

# CBD NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P17



**Drag & Draw: Fashion Festival returns in March**  
Photo by Leilani Bale

The fabulous Aubrey Haive (centre) will take over Ferdydurke in Tattersalls Lane for *Drag & Draw* on March 7 as part of the Paypal Melbourne Fashion Festival, which returns to the city for its 27th year with a jam-packed program running from March 3 to 11. *Full story on page 7.*

## “Get on with the job”: Greater push for injecting room as health teams face more CBD overdoses

*Pointing to new data that revealed an increase in heroin overdose deaths, Cohealth says some “would still be alive” if a safe injecting facility was available in the CBD.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HEALTH

Health outreach teams in the CBD have responded to an increased number of overdoses in recent months as new data revealed Victorian heroin overdoses had increased after a drop during COVID-19.

In response, one of Australia’s largest not-for-profit community health organisations said it was “heartbroken” at the number of “preventable” deaths, arguing that the state government needed to “get on with the job” of opening Victoria’s second supervised injecting facility, long slated for the CBD.

On February 10 the Coroners Court of Victoria released a snapshot of Victorian overdose data for the eight quarters from July 2020 to June 2022, which showed that 68 and 64 people lost their lives, respectively, in the first two quarters of 2022 to heroin overdoses.

This represented a jump of more than 33 per cent, compared to an average of 42 deaths per quarter across the preceding six quarters.

While the data was Victoria-wide, Cohealth CEO Nicole Bartholomeusz said it reflected the on-the-ground experience of its City Street Health outreach team, which operates in the CBD seven days a week.

“Our CBD street outreach team has responded to more overdoses in recent months as people return to the city, a trend that shows no sign of reversing,” she said.

“We are heartbroken about the number of lives that continue to be lost from drug overdoses, especially because we know that if a supervised injecting service was available, those people would still be alive.”

In the strongest comments yet from Cohealth, Ms Bartholomeusz made it clear that the Andrews Government — now years behind its original plans for a second site to help North Richmond deal with demand — had to get moving.

“We know that supervised injecting services save lives and connect people to support and treatment, so let’s get on with the job of opening the next one,” she said.

“What the coroner’s data tells us is that despite the pandemic, people are still using drugs and dying from preventable overdoses.”

“When we see increases in people dying from entirely preventable causes, we expect our governments to respond, and drug overdoses should be no different.”

When the government first announced in July 2020 that it planned to open the state’s second medical-supervised injecting facility — a

*Continued on page 5.*

## Council trial making high-rise composting a reality

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
SUSTAINABILITY

In an Australian-first, the City of Melbourne has introduced its Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service in high-rise buildings, with a Spring St apartment tower among six selected in the municipality to take part in a 12-month pilot.

Around 80 per cent of City of Melbourne residents live in high-rise apartments, making the service a crucial step forward in the council’s sustainability goals.

For the first time, the service is available to residents of participating apartment buildings of six or more storeys, with two buildings — on Spring St in the CBD and Curzon St in West Melbourne — having already begun trialling the service.

The other four buildings, of the six selected through an expression of interest process to take part in the 12-month pilot, are yet to be announced and will begin their trials soon.

The service gives access to on-site dehydrators, used to reduce the volume of waste by up to 80 per cent, and to process organic waste into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser, which is then converted into high-quality compost for use in parks and gardens across the municipality. Residents will also be able to use a portion of the fertiliser in their own gardens.

“Almost 45 per cent of landfill from high-rise apartments is made up of organic waste. We know that getting this number down and finding simple ways to live more sustainably is important to our community,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

The high-rise pilot is being delivered in partnership with Enrich360 and Eco Guardians, as part of the council’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to divert 90 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030.

Owners’ corporations can now apply to take part in the next FOGO high-rise project. ●

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# Council concerned about revised plans for Shell House redevelopment

*A cloud continues to hang over the future of the heritage-listed Shell House, one of the state's most significant modernist buildings, as the City of Melbourne considers revised redevelopment plans for the building's site.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

Under fresh plans, the applicant behind a proposal to build a 32-storey tower next to the existing 28-level tower and the century-old Milton House building at the corner of Spring and Flinders streets has introduced "significant changes", which the council's management has not supported.

The proposed \$203.5 million project – which has been met with controversy from heritage groups, residents, and the Australian Institute of Architects, who have concerns that the aesthetic and architectural integrity of Shell House would be destroyed if the plans went ahead – was supported by the City of Melbourne councillors in April last year, which granted heritage permits, subject to conditions agreed to by the applicant Phillip Nominees.

The applicant subsequently resubmitted their plans (named Revision J) for the site, which were lodged with the council on January 16 this year.

However, at the time of publishing, a council report for the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) on February 21, said the resubmission does "not respond to, or adopt, one of



the committee's key recommendations" in its resolution of April 5 2022, "by failing to alter the ground plane and retail tenancy within the tower podium to gift back a more coherent and substantive exterior (albeit covered) plaza offering interfacing with Flinders Lane".

Council management therefore recommended that the FMC advise the Department of Transport and Planning, and the Melbourne Advisory Committee that the City of Melbourne "does not support" the amended plans.

"Broadly, these design regressions reintroduce 'Tower 2's' cantilever over Milton House and the northern plaza, impact on the pedestrian connectivity and quality of through-block connections for the development, significantly reduce the size of exterior 'plaza' areas intended to supplement erosion of the existing northern plaza, and remove detailed landscaping and other human-scale design gestures that enhanced the public realm offering of exterior

publicly accessible areas of the development," the council report said.

The revised plans come after the application by Phillip Nominees was called in by the then Planning Minister Richard Wynne in January 2022, after Heritage Victoria refused the application in August 2021.

At the time, Mr Wynne said he was "particularly concerned about new buildings cantilevering over heritage places" but maintained there was "no plan for the destruction of Shell House."

The application still sits with the current Minister for Planning, Sonya Kilkenny, whose predecessor appointed an advisory Committee in June last year to consider the Heritage Victoria refusals and the amended plans that had been supported by the City of Melbourne in April 2022.

The plans, overall, propose to build the tower "into the void" between the two heritage buildings, with a shared podium between the proposed tower and Shell House, which was designed by world-renowned architect Harry Seidler.

It would see the partial demolition of the three-storey brick Milton House building and Shell House, including the reduction of the existing northern publicly accessible private plaza, as well as a refurbishment of Milton House.

Last year Cr Nicholas Reece said that if approved by the state government, the redevelopment would be an "important addition to Melbourne's skyline, and one which will come to be considered of architectural significance to the city." ●



*Brendan Rees*  
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# CBD Local

## Gary's commitment to putting international students centre stage

“  
*Gary Lee understands the exciting and daunting challenges that come with being an international student, and it is the reason why he has dedicated so much time to helping students make Melbourne home.*

”  
 WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Wilari Tedjosiswoyo*  
 COMMUNITY

His service to the community, through various organisations, saw him recently awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), a recognition he was “extremely humbled, and very, very grateful” to receive.

“I do what I do because it’s part of who I am, and because I can, so to be recognised this way

is absolutely heartwarming,” Mr Lee said.

“Everything I do is for the people and causes that I care about. So, I hope this recognition helps shine a light on the communities that are important to me, that being international students, migrants and people seeking asylum.”

As well as being Manager of the International Education portfolio at the City of Melbourne, Mr Lee currently volunteers as an ambassador for Welcoming Australia, Bully Zero Australia Foundation, the AFL Multicultural Community Program and Melbourne Victory.

When speaking with *CBD News*, Mr Lee expressed that during the past few years he had experienced many career highlights, but of the long list of achievements a few extra special moments stood out.

From supporting thousands of students to connect through The Couch International Student Centre, a lounge space run in partnership with The Salvation Army, to helping students purchase essentials at Queen Victoria Market (QVM) through the \$2 million Our Shout food voucher program, Mr Lee strives to help others.

“Projects aside, my greatest aspiration is that I inspire others; that I help them get to where they need to be, and connect people to their dreams and goals,” he said.

“International students are a huge part of what makes Melbourne such a great place. They are some of the most resilient people I know, they are enthusiastic, they give back, and they thrive.”



While serving the community may have been what Mr Lee received his OAM for, he has also been renowned for dishing out some great dance moves and fun vibes through the hip-hop dance crew he founded, PoisE’n.

Although it started as a hobby when he was studying at RMIT University, PoisE’n soon became part of the RMIT Union Arts Collective.

“Dance became an escape for many international students, a way to connect and an opportunity to express themselves through the art form,” Mr Lee said.

“Most were beginners but being connected to the dance crew meant they could develop their confidence, build teamwork and cross-cultural dialogue, and it helped them engage with the local community. It was also my opportunity to showcase international students on centre stage!”

Mr Lee then set up PoisE’n Bollypop, a

collective of dancers who perform a fusion of Bollywood and hip-hop dance at cultural events.

“Bollypoppers are my little army of diversity champions,” he said.

“Many eventually became volunteers for the many events that I was part of and giving back ultimately became a way to feel that they belong. Most have gone off to do amazing things in their lives.”

This coming March, Mr Lee will be playing an avid role in welcoming students back to the city through a series of City of Melbourne events, while also continuing to advocate for international students.

“International students contribute to Melbourne’s exciting, vibrant and inclusive culture - they bring the vibes as residents, employees, business owners, volunteers and friends,” he said. ●



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## Building banners for the bold

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
EVENTS

With International Women's Day on March 8 only weeks away, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) will hold its inaugural Protest Banner Workshop.

On Saturday, March 4 from 2pm to 5pm, the QVWC will host the workshop to provide the opportunity for people of all ages to "to talk, reminisce on the history of women's protests, the art of political protest and to make new friends".

"This is actually the first time the centre has run a protest banner workshop," QVWC communications coordinator Natalie Forde said.

"We thought it would be a great opportunity around International Women's Day to bring the community together in a fun way to create some iconic posters and banners."

"The workshop will provide the opportunity for Feminist of all diverse backgrounds and communities to gather together and have their say."

"There won't be any restrictions on the messages, it's really up to the participants to have their say. I'd say we'll get a diverse mix of messages, political, cultural, and personal." ●

# "This is no Club X": Laneway sex shop approved despite objections

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The application for a new sex shop on a narrow CBD laneway has been approved by the City of Melbourne, despite residents expressing concerns about how it would impact the local area.

"High Tide", promoted as a modern adult store that will be "a sanctuary to sexually empower people through experience, conversation and community", was granted a planning permit to operate on Rankins Lane off Little Bourke St, and plans to begin trading in March.

Disapproval from 18 objectors ranged from the business being at an inappropriate location, its impact on local amenity (including noise and anti-social behaviour) and being a potential harm to children.

"Given that there is such large amount of residential activity established in the laneway, without being judgemental of the actual retail items, it's not appropriate for such a laneway because people who want to avoid it can't cross the street," objector Wayne Coles-Janess said, noting the laneway was just four metres wide.

However, Paige Aubort, co-founder of High Tide alongside partner Soeren, said attempts to meet with concerned residents were left unanswered.

"We understand that some members of the community may have concerns about our store," Ms Aubort said.

"That is why we responded promptly to their concerns in a letter and invited them to visit us, call us, or send us an email. Unfortunately, no one responded, which leads us to believe that they might be objecting to their idea of an adult store rather than the store that we are building."

Residents' concerns did not hold up under planning scrutiny and councillors voted unanimously to grant a planning permit at



▲ The entrance to Rankins Lane, from Little Bourke St.

the February 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

That evening, the soon-to-open business—which signed a lease for 5 Rankins Lane in September 2022 — thanked the writers of the 60 supporting letters submitted during the process.

"Thank you for the applications of support, for sharing the good word with friends and for sending us kind words of support," High Tide posted on Instagram.

"We look forward to welcoming you through our doors on March 9."

As part of permit conditions, the business could only display sexually explicit advertisements, goods and products within the premises itself, with no products to be displayed directly behind the shopfront.

It must also close by 6pm.

Council's planning chair Nicholas Reece said the business, which hopes to offer couples and sex therapy in addition to sex products, should be supported.

"This is no Club X or Crazy Horse, it's not a den of sin, it's actually a house of sexual wellness, a place of sexual healing — and that's good for the public health of Melbourne," the Deputy Lord Mayor said, adding that it offered "sensitive branding".

As several councillors expressed support



for what the new business could offer, deputy planning chair Rohan Leppert said this was not in fact relevant to the councillors' decision.

"It's not for us to necessarily decide whether it's a good adult sex product shop or a bad [one], the question is 'is this an appropriate land use in this location based on the policy?' And the answer is, yes," Cr Leppert said.

"I don't think we're in a position to support the application on the assumption that it's a particular type of adult sex product shop. It complies with policy and, therefore, should be supported."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp noted the tension between different interests "in a city that is densely populated by residents and businesses", but urged opposing parties in these disputes to, where possible, sort through issues before they escalate.

"We do want to do everything we can to support, listen and respond to all of those groups, but sometimes that balance is really difficult," she said.

"One of the best things that can avoid those sorts of outcomes ... is if you can keep communicating in a constructive and respectful way, where issues are raised and responded to, between you before they escalate. That's often a great way of smoothing out or addressing issues as they arise; recognising that the concerns and feelings of each are equally valid." ●

# “Get on with the job”: Greater push for injecting room as health teams face more CBD overdoses

*Continued from page 1.*

hygienic place where people can inject drugs in a supervised health setting — it nominated Cohealth’s facility on Victoria St as its preferred site.

However, the option was eventually removed after strong pushback from the City of Melbourne due to its close proximity to vulnerable residents and the Queen Victoria Market.

Victorian State Coroner Judge John Cain said the new data — which also revealed that men accounted for more than two-thirds of overdose deaths across the period — would inform crucial future decisions.

“Drug related harms are complex and constantly changing — such issues cannot be countered without up-to-date information about drug prevalence and use in the community,” he said.

“By regularly sharing updated overdose data, the Court contributes to government and community understanding of how drugs use is occurring, where resources may be needed and by whom.”



▲ Cohealth’s City Street Health team has responded to increased overdoses in recent months.

In 2017, the worst year on that metric, there were 220 deaths.

While the report said this figure was “particularly high”, it did note that the number could “a temporary ‘spike’, rather than an emerging trend”.

The government has said Mr Lay’s work was expected to be finalised in early 2023.

Should the government stick to this timeline and a public announcement follows, CBD residents could finally be informed of the facility’s location in the coming months.

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

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

In early 2020 an independent expert panel found that the North Richmond site had saved at least 21 lives in its first 18 months and thwarted 271 “extremely serious overdose incidents”

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

After the government opted to scrap Cohealth’s Victoria St facility, it has since been heavily suspected that the former Yooralla building at 244 Flinders St, which it purchased in 2021, was its new preferred site.

This, however, was yet to be confirmed. ●



*Our CBD street outreach team has responded to more overdoses in recent months as people return to the city, a trend that shows no sign of reversing.*



### Shifting patterns?

A long-awaited report from former Victoria Police commissioner Ken Lay — first commissioned in July 2020 and which will include advice on where the safe injecting facility should be located — was pushed back again in August 2022.

The government said the reason for its latest delay was due to changes in drug consumption during COVID-19.

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

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

However anecdotal evidence and data suggested that, from a numbers standpoint, things were returning to pre-COVID levels.

Ms Bartholomeusz noted that seven-days-a-week street teams had responded to increased overdoses in recent months in a trend she said, “shows no sign of reversing”.

Further, the Coroners Court report showed that 132 people had died of heroin overdoses in the first half of 2022.

This meant 2022 was on track to surpass any year in the decade prior to COVID-19 for the highest annual rate of heroin-related overdose deaths.



David Schout

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# SNEAKER LAUNDRY FINDS RIGHT FIT FOR A NICHE BUSINESS IDEA



A central location was a key element of Sneaker Laundry's start-up success

**When you're nurturing a left-of-centre idea for a new business, it helps to find a central location, according to Sneaker Laundry's Eugene Cheng.**

His specialist sneaker care shop, which also repurposes sneakers for people experiencing homelessness, found a home in the CBD in 2017.

'The city itself has many pockets with such a diverse demographic. Really pinpoint where you want to be at and go for it,' Eugene said.

It can be a steep learning curve for new business owners.

'As a new business operator, you learn a lot of things around permits especially if you're changing the use of the space or increasing the floor space of the building,' Eugene said.

To smooth the path for startups City of Melbourne is streamlining its permits process, cutting red tape and standing alongside businesses every step of the way.

'It's not always very clear what you need to do, but City of Melbourne is contactable and has planning officers that are real humans that can give you an answer. So that helped a lot,' Eugene said.

A small business grant of \$10,000 from the City of Melbourne helped to take the pressure off so Eugene and his team could think bigger.

'Cash flow for new businesses is a struggle. It's not even about growth at that stage, just whether you can continue paying the bills,' Eugene said.

City of Melbourne has distributed more than \$10 million in grants to more than 2000 small businesses, startups, social enterprises and business events since 2020.

'The grant came at a really good time as it helped flick the switch and really buy us some breathing space to ask ourselves "where to from here?"'

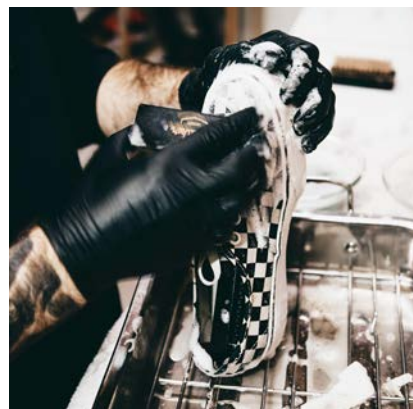
So what's next for the Sneaker Laundry?

'We're big on reducing the overconsumption of footwear. The number of sneakers going into landfill each year is excessive. More than 25 million pairs of sports shoes end up in landfill in Australia every year,' Eugene said.

'We are constantly innovating to tackle more problems people face in the sneaker world and won't be stopping anytime soon.'

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## Melbourne streets are where fashion plays

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
EVENTS

Paypal Melbourne Fashion Festival (MFF) is back for its 27th year with a jam-packed program running from March 3 to 11.

The nine-day day program will noticeably mark its presence within every corner of the city, with fashion-forward, world-class runways hitting some of the best locations Melbourne has to offer.

From premium runways to independent runways, industry events, launch events, workshops, exhibitions and performances, this year's 2023 MFF will host more than 100 events, across 60-plus venues.

Joining the MFF's culture program for the first time is Laneway Learning, a learning centre that sits within the iconic Nicholas Building, with the *TRANS-FORM-ATIONS* workshops.

Between March 6 and 9, Laneway Learning teachers will work with attendees to "meaningfully and creatively question definitions and uses of, and relationships to, fashion", using existing and new classes.

"Here is a community already interacting with fashion – mending, making, designing, repurposing, deconstructing – but perhaps not having conversations together around it," Melbourne coordinator and designer of *TRANS-FORM-ATIONS*, Maddy Macfarlane said.

"I hope people leave [the workshops] with a slightly stronger connection to fashion in their own lives, having thought about where their fashion comes from, how it's made and the human and environmental resources behind it."

One workshop will be hosted by Laneway Learning teacher and boudoir photographer Natalia Naa, who will teach a practical and "show-and-tell" class, exploring the connections between fashion, expression, body and photography while facilitating an empowering experience for clients.

Other workshop topics will range from eco-dyeing with native plants to learning to knit with plant yarns, and each attendee will have the opportunity to contribute towards a collective garment.

Unique to MFF, Aubrey Haive from the second season of *RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under* will be overtaking laneway bar Ferdydurke with *Drag & Draw* on March 7, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The unique workshop will combine drag and drawing, with two custom couture looks specifically designed for the event by costume designer Bryn Meredith.

"The best part about *Drag & Draw* is it's lovely to be able to connect with everyone there as it's such an intimate and creative space, and I love seeing people's drawings and how they interpret the looks," Aubrey said.

"I'm very excited to be collaborating with Dr Martens on a brand-new look for the Melbourne Fashion Festival edition of *Drag & Draw*, inspired by the punk era." ●

**For more information:**  
[melbournefashionfestival.com.au/2023-event/workshop-laneway-learnings](http://melbournefashionfestival.com.au/2023-event/workshop-laneway-learnings)

**For tickets to Drag & Draw:**



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## Paris end development avoids demolition, saves annual emissions of almost 900 homes

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
PLANNING

Plans to build new office space atop an existing building at the "Paris end" of Collins St have been approved and widely praised for the project's sustainability aims.

Developer Mirvac said the choice to "re-life" the building at 90-98 Collins St rather than demolish it would save the equivalent annual carbon footprint of 889 Australian homes, drawing City of Melbourne commendation for going down the retrofit route.

The proposed development would see a third layer added to the unique site, which currently featured 1870s-built heritage-listed residential terraces at ground level and 22 storeys of 1980s-built office towers above it.

The new "premium office space" would add an additional 17 storeys to the site.

Research has suggested that the carbon cost of developing a typical commercial office building was worth up to 42 years of its operational emissions.

In recent times the City of Melbourne has made a clear point of preferring retrofitted rather than new buildings.

Planning chair councillor Nicholas Reece praised the application and said it "represents the future of building in Melbourne".

"If we are serious about bringing our emission levels down, we need to be serious about designing better buildings and how we approach development," Cr Reece said at the February 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, where councillors unanimously supported the application.

"We need to see an end to this trend of developers building disposable buildings, designed with a financial model where the building will last 20 years, then be demolished and they build another one. That's not the sort of buildings we want to see in Melbourne — we need to build buildings to last, and the environmental cost of that practice needs to be brought to an end."

Nicky Drobis from the project's architects Fender Katsalidis said the approach was crucial going forward.

"[It] is a really important building for the city and other buildings like it because anything that is looking at adaptive re-use, additions or transformations of existing built form ... is so important for the sustainable



future of our city," she said.

Aside from its sustainability aims, the building's design was also commended.

Ms Drobis said the new space would supplement the 1988-built commercial space that will ultimately sit beneath it.

"The building form itself is very simple, it's very elegant," she said.

"It is really the great partner, if you like, for what is a very robust building that we sit on top of in this particular instance. So, we're not competing, we're really complementing the building that we sit above."

The development did not propose any work on the heritage terraces at 86-88 Collins St, and any demolition required was contained within the 90 Collins St footprint, an aspect supported by heritage advisors.

"In terms of design, this will be quite an extraordinary building in Melbourne," Cr Reece said of the unique proposal that would eventually see three layers of architectural design on one site.

"At the ground level you've got some fine townhouses and doctors' clinics from the 1870s, above that you've got a 22-storey tower from the rollicking 1980s. And now, we've got a new 17-storey tower on top of that which I think really exhibits architectural excellence and is truly reaching for the sky here in Melbourne."

While supportive of the overall outcome, deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert expressed concern that the new development would contain a larger floor area than the one below it. ●



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## Councillors prepare to head overseas to represent Melbourne on world stage

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Two City of Melbourne councillors are preparing to jet off overseas to attend a business roundtable and a healthy cities summit in March.

Councillor Kevin Louey will travel to Manila, Philippines, to participate in an annual Business Partner Cities Network Roundtable on March 17, while Cr Dr Olivia Ball will head to London to represent the council at the Partnership for Healthy Cities (PHC) Summit from March 14 to 16.

Cr Louey, who leads the council's business and global opportunities portfolio, will join leaders from 15 cities to explore ways of strengthening innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in the economic climate after the COVID crisis.

The City of Melbourne has been part of the network since 1999, and regularly attends the annual roundtable. This year's theme is expected to be "Technology and Innovation Responses for Cities in a Post-COVID Economic Climate".

Participating cities include Osaka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Jakarta, Seoul, Shanghai, Ho Chi Minh City, Mumbai, Tianjin, Auckland, and Hamburg.

Cr Louey said he was looking forward to sharing ideas with global leaders and promoting Melbourne "as a world-class business and investment hub".

"It provides a tangible opportunity to promote Melbourne's strength in international education, tourism, industry capability and as a destination for investment, and to learn from the ideas and experiences of other cities to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in the economic climate post-COVID," he said.

Cr Louey's trip, which will cost the council \$6880, will include an event with key government, academic and business associations stakeholders, a briefing with the Australian ambassador to the Philippines Ms Hae Kyong Yu, a site visit to QBO Innovation Hub, and a meeting with leaders at the International Container Terminal Services.

Meanwhile, Cr Dr Olivia Ball's trip to London will see her join leaders from 70 countries at a summit that will discuss strategies to combat the global burden of non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes, as well as injuries.

The inaugural event will be co-hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Health Organization, Vital Strategies, and the Mayor of London.

PHC will cover Cr Dr Ball's airfare and accommodation, with the council to spend about \$400 in incidental costs.

The council has applied for funding through the PHC Awards, with the Bloomberg Philanthropies to announce the three winning cities at the summit with up to \$250,000 USD each for outstanding work and achievements. ●

## Inclusive education stalwart honoured with Australia Day award

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

CBD resident Lorraine Graham, a professor of learning intervention at The University of Melbourne, says she is surprised and delighted to have been acknowledged with an Australia Day award.

Prof. Graham was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her "significant service to education, particularly in the field of inclusive learning".

It's an honour she said she didn't expect but was immensely proud and humbled.

"I was walking up Swanston St when the email from the Governor General arrived. I stopped stock still and affected the flow of foot traffic. I didn't think it was real," Prof. Graham, a CBD resident of almost nine years, said.

"It means a number of people who know of my work have written in support of my nomination. It is particularly exciting to be on the award list with my long-time collaborator and friend, Jeanette Berman. Jeanette was also a CBD resident when she was based at The University of Melbourne Parkville campus."

Asked why she was passionate about the work she does, Prof. Graham said, "inclusive education is a priority around the world and rightly so".

"At its heart, inclusive practice means that diversity is respected and as far as possible all

students get what they need from their schooling," she said.

"Effective teaching of all students, including those who may struggle and those who are very able, is built on teacher capability, responsive school leadership, and relevant professional learning. It's about 'learning for all, teaching that matters and learning that lasts'."

Among her career highlights is Prof. Graham's current role with The Learning Intervention Academic Group at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, which has recently developed an "impactful" Graduate Certificate of Education (Learning Difficulties).

"This course was co-created with the Victorian Department of Education and Training as part of the Disability Inclusion reform agenda and is geared towards equipping teachers to address the most prevalent types of learning difficulties and build skills to influence change in their schools," she said.

Before joining The University of Melbourne in 2014, Prof. Graham was at the University of New England where she co-developed QuickSmart, an evidence-based basic skills intervention program for middle-school students who experience persistent difficulties in literacy and/or numeracy.

Since 2017, Prof. Graham and her colleagues, Jeanette Berman, Anne Bellert and Lisa McKay-Brown, have been working with ALATA Inclusion (based in Ecuador and Melbourne) on a large-scale project together called, Inclusive



Education and Sustainable Learning.

The project was interrupted by the pandemic, but she intends to travel back to Latin America in March to revisit their connections.

Throughout her distinguished career, Prof. Graham has authored/co-authored an impressive 120 academic published works – with her next book, *Responsive Teaching of Sustainable Learning: A Framework for Inclusive Education*, set to be published by Routledge this year.

"In this book, Jeanette Berman, Anne Bellert, Lisa McKay-Brown and I have tried to unpack 'how' to teach in inclusive classrooms. This book presents frameworks that can guide and develop inclusive teacher practice at class, group, and individual levels in a wide range of settings," she said.

"We want this book to be useful to the instructional work of teachers and of practical value to educational leaders." ●

## Professor Sylvester Abanteriba's dedication to teaching earns him an OAM

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

From starting life in West Africa, never in his "wildest dreams" did RMIT University Professor Sylvester Abanteriba "conjure up the achievements" he has made.

"The underlying idea was always to do what was best for my students," Prof. Abanteriba, who teaches aerospace engineering, said, after launching his RMIT career 32 years ago in the CBD.

"Imparting knowledge to younger minds in a participatory way has always excited me."

In recognition of his services to engineering and education, Prof. Abanteriba has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2023 Australia Day honours list.

It's a huge honour he said which was still sinking in, adding he couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the announcement.

"I never believed what I have done in the area of education and engineering would be so much appreciated."

Born in Ghana, West Africa, Prof. Abanteriba undertook his engineering studies in Europe and later obtained a Doctor of Engineering in Germany.

When he moved to Australia in 1991, he unexpectedly landed a teaching role at RMIT – an opportunity, he said, that had enriched his life



and given him a sense of purpose.

"I love engineering because it empowers me not to see problems as impediments but challenges to which solutions must be found."

While he has accomplished much at RMIT, including receiving the Ralph McIntosh Medal in recognition for outstanding service to the

students, Prof. Abanteriba remained humble, noting he was so proud to watch his students grow and thrive in the industry.

"It is my sincere belief that if one works at an educational institution, whatever achievements one makes, should have a clear dividend for the students," he said.

"Any success that does not include dividends for students is meaningless at an educational institution. Hence, watching my students grow is an inseparable part of my journey."

Among his achievements is having founded the RMIT International Industry Experience and Research Program, which aims to use resources of global corporations around world to prepare students for life and work in a globalising society.

"The idea succeeded so well that so far over 5000 students have participated in the program, and many of whom now hold executive positions in major companies around the world."

While engineering continued to give him the passion to solve problems, he conceded on "the other side of the coin, human behaviour/attitude equally evokes vivid stories in my mind".

It has seen him dabble in the literary arts and writing two novels: *Poetic Retribution from Mars*, and *Murdered for Extra Seconds of Erection*, the latter which was published in 2016 and "accurately predicted the pandemic which has just subsided". ●

**QUEEN VICTORIA  
WOMEN'S CENTRE  
IWD PROTEST  
BANNER WORKSHOP  
SATURDAY 4 MARCH  
2–5PM**



Make your own protest sign at our International Women's Day workshop facilitated by Karen Pickering.

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# The issue of liquor licensing in our CBD

*In 2008 the state government introduced restrictions on the granting of 3am liquor licences to new venues unless it was of economic or cultural importance to the state and a Ministerial exemption was granted.*

WORDS BY *Dr Stan Capp*  
RESIDENTS 3000

alcohol-related harm in inner Melbourne, is now considered by some to be redundant. The impact of later liquor licensing is well documented with escalated violence being a predictable outcome. This was the fundamental rationale for introducing the restriction in 2008.

For anyone who doubts the correlation between alcohol consumption and violence, Residents 3000 has listed a selection of well researched journal articles and these data cannot be easily dismissed. These 18 articles are listed at:



A common finding is that any increase in hours where alcohol is available will result in a measurable increase in violence.

Setting aside that as residents we obviously have an interest about our local amenity, as citizens and members of society we are also greatly concerned by the effects of alcohol on our community, safety on our streets, the devastating impact of sexual and domestic violence, the impacts on our health system, emergency services and the ensuing human suffering.

While there has been a range of reactions to this proposed policy change, the planning policy of the City of Melbourne is clear. Clause 22.22-1 of the Melbourne Planning Scheme states among several matters that licensed premises should be operated to ensure that noise emissions will not have an “unreasonable impact” on the amenity of the surrounding area.

Further, maximum patron numbers should be limited to manage any unreasonable impact on the amenity of the surrounding uses; and any extension of hours will not unreasonably impact on the amenity of the surrounding area.

The importance of this policy cannot be under-estimated as it is of enormous significance to residents. In short, any approval beyond 1am should not unreasonably impact the amenity of the surrounding area and this gives comfort to residents even if a 3am liquor licence is potentially possible.

A useful case study is the 2021 application to develop the “Job Warehouse” in the eastern end of Bourke St. After being granted a planning permit to 1am by the City of Melbourne, the developer sought a 3am planning permit thus making a later liquor licence more achievable as a Ministerial exemption had already been approved. The City of Melbourne and several residents defended the rights of maintaining amenity and had their views upheld by VCAT. Indeed, the VCAT members concluded that, “To allow the venue to operate beyond the hours supported by the planning policy, we would need to be satisfied that the proposal would not result in unreasonable impacts on the amenity of the area. As based on the material before us we are not satisfied that this is the case, we have determined to affirm council’s decision and not amend the permit.” (VCAT Reference Number P377/2021). The decision reinforced that unreasonable impacts on the amenity of the area was the primary consideration despite any potential ability to be granted a later liquor licence by the regulator.

This local government overview remains paramount, and the City of Melbourne must remain steadfast in its commitment to retaining the current Melbourne Planning Scheme and ensuring that there are no unreasonable



*This local government overview remains paramount, and the City of Melbourne must remain steadfast in its commitment ...*



impacts on resident amenity from any proposal. To deviate from this position would not only abrogate its responsibility to residents but would ignore the comprehensive research base that links later alcohol access with increased levels of violence in our community.

Residents 3000 and EastEnders are ready and willing to be part of the previously proposed review and engage with other stakeholders, including the City of Melbourne, to ensure our city remains safe and our amenity is protected.

### Next Forum 3000

Join us at our next Forum 3000 meeting on Thursday, March 2 at 6pm, featuring interim CEO of City of Melbourne Alison Leighton. ●

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



*Dr Stan Capp*  
COMMITTEE MEMBER OF  
RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



## We’re building big near you and there will be transport disruptions

As part of Victoria’s Big Build, we’re improving St Kilda Road to make it safer for cyclists and drivers. We’re also building the Metro Tunnel, as well as upgrading roads and freeways to reduce congestion.

### Train disruptions: Buses replace trains in both directions

<b>Cranbourne and Pakenham lines</b>	26 Feb 8.30pm to last train each night, 27 Feb to 1 Mar 5 Mar	Caulfield to Westall
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### Road disruptions: Closed roads, ramps and lanes

<b>St Kilda Road, St Kilda</b>	From Mar 2023	Northbound left turn lane onto Barkly Street permanently closed
	Until mid 2023	Outer lane closed between Toorak Road and Union Street
	Until mid 2023	Outer lane closed between Union Street and Charnwood Road
<b>West Gate Freeway</b>	Until 5am 27 Feb	One outbound lane closed at Williamstown Road
<b>Williamstown Road</b>	Until 5am 27 Feb	Outbound entry ramp to the West Gate Freeway closed
<b>Footscray Road, West Melbourne</b>	Until early Apr	Closed citybound from Dock Link Road to Appleton Dock Road



Check before you travel at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# BEYOND THE BOOKSHELF: SEVEN WAYS OUR LIBRARIES TRANSFORM LIVES



A modern, multi-purpose space at Library at The Dock

## Our libraries are places full of joy and creativity, where the future is now.

Local libraries have evolved in many ways over recent years.

Demand for books remains high, and use of digital resources like ebooks, audiobooks, films, music and games surged during lockdowns. But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our library offerings can't be contained by walls or websites. They pop up across the central city and hit the road to visit people in their neighbourhoods



Here are seven special ways to engage with our library services:

1. Look out for our Mel-van mobile library visiting public housing, community hubs and festivals near you with books, workshops and wi-fi in a suitcase. We also bring our 'Books and Biscuits' program to older people, with curated pre-loved books and discussions about short stories, poems, essays and articles.
2. Find pathways out of homelessness thanks to library social worker Erin McKeegan. She helps people in need access the support services they need amid the welcoming, non-clinical library environment.

### HOMELESSNESS ZINE

Pick up a copy of the *Need to Know* zine – made by people with lived experience of sleeping rough – from our libraries and community hubs.

3. Watch the new Munro Library take shape in close consultation with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal artists. This epic library will be located opposite the iconic Queen Victoria Market.
4. Use state-of-the-art creative technology for free in our makerspaces. Devotees have designed games, 3D-printed lizard skeletons for museum exhibits and prototyped groundbreaking medical devices.
5. Share your love of reading, practice French and learn how to do your tax at online and in-person events. Our book clubs, conversations clubs and life-skills workshops build community and counter isolation.
6. Borrow technology kits to make your life easier, cheaper and less wasteful. We have microphones, guitar pedals, robotics equipment, laptops and accessibility tools like the C-Pen Reader, which reads text out loud.



7. Co-work, run meetings, tinker on a creative project, shape-up your startup or just make a cuppa at Micro-Labs, a vibrant, flexible space on Bourke Street. Drop by to enjoy a curated library collection, mini makerspace, kitchenette, movable furniture, pop-up shop and cosy courtyard.

Our permanent and pop-up library locations include the central city, East Melbourne, Carlton, North Melbourne, Docklands and Southbank. Head to our website to view the locations and browse catalogues and events.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries)

## LOVE FOR THE MEL-VAN



'It's magic. It means a lot to people. Books and Biscuits is an incredibly stimulating activity that opens up people's minds to new ideas, great chats, and digressions into other fantastic conversations. It's very meaningful and we create real connections through the group interaction and topics.'

Irene, South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre

'The Mel-van brings us books in our language that we can't find anywhere else. They bring games and painting and help us with digital technology like our phones and the internet. The library is very important and we feel very close to the library. We've never had a library visit us every week before.'

Stella, North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre

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Your City of Melbourne community update

**IN BRIEF**

**SCRUBBING THE CITY**

Did you know that the City of Melbourne carried out more cleaning in 2022 than ever before, removing the equivalent of nearly eight MCGs of graffiti in the past year?

Council's Rapid Response Clean Team removed a record 150,000m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti across Melbourne in 2022 – a 121 per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

More than 87,000m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti was proactively cleaned, and another 63,000m<sup>2</sup> was removed following reports from the public.

Council has also stepped up its efforts to remove dumped rubbish across the municipality, collecting more than 4,500 tonnes in the past 12 months – and an additional 100 tonnes of discarded mattresses.

**CITY ECONOMY SNAPSHOT**

Do you run a business in the city? Harness Melbourne's new rhythm with the latest city data to boost your business.

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot is a new free seasonal activity guide for businesses that reveals where people spend their time and money in our city.

Our first edition shows a record \$1.1 billion was spent across the city in December. Friday and Saturday are now our busiest days, weekday spending is as strong as pre-pandemic and our night-time economy continues to flourish.

To access the Melbourne Economy Snapshot, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)

**STAY CONNECTED**

Be first to know about what's happening in your neighbourhood – from amazing events to new community facilities – with our City of Melbourne newsletter. Sign up today at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/subscribe) to get the latest news straight to your inbox.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS**

Our neighbourhoods in the City of Melbourne are all unique, with their own priorities and needs. That's why we've created online Neighbourhood Portals – to provide a specialised place you can go to learn about your suburb. To visit your Neighbourhood Portal, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate-neighbourhoods)

**REPORT IT ONLINE**

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report amenity 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](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus)



More family-friendly hours mean more time to enjoy Moomba



**There's more to love about Moomba this March with five days of free, family fun and entertainment.**

The banks of the Yarra River – Birrarung will be buzzing with Moomba magic from Thursday 9 to Monday 13 March.

There are loads of fun, free activities to keep the whole family entertained – from epic skate park competitions and water sports to face-painting, crafts, dance workshops, Design-a-Float, kids' yoga and loads more.

So whether you're a dare devil bursting for a ride fix, a food-truck-loving-foodie, or looking to get your dance groove on to some awesome beats, Moomba has something for everyone.

Enjoy event favourites such as the beloved Birdman Rally on Sunday 12 March, where courageous competitors don inventive homemade flying devices to hurtle themselves over the Yarra River – Birrarung for a good cause.

Don't miss the iconic Moomba Parade on Monday 13 March, with five new floats and puppets joining the fun alongside Moomba Monarchs Rob Mills and Rhonda Burchmore, and more than 1,800 performers from cultural groups, dance troupes, marching bands and more.

And to cap off a big day at Moomba, relax by the Yarra River – Birrarung

as nightly fireworks light up the Melbourne skyline, as well as nightly feature films on the Moomba big screen.

Other highlights of the program include:

- The Moomba Masters water sports competition, showcasing elite Australian and international athletes
- Rides and games for thrill-seekers of all ages at the Moomba Carnival
- More than 60 performers and entertainers, from acrobats to dancers, musicians, actors, roving performers, and more
- Interactive activities and play zones, with crafts, face painting, workshops and a Bluey Live experience.
- Exhilarating scooting, skating and riding across a bustling Moomba Skate Park Program.
- Food and drinks galore, with more than 25 food truck offerings featuring cuisines from around the world.

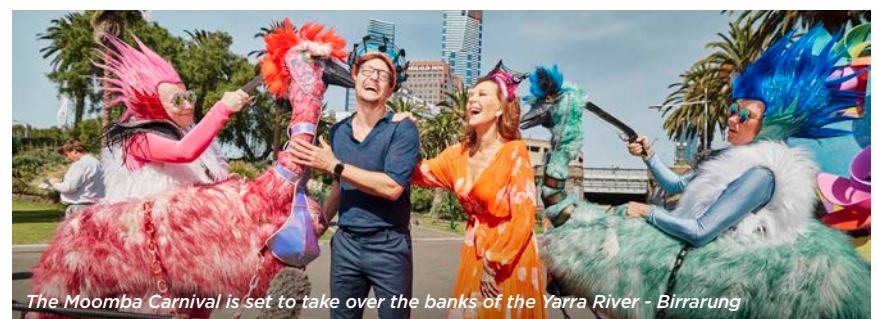


Don't miss the colourful Moomba Parade

Moomba is Australia's largest free community festival and is proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

It is an accessible and certified carbon-neutral event.

For the full Moomba program, or to purchase a Ride Pass for Moomba Carnival, visit [moomba.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://moomba.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



The Moomba Carnival is set to take over the banks of the Yarra River - Birrarung

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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# The CBD Rhythm

## & Juliet: The greatest young love tale gets its second chance

Shakespeare's greatest tragic love story is back centre stage thanks to award-winning anthemic pop musical & Juliet, and Australian beloved theatre legend Rob Mills has confirmed it is the "best thing [he's] been in since Wicked".

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Coming to the Regent Theatre from February 26, & Juliet rewrites history and begins moments before the classic tale ends, with Juliet choosing life instead of death.

"Within the confines of this play, Shakespeare is essentially finishing off writing *Romeo and Juliet* and it's about him trying to find an ending to the play," Mr Mills, who plays the renowned playwright, told *CBD News*.

"His wife Anne Hathaway, played by the incredible Amy Lehpamer, doesn't like the original ending, and so that's how the show begins, and so we find out what happens to Juliet and what the best path forward is."

Written by Emmy Award-winning *Schitt's Creek* author David West Read with music from legendary songwriter and producer Max Martin, & Juliet is sure to deliver more than



what first meets the eye.

"It [*& Juliet*] is so clever, funny, and so full of heart and love," Mr Mills said.

"The attention to detail is so incredible, I think people will be blown away by the creativity of it all. When a musical gets all the elements right, from the songs to the script, the set design and the choreography, and then you add in an extremely talented, wonderful, and diverse cast of all ages and backgrounds, it's a real dream come true."

While an upbeat performance with pop music tunes that will have audience members

itching to stand up and dance, the songs within & Juliet have been woven into the play in a way that makes them an asset to the storyline.

As a production with a strong message that speaks into second chances and the effort involved in making love work, Mr Mills said he was really excited for the conversations people would have as they exited the theatre.

"I have always found *Romeo and Juliet* to be the greatest lust story of all time [rather than love story] as Shakespeare takes on how young love is irrational and it's not mature and it does jumps to conclusions and rushes things,

whereas & Juliet really brings that story to the modern age and digs deeper into relationships and why they work and how hard it is to make love work," he said.

"Sometimes it takes offering a second chance to make love work, and sometimes it's about the extra work you have to put in. You have to keep falling in love over and over again to maintain relationships."

Equipped with a stellar cast of Lorinda May Merrypor as the strong female lead of Juliet, and performers Blake Appelqvist, Casey Donovan, and Hayden Tee among others, the Australian season is out to prove exactly why & Juliet is a Broadway and West End smash hit.

But it's Australia's own spin on the classic that producer Michael Cassel is most excited for.

"In the iconic words of Max Martin and Jessie J, this cast really 'takes me down, like I'm a domino'," he said. "Australia deserves a show with this much joy, and a cast that can knock it out of the theatre every single night and that is exactly what they will deliver."

& Juliet first premiered on London's West End in 2019, followed by New York's Broadway in November 2022, making Melbourne the third city in the world to host the critically acclaimed production. ●

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

## Time; Rone in review

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Entering through a security-guarded door off one of the city's busiest pedestrian intersections, you travel up a rickety elevator to the third floor ...

Greeted by a friendly guide and awash with orchestral echoes, you haven't stepped back in *Time*, you've stepped into a world where time has stood still for 70 years.

In a new, and welcomed, tradition of exhibiting art throughout the long abandoned third-floor wing of Flinders Street Station, comes *Time*: a "love letter to mid-century Melbourne" by famed local street artist, Rone.

*Time* doesn't just blur the line between past and present, it dispells it.

As you walk through the exhibition you're met with an almost disorientating attention to detail.

Fabricated newspapers from the 1950s, artificially yellowed, line dust-covered windows.

Singer sewing machines lined in rows form a nod to an era when European migrants powered the city's booming manufacturing industries.

An original score by local songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist, Nick Batterham, offers the tranquillity of mind to devote your attention to the minutia.

Each room tells its own story of a world that once was, from deserted switchboards where telephonists would connect loved ones, to the ghostly library, once a gym for railway employees, adorned with hundreds of fictitious novels marked with the exhibition and its artist on their spines.

Casting over each time-bending and painstakingly placed prop, material and element, is Rone's long-time muse, Teresa Oman.



While her portrait, one that has gained Rone global fame, may be the artist's signature, the beauty of *Time* comes in the normalcy and frozenness of his canvas.

Such is the state of the station's forgotten halls, you'd be forgiven for thinking the creaking floorboards, peeling plastered walls and splintered window frames were designed as part of the exhibition.

Those elements were already there and ready to be enhanced by a dream created with the aid of 3D scans, allowing Rone to pre-fabricate his designs.

The exhibition cautiously guides you through 12 installations, leading you to one final room: the legendary Flinders Street Station ballroom.

The room with an almost mythical history, now restored and home to the jewel in *Time*'s crown; a 20m glass archway with slithering vines leading to the exhibition's penultimate mural.

While *Time* may be an ode to a memory by-gone, it is a journey that will almost never be matched.

Tickets can be found online, but for those after a free glimpse, a pop-up from the exhibition can be found on the ground floor of Flinders Street Station. ●

For more information: [rone.art](http://rone.art)

CRITIC

## A pit stop at the Wheeler

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Two urbane narrators will be speaking on the one night at the Wheeler Centre next month after a drought in international face-to-faces.

Both put a lot of effort and humour into making their books honest and readable.

Sloane Crosley comes from New York and takes a somewhat cynical view of dating.

Her novel *Cult Classic* was released last year and while the material sounds predictable – a 30-something looking for love – the language is wicked and the premise original.

This narrator appears to know relationships back to front and forwards. She's an expert at the gag and so are her exes, Woody Allen-esque characters writing novels and winning medals at the Olympics.

Geoff Dyer harks from Great Britain, although he has travelled the world on his first-person scholarly and romantic adventures.

This is a guy who can hop between genres in a single bound. His latest book of essays *The Last Days of Roger Federer* deals loosely with ageing but it's really about endings, including competitions between writers about quotes on other writers' tombstones.

Dyer knows a lot, having followed his passions into American photography, D H Lawrence, otherworldly landscapes and India.

He has published more than 20 books and is close to stepping into the living treasure category.

What these writers have in common is the quest for intellectual freedom and an interest in exploring the cultural mores of life deeply from a personal point of view.

During one of his travels, Dyer has a whinge about the honour cultures of Italy and Sicily where a host will lavish a guest with care.

Dyer, from a more suspicious English point of view, is wary of accepting an expensive meal because of the possible strings attached.

And Crosley, from a New York Jewish point of view, expects her boyfriends to laugh at her jokes as well as the other way around.

As she wanders around New York bumping into her old flames, the encounters are "changing [my] vision into romance, turning everything else into black and white".

Both Dyer and Crosley are urbane and make a splash without being too preachy. They are often the butt of their own jokes. Dyer watches too much TV and has a tendency to be pedantic.

This writer is not expecting to see eye to eye with his readers and is not afraid to share his discoveries while roaming the earth and reporting back. Similarly, Crosley is not after a close-up of her relationships but a narrative romp through the cafes of New York.

Both are free spirits landing in Melbourne for a quick pit stop and they have powerful methods for negating a negative, preferring humour to hard luck stories.

Sloane Crosley and Geoff Dyer, March 9, Wheeler Centre. ●



The CBD Rhythm

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# QVM Trader Profile

## Spreading the love through healthy products

*As a highly qualified pastry chef, who trained at one of France's most prestigious institutes, Bertrand Richardot spent years perfecting flour and butter-laden products with generous amounts of sugar.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

But, now as a father of a child diagnosed with a strong intolerance to gluten, he has spent the past couple of years perfecting another delicacy – nut spreads.

“It was a new world to discover alternative foods,” Mr Richardot said.

“I had to move away from pastry in order to accommodate our lifestyle and spreads was something I could do from home.”

The idea to focus on creating stoneground nut spreads – free from gluten, sugar, palm oil and hidden nasties – also came about after Mr Richardot struggled to find nut products with the same authentic taste as the products back home in France.

Stoneground nut spreads are produced using a traditional apparatus called a millstone, and this technique allows for the natural fat of the nuts to be slowly released.

Deciding to be the one to put stoneground spreads on the market, Mr Richardot created the business Holy Nuts, which has had a home base at Queen Victoria Market since late last year.

“Everything in the stall is free from gluten and dairy, and most products are vegan too,” he said.

“I only use 100 per cent Australian nuts for the spreads and I try to avoid using refined sugar. I also try to be the most sustainable I can.”

This focus on doing things more sustainably means all Holy Nuts packaging is plastic free, and effort is made to ensure ingredients are certified organic or grown organically and having a low carbon footprint is important.

As the business has grown, both in-person and online, Mr Richardot’s passion for continuing to be a brand that promotes and “create[s] healthy habits not restrictions” has too.

And that’s why creating the products is a long process.

It takes 24 hours to create a regular nut five-kilogram batch and 70 hours for the



pistachio spread, but this is a must for Mr Richardot whose priority is for the end product to be one that has kept all its nutrients and for the flavour to remain intact.

The results continue to speak for themselves.

“The most popular spreads we sell are pistachio butter, which is hard to source in Australia, and our lemon myrtle macadamia product as it is very flexible and you can use it in cocktails, drizzle on salads, or have on bread or toast,” he said.

“People always think spreads are for toast, but at the markets I can explain to people why the products are the way they are and what they can do with them.”

Having these one-on-one conversations with customers is what Mr Richardot has loved most about being at Queen Victoria Market,

and with other stall holders surrounding him, he said it was great that his small family business could also be a part of a larger market family.

To look at the range of products available, from the Hazelnut Praline Spread to the Hazelnut Carob Cinnamon Spread, Blanched Almond Butter, Vanilla Macadamia Spread, Activated Pecan Butter, or even Dukkah Spice Mix, visit Holy Nuts on Thursday and Friday at QVM, from 9am to 3pm. ●

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

### STATE MP (LOWER HOUSE)

## Rent rises crippling Melbourne’s creative scene

*The Nicholas Building has been a thriving creative hub for decades.*

WORDS BY *Ellen Sandell*

It’s a unique Art Deco building on Flinders Lane that houses everything from tailors and jewellers to zine stores and virtual reality artists.

But last year it was listed for sale. Artists and creative businesses who are tenants in the building, and the local community, were deeply concerned that if sold, this unique community building could be turned into yet another apartment building.

But they didn’t just sit on their hands – they got active. Tenants rallied together and put together

a business case that demonstrated how the building could be saved and remain a vibrant arts precinct and community.

Artists and tenants got the City of Melbourne and philanthropists to support the plan. The last piece of the puzzle was a modest amount of support needed from the Victorian Government. Unfortunately, the government refused to come to the table.

Despite many approaches, the state government continues to refuse to help, and now tenants and artists’ worst fears are being realised – huge rent hikes are forcing them out of the building. Around 20 tenants have already been forced to leave or downsize, with dozens more artists and small businesses under pressure from these soaring rent costs.

“We are bracing for more attrition over the coming months, with many

shared studios striving to make it work on a month-to-month basis,” co-director of the Nicholas Building Dario Vacirca said.

“I have spoken with multiple long-term tenants who are scouring other spaces where they can pay an affordable rate.”

This is truly devastating for our city. Arts and culture is a big part of what makes Melbourne unique. Post-COVID, the CBD is no longer a place people come just to work 9am to 5pm five days a week, and the thing that keeps it alive is the unique experiences you can have in the city, our arts, our culture, and our way of life.

If we don’t support artists and creative businesses, we’ll lose this too. If we lose a building and community like the Nicholas Building, we’ll never get it back.

We need a state government



that understands and respects that, and will protect our creatives, culture, and heritage. You can join us to support the Nicholas Building by writing to or calling the Premier and asking him to save the Nicholas Building. ●



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

NOLA

BLOCK PARTY

Join us for the ultimate block party to kick off a new semester!

📍 **RMIT A'Beckett Urban Square**  
🕒 **Wednesday 8 March, 12pm to 4:30pm**

The afternoon will be filled with live music, activities including table tennis, cornhole, roving performers, an interactive artwork area, giveaways and delicious free food and drinks from businesses in the NOLA (North of La Trobe) precinct.

Hosted by RMIT, NOLA and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program.

**NOLAPrecinct**

**@nola\_precinct**

**Supporting business**

Construction partner:

**Creative Program**

## New “Snapshot” data to help city traders grow, as weekend activity climbs

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
BUSINESS

A new activity guide with the latest data on where people spend their time and money in the CBD is set to help traders grow their businesses.

The City of Melbourne recently launched an “Economy Snapshot”, a free tool for traders, containing daily spends and average pedestrian activities.

The analysis, released on February 1, showed weekends were now busier than weekdays, with spending on Saturdays at 120 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

In December, the CBD reported a record \$1.1 billion in spending, with Saturdays having the highest levels of average pedestrian activity and average daily spend, joining Friday as the two busiest days of the week.

By contrast, pedestrian activity during the work week was 23 to 32 per cent lower than before the pandemic.

Hybrid working was still dominant, the data showed, with the morning peak hour activity around 40 per cent lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the data and insights would allow businesses to adapt and grow.

“Business owners can use the Snapshot to better understand when their target customers are frequenting the city and tweak their staff rosters, opening hours or specials in response,” she said. “As more workers make their way back to city offices after a well-deserved break, this tool will give businesses the power to make sure they’re adjusting effectively to the new pace of our city.”

President of the Collins Street Precinct Group Luke Harris said it welcomed the council’s data source to “help guide future decision making and planning for the variety of businesses within the precinct”.

“We are seeing a steady increase in Melburnians and visitors returning to the CBD and our precinct,” he said.

“Recent events like the Australian Open and the upcoming Mad March season will continue to drive visitation to the city.”

“We look forward to seeing a continued return of office workers to the city during the day to support the diverse range of businesses who form the day- and night-time economy of the city.”

Aaron Taylor, general manager of Hardware Société cafe, which was formerly based in Hardware Lane and now in Katherine Place, also welcomed the data as it was hard to predict trends in a post-pandemic CBD.

“It used to be that the city was constantly full and constantly busy,” he said, adding their business was at 70 to 80 per cent of pre-COVID levels.

“It’s really good when there are events of large things happening in the city – that makes a really big difference,” he said, but noted office workers choosing the days they came to work, reflected in how well they traded.

Asked if the Economy Snapshot would be useful, he said it would be for event planning and attracting visitors through schemes like Midweek Melbourne Money, where people could claim a rebate on their meals.

“Any incentive to get people back in the city is quite helpful. International students and office people are what our business really relied on consistently,” he said.

“We’re busy on the weekends with tourism, but two days is not enough to pay all the bills.”

Co-founder and director of Dame Melbourne Jackie Middleton said the Snapshot was an “invaluable tool” for both long-term city traders and new entrants.

“Hospitality people love to crystal-ball what their future week or month will hold for them. This Snapshot helps forecasting in a way we have never had access to before,” she said. ●

## Waterside Hotel could be transformed into “garden oasis” under new plan

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

The CBD’s historic Waterside Hotel could undergo a major revamp and be extended by four floors with plant-covered balconies under a \$27.2 million plan.

The City of Melbourne considered a proposal at its Future Melbourne Committee meeting on February 21, shortly after *CBD News* published, that seeks to partly demolish and refurbish the historic building that occupies the prominent corner of King and Flinders streets.

Under the plans by Midtown Hustle Pty Ltd, new features would include a new beer garden, a function room, a rooftop bar, a cocktail bar, and landscape terraces billed as a “garden oasis”.

The Waterside Hotel was originally built in 1853 and is considered a well-preserved corner-towered hotel, and thus identified as a “significant” heritage building in the Heritage Places Inventory March 2022.

According to the Techne Architects-designed plans, the makeover would see the existing hotel façade retained and restored.

Councillors were expected to vote in support of the proposal at 508-514 Flinders St, subject to conditions.

“The development presents a carefully considered and high-quality design response to the Waterside Hotel that will facilitate the conservation and enhancement of the site and maintain its use as a hotel,” a council report said.

The proposal, which lists King Flinders Pty Ltd as its owner, stated a “number of challenges” are to be addressed at the site, noting the original layout “does not provide the required area to house and service the hotel’s licensed



patron capacity”.

“The site is also restricted by narrow travel paths horizontally and vertically and limited basement access, patron access and access to back of house facilities,” it said.

The new shape of the building would be a “tiered and organic shape” which would “support abundant landscaping to create a verdant, multi-level oasis with each floor being visually connected and offering a different experience within the hotel,” the application said.

Two objections were submitted to the council: one from Melbourne Water raising concerns about potential flood risks, and the other citing concerns about a potential loss of views and daylight.

The application lists the client as Sandy Hill Road, a Melbourne hospitality group, which sold The Hotel Esplanade in St Kilda for \$69 million in December. ●

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### METRO TUNNEL

## NOLA event to kickstart university year

*RMIT'S Urban Square will be transformed into the ultimate block party in an afternoon of frivolity, food and fun to mark the return to university for the city's students.*

The event will feature live performances, table tennis and bag toss games, and roving performers between 12pm and 4.30pm on Wednesday, March 8.

Urban Square is located within the NOLA (North of La Trobe) precinct where State Library Station is being built as part of Metro Tunnel Project construction.

The event, hosted by NOLA, the Metro Tunnel Creative program and RMIT, will also provide the chance to show off your creative flair with a NOLA-inspired interactive artwork.

Local businesses will provide plenty of delicious free food and drinks and there will be giveaways for people to enjoy.

Whether you're dancing by the decks, making the most of free food and drinks or simply chilling out on the beanbags – there will be plenty on for you and your mates to enjoy.

NOLA – bounded by Swanston, La Trobe, Elizabeth and Victoria streets – is a Metro Tunnel initiative to support businesses and residents impacted by construction of the project – a place to explore and discover unique cafes, restaurants and shops.

Since its launch, NOLA has hosted events such as the Silent Disco Tour, helped promote a



growing list of local businesses through online and in-person channels, and brightened the precinct through the installation of colourful neon artworks around construction site areas.

When it opens in 2025, the Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than half-a-million additional passengers per week to travel during peak times across Melbourne's train network.

Deep beneath the CBD, work is continuing on the underground pedestrian connection between State Library and Melbourne Central stations, with crews recently breaking through the wall between the two stations.

This link will allow commuters to interchange between City Loop and Metro Tunnel services without exiting via the myki gates.

You can keep up to date with what's happening at NOLA by shopping in the precinct and following the Instagram (@nola\_precinct) and Facebook (NOLAPrecinct) pages. ●

BUSINESS



## Don't miss the final weeks of the Summer Night Market

*The sun is about to set on Melbourne's favourite mid-week foodie feast, with the final weeks of the Summer Night Market drawing closer.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Providing a truly unique opportunity of experiencing the famous Queen Victoria Market, the Summer Night Market has seen nearly 250,000 visitors eat, drink, shop and dance their way around the market's iconic open-air sheds and laneways each Wednesday night since November.

Every Wednesday until March 15, visitors will be treated to a delicious line-up of the season's most celebrated dishes along with not-to-be-missed

live music and free entertainment to see the season out in style.

As always there will be mouth-watering street food and refreshing drinks to tantalise taste buds and quench thirsts with some of the sure-fire summer hits including Chimnutz, Dingo Ate My Taco, The Cypriot Kitchen, Mr Miyagi, Twissto, Hoy Pinoy and Antagonist Spirits and Brick Lane.

When your belly is full, there's still time to discover the huge selection of Melbourne's best independent, makers, creators, and artists.

Wander the Summer Night Market and browse more than 125 shops and stalls, with everything from clothing and jewellery to homewares, pet treats, plants and books on offer.

Make sure you visit the Summer Night Market before the season sets on March 15.

For more information: [summer-nightmarket.com.au](http://summer-nightmarket.com.au) ●

STREET ART

## Nu-muralism

*Melbourne has long had a thriving street art and urban scene, and murals are becoming an ever-increasing part of this culture.*



▲ Telstra Mural. By Adrian Doyle and Blender crew, corner of Swanston and Bourke streets.

The rise of the nu-muralism in Melbourne can be traced back to the 1980s, when graffiti and street art became the fabric of youth culture in the city.

In the late 1990s, artists like Psalm and Ha Ha began putting stencils on the streets and Citylights had parties in the lanes and by 2000, the Melbourne Street art scene began. It was highly illegal and closely linked to the graffiti scene with stencils, stickers and simple characters dominating the early street scene. It was a highly political time with the bombing of the Twin Towers and the invasion of Afghanistan, and the artwork was very reflective of that.

In 2006 Melbourne erased large sections of artworks around the city and along the train lines for the opening of the Commonwealth Games, and graffiti laws were made much harsher. This had a dramatic effect on the street art scene and the overall aesthetics of Melbourne.

By 2010 street art had become popular and many of the artists were becoming famous and making bank.

By 2012 the City of Melbourne started to take a more proactive approach to street art and began to commission artists to create murals in public spaces, while maintaining a zero tolerance on graffiti.

This divide led street art to become part of popular culture and forced graffiti back to the underground. As street art became celebrated many ordinary people saw it as a way to make art, and a gateway to the art world, and joined in the fun, changing the scene. Not wanting to get in trouble many street artists kept their art to the laneways and sanctioned spaces pushing it off the streets and furthering the divide between graffiti and street art.

The government has walked a careful line as Melbourne street art is in all the travel magazines, and is a highly celebrated part of Melbourne's creative culture.

Governments and corporations have funded much of

the street art of significance around the city, and this has changed street art, as the artists compete for funding and recognition.

This change led to beautiful murals that are very far away from the street art beginnings. Nu-muralism is the term I give to these beautiful government sanctioned murals, and I like them.

The content is often dictated, so the murals become a demonstration of technique, but nu-muralism is now a part of the fabric of Melbourne urban culture.

I miss the days of discovering illicit art on the street, but all things must change. These days urban artists can make a good living with nu-muralism and can travel the country painting silos and water towers.

Nu-muralism and urban art is seen as a reflection of the city's cultural diversity and creative spirit. It has also helped to revitalise neglected areas of the city, helping with gentrification and value.

The city continues to embrace street art as an important part of its cultural identity, and the rise of the mural in Melbourne shows no signs of slowing down. ●



Adrian Doyle

STREET ARTIST

DOYLESART@HOTMAIL.COM

WE LIVE HERE

## The monster eating Melbourne

*Local councils are fighting back against the short-stay behemoth that's causing chaos across the city.*

Melbourne councils suffering with short-stay issues want the state government to codify the powers needed for basic regulations to manage the virtually uncontrolled short-stay industry.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Steve Holland has reportedly called on the state government to give councils stronger powers over short stay operators.

Speaking to the media, the Mayor said, "we get the complaints, so our feeling is we're best placed to deal with some of these problems."

The council is seeking the powers to ban short-stay operators from listing properties with repeat problems. The issue is large scale - Mornington Peninsula has about 5000 properties just on Airbnb, according to insideairbnb.com, a site that monitors the platform. The council says almost 4000 people are on the public housing waiting lists and an estimated 1000 are experiencing homelessness.

Recently Mornington Peninsula introduced a \$311 registration fee for short-stay listed homes. While the council can revoke an operator's registration, its powers are limited and enforcement costs are greater than the fees collected.

Meanwhile, Warrnambool City Council has introduced a registration scheme, charging operators \$400 for properties listed as short stays.

City of Port Phillip is also under pressure to implement regulations, with a registration system being the bare minimum. Residents in the municipality have been contacting We Live Here to express their frustration. Here are some examples of the *vox populi*:

- "The reformed rules at the VCAT regarding short terms looks great on paper but are actually very weak when it comes to a legal process. It takes years to follow the process, meanwhile neighbouring residents sell up or move on because their apartment is unbearable to live in."
- "These unregulated short-term rentals are affecting the wider community in terms of homelessness, affordable housing purchase and rental availability for people who want to live here."
- "Victoria needs to wake up and understand how this unregulated business is destroying neighbourhoods and implement laws like WA, TAS and NSW by making it compulsory for short term providers to register their business with the local council and limit any short-term rental to 180 days a year."
- "Imagine living next door to a venue that does not have to answer to anyone in terms of sound pollution, number of patrons, age-limits or operating hours. This is in fact what goes on across our suburb."

The state government claims that its short-stay bill "limits disruption" caused by short-stays. We have been campaigning against this anaemic, unworkable Airbnb bill for six years - we are unable to find a single case where VCAT has ruled in favour of residents. Let's change this, Minister Pearson. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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HISTORY

# Women at work – Sands and McDougall staff, 1897

*What better way to celebrate Women's History Month in March than taking a peek into the working lives of female office workers in the 1890s?*



You probably already know about the Sands & McDougall Directories, those invaluable volumes that matched streets and their occupants from the mid-1850s until 1974. Produced annually, they brought together a vast array of information and are considered by many the internet of their day. By the 1970s, telephone directories took over the role that the Sands and Macs had previously played, and now even those are redundant. Today Sands and Macs are a much-used tool for historical research. In them you can trace a century of urban development through changes of residences, places of business, even suburbs.

The aim was to record every head of household, every trade and every business in the CBD and the suburbs. Until I saw this photograph, I had not given much thought to how the directories were put together once the collector of the information had returned to the company's impressive Spencer St headquarters. (Yes, a team of people walked the streets, knocking on doors, collecting the details of the occupants.)

Here we have a glimpse of the women on the office staff, stacks of pages in front of each of them, piles of directories stacked up at the end of each long table. They are cross-checking entries for the new edition, which ran to 1500 pages or more.

At the back is a small boy, the messenger lad, I

suppose. Along the wall on the left of the image hang the women's hats, cloaks and bags and we can tell from these that it is summer. The year is either late 1896 or early 1897, because the sign at the back tells us that the 1897 Directory is now ready, so the photograph was taken at the tail end of years of devastating economic depression, years in which many recordings of "vacant" appeared in the listings of suburban streets.

Many of these directories are available online through the State Library of Victoria, but the Royal Historical Society, based at the Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett St, has a vast run of directories from the 1850s until the final edition in 1974, so if you're someone who likes looking through the "real thing", why not make time to visit? ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

LAW

# Risk averse – want to escape to a desert island?

*Like most things in life, sounds like a plan, however upon reflection, even a desert island has risks. Apart from exposure, hypothermia, malnutrition, insects, birds, sharks, not to mention mental issues like depression, it should be a breeze!*

WORDS BY Peter Nevile

I was talking to an old friend of mine who is a farmer, and he was telling me about a conversation with one of his friends who is a high-pressure banker in town. The friend speculated that it must be very peaceful, relaxing, and stress-free to be a farmer. The farmer picked up a piece of grass and munched it quietly between his teeth, and then responded, "well, apart from the fire, floods, famine, drought, disease, and the bloody government and banks, yes it's been quite a breeze". The reality is, there are risks in life and in business, and neither can be avoided.

However, perhaps one of our most important roles as lawyers is to help you identify, manage, and thereby minimise those risks. For example, in life, marriage is of course a risk, with the divorce rate exceeding 40 per cent. Sickness is a risk. Financial stability is a risk. And death is a certain risk that we cannot avoid. In business, you only have to look at statistics for the failure of small businesses after three years. A very high proportion of small businesses or SMEs are no longer in existence after three years and generally the main reason is that they simply run out of cash, or have a lack of cash flow. They

also say that people don't plan to fail, they fail to plan, and I think that is another area I will address briefly.

Returning to risks in life, I guess, unpalatable as it may be, binding financial agreements or sorting out the financial situation in the event of a marriage failure in advance of your marriage while not particularly romantic is extremely practical. Similarly, understanding your needs upon an untimely death or simply a death from natural causes at the end of a long and fruitful life needs a Will and a degree of estate planning. As a plug for us, we are fortunate to have the services of Tracy Collins, an accredited Wills and Estates Specialist. Of course, if you're not going to die then you don't need a Will – but the reality is you will.

Not so many years ago, estates were often quite small. However, with extraordinary rises in property prices, estates exceeding one million dollars are becoming very much the norm. In addition, the situation is becoming even more complicated with blended families, and so while it is still possible to buy a "will kit" they frequently have an immediate benefit of costing a lot less than a lawyer, but in the long term they cost a great deal more when it's apparent that the testator's (will maker's) wishes are not actually reflected in the words chosen.

We at Nevile & Co. have many years of experience in dealing with effectively risk management. For an obligation free consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us through our website [neville.com.au](http://neville.com.au).

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

STATE MP (UPPER HOUSE)

# Addressing our housing crisis

*In my inaugural speech to the Victorian Parliament in December last year, I spoke about what I believe is my duty as a millennial MP to do what I can to assist my peers to achieve the great Australian dream of home ownership.*



WORDS BY Evan Mulholland  
LIBERAL MP FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN

As I said, "I believe it is immoral that large sections of our inner cities, flush with good transport, schools, health care and other infrastructure, remain almost flat, with obsolete overlays denying young Victorians a chance to buy their first home where they want to live. If my party wants to remain relevant to young people, we must at every opportunity reject this short-sighted and unfair approach and champion home ownership."

This leads me to question the bizarre recommendation from the independent Planning Panels Victoria report into the City of Melbourne's Carlton Heritage Review, which said there was "significant justification" into applying a heritage overlay to the "brutalist" style carpark on the corner of Grattan and Cardigan streets in Carlton.

There is the saying that one man's trash is another man's treasure. But why we would want to heritage list a museum to parked cars is beyond me. Yet we have significant architecture experts lining up to opine on is more like a seven-storey pile of concrete.

While some in the political class might not want to admit it, we have a housing crisis.

This is not to say that significant sites and buildings should not be heritage listed. But it's about striking the right balance, which I don't

believe has occurred in the case of the City of Melbourne Heritage Review.

Defenders of heritage listings and overlays will often argue that listing does not affect development if the facade is maintained. Yet VCAT has straight up rejected a proposal to build a nine-storey apartment tower next to the heritage-listed 204-208 Albert St, in an area of East Melbourne which is already surrounded by similar apartments.

While some might think they're on the side of the angels and fighting a holy war against evil property developers, in large part all they end up doing is sending my generation packing to growth areas where education, healthcare, amenities and infrastructure are already a decade behind in growth.

I'm all for residents having their say about what they believe to be inappropriate development, and I'm not about to go into bat for all developers. Some deserve the poor reputation they cop. But we need to understand that it's not developers that are moving into these homes and apartments, it's the next generation, and migrants, looking for a slice of the great Australian dream.

Let's not pull the ladder up behind us. Instead, we should helpfully drop it down so the next generation of Australians can secure a home where they want to live. ●

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# QVM renewal plans for 2023 is a case of watch this space

For those of us who live in the Queen Vic Market neighbourhood and who buy our fresh produce from its traders, 2023 is going to be a big year. And we are relying on *CBD News* to record and report on crucial stages of the QVM redevelopment.

Arguably the most significant step in the market's next stage happened before the New Year began, when the council announced the result of its expression of interest process for the 11,892-square-metre Southern Development Site.

As reported in the *Australian Financial Review* on December 22, 2022, the council had accepted the masterplan proposed by Lendlease.

However, at the council's February 7 meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said "while there has been much media speculation, the appointment of a preferred developer is still subject to negotiations and is commercial in confidence. An announcement of the successful developer is expected by June 2023".

The estimated value of the site has jumped from \$520 million to \$1 billion-plus. No other details are yet available. This is definitely a case of watch this space.

The value of the site is inextricably bound up with major road projects that involve bull-dozing the Queen St roundabout, narrowing Queen St and closing a section of Franklin St between William St and Queen St, plus realigning and installing traffic lights at the intersection of Dudley and Peel streets.

Other equally important developments have occurred since that announcement, including the decision by former CEO of the Vic Market, Stan Liacos, not to renew his contract.

Liacos has been replaced by Matt Elliott, who is relinquishing his job as manager of ski resorts at Mt Buller and Mt Stirling.

Friends of the Vic Market are hoping that Mr Elliott can halt the decline in the number of market stall holders and attract more regular customers to the produce and merchandise market stalls.

We'd welcome a searching profile of Mr Elliott and a continuing dialogue with market traders and customers through the pages of *CBD News*.

As Melburnians get back to business after the Christmas/New Year break, some of the biggest redevelopment works in the market are starting.

These include the demolition and replacement of G Shed and a six-storey deep excavation and construction of the new Northern shed in Queen St.

It's a massive project right in the heart of the market and will result in all H and I shed traders relocating to the upper market for three to four years. It's likely that dairy hall traders and meat and fish traders will also feel the impact.

And somewhere in all of that is the creation of a public open space on what is presently the open-air carpark. ●

Bob Evans  
CBD resident



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
[ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)







## 推动市中心注射设施

新数据显示，海洛因过量死亡人数有所增加，cohealth指出，如果有安全的注射设施，一些人“还会活着”。

David Schout

由于新的数据显示维多利亚州的海洛因过量情况在新冠疫情期间有所下降后又有所增加，CBD的健康外展团队对过量服用人数的增加做出了回应。

作为回应，澳大利亚最大的非营利社区卫生组织之一表示，对于这些“可预防的”死亡人数感到“痛心”，认为州政府需要“继续工作”，开设维多利亚第二家受监督的注射设施，该设施早就预定在CBD开设。

2月10日，维多利亚法医法庭发布了2020年7月至2022年6月八个季度的维多利亚服毒过量数据的概况，显示2022年前

两个季度分别有68人和64人死于海洛因过量。

与前六个季度平均每季度42人死亡相比，这是一个显著的死亡人数增加。

虽然这些数据是整个维多利亚州的，但cohealth首席执行官Nicole Bartholomeusz表示，这些数据反映了他们健康外展团队在市区街道的实地经验，该团队每周七天在CBD工作。

她说：“随着人们返回市区，我们CBD街道团队在最近几个月对更多的服毒过量行为做出了回应，这一趋势没有逆转的迹象。”

“我们对因服毒过量而丧生的人数感到痛心，因为我们知道，如果有监督注射服务设施，那些人可能还活着。”

在cohealth迄今为止最强烈的评论中，Bartholomeusz女士明确表示，Andrews政府现在已经多年落后其最初的开设第二个注射点计划，以应对North Richmond的需求，现在必须采取行动了。

## 可持续性的新开发建筑项目

在Collins街“Paris end”的现有建筑上加建新办公空间的计划已获批准，并因其可持续发展理念而广受赞誉。

David Schout

开发商Mirvac表示，选择不拆除Collins街90-98号的建筑，将节省相当于889个澳大利亚家庭全年的碳排放量，为此墨尔本市政称赞这是一个独特的改造项目。

该开发项目将在原有建筑上加建办公空间，这个独特的建筑目前的地面层是1870年代建造列入遗产名录的联排住宅，上面是1980年建造的22层办公楼。

新的“高级办公空间”开发项目将在该建筑上加建17层办公楼。

研究表明，开发一座典型的商业办公楼的碳成本相当于其42年的运营排放量。

最近，墨尔本市政已经明确表示更倾向于翻新建筑而不是建造新建筑。

市政规划主管Nicholas Reece称赞这项开发申请，说它“代表了墨尔本建筑的未来”。

Reece议员在2月7日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上说：“如果我们真的想降低碳排放水平，就需要认真设计更好的建筑，以及如何进行开发。”市政议员一致支持该项申请。



“我们不想看到开发商建造一次性的建筑，因为这种建筑设计经济模式是大楼维持20年，然后拆除再建造新大楼。”

“这不是我们想在墨尔本看到的那种建筑，我们需要建造持久的建筑，那种耗费环境成本的做法需要终结了。”

来自该项目的建筑设计公司Fender Katsalidis的Nicky Drobis表示，这种可持续性的方法对未来至关重要。

## 致力于帮助国际学生

Gary Lee 知道作为一名国际学生所面临的令人兴奋和艰巨的挑战，这也是他投入大量时间帮助留学生在墨尔本安家的原因。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

他通过各种组织来为社区服务，最近他被授予澳大利亚勋章，对此他感到“非常谦卑，也非常感激”获得此荣誉。

Lee先生说：“我做了我能做的，因为这也是我的一部分，我可以去做，而我被以这种方式得以认可绝对是令人鼓舞、温暖人心的。”

“我所做的一切都是为了我所关心的人和事业。我希望这种认可有助于鼓舞这些对我来说很重要的群体，即国际学生、移民和寻求庇护的人。”

除了担任墨尔本市政国际教育项目的经理，Lee先生目前还志愿担任欢迎澳大利亚、澳大利亚零欺凌基金会、AFL多元文化社区项目和墨尔本胜利队的大使。

在接受CBD新闻采访时，Lee先生表示，在过去的几年里，他经历了许多职业生涯的亮点，在许多成就中，有几个特别的时刻尤为突出。

他曾支持数千名留学生参与 The Couch 国际学生中心（救世军也与之合作的休息空间），通过价值200万澳元的Our Shout 食品券计划帮助留学生在女王市场购买必需品，Lee李先生致力于帮助他人。



他说：“除了项目，我最大的愿望是激励他人；帮助他们到达他们需要去的地方，并将他们的梦想和目标联系起来。”

“国际学生是使墨尔本成为如此伟大地方的重要组成部分。他们是我所认识的最有韧性的人，他们充满热情，他们回馈社会，而且他们茁壮成长。”



## 遭异议的性用品商店获批

“High Tide”是一家“通过体验、交谈和社区赋予人们性权力的一个避难所”的现代成人商店，获得了在Little Bourke街外的Rankins Lane巷道开店经营的规划许可，计划于3月开始营业。

David Schout

目前有18名反对者，提出的反对意见包括商店位置不当、影响当地市容（噪音和反社会行为）以及对儿童的潜在危害。

反对者Wayne Coles-Janess说：“我并不是评价该商品某些零售品，而是鉴于巷道中有大量住宅居民的活动，在这样的巷道开这种店不合适，因为人们出入巷道无法避开。”他还指出这个巷道只有四米宽。

然而，High Tide的联合创始人Paige Aubort表示，她试图会见相关居民的努力并没有得到回应。

Aubort女士说：“我们理解一些社区成员可能对我们的商店有所顾虑。”

“这就是为什么我们在一封信中迅速回应了他们的担忧，并邀请他们和我们见面、给我们打电话或发电子邮件。遗憾的是，



没有人回应，这让我们相信他们可能只是反对成人商店的想法，而不是我们正在修建的商店。”

居民的担忧并没有耽搁规划的审查，市政议员们在2月7日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上一致投票批准了该规划许可。

那天晚上，这家即将开业的商店（于2022年9月签署了5 Rankins Lane的租约）感谢了在此过程中提交的60封支持信。

“感谢你们支持开业申请，感谢你们与朋友分享美好的话语，感谢你们给我们发来支持的善意话语。”这些都在Instagram上发布了。

“我们期待在3月9日欢迎你们的到来。”作为经营许可的一部分，商店只能在经营场所内展示色情的广告、商品和产品，不能在商店正面直接展示任何产品。

商店还必须在下午6点关闭。

# What's on: March 2023



### 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 retired apartment dwellers, CBD workers, female members, artists, students and guests. To learn how you can join visit:

[melbournemensshed.org](http://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](http://residents3000.com.au)

### TOUGH GUY BOOK CLUB

The tough guy book club is like a fight club for your mind. The only rule is you don't talk about work. Welcome to guys of all walks of life! Discuss not just the works of literary greats but daily life. First Wednesday of each month at 7pm. [toughguybookclub.com](http://toughguybookclub.com)

Royal Melbourne Hotel



### 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, meeting times and location: [residents3000.com.au](http://residents3000.com.au)



### TURKISH PAZAR FESTIVAL

A festival bringing all the delights of a traditional Turkish street bazaar to the Queen Victoria Market with a free, family friendly celebration of food, dance and culture.

March 11 and 12, 9am to 4pm.

Queen Victoria Market



The Women's Investment Club  
MENTORING FOR EASY INVESTING

SUNDAY MARCH 5, 11AM – 12.30PM

CITY LIBRARY: 253 FLINDERS LN, MELBOURNE

Book club to support you build your business and financial literacy skills

Meet Locals and Learn

Booking & Supported by:

[www.thewomensinvestmentclub.com.au](http://www.thewomensinvestmentclub.com.au)

UNTIL MARCH 15

### SUMMER NIGHT MARKET

Grab your friends because The Summer Night Market is back at Queen Vic Market on Wednesday nights. No entry fee, just come hungry and ready for a good time.

Queen Victoria Market



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### Real Estate

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### CBD NEWS

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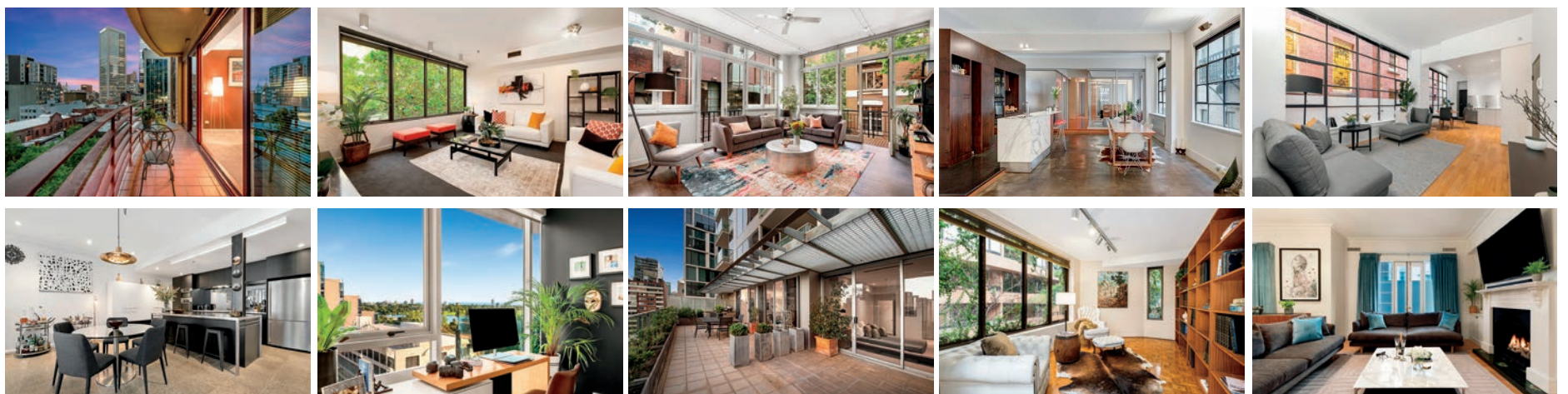


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