

# CBD NEWS

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▲ Katrina Korver (second from left) and signatories of the open letter urging the state government to open a supervised injecting room.

## Leaders, grieving families unite in push for CBD injecting room but Premier gives no guarantees

WORDS BY David Schout  
HEALTH

Almost 80 CEOs of community, health and welfare groups have signed a joint letter calling on the state government to open a CBD safe injecting room, but Premier Daniel Andrews said there was no guarantee the facility would open in the central city.

The letter, from a broad spectrum of leaders, said deaths caused by overdoses were a “health issue” that required a “health solution”, and urged the community response to be “underpinned by care, support and compassion”.

It argued that the benefits in opening Victoria’s second medically supervised injecting facility were not merely “opinion” but backed by more than 120 studies that pointed to injecting rooms as an effective tool in combating serious harm caused by drug dependence.

In a vexed debate that often elicited emotive responses, the leaders’ stance was clear: “We need to look beyond the emotion, judgement and fear, and assess the hard evidence”.

It pushed for a small and discreet supervised injecting facility that contained wraparound health services (including for mental, sexual and oral health) and connected people to pathways out of drug dependence.

A number of signatories — including the Salvation Army’s Major Brendan Nottle, addiction specialist Dr Paul MacCartney and Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association CEO Sam Biondo — spoke to the media at Rainbow Alley alongside Katrina Korver, whose son Danial overdosed in the CBD alley in June 2022.

Ms Korver said trialling a second medically supervised injecting room in the central city was a must and would have prevented her son’s death.

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## Owners fight to take back control of Aurora tower

Apartment owners at Aurora Melbourne Central tower in Latrobe St are fighting to take back control of their building after its owners’ corporation (OC) chairperson was accused of abusing the elected position’s power.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees & Violet Li  
STRATA

Allegations against the now former OC chairperson, Aurora resident Hung-Jing Tiong, include tearing up multi-million-dollar contracts, and dumping occupants’ parcels on the street.

Ms Tiong is also thought to have used her chairpersonship, apparently obtained by about 350 votes “proxy-farmed” from owners who also comprised of overseas investors, to take full control of the OC, allowing her to dictate the building’s affairs.

Her actions are understood to have created an environment of “passive aggressiveness” in what one resident described as “reckless” decision-making on behalf of both owners and residents, who have reported a litany of issues.

Complaints included bans on take-away food deliveries to the building; residents wrongly accused of operating Airbnb services having their apartment key fobs disabled, and \$400 fines for dogs entering the reception area.

The situation has prompted renewed calls for the reform of Victoria’s OC laws.

Property peak body Strata Community Association Victoria (SCAV) is urging the state government to act now to improve education, advice and dispute resolution for Victorian apartment and townhouse owners and residents.

Owners at Aurora have launched Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) action because of what they claim is a lack of transparency and accountability.

However, as highlighted by the SCAV, a backlog of hearings at VCAT is “affecting timely and effective dispute resolution”, with more than 1000 cases from 2021-22 still pending.

Residents have also made reports to Victoria Police and to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), but both organisations confirmed the situation was a civil matter.

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said, “frustratingly, the City of Melbourne is very limited in what we can do with aggrieved parties having to rely on civil mechanisms in the civil law.”

A CAV spokesperson said OC managers were expected to act appropriately in accordance with the relevant law, adding that “tenants or owners who may be experiencing issues with a manager are encouraged to contact CAV for support and advice.”

A resident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, believed the rules at Aurora had been enforced with a “heavy hand”, which included the resident finding their parcel from Amazon with the words “no bigger than this” written in black felt pen on the side of the box.

In other bizarre interpretations of the rules, the anonymous resident, who moved into the building last

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The deadline for the May edition is April 20.

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## Council urges government to clarify noise guidelines before ending 1am licence “freeze”

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has urged the state government to clarify its definition of “noise sensitive areas” before it ends a 13-year freeze on new late-night venues in the CBD.

The council argued this would give “greater clarity to the community and businesses” ahead of the July 1, when an existing policy that prevents new licences in the CBD and Docklands from serving alcohol beyond 1am will be lifted.

Since 2010, bars and other late-night venues wishing to trade beyond 1am have required a special ministerial exemption.

The move was implemented by the former Brumby government as a way to tackle alcohol-related harm and crime in inner-Melbourne.

However, from July 1 no such exemption will be required after Premier Daniel Andrews vowed to “supercharge the creation of new venues” prior to re-election in November, part of which included a removal of the current ban.

This move immediately prompted Greens councillor Rohan Leppert to urge a review into the local planning policy in response to the state government’s impending move, and report back by the end of March.

The urgent review (conducted by council management) was to determine whether lifting the late-night ban could “create or exacerbate issues” in the CBD, as the current local planning policy “has never operated without the late-night freeze on liquor licences”.

It also sought to clarify ambiguity surrounding noise impacts.

“The local planning policy refers to ‘noise sensitive areas’ without defining them. This has

given rise to frequent dispute, including before the Tribunal,” Cr Leppert’s December 2022 motion noted.

At the March 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors voted in favour of a recommendation that the planning minister introduce a more concrete definition.

“To provide greater clarity to the community and businesses, the liquor licence policy should be updated to include a definition,” it noted.

“It is recommended that the definition reflects the EPA regulations, which define noise sensitive areas as within 10 metres of a wall of an accommodation use.”

Cr Leppert said this was an important move going forward, particularly for locals living nearby venues operating beyond 1am.

The resolution supported by councillors requested that the Minister for Planning facilitate these necessary changes to the planning framework by June 30, 2023 — the timeline set by the state government for the freeze to expire.

Councillors also urged the government to update planning policy to align with the fact that, in the 10 years to 2021, the residential population of the CBD and Docklands more than doubled from 28,011 to an estimated 59,765.

“An updated liquor policy would provide clear expectations for new licensees and the community of the reasonable management of noise and amenity in the Capital City Zone and Docklands Zone,” the report stated.

It is expected that the number of applications for late-night venues — those operating beyond 1am — would increase when the freeze lifts.

CBD resident groups have expressed concern with the impending changes. It is understood the council was surprised by Mr Andrews’ pre-election pledge and will now seek information as to why the freeze is to be removed. ●



## Police investigate “suspicious” death in CBD

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
CRIME

Homicide Squad detectives have launched an investigation after a man’s body was found in an apartment in the CBD on March 11.

Emergency services were called to a Flinders St address following reports a man was unresponsive shortly after 10.30am.

A Victoria Police spokesperson said the 22-year-old Kings Park man was treated at the scene but died.

A cleaner had found the man in the property, which been used as a short-term rental.

“The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are yet to be determined, however following a post-mortem examination the death is being treated as suspicious,” the spokesperson said. ●

## Donation tin stolen from Melbourne East Police Station

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Police are appealing to witnesses after a donation tin was stolen from a Bourke St police station on March 9.

Investigators believe a Caucasian man in his 40s, of medium build, entered the building’s foyer around 9.50pm.

“Once inside the man has removed a donation tin from behind a Perspex barrier and has placed it in his bag before leaving the property,” a police spokesperson said.

At the time of the incident, the man was caught on CCTV wearing a dark coloured hooded top, jeans, dark coloured runners, and a bandage wrapped around his head.

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# Australia's smallest distillery has a dark and twisted history

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
BUSINESS

Tucked away in the north-east corner of the Hoddle Grid, among offices, apartments and theatres, you'll find a special piece of Melbourne history.

Once a bustling brothel, operating in the heart of Melbourne's thriving red-light district, then a sly grog shop flogging off unlicensed liquor to anyone who would have it, 17 Casselden Place is now home to Little Lon Distilling Co, possibly Australia's smallest gin distillery and cocktail bar.

For the distillery's co-founder, Brad Wilson, the charm of the CBD's last remaining single-story cottage, and the litany of stories that come with it, many true, some contrived and almost all embellished, became a proposition too tantalising to refuse.

"We were just fortunate this building was available," he said. "The previous tenant was a heritage architect and was asked to vacate while a building next door was built."

"We put our idea to the landlords, to bring vibrancy back into the precinct and with it a business with a different perspective, rather than another government building or office, and luckily, they were supportive.

"We only had a 12-month lease to start with and now we have a five-year lease."

While legends of delinquency and 17 Casselden Place go hand-in-hand, so too does Little Lon Distilling Co and world-class gin.

All gins produced in its cramped confines follow the story of the flavour's protagonist.

Take Constable Bill Proudfoot, a plain-clothed police officer known to patrol the area Monday to Friday, and captain premierships for Collingwood on Saturdays.

Proudfoot inspired a no-nonsense London Dry style gin with garden fresh rosemary.

Then there is Ginger Mick, a fictitious CJ

Dennis character, known as a larrikin throughout the area and a small-time criminal, and now, a contemporary with fresh ginger and mixed citrus.

Renowned Australian drinks writer Max Allen said of one Little Lon gin that it was "the best Australian gins I've ever tried".

He was referring to the one-off release of the distillery's Yarra Strength Navy Gin.

It was made with carefully filtered Yarra River water, grabbed from the Flinders St banks, Port Phillip kelp, native botanicals like strawberry gum, salt bush and river mint, citrus and Earl Grey tea.

"It became bigger than a person. Our desire was to make a gin made of Melbourne. We are the only distillery in the CBD and if anyone could or should do it, it should be us," Mr Wilson said. "We wanted to make it, so it was legitimate, but we also met all targets when it came to water quality.

"In a project that took almost three years, we worked together with First Nations groups, Australian Laboratory Systems (ALS), Waterform Technologies, Melbourne Water and the City of Melbourne, among others."

On top of turning our most maligned river into a knockout gin, ten per cent of each bottle sale of Little Lon Yarra Strength Navy Gin goes to the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, to help promote a healthy, protected, and loved Yarra River.

The Little Lon team has been busy partnering with local hotels and hospitality venues with special release gins and is on the look to expand its ability to hold masterclasses and tastings with a second, city-based venue. ●

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## Leaders, grieving families unite in push for CBD injecting room but Premier gives no guarantees

*Continued from page 1.*

“He shouldn’t have died that day; he had used the Richmond facility regularly and if there had been a medically supervised drug injecting room here in Melbourne, he would have used it,” she said.

“As his mother, I’m committed to ensuring this doesn’t happen to other families; that a medically supervised drug injecting room is made available in the CBD where there is a lot of heroin available.”

Major Nottle said there was an average of one overdose death in the city each month, and nine of those who have recently died were known to him personally.

“I sat with a young man who I met when he was nine years of age and at the age of 28, I held his hand as he passed away in intensive care because of a drug overdose,” he said.



An independent review found the trial has saved 63 lives and successfully managed almost 6000 overdoses in this time.

### Speculations grows on Lay report as Pallas “misspeaks” again

At the heart of the CBD injecting room debate is the continued delay of the Lay report release which, as *CBD News* has previously detailed, has been pushed several times.

The government has said it would not make any decision without the report, which has continued to frustrate those both for and against the proposed facility.

Treasurer Tim Pallas further confused the situation when he said the government had “absolutely” received the report when asked on March 1.

“Absolutely — Mr Lay provided us with a report and the government is considering that report together with seeking to update that report,” he said.

Later that day, Mr Pallas issued a statement which said he had “misspoke” and apologised for the confusion.

Except it wasn’t the first time the Treasurer had made the same error.

In a May 2022 budget interview Mr Pallas had similarly said the report was in government hands.

“The government is still considering the report we’ve received from former police commissioner Lay,” Mr Pallas said at the time on 3AW. “We’re yet to make a final decision about location and as such any commitment to the resourcing and ongoing operation of a second facility is yet to be made.”

However, a state government spokesperson told *CBD News* that the treasurer had misspoken, and the government was yet to receive the report.

Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Emma Kealy, said the Premier must be transparent with Victorians about the intentions for a second injecting room in the City of Melbourne.

“The Premier today confirmed that no recommendation had been made about a second injecting room in Melbourne’s CBD — so why has he bought a building and actively hiring staff?” she said.

“Local residents, traders and community groups deserve straight answers — the Premier must tell Victorians what his intentions are with respect to a second injecting facility.” ●



## The one thing uniting both sides of CBD safe injecting room debate

*While the potential for a safe injecting room in the CBD is an emotive and often vexed debate, both sides are in fierce agreement on one point ...*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
ANALYSIS

It was a mere footnote to a press release that spoke volumes of the Victorian Government’s handling of the CBD injecting room rollout.

Buried at the bottom of the government’s announcement that the North Richmond safe injecting facility would become a permanent service after a five-year trial, was an all too familiar note.

It said that the crucial report recommending where a proposed CBD room should be located would be delivered “in mid-2023”.

Except there was no explanation as to why, yet again, it had been pushed back.

Late last year, before the state election, there was a promise it would be delivered shortly after in “early 2023”.

Prior to that, in May 2022 budget time it had assured locals it would release the report “by the end of 2022”.

A year prior, in May 2021, it committed to a public release by “the end of this year”, and so on. You get the point.

The story of a medically supervised injecting room in the CBD has been mishandled by the Victorian Government, the impact of which has impacted both sides of an often-inflammatory debate.

For those against the proposed facility, including some CBD locals and close-by business owners, the uncertainty of whether the room will be located at the former Yooralla building on Flinders St — purchased by the government in 2021 for the purpose of the injecting room — has caused anxiety and apprehension.

For those in favour of the facility, including CEOs of 78 health, welfare and community groups that signed an open letter to the Premier Daniel Andrews in March urging him to start the CBD trial, postponing its opening could cost lives.

Both sides, however, are united on one point: continued inaction was damaging.

Prolonged delays have only served to fan the flames of division, perhaps best highlighted by Melbourne’s most circulated newspaper featuring business owners wielding baseball bats as part of a story on the issue.

“We need to look beyond the emotion, judgement and fear, and assess the hard evidence,” the joint letter urged.

The government has said mitigating factors outside of its control have caused the delays but is yet to acknowledge even once its mishandling of the rollout.

The first of these, and arguably key reason why — almost three years since it announced plans for an injecting room within the City of Melbourne — it was still yet to announce a location, is its eggs-in-one-basket approach to begin with.

Back in June 2020, as it announced plans for the state’s second injecting room, it immediately nominated the cohealth facility at 53 Victoria St to house the new facility.

Rather than cast a wider net, the government said this was the “preferred site” without consulting the City of Melbourne.

The council’s backlash was immediate and unsurprising, firmly opposing the location due to its proximity to Queen Victoria Market and some vulnerable affordable housing residents at Drill Hall next door.

The government eventually backed down in the first half of 2021, putting it back to square one.

This considerable error early in the process has never been acknowledged by the government. Rather, it has pointed to COVID-19 and the “shifting patterns of drug

harms in the CBD” as a reason for continued delays.

Mr Andrews said a report by former police commissioner Ken Lay, set to include a recommended injecting room site and originally due by the end of 2020, had been pushed back due to this.

“More time has been needed because, just like the pandemic has had an impact on our patterns of movement and all sorts of different elements of our lives, it’s also had an impact on how many people are coming to the city to use [drugs], where they’re using — all of those things are unsettled, if you like,” the Premier said on March 7.

“Things that were established patterns are no longer established. And common sense tells you that that’s a perfectly reasonable thing.”

However, for those on the ground in the CBD, dangerous drug use had returned to pre-COVID levels.

Cohealth CEO Nicole Bartholomeusz said in February that the organisation’s City Street Health outreach team, which operates in the CBD seven days a week, had responded to an increased number of overdoses in recent months.

She said the trend “shows no sign of reversing”.

While not CBD-specific, heroin overdoses across Victoria had bounced back even higher than before the pandemic.

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

This meant 2022 (data for the second half of the year was yet to be collated) was on track to surpass any year in the decade prior to COVID-19 for the highest annual rate of heroin-related overdose deaths.

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

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

Perhaps underlining the government’s mismanagement of the rollout is the fact that Treasurer Tim Pallas has twice now confirmed that the government in fact has the Lay report in its hands.

Twice, however, he has had to retract those comments.

“The government is still considering the report we’ve received from former police commissioner Lay,” Mr Pallas said in May 2022 on 3AW.

When asked to confirm this, a government spokesperson swiftly told *CBD News* the treasurer had in fact “misspoken”.

On March 1, Mr Pallas confused the situation again when he claimed the government had “absolutely” received the report.

“Absolutely — Mr Lay provided us with a report and the government is considering that report together with seeking to update that report,” he said.

Later that day, Mr Pallas issued a statement which said he had ‘misspoke’ and apologised for the confusion.

The Premier has confirmed the Lay report would be released in mid-2023.

But given the government’s continued delays on the issue since 2020, few are holding their breath. ●



*David Schout*

JOURNALIST

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# “I will not let Danial’s death be in vain”: a CBD injecting room will save lives

*In February the Coroners Court of Victoria released a snapshot of Victorian overdose data for the two years to June 2022, which showed that 68 and 64 Victorians lost their lives, respectively, in the first two quarters of 2022 to heroin overdoses.*

WORDS BY *Katrina Korver*  
OPINION

This represented a jump of more than 33 per cent, compared to an average of 42 deaths per quarter across the preceding 18 months.

Our son Danial was one of those statistics, one of nine people who died of heroin overdose in the CBD in 2022.

On Saturday, June 11 at 3.45pm he injected heroin alone in Rainbow Alley in the CBD and was found unresponsive by a local café worker. The fire brigade and ambulance Victoria crew worked on him for 30 minutes before declaring him deceased.

He had scored the heroin only a few blocks away in Little Bourke St and made a beeline for the quiet alley near Melbourne Town Hall, away from the judgement of the public eye.

Although I don’t know every detail of Danial’s final hours, I know that if there had been a supervised injecting room in the CBD, our son would still be alive.

Danial was a regular user of the North Richmond injecting room but travelling to North Richmond from the CBD was not an option. Apart from the risk of being picked up by police while en route, the physiological need to feed his addiction would have been overwhelming.



As he told me once, “Mum, you’ll never understand, but once you have those drugs in your hands, every receptor in your body is screaming out for you to use them and to get some relief.”

Danial did not want to die. He had a 13-year-old son. He had recently moved into a new home and found some stability. He was an experienced roof tiler and was making plans to get his small business back up and running. He was funny, kind, and well-liked.

Thanks to health workers at the North

Richmond injecting room, he had started on long-acting opioid replacement therapy, depot buprenorphine, which was keeping him off heroin for a month at a time. At the time of his death, he hadn’t attended his last two GP appointments to get the depot bupe injection.

Since June when Danial died, there have been several overdoses in the same alley. A nearby café owner tells me that people regularly use the laneway to inject unsafely alone, and my weekly visits to lay flowers confirm this as there

is always syringe litter on the ground.

In 2020 the Victorian Government committed to opening a CBD supervised injecting room, after an expert independent panel recommended that a second facility would take pressure off North Richmond and further reduce drug related harm in the community.

But nearly three years on there has been no movement. Any notion that drug use in the CBD has subsided is delusional. People are still dying of overdose in their homes, in our laneways and public toilets.

Community health service, cohealth, says that its outreach team has responded to double the usual number of overdoses in the CBD in the past four months. And CBD-based drop-in service, the Living Room, says they handed out one million clean injecting kits in 2022.

If we’re worried about what message an injecting room sends to tourists arriving in our city, I would argue that a discreet injecting room is more palatable than a dead body.

For Danial it is too late for help. There is no further possibility of getting back onto pharmacotherapy. No chance he’ll revive his business. No opportunity to see his child again.

Maybe he never would have fully recovered from addiction, but there was always hope. Even when he was in the depths of his addiction, he never stopped being my son.

I will not let Danial’s death be in vain. We cannot stand by and do nothing when all the evidence tells us what will turn the tide on this health crisis.

I believe that Melburnians are compassionate, kind-hearted people who want to see evidence-based policies that address complex problems.

A CBD injecting room may be painted as controversial by some sections of the media, but when we strip away the sensationalism, we are talking about establishing a health service that saves lives.

*Katrina Korver is a mother, grandmother, wife and nurse living in Melbourne’s north. ●*

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# “Sounding board for the city”: Presidents of Residents forum providing valuable counsel to council



*Established during COVID-19 to collate feedback from well-connected locals, the “Presidents of Residents” forum is now a permanent part of decision-making at Town Hall.*



WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

At the height of COVID-19, decision-makers at the City of Melbourne needed advice on how to best help a local population that, like the rest of the state, was struggling. Many locals were stuck inside for large parts

of the week, shopfront vacancy signs were increasing by the day, and international students were seeking assistance in huge numbers.

The council needed on-the-ground feedback from residents and established a working group on the run to help with that.

To this day, the group remains a cog in the decision-making machine at Town Hall and having moved on from providing pandemic-related ideas for assistance, it now advises on things like safety, planning and transport.

Named the “Presidents of Residents” group — a title that has since stuck — the forum assembles leaders from residents’ groups across the municipality, to garner both suburb-specific and city-wide ideas.

“The City [of Melbourne] should be proud of it,” the President of Drill Hall Residents’ Association in the CBD Martin Mulvihill said.

“I think it works ... it acts as a kind of sounding board or feedback system for the city.”

President of CBD residents’ group EastEnders Dr Stan Capp said the endeavour had become a “very valuable forum”.

Dr Capp and other community leaders had pushed for last year’s “Safety Summit” — which brought together the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police, residents’ groups, and

stakeholders to address key issues facing the city — which he cites as an example of forum suggestions put into action.

“It’s been an opportunity to raise issues and have them considered — and I think they’re always offered and considered in a respectful environment,” he said.

“I think we can have a free and open discussion about anything we like, quite frankly. It’s been a good forum for that.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp was central to the group’s establishment in 2020 and, along with Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, regularly convenes with the group.

Cr Capp’s office put together an agenda for each meeting (they also open the floor for discussion points) and invite presenters to speak with the community leaders.

Recently, this included representatives from both e-scooter companies currently heading a 12-month trial within the city — Lime and Neuron.

The companies were informed by the Presidents of Residents group of particular hotspots and pedestrian-heavy areas where scooters were being incorrectly parked on a regular basis.

The group is one of two ways the council has

sought to improve communication between it and residents, the second being via online neighbourhood portals.

“All of the feedback provided by the presidents and via the portals is considered, and action is taken where feasible,” the Lord Mayor told *CBD News*.

“One recent example of this is when City of Melbourne upgraded the neighbourhood portals system to improve ease of access to various planning applications relevant to each neighbourhood following feedback from the group.

“City of Melbourne greatly values the insights gathered from the Presidents of Residents group and looks forward to achieving more positive and collaborative outcomes in future.”

While the group is seen as an example of how local government can utilise residents’ expertise to achieve positive outcome, there was still room for improvement according to participants.

“It’s sort of unrepresentative, necessarily so because it’s dealing with established organisations like resident organisations,” Mr Mulvihill said.

“As such it probably cuts out the big young student and young people population generally in the city.” ●

## Council to overhaul on-street parking, simplify “confusing” signs

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has vowed to make kerbside parking in the CBD more “fair, simple and reliable” after a survey revealed over 80 per cent of people found it hard locate a vacant space the last time they visited.

Plans to simplify signage, make layouts and durations consistent, and improve loading zones were all part of a wider push to improve the often high-demand spaces.

It also pledged to “put the customer at the heart of the [new] approach” and, notably: “infringements will not be viewed as a measure of success”.

Research revealed that up to 30 per cent of CBD traffic was drivers “cruising” to find a park, a situation that increased vehicle congestion, emissions and “frustration for drivers [that] can lead to unsafe driving or illegal parking”.

The draft plan was expected to be endorsed at a March 21 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, before the council would open it up for public comment until April 19.

Head to [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au) to have your say. ●

## Parking woes and delivery access at Little Bourke St on council agenda

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne will consider access to off-street car parking and the need for traders to receive deliveries in Little Bourke St as it looks to increase safety.

The proposal was made at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on March 7 after a resident raised a question about whether the council was aware of the “pedestrian problem” which they described as a “bit out of control” between Russell and Swanston streets.

They pointed to incidents of women pushing prams while “trying to get around oncoming traffic [and] cyclists everywhere”.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said more off-street car parking was part of council talks in “how available infrastructure can be more fairly shared between the various modes of transport”.

The entirety of Little Bourke St is a shared zone (pedestrian-friendly streets) and has a speed limit of 20km/h while laneways off Little Bourke St have a 10km/h speed limit.

Many delivery drivers told *CBD News* that they would welcome any proposal to improve access to loading

zone parking as Little Bourke St was prone to being “chaotic”.

Delivery driver, John, who asked not to use his surname, said it was not uncommon for him to drive around in circles “for up to an hour if not more” finding a parking space.

When he spoke to *CBD News* on a Thursday morning in March, he said he had no option but to park in a bus zone on Little Bourke St as two tradie vehicles had parked in a loading zone. “God knows how long they’ve been there and how long they’re going to be there,” he said, adding “that’s the major problem we have.”

He conceded parking in a bus zone was “not right but I have no choice”.

Another truck driver Rick, who also asked not to use his surname, said he used Little Bourke St to make up to 10 deliveries a day, but had to contend with vehicles illegally parking across loading docks or in loading zones for longer than the permitted times.

“I’ve had tow trucks getting people who are removed,” he said. “Something needs to be done 100 per cent, especially with enforcing parking zones.”

“I have to deliver here; I’ve got no option. I sit in the middle of the road until it clears.”

“I cause some of the chaos because



I’ve got no other option.”

Another delivery driver, Rick, said despite paying the council \$500 a year for a parking permit on Swanston St, he was sometimes left to “go around and around” for 20 minutes before he found a park elsewhere.

Sidharth Joseph, a pharmacist assistant at Chemist Warehouse on Bourke St, said their delivery driver regularly had to park on Little Bourke St because of a lack of on-street parking closer to their store.

It meant he and other staff members had to wheel heavily loaded roll

cages of stock to their store nearly a block away, which was “inconvenient for us and the delivery driver”.

Victoria Walks executive officer Ben Rossiter said with nearly 90 per cent of transport trips being made on foot within the Hoddle Grid, shared zones had “definitely been a step in the right direction”.

“The next step might be a redesign of these ‘Little’ streets so they can reach their full, vibrant potential, so people walking feel safe and unhurried and can experience all that Melbourne has to offer,” he said. ●

## MAKING THE METRO TUNNEL REFLECTIONS BY CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS

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Creative Program





# Owners fight to take back control of Aurora tower

*Continued from page 1.*

October, said all occupants had to take their rubbish to the basement rather than use the garbage chute.

Another application of a rule saw residents' friends fined for parking in the inviting resident's own parking space.

"It just raises eyebrows constantly like, what's going on here," the resident said, adding it was "not modern" living.

"It's 2023, and now I have to find out how big a parcel is before it gets sent to me; it's ridiculous."

Another Aurora resident said the lift, at one stage, "descended several floors rapidly, and the people inside were terrified" in what was claimed to be a "known issue". *CBD News* is not suggesting that Ms Tiong and her committee were responsible for this matter nor if there was a maintenance issue at the time or whether it was under investigation.

A video recorded in March, and seen by *CBD News*, purportedly shows Ms Tiong in a verbal altercation with an unknown man during which she appears to bite his arm.

Ms Tiong has allegedly used her power since January 2021 to make decisions without consulting residents or owners, with one source, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, claiming there are "no checks and balances".

"You have a committee that is acting unreasonably, and not in the best interests of the OC. To terminate contracts while being under the impression that damages and compensation isn't payable is nonsensical," the source said.

"Every single owner of the building is proportionately liable for the damages and compensation that flows from these unjustifiable sorts of actions."

At 88 storeys, Aurora Melbourne Central is Melbourne's third-tallest skyscraper and the tallest in the CBD. It was completed in 2019 at a cost of \$800 million and comprises 1002 apartments and about 3500 residents.

To take back "some means of control", hundreds of owners at Aurora attended an online special general meeting (SGM) on February 27 to re-elect a new OC committee for "OC1", which is tasked to look after a building's financial management, insurance, compliance, and legal affairs.

The meeting resulted in Ms Tiong as the chairperson being "overwhelmingly removed" as chairperson of "OC1" and replaced with a new committee.

Aurora has multiple OCs, which are listed as one unlimited OC (OC1), and various limited OCs to help lot-owners share rights, responsibilities, and costs, which is common in subdivisions where there is a mix of homes, shops, and offices.

This state of affairs is described by many sources within Aurora as a "very crazy situation" whereby "that in a single building you can have so many divides and different decision-making bodies through multiple committees" – which was highlighted in the case of the operation of the lifts in question, which fall under OC6 and OC8.

Proxy farming occurs when individuals or



▲ Aurora tower on Latrobe St.

groups collect votes from fellow owners and residents who can't or won't attend their building's annual general meetings, however such election procedures have proven to be prone to abuse.

According to Melbourne Owners' Corporation Services (MOCS) general manager Shawn Lu, whose organisation had its building management contract with Aurora reinstated after it was terminated, Ms Tiong was still "not accepting" of being voted off as chairperson.

"She's still acting as if she's on the committee of OC1. She's continuing to give instructions to contractors to say this and do that and then offering to pay contractors up front for the work even if she has no control of the OC1 funds.

"The only way to do this is to borrow the funds from another OC she has control of or pay that from her pocket," Mr Lu said.

Sources confirmed that while she had been removed from OC1, Ms Tiong was technically still in control of other limited OC sections of the building, prompting concern Ms Tiong may "spend money she has no authority of".

"We suspect most of the funds are being borrowed from one OC to another for her to do certain works. For us to raise money to even repay that OC in the future could take a while," Mr Lu said.

*"This building certainly is one of the most talked about in Australia right now in certain legal circles. The only real solution for this building to regain normality is for VCAT to appoint an administrator for a two-year period to take control of the OCs and exercise full control over the accounts and management."*



"We're trying to contact the contractors that we know to say, 'please do not do any work on this building [OC1] unless you have instructions from us'."

Mr Lu predicted it would be "at least another year to untangle the mess", and hoped the state government would expedite reform to the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* and VCAT.

Prior to being reinstated, Mr Lu confirmed Ms Tiong had requested MOCS to transfer \$1.2 million in trust fund money into a bank account that was apparently in the name of the OC "to pay wages", but "when we asked for the signatories of the account, she didn't want to tell us that".

MOCS decided to resign and gave ample notice for the OC to find a replacement manager, because it was not in the best interests of the OC or the owners. But rather than responding in good faith, Ms Tiong is alleged to have terminated MOCS, effective immediately.

The Deputy Lord Mayor moved a motion in 2021 to improve information services for apartment living in Melbourne, which was made available via the City of Melbourne's website for tenants, owners, building managers and OCs.

"We did significantly upgrade the information services that we make available to people living in apartments so they can help themselves to resolve these things, but we are frustrated by the current shortcomings of the system," Cr Reece said.

"Notwithstanding some recent changes to

the rules around proxies and other strata living controls, this case has highlighted that the system is still vulnerable to abuse. We really do have a shambles of a system with a lack of effective strata laws and a tribunal system in place to resolve disputes."

"We need a tribunal with teeth that can step in and replace committees that are failing. We need stronger rights for residents to do things like attend strata committee meetings, even if that's as silent observers."

We Live Here, a movement founded to advocate and lobby for people that own or reside under an OC, said the issues unfolding at Aurora highlighted the "dearth of information and help available to OCs trying to navigate the complex rules and regulations under which they operate".

"If the Aurora mess had been in NSW or Queensland, those states' VCAT equivalents would have stepped in and appointed a manager. Why can't this happen in Victoria? Perhaps because the Victorian Government seems to be committed to inertial indolence when it comes to legislative reform," a We Live Here spokesperson said.

In 2022, the Victorian Government introduced laws that limit proxy holdings to five per cent, meaning that if there are 20 or less occupiable lots, a person may only vote as a proxy for one person. If there are more than 20 occupiable lots, a person may vote on behalf of five per cent of lot owners.

Before a person can vote by proxy, the lot owner must fill in a prescribed form naming that person, the form must be delivered to the OC secretary and cannot be transferred to a third person. This is only valid for 12 months.

But the We Live Here spokesperson described the government's laws as "timid", adding that a "chairperson would only need three supporters to subvert that intention [five per cent] if 20 per cent of the owners turn up to a meeting."

SCAV president Julie McLean said, "with strata living only set to grow in popularity over coming decades, from one in four Victorians now, to one in two by 2050, measures can and must be taken now to protect consumer confidence in apartment living, give owners and managers the tools they need to work together in harmony and ensure greater respect and understanding in strata communities."

Tom Bacon, CEO and principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers, said, "From a legal perspective, I have been approached by all factions in the building seeking representation."

"This building certainly is one of the most talked about in Australia right now in certain legal circles. The only real solution for this building to regain normality is for VCAT to appoint an administrator for a two-year period to take control of the OCs and exercise full control over the accounts and management," he said.

"That administrator will have some tough decisions to make, but this is preferable to the alternative, which is a seesaw battle for the building between vested interests seeking profit at all costs, and non-resident investors that want to reduce fees at all costs."

Ms Tiong was contacted for comment by *CBD News*. ●

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## Fashion-forward designers have the future in mind

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
EVENTS

Melbourne Fashion Hub's (MFH) pop-up event is back for its third year, with 17 students and graduate designers showcasing new designs that put people and the planet first.

The event also serves as an opportunity for the public to get a firsthand look into emerging designers during the conceptualisation phase of their brand and purchase one-of-a-kind pieces ahead of the rest of the world.

As the final practical element of the designers MFH six-week program, founder and owner of the hub Julia Browne is calling it "facilitated learning" that prepares the students for the future.

"I work with all the designers to cover all the fashion basics that they are going to need in order to not only represent themselves and their brand in a public-facing consumer and industry environment, but to take their business forward as well," she said.

"Everything from learning how to set up a sole trader ABN, all the way through to merchandise and conceptualisation and point of sale is covered. The pop-up is a practical element of everything they have learnt in order to engage with the public and the industry."

The hub's *Buy the Future* pop-up at Emporium Melbourne will be open to the public on Saturday, March 25 and Sunday, March 26, from 10am to 7pm.

This event will follow on from the opening night event, which will see designers given a chance to engage and connect with people in the fashion industry, buyers and media.

While only a limited collection will be showcased from each designer, Ms Browne said some of the students were already thinking ahead of ways to navigate this.

"One of the designers is actually going to be taking measurements of people on the day and creating semi-bespoke garments. So, he will digitally create a personal avatar of that person and create the garment specifically to fit the customer's specific measurements," Ms Browne said.

"The fantastic thing I have discovered through speaking with the students and graduates is that they all have different ways to approach it, and digital technology is



making creating, designing and customisation so much more accessible."

Of the incredible 2023 designers that come from a multitude of fashion institutes, there are finalists from the MFW 2022 Student Collections Runway, a winner and runner-up of the Myer Emerging Designer Award 2022, and a designer featured by Vogue Australia, among other achievements.

According to Ms Browne, this year's pop-up also comes at the perfect time, with there being no better time to support and champion Australia's future fashion talent.

A recent report from the Australian Fashion Council has demonstrated a new drive to support and promote local designers on the world stage through its Australian Fashion trademark campaign, and Ms Browne strives to take part in "supporting their [AFC'S] greater goal".

"We all have to work on a collective strategy to promote Australian fashion and I really want the world to see what we are doing here, because we have such incredible talent," she said.

"I want to see them [the students and graduates from MFH] in fashion weeks and festivals in Sydney and globally, that is my wish."

The Melbourne Fashion Hub will be located on the lower ground floor of Emporium Melbourne, opposite Fortress Melbourne.

[melbournefashionhub.com.au](http://melbournefashionhub.com.au) ●

## New public art installation an "organic sensory oasis" where plants come alive

WORDS BY *Helena Morgan*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Buko Studio and Public Street invite Melburnians to reign in Autumn at *BioRhythm* – an immersive public art installation that showcases the powerful intersection between nature and technology through a multi-sensory vertical landscape.

*BioRhythm* kicks off on March 17 at the new open air Testing Grounds location in Queen Victoria Market and is both free of charge and open to the public all day and night.

Formerly located in Southbank, Testing Grounds recently transformed a large section of the market's car park into public space for those in the creative industries to share their work.

The public art installation is a component of the City of Melbourne's reactivation program, which is seeking to minimise the impacts of the COVID-19-induced recession alongside encouraging Melburnians to re-embrace the city's exciting cultural events.

*Bio-Rhythm* synthesises the bio-feedback of plants as they interact with their urban surroundings to bring the adaptable structure to life. The sculpture then develops the biodata into living soundscapes and explosions of colour to create a space where the boundaries between biology, technology and place are undefined.

Co-producer of *BioRhythm* Amir Mahdavian emphasised the team's



desire to produce a "living work" that responded to a ceaseless "stream of stimuli", with the primary aim of inciting public fascination in how interspersing innovative technology with biology could create an "ambient landscape for relaxation and exploration".

Sensors attached to the installation will also generate an ambient soundscape for patrons as they move around the sculpture. Light sensors scattered throughout the sculpture will flicker in response to the music, achieving a live sonic light show that is palatable to the senses.

The installation is the result of a multi-disciplinary team of designers, architects, musicians and installation artists from Melbourne and Portugal.

The team is eventually hoping to transport *Bio-Rhythm* to different locations around the city and preview at festivals and events.

*Bio-Rhythm* will be displayed at the Testing Grounds from March 17 to April 15. The installation is free to the public and open all day and night. [biorhythm.live](http://biorhythm.live) ●

## Who wants to be an arts administrator?

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

The author of a recent novel called *Nightbitch* spoke at the Wheeler Centre recently about her premise for the book.

The protagonist gets her dream job as a gallery director by day but turns into a yelping dog by night.

A small child doesn't help in the struggle between being on top of things and going under.

Two jobs are available in the CBD that should test the mettle of those starry-eyed about the arts and making a contribution.

The Wheeler Centre has announced it will be seeking a new CEO with the departure of Caro Llewellyn in July.

And fortyfivedownstairs is seeking a new board member for this independent arts organisation in Flinders Lane.

Both institutions have staged some

memorable events and must go down as the most-loved cultural bodies in the CBD.

While the Wheeler Centre has not yet released a list of attributes for its new CEO, being a good listener must be close to the top.

The current incumbent delivered longform digital interviews during the lockdown with some international word-smiths including Jonathan Franzen, David Sedaris, Fran Lebowitz, Ruth Ozeki, Paul Auster, Siri Hustvedt and Salman Rushdie. Ms Llewellyn will be leaving to focus on her own writing projects. Before joining the Wheeler Centre three years ago she wrote a non-fiction book about developing multiple sclerosis called *Diving into Glass*.

At the recent Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, she showed her customary empathy for the lot of the writer.

"It's been a hard time for writers," she said, and praised the literary award for launching their careers.



▲ The Wheeler Centre's former CEO, Caro Llewellyn.

"It's been an almost impossible decision to make, and it has been such a privilege dedicating my career to championing the work of writers," she said. "For now, it's time to focus on my own creative work."

At fortyfivedownstairs, the board is looking for a member with a passion for the arts and an interest in not-for-profit and independent arts organisations.

"As much as some may see the large, supported venues and commercial galleries as the lungs of Melbourne's art scene, the independents and small organisations such as ours are at its heart," secretary David Brien said.

The Flinders Lane gallery and theatre was established in 2002 as an affordable Melbourne CBD venue.

Fortyfivedownstairs is not the recipient of any continuing government support and relies on private and philanthropic donors for its presence and continuity.

Hence, high on the list of attributes is experience in fundraising or an interest in actively advocating to fundraising bodies or philanthropic organisations for the support of the organisation.

Please email the [secretary@fortyfivedownstairs.com](mailto:secretary@fortyfivedownstairs.com) with a brief introductory letter outlining your experience and skills and why you would like to join, together with a copy of your current CV. ●




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# OUR BIG GREEN CITY HOW WE'RE TURNING GREY TO GREEN

Melbourne is a city of green possibilities - green roofs, green laneways, more trees, more plants and more green space.

**At the City of Melbourne we're passionate about turning grey to green and making Melbourne one of the greenest cities in the world in which to live, visit and do business.**

We've been working hard for 10 years to create a big, green city.

We were one of the first cities in the world to launch our Urban Forest Strategy in 2012, now we're half-way through.

Did you know that over the past decade we've planted more than 47,000 trees?

And that our urban forest is made up of more than 78,000 public trees across the municipality?

Not only is a healthy urban forest vital for the wellbeing of our community, trees help cool the city and help mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

So we're planting a diverse range of species, such as the Chinese Parasol Tree (*Firmiana simplex*) and Pau Ferro (*Libidibia ferrea*), to improve the resilience of our urban forest.

With all the extra trees, we have a canopy cover of more than 25 per cent,

so we're well on our way to achieving our goal of 40 per cent canopy cover by 2040 and a greener, cooler city.

Our Urban Forest Strategy guides our work and we continue to seek community feedback on important issues like our Urban Forest Precinct Plans, tree maintenance and water management.

We want Melburnians to be a driving part of our city's greening efforts.

We already have more than 700 Citizen Foresters who help collect data about the urban forest.

Join us on our campaign to continue to grow Our Big Green City.

Plant a plant. Take a photo to share on social media using [#OurBigGreenCity](#)

Join us at our upcoming community workshops, read more about our Urban Forest Precinct Plans or let us know your thoughts via our online survey at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest)

Learn more about what we're doing to see Our Big Green City thrive in this special feature.

**#OurBigGreenCity**



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# GREENING THE CITY FROM THE GROUND UP

## We're on a mission to turn more grey spaces to green.

While Melburnians have embraced green infrastructure, with green roofs, walls and facades sprouting across the city, there's still so much more we can do to improve new buildings or retrofit.

The possibilities for city greening are the focus of our Canopy Green Roof Forum, a City of Melbourne initiative that showcases the best urban green infrastructure and city greening projects, strategies and initiatives.

There are lots of great urban greening projects to learn from and knowledge that can be shared.

Our Canopy Green Roof Forum aims to showcase to building owners, tenants and community members how they can easily green their rooftops, balconies, walls and facades with lush green plants.

Green infrastructure is vital for cities, just as important as roads and public transport to the health and wellbeing of the community, providing more vegetation and green spaces in a dense urban environment.

The visual appeal and the myriad ways of greening and cooling the city all contribute to making our urban environment much more desirable.

Plants and trees provide clean air, clean water and increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

To keep up-to-date with future canopy forum events or subscribe to our newsletter visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/canopyforum](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/canopyforum)



Councillor Rohan Leppert plants the first of 3000 trees for 2023 with David Callow and Matthew Forster



## Fall in love with our leafy laneways

We've transformed some of Melbourne's iconic laneways into lush green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Greening projects are an important part of the work we do to adapt to climate change and cool the city.



Visit Guildford Lane to experience urban tranquility

Here are four leafy laneways to explore.

### Guildford Lane

Wander down this quirky laneway between Queen and Sutherland streets to spot greenery flourishing in pots and window boxes, and climbing up the buildings' drain pipes.

### Meyers Place

A striking green wall with 80 species of plants is the jewel of this laneway between Bourke and Little Collins streets. Pause to enjoy the contrast between vibrant greenery and the towering metallic skyline beyond.

### Coromandel Place

Stunning Boston ivy against historic red brick makes this laneway off Little Collins Street extra charming.

### Katherine Place

This foodie precinct near Melbourne Aquarium has turned over a new leaf, now boasting street trees, gardens and lush greenery in planter boxes and pots.

Our Green Your Laneway program was the first of its kind in Australia when it launched in 2017.

Each laneway trialed different greening approaches.

After five years of growth, we've evaluated the success of the laneways and identified the best ways to encourage more community-led greening.

We have established incentives and opportunities for the community to green their laneways effectively, including the Greening Melbourne permit system and through the Green Your Laneway stream of the Urban Forest Fund.

Learn how you can green your laneway at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenlaneways](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenlaneways)



## HELP US GO GREEN

Help us plan the future of tree planting in your neighbourhood.

Join us at our community workshops to learn more about our Urban Forest Precinct Plans:

**1 April** - South Yarra, St Martins Youth Arts Centre, 10am - 2pm

**29 April** - CBD, Zinc, Federation Square, 10am - 2pm

**13 May** - Carlton, Melbourne Museum, 10am - 2pm

For more information and to register your interest visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest)

## 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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## HONOUR A HUGGABLE TREE

### Learn about our Exceptional Tree Register and how you can protect our urban forest for future generations.

We've just added 108 special trees to the Exceptional Tree Register, which means a total of 268 trees are now protected from being removed or significantly pruned.

These trees are on privately owned or managed land and include those of outstanding size, old age, outstanding habitat value, Aboriginal association, curious growth form, significant environmental services, among other exceptional criteria.

Trees are nominated by the community and then evaluated by an expert panel.

You can nominate any tree on private land within the City of Melbourne. This could be trees in private backyards, residential communal gardens, schools and universities - we even have exceptional trees at some of our favourite places to visit like Melbourne Zoo, Melbourne Showgrounds, Melbourne Museum and Yarra Park.

Listed trees are protected under the Melbourne Planning Scheme and a permit is needed to remove them or to undertake works that might affect their health or condition.

Next time you're out and about, check out these exceptional trees:

### Tree 176 River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

This tree in Yarra Park is a living Scarred tree with Aboriginal significance and is likely to be about 300 years old. The scar on this River Red Gum was created when the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples removed bark to make canoes, shields, food and water containers, string, baby carriers and other items.

### Tree 170 Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*)

Attractive for its curious growth form, this Port Jackson Fig is perched atop a stone wall at RMIT University with long aerial roots draped down metres to the ground.

To see which trees made the list or more information about our Exceptional Tree Register and nomination process visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c379](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/amendment-c379)



Our Exceptional Tree Register is designed to protect important green assets

## KEEPING OUR PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN

Melbourne's open spaces range from the major parks and gardens that define our city with classic 19th century heritage features and majestic tree-lined avenues; to the 170-hectare Royal Park with its unique bushland landscape and wetlands habitat, as well as smaller neighbourhood and local reserves.

With a network of some 480 hectares of internationally acclaimed parks and gardens, there is the perfect patch of green space to suit everyone.

To keep our park assets clean and green, we invest \$6.5 million in our Annual Park Renewals Program.

This includes everything from renewing garden beds in iconic parks like Fitzroy and Carlton gardens to irrigation to keep our lawns green in summer. As well as updating and refreshing public toilets to improve user experience.



Our floral clock is a colourful and much-loved element of our city's gardens

## BIOBLITZ CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

### Love getting up close to nature? Then we want you.

Help us discover and document the unique animals, plants and fungi that call Melbourne home.

We're documenting our city's plants and wildlife as part of the City

Nature Challenge, an annual global citizen science bioblitz event.

Join expert researchers, local community groups, families and students to unearth our creature secrets from Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May.

The bioblitz will provide us with a snapshot of the biodiversity in our neighbourhoods, and provide the community opportunities to help survey city biodiversity and increase connection to nature.



Help us survey our city's biodiversity at our BioBlitz events. Photo credit: Stuart Riley.

Sign up at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/bioblitz](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/bioblitz)

## Nuturing our nature

### Cities are important places for biodiversity. They are home to a large number of species and considered 'hotspots' for threatened species.

Melbourne is a biodiverse region with 239 species of birds, 12 species

of reptiles, 18 species of mammals, seven species of frogs, more than 1500 species of insects, and 31 species of fish recorded in the past 20 years.

Cities around the world are developing greening initiatives to improve and protect nature in the urban environment.

Here in Melbourne, we recognise our responsibility to play an active role in protecting and enhancing nature in our city.

We're half way through our Nature in the City Strategy, a program to create healthy ecosystems and thriving biodiversity in our neighbourhoods.

From the soil with its underground fungi to the plants and animals, including insects, birds, mammals and frogs, our Nature in the City Strategy connects all parts of the ecosystem and clearly sets out the actions we need to ensure the environment our children inherit is richer than it is today.

Over the past five years, we've been busy.

We've achieved and passed our target to increase understorey habitat by 20 per cent - now at 26 per cent and rising.

We established a Gardens for Wildlife program so that residents can turn

their balcony, backyard, community garden, school veggie patch or green rooftop into a haven for birds and bees.

Our expert garden guides are on hand to help create wildlife-friendly habitats, even if there is only space for pot plants.

We've worked with the University of Melbourne to reintroduce a locally extinct species, the tiny, flightless Matchstick Grasshopper. Insects like grasshoppers play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem and are an abundant food source for larger animals such as praying mantis, lizards and birds.

The Matchstick Grasshopper's population has dwindled in recent years due to a scarcity of suitable environments and an inability to relocate from one habitat to another.

To learn how you can get up close to nature visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbannature](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbannature)



Garden Guide volunteers visiting a Melbourne garden, inspiring private landholders to create space for nature in the city

## Parks and gardens directory

Melbourne is world renowned for its parks and gardens.

To make it easier for you to explore our green spaces, we've created a free park and gardens directory to help guide your tour around the city.

Our interactive City of Melbourne maps provide easy-to-access information on park facilities including playgrounds, barbecues, dog off-leash areas and more.

Visit [maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



Explore one of city's parks and gardens today



# The CBD Rhythm

## The new exhibition reimagining the remnants of our past travels

*Postcards: They're something most of us have sent or received at some stage in our lives, but as time goes on and digital records evolve, so too does both the beauty and significance of these small, yet "fragile time capsules".*

WORDS BY Sean Car  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Robert Wagner

From the internationally acclaimed artist Marco Luccio, who brought the world *New York Postcards* in 2019, comes a new exhibition opening on April 4 at fortyfivedownstairs on Flinders Lane which seeks to reposition these delicate artefacts in a whole new way.

Running until April 29, *Cuorosensa: A Reverse Archaeology* presents yet another thought-provoking collection of mixed-media works by the award-winning Italian born, Melbourne-based artist, who has held upward of 50 solo exhibitions nationwide and internationally.

More than 15 years ago, Luccio began collecting used postcards from New York City flea markets and curio shops when he was a resident at the top of the Chrysler building (notably, the only other artist to have had a studio in the iconic landmark is esteemed *Life* photographer, Margaret Bourke-White).



Impressed by the evocative nostalgia and intimacy of the cards, they were, according to Luccio "beautiful artefacts, remnants of the past preserved in small and fragile time capsules".

That sentiment was reflected in Luccio's wonderful collection of small-scale works, *New York Postcards*.

In *Cuorosensa* – an Italian word fashioned by Luccio meaning "sensed for the heart", which encapsulates the feeling he said he experienced

in New York when first encountering the "beauty of the texture" of the postcards, the evolution takes on a much larger scale.

The exhibition sees Luccio's recognisable themes, from his Eiffel Tower and his Trojan Horse to his meditations on the myths and figures of classical antiquity, presented on layers of postcards with glimpses of the messages they once conveyed laced throughout.

Describing postcards as the "perfect

representation of our lives" that are a "testament to civilisation and human connection", Luccio reimagines what were once fragile artefacts as the bedrock of an interlocking canvas.

By doing so, Luccio elevates their significance as the presumptive ephemera of material culture becomes the base upon which layers of bigger and vaster gestures are built, as the expansive concept of civilisation meets the intimate concept of community ... and it is unexpectedly coherent.

In this display of "reverse archaeology", *Cuorosensa* allows us to instead dig into our own remnants and celebrate our own personal understandings of history and connection through a symbol that in itself also risks becoming lost to time.

Luccio told *CBD News* the concept of preservation was another central component to his latest body of work, which recognises the importance of our own heartfelt artefacts by providing an intriguing base for many important discussions.

"They're like artefacts and they're kind of fragile as well, so in a sense they are the perfect representation of our lives, because we carry all these words and thoughts and things in our bodies and in our minds," he said. "By preserving them as artefacts, their importance is elevated as our own symbols of civilisation." ●

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

## Experience a "flair of unpredictability" this Melbourne International Comedy Festival

*Melbourne International Comedy Festival is returning from March 29 to April 23, promising once again to have the city laughing more than the year before.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

And while some of the more renowned venues will prove to be key attractions again in 2023, many of the CBD's smaller venues are also creating quite the buzz.

After receiving a nomination for Best Comedy Award at the 2020 Melbourne Fringe Festival, Melbourne-based performer Dylan Cole is bringing his latest work *Case Numbers* to the Greek Centre.

While the title is a playful reference to the pandemic and a global obsession with case numbers, the show itself is simply based on the premise of one man trying to crack the code of an inherited briefcase.

"The idea of creating a show based around cracking a code to a briefcase was always an interesting premise to me," Dylan said.

"To tell a story where an audience is constantly guessing what's inside a briefcase, before the contents are potentially revealed. I've always loved a big reveal. To try and top what has been conjured up in the imaginations of an audience."

One of the more unique aspects of the show is that it is a genre-defying meta-thriller work, that is crafted in a way where there is no defined beginning or end, and the middle is described as "entirely pointless".



▲ *Case Numbers* (left) and *Any More Questions?* (right)

"It's a cerebral, meta, absurd stand-up comedy show. A heady cross between a Beckett play, and a Christopher Nolan film. It's a show people could come back and see again, because there will undoubtedly be something they missed the first time," he said.

*Case Numbers* will only be part of the MICF from March 30 to April 9, so to experience a witty, well-crafted piece that is entirely left of centre, it is best to get in quick.

On the other hand, for something a little less scripted, established comedian and Melbournian Ben Lomas is returning to the Coopers Inn with *Any More Questions?* after experiencing much success last year with his show *Any Questions?*.

Described as "scripted improv meets talk show", Ben's show starts with the unexpected and continues on as an adventure, led predominantly by the questions audience members are desperate to ask.



Photo (left): Emma Holland.

Ben was first inspired to create the show in this format after realising that some of the best and funniest moments of his expansive decade-long career were when he asked the audience members if they had any questions.

"Sometimes it's the questions that allow you to open part of your life that you haven't really unpacked, and so you don't really know where the starting point is when someone asks a question," he said.

"But that's where my show is. It's loose, it's live, and it's just raw stand-up. Just a comedian being vulnerable, which I feel is my strength, so I thought I would play towards my strengths."

While the unexpected may seem daunting to some, Ben looks at it like an "adventure" which involves always trying to "keep the ball in the air", adding, "It's just straight stand-up with a flair of unpredictability."

As a comedian that works year-round across festivals, events and on television, including

more recently in *Just For Laughs*, Ben is encouraging attendees of MICF to really embrace everything on offer – from the smaller to larger venues, and the more commonly known comedians to the emerging.

"The Coopers Inn is a great comedy hub and it's kind of rare that you can have so many awesome shows in one spot," he said.

"I also always say that people should go see someone famous who they may have seen on tv, but also to go and take a punt on someone they may have seen only once or heard on the radio once (who are making a career of it but aren't household names), and then on top of that, someone they have never heard of."

The excitement of the annual festival has already well and truly picked up, with the two major events of The Gala, hosted by Luke McGregor, and the Opening Night Comedy Allstars Supershow, hosted by Hannah Gadsby, already sold out.

Despite this, there is still much on offer. The program is jam-packed with an array of comedians from all over the globe, each with something unique to offer.

Larger venues like the Melbourne Town Hall and Comedy Theatre, will host a multitude of powerhouse comedians, such as Urzila Carlson, Dave Hughes, Wil Anderson, Anne Edmonds, Dave Thornton, and Ed Kavalee, Tony Martin, Ash Williams and Lehmo who are collaborating for *Team Effort*.

[comedyfestival.com.au/2023](http://comedyfestival.com.au/2023) ●



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# QVM Trader Profile

## The e-fish-ent fishmonger of Queen Victoria Market

*George the Fishmonger at Queen Victoria Market is scaling things up this Easter with a wide selection of fresh Australian products to ensure every table is overflowing like a Christmas feast.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

While many shoppers have traditionally opted for whole fish and fillets for Easter in the past, owner George Milonas said things had changed since he first opened in 2005, and so he likes to make sure he has a wide offering available.

As well as having its baseline products, such as wild barramundi, salmon and tuna, the shop also sells a variety of prawns, crustaceans (crabs and crayfish), scallops, prawns and oysters, with their availability dependent on the seasons.

“Traditional celebrations of eating whole fish and fillets on Friday are on the way out at the moment, so oysters, crayfish and crabs are quite good,” Mr Milonas said.

“Easter is almost like a small Christmas and so people like to put on a big table spread with showpieces such as a large whole snapper or salmon.”

Being a fishmonger was always a no-brainer for Mr Milonas – not only did he spend school holidays in his dad’s shop scaling fish but his “fate was sealed” when he also married a fishmonger’s daughter.

He started out in hospitality which led to him having his own restaurant, before then reaching a point where he decided to step back into supply. This naturally led him to finding his place at Queen Victoria Market.

But with the addition of the night markets, it means he is also provided with the opportunity to step back into the kitchen and cook up a seafood feast for all, using all the freshest products from his own shop.

And while there are a number of fishmongers within the market, Mr Milonas was adamant there was no bad blood.



“Queen Victoria Market has such an array and if there is something I don’t have other stores will, and that’s the beauty of the market,” he said.

“We are 10 seafood shops and we all source the best products. We get up early in the morning every single day and look for an advantage on each other because we are all quite competitive and it’s healthy competition.”

This family environment has created a real sense of community, one that Mr Milonas is happy to be a part of.

As the city continues to grow and get busier, it’s his hope that people continue to come

to the market for an experience they can’t get anywhere else.

“We have traders that have been at the market for 30 to 40 years, and myself nearly 20 years, so we understand the industry and seafood really well and we understand what people’s wants and needs are,” he said.

“We have a lot of dialogue and it’s a bustling and busy environment ... it’s quite an experience.”

George the Fishmonger can be found in the Meat and Fish Hall, or alternatively, the shop’s products can be purchased through the QVM Online home delivery service. ●

WE LIVE HERE

## Aurora-gate exposes inadequate laws

*The battle for the owners’ corporation at Aurora Melbourne Central has underlined the woeful inadequacies of Victoria’s strata laws and VCAT tribunal system.*

The Aurora building, with a staggering 1000 apartments over 85 storeys, has been the centre of allegations of abusive, threatening behaviour, harsh rules and unlawful fines. The internet has been deluged with video evidence of ugly physical arguments in the corridors and lobby.

At the core of the dispute is the issue of proxies. In an extraordinary turnout, 200 owners logged onto a special general meeting to challenge the incumbent chair – only to be stymied by an astounding volume of proxies.

Residents have complained to Consumer Affairs Victoria and state politicians, only to be fobbed off and told it is a civil matter.

We have grave concerns that the Aurora-gate debacle may become the paradigm for apartments across Melbourne. Our contacts in the industry tell us that many unscrupulous committees are exploiting the legal vacuum to breach strata laws and regulations with impunity.

If the Aurora mess had been in NSW or Queensland, those states’ VCAT equivalents would have stepped in and appointed a manager. Why can’t this happen in Victoria? Perhaps because the Victorian Government seems to be committed to inertial indolence when it comes to legislative reform.

Last year the government introduced oddly timid laws that limit proxy holdings to five per cent. A chairperson would only need three supporters to subvert that intention if 20 per cent of the owners turn up to a meeting.

We Live Here can help apartment residents and owners build awareness about the problems exacerbated or caused by government inaction. If your building has a stacked committee or you are concerned about mismanagement or malfeasance, please contact We Live Here privately – details are below.

A public review of the *Owners Corporation Act*, first promised by the state government for 2021, was never conducted. The review is now vaguely slated for “sometime between 2023 and 2027”. Victorians deserve better.

### Green pressure Labor on short stays

“Short stay accommodation is almost entirely unregulated in Victoria, and it’s making the rental crisis worse.”

With this opening salvo, Greens spokesperson for renters’ rights Gabrielle de Vietri MP announced a new campaign pressuring the Victorian Labor Government to introduce short-stay regulations.

Ms de Vietri went on to say, “We need to introduce strong short-stay regulations to ensure affordable housing is available to families and workers experiencing housing stress. Cities around the world like New York, London, and Berlin regulate their short-stay market, it’s time for us to do the same.”

The Greens propose:

- A 90-day cap on how many nights a year you can rent out an entire property as a short-stay.

- Allowing owners’ corporations to regulate short-stays for properties of absentee owners.
- A new mandatory public register of short-stay operators.

We Live Here applauds the wider socioeconomic view being taken by the Greens.

### Campaign donations

As a non-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit [welfarehere.net](http://welfarehere.net) or email [campaign@welfarehere.net](mailto:campaign@welfarehere.net) ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

[CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET](mailto:CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET)  
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[WELIVEHERE.NET](http://WELIVEHERE.NET)



## ARE YOU A RENTER?

Victoria is experiencing a rental crisis. Rent prices are soaring and the number of homes available to rent is plummeting.

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**ELLEN SANDELL**

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637  
[office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com)  
146 Peel Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051



**THE GREENS**

Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne 3051



BUSINESS



## Easter at Queen Victoria Market

As Easter quickly approaches, Queen Victoria Market stalls are stocking up on everything you may need for a weekend full of fresh produce and yummy treats.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Gifts and decorations are also covered, with a unique selection of hand-painted chocolate eggs, Easter bun tea, bunny-shaped soaps, and handmade crafts available around the market.

Ambiance will be slightly pivoting from their usual Christmas-focused store to include a range of Easter decor, from garlands to centrepieces, jewelled eggs and Easter wreaths, while The Hellenic Deli and The Eggporium will have kits for do-it-yourself egg dyeing. ●

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

## Local real estate pioneer awarded as Melbourne's best agent

Gina Donazzan, founder of local real estate agency Donazzan Boutique Property, has taken out Melbourne's Agent of the Year for the second year running in the recent RateMyAgent awards, landing her in the top five per cent of agents nationwide.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

It is the third time Ms Donazzan has won the award which is based on reviews from both buyers and sellers. The reviews continuously reveal her work ethic.

A statement to Ms Donazzan from RateMyAgent Australia read, "you've been recognised to be in the top five per cent of leading agents within Australia for the exceptional service you have delivered, providing your clients with positive life-changing outcomes they will never forget."

"Vendors and Buyers alike have demonstrated time and again how they trust you and your brand and recognise your honesty and integrity," it continued.

"You deserve the recognition, and we applaud the standout service you continue to provide, that others do not."

During the past 12 months, Ms Donazzan sold 17 properties with a total sale value of almost \$16 million and an average sale price of \$923,000: more than \$200,000 more than her nearest competitor.



Ms Donazzan told *CBD News* she was "honoured and humbled" by the loyalty of her team, clients, and community over the past 25 years.

"Being honest and upfront, and telling the truth from the beginning is very important to me," Ms Donazzan said.

"It's not just about getting another listing, or making another sale, it's not just about where their property sits in the market, or how the market is behaving at that point in time, it's about where my client is in their life and their important next steps in life. Therefore creating the very best steps forward to ensure the very

best outcome for them is paramount to me."

"I'm not going to tell you to sell a property if I don't think both the property and the seller are ready, because selling a property is one of the biggest decisions you can make in your lifetime."

Having worked in Melbourne's property industry for two-and-a-half decades, Ms Donazzan has left a trail of happy clients, many of whom have graduated from purchaser to vendor – a true recognition of her consistency and dedication to her craft.

One reviewer explained, "I have now worked with Gina as both a seller and a buyer (I always said I never wanted to do the latter because she works so fiercely for her client)."

"She successfully sold my property for absolutely top dollar in a nine-day campaign that brought in three strong offers. When I was looking to buy, it was one of Gina's properties. She handled the sale process and my purchase, which had some complicated and unusual elements, with grace and fairness. You definitely want her on your team," the review read.

While the awards continue to roll in, Ms Donazzan explained accolades, while they are great recognition, they are not what's getting her up in the morning.

"I have always felt that I have been entrusted by my clients and therefore have a duty of care to give them my absolute honest advice. Helping and protecting my clients is part and parcel of how I work and of the utmost importance to me. Without my clients, I wouldn't be here today," Ms Donazzan said. ●

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

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RESIDENTS 3000

## Keeping CBD locals up to speed on city planning

Each year a Forum 3000 event hosts an official presentation from the City of Melbourne.

WORDS BY Sherry Maddock



Providing residents with updates on the vision and priorities of the council and its direct impact on residential life, this year we heard from the council's general manager strategy, planning and climate change Evan Counsel.

Out of the 52 major initiatives currently underway with the council, Evan presented four headline projects.

- Greenline – in its inception stage, this is a transformational plan that reimagines part of the city's waterway from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, to be completed within six to eight years.
- Power Melbourne – with a goal of a zero-carbon electrified city by 2040, the city is working with industry partners to develop a renewable, sustainable network of local batteries that will store energy at the neighbourhood level.
- Sustainable buildings – focused on building design and regulation, the city will future proof large developments for a carbon free city. The work of retrofitting mid-sized office space and existing building stock hosts significant, but not insurmountable, challenges. The zero-carbon building plan will be launch by the middle of 2023.
- Clean city teams – a new trial underway, this team-based effort addresses cleaning the city and managing graffiti precinct by precinct. If successful, it would create ongoing oversight based on pride of place.

In May, the annual planning and budget process will invite public consultation. Resident input is critical for the next four years of city priorities. Please engage via Participate Melbourne: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

During the time of questions and input, several residents expressed intense frustration with the general condition of the city and specifically the failings of waste management with increased post-lockdown activity.

Future remedies include locked bins, bin zones, FOGO (a food and garden waste service) and the hub program – a European model compacting waste.

Residents 3000 dedicates an event every year to address waste management issues for residents. Please join us for that on **Thursday, August 3**. Stay connected, be informed and provide input from a residential perspective.

You are invited to our next Forum 3000 gathering – the Neighbourhood Marketplace on **Thursday, March 30 at 6 pm**. Come meet neighbours and learn about the City of Melbourne, CBD small businesses, council agencies and departments.

Sherry Maddock is a CBD resident and committee member of Residents 3000. ●



CBD LOCAL

## Beekeeper Parade: a story of hope and triumph

*Behind an unassuming pop-up shop in Swanson St, where you'll find a vibrant display of upcycled bags and accessories, is a remarkable story of resilience and hope.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*



of selling items at school fetes and markets, and some sales initially online, before Koky got his big break of opening a pop-up shop in Fitzroy and later Melbourne Central in 2016, "where we started growing really fast".

Now located at 174 Swanson St, which Beekeeper Parade has called home since November last year thanks to the City of Melbourne's shopfront activation program, Koky said he was truly grateful for the opportunity, and one in which he endeavoured to keep making products that "change the world" by not harming the environment.

The Docklands resident is also thankful for having built a life in Australia – which has seen him lead projects of building five schools in Cambodia through crowdfunding campaigns and his charity called BabyTree Projects, which he founded with his sister Sophia.

Sadly, he lost his sister to cancer in 2012. But since then, Koky has kept her memory alive by honouring instructions in her will, in which she left her car with him to sell and use the money to create a business that would inspire change and help support the continued work of BabyTree Projects.

This saw Boy & Bee born in 2012, before the name was changed to BeeKeeper in 2014, which remained his passion project.

As for what tomorrow brings, Koky said, "We could fly, or we could fall. I really hope we get to fly".

[beekeeperparade.com](http://beekeeperparade.com) ●

Koky Saly, the founder of Beekeeper Parade, was born in a Cambodian prison in 1976, where his mother had been incarcerated along with other pregnant women during the country's civil war.

Koky stayed with his mother in prison for the first three years of his life, while his eldest surviving sister took care of his siblings in a remote village while their father was imprisoned at an unknown location.

After the war ended, Koky's family were fortunate to have reunited which resulted in them smuggling across the border to Thailand where they stayed at a refugee camp.

"My eldest sister didn't make it through the war, but eight of us came on the plane," Koky said after they landed in Melbourne in 1980, when he was aged three.

"People keep saying I was lucky, but this isn't completely true. We survived because of cared enough to help. Such as, Australians, fighting for our freedom and asylum."

Today, with a Master of International Development under his belt, Koky is the proud owner of his social enterprise business, which has seen more than 55 tonnes of fashion waste used to create fun, bold, and practical bags and accessories including backpacks made of buttoned up shirts.

The business started from humble beginnings

STREET ART

## Is street art dead?

*People always tell me that there isn't anything new in art and that painting is dead.*



The idea of painting being dead always conjures up an image in my mind of a painting folded in half, with cadmium red flowing over the ground.

Art will never be dead; art is an important critique on contemporary society. And as long as humankind has existed it has always found a way to make its marks. Art has always had a unique way to express the social and political climate of the time.

Good art is of its time, but it is also timeless. People often comment to me on the death of street art, claiming that it was at its peak in the early 21st century, when it was political, young, fresh, and new. This raises the idea that street art may have become a medium, like photography did in the very early 20th century. If this is the case, then street art, nu-muralism, stencil, and street sculpture could be here to stay.

But if it is a movement within the fine art genre, is there a possibility that it is ending?

Street art brings some important things to the fine art establishment.

Street art allows artists to express themselves in a way that is unrestricted by traditional art forms.

This freedom of expression allows artists to create works that are provocative, thought-provoking, and challenge the status quo.

Street art should be used to address social and political issues, making it an important tool for social activism.

Originally street art was about the democratisation of art. This was far more relevant early in the movement when it was young and punchy and youthful, and was created illegally, across the city, not just in the safety of the laneways.

It should also bypass the gallery model making it accessible to anyone. Street art works best in the street, once you put it in a gallery context you change its meaning and value, and it becomes disingenuous.

The death of street art may have been its monetisation. This allowed non-artists to dictate the content. To stay relevant, street artists must continue to evolve and adapt to the changing social, cultural and financial landscape.

The art must continue to push the boundaries of what is possible, experiment with new materials and techniques, and explore new themes and ideas.

The art must also continue to engage with the broader community, using nu-muralism and radical approaches to address social and political issues.

Street art may survive and even thrive as an artform forever, or could it be that its finished and will just become another important genre in the history of fine art? ●



*Adrian Doyle*  
STREET ARTIST  
DOYLESART@HOTMAIL.COM

METRO TUNNEL

## Dream comes true for Metro Tunnel HQ milestone visitor

*A Melbourne train enthusiast has had a rare look behind the scenes at one of the Metro Tunnel's five new underground stations.*



Aiden Blythman was given a sneak peek of Arden Station in a one-on-one tour deep beneath North Melbourne – his prize for being the 250,000th visitor to Metro Tunnel HQ on Swanson St.

HQ is the award-winning interactive information centre for Victoria's major rail projects, including the Metro Tunnel and Melbourne Airport Rail.

Almost 91,000 visitors passed through HQ's doors in 2022, marking the busiest year on record.

Blythman said he had been "hyped pretty much every day" since learning of his exclusive visit.

And in March, his dream became a reality when he got to walk the 230m-long platforms, inspect the Victorian-first platform screen doors and get a glimpse at the tracks that will carry Melbourne's new fleet of bigger, better trains.

He also had the opportunity to stand underneath the station's landmark arches – "which I find pretty damn awesome" – that will welcome passengers into the station when the project opens in 2025.

"This place is awesome," Blythman said. "The tour was good."

Blythman lives not far from Dandenong Station and hopes to be one of the first people to catch a train through the Metro Tunnel when it opens in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule.

Dandenong Station is on the Cranbourne-Pakenham lines, which will connect to the Sunbury Line to create an east-west connection via the Metro Tunnel underneath the city.

"The part that's going to impact me the most is Anzac and Town Hall (stations) because that's going to be my main way to get into the city," Blythman said.

"I'll definitely have a lot better connections. Heck, I could even take the train to Sunbury if I wanted to!"

Metro Tunnel HQ offers visitors the chance to learn about other major rail projects under Victoria's Big Build, including Regional Rail Revival, Suburban Rail Loop and Geelong Fast Rail.

It includes a 3D city model, interactive displays, virtual reality, panoramic theatre, kids' activities and giveaways – and can be booked by school and community groups, with free entry all year round. ●

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HISTORY

## A jewel of a theatre: the Bijou in Bourke St

*The Victorian Academy of Music, feted by the press as a “jewel of the theatre”, was a much anticipated “palace raised to the Muses” and its foundation stone was laid with great fanfare by the Governor of Victoria on May 23, 1876.*



The red leather, gold embossed program with its silk pages and elegant gothic script speaks to the grandeur of the occasion. A copy of the program and a Nicholas Caire photograph of the shambolic scene, with audience members propped up on scaffolding that would never pass a 21<sup>st</sup> century health and safety inspection, are part of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's collection.

This “excellent little theatre”, with its billiard room, café, and stained-glass windows, was built over a shopping arcade. It opened on November 6, 1876 and was soon known as the Academy of Music, Bijou Theatre.

Its three-storeyed Italianate exterior stood out against its next-door neighbour, the rather more blunt-faced Opera House Hotel with its “Fosters Lager Beer” advertisement splashed across its façade. Next to them (on the right of this image) is a new addition to the streetscape – Denton Brothers tailors, who opened this store at 253 Bourke St in March 1893 and bragged of being “Royal House Tailors”.

The Bijou Theatre provided uplifting entertainment for the masses for 60 years. It almost met its demise in a serious fire on Easter Monday 1889, credited with resulting in the establishment of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, but survived that, and the depression of the

1890s, to meet its downfall during another equally devastating depression in the 1930s.

The ‘30s was a time when live entertainment, vaudeville in particular, was giving way to the lure of the movies, especially “talkies”. The Bijou's then owners, Ben and John Fuller, advertised the theatre as a “house of clean vaudeville” and the Roxy Theatre Talkies took its place in the building, but nothing could stem the tide of change and the Bijou was offered for sale in January 1934. Ironically, one of its final offerings was a live revue for children entitled “Mickey the Mouse”.

It took some time to sell, and several extravagant plans for future development fell through before part of the large site was sold to the Commonwealth Bank. In July 1938, the *Herald* newspaper documented its demolition, Theodore Fink, chairman of the theatre's board of directors, lamenting the sight of the “roofless façade with its empty windows like eyeless sockets”. ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin  
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

LAW

## Eeny meeny miny moe ... or how to select and deal with a lawyer

*When I was young, this was an expression used to determine the outcome of many things. These days, it would be impossible to use given the overly sensitive nature of things and the “woke” and “cancel” cultures. Those of a certain age, will understand exactly what I mean.*

WORDS BY Peter Nevile

Having just spent several weeks in Europe, I've had time to reflect upon the way we do business. Like many things, and including the practise of the law, it has changed.

For example, not so many years ago most people selected their lawyers by using the ones that their parents had used for many years or by simply referral to somebody else's lawyer.

These days, to my surprise, it is more a question of going onto Google and looking for a lawyer with the expertise and in the right geographical location.

It is at this point that reviews become extremely important, as people tend to rely upon the reviews to determine the suitability, capability, and competence of their lawyer, as well as for many other services and goods. Choosing your lawyer is really just the first part.

Perhaps of equal importance is the way you provide your instructions to your lawyer. People often complain about the cost of legal

services. The reality is they often make it more expensive for themselves by not thinking through the way they deal with their lawyer.

Over the years, we have experienced many situations where people bring in effectively a shoebox of information, and point to it, saying, “this is all the background, and this is the outcome we think we're looking for”.

Unfortunately, all lawyers have is knowledge, experience, expertise, and time, hopefully! If you give them a shoebox full of information and, if there are a complex set of facts and a lot of information, it takes time for a lawyer to come to grips with those facts and the costs rise as a result.

Unless you are determined to contribute to the lawyer's revenue, personally I cannot think of a better cause, although I confess, I may be biased. It pays to be better organised.

Do not take along a shoebox full of information. Catalogue it, preferably in date order, and highlight the significant parts of it. Prepare a chronological summary of the events with attachments that are relevant. It allows your lawyer to spend more time on the important aspects of your case.

Finally, in selecting your lawyer, ensure that you can relate to them. If you find it difficult to understand what they're saying, or you simply don't feel confident, then find another lawyer. You will both be much happier.

If you have any legal issues you'd like to discuss, then please don't hesitate to contact us here at Nevile & Co ... no shoeboxes please. ●

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

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### CBD NEWS

# Wish your inbox was more local?

Well we have good news for you!

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

Hi all, Please find a smattering of stories that made the **September 2022 Edition** of CBD News below. Delivery of the hard copy began today and will be completed tomorrow. If you prefer to read the newspaper layout, a pdf version can be [downloaded here](#) and all stories and columns are available on [our website](#). As always, all reader contributions are welcome.

Regards, Sean Car  
Publisher - CBD News

**HYPERLOCAL NEWS**



### Quiz



- Aside from Australia, which other country has hosted the Australian Open?
- A group of Melburnians took to the steps of the Old Treasury Building on March 8. What was the occasion?
- Which actor starred alongside Adam Sandler (pictured) in *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*?
- Melbourne's Moomba festival was first held in which year? A) 1948, B) 1951 or C) 1955
- The City of Melbourne have introduced a new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) trial aimed at reducing waste by how much?
- Under threat of redevelopment, what is significant about the Shell House building on the corner of Flinders and Spring Street?
- Who directed the 1979 film *My Brilliant Career*?
- Yellowfin, southern bluefin and albacore are all types of what fish?
- What is the name of celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal's first restaurant?
- Is the coping saw a type of hand saw or electric saw?
- Which councillor said 'it's not a den of sin, it's actually a house of sexual wellness, a place of sexual healing,' about a new Council approved sex shop in the CBD?
- Who is calling for the Victorian Government to 'get on with the job' with regard to a new CBD injecting room?

#### QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- New Zealand 2. Melbourne International Women's Day March 8. Tuna 9. The Fat Duck 10. Hand saw 11. Gillian Armstrong modernist buildings 12. Cohealth CEO Nicole Bartholomew

### 5x5

No. 022

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

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T |   | T |   | A |
|   | Q |   | I |   |
| S |   | R |   | S |
|   | A |   | L |   |
| S |   | O |   | S |

#### SOLUTIONS

STRAPE, EQUINE, SURFS, TABLE, SLOES

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Apr. 2023

### Sudoku

No. 022

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

#### EASY

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

#### HARD

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

#### SOLUTIONS

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

### Wordfind

Theme: Dogs

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| BEAGLE     | PUG        |
| CANINE     | RETRIEVER  |
| CHIHUAHUA  | ROTTWEILER |
| DACHSHUND  | SCHNAUZER  |
| FLUFFY     | SHEEPDOG   |
| GREAT      | SPANIEL    |
| MUTT       | TERRIER    |
| POMERANIAN | WOLFHOUND  |
| POOCH      |            |

Secret message: Best friend

### Crossword

No. 022

#### ACROSS

- Levels (of quality) (9)
- Conversations (5)
- Rampaging (7)
- County in NW England (7)
- Lackadaisical (9)
- Astound (5)
- Colouring (7)
- Fantasy creature (7)
- Greek letter (3)
- Climbing support spot (7)
- Sewer entrance (7)
- Member of a Jamaican religious movement (5)
- Choosers (9)
- Food (archaic) (7)
- Distance in models or maps (7)
- Cooks (quickly) (5)
- Distributes (9)

#### DOWN

- Horses' fathers (5)
- Loathe (9)
- Tendency (5)
- Mat (3)
- Is not good (colloq) (5)

|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|
| 1  |  | 2  |  | 3  |  | 4  |  | 5  |  | 6  |  | 7  |  | 8  |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 9  |  |    |  |    |  |    |  | 10 |  |    |  |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 11 |  |    |  |    |  | 12 |  |    |  | 13 |  |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 14 |  |    |  | 15 |  |    |  | 16 |  |    |  | 17 |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 18 |  |    |  |    |  | 18 |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 19 |  |    |  |    |  |    |  | 20 |  |    |  |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 21 |  | 22 |  |    |  | 23 |  |    |  | 24 |  |    |  | 25 |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 26 |  |    |  |    |  |    |  | 27 |  |    |  |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |
| 28 |  |    |  |    |  |    |  | 29 |  |    |  |    |  |    |

- Associate (9)
- Blood carrier (5)
- Impasse (9)
- Bordered (5)
- Weekend days (9)
- Worshippers (9)
- Desert animal (5)
- Study of the production and consumption of goods (9)
- Hindu deity (5)
- Satisfied fully (5)
- South Australian valley (5)
- Long detailed stories (5)
- Distress call (1,1,1)

#### SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | S | N | E | J | S | I | D | S | H | V | E | S |   |
| V | O | R | O | E | R | A | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| G | N | I | V | O | S | I | N | E | W | I | L | V |   |   |
| V | W | T |   |   |   | V | I | H | O |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | H | O | T | C | O | E | T | E | S | V | I | S | V | R |
| N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | L | O | H | N | V | W | O | T | O | H | E | O | I |   |
| I | C | O | V |   |   | O | I | V |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| V | H | E | W | I | H | O | G | N | I | O | I | H | S |   |
| W |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | Z | Y | W | V | S | S | T | I | J | I | H | S |   |   |
| T | I | D | K |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| V | I | R | B | W | O | O | G | N | I | O | I | H |   |   |
| I | O | O | N | R | B | I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | I | V | H | O | S | D | O | V | G | N | I | H | S |   |

### Codeword

No. 022

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

#### SOLUTIONS

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| B  | I  | C  | G  | K  | M  | H  | V  | A  | P  | J  | S  | F  | S  | I  |
| 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| W  | E  | A  | T  | N  | X  | N  | Z  | R  | O  | D  | L  |    |    |    |
| 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 |

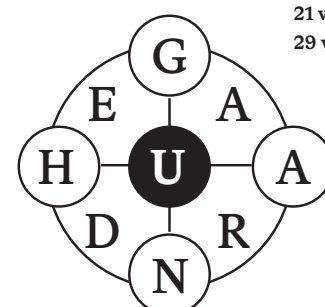
### 9-Letter

No. 022

Today's Focus:

- 14 words: Good
- 21 words: Very good
- 29 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



#### SOLUTIONS

Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

under, unheard, unread, urea, urge, urged, HARKANUED, hue, hnge, hung, hunger, nude, nudge, rude, rued, rune, rung, ague, argue, argued, auge, aura, drng, dung, gerund, gear, guard, hungard, harangue,





## 社区组织呼吁开设市中心毒品注射室

一封有80名社区、卫生和福利团体主管CEO联名的呼吁信，向州政府呼吁开设在市中心(CBD)的安全注射室，但州长Daniel Andrews表示，目前无法确保该设施是否能在市中心开设。

David Schout

这封来自各界领导的联名信称，过量注射毒品而导致的死亡是一个需要通过“卫生解决方案”的“健康问题”，并敦促社区回应以“关爱、支持和同情为基础”。

联名信指出，开设维多利亚州第二个医疗监管的注射设施，不仅仅是大家的“建议”，而是由120多项研究支持的，这些研究指出，注射室是对毒品依赖所造成严重伤害的有效工具。

在这场常常引发情感反应的复杂辩论中，领导人在这封呼吁信的立场很明确：“我们需要超越情感、判断和恐惧，评估实际的硬证据”。

联名信呼吁建立一个小型的而且不显眼的监管注射设施，其中包含全方位的健康服务（包括心理、性和口腔健康服务），并将这些人引导到摆脱毒品依赖的途径。

在联名信上签署的有：救世军Brendan Nottle少校、毒瘾专家Paul MacCartney博士和维多利亚酒精和毒品协会的主管 Sam Biondo，他们与Katrina Korver一起在彩虹巷道（Rainbow Alley）接受了媒体采访。Katrina的儿子Danial 2022年6月在CBD小巷中因注射过量毒品而身亡。

Korver女士说，在市中心开设第二个医疗监管注射设施是必须的，可以预防她儿子的死亡。

她说：“他那天不应该死的，他曾经经常使用Richmond的设施，如果墨尔本CBD有一个医疗监管毒品注射室的话，他就可以使用了。”

“作为他的母亲，我致力于确保其他的家庭不会发生这种不幸；在CBD开设医疗监管毒品注射室是必要的，因为市中心有大量的海洛因毒品。”

救世军的Nottle少校说，市中心每个月平均有一起毒品过量身亡事件发生，其中9名死者是他本人认识的。



## 国际学生难找市区住房

一年级研究生Yiyun Mao形容她最近在中央商务区找房子的过程“既疲惫又烦躁”，过去三年在澳洲学习期间，她从来没有过这样的找房经历。

Violet Li

这位24岁的国际学生在2月中旬接受本报采访时表示，在过去的10天里一直住在民宿Airbnb中，同时不停地找公寓房。

她说：“有一天周六，我看了15个物业。其中大部分房里都挤满了人。其中一个维多利亚一号公寓。电梯上下了四次才把所有东西送到楼上。”

CBD因其充满活力、便利以及靠近多所大学而受到许多国际学生的青睐。随着新学期的临近，国际学生纷纷涌回CBD，但在目前租房市场紧张的情况下，他们寻找住房极其困难。

今年1月，墨尔本的住房空置率接近

1.5%的创纪录低点，租金继续飙升，2月份的周租金中位数为567澳元，较12个月前增长了29.5%。

这位留学生Mao一直急于敲定她的住房，最终得到了一个“不是很满意，但还可以”的租约。CBD的2卧室2浴室(2b2b)公寓的广告价格为每周750澳元。她说，她是通过中国社交媒体平台小红书上联系到的这个转租。

她说：“这简直是一场磨难。我还担心这个租约会失去。”

她当时几乎与当地另一家房地产中介达成了一个850澳元周租2b2b公寓的租赁，但该中介希望获得她在悉尼房产的代理权作为条件，所以她放弃了这个租赁，因为这样做对她来说风险太大了。

媒体专业学生Regina Pan在接受本报采访时说，她在Swanston Centre住了2个星期了，她别无选择，只能在抵达墨尔本之前就签了租赁合同。三个月来，她一直在CBD寻找公寓租房。

由于无法参加看房，她只得花钱请人代她看房，但最终还是一无所获。

## 墨尔本国际喜剧节

墨尔本国际喜剧节将于3月29日至4月23日在墨尔本举行，再一次承诺让这个城市比去年更添欢笑。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

虽然一些更著名的场馆仍将成为2023年喜剧节的主要吸引力，但许多CBD的小型场馆也会相当热闹。

在获得2020年墨尔本艺术节（Melbourne Fringe Festival）最佳喜剧奖提名之后，墨尔本表演者Dylan Cole将他的最新作品《病例数字Case Numbers》带到了希腊中心(Greek Centre)。

虽然这个剧名是对新冠大流行以及全球对新冠病例数字痴迷的一个玩笑性参考，喜剧本身只是基于一个试图破解遗留公文包内容密码的故事。

Dylan说：“创作一个以破解公文包内容密码为基础的表演，一直很吸引我。这是讲述一个故事，在公文包内容可能被揭示之前，观众一直在不断猜测公文包里装的什么。我一直喜欢一个大揭示，试图超越观众所想象的。”

该演出更独特的一个方面是，它是一个模糊的元惊悚作品，没有明确定义的开头或



结尾，中间被描述为“完全无意义”。

作为墨尔本国际喜剧节的一部分，《病例数字Case Numbers》将仅仅在3月30日至4月9日演出，要体验这样一个风趣、精心制作、完全独特的作品，最好抓紧时间订票。

[comedyfestival.com.au/2023](http://comedyfestival.com.au/2023)

## 时尚设计师着眼未来

墨尔本时尚中心(MFH)的弹出式活动已经是第三年了，17名学生和研究生设计师展示了以人为本、保护地球的新设计作品。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

此次活动为公众提供了一个机会，让他们在品牌概念化阶段亲眼目睹新兴设计师，并可抢先购买世界上独一无二的作品。

作为MFH设计师为期六周项目的最后一个实用元素，该中心的创始人及业主Julia Browne称之为“促进学习”，为学生的未来做准备。

她说：“我与所有设计师合作，涵盖需要的所有时尚基础知识，不仅在面向公众消费者和行业环境中代表他们自己和他们的品牌，而且推动他们的业务向前发展。”

“从学习如何建立个体商户的澳洲商务号码(ABN)，一直到设计作品商品化和概念化以及销售点的所有内容。这次弹出式活动是他们学到的所有实用元素，以便与公众和行业互动。”

墨尔本时尚中心的“购买未来”弹出式活动将于3月25日(周六)和3月26日(周日)上午10点至下午7点在墨尔本Emporium商场向公众开放。



本次活动将延续开幕之夜的活动，设计师将有机会与时尚界人士、买家和媒体接触和交流。

尽管每位设计师展示的作品有限，但Browne女士说，一些学生早已思考如何把握机会。

Browne女士说：“其中一位设计师在当天将给顾客测量尺寸并制作半定制服装。他将以计算机数码技术创建客户的虚拟人像，为客户专门量身定制服装。”

[melbournefashionhub.com.au](http://melbournefashionhub.com.au)



# What's on: April 2023



FOURTH FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH,  
10:30AM - 11AM

**PRESCHOOL POP-UP LIBRARY**

Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at this storytime with stories, songs, rhymes and activities.

Elizabeth St Pop-up Library

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 AT 6PM

**'WE WERE RESILIENT'**

Established artist Margot Sharman's exhibition will include a look into her book, which details a series of historic imagery and text - providing a glimpse into one year of the pandemic.

Gallery at City Library

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 4PM - 5:30PM

**INCLUSION FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER - ACMI CINEMAS**

Join the foundation for a special screening of Academy Award winning short film, *An Irish Goodbye*. Informative conversations with young people with Down Syndrome to follow.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH,  
7PM

**TOUGH GUY BOOK CLUB**

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.

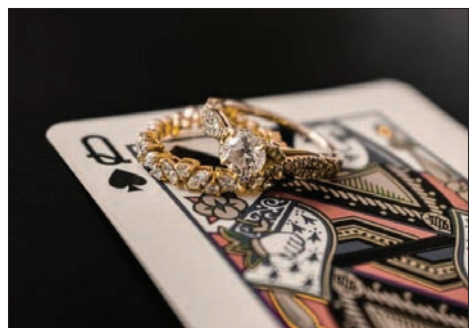
Royal Melbourne Hotel  
toughguybookclub.com



**3000 PLANTS NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB**

Hosted by Residents 3000, enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours on the second Sunday afternoon every month at 1:30pm.

For more information, meeting times and location: residents3000.com.au



UNTIL MAY 27, 9AM - 4PM

**MELBOURNE CRAFT FAIR**

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

Shed D, Queen Victoria Market

THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM

**EASTENDERS MEET-UPS**

Representing residents living in the CBD's eastern quadrant, EastEnders host monthly meetings at the Gorman Room, 27 Little Lonsdale St. For more information contact president Stan Capp.

eastendersinc@gmail.com



MARCH 29 - APRIL 23

**MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL**

For a good laugh and great night out, head into town for one of Melbourne's greatest annual festivals.

Check out the program at: comedyfestival.com.au



MARCH 30, 6:30PM - 10:30PM

**VICTORIAN FEMALE EXCELLENCE**

Victoria by Farmer's Daughters is participating in its first Melbourne Food and Wine Festival with a special dinner titled *Victorian Female Excellence*.

Tickets via the restaurants website.



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Kim Davey 0418 924 324  
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Vendors - Mark & Kate

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