulla initially tried to find a variety of jobs but was ambitious to start his own business. He approached refugee micro-finance provider Thrive for a loan, which led him to

opening a stall at Queen Victoria Market called Smart Goods where he sells mobile accessories, LED caps and glasses.

"I'm very happy," he said, adding he planned to grow his business and build a new life, but as a temporary visa holder, he remained cautiously confident of his future.

"From the first day in Australia, I was feeling comfortable. It's a free country with many different people. Here at the market, there are people from China, Vietnam, and different parts of Europe like one family," he explained.

"In Australia we feel fully free. My kids are happy here; they are studying English and looking forward to starting school."

"We are enjoying the river and nature in Melbourne and the multicultural nature of its people. Nobody cares about the colour of your skin or the size or shape of your eyes."

The launch of his stall at the market on September 24 is an incredible journey for the Afghanistan-born Khalilulla who, along with his family, also faced danger under the Taliban rule in their home country.

"I remember playing in the street and the Taliban started firing. My mum called me in just as bullets started striking just a metre away from me," he said.

Khalilulla left for the Soviet Union with his older brothers in 1996 as a six-year-old, before later fleeing to Ukraine where he was united with his parents in 2014.

While in Ukraine, he got his first taste of running a family-run wholesale business selling umbrellas and other accessories across Ukraine and other parts of Europe. ●

Federation Square is city's Christmas HQ

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Federation Square is transforming itself into Melbourne's Christmas headquarters this year, and with a program full of lively, uplifting performances and events, it is sure to have even the Grinch smiling.

The Christmas Festival is presented by the City of Melbourne, with support from the Victorian Government and Federation Square, and it is a time for Melburnians to come together and share in some good fun and laughs.

"Federation Square is Melbourne's headquarters of festive fun this year and we're always proud to play host to celebrations for this special time of year," Melbourne Arts Precinct Co.'s director of programming and interpretation Sarah Tutton said.

"We have a jam-packed calendar of free events and activities that you can enjoy with the whole family, from live choirs, a visit with Santa at his workshop, free films on the big screen, the Pillars of Light Festival, to Koorie Krismas and much more."

"We're happy to bring you a joyful holiday season, in partnership with the City of Melbourne and Koorie Heritage Trust, ACMI and NGV."

For all Christmas enthusiasts who love getting a jumpstart on putting up their Christmas tree and the sounds of festive tunes, then make sure to head down to the square from November 25.

Not only will the atmosphere be filled with the voices of a host of choirs singing in a range of musical styles, but the night sky will be lit up with larger-than-life festive decorations, twinkling lights and the iconic 16.5-metre LED Christmas tree.

Santa's Workshop will also be set up from late November, with Santa and his helpers paying a visit from the North Pole in the lead up to Christmas.

The festivities will then continue well into December with performance art duo The Huxleys taking over the



▲ Christmas at Federation Square.

Photo: Liam Neal.

square with *As Camp as Christmas* on December 9, from 4.30pm to 10pm. Live performances from the Rainbow Voices Community Choir, and a free screening of *The Wizard of Oz* will also take place.

Koorie Heritage Trust will then fill the square with family-friendly market stalls and performances the following day, and Koorie Klaus will also be making a special appearance.

The magical and mystical continues with *Christmas in the Wizarding World*, which will include a day full of trivia, costume competitions, virtual wand workshops and a free screening of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

The event will take place on December 16, in partnership with Warner Bros, and giveaways will also be available.

Pillars of Light Festival will also provide live performances, talks, and the ceremonial lighting of the 12-foot-high Menorah to commemorate Chanukah, from December 18 to 23.

Although December is already set to be a jam-packed month for Federation Square, the celebrations don't stop there, with plans already in place to count down to the beginning of the new year.

As well as live DJs encouraging



people to spend the night dancing, students from the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music will also have an art and sound show running on the night for people as they take in their final night of 2022. ●

For more information:
fedsquare.com

Caretaker's Cottage plans to expand while respecting a popular city park

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The co-owner of a tiny CBD bar nestled within a popular urban park has given assurances that their plans to expand their outdoor area would be respectful of the surrounding space.

The Caretaker's Cottage, which occupies an iconic century-old blue-stone building at Little Lonsdale St, launched six months ago, and has continued to grow in popularity, with management now hoping to extend its outdoor licensed area to the concrete bench seats of the Wesley Place green space, while also increasing its patron capacity from 50 to 80.

But the bar's co-owner Matthew Stirling maintained they had been "very careful" in their approach and would ensure the amenity of the area, which included the Wesley Church, residential buildings, businesses, and the open space, was respected.

"We definitely think it's important to maintain a comfortable, clean, and safe space," he said.

"It's very much a communal space that we want people to enjoy."

Under the proposal being considered by the City of Melbourne, there would be no music played including at background levels in the new outdoor area, which would cover an area of 25.6 square metres.

Trading in the outdoor area would also not extend beyond 11pm on any given day and be limited to 30 patrons.

"Further, the premises will continue to operate in accordance with the requirements of the planning permit, liquor licence and patron management plan, all of which contain sufficient safeguards to protect the amenity of the area," the bar's planning application said.

Since the bar's opening in March, Mr Stirling said his team had been "really vigilant" in running the business responsibly.

In fact, such is their success, that



▲ Caretaker's Cottage team.



▲ The Caretaker's Cottage has plans to expand their outdoor area and patron capacity.

the venue was recently named one of the world's best in the World's 50 Best Bars list, having taken out 60th place.

Mr Stirling said they were thrilled with the news, which was a "completely unexpected recognition".

"We've worked really hard, and we're so proud," he said, with the venue offering a mix of classic and contemporary cocktails and beer.

"Luckily for us, the timing of our opening [after COVID lockdowns] meant that we haven't really had to deal with any tricky conditions."

"We're very happy. We've been really lucky to just be consistent and just grow each week, which is something we're really grateful for given just what the landscape hospitality has been for the last couple of years."

East Enders residents' group president Dr Stan Capp said the bar was well managed without any concerns about noise having been raised and hoped the public space and the expansion of the outdoor area would work harmoniously together if the plans were approved. ●

The *CBD* Rhythm

Much-loved festive staple spreads Christmas joy flawlessly

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

The official opening night of award-winning *A Christmas Carol* kicked off on Friday, November 18 at the Comedy Theatre, leaving audience members positively buzzing and filled with Christmas cheer.

A classic staple over the festive season, the production first premiered at London's The Old Vic in 2017, before then appearing on Broadway and winning an impressive five Tony Awards.

Based on the Charles Dickens' timeless 1843 novella, the Australian production of *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Matthew Warchus (*Matilda the Musical*) and written by playwright Jack Thorne (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*), remained loyal to the themes of hope and redemption while making it its own.

Brought to life by a strong cast of performers, including a flawless and dedicated performance from David Wenham as the selfishly bitter and greedy main character of Ebenezer Scrooge, *A Christmas Carol* is one that seamlessly transports the audience from viewers to participants.

"The story follows the character of Ebenezer Scrooge, and I would say it is about the paths we choose and the choices we make, and this particular character made choices that have isolated him from everybody who loves him or wants to love him," Sarah Morrison, who plays Scrooge's love interest Belle, told *CBD News*.

"He then finds himself at a crossroad and is offered a choice to redeem himself when three



▲ Scenes from *A Christmas Carol* at Comedy Theatre.

ghosts visit him on Christmas Eve; the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future."

The performance opened with pre-show festivities and musical performances that lightened the mood, before Scrooge then entered the stage determined to diminish any enthusiasm and cheer that remained.



Photo: Jeff Busby.

As the play unravelled and pivotal moments of Scrooge's life were acted out on stage, willed on by the ghosts of Christmases past, present and future, a multitude of emotions followed.

"Most people know the story of *A Christmas Carol*, but the way it is staged and reimagined is really interactive and exciting, and I think

we have all been surprised by how moving it actually is, especially at this time of year which can be [both] a happy and sad time for many people," Ms Morrison said.

"That's why I would encourage people to come along, because if you think you know what you are going to get, I would hedge my bet that you will be surprised."

While the production was filled with moments that were heartbreaking and painful to watch, Mr Wenham's comedic timing could just as quickly lighten the mood with his character's carefully crafted quick witted one-liners.

The shift into different scenes and dramatic pivotal moments were also enhanced by magical elements that were highly imaginative, transformative, and eerie when it needed to be.

Audience participation in one particular scene even saw the audience having to pass along props from the back of the theatre to the front, while watching as potatoes, limes and apples travelled down a material sheet from the balcony to the stage.

Entertaining to the very end, it was a profound example of a heartwarming production that could make chaos its friend and leave you cheerfully humming Christmas carols long into the night. ●

For more information:

christascarolaustralia.com.au



▲ Chelsea Hopper with the first day's collection of work.

Who is the general public?

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

The spirit of Marcel Duchamp is being honoured in a show at 99% gallery in the Nicholas Building called *The General Public*.

The show honours the avant-garde movement which aimed to break down boundaries between "elite" galleries and everyday life.

The gallery sent an open call-out for exhibitors and on the first day 56 aspiring artists delivered work.

Curator and gallery director Chelsea Hopper wasn't sure what to expect and was calling for anything from napkin doodles to caricatures and ready-mades.

"Being in an exhibition is a privilege for an artist," she said. "If you open it up it can be anyone. It's quite special and emotional despite how technically skilled you are."

She will hang all of the work in *The General Public*, document it and analyse it for her PhD.

She said the idea of an open exhibition had never been done before in Melbourne, but it had happened in New York.

The New York exhibition last year was called *The Patriot* and there were more than 200 exhibits.

"They had to call the police because too many people rocked up to the opening," Hopper said.

She said the original idea came from the conceptual artist Marcel Duchamp who ran a similar exhibition in New York in 1917.

"You had to pay to get into the salon," she said. "The work was hung alphabetically in a big group show."

The Melbourne show is free of charge. All you had to do was turn up with work under your arm at a specified time and you were in.

First cab off the rank was a woman with a fantasy painting in a hand-made frame. Someone brought a bag of rocks, another some Cliff energy bars for rock climbing, another a photograph of their parents' wedding. But by far the biggest group of exhibitors were painters.

"There's an assumption about being an artist that you have a palette and beret," Hopper said. "There is a lot of pink acrylic paint."

The General Public, 99%, Nicholas Building, from November 26 until December 10. ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
R.DREDGE@HOTMAIL.COM

Flinders Lane Gallery fundraises for Foodbank with fun and unique aprons

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Flinders Lane Gallery's (FLG) artists have been hard at work creating unique works of art on high-quality Worktones aprons in an effort to raise funds for Foodbank Australia.

While the gallery has initiated several different fundraisers in the past, and for a range of charities, FLG director Claire Harris told *CBD News* why it was so important to do something for Foodbank.

"With the economic uncertainty and genuine struggles across Australia, Foodbank was an obvious choice to be able to contribute to helping provide food security to people in desperate situations," she said.

"These aprons will make gorgeous, exclusive gifts for your special someone in your life, be they a magician in the kitchen, a queen of the green gardening guru, or a happy and hale hobbyist. On top of that you will be directly helping feed hungry Australians."

Bidding for the aprons has already begun through AirAuctioneer, and will continue until Friday, December 9, where the highest bid will be set as the reserve price for a special, limited ticketed in-person auction.

Online there are already 21 aprons up for grabs, with a possible four more to come, and all the artists involved have produced works that are completely original and diverse.

"Chelsea Gustafsson's cheeky doughnut apron is a fun theme that crosses the food reference and is a great example of both the artist's quirky humour and brilliant realist style," Ms Harris said.

"Amber-rose Hulme has painted the iconic Melbourne landmark of Hosier Lane on her apron, [and] multi-award-winning artist Annika Romeyn has covered her apron in her muse – the turbulent ocean waters of Guerilla Bay."

"I've even painted one; a little garden scene that has a rainbow of herbs in support of our wonderful LGBTIQ+ community culminating in a little pot of gold at the end of a tie."

The live auction will take place at FLG on Sunday, December 11, during the afternoon, where if no-one outbids the reserve price, the highest online bid will be determined as the winner. ●



▲ Clockwise L-R: Artists' Amber-rose, Annika and Chelsea.

For more information:



The *CBD* Rhythm

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

KAYLAH@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

BUSINESS

Property market update with Ray White

There has been plenty of commentary in the media regarding rate changes and the impacts on the property market.

WORDS BY *Andrew Salvo*
RAY WHITE SOUTHBANK

Many of our clients have been asking what these changes mean for their property and the inner-city market.

Our experience over the last three months has been quite positive, buyer activity has increased with many properties being sold with multiple offers on the table and auctions with a minimum of two bidders delivering a clearance rate of 75 per cent.

Why are we experiencing this activity?

Melbourne rentals have experienced the fastest increase over the last several years.

Many investors sold out during the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced stock dramatically.

As Australia reopened its borders and Melbourne came out of lockdown, we have seen a surge of interstate/international migration (including international student arrivals), putting even more pressure on the rental market.

Our office unit rentals have jumped 37 per cent over the year from the lows during COVID-19, reaching up to an average of \$530 a week. That equates to a jump of \$155 per week since September 2021. Rents are now above pre-COVID levels and still on the rise.

Buyer motivation and sentiment

With rents increasing, it is still making more sense to buy, evidenced by the sheer number of first home buyers and inner-city residents we are meeting who were previously renting in the area and now opting to purchase their own home.

Analysts continue to report that more investors are entering the market again, because rents are on the rise supporting the investment income.

Rising interest rates are reducing the loan



▲ Ray White Southbank Team.

sizes, resulting in a lowered borrowing capacity for many buyers.

This shift is pushing buyers to more affordable suburb in the inner-city.

With the dust of the federal election now settled and buyers coming to terms with interest rate rises, there is more certainty in the economy and buyer confidence to make decisions.

What does this activity mean for property values?

To assess this properly it is best to compare the activity in inner-city today to the same

period in 2021 (historically low interest rates, albeit Melbourne was in lock down from 5 August to October 2021) and 2019 (a pre-COVID-19 pandemic market and home loan rates were at a similar level to what's on offer today).

The closure of our borders and general disruption caused by the pandemic and Melbourne lockdowns had a bigger impact of property prices in City of Melbourne than the increase of interest rates.

City of Melbourne has clearly rebounded to where it left off.

What should sellers do?

With buyers demonstrating confidence in the current market, sellers should be doing the same, knowing that prices and activity is back to where it was pre the COVID-19 pandemic.

The properties performing best in the market are those which are ready to move in, with no renovation/maintenance required. With the current surge in renovating and materials costs, most buyers are looking for a turnkey solution right from settlement day.

For more information: raywhitesouthbank.com.au ●

Re-defining Melbourne's property management industry

In the last instalment of this three-part series uncovering the issues and opportunities in Melbourne's inner-city property management market with Re-define Real Estate's Philip Middlemiss, we ask "where to next?" for an industry under severe pressure.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Mr Middlemiss's story is a cautionary tale, not of pity-pandering, but of a need to educate and inform rental providers (landlords), tenants and agents of the dark underbelly of our city's leasing market.

After significant deliberation and a long process of due diligence, Mr Middlemiss purchased a business and with it a rent roll of 520 properties, almost entirely within Melbourne's inner-city apartment market.

What he alleges to have found, was a network of properties in various states of disrepair, apartments overloaded with tenants, and huge amounts of rental arrears.

"It was horrific," Mr Middlemiss said. "After the four-month retention period, we had a mass exodus of clients who no longer wished to use our services; most running from the requirements of the new legislation, claiming that they would be 'self-managing' their properties".

What he also uncovered was a culture of agents assisting these rental providers to avoid doing the right thing.

According to Mr Middlemiss, you need to ask yourself, how do you know if your agent is doing the right thing?

He says it is easy for these agents to discount fees when they are only doing half of the work, and cautions any investor who has secured a bargain management fee, encouraging them to look deeper into what the agent will do in return for taking the fee.

Mr Middlemiss estimates the dollar value of loss to his business in less than a year to be around \$500,000.

Instead of wallowing in both financial and personal pain from the experience, he is turning his experience into a platform to revolutionise



the property management industry by bringing technology and flexibility to the forefront.

With the advent of a new arm to his business, Respect Residential, which sees a dedicated team carrying out routine inspection for agencies, Mr Middlemiss is already in talks with other city-based agents, about how he can help divert their workload into a specialised service.

"Compliance documentation is exhaustive for rental providers and agents, working with trust accounts can be overwhelming, maintenance is time consuming and routine inspections are often dreaded; that's why I'm removing those tasks from the traditional property management job, so agents can dedicate their time to speaking with rental providers and overcoming

any issues they may have," he said.

"We now have the technology that allows our team to operate much more effectively and efficiently; we have embraced this change and have created much more flexible working conditions for those studying or returning to the workforce."

"With Respect Residential, we are offering \$40 to \$50 an hour for someone to work the hours they want and have their own business to fit in their own lifestyle."

With this revolution of a traditional property manager, or as he calls them "Relationship Managers," Mr Middlemiss is not only hoping to increase productivity, but also the quality of work and life of those within the industry. "We can do more as employers to support the mental health of our employees. We need to ensure the industry, which has already lost 30 per cent of its workforce, moves with the times and creates a safe and rewarding environment."

"If your agent is not doing the right thing, you as the landlord could be tens of thousands of dollars short at the end of your dealings, but we also need to be compassionate to those who are doing the right thing."

To discuss any issues read in this series with Mr Middlemiss please call 0402 840 674.

For more information: re-define.com.au ●

SKYPAD LIVING

How cyber-secure are our vertical villages?

Technology has changed the landscape of when, where and how crimes are committed – and our vertical villages have already been breached!

WORDS BY *Dr Janette Corcoran*
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

While central to the way we live our lives, our increased use of technology has also seen dramatic increases in the frequency and reach of many crimes. According to the World Economic Forum, cyberattacks, together with data fraud or theft, make up two of the top 10 global risks facing the world today.

Generically referred to as cyber-crimes, Victoria Police uses this term to describe a broad range of offences against both "the person" (such as stalking and extortion) and against property (such as hacking and online scams).

And our residential strata sector has already been targeted.

Take the instance of SSKB (a Queensland-based

body corporate and community management firm). On October 27, 2022, SSKB reported that a third party had accessed its IT network, downloaded data and demanded a ransom.

A statement from SSKB said, "as soon as we became aware of the unauthorised access, we deactivated the systems involved and secured our IT environment."

"We are working as swiftly as possible to determine what, if any, personal or sensitive information may be contained in the dataset that was downloaded."

While the unauthorised access of any organisational data is disturbing, recent incidents have shone a light on the range of personal information that organisations are collecting and keeping – even long after you part ways.

As for us vertical villagers, we ask the question "what personal information about us is being captured and kept – and by whom?"

Unsurprisingly, our starting point is the *Owners Corporation Act 2006*. As clearly stated by Consumer Affairs Victoria, an owners' corporation (OC) is required by law to keep certain records. They must, for example, ensure they have "records from the developer" (such as the plan of subdivision). They must also establish, maintain and have "easily accessible

and available in English" an OC register. This is a summary of an OC's activities, undertakings and membership (including the full name and address of each lot owner). And this register must be made available for inspection upon request to authorised parties (with specific exclusions made regarding commercial use).

The Act also stipulates how long OCs must keep specific records, for example voting papers and ballots must be kept for at least 12 months. And there is also a general stipulation regarding protecting privacy wherein OC may only collect and use personal information in a fair and lawful way and that the personal information it holds must be accurate, up-to-date and secure.

Two questions now come to mind.

First; "what other data is being collected?" For instance, our management systems record such information as our payment history (including arrears), breach notifications, grievances and related legal correspondence. Added to this, our building management systems typically record delivery notifications, resident access activity and information regarding requested mobility assistance (eg for emergency evacuation). And there is also our growing CCTV network.

Added to this, there may be a number of "informal databases" (likely set up with the

best intentions). Here are bits of information relating to, for instance, pet ownership (name and breed), your birth date (so staff can wish you a happy day) and in-house surveys (which seek to help planning). And this information may reside, unprotected, on multiple personal computers.

This now leads to the second question, which is how well managed and secure are these various systems that contain our personal information – keeping in mind that a system is only as secure as its weakest link – and this includes staff's home computers (how up to-date is their anti-virus software?). Additionally, we need to know whether our vertical village, and our management companies, have policies and procedures ready to enact in the event of a cybercrime – will you / they pay a ransom demand?

The key point is that vertical villages must now take a more proactive approach towards managing and securing information. Rather than relying on assurances from our various service providers that their respective systems are "secure", we must each develop strategies – *govern, protect, detect and respond* – which strike a balance between ensuring the capture and leveraging of needed data (to best manage our villages and comply legally) and minimising the risks associated with being the custodian of this critical asset. ●

QVM TRADER PROFILE



Improving the Ambiance of Melbourne homes this December

While sisters Connie and Mel Martino's Ambiance shop may be open all year round, this month is the time when it truly shines.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

As a dedicated Christmas shop, the duo said it prides itself on being a "world class" store that has continued to offer a range of beautiful and delicately crafted festive items for the past 25 years.

Celebrating the monumental anniversary this past August has been a truly special time for the sisters, who have seen the way their store has continued to serve two to three generations of families.

"When we started in 1997, people were bringing in their sons and daughters, and now 25 years later, those same children are grown up and bringing in their own children," Connie said.

"It's a generational thing and it's a truly lovely story."

While Connie and Mel grew up in a family that loved, and continues to love, Christmas and decorating for the festive season, it was never their original intention to always have a Christmas shop.

But once they started to entertain the idea, there was no turning back.

"Mel was a primary school teacher and I worked in the office of a secondary school, and then one day she rang me and said she didn't want to do that anymore and she was going to take long service leave and open a Christmas shop," Connie said.

"She said, 'why don't you join me, and we can do it together, because I can't do it on my own,' and I thought it was a big step, but we then literally started the business from scratch."

Moving into the empty shop on Elizabeth St was in fact a big step indeed, but once they were finished clearing out the mess left behind from the previous owner, their dream quickly came to fruition.

"We didn't even have a cash register, we just had a little wooden box we used to put money in, but then we just grew and grew from there," Connie said.

"It started just as a gift shop, but then when it got closer to Christmas everyone kept saying they couldn't find lovely Christmas gifts anywhere, and we too couldn't find beautiful

Christmas items, because in 1997 people were just putting tinsel all over their tree because that's all they had."

Seeing a gap in the market that aligned with their favourite celebration, they started researching, speaking to others, and in no time became a dedicated all year-round Christmas shop filled with all the Christmas-themed products you could ever need.

"People are always very much drawn to our ornaments because we specialise in beautiful, stunning and unique ornaments that other people don't have, and we also have products made from all over the world," Connie said.

"We also like to have as many Australian products as we can, so we have beautiful Australian Christmas tea towels made right here in Melbourne, and Christmas cinnamon sticks, candles and soaps, all made here in Australia."

As well as being passionate about their store, Connie said they also loved where they were situated in the Queen Victoria Market.

"The actual atmosphere is brilliant and there are people from all over the world and Australia, and it is just such a wonderful, vibrant and exciting place to be," she said.

"We have loved seeing how the market has evolved and it's just really breath-taking."

Ambiance is located at 509-511 Elizabeth St and is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. ●

“

People are always very much drawn to our ornaments because we specialise in beautiful, stunning and unique ornaments that other people don't have, and we also have products made from all over the world.

”

For more information:
ambiancegifts.com.au



Perfectly crafted chocolate shop provides a burst of flavour for QVM's Munro Build

Eight years ago, Anya Tran and Jason Stockton were casually discussing their dream to one day have their own business and, come July this year, they were opening the doors to their very first city located chocolate shop Only Mine.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

While specialising in producing handcrafted chocolates was not always the obvious answer for the couple, it did quickly become their passion when they started experimenting, and since then they haven't looked back.

"We were both pretty driven people and were thinking about starting a business when one day I was baking and I said to Anya, 'I really like baking with chocolate,' and she said, 'that's funny because I have always wanted to own a dessert store,'" Mr Stockton said.

Choosing to ditch their weekend plans of going to the movies, the couple stocked up on what they thought was enough chocolate at the time – two kilograms – and started experimenting.

"Turns out it wasn't much chocolate once you start a business like this, but we took some to work and people loved them," Mr Stockton said.

"Neither of us had any experience in chocolate and self-taught ourselves. But being naive allowed us to create the products that we did initially, especially because they are quite different and unique."

While neither coming from a cooking background, with Mr Stockton having previously worked in IT and e-commerce and Ms Tran in accounting, their skill sets still proved to be quite handy when it came to creating and expanding Only Mine.

"Five years ago, we opened our first store in Olinda, in the Dandenong Ranges, which was also our factory, but then we outgrew the space and so converted it into a store and built a bigger factory in Cranbourne West," he said.

"This allowed us to open our first CBD store, which had been on the cards for quite some time."

Drawn to the location of the store, due to being situated adjacent to Queen Victoria Market in the new Munro precinct, Mr Stockton said they were "excited" to share their products more, now that they were no longer "blocked by construction".

Making up the store is a wide range of handcrafted and hand-painted chocolates, that are so perfectly displayed and crafted that they run the risk of being too beautiful to eat.

But with the products being "as much about the flavour as the look", customers can be assured that upon first bite their minds will be blown.

Only Mine's speciality staple range is the bon bon packs, and while Mr Stockton said many customers were originally drawn to the more common flavours, such as salted caramel, they



often came back for the more intriguing flavours of dried apple and cinnamon, lemon and peppermint, or Himalayan salted lime.

"The thing about us and our products is we have always been about balance and finding flavours that go well with a particular chocolate, whether it is milk, white, dark, or even Swiss or Belgian chocolate," he said.

"We find a lot of chocolates on the market will say they are a certain flavour but you either don't really get that flavour in it, or you'll get too much of the flavour and it's not a chocolate anymore. For us it's all about balance and finding the right pairing."

Creating chocolates that are unlike anything else that floods the market, means Only Mine has established itself as the perfect gift, and with Christmas fast approaching it's already thinking ahead with the recent launch of its Christmas range.

From gift packs that spread the Christmas cheer to limited edition Advent calendars to selfishly indulge in without having to share, Only Mine is ensuring everyone is prepared.

"Head in the store to get your Christmas shopping sorted because we have something for everybody, and this Advent calendar is the best I have seen on the market," Mr Stockton said.

When visiting the store for your next chocolate treat, don't forget to also grab a signature hot chocolate made with real chocolate, or a mocha or iced drink, and "see what you have been missing out on".

Only Mine is located at 13 Dhanga Djeembana Walk and is open from Tuesday through to Sunday, from 9am to 5pm, and from 10am on Wednesdays. ●

For more information:
onlymine.com.au

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Koorie Heritage Trust ends the year on a celebratory high

To celebrate the start of the festive season, the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) is busily preparing for its annual family friendly Koorie Krismas, but not before it also celebrates 10 years of the Koorie Art Show.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

While a busy way to round off the year, both events are a chance for KHT to not only showcase the amazing artistic works of the Victorian First Nations community, but to also celebrate the holiday season with the broader community.

The Koorie Art Show and the Koorie Art Show Young Mob, which has been added on for the past five years, will have their community launch day on Saturday, December 3 with the award winners announced that same day.

Describing the art show as a “fantastic legacy”, KHT chief executive officer Tom Mosby said they really wanted to make the launch day “a special day” given they weren’t only celebrating an important year, but it was the show’s first time back on-site since pre-pandemic.

“We have presented well over 1000 artworks from more than 350 artists here in Victoria, and had about \$160,000 worth of prizes awarded over the ten years, so celebrating 10 years is a great thing for us,” Mr Mosby said.

This year, more than 100 artists will have their work and stories shared in the Koorie Art Show, with presentations ranging from works on paper, photography, sculpture, multimedia, to fibre art, and 49 of the artists are first-time entrants.

Opening up the entries to first-timers is of particular importance to KHT, as it strives to make it the type of show that is inclusive to all First Nations artists.

“The Koorie Art Show is the only award show of its kind specifically for the Victoria First Nations community, including the Koorie community, and all Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander artists who have lived in Victoria,” Mr Mosby said.

“It is all inclusive and for all artists, whether you are an established artist, an emerging artist,



▲ Tom Mosby.



▲ Fed Square Christmas. Photo: Liam Neal. NearFarProduction.

or just a Saturday painter who works out in your back shed.”

Included within this year’s awards is the \$3000 Josh Muir Digital Art Award.

For KHT it is an award that takes the time to honour and remember young Ballarat artist Josh Muir who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Describing Josh as a “rising star, not just in the First Nations Indigenous industry, but also generally, Mr Mosby said the award was about acknowledging Josh as a “great young artist and role model for new artists”.

Josh was always a strong supporter of KHT, and even entered into the very first show that was held in 2013.

He then continued on to participate in the show up until 2018, winning a number of prizes along the way for his curiosity and well-known digital works.

All entries for the Koorie Art Show will also be eligible for the following awards:

- \$10,000 Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in Any Media
- \$5000 Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award
- \$5000 City of Melbourne Aboriginal Melbourne Award
- \$5000 Lendlease Reconciliation Award
- \$5000 Viva Energy Australia 3D Award
- \$5000 RMIT University Emerging Artist Award
- 2 x \$500 KHT’s Encouragement Awards
- \$1000 KHT’s People’s Choice Award

As well as attending the launch day to hear the winners announced, attendees also have the opportunity to purchase their favourite works, although they will have to remain displayed until the show wraps up on February 19.

In addition to the excitement of preparing for the Koorie Art Show and the Koorie Art Show Young Mob, KHT is also looking forward to being able to celebrate “the start of the holiday season, but in a very special First Nations way”.

“We have put on Koorie Krismas here at Federation Square ever since we moved to the square back in 2015, [and] it’s for our community and the broader community as well, to get together and celebrate, and explore all aspects of Koorie culture,” Mr Mosby said.

“We will have music, market stalls with gifts and crafts that people can buy for Christmas presents, and also creative workshops with First Nation creative artists, designers and craftspeople, and people can come along and make things to give away as Christmas gifts.”

Also making a special appearance on the day, as has been done every year, is Koorie Klaus, who has continued to prove a hit with the young kids.

Koorie Krismas will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 10am until 3pm at Federation Square outside KHT, with performers on the main stage.

While anyone and everyone is welcomed to attend the Koorie Krismas extravaganza, KHT is asking for people to RSVP for the Koorie Art Show for catering purposes. ●

STATE MP



What’s at stake in this election?

On November 26, Victorians will head to the polls to select our state MPs.

It’s been my privilege to be your state MP for the past eight years, representing the Greens, and I’m putting my hand up to be re-elected.

I’m running for re-election because I believe we need strong voices in our Parliament who will stand up for our community and represent our values, rather than someone who may be beholden to the factions of the major parties.

Before I entered Parliament, my background was in science, as a CEO of a national climate change non-profit organisation, as well as working in the public service on climate policy.

I have spent my entire adult life working for solutions on climate change – but from what I observed throughout my career, governments generally act on these big issues when they’re pushed.

That’s why we need Greens in Parliament, to push the government to go further and faster when it comes to important issues like affordable housing and climate change, and to make governments more accountable to the people they’re elected to represent.

During my time in the Victorian Parliament, we’ve shown that the Greens help shape the decisions that governments make.

The ban on toxic gas fracking, the cash-for-cans recycling scheme (starting next year), stopping the East West toll road, and the Victorian Renewable Energy Target – these were all policies that Labor was initially opposed to. But after strong campaigns by the Greens, working with the community, we got them to change their position.

The Greens will not always get the public credit for these policy outcomes, but it is safe to say that without the Greens, Victoria would be a much less progressive place.

I’ve also been proud to successfully achieve outcomes for our local area, such as \$7 million for Kensington Primary School, \$8 million for Carlton North Primary, seeing new school campuses built in Docklands and North Melbourne, getting millions extra invested in our public maternity care, and more.

Right now, we have several crises on our hands: housing is becoming totally unaffordable, we’re seeing the impacts of climate change in floods and extreme weather, and of course huge pressures on our health system.

We need to elect MPs who will fight for real, systemic solutions to these issues, as well as fight for us locally. That’s what I have done over the past eight years and will continue to do.

Both Labor and the Liberals still take donations from fossil fuel companies, and the gambling and property development industries. We need MPs – like the Greens – who refuse to take these donations and restore integrity back to our Parliaments.

If you’d like to read more about my fully costed policy platform for this election, head to greens.org.au/vic/platform

And, of course, if you have any questions for me, please get in touch any time at office@ellensandell.com – I’d love to hear from you. ●

RESIDENTS 3000

City safety

In August, a Safety Summit was convened by the City of Melbourne in response to calls by Residents 3000 and EastEnders to look at the areas of concerns being expressed by members of our resident groups.

The summit was also supported by other resident groups who regularly meet with the Lord Mayor and others at City of Melbourne. Resident concerns included threats to personal safety through aggressive behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse, random violence, rough sleepers and a perceived lack of police presence on the streets. The use of CCTV, effective lighting and the dangers of e-scooters and delivery bikes operating illegally were also matters of concern.

While the Safety Summit was a useful first step in considering the issues, the more fundamental matter raised was the need for a greater leadership and coordinating role to bring together the key agencies that have responsibility for addressing discrete segments within this complex area. We, of course, have many organisations that provide excellent services, but separate funding streams tend to overlap service responsibilities and the creation of silos is an inevitable consequence.

I think it is time for the City of Melbourne to take a leadership role and establish a high-level cross sector Safety Steering Group that oversees the delivery of initiatives designed to address the issues that we as residents see all too often

in our city. It is true that there are a number of discrete forums developed such as those led by Victoria Police, but no one seems to take a total systemic and more strategic view of all the issues and how they are potentially interconnected and determine an improved and coordinated response.

While this would be auspiced by the City of Melbourne, I think it desirable to be independently chaired by someone independent of the providers but with a stake in the outcome and some knowledge of the sectors.

As an indicator of key stakeholders and in no particular order, I would invite the senior executives from the following organisations to participate – City of Melbourne, Victoria Police, Cohealth, Victorian Department of Health, Council for Homeless Persons, Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association, and representative not-for-profit providers, as well as involvement of the key resident groups. It would also be reasonable for local members of parliament and key government Ministers with responsibilities in this area to occasionally attend.

There has been much said about the need to

revitalise our CBD post-COVID and many actions have been taken that are strongly supported. The one overriding dynamic is to provide a safe and welcoming environment that respects the rights of people, including residents, to pursue their interests as individuals, families or with friends.

We have a great city that can further its status as a most desirable place to visit, work and live but we cannot assume this will come without a significant effort in making it safe and secure.

The City of Melbourne has been innovative in its approach to many issues, and this will be another opportunity for it to demonstrate its commitment to improving the lives of all who love our city by forming a safety coalition that shares this common objective.

Please join us for the last monthly event of the year – Thursday, December 1 – for a pre-Christmas get together and property market update with Donazzan Boutique Property. ●

Dr Stan Capp is President of EastEnders and a member of the Residents 3000 Committee



Dr Stan Capp
MEMBER OF RESIDENTS 3000
MELBOURNE



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
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METRO TUNNEL

Have yourself a merry little Metro Tunnel Christmas with The Huxleys



Melburnians, get ready to be bedazzled in Melbourne's CBD this Christmas.



After a truly sparkly experience in 2021, The Metro Tunnel Creative Program has teamed up with visual and performance duo The Huxleys again to bring joy and festive cheer to the Town Hall Station construction sites on Friday, December 9.

Kicking off at Federation Square, the dynamic duo will promenade through the streets of Melbourne to City Square, passing by Flinders St and Degraives St.

Onlookers can expect the unexpected as The Huxleys present a visual assault of sparkle, surrealism and the downright absurd using visual art, performance and fashion.

A silent disco tour between The Metro Tunnel's NOLA Precinct and Federation Square, led by Guru Dudu, will serve as a prelude to The Huxleys' dazzling parade.

Adding to the magic, the Rainbow Voices Choir will also be serenading visitors to Federation Square, and the square's big screen will host a public screening of *The Wizard of Oz*.

The childhood favourite film will be shown in Fed Square at 6pm before The Huxleys make a return to the square at 8pm to make the yuletide gay with Christmas carols on the main stage.

A Christmas Tree show and light projections on Flinders St will conclude the evening.

If you can't make it on the day, the celebration will continue throughout December with a series of *As Camp as Christmas* artworks – produced in collaboration with Electric Confetti – adorning City Square, Scott Alley and Metro Tunnel HQ, on Swanston St.

In a nod to the environment, the artworks celebrate the glory and beauty of Australian flora and fauna.

The Metro Tunnel Project will deliver some Christmas gifts of its own in the coming weeks, with work powering ahead on the massive infrastructure project that will transform public transport in Melbourne.

The acoustic shed that has been shielding the Town Hall Station construction site at City Square for the past four years is coming down as work on the station entrance moves into the next phase.



Onlookers can expect the unexpected as The Huxleys present a visual assault of sparkle, surrealism and the downright absurd using visual art, performance and fashion.



In the coming months crews will lay more than 18 kilometres of track in the twin tunnels beneath Melbourne CBD; and continue installing state of the art signalling, communications and power equipment to get ready for test trains to start running in the second half of 2023. ●

CBD LOCAL



▲ David Malaspina at Pellegrini's.

Humbled by the award

Pellegrini's Espresso Bar has won the Hall of Fame Award in the Eat Drink Design Awards 2022 for the most visually remarkable hospitality venues in Australia

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

You can't get more local than Pellegrini's Espresso Bar in Bourke St where the Malaspina family has been in residence since 1974.

David Malaspina grew up playing in the lane and annoying the cooks upstairs while they were making strudel.

He loves the place and so do the de facto family members; all of the customers who believe they were born here or wish they were.

"I was born cool. When I came here, I was cooler," said one customer who has been here since the year dot.

David said there had been pressure by some to upgrade "but we're stubborn. We do it for our customers. We don't change anything."

The bench is original 1950s vintage, so are the stools, shelves, ceiling, and all of the elements not controlled by health and safety regulations, even the menu.

"I wish we could find the original coffee machine," David said. "It was the first in Melbourne."

That feel for heritage has now been honoured by the annual Eat Drink Design Awards and the bar has gone into the hall of fame for its architecture, even the humble little kitchen where

patrons can dine with the cooks.

"It's an honour for us," said David, who is humbled by all the attention turned on the place since his dad was so tragically murdered in 2018 and he returned to manage the Bourke St institution, giving up his other job in hospitality.

He said the original stools were great. "They're fixed and you can't get away from the person next to you, so you're forced to have a relationship. You don't know who it will be."

"We had two gentlemen sit next to each other. One was a truck driver. It was Lindsay Fox. He's hilarious. The Fox family are regulars."

The place has now settled into delivering its vintage Italian dishes beneath a menu that looks like a roll of honour.

David is casual about the architectural features, though. As usual, he's thinking more about the customers. "We have regulars from interstate, overseas and they want to come here and find it the same."

David refers to the killing of his father Sisto, who went to help out a driver he thought had been injured in a car crash, as "the tragedy".

It will remain that, the tragedy of Bourke St that future generations might want to research and reconstruct.

The then Prime Minister Scott Morrison held a press conference at the bar and a long stream of politicians came to give their regards to the family.

But the award honours another, happier time in history when Sisto and Vicki first went into partnership to buy Pellegrini's.

That's when they made the decision to preserve the original fit-out by Smith, Tracy, Lyon and Brook, projecting their respect into both the future and the past for a great CBD establishment. ●

LAW

Cyber fraud

Nowadays, many legal practitioners and law practices have experienced cyber fraud, and the amount of money stolen is constantly increased. This article will briefly explain what cyber fraud is, and what should legal practitioners or law practices do when dealing with cyber fraud.

WORDS BY Peter Nevile

What is cyber fraud?

Cyber fraud, or cyber-crime, is a serious criminal offence directed at computers or other information communications technologies for financial gain or other malicious purposes. It is usually done by hacking into a law firm's system and impersonating either the client or the

firm to demand and redirect payment of funds to the fraudster's account. Sometimes it also involves money laundering and identity theft.

It is more common for they are impersonating the firm to demand money from clients. It is because law practices normally have their own financial staff or more resources to check or verify the account while clients do not. They will believe that is the firm's account and just transfer

their hard-earned money.

It is a common misunderstanding that the bank has certain obligations to prevent cyber fraud and they will reimburse practitioners and clients for the funds stolen. Well, there is no such requirement for banks, and it is not the function of the banks to check or even investigate any suspected transaction.

Banks will try to recover the money, but normally, there is not enough time for recovering or even tracing in electronic transfers before the offenders dissipate the money. At this stage, it is too late to recover.

What should legal practitioners do?

Before any transaction, give the clients the firm's bank details and warn them about the risk of cyber

fraud. If in doubt, or even every time before they are going to transfer their money, always call the firm to verify the bank account.

It is also important to tell the clients that the firm will never change their bank details through a mere email. Practitioners should also be proactive to check with clients in order to ensure their money go to the correct destination.

Payment by electronic mean is quick. If the expected payment has not arrived at the firm's account, it is not okay to assume that it is still in transit. Legal practitioners or law practices should always keep eyes on the trust account and check with clients to confirm they got the correct bank details.

If there is a suspected fraud or mistake, immediately contact the

transferring and recipient banks.

Law firms should also install multi-factor verification or authentication to secure the system. Almost all reported cyber fraud occurred in the circumstance of lacking protection of the authentication. Offenders can easily access to the firm's email account to send an email to the clients demanding or redirecting funds into the fraudster's account.

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. ●*

WE LIVE HERE

A legal labyrinth

Navigating the legislative changes affecting owners' corporations (OCs) over the past four years is quite a challenge. We offer this thread to help you through the maze:

The *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* has had two acts incorporated:

- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act No 4 2021* – a range of welcome reforms with noticeable omissions.
- The unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* – the so-called “Airbnb party bill”. This Act was supposed to be reviewed in 2020 and the review is now scheduled “between 2023 and 2027”. This Act has been treated as an amendment, despite its standalone name.

If you want to find the latest version of the *Owners Corporations Act 2006*, search for the “Authorised version 019”, dated December 1, 2021. This version has annotations showing where the amendments have been made.

We Live Here has ongoing dialogue with Consumer Affairs Victoria, which is part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety. In our most recent meeting, we learned that the proposed review of the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* during the term of the next government would cover both acts that were incorporated into the Act.

Short-stay accommodation was excluded from the 2014 review of the Act because of planning issues. Have these issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable.

The short-stay legislation has been tested twice recently – sadly the plaintiff residents struggled to prosecute the most fundamental types of claims against commercial short-stay interests.

In both cases the VCAT member sided with the short-stay operators.

- In the first case, the OC recognised that the VCAT member's expressed sentiments did



not bode well. The OC quietly negotiated a compromise settlement for the damage done to their building.

- In the second case, which was also lost, the OC was left frustrated and fuming because the law requiring three consecutive breaches was prohibitive.

After four years of so-called short-stay party laws, the number of VCAT orders we can find in favour of residents is still zero. If you know of any exceptions, please let us know.

Turning to the positives, the 2021 amendments introduced some long-overdue reforms to resolve unfair practices in the appointment of OC managers.

The reforms limit the common practice of apartment developers awarding long-term OC managers contracts to associates. The legislation targets these ball-and-chain contracts, limiting terms and outlawing clauses that require a special resolution to remove a manager. We Live Here applauds the overall reforms – they are closely aligned with the recommendations we have made for several years.

Regretfully, there was a huge oversight in these reforms; similar principles should apply to all contracts, particularly building or facilities management. There are some inner-city apartment buildings whose committees are burdened with one-sided, irrevocable facilities

management contracts, for 20 years or more. The excessive tenure of these contracts can breed contempt and disrespect for committee members and owners. The government must regulate these contracts with the same type of reforms that apply now to OC manager contracts.

Builder's roadblock: residents turn to the council

Residents at a La Trobe St apartment building are furious over a neighbouring builder's plan to create traffic chaos for at least four years.

The builder has reached stage 2 of a twin tower project. Rather than use the vicinity of its first tower for stage 2 construction traffic management, the builder plans to endanger and distress hundreds of neighbouring residents.

The affected OC has contacted We Live Here, hoping we can help.

The OC has already put its case to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, and councillors Rohan Leppert and Davydd Griffiths:

The OC said, “To date, there has been zero community consultation and so we are contacting [the council] directly. We have already contacted the site services of the Melbourne City Council, which has repeatedly referred us to [the builder], and when we have contacted [the builder], they have refused to engage with us in any meaningful way or respond to our genuine questions and queries.”

This case highlights problems at intersection of the state and municipal tiers of government:

- severe deficiencies in the building approval process, in this case overseen by the former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.
- flawed traffic management processes – the responsibility of the City of Melbourne, although the council does not have an active role in the implementation.

We Live Here suggests that any residential building that could be affected by a new development must be consulted in the early planning stages so that proactive measures can be taken to ensure resident safety, minimise noise and preserve amenity.

The La Trobe St residents in this matter should not have been placed in this intolerable position.

An OC recovers

We have been following a long-running resident challenge to a developer-dominated OC. Nerida Pohl has this update:

“After amended laws enabled fresh new candidates to be elected, residents have implemented the obvious changes.

- The previous committee members (three of the committee of five) removed their real estate agency from our residential lounge, which can be enjoyed now by all residents.
- After the cleaning company of the members was replaced, we now can instruct our cleaners independently.
- We have sub-committees working on freshening the landscape, energy and waste reduction issues, pool and gym upgrades, management of short-stay visitors.
- A lawyer is representing the committee against the forces of the shopping plaza, which still tries to keep us out of our private undercover loading dock and goods lift.

We are optimistic going into the new year that we can put all this behind us.”

We Live Here is delighted to hear there has been positive progress – a vindication of the stoic determination of Nerida and fellow residents to fight for a representative and productive committee.

Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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STREET ART

Melbourne CBD's best art laneways

As the year ends it's a good time to reflect on the creative urban art scene in Melbourne. It has been an interesting year.

With the transition from lockdown many of the laneways fell into disrepair with non-artists taking over a few lanes. This has left Hosier Lane as a shell of its former self.

Mixed with development, it has not been a great year for the laneways of Melbourne. However, there are some exceptions with some of the more hidden laneways being redone over the year and some are now looking pretty good.

So, I will do something that I thought I would never do and list my current favourite lanes in the CBD ...

1. Lovelands

A secret lane, you must know where this lane is to find it, but when you do it is awesome, and large, and filled with art, plus it has recently been redone.

2. AC-DC

This is one of the most famous laneways in Melbourne and even though the bottom end has been developed and the Cherry Bar has been forced to shut there are still several awesome artworks, and many hidden sculptures and stencils.

3. Maloney (new Blender Lane)

Near Flagstaff Gardens, this laneway is next to the Blender Studios and is one of the only



lanes in Melbourne that is curated and is, therefore, in pristine condition with murals, a stencil wall, sculpture, and high-quality graffiti pieces. This is a great lane that sits just on the edge of the CBD.

4. Croft Alley

Traditionally a graffiti lane, this lane is hidden in the heart of Chinatown and is often dirty and smelly, which can be an interesting and eye-watering experience. The art in this laneway is changed reasonably often and many of the less-talented artists are not aware of its existence so the walls are great and there are many hidden secrets.

5. Duckboard Place

This lane used to be one of the best lanes in Melbourne, but now the west end of the lane has been made available for poster advertisements which has vastly affected the aesthetics

of the lane. But this lane still has many hidden delights from art-vertising, to stencils, sculptures and even a Banksy or two.

6. Brewery Lane

This lane is opposite the old Caledonian Lane which was one of the best lanes about 15 years ago and saw the beginning of the St Jerome's franchise. It's still worth a look but after the development of Emporium this lane lost half of its wall space and has fallen into disrepair. But Brewery Lane is an interesting mix of graffiti and nu-muralism with a couple of giant commissioned works, some craft and a big Lush Sux piece, this lane is still got a few hidden secrets.

7. Presgrave Place

Set up around seven years ago by Akemi Ito, this hidden lane was amazing with artists sticking framed artworks, sculptures, disco balls, photo miniatures, tiles ... everything! This lane was one of my favourites, hidden in the block between Swanston and Elizabeth streets, it's still worth a visit after half the lane was destroyed by the redevelopment of a hotel. And then the rest was graffitied over, it is still an awesome lane and I hope it will slowly recover as it is an awesome, and a very Melbourne, street art location.

8. Oliver Lane

This lane has many older works and some great work from Moose, Above, Lush Sux and the Blender Crew. The longer you spend searching, the more you will find.

9. Blender Lane

Although earmarked for development, Blender Lane was one of the best lanes in

Melbourne, however the west half of the lane and the end of the lane is being ripped out. There is still some great work from artists such as Ha-Ha, adnate, Heesco and Blak Le Rat. The cool thing about this lane is that it has been covered in an anti-graffiti coating and so one day all the messy tags and dirt can be washed away, and some aspects of the lane (including its famed stencil wall) can be returned to its former glory.

10. Stevenson Lane

This lane has also taken a bit of a battering, but it has still got some great work around. Like Hosier, much of the good work is up high as the work at ground level has slowly been destroyed. I love the dirtiness, and smells of this lane. It's a lane that proves that Melbourne is a living functioning and sometimes dirty city.

As the city changes and develops the laneways remain the cultural veins of Melbourne, which is an amazing city that still has one of the largest free galleries in the world so get out there and be a tourist in your own city.

The art, although struggling, is still awesome and really worth checking out – it is unique to Melbourne.

Have an awesome new year. ●



Adrian Doyle

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HISTORY



Robbie Burns in St Kilda Rd

As you link arms and sing Auld Lang Syne this New Year's Eve, you probably won't bring to mind the legendary poet Robert Burns who died 226 years ago in distant Scotland never having visited Australia, which at the time of his death had been settled barely a decade.

Narrm was still undisturbed, except for the everyday activities of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung, the traditional custodians of the land we call Melbourne, people who had lived on this land for many thousands of years before white settlement, which was almost 40 years into the future when Burns died.

A few weeks later, on January 25, Scots around the world will celebrate Burns Night on the anniversary of his birth in 1759. Will you, too, consume haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with a dram (or two) of whisky, perhaps while listening to readings of one of his many poems and songs (think "O my love is like a red, red rose" and "Gin a body meet a body coming thro' the rye")?

From January 1904 until 1970, the imposing bronze statue of Burns you see here stood in St Kilda Rd, not far from Princes Bridge. It towered over a barely recognisable streetscape, arms folded, a larger-than-life figure imbuing a sense of strength and purpose in this relatively new (look how small the plane trees are) landscape.

It's hard to believe that just over 50 years before this photograph was taken and a bit further down the road towards St Kilda, bushrangers bailed up and robbed a number of Melburnians on a sunny October afternoon. Then the road was little more than a dirt track to the seaside retreat of St Kilda, a dusty track in summer and a boggy mess when it rained. Soon, with the road surface laid, neat bluestone gutters in place and street trees planted, the streetscape began its transformation, although as you see here it was the trees that dominated the skyline, apart from the Burns statue, that is.

In this photograph the past and the future move alongside one another, the new-fangled car on the left passing the horse-drawn vehicle on the right. There's not a tram in sight and there were no rules yet to say that cars had to drive on the left side of the road. Both vehicles are moving in the direction of the city and to get there they had to pass the present Arts Centre site, then the home of Olympia, the Fitzgerald Brothers' (and later Wirth's) Circus. Next to that was an amusement park known as Prince's Court with its Japanese Tea House, open-air theatre, spectacular water chute and other forms of entertainment. Then they would move across the Prince's Bridge to the city proper, past the site of the very new Flinders Street Station redevelopment (yes, they had big

redevelopments then, too) and along Swanston St into the thriving business and commercial centre.

In 1903, when it was announced that the statue would be placed in a "pleasant and appropriate setting", one newspaper came back with a quick rejoinder – "Appropriate – the jam factories, the smoke-stacks, the Yarra dredges!" Yet there is no sign of those symbols of industry here.

Looking at this tranquil scene ... you could believe you are in the country, not metres away from a built up, noisy city environment. There are no overhead wires, no telegraph poles, no tramlines, the street lighting is unobtrusive. There is no Shrine of Remembrance in the distance. That was still decades into the future, in the aftermath of a war that would transform the world, not just Australia. After that war, Australia stepped firmly into the 20th century.

There is none of that here. The stillness of the scene, its restfulness, transports you out of time and place to somewhere where it possible to just sit and be, the protective gaze of a giant Robbie Burns looking over you.

Here you could believe you are sitting quietly listening to the "murmuring streams" of Burns's poem about Afton Water.

There are no hills or valleys in the flat St Kilda Rd landscape, but here is the antipodean equivalent of the woodlands where his primroses blew and just across the road are vast parklands where every Melburnian could listen to birdsong, walk among nature and remember the places and people they had left behind. ●

In this photograph the past and the future move alongside one another, the new-fangled car on the left passing the horse-drawn vehicle on the right. There's not a tram in sight and there were no rules yet to say that cars had to drive on the left side of the road.



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

HERITAGE

Summer journey through Melbourne's heritage

As the year finally warms up (in theory) and the days get longer, there are so many more ways of discovering the city's heritage than there were before thanks to some great new additions of bars, art and creative use of old spaces.

To start a summer journey through these new spaces, begin at the recently reopened observation deck of the Royal Exhibition Building. Originally one of the most impressive viewing points of the city, the long-closed deck may have been slightly overtaken by the 88th floor of the Eureka Tower, but nonetheless its restoration and reopening after more than a century now gives Melburnians a further glimpse into and outward from the world heritage-listed jewel of the Carlton Gardens.

Next up take a refreshment break nearby at Caretaker's Cottage behind the bluestone Wesley Church on Lonsdale St, which has repurposed the original house of the groundskeeper for the church into a cosy bar which combines contemporary cocktails with decor that enhances the original features of the cottage, while giving the feeling of being transported back in time despite being surrounded by new office developments and towers.

Across from the bar new displays also showcase all sorts of fascinating archaeology dug up from the site, with remnants of the vibrant Little Lon district of the 19th century. Across Little Lonsdale even more has been discovered, hopefully to also be on display once the office

block on that site is completed.

Works are also currently underway to reuse the obscured Art Deco Nicholas Hall next door as a restaurant and events space, further enhancing a piece of the city that was little more than an underutilised carpark and empty buildings a few years ago

The start of the year also saw Yarra Falls bar open in Flinders Lane's Tavistock House, originally the Ship Inn, built in 1850. As well as reviving the presence of a bar in this historic pub building, the name revives memories of the nearby Yarra waterfall that was destroyed in 1879, and the menu and interior pay respect to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung connection to the land and water, too often missing in heritage interpretation of places in our city.

Finally, just around the corner the Rone Time exhibition will give everyday Melburnians a rare glimpse into the Flinders Street Station Ballroom. Whatever your opinions on Rone's art practice, this is an amazing opportunity to explore an iconic heritage space kept locked up for too long from the people of the city.

As you take this walk from one side of the city to the other, remember to look up all around you, as there may be many more heritage places that were hiding in plain sight right in front of you this whole time. ●



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Taking clubbing seriously



This 19th century CBD building is now a restaurant and karaoke bar painted in a rather striking apple green.



WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

But before its sale in 2018 it was a queer night-club called Hugs & Kisses.

Before that it was a gentleman's club with historical connection to the Royal Buffaloes.

A new book of essays tracks the transition of 22 Sutherland St, off La Trobe St in the city, from gents to wannabe singers.

It's the in-between stage that got essayist Sally Olds really interested in the relationship between the staid Buffalo members and the wild Hugs crowd.

"When you bring up Hugs & Kisses in the right company, people tend to have a lot to say," Olds writes.

"Hugs became one of Melbourne's most beloved queer clubs, celebrated for outlandish clientele."

"Because it was both lawless and right in the middle of the over-policed city, it felt like a fluke."

Olds began ferreting around in the record,

searching out the liquor licensing laws and doing background research on clubs.

She discovered that the former gentleman's club could serve alcohol 24/7 and didn't need to hire security guards or follow lock-out laws because it was a social club.

The upshot was that thousands of clubbers became members of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes so that Hugs could operate on the first floor of the Sutherland St premises under its banner.

When the building was sold in March 2018 for \$6.25 million by the Buffaloes, the Hugs manager looked for new locations in the CBD but licences like the Buffaloes' were extremely rare or costly.

Such is one of the stories explored in *People who Lunch, Essays on work, leisure and loose living*.

The book, unsurprisingly, is in the top 10 at The Paperback bookstore, has sold out at World, Food, Books in the Nicholas Building and was in its second print run within three months of its release.

"It's a runaway sensation," said bookseller Anna Macdonald of the The Paperback. "It was on the top 10 list after six weeks."

She said the essay form is popular among young writers and "there's a healthy number of Australian essayists in the mix".

Other topics include a manifesto on the post-work economy and polyamory (multiple partners), investment in crypto and an analysis of the essay form.

Olds covers a lot of bases in examining the way the reception of a piece of writing is anticipated in a work and includes a how-to on creating click bait.

She defines two sorts of crypto investors: 35-year-old male Caucasians with high levels of financial literacy she calls Kevin, and dreamy arts types used to dealing in abstractions she calls Lana.



▲ The Buffalo Club in its most recent incarnation

This thought-provoking collection should appeal to both types, but it is primarily aimed at those who take clubbing more seriously

than work. *People who Lunch*, Sally Olds, Upswell Publishing, 2022. ●

MUSIC

Jade Imagine

Four days after this year's Melbourne Cup, while Alligator Blood from Tulloch Lodge was scorching around Flemington Racecourse winning the Group 1 Champions Mile, Melbourne band Jade Imagine were themselves putting on an incredible performance in the CBD.

Playing an intimate in-store show at Rocksteady Records, level one, Mitchell House (corner Lonsdale and Elizabeth streets). Jade Imagine's third song played, *Cold Memory* – the title track to their new album on Milk! Records – was sublime, dreamy with a muscular, propulsive bass line. It's a banger.

The News from debut album *Big Love* is very Divinyls, crunching guitars and vocals with attitude. Guitarist and sonic keyboard explorer Tim is superb, very Phil Manzanera of Roxy Music with plenty of bite in the playing. The lead singer, Jade, is a stirring combo of Chrissy Amphlett and Harriet Wheeler.

Instinct That I Know is superb summer haze pop, getting plenty of airplay from 3RRR, 3PBS, RTR Perth, Edge FM Hobart, 4ZZZ Brisbane, 2SER, you name it. They concluded their set with the very true and timeless tune *I Guess We'll Just Wait*, a soulful song reminiscent of Eric Clapton. It's a through the looking glass moment. The Rocksteady Records show was a tremendous triumph for the band.

Alan McGee's Creation Records was the label UK band Ride released their pivotal *Nowhere* album under. Ride are influential shoegazing indie rock pioneers and are a huge favourite of Melbourne musicians.

Thirty years ago, when Ride played The Palace at St Kilda on a Sunday night in winter, promoting their ground-breaking *Nowhere* album, they placed on the table a brilliant ace by starting their show with an instrumental version of *Leave Them All Behind* that would appear a year later on their looser, more rock and roll, psychedelic tinged album *Going Blank Again*.

People had never heard the track. Astounding. Ride play their *Nowhere* 30th Anniversary Tour on November 30 at Forum Melbourne. Ride are epic!

3CR radio announcer Dr Gonzo has a brilliant podcast that has Jack Howard (trumpet player from Hunters and Collectors) discussing his new album, *Lighthouseweight 2*. The podcast can be found on Dr Gonzo's "And This One's Introduced By ..." 3CR radio show. Jack Howard just recently toured Australia with Hunters and Collectors, and he has returned to

Melbourne to continue recording material for *Lighthouseweight 2*. The new song, *We're So International* that Howard recorded in Europe featuring Fiona Leonard on vocals is available on Howard's Bandcamp page. It is a further exploration on the vibe of Grey St, with a dash of Kraftwerk electronica.

The Australian Art Orchestra (AAO), founded by legendary Melbourne muso Paul Grabowsky almost 30 years ago, has appointed Aaron Choulai as its new artistic director. AAO encourages musical artists in driving innovative musical improvisation that remains relevant to their inspirational sources. Choulai returns to Melbourne after many years performing in Japan. He begins his AAO journey in January 2023.

Winter Sun are a magnificent guitar driven melodic rock band that is reminiscent of the guitar interplay between Marty Willson-Piper and Peter Koppes of The Church circa *Gold Afternoon Fix* album. Genuine rifferama. Winter Sun have a new album entitled *Not Yours*. The cover photo/artwork by Barry C Douglas is sensational. Stylish and molto glam.

Winter Sun recently played a set of shows in Victoria supporting the great These Immortal Souls. The title track to the *Not Yours* album is also the closing track, and it is a ripper, with soaring passionate vocals on a gorgeous template of stylish rock and roll.

The film clip to *Not Yours* is intriguing, as it comprises edited highlights/lowlights of the 1965 Roman Polanski British film *Repulsion*, starring Catherine Deneuve. Winter Sun are Laura Trapnell, Angela Howard, Peter Cave and Rob Wellington. Sound engineer extraordinaire Loki Lockwood did the fantastic sonic mastering at Sleepy Hollow Studios, giving Winter Sun a smooth sonic sheen.

Winter Sun, a brilliant gem of a band. ●



Chris Mineral

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Quiz



- Which iconic Melbourne landmark celebrated its 20th birthday in October this year?
- The abandoned ballroom and third floor of Flinders Street Station has been transformed into what by acclaimed local street artist, Rone?
- Mt Isa is a mining town in which Australian state?
- Where is the Sea of Tranquility?
- The City of Melbourne have unveiled a new pop-up library in the CBD, where is it?
- Which song by Adele (pictured) features the lyrics, "There's a fire starting in my heart, Reaching a fever pitch, it's bringing me out the dark"?
- True or false: the banksia plant is native to China?
- Which Australian bird is sometimes known as the 'bushman's clock'?
- The peregrine falcons of 367 Collins St recently achieved what major milestone?
- Are white or green beans used in the French dish cassoulet?
- The CEOs from which two major CBD organisations stepped down last month?
- Residents are fighting to keep which piece of CBD road infrastructure?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Federation Square 2. Time, an exhibition 3. Queensland 4. On the moon 5. 628 Bourke St 6. Rolling in the Deep 7. False (Australia) 8. Kookaburra 9. Hatchlings fledged the nest 10. White beans 11. Justin Hanney (City of Melbourne) and Stan Lacey (Queen Victoria Market) 12. The Queen St roundabout

5x5

No. 018

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

A		A		E
	A		I	
E		I		G
	E		U	
T		E		S

SOLUTIONS

ABASE, VALID, EKIING, REVUE, TRESS

Sudoku

No. 018

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

4			7		3	2		6
						8		
	7	6	2					3
8	1	5		6				
		2		3		7		
			2		4	6	5	
	5				2	6	7	
		1						
2	8	1		5				4

HARD

5		1				2		
6			9				4	
		4		1	7			
9			1	3				8
		7				5		
	8			7	4			9
			3	4		6		
	5				6			4
		6			8			5

SOLUTIONS

EASY

4	6	3	9	8	7	1	5	2
2	8	1	5	6	7	3	2	4
2	7	3	6	2	4	8	1	5
1	1	1	2	2	8	4	3	6
5	8	6	5	2	7	1	4	3
3	2	9	4	7	6	8	9	1
8	2	7	9	1	5	4	8	6
6	9	3	8	3	2	2	4	7
1	2	7	6	2	4	8	1	4
9	5	3	6	9	5	6	8	7

HARD

5	8	1	1	6	7	9	2	2
5	8	1	1	6	7	9	2	2
2	8	6	9	2	8	6	8	3
2	6	9	4	5	3	4	8	7
6	9	1	4	7	7	1	3	2
3	2	5	6	8	9	7	4	1
8	7	4	2	2	1	3	5	9
9	6	5	6	8	9	7	4	1
6	9	1	4	7	7	1	3	2
8	7	4	2	2	1	3	5	9

Wordfind

Theme: War

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

C	N	T	P	F	Q	E	N	K	D	A
O	G	H	C	A	R	O	A	C	I	E
M	I	G	R	I	E	O	T	A	S	M
B	A	I	E	L	L	R	N	T	P	I
A	P	F	O	C	E	F	E	T	U	R
T	M	P	B	N	T	R	N	A	T	C
A	A	O	C	C	U	P	Y	O	E	I
N	C	H	O	S	T	I	L	E	C	N
V	I	E	T	N	A	M	A	R	M	Y
E	F	I	R	T	S	P	O	O	R	T
I	N	V	A	D	E	C	I	V	I	L

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ARMY | FRONT |
| ATTACK | HOSTILE |
| BOER | INVADE |
| CAMPAIGN | IRAQ |
| CIVIL | NAPOLEON |
| COMBAT | OCCUPY |
| CONFLICT | STRIFE |
| CRIMEA | TRENCH |
| DISPUTE | TROOPS |
| FIGHT | VIETNAM |

Secret messages: Peace train

Crossword

No. 018

ACROSS

- Swamp (7)
- Slid; dashed (7)
- Tribes (5)
- South American (9)
- Wrath (3)
- Connect; associate (11)
- Struggles; filters (7)
- Dried or cleaned without wiping (6)
- Scottish delicacy (6)
- School (7)
- Bug poison (11)
- Common pet (3)
- Emitting (9)
- Expel; escape (5)
- Accounts (7)
- Feather cleaners (7)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11						12								
13		14						15		16				
														17
	18					19		20						
21														
22						23							24	
25										26				
27										28				

DOWN

- Strangest; craziest (8)
- Exchange (5)
- Descending with rope (9)
- Argues (7)
- Boxed; fought (7)
- Oily fruit (5)

- East Asian nationality (9)
- Tangoed (e.g.) (6)
- Epic; instrumental (9)
- Those with faith (9)
- Grows in the womb (8)
- Alcohols (7)
- Wincing (7)
- Reflector (6)
- Seat (5)
- Greek island (5)

SOLUTION

S	H	E	L	S	N	D	S	D	H	O	O	E	R	
E	L	R	E	L	I	I	O							
I	O	E	R	G	N	I	L	V	I	D	O	R		
V	A	N	R	H	O	R								
L	V	O	G	O	I	O	I	L	O	S	N	I		
S	I	R	P	D	W									
O	S	E	L	O	S	I	D	D	V	A	R			
O	S	E	V	O	S	N	I	N	H	A				
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E	L	A	R	H	E	B	I	N	I	E	N			
O	M	A	R	R	E	B	I	N	I	E	N			
N	V	I	L	Z	V	R	B	S	N	V	L			
V	A	L	V	A	R	S	N	V	L					
E	L	O	O	S	N	D	S	D	H	O	O	E	R	

Codeword

No. 018

12	3		16	10	23	5	20	3		O		12	22		B
3			1		9		23		16			21			23
5	20		O	21	9		11	3	10	20		O	22	10	
7			22				23		21			19			20
13			O	10	22	16		3	10	23	13	3	5	16	
17					17			3		5		13			
16	5	21	3	12	10		9	3	18	17	16	10			
			17		22		17		16					21	
15	23	2	17	13	3	1		4	23	3	8	17			
23			17		10		8				21			23	
12	17	21	15	22	21	24			17	14	23	4	16		
23			16		21		4		4		6			O	
1	17	17			17	14	17	5	22	10	3	O	1		

SOLUTIONS

X	J	S	E	G	F	H	R	U	A	V	O	B			
12	3	16	10	23	5	20	3	O		12	22	B			
3			1		9		23		16			21			23
5	20		O	21	9		11	3	10	20		O	22	10	
7			22				23		21			19			20
13			O	10	22	16		3	10	23	13	3	5	16	
17					17			3		5		13			
16	5	21	3	12	10		9	3	18	17	16	10			
			17		22		17		16					21	
15	23	2	17	13	3	1		4	23	3	8	17			
23			17		10		8				21			23	
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23			16		21		4		4		6			O	
1	17	17			17	14	17	5	22	10	3	O	1		

9-Letter

No. 018

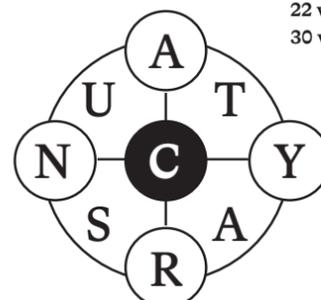
Today's Focus:

15 words: Good

22 words: Very good

30 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

acts, actuary, arcs, canary, cans, cant, canis, car, cart, carts, cast, crust, crusty, cur, curly, curvy, cuts, cyan, cyst, racy, sacra, SANCTUARY, saucy, scan, scan, scanty, scanty, scar, scary, seat, scout, tranquy

墨市开发申请达 25 亿澳元

墨尔本市政的疫情复苏计划有望在今年创造超过25亿澳元的新开发申请，这表明投资者对不断增长的房地产市场有着强劲的兴趣。

Brendan Rees

新数据显示，市政在2022年评估了超过10亿澳元的新开发项目，这是自2019年以来的第一次，迄今为止，市政还提议了另外15亿澳元的州评估开发项目。

市政今年收到了600多份规划申请，价值估计为8亿澳元，其中85%的申请涉及全新的开发项目，其余的申请涉及对现有许可的修改。

数据显示，市中心仍然是最热门的房地产市场，有 200 份新的开发申请，其中大部分涉及新开业商家和商店装修。

卡尔顿(Carlton)以 70 多个开发项目位居第二，主要用于住宅物业或对遗产住宅的扩建。在肯辛顿(Kensington)新Arden 和Macaulay区域的开发申请也有所增加。

副市长 Nicholas Reece 表示，开发热潮证明了墨尔本在经历了两年 COVID疫情破坏后的恢复力。

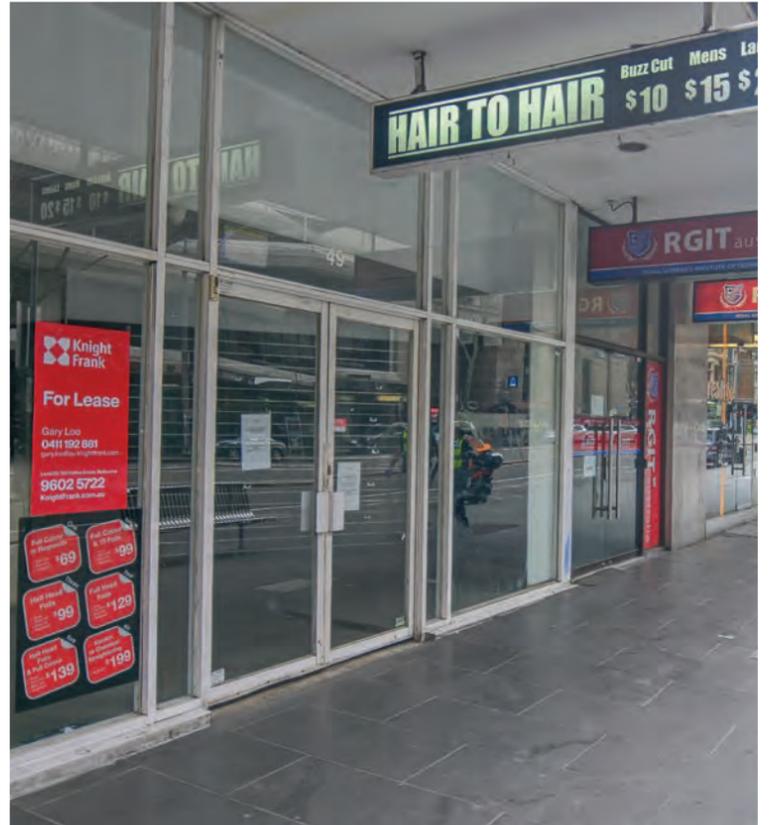


他说：“看到开发商继续大力投资我们城市的未来，真是令人振奋。”

“随着住宅入住率现已恢复到 COVID疫情之前的水平，本市开张的新餐饮场所数量创下历史新高，开发项目申请居多也就不足为奇了”。

Reece 先生表示，毫无疑问，墨尔本仍然是新开发项目的首选目的地。他宣称：“开发热潮又回来了，2023 年将成为墨尔本市充满激动人心的一年”。

“随着开发势头的持续增长，对于墨尔本市政而言，重要的是优先考虑高质量的设计、建筑和便利设施，以确保在我们城市生活、工作、学习或来访的每个人都能得到最满意的结果。”



市政目标：明年店铺空置率低于5%

墨尔本市政设定了一个雄心勃勃的目标，在2023年将市内店铺空置率降至5%。

David Schout

市政的这一目标意味着在未来12个月内，空置的店铺数量将减少70%，这是短期内的巨大转变。

目前，全市近六分之一的店面空置，这主要是由于新冠疫情带来的经济影响。

然而，这一比例(17%)已经较2021年11月的峰值有了显著改善，当时在第六次封锁后，有30%的店铺处于空置状态。

最近的一份报告介绍了市政去年批准的 10 年经济发展战略(EDS)进展情况，报告称已经取得了很大进展。

报告指出：“虽然目前 17% 的空置率仍然很高，但已有明显的改善，并显示了本市经济持续改善和复苏的潜力。”

现在市政希望作出更大努力来降低店面的空置率。

作为 EDS 更新的一部分，市

政提出“目标是到 2023 年店面空置率低于 5%”。

虽然在填补整个市中心的空置店面上取得了进展，但据了解，在过去的12个月内，一些重新开张营业的商店是“疫情关闭”的场所，即那些由于疫情而暂时关闭或“冬眠”的场所，现在随着疫情限制的解除而重新开业。

对于后疫情时代，由于一些小商家因疫情而永远离开了，要填补这种真正的空置店铺，对市政府和州政府来说，似乎是一项更加困难的任务。

市政尝试了许多方法来试图填补整个城市因疫情而空置的店面，包括其260万澳元的“店面激活计划”，该计划将空置的店面转变为创意空间、定制展示和弹出式商店。

该计划还让那些崭露头角的企业家、艺术家和工匠利用空置的店面和空间来测试和展示他们的商业想法。

乌克兰难民在女王市场拥抱新生活

维多利亚女王市场摊位主人Khalilulla Dydar认为每一天都是一种恩赐。就在今年2月，他和他的家人还在乌克兰躲避俄罗斯的导弹袭击。

Brendan Rees

俄罗斯军队袭击了Odessa城市，摧毁了军事基础设施和居民住宅，导致几十名无辜民众伤亡，他和他的45名大家庭成员因此而失散。

这位32岁的乌克兰人回忆道：“当时听到警报声和火箭弹，孩子们很害怕，我们被迫躲在地下室里。”

“战争开始时，我不想离开，但后来我哥哥从基辅(Kyiv)打电话给我，说 he 可以从12楼的公寓里看到俄罗斯的坦克。”

他说：“我们当时做了离开的决定，如果我们留下来，将无法生存”，并补充说道，他和他的兄弟们去了罗马尼亚，而在基辅的其他家庭成员则逃到了波兰。

但由于无处可住，他们决定去德国，在那里他们遇到了另一个障碍，因为不会说波兰语或德语，这使得欧洲成为一个“难以开始新生活的地方。”

Khalilulla说：“我在谷歌上搜索了说英语的国家以及我们可以不用签证去的地方。”然后就去了爱尔兰。



兰。

后来听说乌克兰人有机会可以来澳大利亚，Khalilulla申请了人道主义签证，他和妻子以及三个孩子于7月9日抵达了墨尔本。

Khalilulla 最初试图寻找各种工作，但又雄心勃勃的想要开创自己的事业。

他向难民小额贷款提供商 Thrive 申请贷款，这样让他在维多利亚女王市场开设了一个名为 Smart Goods 的摊位，销售手机配件、LED 灯件和眼镜。

他说：“我很高兴”，计划发展自己的生意，建立新的生活，但作为一名临时签证持有者，他对自己的未来还不能充满信心。

联邦广场今年的圣诞庆祝活动

联邦广场将成为墨尔本今年圣诞庆祝活动的主要场地，提供充满活力、振奋人心的表演和活动，即使是圣诞怪杰Grinch也一定会面带微笑。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

圣诞节庆祝活动将由墨尔本市政主办，并得到维多利亚州政府和联邦广场的支持，这是墨尔本人聚在一起分享快乐和欢笑的时刻。

墨尔本市艺术片区公司的项目总监 Sarah Tutto说：“联邦广场是今年墨尔本圣诞节节日娱乐的总部，我们总是很自豪能在每年



的这个特殊时期举办庆祝活动。”

“我们有一个内容丰富的免费活动日程表，让大家和整个家庭一起来享受，从现场合唱团、拜访圣诞老人工作室、大屏幕

免费电影、灯光秀表演、原住民庆祝圣诞(Koorie Krismas)等等。”

“我们很高兴与墨尔本市政，Koorie遗产信托基金、ACMI和NGV合作，为大家带来一个快乐的假期。”

对于所有圣诞节爱好者，喜欢在节日音乐声中装饰圣诞树，请确保从 11 月 25 日起前往联邦广场。

不仅有各种音乐风格的合唱歌声将充满现场气氛，而且有夸张的节日色彩装饰、闪烁的灯光和标志性的 16.5 米高 LED 灯圣诞树将点亮夜空。

圣诞老人工作室也将从11月下旬开始设立，圣诞老人和他的助手们将在圣诞节前夕从北极来访。

fedsquare.com

What's on: December - January



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

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

3000 STEPS WALKING WITH NEIGHBOURS

Come and join Residents 3000 for two monthly walks to discover the hidden treasures of the CBD and surrounding areas.

For more information and meeting times: residents3000.com.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



3000 PLANTS NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB

Hosted by Residents 3000, enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours on the second Sunday afternoon every month at 1:30pm.

For more information and meeting times: 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



NOVEMBER 27, 11.15AM

Book Club

Meet locals here at Book Club and learn how to build your business and financial literacy skills.

thewomensinvestmentclub.com.au
Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Rd

UNTIL MARCH 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.



DECEMBER 2, 6PM

PASKO SA MELBOURNE 2022: ALAY SA MARINERO

Grab your friends and join the Filipino Community for their Pasko sa Melbourne event showcasing Filo street food dinner, a taste of the popular lechon (roast suckling pig), parol lanterns, Choir-led carols, folk dancers and all night dancing to a live band! All proceeds will go towards Christmas Care Packs to cheer up seafarers (mariners) whose ships dock in Melbourne at Christmas time. Tickets from Eventbrite.com

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What an extraordinary year this has been, we have all experienced many changes and life's challenges.

Some of us have lost loved ones and continue to feel their loss. Many of us have experienced many wonderful moments too. Either way, may we all have learned it's good to stop and just breathe.

May you be blessed and your hearts filled with peace, love and joy as we wish you a very special Christmas and wonderful New Year in 2023.

Take care of one another, support one another and look out for each other. Always remember that kindness is the greatest gift we may give to one another.

Thank you to you all for your love and support.

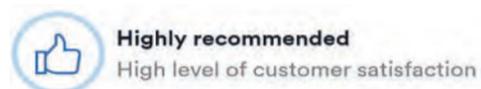
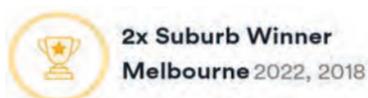


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