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▲ L-R: Managing director of restaurants Niubi and Fishpot Raymond Pang, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Kevin Louey. Photo: Murray Enders.

A new era for Chinatown precinct

A new City of Melbourne-backed precinct business association is set to shake up Chinatown in what looms as an historic changing of the guard moment for the precinct and its traders.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS

The now defunct Chinatown Precinct Association (CPA), led for more than two decades by former president Danny Doon, and vice-president Eng Lim, will make way for the newly formed Melbourne Chinatown Association (MCA).

Although still in its infancy, the new association has garnered strong support from both the council and local traders who are encouraged by a “modern touch to the precinct.”

CBD News understands the council’s decision to withdraw funding from the CPA was based on survey feedback from traders explaining the Association no longer

served the best interest of its members.

Spearheading the MCA as president is head of Asian services at commercial real estate giants CBRE Jing Jun (JJ) Heng, with investment manager at real estate financier IDA Trevor Du serving as vice-president.

In an exclusive tour of Chinatown, Mr Heng told *CBD News*, aside from the major cultural festivals and events the precinct had become globally renowned for, the new leadership’s response would circle around two foundational elements: “fostering business and promoting culture.”

“Our initial job is to meet with members and key stakeholders within the precinct to hear their feedback,” Mr Heng said.

Continued on page 3.

Residents outraged over massive development, with voices “totally ignored”

A plan to build a 32-level tower above the heritage-listed Comedy Theatre has been met with concern by residents who believe it would impact the amenity of their neighbourhood.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The theatre’s owner the Marriner Group has partnered with LaSalle Investment Management in lodging a \$211 million plan that proposes to re-develop the 1928-built theatre at the corner of Exhibition and Lonsdale streets with a fly tower to be built to the rear.

According to the application, which is being considered by the state government, the proposed revamp is a “unique opportunity to provide much-needed upgrade and expansion works to the Comedy Theatre and a new building which contributes to the commercial and entertainment offering of the area”. This would include a bigger stage and improved back of house facilities.

The planned tower designed by Australian firm Architectus would cantilever over the rear portion of the theatre with spaces for new rehearsal facilities, 23 levels of office space, and a restaurant, bar, and event space within its six-level podium.

However, residents of Punch Lane, which abuts the site to the east, have expressed disappointment that their say on the proposal had been “totally ignored” with fears the development would block out sunlight to their homes.

Jenny Eltham, a resident of 18 years, said there was disbelief among her neighbours that there had been no community consultation.



▲ Punch Lane residents. Photo: Murray Enders.

“It is again, a case of developers thinking that residents are not important,” she said.

“Coupled with the loss of sunlight, the noise of demolition and construction will make the 11 homes in Punch Lane uninhabitable.

“I’m totally against the proposal, I’m against how it’s been handled. Development will happen, there is a lot of land behind that building that’s not utilised ... but for goodness’ sake, do it with some sort of sympathy and with some sort of discussion with the local community.”

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Safety summit set to be staged after community voices calls to “find solutions”

“

A community safety summit set to be held later this year will aim to bring together stakeholders and residents’ groups to address neighbourhood safety concerns.

”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The City of Melbourne-convened summit, which is expected to be held in August, was discussed at a president of the residents’ groups meeting with the council on June 24.

While details of the summit have yet to be formally announced it is understood the summit will address issues affecting the whole municipality and include key stakeholders to “explore proactive actions to make the city feel safe for all”.

Residents’ group president Dr Stan Capp and Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo have long advocated for the council to stage a summit to address several pressing issues facing residents and visitors which they hope will “find solutions”.

Residents and traders have expressed alarm



over a spate of assaults in the CBD in recent months, including assaults and knife attacks, with some fearing to walk alone at night.

The City of Melbourne has also heard from the community about its concern over drug and alcohol use in the streets, aggressive behaviour, mental health, rough sleepers, and the need for a stronger police presence and better lighting.

Owner of McAndrew Jewellery on Little Collins St Rikki McAndrew recently told *CBD News* that he was ready to vacate his shop next year as the increasing level of crime was “very frustrating and quite scary.”

Victoria Police maintained that Uniform Branch officers were supported by the Public Order Response Team, Mounted Branch, Dog Squad, Highway Patrol, Transit police and PSOs to regularly patrol the city to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

CBD News has been told that a draft agenda is being collated for the safety summit with residents’ groups and the council agreeing it would provide a “strategic and overarching approach” to safety which “doesn’t overlap with other meetings/discussions currently taking place between residents groups and police”.

The meeting also agreed it “should be wary of conflating safety with homelessness” and

noted the need to involve the state government in the summit and continue future “ongoing discussions”.

It also heard some members are “keen to progress discussions” regarding police resourcing and increased patrolling while residents’ groups also hope the summit can propose solutions “but also be clear on what the City of Melbourne can and cannot deliver”.

Mr Camillo said the proposed summit was important to improving safety and appreciated residents’ concerns being heard.

“The City of Melbourne is leading the procedures to make this happen and we are very pleased to see some action being taken,” he said.

According to the City of Melbourne’s new online interactive CBD neighbourhood portal, the council said it was working with Victoria Police and other agencies “to deliver initiatives that improve safety on the streets of Melbourne and within our communities”.

Earlier this year a Victoria Police spokesperson said police were committed to keeping the community safe, however, “it is common sense to expect more reports of incidents with more people out in the community”.

The summit follows the launch of a Neighbourhood Policing model, an initiative launched by Victoria Police in April with the “back-to-basics” approach aiming to work closely with the community in addressing local safety issues.

The City of Melbourne has been contacted for comment regarding the summit. ●



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COLLINS PLACE

A new era for Chinatown precinct

Continued from page 1.

“A lot of businesses in the precinct have voiced strong support to get involved with our modern touch to the precinct.”

“A lot of the hospitality, retail and professional services businesses have said they would love to see more out of Chinatown. Be it from an activity front, be it from a digital front, that is what we are doing at the moment.”

“We don’t want to come in and say, ‘this is what we think we can do’, we wanted to hear it [feedback] from the community first and design our approach from that.”

According to the MCA, the greatest challenge facing Chinatown traders are the long-lasting and multi-faceted pitfalls of COVID-19.

Not only are local businesses feeling the pinch from increased costs of supplies and labour, a lack of meaningful action from governments and employers alike to bring workers back to the CBD is crippling a precinct that is heavily reliant on the city’s daytime economy.

“Traders want to see consistency with the cost of labour, cost of supplies and resourcing challenges,” Mr Heng said.

“Our job is to ask, ‘how do we help our members cover overheads during these off-peak hours? Can we run certain events during these periods? What feedback can we provide to the council from traders that will help them not only survive, but thrive?’”

“There are certain things we can’t control, but there are things we can. We can control how we ensure the city and precinct is more vibrant; we can make sure there is more foot traffic, more businesses open, more vertical space activated, more public infrastructure for lighting or public art, and to ensure people from outside the precinct would want to come here to visit and to run a business.”

As the longest continuous Chinese settlement in the Western world, Melbourne’s Chinatown is steeped in more than 170 years of history and tradition.



▲ MCA’s JJ Heng (left) and Trevor Du (right)

The gravity of such history is not lost on the MCA which promises to bring the precinct into a new age.

“With Chinese culture you must always respect your elders, and we do,” Mr Heng said. “As time changes, digital becomes the norm, millennials become a major demographic, how do business associations adapt to the change?”

“There have been countless individuals, institutions, associations and businesses who have contributed over the years to bring Chinatown to what it is today. It is a collective effort.”

“Respect the historical elements of Chinatown and embrace the new. We are seeing new retailers coming in from mainland China, Korea, Thailand; how do we embrace that and make it part of the precinct?”

A CBD resident himself, Mr Du said the new



▲ MCA meeting with local stakeholders

association was hard at work finding a suitable committee that, not just served the precinct, but added value, particularly in its focus areas of marketing and social media.

“We’re working hand in hand with the City of Melbourne on the ground and engaging with the precinct members, not just to understand their needs, drivers and wants, and to funnel that through as feedback to the council, but also deliver our own initiatives to increase visitation, increase spend and activate the precinct throughout the day and night,” Mr Du said.

“[We want] to build on Melbourne’s brand as a culturally vibrant city and get us back to number one most liveable in the world.”

In what marks the council’s first major acknowledgement of the newly established association, Chinatown is set to receive more than \$150,000 for new light installations to improve visibility and accessibility, in addition to ramped-up street cleaning street cleaning efforts.

The MCA is also set to receive \$90,000 as part of the council’s Business Precinct Program.

The funds will be used to support a range of new events and activities to drive visitation and spend in the Chinatown precinct.

City of Melbourne councillor and local business owner Jason Chang told *CBD News* he had

been excited by the response from international students and tourists coming back to the city.

“People have been stuck at home for the past two years and they are after that physical interaction with places and people that Zoom can’t provide, and restaurants and cafes are the heart of it. That’s where people come together and meet up” Cr Chang said.

“Our local traders have been through incredibly challenging times, but they are resilient, and we are on the other side.”

“The association is here to support them; Council is here to support them. This is one step, a fresh new approach from the Chinatown association is what is required and can really shake things up.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council’s on-going investment in Chinatown would ensure it remained a “popular hot-spot”.

“Melbourne’s Chinatown is ranked among the world’s top 10 – so it comes as no surprise that after a tough two years, it’s back on its feet, full of life again,” Cr Capp said.

“We’re ramping up cleaning efforts and delivering the infrastructure local traders need to attract more visitors and boost business.” ●

For more information or to become a Melbourne Chinatown Association member, email:
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Archaeologists uncover remnants of historic homes at construction site

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HISTORY

A remarkable slice of historic Melbourne is being unearthed at a construction site in the heart of the CBD – with the remains of homes from the 1800s believed to have been discovered.

A group of archaeologists has been digging at a Little Lonsdale St site for the past five months with passers-by enthralled by what had been taking place.

The site between Bennetts Lane and Davisons Place is believed to contain the remnants of bluestone homes including chimneys which could date to the gold rush era.

When *CBD News* visited the site in July, more than a dozen archaeologists and an excavator operator were carefully and methodically working away.

Heritage Victoria confirmed it had permitted the archaeological investigation at the site.

The team is from Extent Heritage, which according to its website, provides services in historical and Indigenous and non-Indigenous archaeology.

The firm was involved in the renewal of the Queen Victoria Market where it provided cultural heritage and archaeology services. The market is a place included on the National Heritage List partly for its role as the Old Melbourne Cemetery.

Extent Heritage was contacted in relation to the Little Lonsdale St project but declined to comment as it would

be holding an official press event in August.

However, *CBD News* understands the work has so far uncovered artefacts including an Aboriginal tool, jewellery, children’s marbles, and discarded oyster shells which were a source of food from the Yarra River.

There was also a large unknown building foundation protruding from the ground which archaeologists could be seen carefully studying.

The discovery of Melbourne’s early landscape is not uncommon in the city with archaeological sites providing evidence of life from the time of the earliest Aboriginal peoples through to the period of European contact.

The largest archaeological dig in Victorian history took place in the heart of the CBD as part of the Metro Tunnel Project. More than a million artefacts, some dating back more than 180 years to the early days of European settlement in Melbourne, were found – with the most recent discovery in July being perfectly preserved coffee beans dating back 167 years.

In 2020, archaeologists dug up the remnants of a girl’s school dating to 1846 at a construction site on the corner of King and La Trobe streets. Relics found included jewellery, cosmetic items, brushes, needles, and pins.

The site at Little Lonsdale St is part of a \$150 million project which will see a 20-level tower built, a joint development between Perri Projects and Pellicano.

It will encompass two levels of retail and food and beverage tenancies, co-working spaces, A-grade office space, a function centre and rooftop bar. ●

Contractor appointed for 299 Bourke St transformation

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
PLANNING

Maben Group has been announced as the main works contractor for the redevelopment of the iconic former David Jones building.

Applicant and owner of the Bourke St building, Newmark Capital, acquired the site in 2020 and is planning to transform the building to accommodate retail and office spaces while ensuring the building’s heritage aspects are preserved.

Maben Group was the most appealing contractor group for the build due to its ability to specialise in commercial and retail sectors while understanding the importance of heritage restoration.

“We are delighted to partner with Maben Group to deliver our Bourke St redevelopment project,” Newmark Capital general manager of property Angus Machutchison said.

“Through a comprehensive tender process, Maben Group demonstrated a high level understanding of the project and an impressive capability across their business to ensure a successful outcome. We look forward to working with the Maben team in the coming months.”

Plans for the development of the 299 Bourke St build are scheduled to begin in the third quarter of this year.

The completed build of the former menswear store will see the building’s basement, ground and first floors filled with premium retail stores, including MECCA’s new Australian flagship store.

Smart and casual menswear ●



store Rodd and Gunn will also be launching their new Lodge Bar and Dining retail concept which will front the Little Collins St side of the building.

In a new improvement on space the building’s upper floors will no longer be used for storage and instead be transformed into large, loft-style office spaces with high ceilings. All five upper floors will be occupied by media agency group Clemenger.

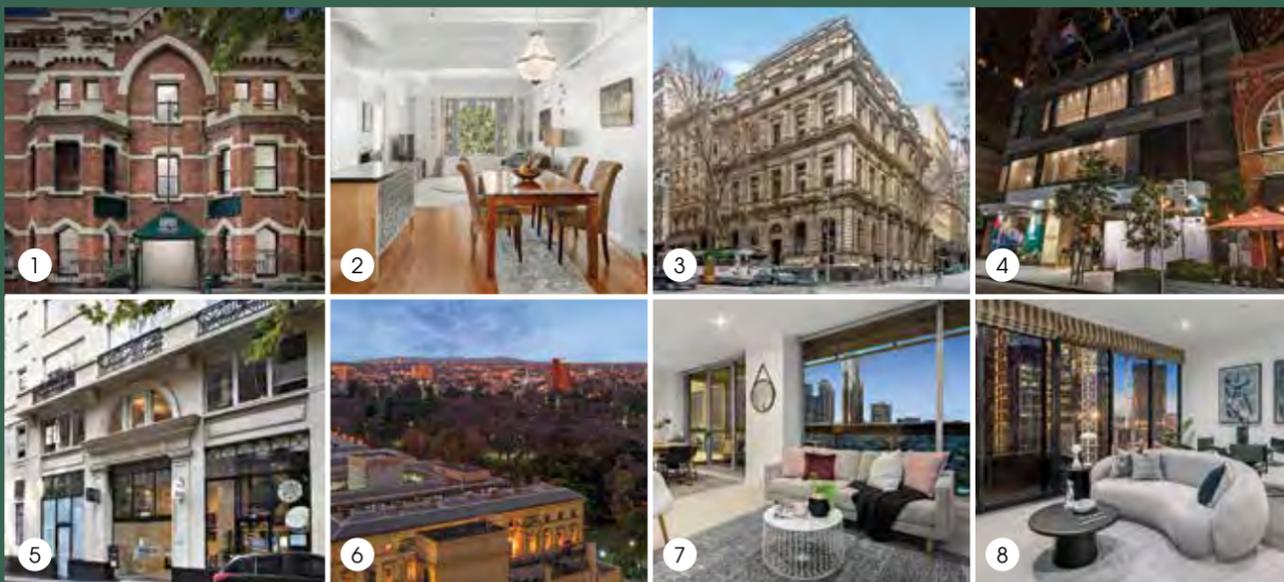
New rooftop terraces will also be added to the build, but according to Maben Group director Damien Marasco the heritage features will remain to be highlighted.

“299 Bourke St is a legacy project,” Mr Marasco said.

“It combines the refurbishment of the entire building, restoration of heritage elements and new structure in a challenging environment, it really suits our team.”

The purchasing of the building occurred during the midst of Melbourne’s 2020 lockdown, so the hope is for the new complex to support the revitalisation of the city and draw people back to its centre. ●

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“An unethical choice”: Councillors slam “unwelcome” new Lonsdale St pokies venue, but no choice given in approval

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

City of Melbourne councillors have lamented a proposed CBD venue that will feature 50 new poker machines, and said that while the venue would cause “harm” it had no choice but to approve it.

One councillor said the move was “unethical” and said the state’s gambling regulator “should be embarrassed” by the move.

The application from Bay Road Hotel Pty Ltd sought to convert the basement, ground and rooftop level of a 19-floor building at the corner of Lonsdale and Hardware streets — currently featuring commercial and serviced apartments — into a hotel with 50 new electronic gaming machines (EGMs) on the ground floor.

After a permit application was lodged in late 2021, the council formally objected to the new machines in a case heard by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission earlier this year.

However, it lost the case, and the application for EGMs was approved by the regulator on February 14.

As a result, councillors voted unanimously to approve the new venue at a July 12 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

However all three councillors who spoke on the evening said the council did so with hands tied.

“I don’t want to support this application, but I will on the basis that we’re obliged to as an administrative body to uphold the planning rules within the City of Melbourne,” Cr Rohan Leppert said. “That system is wrong, but that is the system that we’ve been asked to perform a quasi-judicial role within.”

Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council had “vigorously fought the application” and while he welcomed investment into a new



city venue, did not support more pokies within the CBD.

The venue’s 50 new machines would bring the current number of licensed machines in the Hoddle Grid to 625.

It will also be located 240 metres from the nearest licensed venue (The Meeting Place on Elizabeth St).

Speaking on behalf of the applicant, Travis Finlayson from Ratio Consultants said the \$5.4 million investment would provide 42 full-time equivalent employment opportunities and further economic flow-on affects through significant supply contracts.

Mr Finlayson said the pokies area of the hotel was considered appropriate by the state regulator and was sensitively set out.

“The gaming room is well-designed; it’s set back, it’s not visible from the public realm. You have to enter the venue, experience the other facilities before going into the gaming room.”

“

That system is wrong, but that is the system that we’ve been asked to perform a quasi-judicial role within.

”

However Cr Leppert said the EGMs would cause further harm within the CBD.

“I don’t welcome this new investment into the city despite the number of employees anticipated to be working on this site. The harm to the community will be outweighing that purported benefit by a factor of many, many times over.”

Cr Jamal Hakim said he approved the application “reluctantly” and questioned why an alternate use could not have been considered.

“Look, it’s a great investment in the built form, [but] it is still a poor choice by the applicant. Other investments can still mean that this investment can go ahead and could have been picked. But this is an unethical choice,” he said.

“Others have delivered successful hospitality venues in the CBD without the aspects of harm the gambling function will bring ... we don’t want a revitalisation that’s built on the abuse of people within our community.”

Cr Hakim slammed the VGCCC and said the regulator “should be embarrassed in placing marginal weight or lower weight to the impact of problem gambling right here”.

The CBD (along with Docklands and Southbank) does not have a cap or municipal limit on how many EGMs can be situated in the area, unlike the rest of Victoria.

The Alliance for Gambling Reform has previously written to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation urging an appropriate cap, arguing that at the time of its introduction the CBD had far fewer residents.

Three-year delay a “joke”

At the July 12 meeting, councillors also called on new planning minister Lizzie Blandthorn to approve a City of Melbourne planning scheme amendment to replace the current gaming policy.

The council submitted Amendment C366 in August 2019, but it was yet to be approved by the state government.

While the amendment would not give the council the power to reject poker machine applications outright, it would “strengthen policy to reduce the concentration of electronic gaming machines in the Hoddle Grid where they contribute to convenience gaming”.

It would also enable a “more comprehensive assessment of the social and economic impacts of gaming” and “assist in guiding the appropriate location and operation of gaming venues”.

Cr Leppert slammed the delay. “Three years is very clearly a joke,” he said.

“I do hope the new planning minister departs from her predecessor’s approach to this issue, which is to sit on it and say nothing.”

A government spokesperson had told *CBD News* in October 2021 that the assessment of Amendment C366 was “at an advanced stage”. ●



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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Women lead the way in Victoria University City Tower's sky-high achievements throughout the build

Victoria University's (VU) City Tower is officially Australia's largest vertical campus. Sitting 32 levels high, it serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when women are supported and encouraged in the construction industry.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
BUILDING



▲ L-R: Sarah Ball, Kirsten Jeffery and Letitia Hope.

Designed by Jackson Architecture and Woods Bagot, the VU and ISPT-partnered build is the result of highly respected industry professionals collaborating together behind the scenes.

Among the women at the forefront of the build were Woods Bagot's principal-in-charge Sarah Ball, VU City project director Kirsten Jeffery and project manager Franziska Locher, and ISPT partnership specialist Letitia Hope.

"What was really great about the project is all the women were there because of their amazing abilities and skill sets and this proven commitment in the leadership teams is respected across all the organisations involved," Ms Ball told *CBD News*.

"It goes to show a lot about the organisations and their commitment and ability to really foster and support women in their careers."

As principal-in-charge, Ms Ball had overall accountability for Woods Bagot's delivery of the interior design and was involved from the initial stages of brainstorming how the design was going to benefit VU and their approach to learning and teaching.

As someone who is passionate about education spaces, Ms Ball said VU was unique as it was essentially taking a university campus with a wide array of disciplines and courses and placing it in a vertical building.

"One of the complexities was working out how you arrange these courses in a tower as you need to assess what was complementary and what worked adjacent together, while ensuring the learning spaces met current and future needs," Ms Ball said.

"The other interesting element is the in-between spaces where students can congregate before and after class, and a key design issue to work through was how people might move through the building."

Opting for an internal connecting stairwell that runs from ground level through to level 22, the final design of the stairs allows people with an alternate way of moving through the building instead of relying on the lifts.

An additional aspect to consider was how to provide students with a space to congregate between classes given the lack of outdoor spaces that is normally readily available in non-vertical campuses.

But due to clever planning, project director Ms Jeffery said they were able to create a student social hub floor on level 10 "devoted to students' social spaces and amenities."

Within the space is a kitchen, microwaves, boiling water, diverse seating arrangements and an external balcony with heaters and BBQ facilities extending off of the level.

"We really tried to provide students with that internal and alternate space to just hang out with each other, get fresh air and have lunch," Ms Jeffery said.

The students now making up the space come from diverse studies in high education and vocational learning, from pathway programs right through to PhD students.

Taking up the top three levels of the building as their own are students training in hair, beauty, make-up and massage, and as part of their training they are supervised to provide their services at a discount rate to the public.

On the floors below is a teaching floor and a couple of clinic floors for the College of Health and Biomedicine students undertaking either osteopathy or dermal science streams, with the clinic floors also used to provide services to the public.

The remaining floors are then split between business and law students, VU's polytechnic English language courses and pathway courses, support and wellbeing services and information technology services.

The unique build also carefully considers VU's approach to learning through their VU Block Model where students will undertake one subject at a time and learn within small, dynamic groups as opposed to being overloaded with a full subject load.

This model, enhanced by the wide range of areas of expertise of the team involved in the fine planning and constructing details, have cemented VU City Tower's success and appreciation from students and teachers.

"What gives me the greatest satisfaction is the sheer delight of students in this building studying in these new custom-designed study and teaching spaces. They are just so grateful

and respectful," Ms Jeffery said.

Opened to teachers and students on April 26, the move into the 370 Little Lonsdale St campus has been an exciting time for all involved behind-the-scenes after navigating the build through a pandemic.

But ISPT partnership specialist Letitia Hope said the long term partnerships and trust that were formed between all the lead players meant they were able to "work through the challenges" and "focus on the long term goals".

The trust and strength of vision between both VU and ISPT also means the university is now able to look forward to the way they can further impact the city.

"Melbourne needs so much energy and activation to come back after the past couple of years and what is inspiring about the vertical VU campus is it brings all that activation, activity and diversity back into the city," Ms Hope said.

"VU City Tower offers students and employees an experience in the heart of the city in a world leading building and through the connection of the city, VU can better connect students to industry much earlier on."

From the women demonstrating how the construction sector is broadly defined to include a multitude of specialities, to the life-changing impact the build will have on students' employment prospects, VU City Tower is re-shaping the future of education and employment. ●

For more information:
vu.edu.au/campuses/city-campus



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Soapbox event set to empower women scientists

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EDUCATION

An event celebrating women academics in science is set to be held outside the State Library in August as part of National Science Week.

The first-ever Soapbox Science event in Melbourne will see 12 inspirational women speakers from the world of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) engaging and sharing their knowledge with the public on August 19.

Soapbox Science is a novel public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists and the science they do. It transforms public areas into an arena for public learning and scientific debate.

STEM Sisters, a diverse group in Melbourne aimed at empowering women in the STEM field, will host the free event which will be held between 2pm and 5pm at the forecourt of the State Library.

STEM Sisters founder Ruwangi Fernando said just under 40 per cent of the Australian STEM workforce was female and even less for culturally diverse women.

"Australia requires a more diverse STEM population as diversity hugely benefits technological and scientific innovation," she said.

"Many Australian STEM organisations support women in STEM, but no specific organisation in Australia supports STEM women of colour – STEM Sisters was initiated to bridge this gap."

Ms Fernando said without diversity in science, there would be a loss of talent and knowledge, "therefore, STEM Sisters is committed to supporting diversity and providing a platform for women's representation in STEM."

"Given the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the push for effective science communication has been more important than ever."

"These crucial and transferable skills for researchers to inform, educate and raise awareness of their work to a broad audience is fundamental to building a relationship with science and the public."

The group will use its \$10,000 grant, which it received earlier this year through the City of Melbourne's 2022 Connected Communities Grants program, to host the Soapbox Science event. ●

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CELEBRATING MELBOURNE'S SMALL BUSINESSES

MELBOURNE IS FULL OF FANTASTIC SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS STORIES.

The Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards acknowledge and celebrate Melbourne's longstanding independent small businesses, and the people who run them.

Each year we say thank you for the significant contribution they make to the city's culture, economic prosperity and liveability.

The awards honour the achievements of small businesses who have been operating in the City of Melbourne for milestones of 10+, 20+, 40+ years.

The inaugural Small Business of the Year Award recognises one outstanding business that has demonstrated excellence across all areas of their business, such as sustainability, innovation and customer care.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp with 10-year Achievement Award recipients Adjy Baskoro and Yudo Baskoro of Koskosan

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all our Achievement Award winners.

These small businesses have stood the test of time in the city for 10+, 20+ and 40+ years. Don't miss the stunning photography exhibition to celebrate some of our city's most iconic small businesses. The exhibition runs in the Bourke Street Mall from mid-August to mid-September, featuring portraits of each small business at work.

40+ years

- Michael Cardamone - Amiconi Restaurant
- Alan Adler - Alan Adler Mobile Amusements
- Grant Hamid - Hamid Bros
- Terry O'Halloran - Sole Motive
- Andrew Georgiou - Victoria Market Gifts
- Helen Cacopardo - You Day Spa

20+ years

- Eileen Carney - American Rag
- Brendan Dwyer - Brendan Dwyer Custom
- Phil Calvert - calmatronics
- Sandy Tsindos - Charles Elena Design
- David Neilson - Charles Elena Design
- Christine Barro - CHRISTINE
- Adam Pickett - Dungeon of Magic
- Vivian Dourali - Eimai Melbourne
- Tony Pierrakos - Intone Photography
- Samson Brian Pereira - Nikee Business Group
- Martin Pirc - Punch Lane Wine Bar and Restaurant
- Lou Rendina - Rendina Real Estate
- Janine Hunt - The Chicken Pantry
- Lisa Hong - Wild Wombats Australia
- Julie Fong - Your Jeweller
- Jimmy Fong - Your Jeweller

10+ years

- Stewart Koziara - Asian Beer Cafe
- Anna Carosa - Asian Beer Cafe
- Melanie Ashe - Clementine's
- Dr Leila Zamani - Dr Zamani Dental Practice
- Stewart Koziara - Father's Office
- Anna Carosa - Father's Office
- Adam Ong - Golden Monkey
- David Man Kit Yu - Golden Square Car Park
- Damian Corney - Grafico Group
- Jeff Harper - IGA Express Southbank
- Kelly Gissara - Jissara Hair
- Jimmy Kosan - JKN Migration Consultant
- Adjy Baskoro - Koskosan
- Yudo Baskoro - Koskosan
- Roger O'Toole - Melbourne Headache Centre
- Yik Muoa Hong - Motion City Development
- Dave Parker - San Telmo
- Jason McConnell - San Telmo
- Linda Dugan - Petal Back Clothing
- Marshall Waters - ReWine
- Yogesh Gupta - Tax Planners
- Michael Wright - True Thai Massage
- Tae Panuktong - True Thai Massage
- Rongrong Wang - Twenty & Six Espresso
- Wendy Scully - Wendy Scully Millinery
- Nikki Vriends - Zip Zip Wax

Small Business of the Year winner GRAFICO GROUP



Every wall, car and building is a potential canvas for graphic design company Grafico Group.

Maybe it's a panel of custom-printed Italian mosaic tiles. Or wallpaper on an epic scale that adds instant drama to a room... and episodes of The Block.

Maybe you've seen Grafico's wares wrapped around a fleet of vehicles, zipping across the city in sleek custom signage.

From humble beginnings in 2004, this creative services agency has grown rapidly under the eye of Damian Corney to specialise in auto, walls and signage.

Grafico's North Melbourne warehouse is staffed with graphic designers and signage specialists. Together, they serve commercial and domestic markets across the country.

Established by the son of Italian migrants - at first in a garage, Grafico has grown into a business with an innovative range of new products and creative marketing.

It's also working on innovative approaches to minimise impact on the environment, partnering with Werribee Zoo to recycle cardboard cylinders.

Congratulations to Grafico Group on being named 2022 Lord Mayor's Small Business of the Year.

Small Business of the Year finalist MAKE DESIGNED OBJECTS



Every beautiful product on the shelves at this retail store has earned its place amid other thoughtfully designed homewares, clothing and accessories.

MAKE Designed Objects owner Patrick Coppel and his team have carefully crafted an ethos around what belongs in their two-storey terrace shop in Carlton.

To be selected, a product must first be considered 'good'. It needs to be functional as well as aesthetically appealing. Durable and useful. Tread lightly on the earth. And if it has a sense of humour, all the better.

There's a big range of products from Scandinavian countries with a strong

design culture, such as Denmark and Finland.

Where Australian designers hold their own on the global stage, their products too are welcome. Since 2003, MAKE has infused 'good' design into homes in Melbourne and beyond.

Some items are so beautiful they're even held in galleries and private collections worldwide.

MAKE was named a Small Business of the Year finalist for its lovely relationship with the community. MAKE is a Carlton institution, but it's also a successful online business that has built up an extensive, loyal following by email list.

Small Business of the Year finalist KNOVUS



At the nexus of design, innovation and manufacturing, you'll find knitting house Knovus.

Investing in the latest zero-waste knit technology, Knovus has explored, researched and developed sustainable knitwear manufacturing processes since 1999.

Knovus has built up a wealth of knit products such as medical device components, furniture, sports accessories and fashion.

The crew also prototypes technology and helps other businesses get to

market quickly and effectively.

Owner Patricia Chircop and the team are also dedicated to sharing decades of experience with others, offering tailored workshops to improve knit knowledge and efficiency.

Knovus was named a Small Business of the Year finalist for its highly innovative approach to the design and manufacture of knitted products, ranging from fashion to medical technology, and investment in cutting-edge technology and knowledge

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To read more about the recipients, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards



Local study reveals best office ventilation for COVID and the environment

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

A world-first research project that tested air circulation in an empty CBD office building has revealed that “displacement ventilation air conditioning” can reduce COVID-19 transmission by more than 80 per cent.

The aptly acronymed BREATH study (Building Retrofit for Efficiency, Air Quality, Thermal Comfort and Health) assessed changes to ventilation systems that could both decrease airborne virus transmission and reduce energy consumption in office buildings.

It was the first time a team had looked at the issue simultaneously from an energy-use and infection control perspective. In a three-month period, University of Melbourne researchers assessed three different ventilation systems in a vacant CBD building: displacement ventilation air conditioning (which supplies air from floor level), in-ceiling air filters, and natural airflow through open windows.

In recent years office building managers have increasingly made efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission by opening windows to maximise ventilation, however the move can increase energy consumption, increase costs, and compromise comfort. The research, as a result, aimed to provide publicly available findings to show building owners, tenants and partners how best to improve their workplaces.

The project found that while all three systems reduced the potential transmission of COVID when compared to standard ceiling-based air conditioning, displacement ventilation air conditioning was the most effective and energy efficient system tested. It could reduce COVID-19 transmission by 83 per cent while also reducing energy consumption by 20 per cent.

The second system analysed, in-ceiling air filters, reduced virus transmission by an impressive 49 per cent, however resulted in a minor increase in energy consumption while the “windows open” method performed a similarly effective role at reducing airborne viruses (by 53 per cent) but unsurprisingly led to an increase of energy use by 20 per cent due to Melbourne’s temperature variations.

According to the study, displacement ventilation is the most expensive to install, but there are no additional ongoing maintenance costs. University of Melbourne Professor of Fluid Mechanics and Head of Mechanical Engineering Jason Monty outlined why the research was so important.

“[It’s] a world-first collaboration between local government, industry and academics, which has given us the knowledge to predict the best type of retrofit to simultaneously reduce carbon footprint and infectious disease transmission,” he said. “Since the majority of city energy cost goes to ventilation of our buildings, the outcomes from BREATH will improve our ability to reach net zero carbon faster.”

The project was led by the City of Melbourne, and along with the University of Melbourne researchers included collaboration with industry experts.

The vacant building at 423 Bourke St has been earmarked for redevelopment and was provided for research by Cbus Property.

CEO Adrian Pozzo said the group was proud to be involved in the project.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said bringing people back to the city safely remained a “key priority” for the council, and drove them to establish the research project. ●

Residents outraged over massive development, with voices “totally ignored”

Continued from page 1.

Ms Eltham noted residents’ homes “conservatively, have at least a \$22 million investment in that lane – and yet we’ve been again, totally ignored”.

“In summary they have not treated the Punch Lane community with dignity, respect, fairness, or courtesy.”

Another resident, Wendy Syme, agreed, saying any large-scale development would “definitely have a potential negative impact”.

“We’re trying to protect what we have here, and they have not consulted with anyone,” she said.

“Punch Lane is so unique in the sense that it’s the last of the laneways that actually have standalone townhouses rather than apartment buildings.”

Ms Syme also cited concerns that the proposed tower would potentially devalue their homes, while construction would create issues around noise and street access.

The application maintained that “no unreasonable amenity impacts will occur to the surrounding area” while Punch Lane and Lonsdale St would have “improved visual and physical activation”.

The plans also said development “provides us with a template for improving the urban condition of this laneway interface even further” including a proposal to open Punch Lane by “increasing pedestrian traffic and draw pedestrian activity back into the space”.

“Increasing the density of greenery and street level treatment brings life to the interface, while the orientation of our proposed lobby grades into the existing laneway topography,” it said.

But residents say this was “all empty words ... they have not communicated with any of the residents of Punch Lane.” They also claim the City of Melbourne had known about the plan since May 30 but had not informed residents.

The site at 222-240 Exhibition St is separated by Punch Lane and adjoins LaSalle’s 26-level office tower at 222 Exhibition St, which was built in 1988.

According to Ms Eltham, seven townhouses in Punch Lane were imbedded into the structure and carpark of 222 Exhibition St at the time of being built, which she questioned, “How are they going to separate the [concrete] slab and not affect our homes?”

“If they’re making any grilling noise, is it amplified in the townhouses because the noise travels through the slab? What’s going to happen?”

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council would assess the application as a referral authority; however, the Minister for Planning would make the ultimate decision for it to go ahead or not.

“As people would expect, council will consider the application



“We’re trying to protect what we have here, and they have not consulted with anyone.”

very carefully,” he said.

“The Comedy Theatre has operated there since 1928 and is one of Melbourne’s much-loved venues. Any application to redevelop the site must respect its heritage and hopefully enhance its operation as a theatre.”

The application stated the tower had been designed “so as to respond sensitively to the heritage fabric of the theatre”.

“These works require demolition to the rear of the heritage place, being the back of the stage area – including the rear wall of the structure and a portion of the southern wall – as well as several internal walls and the existing fly tower.”

EastEnders residents’ group president Dr Stan Capp said the heritage value of the Comedy Theatre had to be protected “at all costs” and also “the rights of residents to a reasonable way of life”.

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo said it was “very concerning” residents had not been consulted, which he believed was a reflection of a “really poor planning process”.

Brendan Gleeson, a professor of urban planning at the University of Melbourne, said it was not obvious from the proposal materials why the integration of an office tower and theatre would improve the operation of the latter, adding “heritage must be a leading consideration for any proposed changes to the site”.

“This sounds like the development tail wagging the planning dog. From the public interest perspective, the primary emphasis should be on the theatre’s needs, including enhancements that will ensure its good operation and longevity,” he said.

“Given the theatre’s significant social and economic benefits to the city and the state there is a strong case for public funding of these needs, perhaps with the state or council taking some equity in the operation.”

Marriner Group and LaSalle Investment Management did not respond to a request for comment before deadline. ●



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Greek precinct gets a revamp in time for popular festival

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The city's Greek precinct is undergoing a facelift in Lonsdale St which is set to improve dining facilities and add additional greenery.

The works include new stainless steel planter boxes with rosemary being installed as well as repairing broken bluestone pavers and removing existing café shelters.

There will also be a new irrigation system with Hellenic Greek stone pavers being reinstated – all in time for the Lonsdale Street Greek festival to be held in October.

The works spans between Russell St and Tattersalls Lane with completion scheduled in August.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the upgrade would ensure Lonsdale St remained an inviting space for decades to come.

"Melbourne's Lonsdale St Greek precinct is a vibrant hub of culture and celebration," she said.

"For decades Lonsdale St has been the home of our Greek community, boasting some of the best restaurants in the city and hosting the annual Antipodes Greek Festival."

Tsindos Greek Restaurant owner Harry Tsindos said he welcomed the project which was beautifying the street and another reason to entice visitors to the city.

"For me, they [the council] are doing a great job in reigniting Melbourne, the CBD, bringing people back," he said.

While there had been some disruption, Mr Tsindos said trade had not been impacted and he and customers understood it was more the betterment of the street.

"Lunch has gone up and night times are really busy."

The project is funded through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund – a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the state government. ●

Celebrating the businesses shaping our city

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

Small business owners are being celebrated for their determination and contribution to the city's culture and economic prosperity through the 2022 Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

Previously known as the Lord Mayor's Commendations Awards, the awards recognise 49 Melbourne business owners who have been operating within the city for more than 10, 20 and 40 years.

Celebrated for her commitment to the city for more than 40 years, the CBD's You Day Spa owner Helen Cacopardo said she was "proud to be part of the city of Melbourne."

As an oasis in the heart of the CBD, You Day Spa is an example of the unique small businesses that make up the city.

"The city is a lovely community and like a little village as all the long-term business owners know each other," Ms Cacopardo said.

Rare and bespoke store Wendy Scully Millinery in Emporium Melbourne has also been recognised, and as a business that started from small beginnings to now having clients all over the world, owner Wendy Scully said the recognition was "exciting".

As a city that is built on independent and unique stores, the council's small business portfolio lead Cr Jason Chang said small businesses were critical to Melbourne's economy and contributed to the buzz of the city.

"These awards are a celebration of many years of hard work, often building a small business from the ground up, establishing a loyal customer base and adding real flair and character," Cr Chang said.

After starting her business from scratch in 2011, the owner of locally made gift and fine food store Clementine's Melanie Ashe said the July 21 award show was an evening to "stop and reflect" on the achievement of making it through the tough times.

"The last few years were pretty scary and it was good to see small businesses being celebrated after a lot of them had done it pretty tough," Ms Ashe said.

"Melbourne is all about the small independent businesses and that's why people come here."

As well as appealing to tourists, small businesses' successes are often due to the regular customers and clients that continue to support them.

Noticing the impact regular customer support has had on the store's ability to grow, owner of game store Dungeon of Magic Adam Pickett said he felt "humbled" looking back on the past 26 years of owning the business.

"The fact that we can support multi-generational people is a good feeling. I have parents who are coming in now with their kids who were only kids themselves when they started coming in 20 years ago," Mr Pickett said.

"I see people grow up and change, and the fact that this is my hobby means I get the best of both worlds."

Also being recognised for 26 years of commitment to the city, and Queen Victoria Market



▲ You Day Spa owner Helen Cacopardo with Sally Capp.



▲ Dungeon of Magic owner Adam Pickett.



▲ Clementine's owner Melanie Ashe.



Photo: Murray Enders.

in particular, is husband and wife Gary and Janine Hunt with their business The Chicken Pantry.

Dedicated to maintaining strong relationships within the market, with stall owners and customers, Ms Hunt said the recognition was "a nice feeling".

"I'm just happy to receive any recognition and publicity around the City of Melbourne and the market because we have had a really rough trot," she said.

"Anything that puts us back into the spotlight in a positive way is really good."

The Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards have been celebrating the small businesses that make up the city since 2005, and each award night one small business takes home the top award. This year's award went to boutique wallpaper art and signage business Grafico Group for their innovation, creative marketing, sustainability initiatives and long-standing connection to the city. ●



▲ Janine Hunt of QVM's The Chicken Pantry.

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▲ A map showing black areas on the north bank of the Yarra River that receive little to no sunlight in winter months.

In the shadow: Can Greenline overcome sunlight issue in the winter months?

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

There's plenty of challenges that the City of Melbourne's \$300 million Greenline project faces before a proposed unveiling in 2028.

The first, and perhaps most obvious challenge for the four-kilometre "city-shaping" trail, is who will fund it.

The council hopes to go "thirds" on the project (that would run from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge) with upper levels of government; itself funding \$100m, with a further \$100m each thrown in by state and federal counterparts.

The Council pledged \$40m in its latest budget, while the newly-elected federal Labor government committing \$20m to kickstart work on the Yarra River north bank pathway.

However, Lord Mayor Sally Capp's passion project still had a way to go on that front.

Another issue is how Cr Capp and the council might bring together a bevy of authorities along the Yarra River to sign off on different aspects of the large project.

These include the likes of Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and VicTrack, with the many agencies traditionally making big decisions along the river difficult.

But as Melbourne begins to emerge from the winter months, another issue — albeit non-political — becomes apparent with how Greenline might function on the north bank.

And that is, how the project deals with a distinct lack of sunlight in the winter months.

A map that charts shadowing throughout the municipality at different times of the year reveals that some areas along the northern parts of the river receive little to no sunlight in the depths of winter (June).

Which, given the council wishes to make Greenline a year-round trail, emerges as a considerable headache on how it might attract people to the trail during the colder months.

The north bank's southern sibling, Southbank Promenade, does not face the same problem.

A far greater setback from tall buildings to the north means that the promenade receives far more sunlight than the river's northern side, even in winter.

It's this brighter appeal that ensures that, even in the colder months, people are happy to sit and spend time outside along the busy pathway.

Speaking with *CBD News* recently, Yarra Riverkeeper Charlotte Sterrett said that while the intent of Greenline aligned strongly with the Yarra Riverkeeper Association's values, overshadowing remained a stumbling block.

"The issue they have with the north bank of the river is the shadow caused by buildings," she said.

"It's not going to be as sunny as the south bank ever will be because of the blocking of the sun. We have to think about whether there are ways to increase the sunlight and the amenity of Greenline and people using it. Obviously shading in summer can be great, but in winter you want sun and that passive solar heating."

Elevating the Greenline trail is the natural way to avoid overshadowing on the path, however



▲ The sunlight contrast of the north and south bank in winter (Source: Google Maps).



early renders of the project suggest that the trail might remain close to the water's edge.

More detailed plans are expected later this year.

Overshadowing of the north bank is particularly noticeable at the Banana Alley Vaults, and an original draft plan for Greenline noted: "The general presentation of the Northbank is compromised by the elevated rail viaducts which create loud, overshadowed and seemingly leftover spaces".

The council has acknowledged the challenge of shadowing caused by existing buildings, viaducts and other existing infrastructure and told *CBD News* it was a "key consideration" for the project's design development.

It said it was currently working on ways to optimise areas of sun and shade along the north bank to support visitation all year round.

Planning will carefully consider, for example, the locations of new trees, plantings and open spaces in contrast to existing infrastructure — ensuring there are both sunny and shaded areas along the length of the north bank.

The council noted that it was continuing to consult with land owners, developers and stakeholders on the issue. ●



Have a heart

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

A pop-up gallery in Little Collins St is offering a free heart to anyone who can provide information about an act of vandalism to one of their sculptures.

The two-metre-high mesh figure was chained to a lamppost outside the gallery.

Imagine their shock when they discovered that its heart had been cut out.

The gallery contacted the police to provide CCTV footage but so far there have been no clues to the identity of this heartless stranger.

Anyone Who had a Heart by artist Jenny Reddin was installed for Valentine's Day outside the Creative Pod Gallery at 209 Collins St.

She imagined the street figure would soon have a profile on Instagram but not that he'd attract a critic.

Ms Reddin was devastated when she found out about the attack.

"His big red heart was welded inside his chest so to remove his heart would have required angle grinders and a lot of noise," she said.

"I'm devastated. Why would thieves go to so much trouble to remove the warrior's heart?"



▲ A free heart where a brave sculpture once stood.

The disheartened warrior has now been removed, creating a space for heartfelt memories of its former glory.

The work was made from a 10mm reo bar that had been cut into 10cm lengths and then welded piece by piece, so the gallery expected it to last the distance.

The statue was two metres high and weighed more than 40 kilograms.

"The statue represents the marriage between brute strength and compassion," according to the gallery.

It appeared that brute strength had won out until the gallery director came up with the idea of giving away hearts.

"He was conceived during COVID, a time of great upheaval," the gallery said.

Now he is all heart. ●



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Once-per-decade strategy reveals renewed vision for city

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

Melbourne's CBD population will almost double and workers will increase by 50 per cent by 2040 according to a once-per-decade planning blueprint was released by the City of Melbourne in July.

The council's Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), last updated in 2010, includes an updated city vision that focuses on huge growth in Melbourne's west.

Industrial and former industrial areas such as Arden, Macaulay, and Fishermans Bend will "accommodate a significant portion of the growth and change in the municipality over the next 20 years".

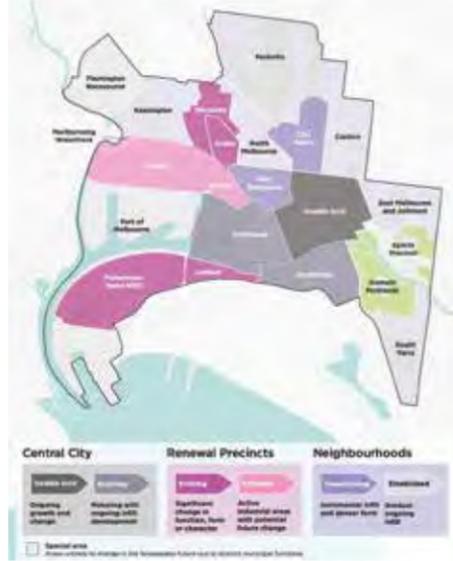
It is proposed these areas will become "the new Fitzroy or Collingwood for the west of the city".

"The growth of the municipality is now moving west, onto the lower, wetter plains," the strategy stated.

"The urban renewal precincts of the city which are transforming from industrial areas to mixed use areas offer unparalleled opportunities to reimagine our future landscapes and built form."

Within the Hoddle Grid, the council has forecast continual growth despite the impact of COVID-19.

The CBD's 2020 population of 54,808 would almost double to 99,872 while worker numbers



would surge from 211,826 to 309,593 despite noting that attracting workers back to the central city was a key challenge.

This was despite the fact that Premier Daniel Andrews had declared in March that he believed a shift to hybrid working was "permanent" and that he did not believe things would return to how they were pre-pandemic.

The MPS, which introduces policies that guide both land use and development decisions, did not contain any distinct revelations for the Hoddle Grid within the coming years.

Rather, it noted that the continued Queens Victoria Market Precinct Renewal (its largest ever investment) and street upgrades remained the two key moves in the area.

The report also stated that the CBD would experience ongoing growth and change as existing building stock was renewed.

"Growth will build upon its established structure and heritage assets," the report stated.

While not introducing an entirely new vision for the future of the city, it rather consolidates the council's already-endorsed policies (from recent years) related to planning matters, such as the Affordable Housing Strategy and the Transport Strategy 2030.

The council's planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said the MPS was a "once in a decade opportunity to chart a course for what Melbourne will look like in the decades ahead."

"We're planning out to 2040," Cr Reece said.

The Deputy Lord Mayor said the CBD as we knew it today was the result of these planning decisions, citing liquor licensing shifts and the Postcode 3000 policy in 1980s and 1990s, respectively, as examples of how the city had become what it was today.

"Modern Melbourne, as we know it, is not just a city that happened by magic. It's the result of very deliberate, and strategic, decision-making by the city and by the state. It's the product of one good decision building on another."

Cr Reece said that just like inner suburbs to the northeast of the CBD have markedly changed, so too will those to the west.

"Suburbs like West Melbourne will transition.

They've got a strong industrial history — they'll continue to be a place where a lot of people are employed but will also take on a much more residential character, becoming like the new Fitzroy or Collingwood for the west of the city."

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the strategy would play a hugely influential role in upcoming planning matters and meant that the "unholy friction" between local and state governments planning agendas could be managed.

"[That relationship] can be managed in a way that there's some certainty and some understanding by all parties in the planning system, especially local residents of the City of Melbourne, as to what the government's agenda is and why, and how these different pieces come together," Cr Leppert said.

"If you think about how much the city has changed in the last 10 years, it's that second role — not the 'here's our ambitious statement for the future' — but how do we consolidate all of those policies and tell the clearest narrative that we possibly can about where development goes across the municipality and why."

The council will now seek authorisation from the new Minister for Planning Lizzie Blandthorn before commencing public exhibition and will seek input from community members across the municipality.

"We're expecting bouquets [but] we're probably expecting brickbats as well — that's the nature of community consultation and it's so important that we get it on this exercise," the Deputy Lord Mayor said. ●

"Professional beggars" target the city, but police focus on those genuinely experiencing homelessness

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A small number of "professional beggars" who are not legitimate rough sleepers are targeting the CBD and Southbank, however, authorities say they are gearing their efforts to people in genuine need.

The City of Melbourne and Victoria Police confirmed a small group of people were travelling into the CBD to beg on the streets despite having accommodation, with much of this activity reported to be taking place along Southbank Promenade.

It comes after a Southbank Safety and Security Committee meeting held in June between the City of Melbourne, local police, community members, and stakeholders heard that some beggars "actually have homes" but were operating "as a gang" in the city's streets, with one understood to be earning up to \$1000 a day.

The meeting discussed how generous passers-by would give away a few coins to appease their guilt, but "would be much better" directing that money to a genuine homelessness charity.

Victoria Police Inspector Jamie Templeton said while police had the ability to enforce against begging, "we predominantly focus our efforts on ensuring those genuinely experiencing homelessness are connected to appropriate support services".

Insp Templeton said uniform police and PSOs were regularly supported by specialist resources from the Mounted Branch, Dog Squad, Public Order Response Team, Water Police and Divisional Response Units "to patrol the city, target crime and provide reassurance to the community about their safety".

"Anyone who commits criminal or anti-social behaviour that puts the community at risk can expect a swift response from police."

Professional begging was brought into the spotlight in 2019 after police charged a group of Chinese nationals with begging and possessing property suspected of being the proceeds of crime during a targeted operation, sparking public outrage.

The City of Melbourne said it was aware of the behaviour, but "professional begging" was a matter for Victoria Police.

"Every Melbourne deserves access to safe and secure housing. We're continuing to work

closely with relevant agencies and Victoria Police to support people experiencing homelessness and help connect them with essential services," a City of Melbourne spokesperson said.

In March 2021, *CBD News* reported legal groups having called on the state government to decriminalise begging after arguing that begging offences caused vulnerable people to be unnecessarily caught within the justice system.

However, this was opposed by Victoria Police, who warned it could not regulate "professional beggars" in the CBD without the law.

Salvation Army welfare worker Major Brendan Nottle said his team had "definitely not" seen "that sort of organised begging like we saw a few years ago with the Chinese beggars".

However, he said there was a group of people who had accommodation and were begging in the city as they struggled to make ends meet.

"Our concern is when that group becomes aggressive within their begging, it can be very unsettling for people that are in the city for work or visiting," he said, but added this group was limited to less than 10 that they were aware of.

"We certainly don't want people thinking all

beggars are in that category."

Major Nottle said another group he had seen begging in the city was supported by the Supported Residential Services, which provides accommodation and support for Victorians.

"They've often got an acquired brain injury or a form of complex disability, and in some cases they are spending up to 87 per cent of their income on accommodation," he said.

"They're a group that need our support and care, not our judgement, because in those particular cases they're living pretty sad lives."

EastEnders residents' group president Dr Stan Capp said issues around begging "needs to be addressed in the totality of all the issues that are causing people to be concerned about walking in the streets of Melbourne".

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo said a long-term strategy was needed to tackle homelessness including dedicated support for people experiencing hardship, adding "early intervention is the key to avoid these issues".

The Council to Homeless Persons' CEO Jenny Smith said current cost-of-living pressures and rental hikes were pushing some people to the brink. ●

Homestay programs asking for local doors to be opened

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
EDUCATION

This month many international students are travelling to Melbourne for semester two, and while their arrival is much-anticipated the need for more homestay hosts until December is becoming apparent.

Deemed "Aussie ambassadors" by the Australian Homestay Network, homestay hosts have an opportunity to help students living away from home to feel welcomed in a new city while also embarking on a unique cultural exchange themselves.

"Offering a home away from home and welcoming international students to the community sets them on the right track for a positive time in Australia," general manager for AHN Victoria Cris Rey said.

"We encourage people from all walks of life to consider hosting. Single parents, couples, families with kids and empty nesters."

The hosting opportunity is open to all types of households within 15 kilometres of the city, due to young students relying on public

transport, and AHN will pay hosts around \$320 per week for the experience.

While an incentive to get involved, homestay hosting is also an opportunity to cement a long-lasting international friendship with the students and learn about other cultures.

Benefiting from the experience of being a AHN Victoria host since 2018, Tatiana Kooraram has seen the positive impact the program has had on her family.

"My daughter's world view has been expanded and it has broadened her horizons," she said.

"My love of food has also grown with my students sharing recipes from their culture and home countries."

AHN has placed more than 63,000 students in homestay since 2008 and continues to do so while providing training, insurance and 24/7 support for all participants.

All they ask of the hosts is to provide a welcoming environment, comfortable bed, internet, utilities and to consider any dietary requirements of the student when it comes to meals.

The need for homestay hosts is something Monash College in Docklands has also been



vocal about.

With its own homestay program in place, the Monash homestay team has placed more than 2000 international students from Monash College and University.

Monash College's Homestay Manager Karen Taylor has witnessed the undeniable positive impact of homestay host programs and is asking for those willing to get involved.

"When the students are first arriving the vast majority of them haven't been out of their home country before, so they're coming to a new country, having to study in English and adapt to a new environment and new norms," she said.

"The benefit of staying with a local Australian family is really immense to helping them settle in and feel safe and secure and like someone has their back."

If you're interested in becoming a homestay host for Monash College students, please scan the QR code below: ●



For CBD-located families interested in becoming a host, please visit:
homestaynetwork.org or
(03) 9458 9000

QVM turns up the heat in winter with a host of events and activities

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
EVENTS

After a three-year hiatus, the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) is seeing huge crowds throng to its popular Night Market with about 28,000 visitors turning up every Wednesday.

Marketgoers have embraced the much-loved food event, which runs from June 1 to August 31, with the iconic sheds packed to the brim.

Wrapped in winter woollies, visitors have been treated to Melbourne's best street food traders, brewers, distillers, artisans, and entertainment for the perfect midweek winter experience.

The nights have also featured roving entertainers and local musicians performing live on the main stage.

Christmas in July also proved popular with the market transforming into a festive wonderland with dazzling decorations, cheery carolers, and a snow machine.

In other celebrations, the market hosted the Indian Festival, a sustainable shopping tour (a guided hour tour of the market), and free workshops for kids during the July school holidays. CRFT*WRK, a showcase of contemporary, locally made crafts, will be held on July 30.

The market also turned back the clock on July 3 with a Rockabilly and Retro Market Day seeing a range of vintage cars including hot rods and motorbikes roll into town.

For sweet-toothed fans, a local



Australian-made chocolatier called Only Mine, officially opened its doors on July 2 at the new Munro development next to QVM.

The shop is the first for Only Mine in the CBD after the company was founded in 2015 by partners Anya Tran and Jason Stockton.

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said the return of



crowds enjoying themselves and supporting stallholders at major weekend events and activities was "absolutely playing an important role in supporting our economic and financial recovery".

"After a challenging start to 2022 due to ongoing pandemic impacts and volatility, there has been good progress in increasing visitor numbers in recent months, particularly on weekends where visitation is almost back to pre-COVID levels," he told *CBD News*.

"We have been very pleased with the popularity of our iconic Winter Night Market", he said, which "are doing a lot to reactivate our fabulous city mid-week".

However, Mr Liacos said the market was continuing to experience "generally flat" visitation levels during the traditional week which he attributed to low office occupancies, some changed shopper behaviours, and relatively low levels of tourism, both domestic and international.

That said, Mr Liacos noted, "We have definitely noticed an influx of shoppers in recent times who are looking for the more competitive prices and wide supply of fresh fruit and vegetables that the market has always provided."

At a special celebratory function held at the Winter Night Market on June 29, Lord Mayor Sally Capp declared it was "simply brilliant" to see crowds return.

"We stand together in our investments, in our projects, in our initiatives and energising and supporting each other and knowing that we have a combined goal – not just to bring back that buzz because Melbourne's got its mojo back ... but to really strive to use this as a reset for something better and we feel that at Queen Victoria Market." ●

Council boost for local businesses

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

The City of Melbourne has continued its support of 10 precinct associations with up to \$90,000 each in an effort to help city businesses succeed.

The annual funding comes from the council's Business Precinct Program, and among the associations being supported are City Precinct, the newly-formed Melbourne Chinatown Association, Collins Street Precinct Group and Greek Precinct Association.

The precinct associations are core to the city in the way they connect local traders with one another and the council, and City Precinct's president Carly Michael said it was "really starting to feel like a village".

"I feel like we are bringing businesses back to the city via business, and this is the core of the City Precinct," Ms Michael said.

As well as hosting monthly social events to connect members with one another and their businesses, City Precinct is looking ahead at more ways it can create loyalty, connection and give people a reason to come into the city.

"This funding means we can execute programs that are going to benefit our members who are traders within postcode 3000," Ms Michael said.

"It gives us the ability to bring people



together for social events so we can foster community, connection and business relationships. It has also given us the ability to support our members during this transition to a more rapidly changing environment."

Following the additional funding, Ms Michael said it would continue to develop up-skilling programs and as well as its successful free walking tours, taking customers around the city to their members.

New to this year's funding rollout is the Melbourne Chinatown Association.

Following the City of Melbourne's funding announcement, a spokesperson for the association said the council's support meant "a great deal" as it continued to support existing businesses, workers, residents, students and property owners while attracting new talent to the area.

"All funding, regardless of the source, will always be put towards initiatives that can tangibly improve the Chinatown precinct," the spokesperson said.

"This includes building robust membership,

bringing greater footfall into the precinct to support visitation and spending, coordinating business development initiatives such as networking functions and facilitating localised activation initiatives."

Other precincts in and around the city who received funding include Carlton Inc, Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Kensington Business Association, Melbourne City North Business Association, North & West Melbourne Precinct Association and Yarra River Business Association. ●



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TO END HOMELESSNESS WE NEED A PLAN: MAKE ROOM WILL HELP



Artist's impression of the refurbished building at 602 Little Bourke Street Melbourne

Finding safe accommodation is the first step on the way out of homelessness. Peer educator Lisa Townsend shares her story for Homelessness Week.

After contending with the daily grind of homelessness on and off for more than 20 years, Lisa Townsend thought she'd heard it all.

Then one question changed everything. A case worker sat beside her and asked: 'How do you want to do this? What are your goals?'

Lisa had just inched her way into a private rental after a four-year stretch of sleeping rough on the streets of Melbourne.

To have someone ask her what she needed was overwhelming.

'I'd lost sight of what I wanted to do in life. What my passions were. I remember saying, "Can you leave it with me?" because I had to think about it.'

Over the years, her many abrupt interactions with homelessness services had left her with what she describes as 'system fatigue'.

'For whatever reason I thought I didn't deserve the support. Didn't deserve a home.'

The memory of that conversation still brings up strong emotions. Even now that she's got a roof over her head, and purpose in her life.

As a member of the Peer Education Support Program at the Council to Homeless Persons, Lisa channels that emotion into being an advocate for change in the sector.

But before she could figure out what came next, Lisa had to put herself right. Poor mental health, addiction, sickness, family violence and unresolved troubles with the court were weighing her down.

'Everything gets put on the backburner when you're constantly chasing food and shelter.'

'When you get a chance to stop, that's when you find yourself looking at the issues that led you to homelessness. That's when the real work begins.'

This is where City of Melbourne's new Make Room project comes in. It's designed to step in and break the cycle that perpetuates homelessness.

Make Room puts people first

We're teaming up with expert partners to transform a Council-owned building

valued at \$12 million into specialist supported accommodation for up to 50 residents, for up to 12 months.

Make Room will help people reclaim their lives. Wraparound services will help each person recover and heal their own way. That might be anything from mental health support to help with legal issues.

As a person with a lived experience of homelessness, Lisa supports the Make Room model.

'Make Room would have been useful to me, 100 per cent. Especially the way it's set up, putting a roof over your head then bringing in the wraparound services like mental health and dental and legal. Those are the game changers.'

'It means people will get a chance to sit down somewhere safe and have time to themselves. And because they won't be constantly chasing food, warmth, accommodation, they can start to recover from trauma and find a sense of self again.'

Make Room is a unique partnership between the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government, Unison Housing, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

Unison Housing recently signed the lease agreement to convert the six-storey building at 602 Little Bourke Street.

'This is an ambitious project that will help people break the cycle of homelessness and take the first crucial step to securing long-term housing,' Unison Housing CEO James King said.

One step at a time

Lisa knows that even when accommodation becomes available, there's still a long road ahead. Finding the right support is crucial at each step along the way.

'When I first moved into my place I didn't know how to get back to normality.'

'It took me months to actually sleep in my bedroom. Or realise I could eat something after 5 o'clock, or have a shower at midnight. When you're on the street everything shuts at 5, so you condition yourself.'

'The Make Room project is brilliant and everything like that, giving people housing for up to a year. The next thing is where do they go when they get to the end of their stay? We need more affordable housing. Bottom line.'

That's why she's lending her voice to the conversation.

'Because of my lived experience, and the advocacy work that I do, I think I've found my path. It can be confronting talking about difficult situations again and again, but it's an exciting time, knowing that people want to listen.'

Find out more about Make Room at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/make-room

Donate to Make Room mcf.org.au/makeroom



HOW WE HELP

Reducing homelessness is a priority for the City of Melbourne. As well as Make Room, we invest in many initiatives to improve pathways out of homelessness.

- Our **daily support team** supports people who are experiencing homelessness to access services that coordinate housing and health intervention.
- We convene the **Melbourne Service Coordination Project**, which brings together 14 partner agencies to provide a tailored response for people sleeping rough.
- A dedicated **library social worker** provides support services to people experiencing homelessness.
- We established **Homes Melbourne** to improve housing access and affordability in the city, and deliver housing developments on City of Melbourne land and underused properties.



Lisa Townsend, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Luis Irineo, Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, and Councillor Jamal Hakim at the Make Room launch in 2021.

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MOBILE LIBRARY DRIVES DIGITAL LITERACY



The City of Melbourne has launched its first mobile library van – and it might just be popping up near you. ‘Mel-van’ has hit the road, making it even easier for Melburnians to access books and resources, Wi-Fi and digital support.

The colourful van will visit those who may find it difficult to access Council’s six library branches, including school children, the elderly and culturally diverse communities – popping up at neighbourhood houses, community centres, parks, and festivals and events.

With a collection of books, technology, craft supplies and games, handpicked for the communities en route, Mel-van also offers a publicly accessible Wi-Fi hotspot, enabling library staff to connect community members with online resources including the City of Melbourne’s digital library collection.

Mel-van is part of our pop-up library series, joining a food-themed library in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, a library for kids at Fed Square, the Express Book Bar for

city workers on Little Collins Street, the Lygon Street Biblioteca for enthusiastic writers and the Bourke Street Micro-Lab.

The initiative is part of the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a joint partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

To find out more about our new library on wheels – as well as what’s on at our other six library branches across the city – visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

HAVE YOUR SAY ON GREENLINE

The Greenline project will transform the north bank of the Yarra River all the way from Birrarung Marr to Bolte Bridge.

We’re inviting the community to share their thoughts on the first project in Birrarung Marr which will kickstart in 2023.

To have your say from 1 August, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenline

REPORT IT ONLINE

From graffiti to abandoned vehicles, you can report amenity issues online, around the clock. Get in touch from your smartphone when it suits you and we’ll get on the case.

Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus

FOOD AND GARDEN ORGANICS SERVICE

New bins for food and garden waste have been rolled out to more than 23,000 homes across the city, and we’ve already collected more than a thousand tonnes of organic waste and diverted it from landfill – that’s the equivalent weight of 46 trams!

Find out how you can help by visiting melbourne.vic.gov.au/foodgardenwaste

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Do you run a local business? For one-on-one advice, contact our Business Concierge team on **9658 9658** (press 1 for business) or enquire online, and subscribe to our Business in Melbourne newsletter for regular updates, opportunities and activities for city businesses.

Sign up at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability. Tune in live or catch up later.

Find all the details about Council and committee meetings at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

COUNCIL BACKS BINS4BLOKES TRIAL



[FACT] 1.34 million Australian boys and men experience incontinence



One in 10 men across Australia are living with some form of incontinence.

Melbourne is set to be the first capital city in Australia to trial the installation of incontinence product disposal bins in its facilities.

The BINS4Blokes initiative will see bins installed in male and all gendered toilets across six Council-owned facilities, including libraries and hubs, recreation centres, and community baths.

The City of Melbourne is an inclusive and accessible city and we want people who experience incontinence to have access to services so they can manage their needs without shame or stigma.

Councillor Jamal Hakim said it’s important more people have access to proper disposal bins for their incontinence products – particularly given many instances of incontinence can be much better managed with the right resources.

“With the proper facilities to dispose products, we hope those living with incontinence can continue getting out and about, and doing what they love when they’re here in the City of Melbourne,” Cr Hakim said.

“The trial will not only showcase a practical solution for those living with incontinence, but importantly, raise awareness and facilitate a much-needed conversation on the topic,” he said.

The BINS4Blokes initiative led by the Continence Foundation of Australia will also serve the important purpose of reducing the stigma around bladder and bowel control health. The stigmatisation of incontinence can affect the emotional and physical health of people and prevent them from attending school or work, participating in sport and engaging socially.

Like our pilot program to provide free period products in a range of locations across the city, this trial will also be used to provide options on the expansion of the program across City of Melbourne facilities and offices.

Endorsed unanimously by Council in May, the trial will begin on 1 September.

For the trial period, bins will be installed at:

- Library at the Dock
- City Library
- Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets (on Collins Street)
- North Melbourne Community Centre
- Kathleen Syme Community Centre.

Users will be able to locate the disposal bins via the National Public Toilet Map, a web-based map and phone app that shows the location of more than 19,000 public and private public toilet facilities across Australia. Users will be able to highlight the location of toilets that have incontinence product disposal bins.

To find a toilet near you, visit toiletmap.gov.au



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RMIT's creative response to the mental health crisis

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

RMIT University is partnering with UNSW Sydney to present Melbourne Naarm festival *The Big Anxiety* starting September 21, with many programs running in the lead up.

The cultural festival is being collaboratively produced by RMIT Culture and Yarra Ranges Council and is designed to promote curiosity, insight and action through the sharing of lived experiences.

The urgency follows the World Health Organisation's statement that in Australia 65 per cent of people with mental health issues do not seek help, and 50 per cent of people who take their own lives did not seek help.

Using creative responses that stretch beyond the medical or clinical model, co-directors Scientia Professor Jill Bennett (UNSW Sydney) and Professor Renata Kokanović (RMIT University) aim to reposition mental health as a collective community-based cultural responsibility.

"Evolving in the wake of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, *The Big Anxiety* Melbourne Naarm program uses experimental creative practice to promote insight into lived experience," Professor Kokanović said.

"It will advance systems and create change and innovation to develop trauma-informed resources to support mental wellbeing."

The events, exhibitions, performances, workshops, conversations and one-to-one dialogues making up the festival program are the result of significant research and a deep engagement with personal stories.

Starting from August 19 in the RMIT Design Hub Gallery and then September 21 in the RMIT Gallery, the *Archives of Feeling* exhibition will delve into the ways artists and communities have transformed lived experiences of trauma into archives of knowledge and feeling.

Through the exhibitions running there will be guided meditations, interactive projects and immersive video installations with stories told from people experiencing borderline personality disorder to nurses and midwives who worked through the pandemic.

Over October 6 and 7, the RMIT Storey Hall will bring together artists, researchers, clinicians, health and community workers and draw on the knowledge of First Nations people to promote deep listening and collaboration. Creativity, design and innovation will be the bases of the conversation format as trauma, grief, suicide and self-harm are discussed.

The arts are a heavy focus throughout the festival and Scientia Professor Bennett said this was because "arts are the best means we have for sharing complex experiences."

"[Arts] is a pathway that can show us what we may not know about ourselves and others, and it also shines a light on relationships and social settings that help or hinder mental health," she said.

"We have seen evidence that the arts can make real and meaningful transformations and change."

Other *The Big Anxiety* events taking place in the CBD.

- **Unnerved** – art animation by New York-based multimedia artist Anita Glesta exploring the impact of trauma on the body and physical health. The animation is created based on research at UNSW Sydney felt Experience and Empathy Lab (FEEL). Fed Square Atrium – September 24 to October 1.
- **Holding Space** – exhibition told by people who were working in the hospital system during the pandemic. The Alfred Hospital from September 21 to December 10.
- **Creative Media Tools for Mental Health** – interactive virtual-reality experiences that advance mental health and explore issues the community faces. ACMI – October 1.
- **Writing the Future of Health** – award-winning poet Andy Jackson brings together writers with disabilities to share their vision for inclusive mental health possibilities. The Wheeler Centre – October 3.
- **Takeover** – young artists from Outer Urban Projects, The Social Studio and Youthworx come together with international students to activate Melbourne's public spaces. CBD locations TBC, from October 1 to 15.
- **Black Rhymes Aboriginal Poetry Night** – hosted by Evelyn Araluen, First Nations speak their poetic and political truths through using poetry about Aboriginal mental health and healing. State Library Victoria – October 14.

In addition to the CBD-based locations, the festival will also extend throughout Victoria to the Footscray Community Arts, JOLT Arts and Frankston Arts Centre.

The Big Anxiety will run until October 15 and coincides with National Mental Health Month. ●

For more information:
thebiganxiety.org

New "night chair" appointed

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Performing arts professional Penny Miles has been appointed as chair of the City of Melbourne's Night-time Economy Advisory Committee, leading a group of industry experts to enhance Melbourne's resurgence after dark.

Ms Miles, who currently works as a consultant to the arts, creative and not-for-profit sectors and has previously held executive and senior roles with Circuz Oz, Australian Council for the Arts and Arts on Tour, has served on the committee since its creation in June 2021.

The new appointment follows the resignation of the committee's inaugural night chair in Cherry Bar owner James Young to focus on his live music venues.

Ms Miles said she was honoured to step into the voluntary role and entice more people to the city after dark.

"Over the past year, the committee has contributed to several key initiatives that have supported night-time traders, and I'm looking forward to taking the reins and building on James' outstanding work," she said.

Among the committee's achievements under the leadership of Mr Young were advocating to the state government for a health pass system for venues, supporting Melbourne Money programs and the helping establish a number of night safety programs.

Mr Young said it was with a heavy heart that he stepped aside from his role as "chairman of the night".

"The decision was not easy, but it's important that I fully turn my attention to my five recently re-opened live music venues," he said.

"It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Melbourne's first-ever night chair, and to

“

The decision was not easy, but it's important that I fully turn my attention to my five recently re-opened live music venues. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Melbourne's first-ever night chair, and to work with such a diverse and talented group of people.

”

work with such a diverse and talented group of people.”

The committee includes representatives from some of Melbourne's best-known hospitality venues, creative events and arts organisations.

The news follows the City of Melbourne's council meeting on May 31, where councillors voted unanimously in favour to extend the committee's tenure for a further 12 months to push forward with its "high-quality strategic advice on revitalisation measures".

All 18 members of the committee were reappointed at the meeting. ●

QVM photographer launches book of Melbourne's remarkable time in lockdown

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

A new photography book featuring a collection of images taken by a Queen Victoria Market (QVM) trader is a stark reminder of how Melbourne has never felt so still during the height of the pandemic.

Still Melbourne documents the unprecedented time of Melbourne's devastating lockdowns – which Tony Pierrakos, who runs a stall at QVM called Intone Photography, had captured during his many solitary walks through the city.

The street photographer's narrative reveals the extraordinary time when Melbourne's streets were practically devoid of people following some of the world's strictest public health measures being imposed.

Sectioned into three themes – cityscape, people and feel – the book captures a city, and its people, resilient in the face of adversity as Melbourne responded to the pandemic with six gruelling lockdowns from March 2020 to October 2021.

Mr Pierrakos, who had filed the images away, said the thought of initially publishing his work had never crossed his mind until he struck up a conversation with his friend Jaye Chin-Dusting, the owner of Mary Martin Bookshop in Southbank.

Describing his images as "artworks of a remarkable time," Ms Chin-Dusting urged him to "put this collection together" in the form of a book.

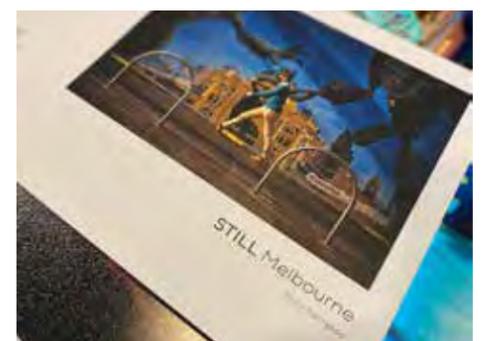
Working as a team, Ms Chin-Dusting conceptualised the images into the form of a coffee table-style book with designer Jo Lauritz of Juice Graphics being the "final piece of the puzzle".

"The reaction has been great, people have loved it," Mr Pierrakos said.

"This was a real team effort, without Jaye, I'd say these photos would still be on my computer."

"These are photos that suit a book, not exactly something that you can frame and make a wall art."

"Some parts of it are empty streets and other parts are people wearing masks walking around the streets."



▲ Queen Victoria Market Intone Photography stallholder Tony Pierrakos and Mary Martin bookshop owner Jaye Chin-Dusting and with their new book, *STILL Melbourne*.

With a foreword written by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, *STILL Melbourne* is a project of love, supported by fellow small businesses and QVM management.

Ms Chin Dusting said the book "reminds us of how resilient, stoic, patient we each were."

"I believe every Melburnian will deeply relate to, and one many curious passers-by will savour, as it provides a glimpse of a Melbourne that while staying still, remained the city we still deeply loved."

STILL Melbourne is available exclusively at Intone Photography (in String Bean Alley) and the Mary Martin Bookshops. ●



New restaurant at Fed Square pays homage to Victoria

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
BUSINESS

Showcasing five-star quality dishes in an equally sophisticated setting, Victoria by Farmer's Daughters is in a league of its own with a determined focus on championing the state it calls home.

A partnership between provenance-based Farmer's Daughters restaurant located at Exhibition St and Federation Square, the 250-seat restaurant is opening riverside of the square's Yarra Building on Thursday, July 28.

While a new and exciting culinary experience for visitors, the restaurant is ultimately a celebration of the produce, people and places within Victoria, with renowned executive chef Alejandro Saravia stating his focus for the restaurant was to "unveil all the secret gems" of each Victorian region.

Working alongside head chef David Boyle, much preparation and careful consideration has gone into bringing the vision of Victoria by Farmer's Daughters into fruition.

"We are committed to working with the best

of Victorian farmers, producers, winemakers, distillers and brewers to evaluate and showcase what they are doing," Mr Saravia said.

"We have learned that a lot of them have dedicated years of passion to their craft and that is why they are the best."

Acting as the gateway for visitors to start discovering the regions more, the restaurant will take the experience of farm-to-table that little bit further with hands-on experiences for people to get involved in.

Speaking at a media preview dinner on July 14, Mr Saravia said masterclasses with chefs, farmers and producers who will share their expertise would be conducted in the private dining room.

In a designated wine library, an abundance of Victorian wines are available by the glass to make trying rare wines more affordable and accessible, and a sensory and interactive ingredients table is on display to educate and inform attendees.

In addition to the focus on Victorian produce, carefully and locally sourced arts, crafts and homewares make up the space.

"The main objective is to bring all the regions that make this amazing state so diverse,



so rich and creative and to keep establishing Melbourne and Victoria as the gastronomic and art capital of Australia," Mr Saravia said.

To succeed in highlighting the expansive produce and stories found in the waters of the coast of East Gippsland through to the state's west paddocks and the wines of the High Country, Victoria by Farmer's Daughters will focus on a seasonal menu.

Each region will be the focal point for three months and the activation of the space will come alive with masterclasses from the winemakers, chefs, restaurateurs, producers and farmers within the selected region, with Ballarat set to be the first region represented.

The team at Victoria by Farmer's Daughters is determined to connect visitors with the regions they may have not yet experienced and there is no denying it unanimously believes now is the time for its one-of-a-kind venue.

"Melbourne is blossoming again, and we feel very connected to this process as we aim to bring all of our regions closer together, through like-minded collaboration," Mr Saravia said.

"As a proud Victorian, I feel very privileged to showcase the people, places and producers that make up this incredible state." ●



▲ Architect Clement Nyanja in the flashy entrance to 405 Bourke St.

Architects deliver on promise

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARCHITECTURE

Architects are often left out of the equation when it comes to promoting finished buildings, the accolades going to the developer or real estate agents.

That's, of course, unless they've won an award, when at least they get to talk about their vision.

Architect Clement Nyanja came onto the 405 Bourke St project four-and-a-half years ago.

He worked through the lockdown and experienced the desolation of the city when just one cafe was open in Hardware Lane opposite.

Now he is speaking on behalf of CBD architectural firm Woods Bagot in happier times.

Last month, after a difficult build and an 11-year gestation period, the project won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects award for the best commercial building.

The 30-metre cantilever over the former heritage McEwan's store and a dramatic lantern on the atrium helped clinch the architectural prize.

The concept for the building was inspired by the sculpture of Gerhard Richter at the Tate Modern in London and it was this concept, according to Clement, that helped win the job for the firm from the developers Brookfield Properties.

"When panes of glass are stacked you get a mirror effect," he said. The stacking concept was repeated throughout the building, interpreted as a kind of tessellation in the marble-lined walls plus the glass lantern.

The building has enormous floor plates of 21 square metres, and a high-ceilinged lobby that the judges called "heroic".

"This entry is flashy and posh," Mr Nyanja said. "NAB [the tenants] wanted to be subtle. They chose the heritage entrance." Their sky lobby is on the first floor of the residential building next door.

This configuration also integrated the bank entrance with a new two-level laneway through to Little Collins.

NAB moved into the 39-storey tower last November after vacating their Docklands premises, also designed by Woods Bagot.

The CBD is once again attracting corporates, Clement says, after taking second place for some time to the edge of the city.

"The project was put on the shelf for a while because of the GFC. Commercial buildings had moved to the edge of the city. There were not many in the centre. In 2016 the project became viable again." ●

How one production is leaving audiences "feeling a little lighter on their feet"

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

After soaring reviews in July 2019, Comedy Theatre's most successful production *Come From Away* is returning on August 27 with an inspirational message.

Based on the days that followed 9/11, the true-story production follows how the small town of Gander rallied together to support up to 7000 air passengers grounded on their island.

At the time, the Newfoundland town was only made up of fewer than 10,000 people, but their ability to open their homes without question continues to have a lasting impact on how we each react to those in need around us.

Speaking with *CBD News*, two residents from the town – reporter and school media teacher Brian Mosher and town constable Oz Fudge – shared their message of hope in commemorating how their community stepped up.

"We would see the faces of the passengers come into different venues and they were scared and didn't know what was happening. They didn't know where they were and they had to watch their home under attack," Mr Fudge said.

"There was no time to think about ourselves." Before the planes began circulating the town, a strong desire to do something was on the minds of many of the townsfolk who were already known for opening their doors to tourists and providing meals for families dealing with tragedy.

Upon the passengers landing, homes were opened, clothes were provided, venues were overloaded with a never-ending cycle of meals and 12 musical groups were recruited to rotate through town and help as a distraction.

All of this occurred without a cent ever changing hands.



"Those five days in Gander you wouldn't believe the hospitality, the love and the hugs, all because we put ourselves way down on the list because someone else's needs were more important," Mr Mosher said.

"The food buffets were running around the clock at venues and more food kept on coming through the doors. The average weight gain was about five pounds a passenger because a big part of our culture is to feed you."

Mr Mosher said a lack of toilet paper at the Gander Academy where many passengers stayed was also announced on the news and within just over an hour they had to announce again for town people to stop bringing toilet paper as "they filled one classroom with single rolls".

Many similar stories are being told around the world through the production, and Oz and Brian proudly tour the cities sharing their message of how small acts of kindness can truly help when tragedy strikes.

While both represented in the play due to their impact over the five days the "come from aways" were in Gander, Brian's experience is combined with that of another reporter Janice Goudie.

Ms Goudie had just arrived in the town for

a new reporting job when the events of 9/11 occurred, and her experience is combined with Brian's to make up the role of Janice Mosher.

As true heartfelt stories are depicted in the show, Brian and Oz said Melburnians "need to go" and that they should feel "very proud of the Australian actors" performing.

As a result of viewing *Come From Away*, many people who were dealing with survivors' guilt have also seen their lives change after watching the production.

"There was one lady who worked in The Pentagon and as she was walking down the hallway to go into her office the plane hit, blowing her all the way down the hall. It was all dark, so she figured she had died, but then she was rescued," Mr Fudge said.

"She found out all her friends in the office were killed and she had survivor's guilt, not leaving her house for 15 years. But her daughter convinced her to see *Come From Away* saying it wasn't about 9/11 but rather 9/12."

"The play helped her realise she experienced the worst of humanity but now through the production she has seen that there are kind people out there and she can experience the best of humanity."

As the message of kindness trumping conflict continues to remain one to be shared, *Come From Away* will be in Melbourne for a limited season before making its way to Sydney.

With tickets already on sale, Brian and Oz said it was one not to miss and audiences "faith in humanity will be reaffirmed as they leave wiping their eyes." ●

For tickets more information:
comefromaway.com.au

BUSINESS

Nevile and Co. Commercial Lawyers: the CBD's true agents of change

With more than half a century of practicing law, you'd forgive Peter Nevile, founding partner of Nevile and Co. Commercial Lawyers, to be a little stuck in his ways.

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

It is that experience, however, that has created an adaptability rarely seen in the industry because, as he will say, "if you stand still, you will be passed by."

Founding his boutique firm in Malvern more than 51 years ago, Mr Nevile decided to migrate to the CBD in 1986 when the weight of a growing clientele demanded a city-based firm; the same location he operates from today.

Mr Nevile's story is one of stability and success all circling the mantra of not focusing on problems, but on solutions.

"Our focus these days is not just to give legal advice; we create solutions for our clients. People don't just want advice; they want an outcome," Mr Nevile said.

"As a lawyer in the game for more than 50 years you see a lot of things. You see a lot of people make mistakes, but you also see a lot of successes."

"We've found over the years, you must keep changing, you have to keep reinventing yourself. If there is one thing certain in life, it's change."

Examples of this change permeate through almost everything you see at Nevile and Co. Whether it's coordination of content across various social media platforms, or the diverse languages spoken among staff, from Mr Nevile who is fluent in Indonesian himself, to staff speaking Hindi or German, everything is



engineered to service their growing client base both here and abroad.

As a boutique firm, Mr Nevile said his company had aligned itself with businesses like Central Equity, the Melbourne developer famous for forming the Southbank precinct we know today, which has allowed the firm to stretch its operations into the global market.

"That partnership [with Central Equity] has seen us presenting all over the world, from China and England, to India, Indonesia and Vietnam," Mr Nevile said.

"Although we have been stable in the one place for a long time, our client base changes. We have a very diverse client base, particularly our offshore side of things, and as a result our firm needed to change with it."

"In 2021, I promoted Meng Cheong, one of

our longest serving lawyers, to the position of partner; it is about rewarding that commitment and experience, and ensuring our clients are serviced for years to come."

"It's a very collaborative process between our firm and clients. We don't try and make something perfect; make it good, so it works and then in light of discussions with the client and in light of experience we have you can adapt it so it's an organic movement."

Along with an evolving firm, the Nevile and Co. team has been catering for an increasingly

diverse client base.

With 99 five-star reviews on Google, Mr Nevile told *CBD News* the younger demographic of his clients had forgone the traditional ways of asking their parents where they went for legal advice and were jumping online and reading reviews instead.

"The majority of residents in the city is young professionals. They need wills, they might buy a property, there are a number of ways we can help service them," Mr Nevile said. "Whether it be with relation to leases or owners' corporations, we want to limit the risk our clients are subjected to in these processes."

"Risk management is an overriding thing that we do. If you are in business there are risks, you can avoid them, but with our experience, we can work with you to identify the risks and then manage them to minimise your risk."

While Nevile and Co.'s list of services is extensive, including migration law, family law, wills and estates, property and conveyancing, disputes and litigation and, naturally, business and commercial law, Mr Nevile admits his firm can't do everything.

"We stick to what we are experienced at, and if we can't handle something, we will refer you to someone who can," Mr Nevile said.

"We work collaboratively with all current and future clients; we are transparent, we are risk managers, and we look to provide solutions and outcomes, not just legal advice." ●

For more information:
neville.com.au

QVM TRADER PROFILE

A long-awaited Tuscany dream comes into fruition

Business owner of Tuscany Cafe, Sergio Lollini always dreamed of opening a coffee shop, so when a space in Queen Victoria Market became available he did not even hesitate to make it his.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Open for two months, Mr Lollini's dedication to authentically represent his home country in the country he now calls home is noticeable throughout the cafe and the pasta dishes.

"All the recipes are originally from Tuscany. I don't want to sell fake food, I want to sell original recipes," he said.

"We do an English breakfast though as an Italian style breakfast is hard because it is only an espresso and a croissant."

While bending the Italian rules to accommodate morning crowds that may want breakfast to go along with their coffee, Mr Lollini said his main goal for the cafe was to see people smile.

"I want to make it an enjoyable place where people don't just come in for coffee, cakes and pasta, but to also enjoy conversations," he said.

"People don't talk as much anymore and I want people to talk, have a laugh and be like family."

Creating a family environment is something Mr Lollini strives for among his staff as well because he believes if "you treat people like family they give more time and are happier".

This mindset was something Mr Lollini learnt from his old boss and dear friend Sisto Malaspina at Pellegrini's Espresso Bar where he worked for eight years.

Mr Malaspina was a well-respected and loved man at the espresso bar and within the city community, and he opened his arms to Mr Lollini and helped him create a life for himself in Melbourne.



Before his tragic passing in 2018 where he was killed in an attack on Bourke St, Mr Lollini had "promised" Mr Malaspina he would open a shop of his own.

"Pellegrini was like a family and I was so close to Sisto. He was like my father, and he had a very good heart," Mr Lollini said.

"When I feed people at Tuscany Cafe, I do it for him."

Understanding the importance of community through the example of his previous workplace, Mr Lollini is already focused on creating relationships within the close knit QVM community.

"I always want to use the best quality because it is easier to cook with better quality and the results are better," Mr Lollini said.

"Queen Victoria Market has fresh vegetables and fruit, and I like to help people with their business while also using local produce. The community feels like my small town and when I go in everyone is like, 'ciao, ciao.'"

As business continues to grow, Mr Lollini is also hopeful their team will too.

Looking into possibly extending the cafe's hours to open into the night, he is on the lookout for more staff and another chef to work alongside the current chef who also came from Pellegrini's Espresso Bar. ●

To follow on Instagram:
[@tuscany_coffee_bar](https://www.instagram.com/tuscany_coffee_bar)

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OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

STATE MP

A win for Victorians and a plan to get one million homes off gas!

Hello! I'm Samantha, your Greens MP in the Victorian upper house representing the Northern Metropolitan region. I'm very happy to share that your local state MP for Melbourne, Ellen, has welcomed beautiful baby Luca into the family. Ellen is taking a short period of maternity leave but her staff, and mine, are here to help.

WORDS BY *Dr Samantha Ratnam*
MLC FOR THE NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

While Ellen is enjoying this precious time with her new baby, I wanted to share with you a very exciting climate win for Victoria on an issue Ellen and the Greens have been working hard to tackle – getting our state off gas!

As we know, gas is a major contributor to the climate crisis. It actually makes up 17 per cent of Victoria's emissions, and it's getting more and more expensive. Research has also shown just how bad gas is for our respiratory health, causing around 12 per cent of childhood asthma.

Yet Victoria's current planning laws require all new homes to be connected to gas, something that really makes no sense. Back in March, Ellen asked the Planning Minister to change these laws to make it easier for new homes to be all-electric and save home-owners from having to transition them down the track.

Unfortunately, the Planning Minister said no and denied this was a substantial issue.

In response to this disappointing response from the government, the Victorian Greens brought a Bill to Parliament that would not only allow homes to be free from gas connections immediately, but also ban all new gas connections from 2025.

Within two weeks of us bringing this Bill to parliament, the Victorian Labor Government announced that it would stop new homes from

being required to connect to gas.

This is a small win, but it's an important one. And it goes to show the power your Greens MPs can have in parliament in pushing the government further and faster to get off gas and tackle the climate crisis.

But we won't be stopping here! Victoria still has a lot of work to do to become gas-free and this will be a key issue for The Greens in the lead up to the November election.

I'm excited to share that we've announced our detailed plan for a gas-free Victoria, which includes incentives to help 1 million homes get off gas, banning new gas connections from 2025, and stopping all new gas projects – including gas drilling near the 12 Apostles.

You can find out more about our plan to get Victoria off gas here:



To contact Ellen's team:
office@ellensandell.com



▲ Greens MPs Ellen Sandell (left) and Dr Samantha Ratnam (right) outside the Victorian Parliament.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of your local MP, Ellen Sandell, who has been fighting for climate action since she very first stepped into parliament (and long before).

Ellen's office is open as normal. If there's anything you need help with, please get in touch with myself or Ellen's wonderful team. ●

Dr Samantha Ratnam:
samantha.ratnam@parliament.vic.gov.au

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel digs prove Melbourne's historical love of coffee

An Australia-first discovery as part of Metro Tunnel Project works has revealed the city's famed coffee culture is decades older than first thought – as far back as the Victorian gold rush.



Archaeologists working on the site of the future Town Hall Station near the Young & Jackson Hotel, one of two new underground stations being built as part of the city-shaping project, unearthed more than 500 coffee beans in a Pompeii-like deposit.

The perfectly preserved beans, from as far away as Sri Lanka, were stored in John Connell's grocery that burnt down in the early hours of September 19, 1855 – some 170 years ago.

What was a catastrophic incident then became an exciting discovery for the team in 2018.

Before construction on the entrances to the underground Town Hall Station could begin, an archaeological excavation had to take place to recover and document artefacts from the site.

The beans – and other artefacts, including English biscuits, pasta and fruit – were carbonised and preserved during the fire, which archaeologists traced to the hour through researching newspapers from the time.

The nationally significant items have drawn comparisons with the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius



when the city was buried under layers of volcanic ash.

Excavation director Meg Goulding said, "It's almost like the grocer locked up and left and then we get to see inside 167 years later."

"There's nothing like this type of deposit in Australia."

The nationally significant artefacts have the potential to re-write the city's coffee history.

It's believed the gold rush drove an increase in coffee consumption, despite the city's love of



coffee having long been attributed to late 19th century Melbourne coffee houses and then the waves of Greek, Italian and Turkish immigrants in the 1940s and '50s.

Senior artefact manager Jennifer Porter noted: "We know that at least some of these perfectly preserved beans came from Ceylon – now Sri Lanka. The favourite variety was called 'Ceylon Plantation' and would have been perfect to serve alongside some of the English biscuits, also found intact at the fire deposit." ●

LAW

Leaking from your balcony?



This is definitely not socially acceptable. However, that is not what we are talking about.



WORDS BY *Peter Neville*

You bought an apartment in a multi-storey complex.

Within months of moving in, you detected dampness in the carpet flooring and swelling to the skirting boards. Before long, mould infestation is evident throughout your apartment.

Who do you call? Who is responsible for the rectification works? Are you to continue living in your apartment? Can you find alternate accommodation and seek reimbursement?

If you find yourself in any of the scenario above, the first thing you should do is to notify your owners' corporation manager as soon as possible.

The answers to some of the questions above hinges on:

- Is the water leakage or flow of water unreasonable?
- Where is the source of the leak?
- Did the flow of water originate from your apartment lot or from the common property?

If the water leak originates from your lot, you are generally deemed responsible for the rectification works. It is important that you attempt to rectify the issue immediately. Long-term water ingress at your property can cause structural damage and lasting issues like mould and dampness. If the cause of the water leak is not fixed and subsequent damages were caused to the common property or your neighbour's property, you may be liable for their costs and damages as well.

On the other hand, if the source of the water leak emanated from the common property, the owners' corporation is arguably responsible. In *Davies V Owners' Corporation 1 PS414649K [2019] VCAT 1159*, the presiding VCAT Senior Member had to determine whether the location of the water leaks were common property or were within the property owned by the applicants.

After a detailed analysis of the Plan of Subdivision and case laws, the presiding Senior Member concluded that, "the void between the floors, the joists and cement sheet form the structure of the balcony, and are common property", thus the owners' corporation's responsibility.

The applicants were successful in seeking the cost of the rectification works and also reimbursement for their alternative accommodation until such time their apartments are restored to a habitable state.

If you are an apartment owner or owners' corporation facing a similar water issue, please contact our office at your earliest convenience so we may assist in minimising your stress and associated costs.

**The information contained in this article is general in nature and does not consider your personal situation. It is not intended to be relied upon as, nor is it a substitute for specific legal advice. You should consider whether the information is appropriate to your needs, and where appropriate, seek professional advice. ●*

For further information and assistance, contact:
nevileco@nevile.com.au

Ahoy there! Vertical village onboarding

“

Resident move-ins are opportunities to create lasting impact, but all too often are more list-checking than engaging experiences.

”

Many may be familiar with the saying, “start the way you mean to finish”. And this sentiment is a good guide for how we greet and treat newcomers to our vertical villages. This is especially important for those new to high-rise living (e.g., downsizers) or those new to high-rise living Melbourne-style.

Unsurprisingly, many vertical villages are well aware of this and have established induction processes designed to set the scene and share “how things are done here”.

Typically, these inductions take the form of:

- Finalising paperwork (e.g., registering cars and cats)
- Activating access keys and logins (such as the building’s communication system)
- Training on equipment (e.g., food dehydrators).

Some buildings complement this process with a tailored “Welcome Pack” which may outline specific building features, list active clubs

and identify local food and amenities (i.e., the nearest good café).

At its heart, this type of induction primarily aims to integrate new residents into the way a building operates. Newbies are introduced to “the rules” and given guidelines around how they are expected to behave.

There are, however, a few vertical villages which go further.

In addition to the initial “move-in day” session, an ongoing component is added which has the aim of directly engaging the resident – drawing them in!

The term sometimes applied to this approach is borrowed from the business world and is referred to as “onboarding”. This process is about ensuring residents feel more part of your vertical village and includes a specific focus upon making connections.

For example, an induction approach simply lists the clubs operating in your building, while an onboarding approach will have a club member directly connect with the newcomer.

Another feature of an onboarding approach is that it starts before a new resident moves into your vertical village. For example, before moving day, some vertical villages send a welcome letter with a coffee voucher (i.e., local loyalty program), coupled with an invitation to meet up for the coffee. There are also cases where newcomers are personally greeted by a nominated committee or resident representative – but this could become a full-time job in our high-density buildings!

What is key to an onboarding approach is that it predicated upon an understanding of the “resident experience” and requires mapping of this process to identify when and where it is best to have touch points. Vertical villages need



This ongoing component is added with the aim of directly engaging the resident – drawing them in! The term is sometimes applied to this approach is borrowed from the business world and is referred to as “onboarding”. This process is about ensuring residents feel more part of your vertical village and includes a specific focus upon making connections.

to be very clear about their aims of undertaking onboarding as it requires additional time and effort. Consider for instance, do you want to foster a “home” ambiance where residents know each other by name? Keep in mind that your residents might value privacy more!

Realistically, for our vertical villages, we will likely aspire to a blend of induction and onboarding as the lion’s share of these activities will likely fall to building management.

What can be of value, however, is for the committee to purposefully review the move-in process from the perspective of a new resident. This could start by discussing the move-in experience of recent arrivals – or you could even go further and shadow the next move-in (just don’t be creepy!).

And in terms of food for thought, there is also “offboarding” to consider. This is when residents leave your vertical village – and in

addition to taking back keys and switching off access, this could provide a very rich source of information about how your vertical village really operates! ●

For more information:
facebook.com/SkyPadLiving



Dr Janette Corcoran
APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

WE LIVE HERE

New report: it’s curtains for some owners

“

Another major fire risk has been uncovered in Melbourne – curtain walls containing flammable aluminium composite cladding (ACP).

”

At least 10 residential buildings in Melbourne have a type of curtain wall with flammable cladding concealed within the wall cavity, according to a report by a high-profile fire safety consulting firm.

A curtain wall is a window system positioned externally to the building structure, spanning multiple levels and forming a continuous facade.

This curtain wall fire risk is a late discovery, outside the original scope of Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV). Affected apartment owners are facing insuperable remediation bills in the tens of millions and sometimes more than \$100 million.

We Live Here has seen a copy of the alarming fire expert report, entitled *Preliminary Overview of Melbourne City Buildings with Non-Compliant Curtain Walls*. At the date of going to press, the report is yet to be released. When released, we expect it should set off alarm bells for the state government.

The consultants’ report was triggered by the discovery of a staggering quantity of cladding in a curtain wall of an inner-city Melbourne apartment building. Previous investigations by others had failed to discover much of the cladding concealed in the curtain wall.

The consultants found the vertically connected curtain wall system posed a credible risk of rapid fire spread over multiple storeys.

Including the additional flammable material uncovered, the total area of flammable cladding in the building is an astonishing 50,000 square metres. This Melbourne building now holds the unenviable record for the largest cladding project in Australia – easily surpassing the previous record held by a Perth building with 28,000 square metres.

The consultants have warned the owners that the issue is serious:

“With the building in its current state, [this firm] is of the opinion that the City of Melbourne’s initial evaluation that the building is a danger to the life, safety or health to members of the public and to any person using the building or to any property; is indeed correct.”

Extending their research, the consultants found several other high-rise buildings in the Melbourne CBD fitted with the same curtain wall system from the same overseas manufacturer.

On top of this, the report found that there were several ignition risks within these high-rise buildings that could create fires.

Raining glass shards?

The research by the fire risk consultants includes findings that the extensive presence of ACP within the curtain wall cavity can lead to broken sheet glass falling in the event of a fire.

In contrast, most other windows installed on Melbourne high-rises are fire resistant. In a fire, the outer layer of glass in non-curtain windows will break up into very small pieces and fall. The peculiar construction of the curtain wall, with flammable material immediately behind glass, is prone to make the glass crack and fall in larger pieces.

Out of sight?

How has this issue gone undetected, or at least unreported? The fire consultants explain it may be a case of “out of sight, out of mind”.

The ACP panels within these buildings’ curtain wall cavities are not visually identifiable from outside the buildings. To see the flammable material, you need to undertake “destructive investigation of the external wall system or internal wall linings.”

The expert report paints a disturbing picture for the owners of the building that initiated the study:

“Twenty-six insurers have been approached and denied insurance for the building. A full replacement cost could be in vicinity of \$150 million.”

The consultants add:

“Once the insurers know the full extent of the cladding there is simply no way they will provide cover.”

And we all know that you need insurance to get a loan. With the building unable to source insurance, owners are unable to obtain any funding for remediation works. The owners also risk a fine of \$462,000 if they do not remove the flammable material to satisfy the building order that has been issued by the council.

How many experts know about this fire risk?

The consultants cite engineers and scientists around the world who have been studying the curtain wall fire risk issue for some time now.

A paper published in the *Architecture and Planning Journal* in 2018 analysed how fire spreads in curtain wall facades. The study by Mostafi Elehefnawi was able to demonstrate the behaviour of fire spreading in the gap between a curtain wall and floor structure slab. A further danger was found to arise from secondary fires ignited by burning debris falling from the upper floor levels.

The report also cites a 2020 Australian study by the CSIRO that examined a series of fire incidents involving ACP. For example, the Wooshin Golden Suites apartment building in South Korea was a building that was affected by a combustible curtain wall system. A fire at the building in 2010 started from a spark in an

electrical outlet on the fourth floor. Within 20 minutes the fire spread up the vertical facade to the top floor of the 38-storey building. The vertical fire spread was around one of the building’s exterior alcoves. The resultant re-radiation and chimney effect appeared to enhance the fire spread. The fire brigade deployed helicopters to drop water on the building and to evacuate some occupants from the roof. While thankfully there were no fatalities, several people were seriously injured.

So, it appears that a huge, invisible fire risk that has long concerned experts here and overseas is only now being becoming known to the general public.

A plea to government

The consultants conclude their latest report with a statement addressing the role of the state government regarding the several buildings’ flammable curtain walls:

“Whilst external wall cladding continues to be rectified, it is of our belief that equal importance should be apportioned to curtain wall systems and their use in high-rise buildings to ensure the safety of dwellings and life. Government intervention will be required to help the owners’ corporations deal with the financial burden this will place on the buildings.”

Campaign donations

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



Barbara Francis &
Rus Littleton
CAMPAIGN@WELIVEHERE.NET
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Are you bothered by noise?

You live in the city? It can be a noisy place, but there are ways to cope.

The city buzzes with life. It is noisy but it is an active, alive noise. It is people doing things. Travelling on trams, digging up the road, constructing a building, fighting a fire, saving a life ...

This is good noise. The noise of living. But there is bad noise as well. The disco that runs until 3am playing loud music so that you cannot sleep. There are loud motor bikes that tear up and down the streets at night disturbing the neighbourhood. Then there are the buskers who use amplification and sometimes play until quite late into the night.

There are noisy people in the streets. Happy noises of people laughing, fooling about, having fun. Nasty noise where people are angry, drunk possibly and maybe aggressive. Residents and visitors don't want that noise!

The Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) website has excellent information about noise, explaining the laws that are in place, making it an offence to cause *unreasonable noise* depending on its volume, intensity, duration, and time of day. Too much noise can reduce people's quality of life as it causes stress and sometimes severely affects sleep – vital for good health.

The City of Melbourne provides information and noise reporting from its website, in the "Residents > Home, neighbourhood and streets" section. There is a long list of noise types such as barking dogs, waste collection and street cleaning, busking, construction works to name a few.

What can we do to mitigate noise?

There are many things that you can do. The EPA explains the avenues available in its many

documents. Raise the issue with your neighbour, business or whoever is causing the noise, contact the City of Melbourne or Victoria Police (dial 000 at night). Often the person making the noise isn't aware that they're causing a problem and will quickly fix the situation.

Another approach is to protect your apartment. In the past it has not been the custom to install double glazing that has the effect of reducing background noise as well as providing insulation from cold weather. It is possible to install retrofitted double glazing, however. There are two types. One uses polycarbonate glazing attached to the inside of your window with magnets. The other uses glass that is also fitted to the inside of the window. Both methods cut down noise appreciably and reduce the need for air conditioning.

It is also possible to measure the noise level on your phone. There are several apps available for this purpose. When noise inside your apartment is greater than 75 decibels, rest assured, that is noisy and unreasonable!

Where taverns are licensed for live and/or DJ music, the low frequency (bass) noise generated is difficult to measure but can disturb many residents with the vibration and repetitive sound. This is a modern problem that the licensing authorities need to take into consideration. Double glazing is not always sufficient to block low frequency sound. Such venues should have adequate sound proofing. Reporting your concerns usually results in investigation and solutions found.

There have been many studies concerning the quite serious effects that low frequency noise have on human health. If interested, you can download a review of literature from 2016-19 about the topic by scanning the QR below:



Most owners' corporations have rules in place to ensure noise inside apartments is minimised. Floorboards are required to have sound insulation underneath. In new buildings walls should be properly insulated from sound transmission. Older buildings with thick brick or stone walls have good natural sound protection.

Authorities put laws and rules in place, but it is up to the residents of the city to make sure that those policies are enforced. Residents expect as a basic living requirement to have quiet, peaceful, enjoyment of their environment.

Unless we take the effort to follow through on unacceptable noise issues, then standards will inevitably fall and "less than ideal" will prevail.

Residents 3000's next Forum 3000 event

Since October last year, the City of Melbourne has been seeking community views through its Participate 3000 website. The council's CBD community liaison officer Michelle James will report on its findings, the Future Melbourne Committee Meeting (June 14) response and will introduce the new "Neighbourhood Portal"

designed to allow community to better connect with the council.

In addition, Donna Portis and her team responsible for the council's waste and recycling services will talk about the latest initiatives to improve waste management in the city. There will no doubt be many questions about this important function within the densely populated CBD.

The forum will take place at 6pm on August 4 at the Kelvin Club. ●

For more information:
residents3000.com.au



Sue Saunders
COMMITTEE MEMBER OF
RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



HISTORY

A remnant of the past tucked away in Franklin St



In 1937 this old two-storeyed house that had seen better days was put up for auction. It was on a site alongside a terrace of six other old two-storeyed houses, tucked up against a right of way and not far from Elizabeth St.



When auction day came along, no-one bid for 83-95 Franklin St. At the time of the auction in October 1937, the world was only just beginning to emerge from a catastrophic economic depression. It was not a good time to sell and this "magnificent block of land", as the sales hype referred to it, was passed in.

It is clear from this 1934 photograph, part of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's images collection and reproduced in a number of contemporary newspapers, that the house had been around for a while. It was made of brick and stone, had a modest picket fence at the front and a long, lone gum tree at the front, a tree reputed to have been transplanted from Bulla about 20 years before. Street directories tell us that next door were livery stables and just a little further along, past the right of way and on the corner of Elizabeth St, was The Old Lamb Inn.



It is possible to visualise this scene as it was in the 1860s by looking at the marvellous De Gruchy and Leigh's 1866 Isometrical Plan of Melbourne, available for download from the State Library of Victoria. Consult that fascinating map and it won't take you long to find the house, even then nestled among taller, more imposing buildings. You'll see, too, the livery stables and the Inn.

For some time, this house was reputed to have been the home of Melbourne's first mayor,



At the time of the auction in October 1937, the world was only just beginning to emerge from a catastrophic economic depression. It was not a good time to sell and this "magnificent block of land", as the sales hype referred to it, was passed in.

Henry Condell, a theory dispelled around the time the photograph was taken, although the myth continued. Condell, a brewer, set up business in Lonsdale St in 1839. In the early 1840s he served a brief, disastrous term as Mayor of Melbourne and an equally disastrous term as the Port Phillip District Member of the Legislative Council, Garryowen referring to his "utter incapacity" as a politician. He was a whizz at developing a valuable property portfolio, however, and in 1854 returned to Britain a wealthy man.

So where does that leave our modest house in Franklin St? It seems that in 1850 John O'Shanassy (later Sir John, Premier of Victoria) and John Mooney bought this site as vacant Crown land. And it's possible that the so-called Condell connection came about because a milkman named Connell lived in the street in the 1850s. What is known is that 30 or so years later it was part of the estate of James Noonan JP of West Melbourne, a very shrewd businessman who built up a considerable property portfolio which was inherited by his three surviving

children when he died in 1896. The property at 83-95 Franklin St was part of that portfolio, although he and his family lived in Dudley St, West Melbourne.

Move forward to 1924 and Bridget Noonan, James Noonan's last surviving child, died and her valuable, inherited property portfolio was gradually put up for sale.

The attempted sale of this site in 1937 fell through, but it was advertised again in June 1939 and this time it did sell and was to become the Beaufort Tyre Service's base for many years.

The house was demolished in early 1940 to make way for Beaufort's modern new premises. This photograph and the 1866 isometric map mentioned earlier remain as reminders of its long period as a modest domestic dwelling. ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA

CBD LOCAL

Always on the move

Mick and his mates were having a good laugh down by the river last month at the outrageous claim made in the latest issue of sister publication Southbank News that beggars were earning \$1000 a day on the streets.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Mick is a regular along Southbank Boulevard and can often be seen with his “homeless” sign and a scattering of worldly possessions.

So, when he read the article about the earnings of these so-called professionals, he was sceptical.

“Yeah. I live in a hotel room in the casino,” he said to the assembled crew. “Anyone want to take up an apprenticeship?”

Police are warning locals that gangs are operating in the area and are advising us not to salve our consciences by giving a few coins to the homeless.

Yet rough sleepers like Mick are stigmatised

enough. Should the police be making their lives tougher?

Mick gave *CBD News* a short briefing on his daily movements to dispel the myths that he might be living in the lap of luxury.

On a warm Saturday afternoon when the sun shines on the riverbank and merry diners stop for a chat, things aren't that bad.

He can have a bit of fun, pretending to be rich, even offering the girls a bottle of Veuve Cliquot.

But on a rainy Tuesday morning when Mick is taking shelter outside the empty Exxon Mobil office, he is thinking more about social workers than being sociable.

He said he's been on the list for a house for 16 years and had spent the past two nights sleeping



▲ Mick and his mates on Southbank Boulevard.

out the back near Freshwater Place.

He plans ahead for his week and usually heads out to the suburbs on the weekend because not everyone from the riverside bars is friendly.

He says that it is easy to distinguish those who are genuinely homeless because they have their possessions with them.

Sometimes Mick crosses the river and sleeps in the CBD, but he says the cops move him on.

He might look like he owns a prime position on Southbank Promenade, but he is always on the move.

“Mick sleeps all over town,” said one of his mates, whose dog Mick looked after for a while in July.

He said Mick had been visible in the municipality for about 12 months and made a point of clarifying the information about the housing list.

When Mick said he'd been on the list for 16 years that didn't mean that he'd be moving into some nice room soon, but that he still had another 16 to go. ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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SALVOS

Magpie Nest – an example of disruptive thinking

It was 10 years ago, almost to the day when a young mother entered our café at 69 Bourke St, Melbourne. The café works with people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and are often dealing with a complex range of issues including mental health, physical health issues and often social isolation.

The young mum stood in the middle of the café with her six-year-old daughter. The young woman was completely distraught, to the point where she could barely speak. It was our busy lunch-time period, and it was difficult to understand what was happening for this young family. We eventually found a quiet place in the building and the woman's story came tumbling out.

She had recently escaped a violent family situation with her young daughter. She had no idea where to go or what to do, so a family friend suggested that she head to a rooming house. Tess* was informed that she wouldn't need to pay bond or provide any references. She could immediately move in. All she needed to do was pay her weekly rent.

After about four weeks, everything had been going reasonably well. Then Tess discovered that the man living in the room next to her and her six-year-old daughter had a history of child sex offences. This young mum was doing all that she could to keep her daughter safe, but she was feeling that she had put her young daughter in harm's way.

This was the first time that we had heard this story. It was becoming a common theme. We were unsure about what to do because affordable housing options were limited, even 10 years ago!

I arranged a meeting with Collingwood Football Club to see if they might be interested in getting involved in some capacity. Why Collingwood you might ask? It was Collingwood's history and its values that caused me to think that it could be a useful ally to help us address what was fast becoming a pernicious issue. Also, “the usual suspects” that help address wicked problems were providing the same “solutions”, but unfortunately with no major impact. It was time to think outside of the box.

Collingwood Football Club initially rented two houses in its name. It made the houses available to us to provide accommodation to people that were committed to ending their homelessness.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided initial funding so that we could employ case workers that would work intensively with the individuals so that we could help them reintegrate with the community and start to live

independently, in their own accommodation.

Ten years on, Magpie Nest now has 50 houses with 130 people off the streets in their own accommodation.

Many of the houses are rented from the private rental market. However, in a market where affordable rental properties are becoming highly sort after, we need to find a more sustainable model.

The Collingwood Foundation, as part of the Collingwood Football Club, has been brilliant supporting the Magpie Nest model to date, but it is passionate about exploring new and sustainable models going forward.

Coles has also been superb in providing support to the Magpie Nest program.

The Victorian Government has provided excellent ongoing financial support to the program as well. It is this funding that has enabled us to provide case workers who have done an excellent job in supporting individuals and families to address the drivers for their homelessness.

It is often assumed that if you provide accommodation to a person, then it is job done. But the reality is if we are not addressing the drivers for their situation, they will often cycle out of the accommodation and end up living on the streets again.

The role of the case worker is fundamental in also helping build an individual's confidence again. Without confidence, they will often remain withdrawn from any further engagement with society.

Collingwood, Coles and the Victorian Government have provided a level of passion, dedication and long-term commitment to a group of people that are often forgotten. With their unwavering support and encouragement, more than a thousand people have received practical and emotions support that has enabled the forgotten to be reintegrated back into society. ●



Major Brendan Nottle

COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE SALVATION ARMY
MELBOURNE - PROJECT 614

BRENDAN.NOTTLE@
SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU

MUSIC

Ashley Davies

Ash Davies drumming has the precision of a machine gun, plus the real feel and flow of four Rolls Royce Merlin engines, purring at idle, then roaring at full throttle.



It's a “who do you think you are?” paradigm for Uncle Len Davies; a noted artist, illustrator, cartoonist for Western Australian newspapers and tail gunner in Lancaster bombers in World War II.

The latest endeavour from the man with the Rogers Drumkit, the multimedia *GOLD* project is a combination of the artwork of Uncle Len Davies, the animation of Danny McKenna, and the great musical soundtrack composed by Ash Davies.

On Sunday, July 17, *GOLD An Animated Rhapsody*, screened to great acclaim at the Theatre at the State Library of Victoria. This event included an art exhibition of Len Davies *Lasseter* series of paintings.

A revhead and rock and roller at heart, Davies was thrilled at the great reception *GOLD* received from the audience. People realised there was a whole lot more to this brilliant, prolific artist and composer. His most recent album before *GOLD*, the imaginative *Pulse Transit*, is a musical soundtrack to a modern dance piece that is yet to be choreographed.

GOLD (Strange Loop Recordings) is a great, thematically linked collection of instrumental pieces played by an awesome group of players, under the direction of Ash Davies. Iannis Xenakis, Burt Bacharach, Nelson Riddle and The Cruel Sea influences can be heard. The sonic production sounds like Nick Launay's crystal clear work on *Midnight Oils 10 to 1* album. The strings, orchestrated by Bryony Marks are sublime, the brass sections phenomenal. Jack Howard and Paul Williamson combining to create a majestic tone. The piano in this enervating recording was performed by Monique Dimattina.

Although Davies recorded guitar parts on the demos, he had the nous to bring in Craig Pilkington and his Gretsch guitar, bringing a clear, sweet tone to the recordings. The saxophone on *Discovery* has a tone that sounds like Gerry Rafferty's *Baker Street*, the strings are magnificent, the horns kick in like the best of Hunters and Collectors, the acoustic guitar reminiscent of Martin Rotsey and Jim Moginie.

Outback has a staggering cadence; the violin sounds like The Dirty Three at one point. This track becomes more uplifting towards

its conclusion, with a gospel choral backing, sounding like Echo And The Bunnymen kicking in, and at the coda a striking fuzzed out guitar hitting major chords.

Bush has guitar playing like Danny Rumour, tremendous clarity on percussion, great slide guitar playing, with piano sounding like something from Hill Street Blues. Magnifique.

Previous film/soundtrack projects of Ash Davies include *Ned Kelly*, and *Burke And Wills*. Epic, grand and visionary. During COVID lockdowns, Ash Davies made a couple of short films, *Ode to Lockdown 1 and 2*, adding a musical soundtrack to the footage of an almost deserted city. With *GOLD*, the jury is in, Ash Davies is on the winner's list, continuing his brilliant journey, combining his interesting, intriguing, evocative music with great visual subject matter. *GOLD* is a visual and auditory delight.

The Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) reacted to the draconian lockdowns in Melbourne by creating the SET Musical Project, giving a creative push to the drive of the classical music community. The idea of SET Festival was pairing established composers writing commissioned works for the musicians at ANAM.

The list of impressive composers included Brett Dean, Deborah Cheetham, William Barton, Richard Mills, Paul Grabowsky, Ross Edwards (the composer, not the cricketer), Andrea Keller and Michael Kieran Harvey. More than six hours of new music was created. Violinist Claire Weatherhead's performance of Thomas Green's *So, I Am Shouting* was a highlight. Weatherhead, from Logan City really, came to prominence with her role as concertmaster for the Under The Sky Orchestra during the 2015 Queensland Music Festival. An exceptional talent.

ANAM is one reason Melbourne is such a vibrant music city. ●



Chris Mineral

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STREET ART



Laneway management is shambolic

In a recent news article, the state government has come out and said that it will now protect important laneways in the city. I would like to ask which important laneways they would like to protect. I wonder if they can name one that hasn't already been irreversibly corrupted.

Over the years through my role at Blender Studios I have set up more than nine laneways throughout the CBD; it's a hard process, you need to get the building owners on board and let the engineering department know, and in some cases, hire scissor lifts and pay for paint all at our own expense.

These are just nine of the very many lanes that have been set up organically. I guesstimate that there are around 87 laneways in the CBD that have significant art in, or on them, and out of these laneways there is less than 10 per cent that haven't been permanently damaged by construction. This means that the idea of saving the laneway culture in Melbourne's CBD is not really a thing, the time to have saved it was many years ago.

I can't help thinking that all these apartments have made the council rich with the increases in land tax and rates, each complex must be worth so much for the government it's hard to see how they wouldn't make the decisions that it has.

Street art has made Melbourne a more vibrant and cooler city and it brings in many tourists and has really helped in the overall marketing of the city as a destination. What it has also done is made the council and the developers very rich. The trail of development runs along the art trails. Wherever an art lane is created either organically or with purpose, it seems to be that within a few years you will have some developer submitting plans to the council to enhance their idea of Melbourne's liveability.

The problem is I feel that most of the investment groups that have brought up, so much Melbourne and divided it among themselves, are not from Melbourne. And so, they have no real reason, context or accountability to care what happens beyond their development, as they don't even live here. They just look for the areas that will create the best returns which happens to be where the street art is, and then they make as much money as possible and leave, with the profit mostly going to overseas conglomerates and corporations.

Meanwhile the council gets land taxes, development taxes and thousands of extra rate payers every year. So now that the city laneways have been completely compromised by inappropriate city development there has been calls to give them better heritage protection (*Melbourne's laneways given better heritage protection* by Chloe Booker - *The Age*, July 10, 2022).

It all seems like tokenism because there is clearly little left to save. On the plus side the law will help protect what's left of our laneway culture. But places like the development of AC-DC Lane which led to the closing of the Cherry Bar after a residential high-rise was built too close and the people who moved in complained until

it was shut down.

A similar thing is beginning to happen in the new Blender Lane, a sweet, young family with kids has moved into the end of the lane, right next to the roller door and the entry to Darkhorse Experiment gallery. The new Blender Lane (still named Maloney Lane, just near Flagstaff Gardens) is currently the only curated lane in the city. It has a stencil wall and artwork from artists from all over Australia and the world. It was established when Blender Studios moved from the Franklin St Location. It has huge importance for Melbourne as a laneway and is tremendously important for the Blender Studios.

I feel that the family that has recently moved in will begin to complain about art openings, events all the great stuff that makes Blender awesome. The thing is we were doing this noisy stuff well before this family moved in. It seems like based on the Cherry Bar, that I will have to be careful, as this family that has just moved in (and should probably be in the suburbs) will have more power to affect change in Melbourne than Blenders Studios' 20 artists.

Isn't it time we decided to make the city better and stop pretending that all this development of laneway culture has been best for Melbourne of has had Melbourne's interest at its heart?

Thank you, Melbourne. ●

Street art has made Melbourne a more vibrant and cooler city and it brings in many tourists and has really helped in the overall marketing of the city as a destination.



Adrian Doyle
ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS
LEARN MORE ON THEBLENDERSTUDIOS.COM

CRITIC

Does it really matter?

The ideas factory, more commonly known as the Nicholas Building, is set to be protected by a deal brokered by a CBD-based investment company.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge



▲ Ideas for free at the Nicholas Building.

According to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on July 3, Forza Capital has paid around \$80 million on a social enterprise model.

The deal has not been confirmed by agents Allard Shelton who are selling the building on behalf of a consortium.

There has been much huffing and puffing about the sale, with the Greens urging the state government to step in to buy the building.

Tenants were cautiously optimistic about the future when *CBD News* visited.

There are now 10 art galleries open on a Friday, the greatest concentration of galleries outside Collingwood.

"These are not commercial galleries," said one tenant. "They may not survive retail forces."

On the seventh floor is 99%, a gallery that seeks to appeal to the mob with its disdain for the "elitist" art world.

Its director Chelsea Hopper has commissioned a poet to make a piece for every day of July that responds to a famous artist. Some are on display.

"It's all about populism," she said. She wants to break down the division between people and the elite. "The ideas come first then you try and express that."

She said there was a wider audience at the Nicholas Building than the typical art world mentality. Visitors are encouraged to go from gallery to gallery stealing ideas.

She said that one artist had gone about cutting off samples of people's clothing in the street then stitched them all together.

99% is one of three galleries on the seventh floor. Hyacinth, a new Instagram gallery, has opened up next to the art lending library with a close-up video of a person scaling a fish.

In early July Stephen McLaughlin Gallery held an exhibition by Joseph Gleeson who runs a secondhand bookshop in the building, selling classics.

The exhibition *Breakfast Scenes* had an old-world aesthetic with enigmatic line portraits and expressive works on old wardrobe doors.

Text Tile, an exhibition of samplers by textile artists at Caves finished held on July 19 and World Food Books has a good supply of imports, including *On The Heights of Despair* by E M Cioran.

Some of his ideas include the one that insomnia is a vital part of human existence, irony can be a hip attitude, or one truly pursued and that the negative emotions can be amusing.

The book is published by the University of Chicago, and some might experience a negative emotion at the price tag of \$65.

If you squander too much time in these pursuits of thinking and collecting ideas, you might be late for your next appointment. But does it really matter? ●

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FIONA PATTEN MP

Vaping's a searing health debate

But what does vaping have to do with abortion clinic safety zones, the regulation of cannabis and other drugs, voluntary assisted dying, homelessness, and the frequently fabulous functioning of parliamentary committees comprised of ostensible opponents?

WORDS BY *Fiona Patten MP*

Stick with me if you will. This is a two-pronged story of the legendary win-win.

Reducing needless harm is one of the fundamental responsibilities of parliaments, along with promoting opportunity and prosperity.

Surely, we can all agree on that. An oft-overlooked reality of democratic politics is we are united by much more than divides us.

Harm reduction, equality of opportunity, and wealth generation all occupy the public policy sweet spot – an economically and socially beneficial combination of enlightened self-interest and simple human decency. Yep, the win-win.

Two recent uplifting experiences are exemplary of such fair and balanced progress.

The first: an international parliamentary trip that buttressed my faith that much can be readily done by communities and lawmakers to fix problems, even including some caused by lawmakers.

The second: a broadcast from the Victorian Legislative Council that demonstrated people agree on so much more than we disagree, and how effective lawmakers can be when they seek compromise in good faith and based on evidence and tenets including transparency, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness.

I recently was an invited speaker at an international conference in Warsaw on vaping and harm reduction. It's an issue we are far from properly resolving here.

Smoking tobacco is the leading preventable cause of illness and premature death, and the harm reduction effects of vaping on this cohort are beyond dispute, the international evidence



proves.

But Australia, in contrast to other industrialised economies, is blocking adults from accessing a harm minimisation device that would probably save their lives and would certainly save taxpayers' health resources.

At the same time, there's the worrying rise in the illegal use of vapes by children. This is a group not addicted to tobacco smoking. Properly apply existing laws to prevent them ready access to this evidently dangerous path is a no-brainer. Get on with it.

After Poland, I visited Malta, England and Scotland, where innovative, effective, progressive policies are being implemented to allow people choice at end of life, legally access cannabis, provide affordable and safe shelter, and safety approaching abortion clinics. There is not room here for more than an overview, but there's more on my website, should you wish to

explore the policy issue.

Malta has just joined the growing list of nations reducing drug harm through regulation, the rational response to evidence prohibition has failed disastrously.

It's an argument I've been making for years and on which the government has finally committed to act, should it be returned, by trailing at my behest blanket diversion to treatment and counselling, rather than an encounter with the criminal justice system, of all apprehended for possession of small amounts of illicit substances.

The Malta model duplicates the recommendation that I put to the Inquiry into Cannabis which was voted down.

A number of the places I visited are adopting effective solutions to homelessness, something we can do so much better on here, where the stock of public housing has halved in recent

times and there's insufficient collaboration between businesses, governments and the not-for-profit sector on social housing.

Scotland has just announced that it will introduce law reflecting legislation I introduced here to create exclusion zones around abortion clinics.

The second encouraging experience was a broadcast discussion, in moderated form, with other members of the Legislative Council's Legal and Social Issues Committee, which I chair.

Yes, it does perhaps sound as enticing as a migraine, but it was actually fabulous in a certain way: it shows anyone who genuinely cares about democracy to see the substance, not the froth, of our Parliament in action, the work behind the scenes.

The encounter with deputy Chair Tien Kieu (Labor) and member Cathrine Burnett-Wake (Liberal) covered our collaborations on a range of legal and social issues facing Victorians, including homelessness, cannabis use, the criminal justice system, children of incarcerated parents and firearms prohibition legislation. We've had eight inquiries. Two more are set to end.

We work together. We are supported by taxpayers' resources. Committees are the crucible of good policy and law.

But there's scant coverage of most committee work. Too many media outlets coverage politics as blood sport, not the lifeblood of a nation.

Good policy is good politics, and it comes from good faith. All round. Win-win-win.

Fiona Patten MP is Leader of the Reason Party. ●

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CBD NEWS

Quiz



- Which CBD business has recently been saved from closure thanks to a crowdfunding campaign?
- What type of rock are the 12 Apostles made of?
- Who was the most recent pope to be canonised?
- What type of creature turns into a gremlin if it eats food after midnight?
- Which animal has the largest brain?
- At which location have local dog owners been campaigning for a new off-leash zone?
- What is different about the latest 'library' the council has launched as part of the pop-up library series?
- In what country is the Canary Islands?
- The City of Melbourne has just launched what service to help residents connect with one another?
- Where are the eyespots on a starfish (pictured) located?
- Who has recently become the CEO of the State Library of Victoria?
- According to a recent survey, what ratio of CBD employers are asking their workers to come into the city for four or five days a week?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Basement Discs 2. Limestone 3. Pope Paul VI 4. Mowgli 5. Sperm whale 6. Flagstaff Gardens 7. Mobile library (Met-Van) 8. Spain 9. Neighbourhood Duldig 12. One in five

5x5

No. 014

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

L		A		A
	A		E	
A		I		O
	E		U	
T		Y		T

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: LLAMA, BARED, AMINO, SETUP, TRYST
DOWN: LEAST, LAMER, ARITY, MENUS, ADOP

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Sudoku

No. 014

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

		8	2					
1				9				
5					6	9		7
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HARD

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SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Social media

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| ADS | MEME | TAGS |
| APP | MESSAGE | TIME- |
| COMMENT | MUTE | WASTING |
| DATA | PHOTO | TWITTER |
| EMOJI | POST | USER |
| FACEBOOK | PROGRAM | VIDEO |
| HOSTS | REACT | WEBSITE |
| LIKES | SHARING | |
| LINK | STATUS | |

Secret message: Privacy

Crossword

No. 014

ACROSS

- Organises (5)
- Person suffering from a fit-causing disorder (9)
- Mover (7)
- More exciting; more fragrant (7)
- Spellcaster (9)
- Name of artistic work (5)
- Salt and pepper dispensers (7)
- Interments (7)
- Crossing; corridor (7)
- Went around the edge (7)
- Not affected by alcohol (5)
- Unwanted (9)
- Perspective (7)
- Fill; surround (7)
- Covered; protected (9)
- Cycles (5)

DOWN

- Female siblings (7)
- Ponchos; macks (9)
- Position; move into place (7)
- White-plumed heron (5)
- Writes in stone or metal (9)
- Broadcaster; polluter (7)
- Turn (5)
- Rugs (7)
- Cave explorer (9)
- Later (9)
- Priests (7)
- Transport hub (7)
- Risk-prevention entity (7)
- Hobbles; falters (7)
- Wash (5)
- Bamboozled (5)

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

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 014

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

SOLUTIONS

X	K											
S	R	N	B	Z	O	U	F	V	I	C	Y	

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

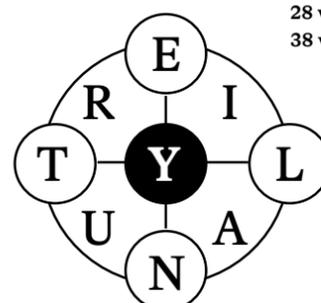
9-Letter

No. 014

Today's Focus:

- 19 words: Good
- 28 words: Very good
- 38 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
unity, UNREALITY, yale, yarn, year, yearn, yeti, yuan, yule
nearly, rainy, reality, relay, rely, ryal, reay, tray, truly, untary,
airy, aryl, early, entry, inertly, inlay, irately, lary, layer, lenly, litany, lyre, nary, nearly,

十年战略揭示城市新愿景

根据墨尔本市政7月份发布的十年规划蓝图，到2040年墨尔本CBD的人口将翻一番，CBD的上班族将增加50%。

David Schout

这个市政规划战略 (MPS) 最近一次更新是在2010年，其中包括更新的城市愿景，重点是墨尔本西部的巨大发展。

Arden、Macaulay和Fishermans Bend等工业区和前工业区将成为“适应未来20年市政发展变化的重要部分”。

该规划战略提议，这些区域将成为“城市西部的新Fitzroy或新Collingwood”。

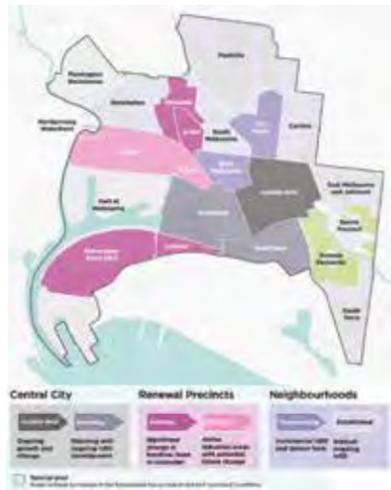
规划战略指出：“城市的增长现在正在向西移动，进入更低、更潮湿的区域。”

“城市更新区域正在从工业区域向混合用途区域转变，这为重塑我们未来的景观和建筑形式提供了前所未有的机会。”

尽管受到新冠疫情的影响，市政仍预测CBD会持续增长。

2020年CBD的人口为54808人，将来几乎会翻一番，达到99872人，而CBD工作人员数量将从211826人激增至309593人，尽管已经注意到吸引员工回到市中心上班将是一个关键挑战。

州长Daniel Andrews曾在三月份宣称，他认为向混合工作制的转变是“永久性的”，



并且他不相信事情会回到疫情之前的样子。MPS 引入了指导土地使用和开发的决策，但对市中心今后的几年发展却没有任何明确的启示。

相反，报告指出，维多利亚女王市场区域持续更新（有史以来最大的市政投资）和街道升级仍然是该地区的两个关键举措。

该报告还指出，随着现有建筑的更新，CBD 将经历持续的增长和变化。



“不受欢迎的”新老虎机赌博场馆

墨尔本市议员对一个拟建的CBD场馆表示遗憾，该场馆将设有50台新的赌博机，并表示尽管这个拟建的场馆会对社区造成“伤害”，但别无选择，只能批准。

David Schout

一名议员称此举是“不道德的”，并表示维州的博彩业监管机构应该对此感到“羞愧”。

申请方Bay Road Hotel有限公司计划在Lonsdale和Hardware streets拐角处一栋19层建筑的地下室、底层和屋顶改造成一家酒店，将在底层设置50台新的电子赌博机(EGM)。该建筑目前是商业和酒店式公寓大楼。

该计划于2021年底提出申请后，市政在今年早期对维多利亚赌博和赌场监管委员会审理该案例时就正式反对其新设赌博机。

但是市政败诉了，这个新设赌博机的申请于2月14日获得了监管机构的批准。

由此市议员在7月12日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上一致投票批准了这个新的场址。

然而，当晚发言的三位议员都表示，他们别无选择只能这样做。

市议员Rohan Leppert说：“我不想支持这个申请，但我们作为一个行政机构有义务维护墨尔本市内的计划规则。”

“这个系统是错的，也就是这个系统要求我们在其中扮演准司法角色。”

代理市长Nicholas Reece表示，市议会曾“大力反对这个申请”，虽然我们欢迎投资新的市内场馆，但不支持在CBD内开设更多的赌博机。

该场馆的50台新赌博机将使市中心许可的赌博机数量增加到625台，并且离最近的Elizabeth街上老虎机赌博场馆只有240米。



市政注资激活当地商业

墨尔本市政继续支持10个商业区协会，为每个协会提供高达9万澳元的支持，以帮助城市商业取得成功。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

该年度拨款资金来自市议会的商业区计划，获得支持的协会包括城市商业区、新成立的墨尔本唐人街协会、Collins街区团体和希腊商业区协会。

商业区协会是城市的核心，当地商家由此相互联系，并与市政联系，城市商业区主席Carly Michael说，这“真的开始感觉像一个商业村”。

Michael女士说：“我觉得我们正在通过商业把商业带回城市，这是城市商业区的核心。”

除了举办每月一次的社交活动，将会员彼此及其业务联系起来，城市商业区还在寻找更多的方式来提高其参与度和联系，并让人们有理由来到市中心。

Michael女士说：“这笔资金意味着我们可以执行一些项目，这些项目将使我们在邮政编码3000范围内的商家受益。”

“它使我们能够将人们聚集在一起参加社交活动，这样我们就可以促进社区联系和加强业务关系。使我们有能力在瞬息万变的环境过渡期间为我们的会员提供支持。”

获得这笔额外资金后，Michael女士表示，城市商业区将继续开发技能提升计划，以及进行成功的免费徒步游览，带领游客周游市区。

墨尔本唐人街协会是今年新成立的，也获得了这次市政的资助。

该协会一名发言人在获资助后表示，市政的支持意义重大，这将帮助现有的商家、员工、居民、学生和业主，同时吸引新的人才来此区域。

这位发言人说：“所有的资金，无论来源如何，都将用于能够切实改善唐人街商业区的举措。”

“这包括建立强有力的会员制度，为我们商业区带来更大的客流量，支持观光和消费，协调业务发展计划，如网络功能和促进本地化的计划。”

为国际学生敞开寄宿家庭大门

本月，许多国际学生陆续到达墨尔本进入下半学期的学习，虽然他们的到来备受期待，但在12月之前对寄宿家庭的需求日趋增多。

Kaylah-Joelle Baker

澳大利亚寄宿家庭网络(AHN)是一个视为“澳大利亚大使”的寄宿家庭机构，寄宿家庭有机会为远离家乡的留学生提供帮助，让他们感受到新城市的欢迎，同时也开始进入了独特的文化交流。

维多利亚AHN总经理Cris Rey说：“我们希望为国际学生提供一个家外之家，欢迎他们加入当地社区，让他们在澳大利亚度过一段美好的时光。”

“我们鼓励各行各业的人们考虑提供寄宿家庭服务，包括单亲父母、夫妻、有孩子和空巢老人家庭。”

距离市中心15公里内的所有类型的家庭都有机会提供寄宿家庭服务，因为年轻的留学生基本依赖公共交通，AHN将每周向房东支付大约320澳元。

在鼓励参与的同时，寄宿家庭也能与留学生建立长期国际友谊和了解其他文化。

自2018年以来提供维多利亚AHN寄宿家庭的房东Tatiana Kooraram表示，提供寄宿家庭服务对她的家庭产生了积极的



影响。

她说：“我女儿的世界观得到了拓展，也开阔了她的视野。”

“随着分享留学生他们的文化和食谱，我对食物的热爱也随之增长。”

自2008年以来，AHN已提供安置了超过63000名留学生的寄宿家庭，并仍然继续为他们服务，同时为所有参与者提供培训、保险和全天候(24/7)的支持。

国际学生对寄宿家庭房东的要求就是能提供一个温馨的环境、舒适的床、互联网、公用设施，并在用餐时考虑留学生的任何饮食要求。

位于市中心的家庭有兴趣成为多所大学的寄宿家庭，可以在澳大利亚寄宿家庭网络官网homestaynetwork.org上申请或致电(03) 9458 9000联系。

What's on: August 2022



WINTER NIGHT MARKET

Melbourne's much loved Winter Night Market is back at Queen Victoria Market after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, running every Wednesday evening from June 1 to August 31 2022. For more information:

winternightmarket.com.au



FLASH FORWARD LANEWAY FEST

Ongoing

Flash Forward is the epic new creative program taking over 40 city laneways with music, murals and more from the best local talent. For more information visit:

whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

**THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH @ 10AM
EASTENDERS MEET-UPS**

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

eastendersinc@gmail.com



MELBOURNE MEN'S SHED

A shed in the heart of the CBD.

Melbourne Men's Shed is an inclusive space at Federation Square suitable for the retired apartment dweller, CBD workers, female members, artists, students and guests. To learn how you can join visit:

melbournemensshed.org

WALKING WITH NEIGHBOURS - LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Residents 3000 hosts monthly walks around the CBD and surrounding areas each month on Thursday evenings at 6pm. For meeting times and information contact:

walks@residents3000.com.au



LANEWAY LEARNING

Cheap, fun classes in anything and everything. Weekday evenings in cafes, bars and other spaces around Melbourne. Classes usually have about 20 people to keep it friendly. Online classes available.

melbourne.lanewaylearning.com



NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN CLUB SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Hosted by Residents 3000, come at 4pm for one hour at Green Room, L1 Central House, Baptist Place Laneway and enjoy a range of different gardening activities with your neighbours.

gardenclub@residents3000.com.au

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James Edmundson 0411 456 770
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Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572

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601/166 Flinders St - \$790pw



Level 17/368 St Kilda Rd - \$1,800pw



Level 19/368 St Kilda Rd - \$1,900 pw

“...Suzie Inglis was my key contact from Donazzan who was amazing! I can't speak highly enough of Suzie - She has top communication skills and can't do enough for the renters or the owners. Thanks so much Suzie for the fantastic service.

Highly recommended!!” - Fiona

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Kim Davey 0418 924 324
Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572**

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