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Puzzles & Trivia P21



The cheesiest hidden treasure found beneath Spring St

When walking along Spring St, or more specifically in Spring Street Grocer, did you know that beneath your feet lies a cheese cellar?
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More space for pedestrians, less for cars in plan to “rebalance” city streets

Pedestrians could soon be battling with less cars under a new vision for the CBD’s streets, but one City of Melbourne councillor called the plan “elitist” and a “tone-deaf slap in the face” to traders.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

Pedestrians will be prioritised and cars could be barred from busy streets under a new City of Melbourne plan to correct space inequality in the CBD.

The draft Future Streets Framework flagged “full or partial closures” to private vehicles on busy parts of Flinders, Collins and Spring streets in order to free up space for those on foot.

The entire CBD length of Elizabeth and Swanston streets could also become car-free zones, as the council made a strong focus on safe and efficient movement around busy train stations.

Partial closures could see motorists’ access limited to certain times of the day, or streets open in just one direction.

The new framework represented the council’s latest move to mitigate the CBD of what it saw as space-inefficient private vehicles.

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Leading architect pushes case to “re-life” CBD towers

A partner at leading firm Fender Katsalidis has outlined ways to encourage “the adaptive reuse of our cities’ ageing assets”.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

A leading architect has encouraged an alliance between developers, designers and government to ensure more city buildings were given a second life rather than demolished.

Fender Katsalidis partner Nicky Drobis, a strong proponent of the “adaptive reuse” of buildings, said industry and policymakers working together was crucial to cutting down the “waste and carbon emissions associated with a new build”.

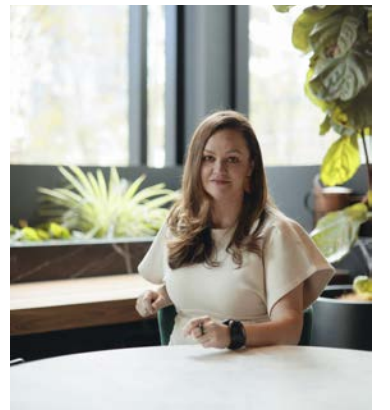
Research has suggested that the carbon cost of developing a typical commercial office building was worth up to 42 years of its operational emissions.

In recent times the City of Melbourne has made a clear point of preferencing retrofitted rather than new buildings in planning decisions.

Ms Drobis played a role in recent plans that avoided demolishing a building at the Paris End of Collins St, instead opting to retrofit 17 storeys of “premium office space” above an existing 1980s-built commercial building with 1870s-built heritage-listed residential terraces at the ground level.

Developer Mirvac said the choice to “re-life” the building at 90-98 Collins St would save the equivalent annual carbon footprint of 889 Australian homes, drawing City of Melbourne commendation when it approved the project in February.

Now, Ms Drobis has released what she believes are the key factors to accelerating the adoption of adaptive



reuse projects, not just for aesthetic and historical buildings, but for average CBD buildings.

“To date, the industry has been much faster to embrace the adaptive reuse approach for historically significant, and architecturally beautiful, buildings,” she said.

“However, this should further extend to ‘re-living’ buildings that have simply reached the end of their lifespan ... we need to think more deeply about what the best urban outcomes are, and inevitably, those outcomes are all irrevocably tied to the reduction of carbon emissions and the increased well-being of citizens and the environment.”

Ms Drobis said a key challenge which hindered the adaptive reuse approach was that demolishing buildings was often a cheaper option for developers, so there needed to be “incentives for going the extra mile”.

This could include certain planning scheme tweaks.

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A Calls for safer e-scooter practices



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B CBD trader calls for stronger police presence



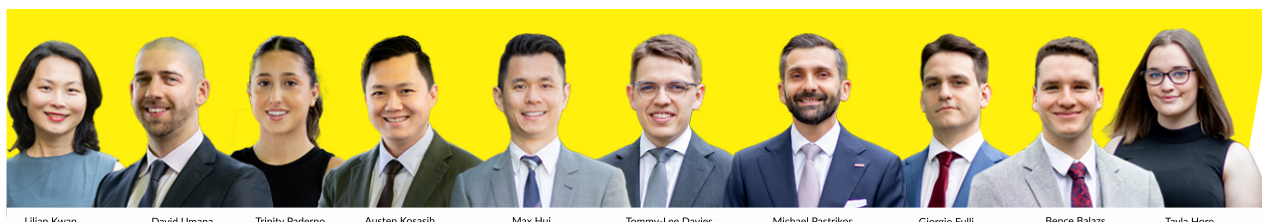
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D A part-time working dog on Elizabeth St



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Lord Mayor calls for safer e-scooter practices as operators could face ban if they “can’t meet minimum standards”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
TRANSPORT

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp has moved a motion calling for “better, safer and a clearer set of regulations and enforcement” of electric scooter use.

Cr Capp has asked the council to prepare a position report on the future of e-scooters and a response to the state government’s decisions, which could see the council deny commercial e-scooter operators a licence “if they can’t meet minimum standards around safety”.

This included operators having access to technology that “is required to better manage compliance with the rules”, including the ability to detect tandem riding, and the non-wearing of helmets “and, of course, riding in non-permitted areas,” Cr Capp said.

“How does the geospatial technology manage or stop people riding on our pavements? How does it help manage where e-scooters are parked? These are the sorts of efforts we would like to see more of.”

E-scooters have become increasingly popular in the city, with more than 1.3 million short trips being undertaken since the Neuron and Lime trials began in February last year across the Melbourne, Port Phillip, and Yarra council areas.

In April 2023, the state government extended the e-scooters and e-bikes trial until October, which included legalising the previously banned use of private e-scooters. However, growing reports of near misses and pedestrians being struck on footpaths has sparked controversy due to safety concerns.

In response, Cr Capp moved a motion at the council’s June 13 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, “to make sure that our e-scooter system works well for everybody”, which was passed unanimously.

“Whoever comes in, and whoever continues



to operate in our municipality, [we will ensure] that we’ve got very clear expectations on what will be delivered and how we can enforce and manage those [unsafe human] behaviours going forward using every measure in our toolbox.”

Cr Capp said while the operation of the shared e-scooter scheme “has been incredibly positive for our city” and a “vital part of our transport network”, safety remained paramount.

“Our footpaths and pavements are the busiest part of our transport network,” she said.

“Unfortunately, it’s residents worried about safety on our pavements, it’s traders worried about their customers stepping into and out of their stores, [and] it’s people with disabilities concerned about the way that [e-scooters] are parked across our pavements.”

The council’s position report, which falls under the draft Annual Plan 2023-24, will also address the “adequacy and efficiency of powers available to local laws officers to keep footpaths safe” and seek advice from the council’s

Disability Advisory Committee.

Among those to have been struck by an e-scooter rider was Annette Miller, 68, who counts herself lucky not to have suffered any injuries.

The incident happened as she was walking with two friends at the front of the National Gallery of Victoria on June 8 about 10.20am.

“Because it was wet, it pushed my feet from under me ... I didn’t even have time to react,” she said, adding “it happened too quickly.”

“One of my hands touched the ground but it was fortunate I had leather gloves on.”

CBD News reporter Rhonda Dredge witnessed the collision, saying “I couldn’t believe what I was seeing”.

“Two men on scooters were hooning along the footpath towards the south. The next thing I saw was that a woman was knocked off her feet.”

Ms Miller said the rider stopped to assist and apologised; however, she reported the incident to Neuron.

CBD resident Bill Thompson, who addressed the council meeting, said the standards of some people using e-scooters and e-bikes were “unacceptably dangerous”.

“It’s the CBD residents and people who operate businesses or work in the high rises, in the CBD, who are adversely affected,” he said.

Cr Rohan Leppert said there is “no doubt that the phenomenon of e-scooters in Melbourne at the moment is immensely popular”, which had “the potential to decarbonise our transport, transport networks and make our communities more active”.

But he added, “at the same time, the clutter on the footpath can lead to quite significant public safety issues”.

“The importance of this motion is that it signals council’s seriousness in investigating any and all opportunities that there might be to make our e-scooter regulations and support systems as healthy as they can be, so that we’re producing a safe system.” ●

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The cheesiest hidden treasure found beneath Spring St

When walking along Spring St, or more specifically in Spring Street Grocer, did you know that beneath your feet lies a cheese cellar?

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

In fact, this hidden secret, found at 157 Spring St, may have been under your nose for longer than you realise, as the grocery and its accompanying basement has been open since 2013.

The cellar is Australia's first underground temperature-controlled cheese maturation cellar, and despite COVID putting a halt to how often visitors can meander down there, manager Damien Hall said they have many exciting plans on the horizon.

"We are going to start running cheese and wine courses with cheesemongers talking about all the different flavours, and the idea is that

they will be slightly educational, and slightly more fun," Mr Hall said.

"We will also have one of our City Wine Shop [also located on Spring St] experts to talk people through the wine. But it's really all about having fun, getting people out after work, and making the space accessible as people really do miss that space."

Until these sessions, people will be relieved to hear that at Spring Street Grocer there are always "approachable and friendly" cheesemongers on hand ready to help show curious minds the best, and most interesting, cheeses to try.

They are also on hand to teach you everything that is involved in having a cheese cellar; from controlling the temperature to humidity, lighting, importing and ageing cheeses so they are at peak ripeness.

While the outstanding hidden secret remains that of the cellar, if you have not been to the grocer itself then you are missing out.

The masterminds behind this entire establishment are Con Christopoulos and Joshua Brisbane, who founded the Spring Street

Grocer and Cheese Cellar with a mission to provide locally sourced, handmade, and ethically produced products.

The exciting project was launched in phases; the first focus being to provide artisanal, hand-crafted, freshly churned gelati; the second being to provide good quality, fresh, and wholesome food for city residents and workers, and finally the cheese cellar.

To this day, all three remain strong offerings of the business.

"We wanted to be a spot in the CBD for people living in apartments and workers, and we teamed up with our team at the European and City Wine Shop, who are cooking meals daily to this day, to pack the fridges for people on the way to the train who need to grab something for a quick lunch or dinner," Mr Hall said.

Upon walking into Spring Street Grocer, it is safe to say it is a one-stop shop as it provides all the daily pantry essentials one may need.

The added bonus is that the grocer's friendly and committed team have also just launched a blog on their website detailing some of the

amazing recipes you can make using the in-store products.

Or alternatively, for a lazy lunch or dinner, the fresh, chef-made meals include a chicken pie, baked gnocchi in sugo with goat's curd, Italian coleslaw, lentil dahl, salmon Niçoise salad, and many more that will have you feeling full and satisfied. ●

For more information:
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Shoring up Melbourne CBD's underground power network



Electricity distributor CitiPower is carrying out an inspection of its extensive underground pits in Melbourne's CBD to ensure they remain strong in high traffic areas.



MAJOR WORKS



through Melbourne's CBD each year, with each pit housing high voltage cables that provide power to local residents and businesses."

Mr Olive said that due to the location of the pits, and to allow crews to safely complete the work, there may be some minor disruptions to traffic, parking and public transport but power would not be affected.

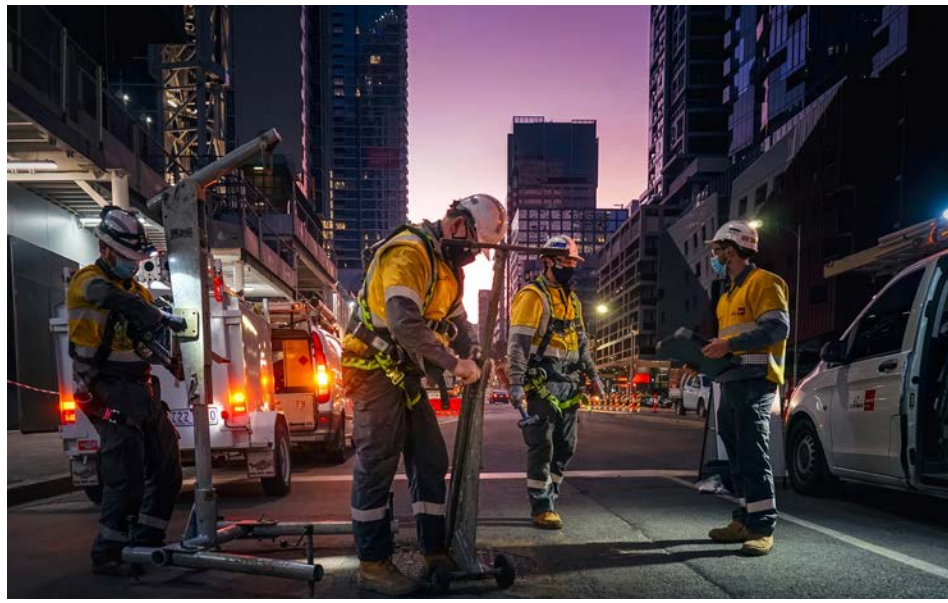
"We thank Melburnians for their patience during this time and we will minimise the impact as much as possible," Mr Olive said.

CitiPower will keep any customers directly affected by the works informed ahead of the start of works, with traffic controllers and signage in place to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists in changed traffic conditions.

Upon completion of the works, Powercor will reinstate roads and footpaths to their original condition.

CitiPower has a large underground network of cables and delivers electricity to a 157-square-kilometre region across the CBD and inner suburbs, providing power to more than 348,000 customers.

Electricity is distributed in the region via a network comprising more than 4500 kilometres of wires, supported by more than 57,500 poles and associated infrastructure. CitiPower is the most highly utilised and efficient CBD and urban network in the country. ●



Since June, crews have been inspecting the underground pits to identify any remediation that may be required and are on target to completing more than 40 inspections by November.

The inspection takes about two hours and involves our underground testers opening the pit and conducting a thermal scan. A laser imaging scan (known as LiDAR) is taken to create a 3D image of the pit and a civil engineer conducts a visual inspection to identify any repairs that are needed.

CitiPower head of maintenance network services Marcus Olive said the works would occur at night to minimise impact to nearby residents and businesses.

"The high volume of foot and vehicle traffic in the city can create wear and tear on the interior and lid of the pits, which are commonly situated on roads and footpaths," he said.

"Our inspection and maintenance program is about making sure CitiPower pits are safe for the millions of people and vehicles that come

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▲ David's Hot Pot CBD store manager Kenny Poh is supporting a petition calling for more police to patrol the streets.

CBD trader launches petition calling for stronger police presence

Popular restaurant chain David's Hot Pot is petitioning the state government to increase police funding as well as strengthen police numbers after being hit by a series of break-ins.

WORDS BY Violet Li

The La Trobe St Chinese diner, which also has a shop in Doncaster East, and Point Cook, has launched a Change.org petition, saying both its restaurants had been targeted recently by intruders, with other business owners also raising the same concern, and together they want to see a stronger police presence on the streets.

"Increase these patrols include both foot and vehicle patrols in ALL suburbs. This will increase community confidence with the governments and local council during the upcoming election," the petition, signed by more than 200 business owners, stated.

"Melbourne was once ranked as [the] most liveable city on the planet, has lost its fame," it said.

"We need our voices and appeal to be heard, we need to see actual result of our government taking down the issue of crime, more than some empty promises that was given."

A spokeswoman for David's Hot Pot, Lydia Zhang, said she was worried crime in the CBD could get worse, adding that a sculpture outside one of the business's CBD diners was stolen by three youths months ago with no further updates from police.

"CBD has a lot of police force, but no matter how much there is, police can't be there the whole time. It really depends on their investigative resources and effective punishment to prevent future crimes," Ms Zhang said.

Asked why their business premises may have been targeted, Ms Zhang said she couldn't be sure, but believed the high cost of living had motivated some thieves.

"There have been so many incidents for years but none of them could be resolved. It will cause these incidents to happen more and more frequently because people do not get any punishment for their continuous crimes," she said.

"This is the scariest thing, and it may get worse."

Crime statistics in the Melbourne local government area show the criminal incidents of burglary and break-ins have increased from 1614 to 1620 in the year ending March 2023. The criminal incidents of property damage increased by seven percent in the year ending to March with theft also having increased by 18 percent from 7833 to 9262.

A Victoria Police spokesperson said increasing police numbers and funding was a matter for the government.

City of Melbourne councillor Jason Chang said the council was aware of business owners' concerns.

He said as a business owner in the CBD, his restaurant had also been targeted by thieves several times.

"I believe that the state government needs to invest more resources and funding of police in the CBD as many traders are reporting an increase in theft and antisocial behaviours, me included," he said.

"The CBD is the heart and face of Melbourne to the world and safety and security need to be our number one priority in order to attract more tourists, students, families, and traders to invest in the city."

For more information on the petition, visit: ●



▲ Fender Katsalidis partner Nicky Drobis.

Leading architect pushes case to "re-life" CBD towers

Continued from page 1.

"Currently, Melbourne has very stringent plot ratio and setback controls, so it could be worthwhile to start to reassess how those rules should apply if you're retaining a building rather than starting from scratch."

She also encouraged "flexibility" around floor space and building heights as a way to further incentivise developers to get on board.

"Increased allowances will redetermine how many re-life projects can go ahead, and help the city meet its environmental targets. With a shared goal for highly sustainable outcomes, and the right initiatives to make these projects a reality, we can correct the mistakes of the past and improve our built environment with biophilic design, comfortable floor plates and efficient ventilation."

Ms Drobis also pointed to the importance of government policy to increasing re-life projects, referencing the City of Melbourne's "Zero Carbon Building Plan" which was expected to go before the council later this year.

A late-2022 discussion paper informing the plan revealed that the current rate of local



... we need to think more deeply about what the best urban outcomes are ...



buildings being decarbonised per year was nowhere near that required for the City of Melbourne to reach its commitment of net zero emissions by 2040.

The report stated that for the council to reach its net zero goal, approximately 77 buildings would need to undergo a "deep energy retrofit" per annum, which was "significantly higher" than the current level. ●

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More space for pedestrians, less for cars in plan to “rebalance” city streets

Continued from page 1.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Framework built on the overarching Transport Strategy 2030 (released in 2019), a key finding of which revealed that while nine in 10 trips within the CBD are done on foot, only a quarter of total street space was designated for footpaths.

As a result, the council was hell-bent on redressing the balance and creating a more “equitable” public realm.

“The City of Melbourne has no plans to completely banish cars from the CBD. I acknowledge that reading the draft framework can make that confusing and I’ve had that feedback from lots of people,” she said at a June 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“We do not want gridlock in our city, in fact, we want to unlock the grid ... our aim is for there to be a balanced transport network that provides for all modes of transport so that everybody feels welcome in our city.”

Councillors voted eight to three in favour of the framework, with those against questioning the impact on small business.

Cr Roshena Campbell, a long-time critic of the council’s move to ease out private vehicles from the CBD, said the motion was a “tone-deaf slap in the face to our city traders right now.”

“We consider this motion while our city is in the fight of its life, while visitors continue to choose the ease and convenience of staying in the suburbs. My view is that we shouldn’t entertain any policy that discourages any visitor from coming to our city,” she said.

Cr Campbell said that the City of Melbourne’s moves were “elitist” against drivers, which the Transport Strategy indicated made up one-fifth of all trips to, from and within the Hoddle Grid.

“By prioritising those who can access our city on foot, bike, and public transport, it’s nothing short – particularly now – of an elitist indulgence that our city simply cannot afford. Our traders certainly cannot.”

An emotional Cr Jason Chang – a business owner with a CBD store – also voted against the Future Streets Framework, and said it discouraged people coming into the city.

According to the City of Melbourne, the blueprint will help prepare busy city areas for the significant changes emerging through the Metro Tunnel Project opening and the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Vehicle access deemed “essential” (including service, loading, trade, and emergency vehicles, plus for people with a disability) would not be targeted under any new plan.

The detailed council report made it clear that, contrary to popular opinion, pedestrians were the biggest economic generators within the CBD, while some drivers were, in fact, holding the city back.

“Pedestrians of all abilities offer the highest economic and environmental return of any transport mode,” it noted. “Vehicles that have a destination also provide an economic contribution, but vehicles that simply travel through the city do not provide a benefit.”

Council data has previously revealed that 43 per cent of weekday vehicle traffic in the



▲ Busy CBD streets, designated in maroon, slated for changed car conditions.

Hoddle Grid was “through-traffic”; vehicles that did not stop in the CBD.

Under the framework, CBD streets were classified into four categories, with “Melbourne Square” streets – those in line for major car-access changes – deemed most significant.

These are “major city gateways that accommodate high pedestrian densities around stations, interchanges and major civic destinations”.

Other classifications include “city streets”, “little streets”, and “laneways”.

The draft plan also proposed to permanently close private vehicle access on little streets “where possible”.

This, alongside intermittent closures, would “support pedestrianisation, activations and events suited to the context, while supporting traders to manage loading and servicing needs”.

Detailed street designs were expected at a later date.

“Missing the point”

During the hotly debated item at the June 6 meeting, Greens councillor Rohan Leppert expressed frustration that discussion had again centred on those in favour of cars and those against.

Cr Leppert said the purpose of the Hoddle Grid’s streets was far greater than simply accommodating different modes of transport, and said any assessment needed to include their wider importance.

He said the “pro-car versus anti-car debate” was unhelpful and “unfortunate”.

“We’re missing the point when we talk about this as a transport exercise or a transport mode balancing exercise. The streets in the Hoddle Grid are the only public space we’ve got, with some very, very minor exceptions,” he said.

“These street corridors cater not just for transport, but for everything; that’s where our

trees are, which give value to the city. That’s where outdoor dining is ... in any central city, streets are not what they are in the outer suburbs or in the regions where they have a predominantly transport function.”

Cr Leppert said the scarcity of space in the CBD underlined why the council needed a vision for how each street would be managed.

He wanted the debate in upcoming community consultation to focus on the “economic value” of the council’s proposed street changes, “because then we’re talking about the prosperity of the city”.

“[Then] we’re not getting bogged down with the ‘oh, there’s another document with the t-word in it, transport, I wonder if that’s a pro-car or anti-car thing?’ That is a distraction.”

No change for locals as council concedes “communications issue”

Cr Jamal Hakim reassured CBD locals there was no plans to take away resident parking spaces.

He admitted the council had to improve in explaining changes to locals and the wider public and said the Transport Strategy 2030 was “hardly understood”.

“I do think we need to do a better job at communicating some of these things,” he said.

“Some of the feedback I’ve heard from residents is ‘will I lose access to my parking spot living in the city?’ Certainly not. Egress and access is critical, will continue to happen and I think would never be lost, I don’t think anyone is imagining that.”

The Lord Mayor also conceded they needed to do better: “I acknowledge that we have a communication issue here”.

Councillors resolved to hold a forum prior to public consultation on the Future Streets Framework, pushing back the original start date of June 7. ●

Police hunt two men after pensioner fleeced of \$1700 in fortune teller scam

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

CRIME

Police are searching for two men purporting to be fortune tellers in the CBD, after a man with a cognitive impairment was duped into handing over \$1700 in cash.

The 33-year-old victim was on Little Bourke St when he was approached by a man who allegedly performed a magic trick and told him he had “good fortune” on April 23 about 5.45pm.

Police allege the man then duped the victim into handing over a small amount of cash before being pressured to withdraw money from a nearby ATM.

A second man joined the pair and performed the same magic trick, before allegedly coercing the victim to withdraw more cash, police said.

The victim made several withdrawals from the ATM totalling \$1700, which was his entire pension and rent money.

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit Detective Senior Constable Jerome Bain-King described the act as “grubby behaviour” and urged the culprits to hand themselves into police.

“It’s put a huge financial strain on the victim,” DSC Bain-King said.

“We want to knock this on the head as soon as possible given that these two offenders appear to be targeting vulnerable people and taking their money that they so much need in this current climate that we live in.”

“My message would be to the offenders: hand yourselves in before we come and knock on your door.”

DSC Bain-King said it was believed similar deceptions had occurred before, whereby the two men were tricking victims into believing they were fortune tellers.

He said the pair appeared to operate by carrying black wallets, which contained “little pieces of yellow paper” that they would write messages on before they “scrunch it up, and then hand it to the victim”.

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating and have released images and CCTV of two men they believe can assist their enquires.

The first man is perceived to be of sub-continental appearance, about 50 to 60 years old, with a medium build and about 182cm tall. He is described as having black short straight hair and was clean shaven apart from a moustache. He was wearing black pants and a sports jacket.

The second man is perceived to be of sub-continental appearance, about 30 to 40 years old, with a medium build and similar in height to the first man. He had black straight hair tied into a ponytail with a black moustache and beard. He was also wearing smart casual clothing including black vest, white shirt, and black slacks.

Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au](https://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au) ●

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CBD Local

The cheapest address in the CBD



There's a lovely little bluestone warehouse in Little Collins St surrounded by office towers.



WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

At the front is a café called Viet Boy and further back, past two walls of post boxes, sits a woman at a reception desk.

"This is a virtual address," said Donna Newman, mother of six and owner of Nat Post Business Centre, home to more than 600 businesses.

Donna has quite a few stories to tell about her clientele, who reap the benefit of an address in the CBD without actually being located here.

Each has a post box, to which mail is delivered daily, and items stored such as spare keys and documents.

"It starts at \$290 a year," Donna said, and businesses can meet clients here by booking one of a suite of rooms next to reception.

Each day a box from Australia Post arrives



which Donna processes with the added benefit that courier parcels from all companies are accepted.

Nat Post is a home business that is ahead of the times in terms of vision and a practical solution to new ways of working. It includes postal, shipping and office services with Donna opening the mail for some clients and sending them a scan by email.

"When businesses register with ASIC [Australian Securities and Investments Commission] they have to have a physical street address," Donna explained. "They can't use a PO box. Many don't want to have their home addresses made public."

This centre is based on a US model that Donna and her family observed on a trip. "You have UPS (United Parcel Service) stores in every shopping centre. They provide mailboxes, printing, and shipping," she said.

"A lot of people use them to prevent

identity theft. People steal mail and credit card statements."

The family moved into the 1865-built warehouse in 2004 and they live above it in a suite of offices once occupied by St Vincent's staff. "I said to each of the kids, 'pick an office'."

The virtual address is popular with lawyers, accountants, cleaners, migration agents, tradies, and start-up companies.

Donna is on friendly terms with her regular delivery guys, and she just has to step out into the street to be handed a parcel.

The identity of her clients is protected, such as the diamond merchant who doesn't want people to know where he lives but when the centre received a lot of "high-end stuff delivered" for shipping they were suspicious.

"They wanted to pay by credit card. I suspected they were using stolen credit cards. I said, 'give me cash'. They wouldn't do it. I marked the parcels 'return to sender.'" ●

Council cutting consultant costs, but won't review relationship with PwC

WORDS BY David Schout

The City of Melbourne is cutting costs on consultants but won't reassess future contracts with PwC Australia in the wake of the tax leak scandal.

From January to May this year the council paid PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia \$369,000 for its expertise on a number of separate projects, which included an internal audit and risk review.

The global consulting firm has been a key external resource for the City of Melbourne in recent years, and in 2020, conducted modelling on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the city.

However, recent revelations showed the firm's Australian senior partners misused confidential government information to help big multinational companies avoid paying more tax, and is now subject to a police investigation.

While the scandal has made international headlines, it has also raised questions on how heavy a reliance governments — from federal to local — should have on private consultants to formulate policy.

And while the Reserve Bank of Australia and some of the country's biggest superannuation funds have either frozen or are reviewing future work contracts with the accounting giant, the council did not say it would do the same when contacted by *CBD News*.

It did, however, say it was committed to a continued effort to cut consultant expenditure. Twelve months ago, in the 2022-23 budget, the council said its post-COVID recovery would see less reliance on consultants as part of a "concerted effort to source in-house expertise". ●

Continue reading online

Council scraps plan for increased busking fees

A win for CBD buskers, with the council ditching a plan to hike up fees from July 1.

WORDS BY David Schout

A City of Melbourne plan to introduce new fees for buskers has been scrapped after the council was urged to reconsider the move.

After waiving fees for street performers since October 2020 as a response to COVID-19, the council had proposed a new \$207 fee for circle acts with "dangerous goods" and a hike from \$30 to \$50 for all general busking permits.

However in the period of public feedback held after the council released its 2023-24 draft budget in May, 19 parties objected to the move, saying Melbourne's reputation as a creative



capital would be damaged.

Respondents were particularly frustrated with the \$207 fee passed on to new circle act applicants using dangerous goods (such as fire or swords) who are all required to undertake a

risk and safety assessment.

"I'm a circle act busker in Melbourne. With the new \$207 assessment fee and the \$20 permit price increase I wouldn't be able to afford to apply for a busking permit in Melbourne," one respondent said.

Another wrote: "A travelling act who may only be in town for a week or two will have to pay \$257 (and) in my experience having seen this happen in other places will mean a lot of international busker acts will skip Melbourne and frequent other cities."

One performer called the move "ridiculous" and said "the second we start 'professionalising' busking, it's no longer busking".

In response, and in one of few changes to the draft budget, the council said while busking fees would be reintroduced on July 1, they would remain at \$30 per annum per performer.

"The City of Melbourne is proud of its

reputation in supporting a vibrant street culture and values the diversity of entertainment buskers bring to the public," it said.

"We are also committed to providing an accessible and affordable permit system for the busking and street entertainment community. On this basis council has decided that busking fees will not be increased in the proposed council budget for 2023-2024, when busking fees are re-introduced."

Notably, it said that the \$207 "premium permit" for circle act assessments with dangerous goods "will also not be introduced at this time".

The council estimated this would reduce its permits and registrations revenue budget by \$100,000.

It was expected to adopt the 2023-24 budget at a special Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 20. ●



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An enduring presence in Melbourne

Twenty-five per cent of the current population of the municipality of Melbourne are of Chinese ancestry. They perpetuate the prominence of the community's enduring presence since Melbourne's early history of the 1850s.



Buildings in Chinatown that were established in the mid-19th century, during the gold rush are still owned by the original "clans" and religious organisations who built these buildings as community facilities to support new gold rush arrivals of Chinese immigrants and ongoing Melbourne inhabitants. The precinct in central Melbourne now stands as the oldest Chinatown streetscape in the Western world with a continuous living community history.

The survival of Melbourne's Chinatown in the centre of the CBD comes as no surprise once one understands that this precinct was the life-blood of a much wider Chinese community that resided not only in Chinatown, but throughout the inner suburbs of Melbourne, such as Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington, Fitzroy, South Melbourne and East Melbourne up until the mid-20th century.

While this recognition is scant, many older-generation Chinese Australians remember their early childhood growing up in inner-city Melbourne and carry the stories of their parents and their parents' parents that perpetuate Chinatown's 170-year existence.

It is time to pull the whole story of a community together that has been and continues to be a major formative part of Melbourne's social, commercial and cultural life.

The Museum of Chinese Australian History has initiated a broad-sweeping project to study the social, historic and economic landscape

of inner Melbourne from an alternative perspective. While numerous cultural collecting institutions, including the Museum of Chinese Australian History itself, have records of individuals and events of the past, the history and impact on Melbourne's social fabric of the last century and before has never been compiled to a central point where all the previous research work can be referenced into a wholistic and continuous picture.

The Museum's purpose is to distil this research for future generations as a foundation for not only an understanding of both the Chinese Australians' place in Australian society, but also the ability to trace individuals and families of those generations who went before to also establish our community members' individual places in Chinese society.

Join us to tell this history

This project is specifically about Chinese people who have lived and worked in the municipality of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

The **community reunions** are themed. Your family may have originated in Carlton or North Melbourne, or participated in a debutante ball, have been a restaurateur or waiter in Chinatown, worked at Queen Victoria Market or belonged to a Chinese society. We are bringing the community to the Chinese Melbourne story spanning the past 170 years.

If you are descendants of those who have a history and memory about living or working in Melbourne in the last century, you are eligible to come to a **community reunion** at the Chinese Museum, which are held monthly.

These reunions are for families, social groups and associations, being a great opportunity to re-unite with relatives and old friends that will stimulate attendees to share their past experiences. These events will be filmed and interviews conducted.

Head online to find out how to join a reunion or volunteer to participate in the project.

The broader objective of this project is to expand and enrich the understanding of how Chinese Australians contributed to shaping Australia's multicultural national identity and social order by reviewing the social interaction, firstly with Melbourne's early colonial society, then in later years, with modern Australia – studying the push-pull relationship at the coalface where Chinese Australians meet Australian society over this period.

The research will be utilised in a major exhibition that will become the foundation of a new Museum that is to be expanded in 2026.

The Chinese Melbourne project is sponsored by Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. ●

For more information:
chinesemuseum.com.au



Vibrant artworks revamp construction sites with colour and creativity

WORDS BY *Shervin Nasiri*
ARTS & CULTURE

The City of Melbourne's Creative Hoardings project brings together talented local artists and world-class property developers to brighten the corners and growing construction sites of the city.

After receiving an overwhelming response of 340 submissions, the council has now revealed the six "thought-provoking" artworks in this art project. Ranging from playful and amusing to fascinating and meaningful, these pieces encompass a wide variety.

The photos, illustrations, digital art, and paintings from local artists seek to transform buildings and construction sites around the CBD and enhance its visual and cultural appeal.

"This is about using blank space as a canvas to display the incredible breadth of talent we have right here in our city," the council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said.

The project will run for the next 12 months around the city and will provide insights to determine if the program could be rolled out more widely in the future.

With around 2300 building permits issued in the past 12 months, these construction sites could soon display Creative Hoardings prints.

The City of Melbourne is encouraging developers interested in displaying art on their worksites to get in touch via its website. ●

botswana butchery

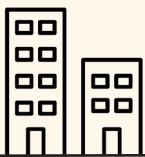
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PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE

Community housing comes to the CBD

Right in the middle of the city next to Queen Victoria Market (QVM) is a building with a striking red and white façade, which no-one would guess is the home to a number of community housing residents who have been allocated social housing by not-for-profit housing provider, Housing Choices Australia.

In 2021, Housing Choices Australia (Housing Choices) opened the much-needed housing for low-income residents, with support from the state government and a 50-year lease of the land on which it sits from the City of Melbourne.

Community housing is filling a much-needed gap in the public housing landscape, where the number of people on the Victorian Housing Register waitlist is nearing 60,000.

With rent, interest rates and energy costs rising simultaneously, more people are seeking help from organisations like Housing Choices, which lease homes with capped rent to more than 2000 low-income Victorians including

people with disability. The QVM building is accommodating more than 50 people on low incomes, and one of those residents is 59-year-old Ray Beckler, who shares his apartment with three pet canaries and a collection of musical instruments he loves to play.

Ray was a welder and boilermaker but found himself unable to keep up with private rent after a workplace accident.

"I was happy as Larry working but once I stopped and the financial freedom was gone, I had to make a lot of arrangements and adjustments. The first two or three years were pretty horrible," Ray said.



Circumstances meant Ray had to live with his mum in her two-bedroom Carlton home where he stayed for the next seven years caring for her.

After years of not having his own place, Ray couldn't believe it when Housing Choices offered him the brand-new apartment.

"Having a home is a person's biggest security in life ... it gives you the opportunity to do all of these things as you like and as you need," he said.

Before he viewed the apartment, Ray had never pictured himself living in the city but hasn't looked back since:

"There's lots of public transport options and

it has this balcony – that is one of my favourite things," Ray said.

"I really like that I've been able to make this place into what I want."

Housing Choices Australia has specialist disability apartments available at QVM for NDIS participants. ●

To find out more:
Call 1300 312 447 or email sdainfo@hcau.org.au



Are these Melbourne's best-located specialist disability apartments?

Live at QVM Apartments, next to Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Market. One-bedroom accessible apartments, including on-site support by Yooralla, available now.

Scan to enquire here, visit housingchoices.org.au/QVM/ or call 1300 312 447 to find out more.

Registered NDIS Provider



Warehouse chic with industrial influence

This penthouse warehouse at Warburton Lane is a whole floor of 160 metres square, and is one of only three in the building.

The fit-out thoughtfully ensured total empathy as to why one loves the true warehouse.

This exceptional property, with its soaring ceiling heights, stunning volume of space, dual mezzanine levels, and a walk-over gantry, makes this apartment one of Melbourne's finest examples of true warehouse living.

"The continued repeat and referred business is the wonderful gift to me from both my vendors and buyers over my 25 years specialising in this unique and boutique property market," Gina Donazzan, founder and director of Donazzan Boutique Property Melbourne, said.

"This rare warehouse property was purchased through me at my then business, Melbourne Boutique Property, 16 years ago by my vendors, and it was an honour to be now handling the sale of it for them."

Ms Donazzan said the appeal in the market was huge and the new owner, "being a gifted and talented artist, has made it their own".

"These exclusive Melbourne properties continue to attract and delight those wanting a unique city home nestled within the quaint or lively lanes and streets of our beautiful city," she said.

"Vendors and buyers alike truly value our honest and transparent business practices that continue to reflect in our first-class outcomes."

For a confidential discussion about your needs in the property market contact Gina Donazzan and her team. ●

Parkhill Apartments – brand-new, just completed, and ready to move in



Central Equity has just completed an exciting new apartment project: Parkhill Apartments in West Melbourne.



Located on the corner of Spencer and Batman streets, these newly completed apartments are now open for inspection and sale. Tours are available of a range of fully furnished display apartments and the stunning resident rooftop facilities. Parkhill has been designed with liveability and convenience in mind – the project boasts beautiful rooftop resident-only facilities and spacious, light filled apartments with stunning city, garden, and bay views. Parkhill has been designed to meet the needs of young professionals, students, empty-nesters, and the growing tide of young parents looking to raise their families in the inner city.

The apartments have an abundance of floor-to-ceiling glazing that provides extensive natural light and breathtaking views of Melbourne's inner city, east towards Flagstaff Gardens and south towards the CBD. All apartments come with a large balcony or terrace for outdoor dining or relaxation.

At street level, Parkhill will improve amenity on both Spencer and Batman streets with a range of retail tenancies and a striking podium.

Residents are greeted by an elegant architect-designed foyer with an onsite seven-day concierge. The building has extensive security features including floor-to-floor secure access and is serviced by state-of-the-art lifts.

Residents will have exclusive access to the rooftop terrace, which boasts views of the inner city, as well as to an extensive landscaped garden terrace, barbecue and dining areas, a gym and exercise areas.

The project encourages sustainable transport alternatives, with a generous amount of bike storage on site. Its city fringe location puts it within walking distance to the free tram zone, Flagstaff and Southern Cross train stations and bus routes. Car parking is also available on selected apartments.

The development is also within walking distance of Melbourne's major universities including RMIT and Melbourne University, Haileybury College (City Campus), University High School, the city's employment and retail precincts, Flagstaff Gardens and Queen Victoria Market.

Parkhill is Central Equity's 86th major residential project over 35 years and is another example of delivering on what it promises.

To book your tour and be one of the first to inspect the fully furnished display apartments at Parkhill go to parkhill.com.au or visit the onsite sales display at 408 Spencer St – open 7 days. There are a limited number of one- and two-bedroom apartments for sale from \$515,000. ●



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* Price as at 16 June 2023, until sold.

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parkhill.com.au



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Your City of Melbourne community update

FIVE DEADLY FIRST NATIONS BUSINESSES TO DISCOVER IN NARRM

Taste the flavours of the Torres Strait, fall in love with changemaking Aboriginal art and browse designer fashion that supports children in remote communities.

Whether you're dining out, buying a gift or contracting services for your workplace, we can all play a role in helping First Nations businesses thrive.

At the City of Melbourne, our Aboriginal Procurement Strategy guides us in promoting economic participation and development among Aboriginal people to close the gap of disadvantage.

Here are five beloved dining and retail businesses you can explore around the City of Melbourne.

BIG ESSO BY MABU MABU

Federation Square, Melbourne

Settle in with pepperberry and saltbush fried crocodile and damper with golden syrup butter at Big Esso by Mabu Mabu, an all-day bar and kitchen in central Melbourne. Stay a while to enjoy chargrilled seafood alongside bevs and beats from Indigenous creators, or browse small-batch pantry supplies online.

THE TORCH

146 Elgin Street, Carlton

Browse stunning artwork by First Nations creatives who've taken part in the powerful Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program run by The Torch. Each year, this Melbourne Award-winning program supports around 600 First Nations people who have been impacted by incarceration in Victoria. This creates new pathways for participants' lives beyond the prison system.



NGALI

24 Aurora Lane, Docklands

Shop for silk dresses, scarves, clothes and tops that share the stories of Country through stunning artwork. These street and runway-ready First Nations designs are a sustainable and meaningful alternative to fast fashion. Proceeds from your purchases will support literacy and IT programs for children in remote communities.

PAWA CAFÉ & BAR

Southbank Promenade, Melbourne

Grab a lilly pilly croissant, kangaroo meat pie or pre-show cheese board at Hamer Hall, overlooking the Yarra River - Birrarung. Pawa collaborates with a network of Indigenous native food growers, farmers, foragers, artisans and makers. Pawa means 'to cook' in the language of the Gunditjmarra people.

THE KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST

Federation Square, Melbourne

Browse authentic Victorian Aboriginal artwork and artefacts at the Koorie Heritage Trust in the heart of Melbourne. This curated collection includes paintings, carvings, didgeridoos and clapsticks. By deepening people's understanding of Indigenous arts, the Trust aims to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginalmelbourne

SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK



Take time to embrace and deepen your understanding of Melbourne's Aboriginal history during NAIDOC Week from 2 to 9 July.

NAIDOC Week encourages people to celebrate Aboriginal history, culture and achievements and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded. NAIDOC originally stood for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee and was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week. The committee's acronym has evolved into the name of the week itself.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. This year's theme is 'For Our Elders'.

Here are six ways to celebrate NAIDOC Week in Melbourne.

MELBOURNE ZOO COMMUNITY DAY

When: Sunday 2 July

Where: Melbourne Zoo

What: Aboriginal Melbourne and Melbourne Zoo have planned a range of activities for children, young people and families, including art and crafts, music and cultural education.

DEADLY BOOKS GIVEAWAY

When: Sunday 2 to Sunday 9 July

Where: Elizabeth Street Pop-up Library

What: City of Melbourne Libraries and Aboriginal Melbourne will give away a collection of books by Victorian Aboriginal writers. The books will be available every day the Elizabeth Street pop-up library is open, or until exhausted. Come along on Sunday 2 July for a special interactive celebratory event.

SOUNDS OF COUNTRY

When: Monday 3 to Sunday 9 July

Where: GPO Bourke Street

What: Visit GPO Bourke Street each lunchtime through the week to enjoy a free performance by host of fantastic Aboriginal musicians, with different talent on show every day.

YARN + BLING MAKERS WORKSHOP

When: Friday 7 July

Where: Library at the Dock

What: Haus of Dizzy and City of Melbourne are hosting a deadly earring-making workshop together for NAIDOC week. Come along and learn how to create your own set of colourful acrylic earrings with talented Wiradjuri artist and entrepreneur, Kristy Dickinson.

NAIDOC IN THE CITY

When: Friday 7 July

Where: Federation Square

What: Following the annual NAIDOC March, NAIDOC in the City is an exciting celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, achievements and talents. We have a stellar lineup of First Nations talent on the main stage, with performances from Shauntai Sheree, Bumpy, Mitch Tambo, Tia Gostelow and The Indigenous Outreach Projects. There'll also be a range of stalls to explore, offering deadly merch, traditional food, activities and more.

FINDERS KEEPERS MARKET

When: Friday 7 July - Sunday 9 July

Where: Royal Exhibition Building

What: Aboriginal Melbourne is sponsoring up to 20 Aboriginal-owned businesses to be part of the Finders Keepers Market. From ceramics to art, fashion to food, explore their wares this NAIDOC Week.

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Later this year, Australians will participate in a referendum about the Voice to Parliament to determine whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will have an ongoing say on decisions made about them.

We want to help Melburnians understand what this means, so we're making it easy for people to get the facts.

Now is the time to look out for each other as we listen and learn.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice

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CITY OF MELBOURNE



James Joyce's *Exiles* hits Flinders Lane

As part of Bloomsday in Melbourne, a day celebrating the life of Irish writer James Joyce, fortyfivedownstairs is putting on the renowned writer's one and only play Exiles.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

The surprisingly modern play, which was written in 1918, is being performed at the Flinders Lane theatre, but is only on for a limited time, with the production wrapping up on Sunday, June 25.

Exiles is brought to life on stage under the direction of Carl Whiteside and remains loyal to its intriguing psychological drama storyline where questions around relationships within, and outside of, the confines of marriage are discussed.

"It took a crucial revival by Harold Pinter in 1970 to 1971, and subsequent triumphs in London



▲ Lucy Payne (Bertha) & Linda Cookson (Brigid)

Photo by Joÿ Jane Stit

and New York in 2006, for audiences to begin to grasp its [*Exiles*] true subversiveness," Bloomsday's artistic director, Frances Devlin-Glass, said.

"These productions highlighted the play's dark humour, its unspoken psychological menace, and darker motivations. *Exiles* was belatedly recognised as a new kind of theatre, quite different from the well-made and morality-focused plays of Ibsen."

Exiles is a dramatic, yet darkly funny, play that explores the unconventional marriage of Bertha (played by Lucy Payne) and Richard (played by Doug Lyons), who take their already scandalous partnership to a new level.

"The play is an exploration of what it means to be truthful, in love, and in an honest marriage," Ms Payne told *CBD News*.

"Richard, who if anyone is based on Joyce is him, is curious about this philosophical idea of an open marriage and how can you be truly free within the confines of marriage.

"For me, it becomes about the conflict between the ideal of an open marriage, and doing that respectfully and lovingly, and then the reality of doing that with human emotion and the complexities of everyone trusting each other and communicating."

As the play delves into complex territory, with the other characters involved being Richard's best

friend Robert, and Robert's ex-wife, Ms Payne said it can become "surprisingly funny" despite remaining a classic drama.

"On the surface it is a classic drama, but it's very surprisingly funny how much lightness there is in it, and this is because Joyce is a good writer, and you can't make people cry unless you make them laugh," she said.

"It's about human nature and everyone has all these flaws. People are aiming for these high ideals and none of them can reach them because their humanness gets in the way."

As well as the on-stage performers and director bringing new life into the complex and beloved play, set designer and costume designer Bridie Turner has also worked hard to respond to the script, and allow for audiences to step into the world of *Exiles*.

Their talents combine, further encouraging the play to continue to be one that stands the test of time.

For tickets:

fortyfivedownstairs.com/event/exiles



ArtPlay's newest initiative is a playful combination of serious and silly rolled into one

WORDS BY Georgie Atkins
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Pia Johnson

ArtPlay's newest arts experience in collaboration with House of Muchness, *Don't Panic, Everything is Urgent*, will open from July 1-9, turning the mixed messages kids receive from the adult world into a fun, multi-sensory adventure.

Don't Panic, Everything is Urgent has been designed by the By Kids for Kids Collective, a group of young minds that have worked together to create an experience that turns everything that kids are told about what is urgent on its head.

Matilda, the resident "Dreamer" of the By Kids for Kids Collective, said being a part of the experience had made her "hopeful" that kids would be more involved in future planning and design of arts experiences for kids.

"I think kids know quite well what kids enjoy. So, it makes sense to do it like this," Matilda said.

"Just because we're children, doesn't mean we're the wrong person for the job - we're the right kind of people for the job, to be the guides of fun."

The experience will run through the winter school holidays, with four different activities running in sessions throughout the week. Participants will be taken through each activity by the members of the By Kids for Kids Collective themselves.

Alex Walker from House of Muchness said the *Don't Panic, Everything is Urgent* experience will be "fascinating, confronting and entertaining" all at once.

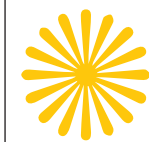
The four activities include, The World is Lava, How Do You Get Power? Can Everyone Please Calm Down? and Arguments For and Against Having Children. Multiple sessions for each activity will run to target specific age groups.

As part of the experience, participants will be able to undertake a physical challenge obstacle course, dress up as a leader in a personal photo-shoot, hear different opinions from kids and adults in an engaging panel discussion, as well as drink peppermint tea and spend time with plants in the chillax stations.

Continue reading online

For tickets:

melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-andculture/artplay/whats-on



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Can we know everything?

On the first Tuesday of each month a new literary salon has opened up in the rustic basement of Bard's Hypothecary in Crossley St.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

You front up to the bar, order a drink then squeeze past the drinkers to descend a staircase.

Small café tables are scattered in the basement to create a speakeasy kind of setting.

Two empty chairs and a microphone up the front signal that some kind of performance is due to begin. Tension mounts.

Bookseller Robert Albazi introduces a guest writer. They're both wearing checks and create a pleasing texture against the brick wall.

Robert has read the debut novel of Adam Ouston, a ghost writer and editor from Hobart, and the book is uppermost in his mind when he begins the interview.

First he talks about Ouston's looping sentences, which he read "over and over again" then they focus on Houdini's visit to Australia and the crash of the Malaysian airline Flight 370 over Ukraine in 2014.

A literary salon is the place where questions



are raised and interviewers face problems of not giving too much away.

The pessimistic narrator of Ouston's novel *Waypoints* has lost his wife and kid but this is not revealed until part of the way into the work.

Robert reveals this to be the underlying story that prompts the bereft father and partner to trawl through the internet for details of plane crashes.

It is up to the reader to decipher what happened in what he calls a "Wikipedic" novel and not to harangue the novelist over questions of suspense.

"It's hard to be a rebel these days," Ouston

told the salon. "Everything seems to have sunk to a new low but it's harder to rebel. Regardless of the life you choose there is always a cost."

A story beneath the narration of a novel is sacrosanct and can't really be revealed, hence the delicate manoeuvres around blurbs that preoccupy publishers.

Booksellers understand this. So do most readers. Reviewers are asked not to reveal tragedies that occur in fiction, putting them under quite a bit of pressure.

There is just one paragraph in *Waypoints* and this daring challenge for the reader follows a tradition of writerly experiments with form.

Lucy Ellman's 2019 novel *Ducks, Newburyport* had just a few full stops and Will Self's 2014 novel *Phone* was short-listed for the Goldsmiths Prize in 2017, and it had no paragraphs either. Ouston's novel has been longlisted for the Miles Franklin.

The Paperback, which runs the salon, has copies of the novel available for sale.

The purpose of the salon is to promote the work of local writers and to delve into their style.

Waypoints is an information-heavy novel that delights in the idea that we can know everything thanks to Google and shouldn't be making mistakes!

The Paperback salon, the first Tuesday of each month, Bard's Hypothecary.



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PARKS



King's Birthday Honours

Lord Mayor honoured with prestigious award

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp says she's "surprised and humbled" to have been appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in this year's King's Birthday honours.

Ms Capp, who is Melbourne's first female Lord Mayor since being elected in 2018, received her prestigious award in recognition of her "distinguished service to the people of Melbourne, to local government, to business, and to the community through various organisations".

The AO honour is a "distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or humanity at large", recognising "people whose actions have made a significant impact in our society".

Ms Capp's long list of contributions to the

community include being a spokeswoman on homelessness since 2019, being the current chair of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, and the first woman to serve as a board member at Collingwood Football Club.

In other roles, she is a member of the Local Government Ministerial Advisory Panel, chair of the M9 collaboration of nine inner metropolitan councils, as well as a member and City of Melbourne representative for the Metropolitan Transport Forum.

Ms Capp said her AO award "represents the combined efforts of the brilliant people I have worked with and their dedication to positive outcomes in our society".

"It is a privilege to serve the people of Melbourne, and I thank them for the opportunity to work alongside them through past challenging circumstances and now as we shape the future of our city together," she said. ●



A dedication to psychiatry earns Josephine Beatson an OAM



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

CBD resident associate professor Josephine Beatson says she is "honoured and humbled" after being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to psychiatry.

Prof. Beatson is a clinical associate professor (honorary) in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne, and a senior clinical advisor at Spectrum Personality Disorder Service for Victoria.

Speaking about her distinguished career, she said, "what I have loved most is helping people through the dark and difficult times in their lives and being involved in the teaching and training of psychiatric trainees and younger psychiatrists".

She said a particular focus had been the understanding and treatment of people with borderline personality disorder (BPD), for which there was now effective psychological treatments.

"They can be offered on an individual basis or in groups. My fervent hope is that these psychological treatments will be embraced by clinicians and become more available now that we know so much more about what 'works' for BPD."

Anyone who would like to know more about BPD can contact the BPD Foundation ●

For more information:

bpdfoundation.org.au
admin@bpdfoundation.org.au

Jill Boehm appointed AM for her significant service to community health

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

CBD resident Jill Boehm, who has made a lifelong commitment to improving the health of those around her, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Ms Boehm, a nurse since 1971 after completing her training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, was recognised for her "significant service to community health" in the Shoalhaven region of New South Wales.

"When I received the news of my honour, I was immediately humbled and emotional to think that the people I had worked with for 10 years had nominated me for this award," she said.

"My thoughts went to the Illawarra Local Health District (ISLHD) of NSW, to my colleagues, executives, and staff that I had worked with so closely as the deputy board chair for 10 years."

Throughout her career, Ms Boehm ran a cancer charity, which included a not-for-profit hospital and accommodation facility for several years, caring for country NSW cancer patients.

She was also appointed as an inaugural member of the Cancer Institute (NSW) board and appointed as a



board member for the Cancer Council NSW.

She and her husband returned to Melbourne two-and-a-half years ago to spend time with family.

Ms Boehm, who received a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2007, said: "I have always felt that my strength lies with my advocacy and support of patients and families and have continued to use those skills throughout my professional life." ●



Rotarian and education stalwart humbled by AM award

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

A Rotary Club of Melbourne member, and the current emeritus chairman of Monash University's Engineering and IT Foundation has been awarded a King's Birthday honour.

Dr Peter Rogers was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) "for significant service to engineering, to education, and to the community".

Dr Peter Rogers, who served as the 99th president of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Australia's first and largest club launched in 1923 by Sir John Monash, has been a passionate member for decades.

He said an important initiative he had been involved with since

2011 was the commissioning of a three-metre sculpture of Sir John Monash now located near the Chancellery Building at Monash University's Clayton campus.

"He is depicted as an engineer standing on a concrete bridge. This has helped create awareness in the community of Sir John's non-military contributions including his role as a leading Rotarian," Dr Rogers said.

Through his role at Monash University, Dr Rogers is equally passionate about education, which he said had a "transformative impact in terms of what you can achieve in your life."

Speaking about his prestigious award, Dr Rogers said he was humbled, describing the moment as a "delightful, unexpected surprise". ●

Senator Linda White



YOUR VOICE IN THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE

As a Labor Senator, my office is available to assist you with any Federal Government issues.

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👤 Senator Linda White 🐦 @lindawhiteaus



Authorised by Senator Linda White, ALP, Carlton.

TURNING HOPE INTO ACTION

A few home truths about homelessness

I have been a homelessness advocate for around nine years now. I have often complained that the homelessness sector fails to engage with those of us who have had a lived experience.

WORDS BY *Lisa Peterson*



This failure to engage with the sector's clientele was confirmed by a recent P.A.T.H. Report for the Centre for Building Better Community.

When I was experiencing homelessness, I often felt that the people "helping" me had no understanding of what I was going through and didn't really care. In my time working within the sector, I have realised that this lack of engagement is systemic. Workers just do what their job involves, which is easier to do if they don't spend time engaging or empathising with their clients.

As someone who chose to work in the sector in the hope of ensuring that homelessness was less traumatic for those who followed me, this realisation has become even more traumatic than the experience of homelessness.

The lack of engagement with people experiencing homelessness is at the root of the problems. These are the people that the government pays organisations to help and protect. But because the sector fails to engage with them, their problems become incidental, instead of top-priority.

I have heard a very senior manager in the sector say, "we can't end homelessness, or we'll be unemployed." Sadly, that's how it looks from the inside. A group of people more interested in keeping a roof over their own heads than they are in finding a roof for the actual homeless people – the people taxpayers pay them to help – to sleep under.

I've seen very senior administrators reduce the asking number of submissions by three quarters because they were scared if they asked for what they needed, they'd get nothing at all. But where does that leave us?

Short answer: it has brought us to the point where the best advice I can give to somebody new to the experience of homelessness in Victoria is to get a drug habit. How messed up is that?

This system cannot be allowed to continue. Nobody in this country should lose their life (whether by murder or suicide) because a taxpayer-funded housing organisation didn't do its job. Nobody should ever be put in a position where they are forced to live in abject poverty or commit federal fraud. This, and so much more, has got to stop.

Homelessness seems to be the last social service area where people with a lived experience

aren't automatically consulted, let alone embedded throughout the system. If you've broken the law and are in custody, you have more rights than somebody who can't afford to keep a roof over their heads.

This suggests the individual is still blamed for their experience of homelessness despite the housing affordability crisis, the pandemic, inflation, the war in the Ukraine, people having to escape domestic violence, interest rate rises, the nightmare that is Centrelink, negative gearing, the gender pay gap, record immigration numbers, etc. – all things outside of the individual's fault and control.

The individual blame is bad enough when it comes from people who don't know any different, but when it comes from those educated and paid to know better and provide care, then it needs to change.

I'm currently working with a couple of amazing women to start the first organisation of people with a lived experience of homelessness for people who are experiencing it – Turning Hope Into Action (THIA). We are aiming to be the peak body for people with a lived or living experience of homelessness in Victoria so that we finally have representation and an independent voice. Through the set-up process we've been unable to find evidence that the Specialist Homelessness Sector has ever had a review. Homelessness has, but not the sector itself.

Even as somebody who has made it their business to know homelessness, I have no idea who's who in this zoo. I have no idea how much taxpayer money goes into it, or how efficiency is measured. There is no co-ordination, there are obvious gaps, as well as avoidable duplications.

The whole sector needs a review and a re-structure. It needs to be brought into line with every other social service area where people with a lived experience are at the centre and get to have a say in the decisions that impact their lives.

We cannot continue with a system that keeps you trapped in it, and too often traumatises or kills the people it should be helping. We can't change this on our own though, we need help.

Please, contact your local MP. Urge them to call for a review of the homelessness sector, to call for improved efficiency and transparency, and to ensure that lived experience is at the core of the restructured sector. ●

BUSINESS



A Royal opening for Melbourne's new retail icon

“When you walk into the Royal Arcade, you are stepping back in time.”

”

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

There you are, in the past when, and where, artisan was at its height, with its iconic black and white tiled floor, wrought iron trusses, bow windowed shop fronts, and of course, the mythical figures of Gog and Magog. It's hard to imagine a place more quintessentially Melbourne than the Royal Arcade.

Championing that devotion to bespoke, handmade craftwork is the Royal Arcade's newest trader, Paper Republic – a store that returns to an era where beautiful things endure.

Paper Republic sources high-quality artisan creations from around the globe, accompanied by a strong focus on Australian designed and manufactured products.

Following the huge success of its Camberwell location, and the introduction of an online store, Paper Republic founder, Tim Hampton, decided on Royal Arcade as the perfect setting to bring its brand and extensive range of products to the inner city.

“While Paper Republic supports Australian artists and Australian-made items, we also travel overseas to source beautiful product made in the UK, Europe and North America and we bring this product back with a lot of it being proudly unique to Paper Republic in Australia,” Mr Hampton said.

“Our business expanded in 2020 when we established an online store which saw a large

number of customers from all over Australia and internationally able to source our product online and have it shipped direct to their door.”

“Opening in April this year we have already seen large numbers of local residents, office workers plus interstate and overseas tourists coming to our store to buy unique and interesting greeting cards, stationery, journals and small gifts.”

With exclusive access to internationally renowned products like Bomo Art decorative wraps, photo albums and greeting cards, all hand made in Budapest, Hungary, or Dumomo leather journals from Milan, Italy, Paper Republic is the kind of store where you can do your entire Christmas shop in one location.

Alongside the broad range of international products sit a variety of locally sourced products supporting local artists and producers like Blue Island Press and Jeremy Boot cards and calendars, Bespoke letterpress and stationery and La La Land cards and gifts.

Paper Republic marketing coordinator, Courtney Oehms, told *CBD News* it had been incredible to see the response from locals and visitors in just a few months, and she looked forward to bringing more “truly unique products to a truly unique location”.

“There are plenty of gift shops in Melbourne, but there aren't many that do what we do; from our iconography and artist unique images to our range of exclusively sourced products like wax seals and calligraphy sets, it's a pretty magical place to shop,” she said.

“We have taken all of our favourite and most exceptional products from our Camberwell store and brought them to the Royal Arcade.”

“Our large selection of stationery, boutique greeting cards, journals, calligraphy sets, origami paper and giftware makes, mean that we are a one stop shop for both locals and a traveller's paradise.” ●

For more information:
paperrepublic.com.au

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QVM Trader Profile

The ripe way to champion artisanal Australian cheese

Ripe Cheese at Queen Victoria Market is not your average cheese stall; instead it is a shop designed for the purpose of connecting shoppers with Australian cheesemakers.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

When it comes to the crowd favourite dairy product of cheese, founder of Ripe Cheese, Hakim Halim, has a wealth of knowledge.

While starting out on his career in the Dairy Produce Hall at another deli, Mr Halim was constantly asked by customers why it was easier to find European cheese than Australian cheese, and so he decided to do something about it.

"I thought someone needed to be championing artisanal Australian cheese and, I thought, why not me," Mr Halim said.

"I didn't want to launch my business anywhere else other than Queen Victoria Market; it was my first and only choice. So, in November 2019 I launched Ripe Cheese and have only been supporting artisanal Australian cheese since then."

Mr Halim is very passionate about what he does, and it is the reason why he dedicated so much time to learning more about the industry and the small cheesemakers in Victoria, and Australia.

"I didn't really have many contacts when I first started, so I just got in my car and drove around or picked up the phone and called the cheesemakers and farmers who all make their own cheese, with a lot of them using organic Australian milk ethically sourced from farms," he said.

Establishing these relationships, while a great feat, has been the most important step Ripe Cheese has taken in making itself a standout to customers.

Due to Mr Halim's commitment to visiting and keeping in regular contact with the cheesemakers and farmers, he is able to provide a level of service and knowledge to his customers that can be hard to find elsewhere.

"We always tell our customers that we are not here to just sell cheese, but we are here to tell stories and really share the stories of the cheesemakers and the cheese they produce," he said.

"By doing so people actually form an emotional connection with the makers and the product. So, our customers are not just coming to us to buy cheese, they are coming to us to buy the whole story and support the understanding and belief that Aussie produce is the way to go."



While passionate about showcasing Australian products, Mr Halim said he was committed to running the shop like the Europeans did.

All the cheeses are cut to order, not pre-wrapped in plastic, and are only wrapped in proper cheese paper, once purchased, to retain quality.

Taste testing of all the cheeses is also available to assure the customer is aware of what they are buying beforehand.

In addition to selling cheese, this time of year is also when Ripe Cheese's most renowned truffle toastie becomes available.

Starting back in 2020, when a truffle wholesaler reached out and worked with Mr Halim to create the product, Ripe Cheese became known for its authentic truffle toasties which would fly off the shelf.

Made using all Australian products, the toastie is filled with an oozy centre of cheddar and mozzarella, and topped with 12 grams of freshly shaved Australian truffle and a sprinkling of black truffle salt.

While aware of how delicious the toastie is, Mr Halim can proudly say that its popularity during the past three years has "surpassed all expectations", and he is excited to bring it back again to help celebrate the winter truffle season.

Ripe Cheese is found in the Dairy Produce Hall at Shop 41-42, and the toastie is available up until mid-to-late August. ●

For more information:
Instagram: @ripe.cheese

LAW

Forgot your password?

Most of us have so many passwords it becomes incredibly difficult to remember all of them and every time we change our mobile phone, we often have to reinstall a program or notify organisations or do some other administrative task. It becomes all too confusing.

WORDS BY *Peter Nevile*
NEVILLE & CO LAWYERS

Recently my iPhone was stolen, and I think it took me almost two days to deal with the issue, and even then, I still did not have a complete backup. Unfortunately, I hadn't been checking on my backups and my last backup was more than a year ago, resulting in all the information from that date to this being completely lost. My own fault, but I'm sure I'm not alone.

One of the many other issues with passwords is that we tend to use fairly simple passwords that we can actually remember, and we use them across multiple platforms. It is, of course, a mistake.

If you think this is a problem, think about what happens when you pass on to hopefully a better place, although I certainly have my doubts about that. Without a list of your passwords attached to your Will, you create an extraordinary nightmare for your executors or those you leave behind.

It's important to have a complete list, but a word of caution – do not keep that list on your telephone which can be hacked, or on your computer which can also be hacked.

It's all very well using one of the so-called password protected areas, but if they can hack the Pentagon, what chance do we have?

The most effective way would seem to be to list them all on your computer, download it onto a USB stick and delete the information from your computer, remembering that even deleted information can be recovered.

Even as a lawyer, the privacy conditions at times drive me almost demented. For example, from time to time I'll get a call from a banking institution or some other financial institution or even a government institution.

They start by asking me, "am I speaking with Peter Nevile?" My response is, these days, "well, you're calling me. You should have some idea

who you're calling. Perhaps you can start by giving me your full name, where you're from, and some evidence that you're from there, or perhaps a number at which I can call you back. By the way, it may not be convenient so what if I call you after hours, if you could just give me your private number and your surname. What? You can't? I suppose that's privacy, but here you are calling me seeking personal details about me." An all too familiar scenario.

At times, I get so frustrated I ask them if they have my password. Much the same as I need to have a password, or a series of security questions if I need to get access to my own accounts. Of course, they don't, but perhaps that's just me being difficult.

Anyway, I suspect that many of you will have experienced the frustration, however in this present world there is no way of avoiding it, so we simply need to deal with it sensibly. ●

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Evan MULHOLLAND MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

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

SENATOR LINDA WHITE

Voice to Parliament is a chance for practical change

Later this year, every Australian will vote in a referendum that has the power to bring our country together and to make meaningful change in the lives of First Nations Australians.

WORDS BY *Senator Linda White*
SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU

If successful, the referendum to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament will do two things ...

First, it will recognise, in the Constitution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as the first peoples of Australia. For the first time, the Constitution – our nation's birth certificate – will recognise the fact that for thousands of years and long before colonisation, the land, seas, and sky of this great continent were cared for and inhabited by some of the world's most ancient cultures.

Secondly, the Voice to Parliament will enshrine genuine consultation with First Nations people about government policies that affect them.

This consultation is essential. For years, politicians have made decisions for Indigenous people rather than with them. The result has been decades of little to no improvement in the fundamental life outcomes of First Nations Australians.

Indigenous Australians are dying nearly 10 years younger than non-Indigenous Australians.

The rates of chronic disease in First Nations communities are still too high.

Employment outcomes for young Indigenous Australians are not on track.

Housing in Indigenous communities is overcrowded and in short supply.

Suicide rates among First Nations people are getting worse.

The gap is not closing. Progress has been too slow. We need practical action to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians.

And practical action is what the Voice will deliver. By consulting with communities and people on the ground, through listening to the experiences of Indigenous people, government can make policy that will actually change lives for the better and reflect the lived experience of First Nations people.

I believe fairness is an innate part of the Australian character. And I believe giving the most disadvantaged people in our society a voice to help make their lives better is only fair.

That is why I am campaigning for "Yes" in the referendum this year, and why I hope you will too.

Getting a successful result won't be easy. It will depend on every Australian talking to their friends and family about why it's time to recognise Indigenous Australians in our Constitution and time to start listening to their voices. ●

It will be these conversations which decide the referendum. So, let's talk.

STATE MP (LOWER HOUSE)

A win for our forests: Victoria bans native forest logging

Melbourne is renowned for having some of the best drinking water of any city in the world.

WORDS BY *Ellen Sandell*

If you've ever travelled to Adelaide, or London, or many other cities across the globe, I'm sure you'll agree that coming home to a glass of Melbourne tap water is a relief!

How lucky we are to have such clean, delicious drinking water. Yet this didn't happen just by luck. It happened because many years ago, the forests around Melbourne (our water catchments) were protected.

However, over the last few decades, things have been deteriorating, as our water catchments, along with native forests across Victoria, have been logged and destroyed at large scale. This logging has been approved by successive Labor and Liberal state governments and propped up by millions of dollars of taxpayer subsidies. More than 95 per cent of the wood from logging ends up as woodchips to make cheap paper or low-grade products like pallets which could be made using softwood plantations, rather than using our precious native forests.

Reducing our pristine old forests to piles of dirt and rubble, just to make cheap paper, has been putting our water quality at risk, as well as driving threatened species to extinction and adding to the climate crisis.

It's a disastrous situation, and one I've been fighting to stop ever since I was elected in 2014. And just a couple of weeks ago, we finally received the good news we've been fighting for.



The recent Victorian Budget announced an end to native forest logging across Victoria!

Native forest logging will now end on January 1, 2024, with a large funding package of more than \$800 million in total to transition workers and assist communities. Workers will be transitioned to jobs in forest management and fire prevention work, which uses existing skills and machinery that logging workers and contractors already possess.

There are many people across the state who have contributed to this wonderful outcome, including people who have campaigned, blockaded, run legal cases and lobbied politicians over many, many years to make this change. The Greens in Victorian Parliament have also played a significant role in achieving this outcome. I'd like to pay tribute to all those who spoke up and took action for our forests and our threatened species, including those who are no longer with us to see this momentous win.

Of course, we still have a long way to go in protecting our environment in Victoria. While the decision to end logging was very welcome, unfortunately the Victorian Budget also made big cuts to several other environment and climate change programs.

I'll continue to fight for further action, because after all, none of us can survive without the essential things our natural environment gives us – clean air, food and, of course, our precious drinking water. ●

CBD NEWS

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Marvellous Melbourne Mornings



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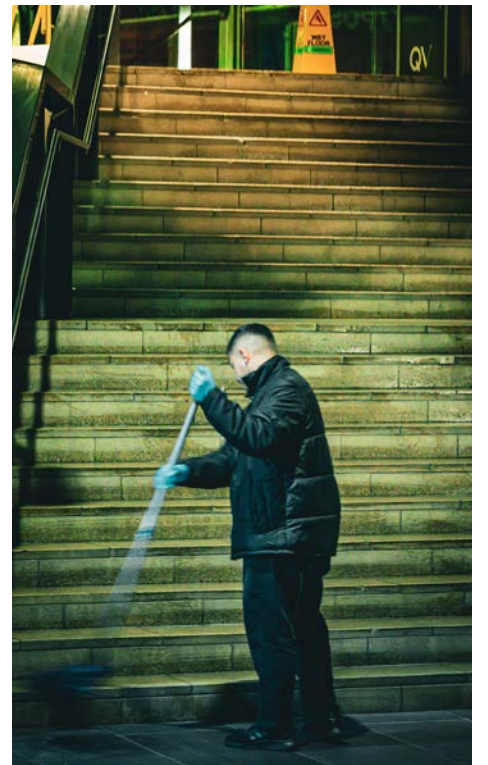
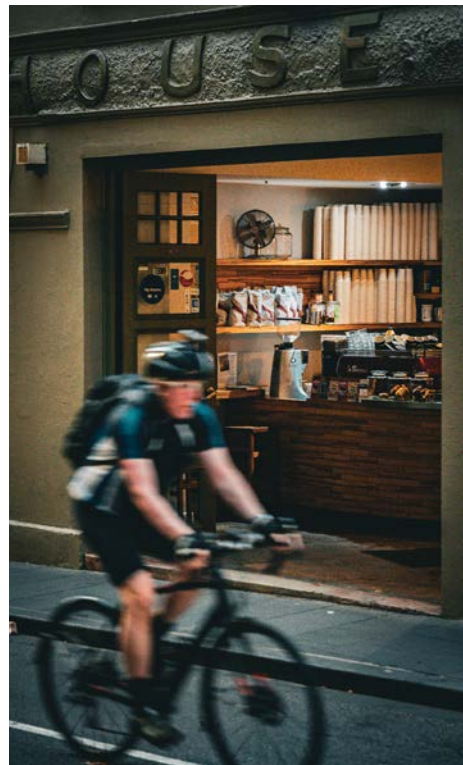


WORDS BY *Sherry Maddock*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Geoff Maddock*

This pre-dawn time is filled with invisible activity, unseen by most of us that live, work and entertain ourselves in Melbourne.

Without notice, and often without thanks, thousands of hands sweep, collect, clean, deliver, prepare, serve and unlock doors so we can get on with the day.

- Workers arise and show up early.*
- Lights switched on in the dark.*
- Coffee brewed.*
- Bread baked.*
- Pastries delivered.*
- Trees mulched. Plants watered.*
- Rubbish bins emptied.*
- Milk crates deposited outside cafes.*
- Bus, tram and train operated.*
- Entryways mopped, footpaths swept.*
- Equipment unloaded.*
- Restaurants supplied by produce trucks.*
- Tables and chairs unpacked and arranged.*
- Welcome to the new day.*
- Welcome to the city. ●*



HISTORY

Thunder, drums, bells, whistles: the magic of the Town Hall organ

Melbourne Town Hall was opened in August 1870 and two years later the “grand” organ you see here was installed, with 4373 pipes and 24 manual and 66 speaking stops.

WORDS BY *Dr Cheryl Griffin*
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Melbourne did not have the facilities, equipment or expertise to build the organ, so it was constructed in London then shipped out in many, many packing cases. Those were the days of sailing ships, and the journey took 56 days.

Officially opened in August 1872 in a program that inevitably featured Handel and Mendelssohn, that first organ continued to provide music at the Town Hall until 1906 when it was rebuilt with a new console. The height of modernity at the time, it was powered by electricity.

Disaster struck in February 1925 when a devastating fire destroyed most of the Town Hall, including the organ. In its place emerged a new building in art deco style and a new “Grand Organ”, hailed as a “modern marvel”, which opened with a recital by city organist W.G. Price in July 1929. The recital began with Bach’s *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*, a piece chosen to showcase the magnificence of the new instrument.



This organ, made of Californian red pine in a Queensland maple case, stood 9.75 metres (32 feet) high and had more than 6000 pipes. Over time, it fell into disrepair and was virtually unplayable by the 1990s.

It took five years to refurbish but in May 2001 a concert was held at which the organ was re-introduced to the Melbourne public in a specially commissioned premiere of *Voices for Didgeridoo, Organ and Narrator* by composer Philip Glass.

For those who love trivia, here are some facts about today’s organ. The largest pipe is called the “Tibia Profunda” and the smallest pipe is only 9.3mm long.

Today there are more than 9000 pipes. The electrical equipment consists of more than 480 km of wire, over 3000 magnets with 32,000 electrical contacts. The console’s four manuals (they’re the rows of keys) go by the names Solo, Swell, Great and Choir.

The wind needed to produce the sound is blown by two electric motors and is delivered at a rate of over 2500 cubic metres per minute. ●

METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel paves the way for sustainable infrastructure with Australia-first trial

The Metro Tunnel Project is taking sustainability in the construction industry to the next level, with an Australia-first low-carbon concrete research project.

The project has partnered with the University of Melbourne for the innovative research, trialling the use of crushed recycled glass as a replacement for sand in structural concrete mix.

Using crushed recycled glass, or ‘glass sand’, lowers the environmental impacts of concrete production, by reducing reliance on virgin sand – a raw material that is mostly mined or taken from rivers - and diverting waste glass from landfill.

For the trial, glass sand was used to replace 25 per cent of the virgin sand used in the concrete mix for building suspended work platforms at State Library Station’s La Trobe Street construction site.

Metro Tunnel Project sustainability lead, Mick Lo Monaco, said the initiative was potentially a first for Australia, if not the world.

“It’s the first time, as far as we’re aware, that [glass sand concrete mix] has been used in a higher strength building application,” Mr Lo Monaco said.

Concrete mixes using glass sand in Australia have previously been limited to low-strength applications such as footpaths, he added.

Mr Lo Monaco said while the trial glass sand concrete mix was being used for temporary structures on the project, the next opportunity



is to trial the mix in permanent minor structural elements for streetscaping around the new Metro Tunnel stations.

“We need to move to low carbon concrete - that’s key to reaching net zero emissions. This is one way to remove [raw materials] from our concrete and use a waste product that would otherwise need to go to landfill.”

Mr Lo Monaco said the initiative also had the potential to create a market for waste glass in Victoria.

“Victoria has a surplus of waste glass that is traditionally exported overseas because we don’t have a reliable market for it locally. [This initiative] is basically opening up a huge market for that glass,” he said.

Based on the trial’s success, future trials are now being considered with the potential to increase the glass sand component from 25 per cent to up to 80 per cent.

Meanwhile, the team is making great progress on construction of the Metro Tunnel’s stations and tunnels to get them ready to start testing trains underground in the second half of this year. ●

WE LIVE HERE

Open forum on affordable housing and short-term rentals

You are invited to a We Live Here forum, the first after a long, pandemic-induced hiatus.

The housing crisis has been capturing headlines for some time now and this forum will be an opportunity for the community to get some answers from our polities.

Come along to the **Library at The Dock**, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands, at 6.45pm for a 7pm start on July 19.

We Live Here has invited state and local leaders from across the political spectrum, as well as resident activists:

- **Ellen Sandell**, Greens MLA for Melbourne,
- **Gabrielle De Vietri**, Greens MLA for Richmond
- **Sheena Watt**, Labour Party MLC for Northern Metropolitan region
- **Evan Mulholland** Liberal Party MLC for Northern Metropolitan region
- **Rohan Leppert**, Melbourne City
- **Councillor Moderator**: Tom Bacon, Strata Title Lawyers

To check who has accepted our invitation, visit our website welivehere.net or our Facebook page.

The past few months have seen some major developments regarding the housing crisis:

1. Worried Labor MPs leak policy ideas

Some coy Labor MPs are privately considering capping the number of nights operators can

let properties as short stays, imposing a "tourist tax", or empowering councils to levy higher commercial rates on short-stay properties. The MPs are challenging Labor policy for fear of disaffecting youth voters, among the hardest hit by the housing crisis.

2. Greens policy announcement and Bill

The Greens made major policy statement and on 30 May, introduced the *Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2023*, aiming to:

- put a cap on the number of days that a dwelling can be used for short stays;
- give owners corporations power to regulate short stay rentals; establish a mandatory register of short-stay properties.

The Bill was defeated 53-32 after an extraordinary debate with continual Labor interjections that exposed the government's frustratingly inertial stance.

3. Liberal support for reforms

Liberal MPs including Victorian Opposition Leader John Pesutto, and Matthew Guy voted in favour of the Greens' Bill to introduce basic reforms.

4. Industry bodies speak out

The Victorian Tourism Industry Council and Accommodation Association has been lobbying the government about its concerns around the housing shortage.

5. City councils act

Yarra City Council in Melbourne is considering a tax on short-term rentals such as Airbnb. Bass Coast, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula

councils and most recently Warrnambool Council have implemented registration systems, with annual fees. Yarra Ranges Council lobbied the state government on short stays. Port Phillip Council is investigating means of regulating the short-stay industry.

6. Rental and housing enquiry

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee announced an inquiry into rental and housing affordability. Trung Luu (committee chair) emailed *We Live Here* last month with the details of the enquiry. The committee has 12 members: three Labor, five Liberal, two from Legalise Cannabis and one each from the Greens and the Nationals. Check the *We Live Here* Facebook page for more details.

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Pet's Corner



A part-time working dog on Elizabeth St

Yogurt enticed me in for a haircut. She stood still behind the glass door of Supercut.

WORDS BY Violet Li

Supercut is a hair salon on Elizabeth St, and Yogurt was looking out eagerly with her wide and alert eyes. Her presence reminded me that maybe it was the right time for a haircut.

Yogurt, a one-and-a-half-year-old Welsh corgi, has been the star staff-member ever since lockdowns lifted. Her role includes going to work with her owner Vinz Ho twice a week, lying with short stubby legs anywhere on the ground (as long as it's not on the cut hair), and sprinting down to customers for a cuddle whenever they come in. Everyone working in the salon jokes she's a solicitor dog. And that's true. I am one of the happy customers who's more than willing to pay. ●

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艺术作品为工地增添色彩及创意

墨尔本市政的创意围墙项目将才华横溢的本地艺术家和世界一流的房地产开发商汇集在一起，点亮了街头巷尾，为不断扩大的建筑工地注入活力。

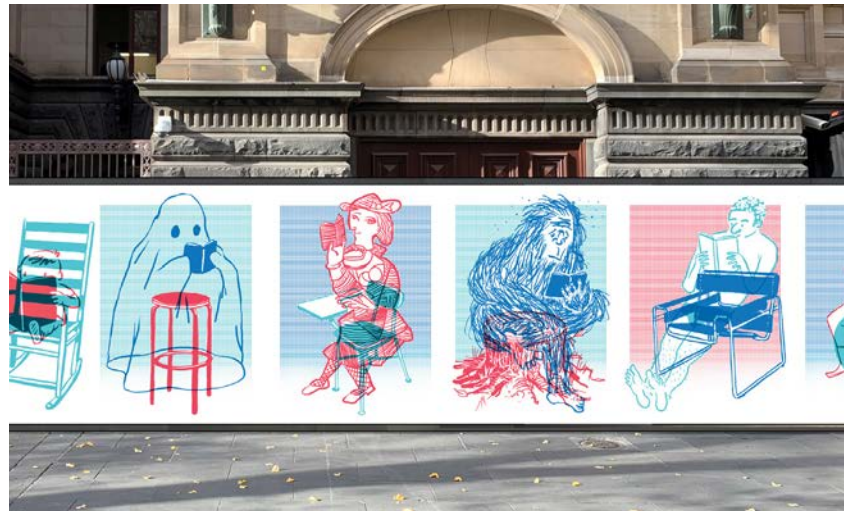
Shervin Nasiri

在收到多达340份申请后，市政现已公布了这个艺术项目中的六幅“发人深省”的艺术品。这些作品种类多样，有些俏皮而有趣，有些引人入胜或内涵深刻。艺术家们创作的相片、插图、数码艺术品和绘画作品旨在重塑中央商务区周围的建筑和建筑工地，并增强其视觉和文化吸引力。

市政的创意墨尔本项目负责人 Jamal Hakim 议员表示：“这种方式利用了空白空间，将其作为画布，尽显城市艺术家们的风采。”

该项目将在未来12个月内在城市各地推行，征求到的意见将帮助确定该计划是否可以在未来更广泛地推广。

在过去的12个月中，市政颁发了约2300个建筑



许可证，这些建筑工地很快就可以展示出创意围墙的印刷品。

墨尔本市政鼓励有兴趣在工地上展示艺术品的开发商与其联系。

预知更多信息，请点击



市长呼吁安全使用电动滑板车否则取消运营资格



墨尔本市长 Sally Capp 提出动议，呼吁就电动滑板车的使用，出台“更好、更安全和更明确的规定和执法方案”。

Capp 市长要求市政起草一份关于未来如何使用电动滑板车以及如何回应州政府决议的立场报告，如果商业电动滑板车运营商“无法达到最低安全标准”，市政便可以拒发许可证。

Capp 市长表示，安全标准包括了运营商需证明其有“具备遵守相关规定的”技术能力，包括检测并排骑行和不戴头盔以及“在非允许区域骑行”的能力。

她说：“如何利用地理空间技术管理和阻止人们在人行道上骑行？如何利用该技术管理电动滑板车的停放位置？我们希望看到更多这方面的努力尝试。”

电动滑板车在城市中越来越受欢迎，自去年2月在遍布 Melbourne 市，Port Phillip 市以及 Yarra 市的电动滑板车道试运行以来，已经记录了超过130万次短途旅程。

今年4月，州政府将电动滑板车和电动自行车试运行期延长至10月，先前被禁止的私人电动滑板车也已合法化。然而，关于安全问题的报告不断增加，有人在人行道上发生近距离接触甚至碰撞的一系列事件引发了争议。

作为回应，Capp 市长在市议会于6月13日举行的未来墨尔本委员会会议上提出了一项动议，目的是“确保我们的电动滑板车系统能够为每个人服务”，该动议经投票一致通过。

市政推出行人优先城市交通计划



David Schout

是“对商家的无情打击”。

根据墨尔本市政一项新的计划，为了解决中央商务区的空间不足的问题，行人将得到优先待遇，而车辆可能被禁止进入繁忙的街道。

未来街道框架草案指出，在 Flinders 街，Collins 街 and Spring 街的部分繁忙街区，可能会实施私家车“完全或部分禁用”，以便为行人腾出空间。

Elizabeth 街和 Swanston 街位于中央商务区区内全段也可能成为无车区，因为市政十分关注繁忙的火车站的安全性和出行高效性。

部分禁用可能会限制车辆在某些时间段进入这些区域，或者只允许单向通行。

这一新框架代表了市议会为减少中央

根据墨尔本市政一项新的中央商务区街道愿景展望，行人可能很快将与更少的车辆竞争空间，然而一位议员称该计划对商家来说是“精英主义”，

墨尔本经久不衰的华人社区

墨尔本市现有人口的25%是华人后裔，这得益于华人社区自19世纪50年代墨尔本早期历史以来就从不间断地持续发展，而墨尔本华人社区的经久不衰也延续了华人社区的突出地位。

建于19世纪中期淘金热时期的唐人街建筑仍归最初的“宗族”和教会组织所有，这些建筑发挥着支持社区的作用，为新到达参加淘金热的华人移民及陆续抵达墨尔本的居民提供服务。西方国家中所有的唐人街当中，社区生活史连续不断的最古老的唐人街街区就是墨尔本市中心的唐人街。

墨尔本唐人街之所以可以历经时间的考验，经久不衰，是因为直到20世纪中叶，它还是连接墨尔本许多诸如 Carlton、North Melbourne、Kensington、Fitzroy、South Melbourne、East Melbourne 等内城区华人社区的心脏。

虽然很少有人提起，但是许多老一辈华裔澳洲人都会记得自己孩童时期在墨尔本市中心长大的经历，并且也听过他们的父母亲和祖父母那些讲不完的、延续了170年的唐人街故事



回顾墨尔本唐人街的传奇历史，现在正是我们将这个对墨尔本社会、商业及文化生活产生深远影响的社区故事完整重现的时刻。

澳大利亚华人历史博物馆发起了一个大规模项目，旨在从一个前所未有的角度研究墨尔本内城区的社会、历史和经济发展。许多文化收藏机构，包括澳大利亚华人历史博物馆在内，虽然都对过去的个人和事件有大量的历史文献和记录，但这些历史和其对墨尔本过去的一百年和更早以前的社会结构的影响却从未被汇编成一个完整的文献，因此之前的所有相关研究都没有一个综合且连续性的参考基准。



澳华博物馆希望通过本项研究，为后代奠定强有力的基础，不仅能帮助我们理解澳洲华裔在澳大利亚社会中的地位，还能追溯先辈的个人及家族史，在全球华人社区中建立澳大利亚华人的特殊地位。

讲述您的故事，讲述华人的历史

本项目是专门面向在墨尔本市和周边郊区生活和工作的华人。

项目主题为“社区重聚”。您的家人可能最早是从 North Melbourne 的 Carlton 起家，或参加过元媛舞会；在唐人街开过餐馆，当过服务员；在维多利亚市场工作过或参加过华人社团。本项目希望能将过去170年的墨尔本华裔社区故事汇聚在一起。

如果您的父辈在过去的一个世纪在墨尔本市中心及内城区工作生活过，您就可以来参加澳华博物馆每月的“社区重聚”活动。

重聚活动专门为家庭、社团、协会等提供与亲戚、老朋友重聚的绝佳机会，回忆分享过去共同的经历。活动将会留下影像记录，并安排了采访环节。

欲了解如何参加“重聚”活动或作为志愿者参加本项目，敬请访问：<https://www.chinesemuseum.com.au/the-chinese-melbourne-project>

华裔澳洲人如何帮助塑造了澳大利亚多元文化的社会特色是一个重要议题，本项目的大目标就是希望扩充、深化对该议题的理解。我们考察的时间跨度从墨尔本早期殖民社会直至澳大利亚当代的社会，并通过华裔澳洲人跟澳大利亚社会之间的实际事件来探讨、解析这两者间在这些不同时期的推拉关系。

研究成果将用于一项大型展览项目，并成为即将于2026年扩建的新博物馆的重要基石。

澳华博物馆的本项目由南都墓园信托基金会赞助

What's on: July 2023



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

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Bookings essential:



FRIDAY, JULY 7, 7:00PM

MINDY MENG WANG - WHEN

In *WHEN*, Mindy creates a poignant and emotional audio-visual meditation on family, memories, and life in times of great change.

Tickets: melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/when/
Primrose Potter Salon



SATURDAY, JULY 22, 7:30PM
ROSE RIEBL - DO NOT MOVE STONES

Joined by a cello trio, Rose Riebl takes audiences on a deeply introspective, soulful, and cinematic journey. Tickets: melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/rose-riehl/

Primrose Potter Salon



FRIDAY, JULY 21, 7:30PM

SJAELLA - NORDIC NIGHT

Internationally acclaimed a cappella ensemble Sjaella take audiences on a stunning journey through the ethereal sounds of the night-time. Tickets: melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/sjaella/

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 7PM

YO CITY: IAKI VALLEJO - ARISEN COLOURS

Singer-songwriter Iaki Vallejo performs a collection of her latest compositions, as well as a selection of beloved songs that have shaped her musical journey. Tickets: melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/iaki-vallejo/

Primrose Potter Salon



SATURDAY, JULY 8 AND SUNDAY, JULY 9
BASTILLE DAY FRENCH FESTIVAL

Swap your beanie for a beret for this year's Bastille Day French Festival.

Be transported to a classic wintry French town square for this annual crowd favourite celebration of all things French.

Queen Victoria Market



FRIDAY, JULY 28, 7:30PM

THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE

Audiences are invited to first joyously endure a wall of mansound, then laugh stupidly, before venturing into areas of great tenderness.

Tickets: melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/the-spooky-mens-chorale-2/
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

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