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Puzzles & Trivia P21



Thousands celebrate the Year of the Rabbit
Photo by Ajay Viswanath

The Year of Rabbit has finally hit Melbourne with tens of thousands pouring onto the streets of Chinatown to celebrate the Lunar New Year. After a three-year hiatus, Sunday, January 22 saw Russell and Little Bourke streets returned to their rightful identity as the heart of festivity and celebration for Melbourne's Chinese community. *Full story on page 5.*

Queen Victoria Market traders “temporarily” located for three years as more works start

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Fresh produce, organic, and specialist traders at Queen Victoria Market will be temporarily relocated for three years as historic shed restoration works take place, causing concern for some small businesses.

Traders in the market's H and I Sheds were relocated to C and D Sheds in January to allow the final stage of the heritage shed restorations to begin as part of the market's \$260 million redevelopment.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp acknowledged the move for stallholders, some of whom have been selling their goods for decades, would be a “significant change”, but the council was “doing everything” to help traders re-establish their businesses, such as offering an expanded support package.

“There are measures in place to support affected H and I Shed traders, including increased signage and access to a support fund,” Cr Capp said.

“The work is complex and will be disruptive. Relocation is required to ensure the safety of traders and customers, minimise construction impacts, and reduce disruption to the wider market.”

“Affected traders will be guaranteed to return to their previous locations in H and I Sheds following the completion of work on the new trader shed.”

The council said work to restore H and I Sheds was scheduled for completion in mid-2023, as originally planned.

However, it will mean stallholders are temporarily relocated for three years, despite reportedly being told it

Continued on page 8.

Lifting of late-night liquor ban looms, as councillors call for review

The City of Melbourne will conduct a review of its local planning policy in response to the state government's pledge to end a 13-year freeze on new late-night CBD venues.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The urgent review will determine whether lifting the late-night ban could “create or exacerbate issues”, and whether a fast-tracked study is required before the halfway point of 2023 is reached.

From July 1, an existing government rule preventing new CBD licences from serving alcohol beyond 1am will be lifted, as part of a pre-election pledge from the state government.

One week prior to the November 26 election, Premier Daniel Andrews announced a \$34 million investment into Victoria's live music industry and vowed to “supercharge the creation of new venues” by removing the current ban.

The late-night liquor freeze, first proposed by the Brumby government in 2008, has been in place since 2010 as a response to alcohol-related harm and crime in inner-Melbourne.

Applicants wishing to trade beyond 1am require a ministerial exemption, which the minister can assign provided the venue is of “economic or cultural” importance to the state.

In recent years more exemptions have been granted (including to small and medium live music venues), and from July 1 no such exemption will be required.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said complaints about late-night venues was in her “top three” items of correspondence, in what she called “a natural tension between residents and businesses”.

Cr Capp said resident concerns were not just related to noise, but also to how patrons enter and leave venues and the impact on amenity.

“We want this to be what I would call a virtuous cycle where residents come in because they love the vibrancy of the city and the fact they can access amazing businesses ... but, of course, where businesses want to come in knowing that this is a place where they can attract lots of people to support [them].”

Shortly after the Labor government's resounding re-election in late November, City of Melbourne councillors called for an urgent review of the city's Licensed Premises local planning policy.

If council management determines that amendments are required, it wants to partner with the state government for a formal review.

“I do think we have a good case to make to the new Planning Minister,” Cr Rohan Leppert, who moved the motion, said at the final council meeting of 2022 on December 13.

“The agent of change to the regulatory framework here is the state, not the city. So, I would hope that there's a high level of goodwill to partner with the city in some research [in 2023] and, if the opinion of management when we come back to this matter again in March, is that it is worth pursuing changes to the planning framework, that we can find a pathway to do that efficiently and quickly and fairly.”

Stan Capp, the president of CBD residents group EastEnders, expressed concern when asked how lifting the ban might impact locals.

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CONTACT

Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands 3008
cbdnews.com.au
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR

Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au



Council endorses tower above a future Metro station at famous intersection

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A bid to build a nine-storey office and retail tower above a future CBD Metro train station has won the City of Melbourne’s backing.

Lendlease submitted plans for the building which would occupy a state government and Department of Transport-owned space adjacent to the iconic Flinders Street Station intersection.

Under the proposal, plans for the over site development at 5-25 Swanston St would create pedestrian entries to the future underground CBD South Metro station via Swanston St, Flinders St, Cocker Alley, and Scott Alley.

The plans were referred to the City of Melbourne for comment which were presented at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on December 6.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece addressed the meeting saying the site was the “most famous intersection in Melbourne”.

“You’ve got Federation Square, Flinders Street Station, St Paul’s Cathedral, and Young and Jackson,” he said.

“The civic square, the station, the church, and the pub. It doesn’t get any more Australian than that.”

“It’s the quintessential location gateway to the city, and so in considering this application before us tonight, it’s absolutely one that we need to get right.”

Cr Reece said he could say with confidence that the building, designed by architecture firm Hassell, had been through “one of the most thorough design and architecture processes of any recent building in the city of Melbourne”.

“The end result ... is a calm and contextualised building that sits well in its surroundings; it does not distract from the beautiful architecture of Flinders St, St Paul’s Cathedral or Young



▲ An artist’s impression of the proposed office tower located close to Flinders Street Station intersection.

and Jackson.”

The proposed 40-metre building will feature a variety of food and drink shops, as well as retail spaces that would accompany the station entry. A public mezzanine would also have food and drink shops, as well as end-of-trip facilities while levels one to eight would have office space.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the plans, which were also “strongly supported” by council management as it “will reinvigorate the precinct and will have a significant benefit to the character and activation of Melbourne and the State of Victoria”.

The planning application will return to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to determine the next stage of the application.

Hassell representative Robert Backhouse told the meeting that the tower would make a valuable contribution to the public experience of the city.

“The facades engage each street and its neighbours confidently and allow the existing Young and Jackson pub and surrounding built form to celebrate their own characters,” he said.

However, Andrew Milward-Bason of the Nicholas Building Association, said the current plans would compromise the views of the neighbouring 96-year-old Nicholas Building, also on Swanston St, as the overall height of the building would be 46 metres, not 40 metres, due to plant room and services area on the roof of the building.

“The Nicholas Building is sitting six metres opposite this wall: it’s going to be looking at a 46-metre-high building – six metres of south facing windows,” he said, adding “that’s an impact on amenity outlook and daylight, and it needn’t be six metres high”.

“We could work harder on that wall than a blank wall whether it incorporates translucent glazing or public art program or anything other than just a solid wall with some lines on it.”

Cr Reece said he hoped the points raised by Mr Milward-Bason would be “the subject of ongoing discussion” with the architects.

An Amendment C316 was introduced into the Melbourne Planning Scheme in 2017 which included the requirement for the City of Melbourne to be consulted before the approval of the master plan, development plans and technical matters which form part of a Metro Tunnel: Over Site Development – CBD South Incorporated Document (ID).

As part of the council’s endorsement of the plans, only signage strategy, legal agreements, stormwater, and construction management were to be finalised before the development begins.

The ID requires that the building have a six-star green star design, an As Built rating, a five-star NABERS energy rating for base building and the WELL Building standard version one rating. ●

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Faces of Melbourne CBD



LINA
I am from Columbia and have only been in Melbourne for three days. It is a beautiful city and the people are so nice.



JASMINE
I am from Germany and currently backpacking. I love Melbourne because it is one of the friendliest cities and there are huge parks and nature everywhere.



AAMI
I like to come into the city during holidays, because I don't get to come here much during uni time. This year I have enjoyed New Year in the city because it is always so fun with all the fireworks.



JET
I like being in the city and people watching, because it is very interesting. Melbourne Central is my go-to, and because I recently got back into reading I like the State Library and reading at Flagstaff Gardens.



LARA
I have been doing people's portraits for more than thirty years, and it takes a lot of dedication and practice. I love my profession and like doing it in the city because there are lots of people and I like to make them happy.

Footpath works on La Trobe St begin

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Footpath upgrade works will get under way on La Trobe St to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. The upgrade between Russell and Exhibition streets is part of the City of Melbourne's streetscape improvements program for 2022-23.

The works will begin in late January and take about four weeks to complete.

"These works are part of an ongoing program to respond to the changing needs of our streets and improve the experience of footpaths for people in some of the city's busiest walking areas," the council said.

The upgrade will see the existing footpath demolished, with a concrete slab poured and bluestone pavers installed. The council is proposing to reconstruct a raised asphalt crossing and install a bluestone kerb and gutter. Enlarging existing tree plots is also being proposed with a porous pavement around the tree bases to be installed.

Construction hours will be from 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday with occasional overnight or weekend work, which will create some noise.

Access to residential properties and businesses will be maintained, the council said.

In terms of the impact to residents, pedestrian, vehicle, and bicycle access will be restricted for short periods (including temporary diversions), but traffic management will guide footpath and road users throughout the works.

East Enders residents' group president Dr Stan Capp said making the city's footpaths more attractive, safer, and adding greenery wherever possible should be encouraged.

"Our CBD is a great walking experience except for e-scooters, e-bikes and motor bikes parked on footpaths and it's good that the City of Melbourne shares the need to enhance the experience," he said.

"I would encourage consulting with residents and other users along the journey." ●



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Meanwhile, at Australia Wharf, we've added new moorings to the marina, with waste, water and electrical connections for charter vessels, to support visitation and trade in Docklands.

Over recent months, we've also completed greening projects across the city – including on Provost and Little Provost streets in North Melbourne, and in the Greek Quarter in the CBD.

CAPITAL WORKS IN 2023



Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece with local kids at Fawkner Park

FAWKNER PARK OVAL

Keep an eye out for new turf, cricket wickets and irrigation on the southern sports field at Fawkner Park, a place 9000 locals enjoy each day. Works to enhance the Pasley Street North entrance are complete.



A new Food Hall is set to open soon at QVM



QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

Drop by to support traders at Melbourne's beloved market. Ten of the market's 12 heritage sheds have now been restored, with the final two – sheds H and I – starting works early this year. Plus, keep an eye out for the opening of the brand-new Food Hall.

SOUTHBANK PROMENADE

Make your way along the widened promenade with new bluestone paving and native trees. Works outside Hamer Hall are complete, and the sections close to the Evan Walker Bridge will recommence this year.



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The Greenline Project will transform the northern bank of the Birrarung

THE GREENLINE PROJECT

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Lord Mayor Sally Capp tours the new Munro Library site

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Thousands flock to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
EVENTS

The Year of Rabbit has finally hit Melbourne with tens of thousands pouring onto the streets of Melbourne's Chinatown to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

After a three-year hiatus, Sunday, January 22 saw Russell and Little Bourke streets returned to their rightful identity as the heart of festivity and celebration for Melbourne's Chinese community.

The Zodiac sign of the Rabbit is said to be a symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity in Chinese culture, a sentiment evidently shared across the hordes of festivalgoers making most of the fantastic weather, captivating cultural and street performances and mouth-watering food.

"The day went better than expected, we were blown away by attendance, and from speaking with stakeholders, traders and the community, they were incredibly happy with the turnout and great event for the whole family," Melbourne Chinatown Association president JJ Heng said.

"To deliver something for the community they enjoy and to hear from parents how well received our teachings of Chinese and Asian culture was for children; that is invaluable for us." ●



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



▲ CMA vice-president Trevor Du and president JJ Heng.



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Fresh face brings new energy to Melbourne for the Liberal Party

Evan Mulholland is Melbourne's new Member in the Upper House of the Victorian Parliament, and he represents a fresh voice for both his local constituents, as well as for the Victorian Liberal Party.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
POLITICS

Mr Mulholland assumes one of five positions as Member for Northern Metropolitan, one of which was previously held by Reason Party leader Fiona Patten, who missed out on a third term in the seat following November's state election.

He's joined by Sheena Watt (Labor), Victorian Greens leader Samantha Ratnam, Enver Erdogan (Labor) and Adem Somyurek (Labour DLP).

While the Liberals suffered another landslide loss, Mr Mulholland's election to the Upper House, as well as the re-election of the party's new moderate leader John Pesutto in the seat of Hawthorn, signals a new era for the right side of politics in Victoria.

Representing the new emerging face within the party, Mr Mulholland, who has a background in community theatre and served as president of ARC Theatre Company, used his maiden speech to parliament in December to "fight for the arts".

"Community arts organisations are the



lifeblood of communities, providing joy and meaningful social interaction to so many people, particularly young Victorians," he said, while slamming the amount of taxpayer dollars that are spent on sporting clubs compared to the arts.

"While the political class rolls out the pork barrel to sporting clubs, community arts organisations are not even getting the crumbs off the table."

"This is not to dismiss the important role that community sporting clubs play, but community arts organisations create a form of entertainment and community involvement that is a step beyond the extra bain-marie for the local cricket club. It is about time government policy reflected this."

Mr Mulholland has an extensive background working as a consultant in the technology sector, and served in numerous advisory and communications roles within government, including for former Liberal Ministers Matthew Guy and Mitch Fifield. He lives locally with his wife Brigid, son Teddy, and dachshund Gavroche.

As for local issues, he told *CBD News* that he was keen to connect with as many within the communities of inner-city Melbourne as possible, irrespective of the topic or his stance, as he seeks to be a voice for everyone in the seat of Northern Metropolitan. ●

To get in touch with
Evan Mulholland's office:
Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

Rates to rise as cap doubles, but “modest” increase frustrates

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne locals could pay up to 3.5 per cent more for their council rates next financial year, after the Victorian Government doubled the rate cap for 2023/24.

The cap, which limits the total amount a council can increase its rates each year, was set at 1.75 per cent this financial year, to "help ease cost of living pressures for Victorians".

However, the government has opted to increase that figure from July 1.

Next year's figure is still below the four per cent recommendation from the Essential Services Commission (ESC), in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"The rate cap for the next financial year takes into account higher inflation and the need to protect Victorians from uncontrolled rate hikes, while ensuring councils can continue to deliver vital community services," local government minister Melissa Horne said.

"Each council is responsible for setting rates

within the rate cap based on the needs of their community."

The new figure means the average local property rate amount — should the City of Melbourne enact a rise in line with the cap in its next budget — will increase by 3.5 per cent.

The rate cap applies to a council's total revenue and not individual properties, and an individual rate bill may increase or decrease by more, or less, than the cap amount.

However, there was some frustration from councils about what the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) described as a "modest" increase.

The City of Melbourne's finance portfolio lead Cr Philip Le Liu told *CBD News* that, against an underlying inflation of seven per cent across the economy, the cap was low.

"The rate cap set by the state government for the next financial year is well below the rate of inflation, which has seen the cost of providing services to the community rise significantly," he said.

"Council will continue to monitor cost

“
In the current year costs for these works have escalated in the order of 35 per cent, something the rate cap doesn't deal with, hence the need for the review ... councils are not complex, they raise funds from the community and spend it all back in the community. Less money over time means less services that we can provide.
”

pressures and will consider rates, potential for cost constraints and other revenue measures as part of our annual budget planning process in the coming months."

MAV president David Clark called for an independent review of the way in which the cap is allocated.

"Each year councils spend between 20 to 40 per cent of their budgets on new infrastructure, be that roads, aquatic facilities, streetscapes, or playgrounds and parks," Cr Clark said.

"In the current year costs for these works have escalated in the order of 35 per cent, something the rate cap doesn't deal with, hence the need for the review ... councils are not complex, they raise funds from the community and spend it all back in the community. Less money over time means less services that we can provide."

Rate capping, as part of the Fair Go Rates system, was introduced in 2016 to "ease cost of living pressures on Victorians" and "encourage sound financial management by local governments". ●

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Supporting business

Iconic record store waves goodbye to its CBD location after nearly three decades

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The CBD's most beloved record store, Basement Discs has announced it will be closing its doors after trading for nearly 30 years, devastating music lovers and the wider community.

Like many CBD-based businesses, Basement Discs, has not been immune to the effects of COVID lockdowns and the financial challenges it still presents today.

"It's very sad to leave what we regarded as our home," the store's co-owner Suzanne Bennett told *CBD News* after confirming she and her husband Rod Jacobs would be closing their store at the Block Arcade (Block Place) on January 31 after 29 years.

But she added, "I want to make clear that this was not our choice and that our landlord would not negotiate."

"We're devastated; we've put so much love and passion and money into building this business and renovating this space. Everything has been a labour of love."

Ms Bennett said the closure did not mark the end of Basement Discs as she and Mr Jacobs would continue to operate online and keep their same phone number and all other contact details for orders and enquiries.

"I really want people to appreciate that we want to keep Basement Discs as personalised as we possibly can while we are in this transitional stage," she said. "We're not going to give up on our passion for music. One door closes and another opens."

"If all goes well then, we will look for another bricks and mortar when we've recovered."

Ms Bennett said it was "extremely touching and heart-wrenching" to see the number of people coming into their store in the weeks before it closes and "their distress at losing us from this location".

"It's been an honour and a privilege to look after musicians, to promote them, to look after our beautiful customers and to build the wonderful Basement Discs family that really cares."

The store's impending closure has left many in shock, with the music community having expressed its gratitude for Basement Discs.

"Record stores are shrines to our culture; a physical space where us music fanatics can assemble, share and celebrate our passion. Basement Discs is a huge loss for the CBD and for me personally, as a music lover and musician," Alison Ferrier, a regular customer said, who also launched a GoFundMe last year, raising \$25,000 for the store (the vast majority of which went to their landlords).

Peter Mitchell, a customer since the store's inception, said he was saddened to hear the news of Basement Discs' closure as their contribution to the music scene had been huge.

"It's unique, they are great supporters of local talent ... they've had some fantastic acts over the decades," he said.

"Their knowledge of music and variety of stock that they've carried has been phenomenal and they've also been able to withstand the changes that have taken place, particularly in relation to people moving off hard discs to streaming."

Another customer, Ian Bland, also a musician and poet, said the store's legacy would live on forever.

"Rather than mourning their loss, which many will do anyway, we should be celebrating their almost 29 years of support for the local industry and the fact they will continue to do so ongoing," he said.

"I don't think you can underestimate the support they've given to local musicians particularly independent musicians as both a venue for them to play live and stocking and promoting their records," he said.



▲ Basement Discs' co-owner Suzanne Bennett.

"Yes, it will be a great loss, but it's been a fantastic part of Melbourne."

Along with their online store, Basement Discs will continue to be actively involved in presenting and promoting local musicians with regular "BASEMENT DISCS PRESENTS..." at a handful of very special venues around town.

"So, sign up for our newsletter and stay in touch!" Ms Bennett said.

Basement Discs' contact details will remain the same:

03 9654 1110
info@basementdiscs.com.au
basementdiscs.com.au ●

Lifting of late-night liquor ban looms, as councillors call for review

Continued from page 1.

"It is astounding that this ban, implemented by the Labor Government in 2008 in response to the need to address alcohol-related harm in inner Melbourne, is now considered redundant," Dr Capp said.

"Motivating this 2008 decision was the increase in alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour on our streets, which is obviously a major concern to not just residents, but all users of our CBD."

Others, however, have argued that a 1am closing time for venues within a city that prides itself as the nation's "cultural capital" was regressive.

Whatever the case, the Premier's pre-election pledge appeared to pre-empt the findings of a review into the effectiveness of the freeze.

Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Minister Melissa Horne had previously said that a review by the Department of Justice and Community Safety into its effectiveness would begin in late 2022, and be completed prior to the guidelines lapsing on June 30 this year. ●



David Schout
JOURNALIST
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Councillor's trip to NZ provides key learning opportunities

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

City of Melbourne councillor Jamal Hakim says a recent trip to New Zealand has provided valuable insights into various cultural and social programs that can be embraced back home.

Cr Hakim visited the cities of Auckland and Christchurch from August 22 to 27 to gain a better understanding of Māori culture and identity, public art, community volunteer programs, and modern libraries.

During his visit, he met with Auckland City Council mayor Phil Goff and local Māori leaders and was hosted on a tour of the new Christchurch library, noting he was impressed with the children's play spaces, which featured augmented reality technology.

Cr Hakim said he was particularly

interested in how both cities had tackled homelessness, which he hoped would help the City of Melbourne's future approaches to the issue.

"Ending rough sleeping and homelessness is an important matter for our community and seeing the many strategies in place in Auckland allows us to fine-tune the work we are doing to deliver for our community," he said.

He said he was also impressed with the cities' successful graffiti-free programs and "how we can integrate learnings into our own future programs".

"Sharing knowledge internationally allows our city to deliver better for our community."

While in Christchurch, Cr Hakim visited community sites where he paid his respects on behalf of the City of Melbourne to the lives that were lost in the 2011 earthquake, as well as the tragic terrorist attack on two mosques in 2019, noting the "resilience and compassion of the



▲ Cr Jamal Hakim during his council-organised trip to New Zealand.

people of Christchurch in response to these tragedies has been incredible".

Cr Hakim's trip, which cost the City of Melbourne \$5961, was detailed in a council report on December 13, which stated the "projects

and programs explored during the visit align and will inform deliberations and work in a number of areas".

This included the council's policy in relation to its public arts program, Aboriginal Melbourne, Homes Melbourne, which addresses homelessness, libraries, and the rapid response clean team which is removing graffiti at significant levels.

The council's future talks with its New Zealand counterparts will also inform its approach to climate change mitigation and resilience, smart cities and innovation, and the CBD's recovery post-COVID.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who visited Singapore last year as part of a council-organised trip, said Melbourne was continuing in its aspirations to be a "world-class city" and it's "important that we're constantly learning from cities around us". ●

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Queen Victoria Market traders “temporarily” located for three years as more works kick-off

Continued from page 1.

would be six months, to allow for the construction of the Trader Shed and Northern Shed at G Shed to be carried out. This is due to start in mid-2023 and is expected to take around two-and-a-half years.

Work will include excavation to a depth of 20 metres, piling, and the relocation and installation of services, as well as a large project hub for equipment and materials, and the operation of a tower crane.

Traders “confused” over relocation

But some traders, while understanding the redevelopment will bring many benefits to the market, feel their relocation could have been better handled as there was “a lot of confusion”.

Some also expressed disappointment that they were given one month’s notice to relocate.

The City of Melbourne said it had been in talks with traders regarding the timing of their respective moves since October last year.

It also said a “number of alternative approaches have been thoroughly explored but were deemed unsuitable due to safety risks to traders and customers, and as they would cause greater disruption to the whole market”.

“The use of H and I Sheds will minimise the time and cost to deliver the project,” the council said in a statement.

A produce trader, who spent four days relocating his stall to D Shed, said they expected to experience a drop in revenue, and all affected stallholders should be better compensated.

“We might be getting a few months’ discount but nothing that is going to make a difference in three years. It shouldn’t even be in the same word as temporary, it’s absolutely obscene,” they said, requesting anonymity.

The trader also expressed concern that management “keep handballing as far as locking in proper leases that we had” while also fronting a “wall” with any negotiations.

The trader has since raised the “unfair conditions” of their lease (which they had not signed) with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Another trader, who sells fruit and vegetables, said the relocation “could’ve been done a bit better”.

“There was a lot of confusion. It’s not ideal but it has to happen, the issue is more the timeline. They said six months, then they told us three years,” they said, adding they had been given two weeks’ notice to move.

“We can’t really do anything about it. We’re all pretty much in the same boat,” the trader said, requesting they also remain anonymous.

Ivan, a wholefood trader of seven years, said adjusting to a new location was inconvenient.

“Whichever way you frame it, it’s not ideal,” he said, adding “management could’ve been more proactive in terms of giving more help”.

He said news of the three-year relocation was “kind of the blow that everybody is mostly upset about”.

Worry over market disconnect

Despite reassurances from the council and market management, there is worry among traders that they will not experience the same traffic flow as their original locations, which are linked to the diary, meat, and fish halls.

A concerned dairy hall trader, who asked not to be named, said the renovation works had not been well thought out.

“Obviously, dairy hall traders are concerned that a) there is a disconnection and b) you’ve got the impact continually flowing on from COVID, and now you’ve got this; it’s been tough,” he said.

“The market has not put up any compensation for trader support packages or policy or discussion.”

Council support package

The council has sought to address concerns through its expanded support package, which included:

- A one-off relocation incentive of \$500 per stall.
- Improved access to the Trader Connect Program, which provides dedicated business and financial assistance to traders impacted by the renewal program. A



▲ Traders from Queen Victoria Market’s H and I Sheds relocate to C and D Sheds. Photo: Brendan Rees

reviewed trader support fund will be accessible to traders whose business has been directly impacted by disruption.

- Increased contributions for trader cool rooms and point of sale modules, from 60 per cent to 80 per cent.
- Free parking passes for vans and trucks.
- Offering an additional three-year licence extension.
- \$1000 per trader for enhanced trader stall signage.
- Assisting traders with logistical support, including the relocation of trader stall infrastructure and ongoing support unloading pallets from trucks.
- Enhanced wayfinding and marketing to help customers navigate the market, including signage, maps, and a dedicated marketing plan.
- Guaranteeing traders can return to their previous trading locations in H and I Sheds following the completion of works.

Traders can also access a small business mentoring service for additional support and advice.

President of the Friends of Queen Victoria Market lobby group Mary-Lou Howie said a compensation model like how rent relief was provided during COVID lockdowns “needs to be urgently developed by City of Melbourne in consultation with traders”.

“That’s what good landlords do to protect their valuable assets. And the City of Melbourne’s best asset is the QVM traders. Without them there is no market,” she said. Once complete, the Trader Shed and Northern Shed will deliver new trader and customer facilities including modern logistics, storage, waste, and recycling infrastructure.

The Lord Mayor said the precinct renewal program had restored 10 of the market’s heritage sheds, and new trader services had been installed in A, B and C Sheds.

“We’re continuing to transform the market’s outdated food court into a vibrant indoor dining destination, and the new Munro development offers build-to-rent apartments, affordable housing, a hotel, and restaurants, bars and shops.”

The renewal comes after the market has struggled financially following two years of lockdowns, with the company recording a loss of \$526,941 despite receiving a grant totalling \$7.7 million from the City of Melbourne, according to the market’s latest annual report.

The report noted significant impacts included \$3.7 million in trader rent relief, lower visitation, and COVID restrictions reducing revenue by \$1,455,000.

“Small number” of traders miss out on F Shed

The market’s management said while the “vast majority” of traders in F Shed prior to renovations had been offered new leases, “a small number of traders will not return to F Shed”.

“In such cases, every effort is made to work with traders to find suitable, alternative trading locations where possible,” management said.

In January, *CBD News* spoke to a few traders who said they were confused about what was happening at F Shed, and whether all leases would be renewed.

In a statement, the council said, “dozens of traders will return to the newly restored E and F Sheds in early 2023”. The council also said traders in A, B and C Sheds had access to new “at stall” facilities via bollards with power, running water and soon-to-be-connected sewer infrastructure. Previously traders had accessed electricity through power points located on the shed posts. ●



▲ A new steel roof had been installed at the new food hall, which will open soon.



New-look food hall prepares to launch

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Queen Victoria Market’s new food hall is nearing completion with traders expected to begin fitting out their stalls early this year.

The \$5.5 million revamp of the old food court hit a milestone in December with the City of Melbourne announcing a new steel roof had been installed.

“Work is now underway to install essential services, complete the façade and fit out the building’s internal walls and spaces, before we can hand over the new sites to traders early in the new year,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“The contemporary and inviting food hall will be a vibrant indoor dining destination for the market, enticing more visitors to the precinct and making it even easier for traders to run their businesses.”

“It will replace the market’s existing 1980s food court, which was outdated and hampered the potential for traders to innovate and trade.”

The new space promises to offer a diverse range of cuisine styles and beverage offerings across takeaway, casual dining and restaurants.

Features include new flooring, a modern fit-out with new services and amenities, more greenery and additional space for people to sit and eat.

The project, which kicked-off in February last year as part of the market’s \$260 million precinct renewal program, has faced delays after existing underground services were found to be in poor condition and required upgrading.

This was also coupled with construction industry delays, including a shortage of materials and challenges with sub-contractor resourcing.

While construction is under way, pedestrians and vehicles are being diverted around the site. The rest of the market remains open.

As part of the new-look food hall, expressions of interest were sought in 2021 for cuisine and food specialities, with existing food court owners also able to apply, but as *CBD News* reported last year, it left two shops – Café Verona and Funk Fish – unsuccessful in their bid to have their leases renewed. ●

RESUMES
FEB 5

SCOTSCITY CHURCH

New to Melbourne? Starting at Uni, or launching into a fresh career? ScotsCity Church is new too! Join us Sundays for community, coffee, and Bible Teaching that connects.

scotscchurch.com/scotscity

5PM SUNDAYS, WERNER BRODBECK HALL,
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A growing family ministry in the heart of the city

VENUE HIRE AT SCOTS'

The Scots' Church Melbourne offers quality venues situated in a beautiful heritage building in the heart of Melbourne CBD suitable for hosting groups of up to 350 people. Our venues have been utilised for concerts, personal development days, large and small team meetings, a base for school city experiences, as well as registered and non-registered training courses.

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QVM appoints new chief executive

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

An Alpine Resorts Victoria manager has been appointed as Queen Victoria Market's chief executive, who will take over the reins in February.

Matt Elliott replaces Stan Liacos who announced he was stepping down as CEO last October after four years in the top job, saying it was the "right time to seek new challenges".

Mr Liacos was lauded for having steered the iconic market and its 600-plus traders through the pandemic, while playing a pivotal role with the City of Melbourne in its \$268 million market precinct renewal program.

Mr Elliott is currently the sales and development manager at Alpine Resorts Victoria for Mt Buller, where he has been responsible for visitor attraction and experience at Victoria's most popular alpine resort.

QVM board chair Jane Fenton said Mr Elliott brought a mix of skills, including his previous senior leadership position at the Melbourne Market Authority (MMA), to guide Queen Victoria Market forward and ensuring it remained a treasured destination.

As the MMA's commercial and business development Manager, Mr Elliott was responsible for enhancing the wholesale market experience and expanding its customer base.

"He understands markets and market culture and has strong international links across the



▲ *Matt Elliott.*

world market community after successfully working in partnership with Queen Victoria Market in his role at Melbourne Market Authority to stage the World Union of Markets International Congress in Melbourne in 2017," Ms Fenton said.

“

He understands markets and market culture and has strong international links across the world market community...

”

"His experience gives him deep insights into the pressures and issues facing traders, the workings of end-to-end supply chains, the market's competitors, consumer preferences, the visitor economy, and the need to differentiate the market from other shopping, cultural and leisure precincts. He understands that traders are the fabric of the market."

Mr Elliott expressed his delight in accepting his new role.

"I look forward to working with staff, the board, traders, partners, the wider market community and our shareholder, the City of Melbourne, to ensure the brightest future for the Queen Victoria Market in a rapidly changing retail environment in fast developing inner-city Melbourne," he said.

Mr Elliott will begin his role on February 27. ●



Man arrested after alleged sexual assault on tram

CRIME

Police have arrested a 22-year-old man following an alleged sexual assault on a tram in the CBD on January 13.

It is alleged a man sexually assaulted a woman on a tram at the intersection of Elizabeth and Bourke streets at around 11pm.

Police were told the man got off the tram and fled the scene on foot.

The Frankston man boarded another tram nearby, where he was arrested. He was released pending further enquiries.

Transit police are investigating the incident.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on **1800 333 000** or submit a confidential report at **crimestoppersvic.com.au** ●

Small business owner grows tired of uncertainty at Queen Victoria Market

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A Queen Victoria Market leather goods trader says he will pack up and leave after continuously being moved around the market, leaving him no certainty over his small business.

The trader of 10 years, who wished to remain anonymous after experiencing "mistreatment" by market management, said the final straw that led to his difficult decision was learning the news that his lease at the newly renovated F Shed would not be renewed.

The trader said after spending the past five to seven years of being relocated around market at the request of management for various reasons, he was "finally happy" to settle within a space at F Shed.

All traders at F Shed were relocated to other sections of the market last year to allow heritage shed renovations to be carried out for six months, which were recently completed.

However, the leather goods trader, who was relocated to L Shed during the renovation works, said he was devastated to discover that the market's management were "no longer in

the position" to offer him a "further term" in F Shed.

He was further frustrated that he was given only eight days' notice to move out all his belongings in F shed by December 31. This was despite being given reassurances that he would be able to return, according to the trader.

"I disagreed to move out and they gave me a second option of 'if you do not move out, we won't let you operate in a store,'" he said.

In a statement, Queen Victoria Market management said the details of lease and licence discussions with traders "are confidential in nature".

"However, we can confirm that while the vast majority of traders who were in F Shed prior to shed restorations have been offered new leases, a small number of traders will not return to F Shed," it said. "In such cases, every effort is made to work with traders to find suitable, alternative trading locations where possible."

The trader, a father of two, said while he had been offered a two-year lease in L Shed, he had had enough of the uncertainty and wanted out.

"I no longer want to work in the market because of the disrespect and the things I face from the management," he said, adding "we

don't know tomorrow if we'll be working in one spot or somewhere else."

"If it's not their way, there's no other way."

The trader said he had suffered depression and anxiety as a result, which had been exacerbated by the stresses of hard times felt during COVID.

The trader, who emigrated to Australia from Pakistan 12 years ago, said he had worked 18 hours a day building up his business and was "luckily to survive all these years".

"It's heartbreaking because I've been working in the market for 10 years, and I have put all my hard work into it, you have small dreams when you start a business."

"They [management] simply don't care how many traders move out. So many stallholders move out and I'm simply one of them." ●



Brendan Rees
JOURNALIST
BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Man charged over arson incidents

CRIME

A 29-year-old man has been arrested after a series of alleged arson incidents in the CBD and West Melbourne in December.

Queensland Police arrested James McArdle in Cairns on January 7 after a warrant was issued for his arrest in December in relation to a suspicious fire investigation.

Two of the alleged incidents involved a car fire at a Little Lonsdale St car park at around 5.10pm on December 22, as well as a fire at a Mercantile Place business at around 6.30pm on the same evening.

Other alleged fires, three of which involved cars, occurred in West Melbourne between December 3 and December 16.

Investigators travelled to Cairns on January 9 to apply for McArdle's extradition to Melbourne.

He is expected to face 17 charges including seven counts of arson, unlawful assault and commit indictable offence while on bail.

It's also expected he will be interviewed in relation to seven further fires.

Investigations continue into the series of fires.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on **1800 333 000**. ●

Proudly representing the community in Melbourne's CBD

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Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region, Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076. Funded from Parliamentary Budget.

Three statues of women set to be celebrated in the municipality

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Three new statues commemorating significant women in Melbourne’s history will be erected as the City of Melbourne looks to close the gap on gender inequality.

Only nine of the 580 statues within the municipality depict women while five of the 25 statues on council land depict women, both of which Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece described as a “gross inequity” and a “moral hazard for Melbourne”.

Cr Reece successfully led a motion at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on December 6 calling for more women to be immortalised as statues in recognition of their contributions to society.

“There is a well-known phrase, you can’t be what you can’t see. And yet for generations, boys and girls have grown up in this city without a visible sign of the female role models who helped shape our city when they walk our streets, our parks, our public squares, and public places,” he said.

“Through this effort, we hope to send a signal to the next generation that all genders and cultures have a place in our society and are capable of greatness.”

Cr Reece said the council would work closely with stakeholders and the community to deliver at least three new statues depicting



▲ Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece with the statue of Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nicholls in Parliament Gardens.
Photo: Rebecca Broadhead.

women, with public consultation set to begin in February.

While the council hasn’t formally announced which significant women would be celebrated as statues, some suggestions have included Boonwurrung woman Louisa Briggs, who advocated for Indigenous rights; politician Vida Goldstein, and entrepreneur Helena Rubinstein.

Vida Goldstein was one of the first four women to stand for federal parliament in 1903. Despite not being elected, she continually campaigned for women’s rights and other social reforms.

Louisa Briggs, a survivor of the first Stolen Generations of the first new southern colonies, was the first Aboriginal woman to replace a European on salaried staff in her role as a midwife and nurse, while business-woman Helena Rubinstein, who emigrated to Australia from Poland in 1896 with little money, built an international cosmetics empire.

Cr Reece said most statues in the City of Melbourne were selected by a process undertaken by the council, the state government, the MCG Trust, and the Melbourne Olympic Park Trust, which would be engaged to identify potential sites for the statues.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp expressed her appreciation for the motion, noting the new statues would serve as a reminder of the importance of recognising and honouring the achievements of women.

“Shockingly, when I became Lord Mayor, I didn’t know the stories of our first two female Lord Mayors Lecki Ord and Winsome McCaughey,” she said.

“I’ll certainly be adding their names to the list for consideration for work that they did not just as been female leaders out of 104 Lord Mayors, but for the incredible leadership they showed in devising and then implementing Postcode 3000.”

“These are the stories that we want to be told over and over and their leadership during that critical time in Melbourne’s development where we went from being described as a moribund city in a rust bucket state to one of the world’s most liveable cities.”

The Victorian Women’s Trust’s executive director, Mary Crooks, welcomed the proposal, saying it “absolutely long overdue” and that a panel would be ideal in narrowing down selections.

“Ever since European settlement, there’s been a biased and skewed treatment of public statues and profiling people at the exclusion of women as part of our narrative,” she said.

“Statues aren’t just interesting bit of artwork in a park, they are replete with messaging, they’re replete with symbolism, they are absolutely an important part of the public record.”

To read more from Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece’s perspective on this issue, you can read his opinion piece on page 14. ●

Hubs to support more Melburnians experiencing homelessness

HOMELESSNESS

The City of Melbourne is boosting its support for Melburnians experiencing homelessness, partnering with the Salvation Army to offer meals and outreach services at a night-time café in the CBD.

The renewed City East Hub, based at the Salvation Army’s Project 614 site at 69 Bourke St, will provide some of Melbourne’s most vulnerable people with greater access to essential services.

The service will introduce twilight meals and support seven days a week throughout January, as well as further support including:

- After hours outreach, five days a week
- Housing and homelessness advice
- Showers, lockers and information

The council said the hub partnership would build on existing services at Project 614, “expanding its offering to reach even more people in need”.

It’s part of the Homelessness Support Hub pilot program, which will see the council partner with service providers to offer even more assistance to those sleeping rough across the city.

The City of Melbourne is also working with the Living Room to establish storage and locker services at their Hosier Lane Service, which will allow people experiencing homelessness to store their personal belongings safely and access a wide range of support.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the Homelessness Support Hub pilot program built on the council’s work towards reducing homelessness in the city.

“We’re proud to be partnering with the Salvos to ensure the most vulnerable members of our community get the support and care they deserve.”

“The support hub pilot program is part of Homes Melbourne’s work to create new pathways out of homelessness and reach even more people in need.”

“As Australia’s most liveable city, we need to make sure there is accessible space for everyone in Melbourne – including our key workers, lower income families and those experiencing and at-risk of homelessness.”

The Salvation Army’s commanding officer Brendan Nottle said, “This launch today highlights the commitment of The Salvation Army and City of Melbourne to support people experiencing homelessness in Melbourne.”

“It’s important because it puts focus on the partnership between the two organisations to provide practical support to connect people to pathways out of homelessness.”

“This is a clear and compassionate response from City of Melbourne to partner with The Salvation Army that demonstrates inclusion and that they care for the most vulnerable members of our community.”

Among other key council initiatives is the Make Room



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp speaking at the Homelessness Support Hub.



project – a council-owned building at 602 Little Bourke St which is being transformed into secure, safe, supported accommodation and support services for people experiencing homelessness.

The council’s health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead Cr Dr Olivia Ball said the vital service provided by both the hubs and the Make Room project were all aimed at addressing the causes of homelessness.

“Our objective is not to support people to remain homeless, however, but to provide housing, which is why Make Room and our affordable housing targets are central to Homes Melbourne. Only when people are housed securely can they begin to address the causes of homelessness,” Cr Dr Ball said. ●



The free service reducing the stigma of managing periods

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
HEALTH

The City of Melbourne has extended its free period care pilot program until June 30, after it was successfully launched in September 2021.

The program involved the installation of vending machines, filled with free period care products, in six council-owned facilities around the municipality.

Since the trial began, the council has reported much success with the program.

“Over our 12-month pilot program, we provided more than 6700 pads and tampons to Melburnians who needed them,” the council’s Health, Wellbeing and Belonging portfolio lead Cr Dr Olivia Ball said.

“We’re pleased to be extending our Free Period Care Program and look forward to working alongside the Victorian State Government to end period poverty in Victoria.”

Currently around 15 per cent of Victorian women and people who menstruate have been unable to, at some point in their lives, afford the expenses that come with period products.

As healthcare products that are

essential for the everyday lives of those who require them, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was hoping the program would assist with “remov[ing] the stigma and shame that surrounds menstruation”.

In addition to this, the program’s mission is to also help reduce the social, financial and personal impacts of the one in five Australians facing period poverty.

“We’re doing what we can to make managing periods easier and more accessible for all Melburnian girls, women and people who menstruate,” she said.

“We hope to continue to extend and expand the program – to create a greater sense of menstrual equity in Melbourne.”

The free period care items can currently be found at the Library at the Dock, City Library, Carlton Baths, Melbourne Town Hall public toilets on Collins St, North Melbourne Community Centre, and the Kathleen Syme Community Centre in Carlton.

The extension of the program will also see the council working in collaboration with the state government to accelerate the roll out and expand on the number of facilities where products can be found. ●

“I’m not leaving”

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

Last December tenants of the Nicholas Building began receiving letters delivering news of 50 per cent rent rises and more, giving them just a week to respond.

On December 18, eighth-floor gallerist Stephen McGlaughlin posted his own letter on Facebook, calling for sponsors.

“A person supported me who had a show here 28 years ago. She loved her show. We have a lot of goodwill,” he said.

Members of this close-knit community are still dealing with the blow but just two have chosen to leave from McGlaughlin’s eighth-floor community.

Some are saying that agents have been “brutal” in their approach.

But, according to McGlaughlin, director of an eponymous gallery, the increase just brings the rents up to commercial levels of \$450 a square metre.

“The letters were sent out by someone new to the company,” he said. “She’s been made the scapegoat.”

The drama of the Nicholas Building’s fight for survival has had wide coverage in the press ever since it was put on the market in October 2021.

A sale never went through and the rent increases, according to McGlaughlin, seem big but follow a long period of being “dramatically low” and waived totally during the lockdown.

He said that his gallery had faced closure but thanks to the response to the Facebook campaign he had enough to pay for the increase and a full program of exhibitions is planned.

“I’m not leaving,” he said, reassuring a large group of artists who regularly exhibit in his room.



▲ Gallerist Stephen McGlaughlin loves the old-world mystery of the Nicholas Building.

Business as usual was the catch cry of a community that had blossomed during a period of “extremely good custodianship of the building,” he said.

The owners have kept up maintenance. The electrical and safety aspects “are fine and they’re experienced at it”. And they haven’t tarted up the corridors, which attract a certain kind of client.

One eighth-floor tenant has looked at equivalent space in other buildings but couldn’t cope with the “men in grey slacks and pale blue

shirts”.

The Nicholas Building has an eclectic mix. On the eighth-floor there is an opera singer, two galleries, zine collective, curator, gem cutters, industrial designer, record shop, electrical contractors, philosopher, jeweler, artist and a sound studio, and that’s just the one floor.

Before the Victorian Election there was a call for the government to buy the building to save it for the community but the majority of those who spoke to *CBD News* weren’t in favour of being bailed out.

The drama of the Nicholas Building’s fight for survival has had wide coverage in the press ever since it was put on the market in October 2021.



A rent rise for many is better than filling in applications for funding. Some businesses on the lower floors have already expanded into rooms recently vacated and have their own plans in place.

The witchcraft business on the first floor declined to comment on its expansion. “It ruins the mystery for our clients,” a spokeswoman said. ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
R.DREDGE@HOTMAIL.COM

QR code vandalism makes scrubbing the city clean more difficult

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is working with Victoria Police to track down the culprits responsible for vandalising dozens of QR codes used for reporting graffiti.

Around 40 illegally-altered QR codes have been removed from council bins around the city centre since January 1, after they were discovered to be leading people to pro-graffiti, and other, websites.

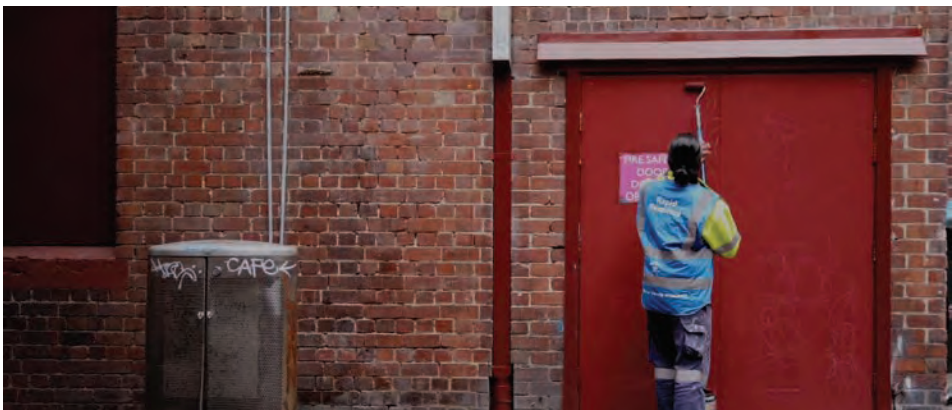
The council’s new reporting system has been an important tool for its Rapid Response Clean Team.

Of the 150,000 square metres of graffiti removed last year, 63,000 square metres was reported by the public.

To help combat the interruption to cleaning efforts, the council and police have been investigating the vandalised bins in the city centre, including on Collins St, Swanston St and Bourke St, and removing the vandals’ stickers as they are found.

“We’ll continue to target hotspots and work closely with Victoria Police to crack down on repeat offenders who are leaving a scourge on our city,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“Our Rapid Response Clean Team has proactively removed tens of thousands of square metres of graffiti from across the city – the large majority on privately owned property.”



Despite the vandalism, the council is remaining positive and says its proud of the work conducted by its Rapid Response Clean Team.

And after successfully removing 121 per cent more graffiti than the year prior the council is looking ahead to expand its clean team in order to stay ahead.

“We’re stepping up to scrub the city clean – making sure Melbourne is sparkling for city residents, workers and visitors every day of the year,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“Our Rapid Response Clean Team has proactively removed tens of thousands of square metres of graffiti from across the city – the large majority on privately-owned property.”

To assist with the graffiti blitz efforts in 2023, the council is looking at implementing more anti-vandalism features like green walls and murals, and will make use of the record \$1.4 million investment in last year’s budget towards the cause.

“We’re scrubbing the city clean like never before – so everyone can enjoy our city’s public spaces throughout summer and the school holidays,” the council’s City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations deputy portfolio lead Councillor Davydd Griffiths said.

“Removing record amounts of graffiti is a credit to our Rapid Response Clean Team, which is working to ensure our iconic streets and laneways are as inviting as our world-renowned open spaces.”

The council will also continue to keep an eye out for those seen littering or illegally dumping rubbish, after more than 900 infringement notices and fines were handed out in 2022. ●



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Your City of Melbourne community update

CITY GARDENS GO WILD FOR WILDLIFE

Sign up for a free garden visit and become a champion for conservation

Melbourne is home to many iconic parks and gardens, from local reserves to vast open spaces like Birrarung Marr, Fitzroy Gardens and Princes Park. However, one open space people often forget about is in their own home.

Believe it or not you don't need a sprawling backyard in the suburbs to create a thriving natural habitat. Whether you live in a freestanding house, townhouse, or apartment, you can build your own natural space to promote and support local wildlife, right here in the city.

Gardens for Wildlife Melbourne is a free program that provides in-person or virtual walk throughs of people's home spaces with a trained gardening guide. Residents can receive expert advice and recommendations on how

they can improve their spaces for local wildlife and build a beautiful natural habitat in their home.

Garden volunteers will request some images of your home space and book in a virtual or in-person visit to learn more about your space and goals. After the visit, you'll receive a personalised garden report with advice on how you can work towards your goals.

You'll also receive a voucher for free native plants from program partners Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare, who can offer even further advice and inspiration on what native plants will suit your space and goals.

Become a champion for conservation and support local wildlife by signing up for a free garden visit at melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife

For Ann-Sofie, living in a 25th floor apartment has a lot of perks – especially the view. What was missing from Ann-Sofie's home though was a natural element.

When Ann-Sofie booked her virtual garden tour, she was looking for advice on what types of plants to incorporate on her balcony. With a personalised garden report, expert advice and a Bili Nursery voucher,

Ann-Sofie was able to transform her balcony from bland to beautiful, even attracting a few ladybugs and butterflies to her slice of heaven.

"It has definitely made our balcony much more homely having the plants, I'd love to do it again. I keep recommending it to everyone. Everyone should be doing this, it's great fun," Ann-Sofie said.

TIPS FOR CREATING A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

- Planting banksia and grevilleas will help you attract large nectar-eating birds like rainbow lorikeets or red wattlebirds.
- Butterflies will only lay their eggs on specific plants, but adult butterflies will take nectar from lots of different types of flowers, native or exotic.
- You can attract smaller birds like the eastern spinebills by planting thick shrubs for them to hide from bigger birds, cats and dogs.
- If you're lucky you can attract blue-tongue lizards by growing native groundcover plants like nodding saltbush and ruby saltbush, which produce fruit the lizards love.
- Many small bird species like to build their nests using spider webs, fur and grass collected from all around. Keep an eye out for birds collecting nesting material and secure any plastics they might become tangled in.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Artist's impression of green rooftops across the city

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS

Melbourne is one of the most liveable cities in the world and we're working hard to ensure it stays that way for generations to come.

That's why at City of Melbourne we're taking bold action on climate change and delivering on our promises for 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and zero net emissions by 2040.

City of Melbourne is a global leader on climate action and sustainability. To ensure we reach our sustainability targets, we're proposing to introduce new sustainable building design standards for all new buildings, major builds and additions that meet a certain size threshold.

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed move to more sustainable building design in the municipality.

Buildings are our biggest polluters and account for 66 per cent of emissions in our municipality. This means we must change the way we build our homes and offices to address the climate and biodiversity emergency.

The new best-practice standards are proposed to be introduced into the Melbourne Planning Scheme under Amendment C376. The standards relate to environmentally sustainable design, energy, sustainable transport, heat minimisation, urban ecology, water management, and resource and recovery.

The Amendment also proposes the use of the Green Factor tool, an online green infrastructure assessment tool designed by City of Melbourne that helps developers optimise the design of green infrastructure.

New design standards will improve the way we live, work and get around the city by helping cool our homes and offices, help us deal with flooding events or heatwaves and make buildings cheaper to live in and operate.

To have your say on the proposed standards, and join us in building a more sustainable Melbourne, complete a written submission between 2 February and 17 March. Join one of our information sessions at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c376.

IN BRIEF

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

At the City of Melbourne, we believe in bringing people together. Whether you're here to live or learn, to earn or enjoy, we're making our city inclusive and accessible for all. We're a city of possibility – whoever you are, wherever you've come from, everyone is welcome. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/community to learn more.

OUT AND ABOUT GUIDE

Are you an older person looking for free or low-cost activities, events, services and support in the City of Melbourne? Our 2023 Out and About guide is here to help. Pick up a copy today at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub. Or to download a copy visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople

IMMUNISATION CHANGES

Our maternal and child health team provides holistic care for babies and parents. However, we no longer offer child immunisations during regular check-ups. To learn how to book these through one of our community immunisation sessions, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation

FOOD AND GARDEN RECYCLING

More than 23,000 households are now participating in our food and garden organics recycling service, with 1900 tonnes of organics already collected. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste to see how you can put your organics to good use.

REPORT IT ONLINE

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

IT'S COOL TO PREPARE FOR EXTREME HEAT

Summer has finally arrived, bringing picnics in parks, poolside lounging, rooftop cocktails and the hottest live music.

While we soak up the rays and explore the city, it's important to keep in mind the dangers of extreme heat, what you can do to prepare and how to stay cool when the temperature spikes.

By 2050, it's estimated Melbourne will experience 16 days above 35 degrees each year. This means more intense heat for longer periods.

At the City of Melbourne we're working to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat. We're already taking action through the Greenline Project, urban greening, introducing sustainable building guidelines and providing practical support.

Last year, we became the first city in Australasia to join the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center's City Champions for Heat Action – announcing our new Co-Chief Heat Officers, Tiffany Crawford and Krista Milne.

Our Chief Heat Officers champion City of Melbourne's heat-related preparedness, response and recovery actions, unify decision-makers and service providers, and raise awareness in the community.

But we can't do it alone – here are our top tips to help you beat the heat this summer:

Be prepared

Keep an eye out for Heat Alerts on our social media channels, set up a 'watch zone' on the Vic Emergency app or subscribe to the Department of Health's heat alerts and be aware of upcoming weather.

Make your home heat-ready by keeping curtains closed during the day, using an air conditioner or fan if you have one and opening windows when it's cool.

Find a cool place

If your home is too hot, try visiting an air-conditioned shopping centre, library, movie theatre, or jump in the pool at one of our recreation centres.

Find cool locations near you with our Cool Places map on our website and plan your journey with our Cool Routes map.

Stay Hydrated

Drinking water is vital during hot weather. Carry a water bottle with you and refill at one of our 60 hydration stations.

Look after each other – including your furry friends

Extreme heat can have severe effects on our most vulnerable, especially older people and young children. Check in regularly with your family, friends and neighbours, never leave children in cars and make sure your pets have plenty of water and a cool place to rest.

Find more tips at melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves



People enjoy the sunshine along the Yarra River

End of era for Palace Theatre as luxury hotel prepares to launch

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The CBD's once grand and historic Palace Theatre has been redeveloped into a boutique hotel, with its launch expected to occur early this year.

The 110-year-old Bourke St building was a much-loved feature of Melbourne, having served as an entertainment venue and as the home of the former Metro Nightclub for 20 years.

However, the heritage-listed theatre was demolished after a controversial decision was made to allow a 12-storey five-star hotel to be built in its place.

Le Méridien Melbourne is now set to open a \$100 million luxury hotel at the site in early 2023, which will feature 235 rooms, a ground floor café and bar, restaurant, and a pool deck with sweeping views overlooking Parliament, Fitzroy Gardens, and the city skyline.

The development will however see the theatre's Art Deco façade facing Bourke St retained.

The City of Melbourne together with the National Trust of Australia and Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) opposed the plans as the theatre was "significant socially and historically", which resulted in the council refusing to



▲ Charles Sowerwine outside the new Le Méridien hotel.

grant a permit for a hotel.

But the owners, China-based developer Jinshan Investment Group, which bought the building in 2012, argued the theatre had been altered over the past century and took the matter to the Victorian and Civil and Administrative Tribunal in 2016, which allowed demolition and redevelopment works to go ahead.

Le Méridien said the hotel, which consisted of "mid-century inspired interiors and subtle nuances to its halcyon heritage", was "ideally located to experience the richness of Melbourne's art, history and culture".

However, the redevelopment has caused a lot of upset in the community while sparking heated debate about the city's gradual loss of heritage buildings.

In his *CBD News* column last year, the MHA's chair Tristian Davies said "Le Meridien will most likely advertise the hotel as a vibrant part of Melbourne's theatre district, but in reality, they've done little more than help a rogue developer vandalise our social and built heritage for a marginal profit".

East Enders residents' group president Dr Stan Capp said there were many reasons why any development of the former Palace Theatre should protect the heritage value of both its internal and external features.

"Why VCAT approved a 12-storey building at this unique location escapes me but as others have said, 'this ship has sailed', and we can only ponder how and why planning decisions are taken away from our City of Melbourne representatives".

However, Dr Capp noted the Marriott/Le Meridien brand was internationally recognised as a quality provider of hotel and hospitality services "and I anticipate that will be what we have in this new venue, which will also be welcomed".

He said the retention of the external façade was a good outcome and any recognition of the site's history, including the earlier Excelsior Hotel built in the 1850s, was welcomed.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said it was also tragedy to see the loss of a much-loved heritage venue, but added "that is now history and the opening of a new hotel is a welcome addition in the Hoddle Grid as the city's economic recovery continues".

"Tourism will be more important than ever to the local economy, so this new hotel is a positive strategic addition," he said.

"The recent Hoddle Grid heritage review resulted in the biggest-ever addition to Melbourne's heritage inventory and if The Palace had still been standing it is likely it would have received protection. "Sadly, that ship has now sailed and so now we need to make the most of the situation and welcome a much-needed new hotel."

Professor Charles Sowerwine (pictured), chair of the Royal Historical Society Victoria (RHSV) heritage committee, said "an important part of Melbourne's theatre history has been lost".

"The RHSV condemns the loss of the Palace Theatre, vandalised to prevent it from getting heritage protection," he said. ●

Greening projects making Melbourne an urban forest

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne is set to become a little greener with a number of tram stops transforming into lush eco-installations as part of the council's Urban Forest Fund Grant program.

The program, which has been around since 2017, has invested more than \$1.7 million into 19 projects valued at more than \$10 million, with the Urban Forest Fund supported by tree removal fees.

Included within the latest \$500,000 investment into the program will be four other projects in addition to the greening of tram stops, with the projects equating to a worth of more than \$3.8 million.

"City greening projects like these are essential to adapting our city to a changing climate, supporting its continual transformation into a thriving urban forest," the council's environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said.

"Together, these projects will increase our climate resilience by improving biodiversity and canopy cover,



▲ Render of the Urban Forest Fund tram stop eco-installations.

Credit: Realview Studio and Yarra Trams.

reducing air pollution and mitigating impacts of the urban heat island effect."

Following a partnership with the Department of Transport and Yarra Trams, the council will start with its trial on four major tram stops, including Collins and Williams streets' Stop 3 on Routes 11, 12, 48, and 109, and William and Bourke streets' Stop 5 for Route 58.

The plants for the installations will be grown and installed by eco-developer Plant Based Building Solutions, which is located in Port Melbourne.

Included within the installed plants

will be local grasses and wildflowers that can be found on Volcanic Plain Grasslands. The drought tolerant plant palettes will also ensure the eco-installations can withstand the challenging growing conditions of harsh, dry summers.

According to Yarra Trams' chief executive Julien Dehornoy, the goal of the program was something that Yarra Trams, the world's largest tram network, aligned with strongly as it had continued to do what it could do to support "Victoria's circular economy".

"Everyone has a role to play in

creating a more sustainable and liveable Melbourne, and this partnership with the City of Melbourne and Department of Transport to trial the installation of green tram stops is just one way we're working to make a difference for our city," Mr Dehornoy said.

"Melbourne's iconic trams are already powered by solar power and are the most eco-friendly mode of public transport to get into the city, but we're not resting on our laurels."

The council has also partnered with a number of additional supporting

organisations and community groups, with Lord Mayor Sally Capp stating it was "looking forward to working alongside its collaborators to bring their brilliant ideas into fruition".

"We're thrilled to support community organisations with the delivery of innovative and sustainable projects to help accelerate greening in the city as part of the Urban Forest Fund Grant program," Cr Capp said.

"Since its inception, the program has created a variety of jobs for Melburnians and generated almost five times the economic return on investment. Not only will these projects beautify our city, but they will also create opportunities for community connection and draw more visitors back to the CBD."

Other projects included in this round are the creation of a green oasis at a historic fire station in North Melbourne, a new native communal garden for an apartment block in Agnes St, Jolimont, and a green wall for the Hero Apartment Building on Little Collins St.

All projects are due for completion by the end of June 2023, which will add 1000 square metres of new green cover throughout the municipality. ●

Time to close the gender gap in statues

WORDS BY *Nicholas Reece*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Of the 580 statues in Melbourne just nine depict real women. There are more statues of fairies and nymphs than there are of actual real women who lived in this city.

While we work toward 50:50 quotas in almost every sphere of life, the gender gap when it comes to statues is wider than Westgate Freeway.

The invisible statues of the great women of Melbourne's history cannot remain unseen anymore. Visibility matters. Role models matter. If you see it, you can be it. An example offers real encouragement to those who dare to dream. It is time to close the gap.

But to fix this problem will require urgent and collective effort. The erection of statues across the city has occurred under a patchwork of different institutional and landholder arrangements.

The City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government, the Melbourne Olympic Park

Trust and the Melbourne Cricket Club have been responsible for most of the major commissions of statues. All of these institutions should be part of the solution.

We need to make the contribution of the formidable, creative and ingenious women of Melbourne more visible in bronze and marble statues. The inspiration offered by an uplifting statue can spur one on to greater things.

Non-figurative concrete blocks won't do. Abstract sculptural and allegorical tributes are not enough. To function as role models, statues must be particular, figurative, monumental and made of enduring materials like marble or bronze. They must tell a story, that people can connect with, and be inspired by.

The airbrushing, the cropping, the sidelining and the forgetting of so many important figures in our history diminishes every single Melburnian and all that we collectively amount to.

In December the City of Melbourne voted on a new approach to closing the gender gap in statues.

Our Public Art Advisory Panel has been requested to identify new opportunities



to commemorate significant women from Melbourne's history.

In assessing the artistic response, we will prioritise those that include a figurative depiction when commemorating significant women.

We will also work with the community and stakeholders to enable the delivery of three new statues depicting women.

Who will be the next three great women of Melbourne to be memorialised in statue?

This is a great conversation and debate for Melbourne to have. We really want to engage residents and ratepayers in the City of Melbourne on this. Afterall, it is in your streets, your parks and your publicly accessible places that these new statues will be erected.

The City of Melbourne's formal community consultation process will begin in February. So, please watch this space and get engaged.

Finally, if this is topic interests you then I highly recommend Maree Coote's new book *Daughters of Melbourne: A Guide to the Invisible Statues of Melbourne*. It should be compulsory reading for all school-aged children in our great city, and everyone else!

Nicholas Reece is the Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne. ●

Restaurant teams up with Four Pillars to beat the Sunday scaries

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Victoria by Farmer's Daughters is known for celebrating the best of our state, and now it has partnered with Four Pillars Gin for a Sunday special.

Launched on January 15, the Summer Sunday Sessions are divided into the two time slots of 11.30am to 1.30pm and 2.30pm to 4.30pm, offering bottomless cocktails and a seven-course seasonal sharing menu, to the tunes of a DJ.

Created by Victoria by Farmer's Daughters beverage director Matthew Jensen, the primary focus of the Four Pillars Gin cocktails was on the botanicals in the gins and their pairing with in-season ingredients.

"We wanted to create something bright and fun, with long drinks for summer, from sweet to tart to cater to everyone's tastes," Mr Jensen said.

"We also wanted to create drinks which could be replicated with the (booze-free) Four Pillars Bandwagon products so we can offer the closest experience possible to those who don't feel like drinking."

Speaking on the partnership with Victoria by Farmer's Daughters, Four Pillars Gin brand ambassador Rebecca Lam said it was the way the two brands' identities and ethos aligned that made this new venture so exciting.

"We realised that no two brands could align more perfectly than Victoria by Farmer's Daughters with their focus on local, ethical and traceable produce and Four Pillars Gin with our commitment to carbon neutrality, waste reduction and our progressive sustainability initiative," Ms Lam said.

"The drinks are fantastic. Perfectly refreshing, fruity, bright and easy drinking. Perfect for curing those Sunday scaries."

Likewise, when deciding on who to partner with for the Summer Sunday Sessions, Victoria by Farmer's Daughters renowned executive chef Alejandro Saravia said the restaurant had



always been "big fans" of the "Victoria legend in the distilling space".

"Who better to partner with when it came to selecting our first Summer Sunday Sessions drinks partner," he added.

Guests can also continue to expect an outstanding summer feast that showcases and celebrates all that makes the state so special.

Included within the spread will be notable dishes of smoked trout rolls with gribiche and kohlrabi remoulade, grilled O'Connor beef skewers, a house-made Mt Zero Grain hummus, and a curated Victorian cheese and free-range cured meat board.

"Our menu features a summer-focused selection of seasonal ingredients from across the state, and we wanted to make the dishes summer-friendly while ensuring our guests have plenty to eat," Mr Saravia said.

As the venue's first seasonal session having only opened in June 2022, Mr Saravis said the restaurant was already looking ahead at the potential of "continuing to create Sunday Sessions through the year".

Summer Sunday Sessions will be taking place until Sunday, April 9. For more information, or to book, visit: victoriarestaurant.com.au ●



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
JOURNALIST
KAYLAH@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



Get to know a CBD-based international student - Mansi Tiwari

“*I always wanted to get independent and was very curious to explore, and that's how I chose my destination to study abroad.*”

”

WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE IN MELBOURNE?
I came here back in 2019 straight after finishing my high school year 12 in India.

I always wanted to get independent and was very curious to explore, and that's how I chose my destination to study abroad.

WHAT COURSE ARE YOU STUDYING?
Hospitality management at Holmesglen TAFE

WHAT ARE SOME CULTURAL DIFFERENCES YOU HAVE OBSERVED?

The major cultural difference that I noticed was of referring teachers by their name, I was bit shy at first and thought it's going to be disrespectful as I come from a culture where we refer to them as sir or madam.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLACES TO VISIT?
Cafes and some of the late-night eateries are best around the CBD. I love going to late-night rooftop bars with my friends. ●

CBD NEWS

Wish your inbox was more local?

Well we have good news for you!

Scan the QR so you can stay Hyperlocal on the eNews!



The *CBD* Rhythm

Comedy Theatre reopens *The Mousetrap* murder case

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

This February the legendary and gripping murder mystery production *The Mousetrap* is coming to the Comedy Theatre for its 70th Anniversary Australian tour.

A West End masterpiece written by best-selling author and playwright Agatha Christie, the long-running play continues to surprise and shock generations of audience members as they race to work out the mystery killer before it's too late.

Currently in the hands of a talented cast, under the direction of the "First Lady of Australian theatre" Robyn Nevin, this year's *The Mousetrap* is sure to have everyone on the edge of their seats.

Set in 1952, as was the original, actor Alex Rathgeber who plays the character of Giles Ralston told *CBD News* that while the performers were given the scope to make the roles their own, they had remained "faithful to the original".

Although, despite the language and conversations of the script continuing to make references that align with that era, it's been written in a way that manages to still captivate



▲ Photo: Brian Geach.

today's audiences.

"Agatha Christie was an extraordinary intellectual who placed a lot of social and political commentary from the time within each of the characters, and so they are all really complex and quite flawed in different ways," Mr Rathgeber said.

"They are also all highly entertaining with their eccentricities and through the pointed comments they make about life in the UK and even Europe. So, it's really fascinating and a lot of fun, and a lot of people come along expecting a certain thing and leave pleasantly surprised by how many laughs they have."

Set at the Monkswell Manor, a country house that Giles Ralston and his wife Molly

inherit, the plot thickens when amid a blizzard, a multitude of eccentric guests, along with the couple, find themselves snowed in.

It is during this time that they discover a murder has taken place.

What ensues is the unravelling of each and every character, as the audience gets to know and understand them all, while continuing to change their mind about the identity of the killer as more details come to light.

"It's incredibly gripping as a piece of suspense and the murder mystery side of it has the audience really involved in trying to solve the murder mystery," Mr Rathgeber said.

While the show may have been around for 70 years, and already shown in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide, don't expect to find out the killer from anyone else, with audience members traditionally sworn to secrecy about the twist ending.

This ability to keep all secrets within the four walls of the theatre is what makes the production such an outstanding success, and with only a mere five weeks allocated for the show in Melbourne, it is best to get in quick.

Be a part of the experience from February 17 and get your tickets before the show leaves on March 26 at themousetrap.com.au/tickets/melbourne ●

Mary Poppins: As delightful as a spoonful of sugar

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

The world's favourite nanny and charming chimney sweep from the classically renowned *Mary Poppins*, are flying into Melbourne with a burst of colour, unforgettable songs, and magic.

Being performed from January 29, the production is coming to Her Majesty's Theatre after supercalifragilisticexpialidocious runs in Sydney and Brisbane, and will be staying on until April 30.

Leading the all-Australian cast in its return to the magical Cherry Tree Lane, is Stefanie Jones as Mary Poppins and Jack Chambers as Bert the chimney sweep.

While the stage show is not a simple copy and paste of the famous Walt Disney movie, Mr Chambers is quick to ensure that "people who loved the movie, will love the stage show."

"The show is an amalgamation of the movie and books by [Australian-born author P.L. Travers], and so if anything, I think it is more fulfilling and exciting," he told *CBD News*.

"Audience members are seeing magic being done in front of their eyes, and while there are a lot of really big spectacle moments in the show, at the end of the day it has a lot of heart and I

think that surprises a lot of people."

As someone who resonates with Bert being a "song and dance man", Mr Chambers said that while loving the movie as a kid he didn't realise how comfortable it would be to embody the character of Bert until he went for the role.

But while the role of Bert was famously performed by Dick Van Dyke in the movie, Mr Chambers decided to not go back to the original and imitate the role.

"I, of course, had some memory in the back of my mind from what I had seen as a child, but I didn't want it to be fresh in my mind and I wanted to read what was down on paper and find it for myself," he said.

"I knew Bert was charming, cheeky, likeable and personable, so I just tried to bring that and bring elements of myself to that as well because then it will come across as genuine."

Growing up with music and dance around him and the ability to follow his older sister's dancing routines while still in a nappy, it is no wonder that Mr Chambers fell into the musical theatre world.

While finding dance the most natural, as evident from the amazing performances that saw him being crowned winner of the first season of *So You Think You Can Dance Australia*, his



▲ Mary Poppins. Photo – Daniel Boud.

added passion for singing and playing characters has seen his career soar.

And after exciting performances in his hometown of Brisbane where audience members were seen to be immersed into the story completely, he is ready to show Melburnians what all the fuss is about.

He said that while audiences should expect to be absolutely fulfilled, especially when it came to many of the new songs and music by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, it was best they came with no expectations.

"While you are going to get a lot of the iconic songs from the movies, there are a lot of original works and songs that have been specifically written for the show that people haven't heard before, and they have been written so beautifully that they feel like they were part of the movie," he said.

Mary Poppins is co-directed by Matthew Bourne and Richard Eyre. ●

For tickets visit:
marypoppinsmusical.com.au/tickets

CRITIC

Tips for the lit awards

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

The short list for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award has been released and the winners will be announced on February 2.

Readers have been busy over the summer break comparing the contenders.

Two books on the fiction list have already been reviewed by *CBD News*.

Cold Enough for Snow by Jessica Au has been widely publicised by Sydney publishers Giramondo Press.

Au, a Melbourne writer, competed against contestants from around the world for the honour of being published.

She won the company's inaugural Novel Prize, a clever piece of marketing that attached the word "prize" to the book.

By comparison, news of the release of *An Exciting and Vivid Inner Life* by North Melbourne writer Paul Dalla Rosa passed via

word of mouth.

This is his first book of short stories, and it was released internationally by Allen & Unwin.

Dalla Rosa made his name publishing stories in small magazines before the collection was compiled.

The stories are sharp, relevant, closely observed and witty. The title of the collection is an ironic reference to the place of escape for an oppressed worker.

Dalla Rosa deals with the vanities of 21st century life and swivels between the selves on display in retail, call centres, scholarship and other everyday places of torture.

You could say that he digs deeply into the moment and finds it excruciating.

Other contenders for the prize have fled into the past to escape the tension.

Salonika Burning, published by CBD-based Text Publishing, is a gentle tale about four characters helping out on the edges of the First World War.



▲ People who Lunch by Sally Olds

This Devastating Fire, by local writer Sophie Cunningham, focuses on the life of 20th century literary critic, Leonard Woolf.

The Signal Line is set in Tasmania; *Cold*

Enough for Snow, also a beautiful lyrical work, in Japan and *The Lovers* is a dreamlike exploration of love.

Dalla Rosa deserves a tick for tackling the complexity of social roles contemporary subjects are forced to inhabit.

The work stands out with a contender in the non-fiction category, *People who Lunch* by Sally Olds, by dealing with LGBTIQ+ issues in a witty but poignant manner.

Here are two Melbourne writers diving into their lives and turning them into commentaries well worth reading. ●

 **The *CBD* Rhythm**
A DEDICATED SECTION FOR ARTS & CULTURE IN OUR CITY. TO BE FEATURED EMAIL: [KAYLAH@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:kaylah@hyperlocalnews.com.au)

Greenline stage one designs approved as locals have their say

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Locals have had their say on the revitalisation of the Birrarung Marr river edge, mostly endorsing the first of five stages in the \$300 million “city shaping” Greenline project, along the Yarra River.

A broad cross-section of survey respondents — from teenagers to septuagenarians and residents to workers — were generally positive about the designs, with 56 per cent of the near 200 respondents saying they were “very good” or “excellent”.

The Birrarung Marr precinct is the first of five precincts to be transformed as part of the Greenline project and is likely to comprise more than 450 metres of new boardwalks, a six-metre-wide promenade and new native habitats.

The other four precincts — (from east to west) The Falls, River Park, Maritime and Saltwater Wharf

— make up the entire four-kilometre green trail that was set to run through to the Bolte Bridge.

Survey respondents focused on a range of topics, but the topics of greatest intrigue revolved around active transport and tree cover.

Participants identified potential for conflict between cyclists or scooter riders, and pedestrians.

One respondent said that a “separated space for cycling slowly through to enjoy the space” was required, and that the revitalised Birrarung Marr “must not resemble Southbank Promenade shared space”, where the intersection between cyclists and pedestrians is an ongoing concern.

Another participant said that, due to the area’s use as an event venue, there was a need to “balance use of space by commercial operators and recreational users to avoid conflict”.

Councillors endorsed the Birrarung Marr concept design at the final Future Melbourne Committee meeting of 2022.

Speaking at that meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the feedback received had “absolutely influenced the final designs” and “will continue to influence outcomes along Greenline”.

“We’ve heard loud and clear many of the consistent messages that have come through: active transport options and making sure they remain available, accessibility [which is] absolutely vital, amenities such as lighting and street furniture being added, and good suggestions about future food options,” Cr Capp said.

Feedback also indicated a desire for the design to include a connection with nature, increased canopy cover, and grassed areas.

Further, respondents expressed support for a billabong to be included as part of the site, on the basis that it would add to cultural expression.

However, council officers have recommended that the wetland area not be included, with the “focus of the project to be the upgrade to the

river edge”.

Stage one works were expected to begin by mid-2023.

Meanwhile, the council has appointed the design studio and landscape architects to deliver the entire Greenline project, which was expected to be completed in 2028.

ASPECT Studios, an international design practice which has worked on greening projects such as the Bondi to Bronte coastal walk in Sydney and, more locally, the Caulfield to Dandenong skyrail linear park, will work alongside award-winning landscape architecture firm T.C.L.

The two groups will work together on each precinct site, collaborating with the council, state government and key project partners.

“The Greenline Project is a transformative vision for our city, and we’re thrilled to have two of Australia’s leading landscape architecture firms on board to help us make this vision a reality,” Cr Capp said.

In September 2022, economic

analysts estimated the Greenline project would deliver more than \$3 of value for every dollar spent.

A business case prepared by consultancy group Ernst & Young forecasted an increased economic activity in Melbourne of \$740 million over 20 years as a result of of Greenline, which was expected to create more than 3400 jobs during construction and more than 6400 ongoing jobs by 2042.

The council has hoped that the strong business case will attract greater levels of investment from upper levels of government.

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

The council, which has proposed a \$100 million contribution from each level of government, needed further commitment for the entire project to be fully delivered, however was confident of garnering the required investment. ●

QVM TRADER PROFILE

Glimpse into history with Retro Mamma

Tucked away in one of the larger containers on String Bean Alley in Queen Victoria Market is Mary Jones and her renowned speciality store Retro Mamma.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Taking customers back to years that are long gone, through restored vintage cameras and photographic slides, Ms Jones’ store started out as a hobby before becoming a special part of the market in 2019.

“My husband and I started doing it as a hobby because I used to collect lots of English and German porcelain and china, and when we were downsizing our house, we started selling

them off,” Ms Jones said.

“We also have friends who are antique dealers and do a lot of studio cleans when they are closing down, and so we started buying from them and it all just evolved from one thing to another naturally.”

Drawn to photographic slides in particular, Ms Jones’ collection started expanding when they were at the market and decided to use old film cameras as paperweights.

While the slides they have accumulated from the 1860s to 1960s are Retro Mamma’s biggest seller, the store has also become renowned for their working film cameras, cufflinks from the 1990s to 1960s, and women’s vintage jewellery from the 1900s.

More recently the original Beatles cards from 1964 they have acquired have also proven to be very desirable.

“These wonderful images came individually in packets of chewing gum and are one of our most popular items,” she said. “Like many of



our items, 90 per cent of these are bought by young people under 25.”

Always on the lookout for anything intriguing from the past to share with the younger generation, Ms Jones has recently acquired a collection of around 2500 antique glass photographic slides known as magic lantern slides.

“These images were taken between the 1890s and 1920s and many were taken by

Australian photographer Walter Lewis from Glebe in New South Wales,” she said.

“As well as Australia, these amazing images feature Europe, Japan, Raj-era India, China, Java in Indonesia, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. While these images have proven very popular with historians and collectors, they are usually purchased as a memento of a homeland or unique gift for somebody special.”

Whether you’re a collector or just curious, Ms Jones said she and her husband were always happy to chat and explain the finer details on any product.

“We are all really friendly and just love to have a chat, plus we know our products and are happy to spend time with people,” she said.

“We also love Queen Victoria Market and they have been really supportive of us and couldn’t have done more for us. We are all a little family on String Bean Alley, and always look out for one another too.” ●

@retromammastore / retromamma.com.au

Pet’s Corner



Jin adapts to city life with gusto

“One-and-half year-old Cavoodle Jin is loving the city life, so much so that he even likes to hang at bars that have pet-friendly outdoor dining areas.

His owner, Sayali, said Jin (without tonic!) was “very social” with both pets and people, and loved visiting local parks.

“He loves to be chased by other dogs,” she said, as well as “run wild” at the beach. ●



BUSINESS

Trielle: where the riverside meets luxury

“Docklands is set to welcome a new \$350 million luxury residential tower, with renowned developer, Mirvac, revealing Trielle; the tallest building with the most abundant amenity to be introduced to the leading property group’s thriving Yarra’s Edge community in Melbourne.

Combining riverside rarity with timeless luxury, Trielle will be the crowning jewel at Yarra’s Edge, commanding a striking view across the CBD and beyond, defining the sought-after north-facing riverbank.

With architecture and interiors by Mirvac’s award-winning in-house design team, Trielle is poised to redefine luxury living.

An architectural marvel on Melbourne’s skyline, the spectacular exterior will represent a diamond, featuring distinctive, faceted glazing to reflect both the sky and shimmering river.

Just metres from the waterfront and positioned on the Collins St axis, the 45-level tower features sophisticated design and unparalleled amenity.

Focused on celebrating time, life’s most precious commodity, Trielle residents will have access to a dedicated concierge to tend to their needs with meticulous attention to detail, giving back precious time in the day to spend how they wish.

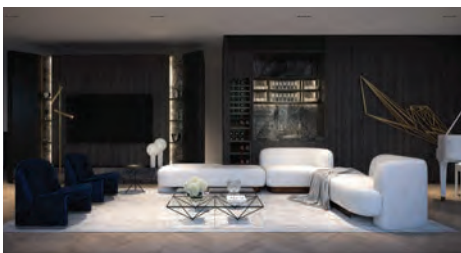
Self-care will soar to new heights at Trielle. The Oasis is a verdant urban rainforest with a running stream through the centre to provide an instant dose of transportive calm and relieve.



Featuring a Scandinavian-inspired wellness club, a 25-metre lap pool, hot outdoor magnesium pool, an infrared sauna, and cold-pailing and treatment rooms, residents can enjoy the Oasis’ restorative benefits on any given day.

Whether it’s relaxing, entertaining or connecting, the community-oriented spaces at Trielle will allow future residents to “focus” with a biblioteca-style library and work pods; “connect” with a full-time concierge and Saletta Business Lounge, “revel” with a piano bar, chef’s table and wine cellar, games room and cocktail bar, teppanyaki barbecue and golf simulator.

“We’ve designed Trielle to celebrate time, leisure and adventure. The design hinges on the waterfront aspect of Trielle, its view of the



city and its commanding presence on the city’s skyline. It will be a luxurious base for residents to explore Melbourne’s vibrant cafes, laneways and the iconic flagships of Collins Street’s Paris end,” Mirvac design director, Michael Wiener said.

Featuring one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom residences, a collection of sub-penthouses and the black and white diamond penthouses, the 191 generously sized apartments have been

crafted with meticulous attention to deliver a vision of luxury.

Each residence is imbued with an innate sense of home, boasting impressive ceiling heights and finishes that are hotel-like in their quality.

Trielle residents will have access to Mirvac’s established inner-city waterfront community, including Marina YE at their doorstep.

Future Trielle residents will soon benefit from wider Fishermans Bend area plans. Described as a “city within a park”, it is set to be a hub of architectural excellence, sustainability, innovation, business, nature and community in years to come, making it one of Melbourne’s most exciting, richly layered destinations.

Sitting as the central figure of Melbourne’s waterfront, surrounded by Fishermans Bend, Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River, Trielle offers a Melbourne location like no other, combining the CBD’s liveliness, the river and the sky.

To be one of the first to experience the Trielle Display Galleria, please contact Janet Walker 0466 440 863 or janet.walker@mirvac.com.

For more information:
trielle.mirvac.com

SALVOS

The Magpie Nest café

The Salvation Army Melbourne has operated the Magpie Nest café at 69 Bourke St since 2011.

The café provides a warm welcome to everyone, no matter what their background.

The Magpie Nest café provides meals and a range of supports to around 500 people each day for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Many of these people are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Others are dealing with complex mental health issues. For most, they are lonely and are looking for a gathering place where they genuinely feel welcomed and acknowledged.

Many of the people who visit Magpie Nest café are in desperate need of connection. Because of the wonderful work of the staff and volunteers, people feel like they are valued.

To many of us, feeling connected and appreciated are experiences that we often take for granted. It would be the absolute exception for many of us to not feel included and valued. But

for the majority of people who attend the Magpie Nest café, it is the exception to feel connected and loved.

That is why the Magpie Nest café has become such an integral part of the CBD. It has become a place where the excluded are included; where the forgotten are recognised and are called by their name; where those that feel like their future outlook is hopeless are given hope and support.

The Magpie Nest café is a place where people who struggle to make ends meet are given free, freshly prepared nutritious meals. Melburnians’ generosity is on display each day. Fresh produce is donated and turned into healthy meals by our two chefs and their wonderful team of volunteers.

The Magpie Nest café is a place where people can engage with positive volunteers who are keen to make a contribution into the lives of those that are struggling.

When you are in the café, you never know who you might bump into. It could be the captain of Melbourne Storm, a CEO of a large company, a local CBD resident, a tertiary student doing their placement or someone who



is on a path to recovery. The Magpie Nest café is a place full of stories of hope, of struggle, of inspiration.

The Magpie Nest café also provides a range of practical supports. Services Australia have placed a full-time Centrelink worker in the café. He is available to assist with any Centrelink issues that might arise. St Vincent’s Hospital has placed nurses in the Magpie Nest café. They build connections and then get to work on addressing people’s health and mental health issues. You might also bump into a mental health worker from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, housing

workers from a range of housing services, police and paramedics.

As cost-of-living pressures begin to impact an increasing number of people, we are planning on how we might be able to replicate the café in other locations.

We are planning on launching a café in Drummond St, Carlton in the near future. It will be a similar model to our CBD café, but on a smaller scale. Meals and practical support will be provided, with a welcoming sense of community at its heart.

Lygon Court management and Cinema Nova have been very

generous in offering a preview showing of the new Bill Nighy film, *Living*. The preview event will be a fundraiser to support the opening of the Salvo’s café in Carlton. The preview will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 7pm at Cinema Nova. Tickets are \$35 and every seat will receive a wonderful gift bag. Tickets can be booked at lygoncourt.com.au.

All proceeds will go to opening the new Salvo’s Carlton café. If you are aware of other locations where we should open a Salvo’s café, please feel free to reach out and let us know.



Major Brendan Nottle
COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE SALVATION ARMY
MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614
BRENDAN.NOTTLE@SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel Project inspires new generation of train enthusiasts

The Metro Tunnel Project’s award-winning visitor centre has become a popular haunt for burgeoning trainspotters, as the tunnel’s 2025 opening date draws nearer.

With multiple accolades, including Gold winner in the 2021 GOV Design Awards for retail design, Metro Tunnel HQ has now welcomed more than a quarter of a million visitors through its Swanston St doors since opening in June 2018.

The major rail project appears to be igniting a renewed passion for trains among Melburnians, according to senior centre coordinator Hedley Imbert.

“It’s the biggest rail project to happen in Melbourne since the City Loop was built in the 1980s, and people are fascinated,” Mr Imbert said.

“It seems [the project] is inspiring a new generation of train enthusiasts in Melbourne.”

Located opposite the Town Hall Metro Tunnel construction site on Swanston Street, almost 91,000 visitors passed through HQ’s doors in 2022 marking the busiest year on record.

December 2022 was the busiest month ever with more than 11,000 people stopping by to keep updated on the project.

Mr Imbert believes an increase in people returning to the CBD post-COVID is largely behind the influx of visitors.

Metro Tunnel HQ’s unique experiences, such as virtual reality tours of archeological sites and stations, were also big drawcards and encouraged



people to spread the word, he added.

“It’s a state-of-the-art visitor centre with virtual and interactive experiences that align with what people are asking about,” he said.

Mr Imbert said the broad visitor demographic spanned all age groups and included people from both Victoria and interstate.

“During the week, it’s mainly office workers and school/community groups. At weekends and holidays, it’s mainly families and tourists,” he said.

“Children in particular love our virtual reality experiences and other activities. We have several visitors with autism who have an interest in our project as well as gunzels and engineers that like their weekly project updates.”

Despite its name, Metro Tunnel HQ offers visitors the chance to learn about other major rail projects under Victoria’s Big Build, including Regional Rail Revival and the much-anticipated Melbourne Airport Rail.

The latest major milestone on the Metro Tunnel Project is the opening of the Anzac Station tram stop on St Kilda Rd.

The tram stop is the first part of the project to open to passengers and will become Melbourne’s first direct tram/train interchange when the Metro Tunnel and Anzac Station open to passengers in 2025. ●

WE LIVE HERE

Other councils take the lead

Hello Melbourne City Council – what action will you be taking to improve the lives of Melbourne apartment residents?

Several Melbourne councils with simmering short-stay issues are taking matters into their own hands, frustrated by interminable inertia at the state level.

Now City of Port Phillip, the municipality that includes the tourist mecca of St Kilda, is planning to implement regulations like those adopted by other councils covering the regions of Mornington, Frankston and Yarra Ranges. One of the most fundamental reforms is a registration system – which, if nothing else, will at least provide empirical data on the short stay industry juggernaut.

In its magazine last month, Melbourne City Council congratulated itself on its 2023 agenda while quietly forecasting that the city’s population will increase 100 per cent by 2041.

Such a density-doubling trajectory can only be achieved with near commensurate growth in apartment dwelling – hardly a surprise.

With their crystal ball polished so wonderfully, what is the council doing to make sure the mega-population can be accommodated while enriching the community fabric of the city?

We need to know what the council is going to do about planning issues that include short-stays and the impact on residents of continual, intensive building development.

We are following up with the Future Melbourne Committee this month.

The state of the State

We hope the New Minister for Planning, Sonya Kilkeny, will have a broader view of her portfolio than her predecessor, Richard Wynne, who always seemed to be on the side of the developers, evading requests for balanced discussion on issues affecting residential buildings.

Although Melissa Horne retained her seat at the 2022 election, Danny Pearson has taken

over as the new Minister for Consumer Affairs. We look forward to continuing the regular dialogue that we had with the Consumer Affairs office under Ms Horne.

We have learned that the proposed review of the *Owners’ Corporations Act 2021* will cover both acts that were incorporated into the *Owners’ Corporations Act*:

- *Owners Corporation (Short Stay Accommodation) Act 2018*
- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021 No 4 of 2021*

The timetable has now been promised sometime between 2023 and 2027 – first slated for 2021! Victorians deserve a more definitive timetable for this review.

In its original 2014 issues paper, the government expressly excluded short-stay accommodation from the review of the *Owners’ Corporation Act* – alleging “planning issues” as the reason. Have these self-declared issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable.

Campaign donations

As a non-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit welfarehere.net ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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RESIDENTS 3000

Embracing a new year in the CBD

Residents 3000 is looking to 2023 with a focus on “living in the CBD”.

WORDS BY Julia Roberts & Sherry Maddock



▲ Residents are encouraged to attend the Residents 3000 first Forum 3000 meeting on February 2 at 6.30pm at the Kelvin Club. Photo: Geoff Maddock.

This includes updates on infrastructure and development, council plans and policies, community events and activities. With the new year, it is a relief that we no longer face “lockdowns”. Office workers are returning, and although some small businesses have closed, there are many new ones opening.

This year we can gather again in person to be entertained, attend sports events, concerts, the theatre, or galleries. While COVID is still lurking, personal responsibility and care will keep our community healthy and open 2023.

You are invited to attend Forum 3000 meetings held on the first Thursday of the month at 6.30pm at the Kelvin Club. The 2023 forums start in February with an update on the Metro Tunnel project, a monumental infrastructure work to vastly improve the way millions of people move through the city.

In March we will hear directly from the City of Melbourne’s CEO Alison Leighton about what’s going on in Melbourne, while in April Residents 3000 will host the annual neighbourhood marketplace, an evening that brings together organisations, the local council, and small businesses.

During the rest of the year, there will be presentations on streets, safety, and police, including a time to give feedback from a residential perspective. We will also meet to hear about the urban property market, owners’ corporations, and waste management. Our events address essential information relevant to living in the city.

As a place-based organisation, Residents

3000 prioritises quality of life issues for city dwellers, with a focus on supporting local businesses, maintaining safe footpaths and streets, raising children, and retiring in the city, cycling and bike lanes, pets, and green spaces. Together we celebrate the benefits of CBD residents: walkability, free trams, world-class food and coffee, arts and culture, live performances, free events, shared spaces, healthy living, and safety.

Come along and participate to stay informed, get connected and find support. In addition to attending Forum 3000 meetings, please join us for other monthly activities: 3000 Steps city walking tours and 3000 Plants, a neighbourhood garden club.

Check out our website for information at residents3000.com.au

Go to City of Melbourne’s Neighbourhood Portal participatemelbourne.vic.gov.au for further updates.

Additionally, follow Residents3000 on Instagram and Facebook.

Finally, do you have a “Good Local Tip” you could share? We would love to hear what makes living our CBD so appealing. What are your hidden gems, favourite walks, recent discoveries? Please let us know and we will share it here. ●

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HISTORY

Behind the facades – Bourke St, 1875

It's not often you come across a photograph that gives such a clear view of the backs of the buildings that line the CBD's streets.

This one is of Bourke St east, looking north from the corner of Russell and Collins streets. It was taken in about 1875, just before the land boom of the 1880s brought with it bigger, better buildings that transformed the city's streetscapes.

On the north side of the street is a single storeyed building housing the appropriately named Lockyear's Hairdressers. Both Mr and Mrs Lockyear were active in the business, the wife styling herself an "artiste in hair". The tiny building is wedged between Christian Franz's more dominant tobacco business and Parer Brothers Restaurant.

In the centre foreground, you do not see the facades of the three storeyed businesses fronting the south side of Bourke St but their backs. Tucked away behind them is a terrace of smaller, single storeyed brick residences with slate roofs, wooden outhouses attached. In the very foreground are buildings fronting Little Collins St, among them sheds, a stable and St Hubert's Wine Cellar, reminding us that this well-known Yarra Valley winery has been around for many years. Established by Hubert de Castella in 1862, the business was already in its teens when this photograph was taken.

A little further to the left of the foreground is a two storeyed building, the ground floor painted white, the slates on the roof a little the worse for wear in places. In front of that (closer to Little Collins St), is a single storeyed, shingle-roofed building, tumbling down now, with holes in its roof. Two sheets hang from a propped washing line of the sort my grandmother had, suggesting, perhaps, that someone



still lived there. Everywhere you look, there is a hotchpotch of buildings that speak to an earlier time, although not that much earlier, because the colony was only about 40 years old when the photograph was taken. The higgeldy piggeldy nature of the building's placements suggests that despite the geometrical symmetry and elegance of the Hoddle Grid, there was also an adhocacy to the changing face of the city's streetscapes.

When I see this photograph, I can see that the changing nature of the built environment by Melbourne's mid-19th century developers was not totally at the expense of what went before. It was more organic, more human. Not everything that was old was thrown out with the new.

How reassuring. ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

CBD LOCAL

The local supporting rough sleepers through building connections

Kit Regan believes that supporting people to make healthier and happier changes is done through building real meaningful connections, and it is a mission they live out.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker



▲ Photo: Eugene Hyland

As a peer worker in the City Street Health team, Kit spends five days a week walking the streets of the city and checking in with people who may be sleeping rough or dealing with other mental health conditions.

Coming to the role with lived experience and in a city that they know so well, has really cemented in Kit just how life changing this role can be for those struggling.

"I have a lived experience of homelessness and substance use in the city of Melbourne, as it was where I was sleeping rough and living in crisis accommodation," Kit said.

"I really wanted to be part of a team that was doing outreach work and working in the community that I was a part of, making changes and supporting people to live happier and healthier lives."

"I really love this work and being able to get to know people where they are sitting at that moment and having conversations about what their lives are like and what is important to them."

Sitting down with new and old friends they meet when doing outreach work has allowed for Kit to adequately respond to the needs of those they speak to.

And talking to people in a city that they know so well, that has seen them go through so much in life, has been particularly heartwarming and

motivating for Kit. "I really like being able to continue doing this work and supporting and helping people to continue to make changes in an environment I know so well, that I grew up in, lived in, and work in," they said.

Between supporting people to make sustainable changes, Kit also likes to escape to their "special safe place" of The Dome reading room in the State Library.

As the space that Kit uses to "calm and re-centre" themselves, the reading room also helps them to regain the strength and determination they need to continue to guide people towards a life off the streets and away from substance use.

The City Street Health team program began in December 2021 with the support of the Victorian Government and operates seven days a week, between the hours of 10am to 10pm on weekdays and 10am to 6pm on weekends.

The multidisciplinary team also consists of community nurses, an addiction medicine doctor, harm reduction workers, a dual diagnosis clinician, and an activities and inclusion worker.

Combining a multitude of professions and skills together has ultimately allowed for the team to be able to act immediately or link people up with long-term support. ●

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**QUIRKY
CORNER**

A microbat that became stranded near the CBD has been rescued thanks to the quick-thinking efforts of Hyperlocal News photographer Rachel Broadhead.

"I thought it was a leaf, perhaps a mouse," Rachel said after finding the little critter on a footpath on Premiers Lane on Sunday January 15.

"When the rescue team (Wildlife Victoria) came to take him away for a check-up, they let me know that he was still very young; he didn't even know how to fly yet, what a baby!"

Mircobats range from four to 10 centimetres in length and weigh less than a 10-cent coin. ●

Got something quirky or unusual to share? Email it to admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au to be featured in next months the *Quirky Corner*!

Quiz



- 1. A screwdriver cocktail uses which two ingredients?
- 2. Then known as the Australasian Championships, the tournament we know as the Australian Open became a major championship in what year?
- 3. The City of Melbourne’s is on track to record more than how many billion dollars in new development applications this year?
- 4. The 2023 Chinese zodiac is what animal?
- 5. Do hurricanes form over land or sea?
- 6. Which sports brand was founded in Sydney in 1914?
- 7. What was Jordan Peele’s (pictured) third feature film as a director?
- 8. Although temporarily closed, the ANZ Banking Museum famous for its secular Gothic style was designed by William Wardell in 1887 and is known by what name?
- 9. Toshikazu Kawaguchi wrote the 2015 book titled *Before the Coffee* what?
- 10. What was the first sport to be played on the moon?
- 11. In what years did Melbourne become a town and a city, respectively?
- 12. With approximately 2,000 books, 60 magazines, 1,500 photographs, 300 posters and 400 files about all things magic, where in the CBD will you find the WG Alma Conjuring Collection?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Orange juice and vodka 2. 1924
3. \$2.5 billion 4. Rabbit 5. Sea 6. Speedo
7. Nope 8. Gothic Bank 9. *Gets Cold*
10. Golf 11. 1842, 1847 12. State Library of Victoria

5x5

No. 020

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

W		T		R
	M		N	
D		T		O
	G		E	
D		E		S

SOLUTIONS

WATER, AMINO, DITTO, EGRET, DOERS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Feb, 2023

Sudoku

No. 020

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

						9		
7				9	1	3		
5	3	9			2		4	8
			9	6	8	7		
	7						6	
		3	7	1	4			
1	8		3			4	5	9
		6	8	4				7
		2						

HARD

7						8		4
	1		2		4			
5				7	3			
	8			1		3		
1	7						5	2
		4		9			8	
			3	2				5
			7		5		3	
4		5						9

SOLUTIONS

EASY

8	9	2	5	1	2	6	4
2	1	2	6	4	8	9	3
6	5	4	9	2	3	7	8
2	6	5	4	1	1	2	8
1	9	8	5	3	2	4	7
4	3	7	8	9	6	5	2
8	4	1	2	2	1	9	6
9	2	3	1	6	5	8	4
5	7	6	3	8	4	1	2

HARD

6	2	2	1	9	8	5	3	4
8	3	9	5	4	7	1	6	2
5	1	4	6	2	3	2	9	8
2	8	1	2	6	9	4	5	3
2	9	6	8	3	4	9	7	1
9	4	3	2	1	1	5	2	8
1	9	2	3	2	6	8	4	5
3	7	5	4	8	2	6	1	9
4	6	8	9	5	1	3	2	7

Wordfind

Theme: Birds

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

G	N	U	M	N	H	B	N	S	I	E
L	N	E	A	A	U	C	R	E	L	R
W	D	I	K	Z	L	E	N	A	S	E
O	V	R	Z	C	H	L	G	I	H	T
A	O	A	U	T	I	N	A	C	F	S
D	R	K	A	M	I	H	I	R	E	O
D	O	E	C	T	S	R	C	L	D	O
U	F	V	H	U	T	T	G	E	A	R
C	F	G	E	S	C	A	I	W	O	W
K	I	L	O	P	E	L	I	C	A	N
N	P	A	R	A	K	E	E	T	K	D

AVIAN
BUZZARD
CHICKEN
CUCKOO
DAW
DOVE
DRUMSTICK
DUCK
EAGLE
FEATHERS

FINCH
MALLARD
NEST
NIGHTINGALE
OSTRICH
OWL
PARAKEET
PELICAN
ROOSTER

Secret message: Guinea fowl

Crossword

No. 020

ACROSS

- 1 Bones; frames (9)
- 6 Pursues (5)
- 9 Regimen (7)
- 10 Involve (7)
- 11 Pleases (9)
- 13 Rested (5)
- 14 Devalued (7)
- 16 Indoor shoe (7)
- 18 North American country (1.1.1)
- 19 Lattice (7)
- 20 Challenge (7)
- 21 Opposite of day (5)
- 23 Delayed (9)
- 26 Starch extracted from cassava (7)
- 27 Roads (7)
- 28 Lads (5)
- 29 Watches; attends (9)

DOWN

- 1 Rashes; infections (5)
- 2 Impartial (9)
- 3 Changes (5)
- 4 Knight-hood (1.1.1)
- 5 Slides (5)
- 6 Withdrawal; separation (9)
- 7 Evade (5)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11						12				13				
14				15				16				17		
19								20						
21		22				23				24				25
26								27						
28						29								

SOLUTION

S	E	L	V	L	O	E	J	S	E	E	N	O		
X	S	O	N	O	N	E								
S	L	E	E	L	S	V	O	I	D	V	I			
E	I	V												
D	E	I	V	L	I	S	E	H	I	H	O	I	N	
I		X												
Q	N	E	I	N	O	S	I	T	T	E	L			
E	H	O	V	S	N	O	T	E						
H	E	D	E	I	L	S	D	E	S	I	V	E		
E		S												
A	D	E	I	S	S	E	I	S	I	S	I	V	S	
T		D	E	I										
E	O	U	N	I	E	N	I	L	I	O				
W		T	E	B	X	K	O							
S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N	S						

Codeword

No. 020

9	3	18	22	6	24	18	3	24		J	10	12
7		11		9		2		23		16		23
10	11	10	19	23		10	13	13	10		2	23
12		18				4		23		3		1
17	23	7	3	22	2	23		12	3	2	23	4
23				6		12		15		23		
18	16	5	5	2	4		17	3	1	23	6	18
		7		2		21		15				5
13	2	10	20	23		16	15	3	2	3	18	23
12		24		10		3				12		22
6	22	15	10	8	6	24		4	23	10	18	15
18		6		16		22		6		21		12
15	16	11		23	14	23	22	16	15	3	17	23

SOLUTIONS

X	J	I	U	V	S	Z	K	O	C	E	N	J	B
14	31	16	38	23	22	12	23	22	13	12	13	12	13
D	T	I	X	P	O	H	G	W	A	M	R	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

9-Letter

No. 020

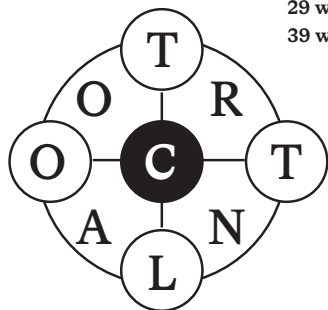
Today’s Focus:

19 words: Good

29 words: Very good

39 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

acorn, acton, actor, cant, cartio, carton, cartion, cart, cart, cartoon, cartoon, clan, clot, coal, coat, cola, colon, colorant, colt, confort, CONTRALTO, control, cool, coolant, coof, corral, corn, corona, corra, cotton, croon, locator, loco, ocal, ocrant, taco, tact, tale, tract

女王市场新任首席执行官

维多利亚女王市场的新首席执行官Matt Elliott将于2 月上任，他现在是维多利亚高山度假村(Alpine Resorts Victoria)的经理。

Brendan Rees



Matt Elliott将接替Stan Liacos，Liacos 先生已担任了四年首席执行官，去年10 月宣布辞职，表示现在是“寻求新挑战的合适时机了”。

Liacos 先生曾带领这个标志性市场及其 600 多家商户度过了疫情大流行而受到称赞，并同时在墨尔本市政其耗资 2.68 亿澳元的市场区域重建计划中发挥了关键作用。

Elliott 先生目前是布勒山 (Mt Buller) 维多利亚高山度假村的销售和开发经理，负责维多利亚最受欢迎的高山度假村的旅游景点和体验。

女王市场董事会主席 Jane Fenton 表示，Elliott 先生带来了多种技能，包括他在墨尔本市场管理机构的资深领导能力，以指导维多利亚女王市场向前发展，并确保女王

市场仍然是一个珍贵的目的地。

作为商业和业务发展经理，Elliott 先生负责提高批发市场经验并扩大其客户群。

Fenton女士表示:“ Elliott 先生了解市场和 market 文化，在担任墨尔本市场管理局 (Melbourne Market Authority) 职务期间，他成功地与维多利亚女王市场合作，2017年在墨尔本举办了世界市场联盟国际大会，之后他在世界市场方面拥有强大的国际联系。”

Elliott先生表示很高兴接受这一新职务。

他说：“我期待着与员工、董事会、各商家、合作伙伴、更广泛的市场社区以及我们的股东，墨尔本市政府合作，确保在快速发展的墨尔本市中心和瞬息万变的零售环境中，让女王市场拥有最光明的未来 。”

Elliott 先生将于 2 月 27 日上任。



自由党新成员为墨尔本带来活力

Evan Mulholland是墨尔本市维多利亚州议会上议院的新成员，他代表了当地选民和维州自由党的新声音。

Sean Car

Mulholland 先生担任北部城区的五个议席之中的一个，其中一个席位之前由 Rea-son Party 领导人 Fiona Patten 担任，但她在 11 月的州选举中落选了其第三个任期。

这次与Evan Mulholland一起当选的还有 Sheena Watt (工党)、Samantha Ratnam (维州绿党领袖)、Enver Erdoga (工党) 和 Adem Somyurek (民主工党)。

虽然自由党再次遭受压倒性的失败，

但Mulholland当选上议院议员，以及该党新任温和派领袖John Pesutto在Hawthorn选区的连任，标志着维多利亚右翼政党的新时代。

作为党内新面孔代表，Mulholland先生有着社区剧院的背景，曾担任ARC剧院公司的总裁，在12月议会会议上，他作了“为艺术而战”的首次演讲。

他说：“社区艺术组织是社区的生命线，为如此多的人，尤其是年轻的维多利亚人提供欢乐和有意义的社会互动。”同时他抨击了与艺术相比花费在体育俱乐部上纳税人的钱。

至于当地的问题，他告诉CBD新闻，渴望尽可能多地与墨尔本内城的社区联系，不管话题或立场如何，他寻求为北部城区每个人发声。

Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au



豪华酒店取代皇宫剧院

墨尔本CBD一个历史悠久的皇宫剧院 (Palace Theatre)已被重新开发成一家精品酒店，预计将于今年年初开业。

这座拥有 110 年历史的 Bourke 街建筑是墨尔本备受喜爱的地方，曾经是一个娱乐场所

Brendan Rees

所，一个有20年之久的 Metro 夜总会的所在地。

然而，一项有争议的决定，允许在该地块建造一座 12 层高的五星级酒店，原来的这座列入遗产名录的剧院被拆除了。

价值1亿澳元的墨尔本Le Méridien豪华酒店将于2023年初在该地点开业，新酒店将拥有235间客房，底层有咖啡厅、酒吧和餐厅，还有可以俯瞰州议会大厦、Fitzroy花园和城市天际线的一个泳池平台。

然而，该开发项目将保留面向 Bourke 街 的剧院装饰艺术立面。

墨尔本市政与澳大利亚国家信托基金会和墨尔本遗产行动组织 (MHA) 共同反对这一开发计划，因为该剧院“在社会和历史具有重要意义”，由此导致市政拒绝批准给予酒店许可。

业主是2012年购买该建筑的中国开发商金山投资集团，该集团辩称，剧院在过去一个世纪里已经有过变化，并于2016年将此事提交给维多利亚民事和行政法庭，法庭允许拆除和重建工作继续进行。

Le Méridien酒店表示，这家酒店拥有“中世纪风格的内饰及其相应的传统特色”，“新酒店地理位置优越，可以体验墨尔本丰富的艺术、历史和文化”。

然而，开发改造在社区中引起了很多不满，同时引发了关于市区文物建筑逐渐消失的激烈争论。

副市长 Nicholas Reece 表示，看到一个备受喜爱的遗产场所消失也是一场悲剧，但他补充说，“这已经成为历史，随着城市经济的持续复苏，新酒店的开业将给市中心经济带来正面的影响 。”

他说：“旅游业对当地经济将比以往任何时候都更加重要，因此这家新酒店是一个积极的战略补充。”

免费妇女经期用品计划

墨尔本市政在2021年9月成功推出免费经期护理试点计划后，现已延长至6月30日。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

该计划是在市区周围六个市政所属的设施中安装免费经期护理用品的自动售货机。

自试点开始以来，市政报告称该计划取得了很大成功。

市政的健康、福利部门主管 Olivia Ball 议员说“在我们为期 12 个月的试点计划中，我们向所需要的墨尔本人提供了 6700 多个卫生巾和卫生棉条。”

“我们很高兴延长这个免费经期护理计划，并期待与维多利亚州政府合作，解决维多利亚州的经期贫困问题。”

目前，大约 15% 的维州女性和经期妇女在她们生命的某个阶段中无法负担经期用品的费用。

市长Sally Capp表示，作为人们日常生活必不可少的保健用品，市政希望该计划能够帮助“排除围绕妇女经期的困窘”。

除此之外，该计划还旨在帮助澳大利亚五分之一面临经期贫困的人减少其社会、经济和个人的影响。

市长说：“我们正在尽我们所能，让所有墨尔本女孩、妇女和来月经的人更轻松，并给她们带来更多便利。”

“我们希望继续延伸和扩大该计划，在墨尔本营造更大的经期公平感。”



在 港区图书馆、市区图书馆、Carlton 游泳馆、Collins 街上的墨尔本市政厅公共厕所、北墨尔本社区中心和 Carlton 的 Kathleen Syme 社区中心目前都有提供免费经期护理用品。

市政还将通过该计划的延期与州政府合作，以加快推出并增加设施的数量，提供更多的护理产品。

What's on: February



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.

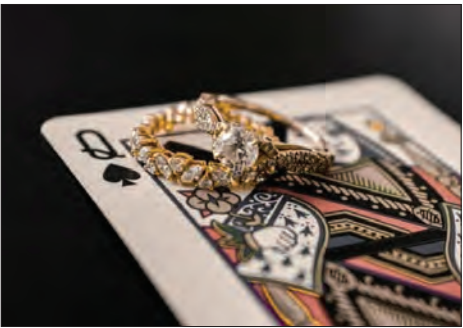
eastendersinc@gmail.com



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



UNTIL MAY 27 MELBOURNE CRAFT FAIR

Enjoy a contemporary craft fair held at the Queen Victoria Market featuring some of the most creative artists and designers all in one place!

Shed D
Queen Victoria Market



FEBRUARY 14, 8PM VALENTINE'S DAY WITH SOUL CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

A romantic and soulful evening of live music with Fever this Valentine's Day at Fed Square. Additionally, enjoy free ice cream from Cups n Cones available for the first 150 people from 7.30pm.

Fed Square (Main Square)

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.



UNTIL JULY 25 NOW HERE THIS: LIVE JAZZ

Six years in the making, Now Here This is all about nurturing Melbourne's rich and dynamic local music community and celebrating the city's vibrant jazz scene. DJs from 9pm, live jazz from 11:30pm.

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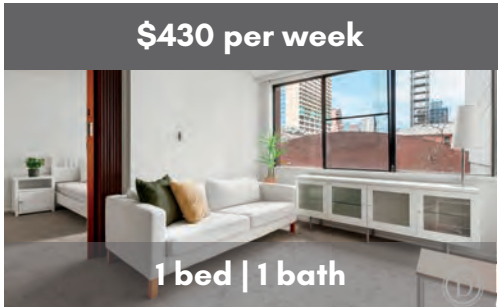
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212/336 Russell St



3 bed | 2 bath | 2 car
1902/368 St Kilda Rd



3 bed | 2 bath | 1 car
211 Park St, Sth Melb



1 bed | 1 bath
1.3/201 Spring St



2 bed | 2 bath | 1 car
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