



INNER CITY NEWS

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Eating up outdoor dining
Photo by John Tadigiri.

Carlton locals and regulars, such as Francesco Gicominato, have been lapping up outdoor dining along Lygon St as businesses celebrate the boost that the new parklets have provided since the end of lockdowns. *Continued on page 14.*

Residents and businesses joining forces to bring Carlton back to life

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

With the Carlton precinct now in the recovery stage after COVID, the community is coming together to bring business back to the suburb.

Under the Precinct Development program, the Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) and business group Carlton Inc. are joining forces to bridge the divide between residents and businesses and increase community engagement.

CRA president Antoinette Sagaria, who also sits on the committee of Carlton Inc., said now was the time to get the community out to support local business.

"Residents think that businesses have a particular agenda and vice versa, so we're hoping to have better communication between the two," Ms Sagaria said.

"That way we can have a more engaged, vibrant and inclusive community and a better Carlton."

Carlton Inc president Luca Sbardella said that the focus would also be on bringing more community events to the suburb.

"We anticipate utilising the Piazza and other open spaces to put on events that will create intrigue and draw customers to the area," Mr Sbardella said.

"We've had discussions of doing a rooftop film festival and a farmers and crafts market to showcase the local artists and producers of the area."

Continued on page 3.

East Melbourne residents fight to save 137-year-old town house

A townhouse built in 1883 is set to be converted into a high-rise apartment building if a planning application submitted to the City of Melbourne is successful.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HERITAGE

Developers plan to partially knock down part of the historic East Melbourne home Eblana located on Jolimont Rd to make way for four "high-end apartments".

East Melbourne Group heritage and planning convener Greg Bisinella said that although the application was yet to be formally considered the plans were "completely unacceptable".

"From our perspective they're taking a heritage-listed property, knocking the back off it, and dominating it with a modern building," Mr Bisinella said.

"It's classic façadism."

If successful, the \$10 million development would turn part of the C-graded heritage building into a nine-storey apartment building with views of the city and the MCG.

The application states that although there would be minor demolition of the property, the apartments would provide "a high-quality adaptation of the existing heritage building on-site that will cater to people seeing high-end apartments at premium locations."

But Mr Bisinella said that the entire plan flouted mandatory height limits in the suburb and council should consider the application carefully.

"If the application goes through it will be taller than any other building in the street and will set a nasty precedent in Jolimont," Mr Bisinella said.

"The height restriction is supposed to be 12-13 metres and they've got 30."



Eblana was built by Thomas Joshua Jackson and Henry Young—owners of the famous Young and Jackson Hotel opposite Flinders Street Station.

The property was home to Jackson's wife until her passing in 1924 when it was sold to the Commonwealth and used as the postmaster-general head office.

In July 2020 Eblana was bought for \$6.45 million after Colliers International promoted the development prospects of the 510 sqm site.

Mr Bisinella said that the way heritage-listed properties were advertised was part of the problem.

"The property was sold as a development opportunity so it's not surprising that they're now trying to develop as much of the land as they can," Mr Bisinella said.

"This is a constant battle in East Melbourne." ●

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The deadline for the March edition is February 25.

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Welcome to the first edition of *Inner City News*

It's a privilege for us to be able to introduce ourselves and your new local newspaper to you – our new local communities of East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville.

For more than 15 years, Hyperlocal News has brought news and events to the emerging community of Docklands under the masthead *Docklands News*.

Since then, we've been fortunate enough to represent neighbouring communities living in Southbank and Melbourne's CBD under the titles *Southbank News* and *CBD News*.

As our company name suggests, we specialise in providing free hyperlocal information on issues of interest and impact for local residents and businesses in our communities, and in turn, help to connect and build a sense of community.

While the impacts of COVID-19 have proven incredibly challenging to so many industries, the devastating toll of the pandemic proved too much for hundreds of independent local and

regional mastheads around the country in 2020.

And while Hyperlocal News wasn't immune to these impacts, that notion around connection and community building which underpins everything we do, proved incredibly valuable to so many of our locals during what were very isolating lockdowns.

That message only helped reinforce our purpose as an organisation, which strives to give locals a voice whenever they most need it. The power and importance of community is perhaps as important now, as it has ever been.

And so, without further ado, it gives us great pleasure to expand our remit into new communities within the City of Melbourne under the title of *Inner City News*, where we will work hard to inform, engage and connect.

The communities of East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville are etched in so much history and the newspaper's inaugural editor Katie Johnson and the team are so excited to learn more and understand what matters to you every month.

If you're a local and want to connect or have an issue you'd like covered, please never hesitate to reach out to us as we're always keen to hear from locals and soak up as much knowledge as we can.



We hope you enjoy the first edition of *Inner City News* and look forward to engaging with our new local communities for many more to come.

Sean Car (Publisher) & Katie Johnson (Editor)

A message from the Lord Mayor ...

If it's one thing that 2020 taught all Melburnians, it's the power of community. As a community we overcame COVID-19 through determination, resilience and a spirit of cooperation and selflessness.

We made sure to look after each other and – for the most part – put aside our own wants to do what was required to prevent transmission of the virus.

Lockdowns were incredibly tough and they tested the resolve of all Melburnians. Small businesses were hit devastatingly hard and many were forced to stop trading all together.

Melburnians rallied together when it was needed most and need to continue doing that. We are now focused on supporting our city's economic and cultural recovery.

Life is returning to something more normal for most of us but we know that a consistent

and coordinated effort is required to bring back the buzz to Melbourne.

Our strong bonds as a community will continue to drive positive outcomes for our city. Arguably Melbourne's greatest asset is our people.

That's why I am pleased to introduce a new community newspaper – *Inner City News*.

Inner City News will cover local news for Carlton, East Melbourne and the southern section of Parkville – a collection of some of our city's most historic suburbs.

Community news outlets play such an important role for discussing, debating, helping to solve important local issues and advocating for positive change. They help to share our stories, campaign for solutions and create connections as we learn more about each other.

More than ever we need to continue to nurture what brings us together as a community as we recover and rebuild from a once-in-a-century pandemic. It will take our combined efforts and support to ensure we get the best outcomes and continue to live up to the Marvellous Melbourne moniker.

Inner City News will play an important role in reflecting the struggles and successes of the local community and advocating for action to



address issues that are impacting residents and businesses.

Congratulations to the new team at *Inner City News* on its first edition – and we hope there to be many more to come over the coming years ●

Glenn Harvey answers your legal questions

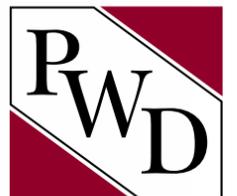
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Residents and businesses joining forces to bring Carlton back to life

Continued from page 1.

Carlton Inc. was one of the nine precinct associations to receive a one-off payment of \$100,000 from the council's precinct program to help businesses recover from COVID and aid volunteers.

Mr Sbardella said they intended to use the money to host festivals and art exhibitions across Carlton to reinvigorate the streets.

"The struggling part of Lygon St is around the Piazza so we want to use the money to bring more business to that area," Mr Sbardella said.

"As it's such a big, open space we were thinking of hosting an inclusive street festival that celebrates the traders and all of their different cuisines."

So far Carlton Inc. has engaged in early discussions with La Mama Theatre about having art exhibitions and live performances throughout Carlton.

They're also hoping to host an event for the Grand Prix should restrictions allow for it.

Mr Sbardella said that part of bringing life back to the suburb would be working with the police to make the streets safer.

"We're currently working with the North Melbourne police to decrease crime, vandalism and hooning and we're also going to use the money to upgrade footpaths and lighting," Mr Sbardella said.

Cr Kevin Louey said the precinct development program, which had been running for two decades, was more important than ever.

"This is a grassroots program that embraces the very small business, to the medium-sized business, to some of the large ones like David Jones and Myer," Cr Louey said. "Now we're in the recovery stage of COVID, it's important we provide some extra funding in these grassroots geographic areas from the Yarra to Carlton." •



▲ Carlton Residents Association president Antoinette Sagaria and Carlton Inc president Luca Sbardella.

For more information:

carltoninc.org.au

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Lord Mayor Sally Capp with artists Henry Wagons and Katie Pearson at the launch of Melbourne Music Week-Extended

REDISCOVER YOUR CITY AS MELBOURNE REOPENS

Melbourne is open for business, shopping, dining, exploration and, of course, coffee.

We've missed you, and while you've been staying safe at home, we've been supporting local businesses and creating a captivating Melbourne for residents to enjoy and visitors to return to.

Whether it's picnicking in our heritage parks, criss-crossing the bluestones to find the ultimate laneway restaurant, or hunting for the quintessential Melbourne-designed must-have, it's time to rediscover your city.

Here are just a few things to look forward to in summer and beyond.

1 Ride your bike in style

We're installing more than 40 kilometres of new protected bike lanes to help you get into the city quickly, safely and sustainably.

2 Explore little streets

Our iconic 'little streets' - like Little Collins and Little Bourke - are being transformed into safe and vibrant shared zones for all. Look out for bespoke stencils and colourful paint showing that pedestrians have right of way and speed limits are reduced.

3 Dine outdoors

Melbourne's beloved restaurants, cafes and bars have thrown open their doors, creating open-air dining experiences in laneways, parking spaces, footpaths and parks.

4 Wander through creative laneways

Forty of Melbourne's historic laneways are being transformed through lighting and creative installations, thanks to a team of production and graphic designers, music producers, lighting specialists, technicians and maintenance workers.

5 Attend innovative events

From Melbourne Music Week-Extended to Moomba, our artists and producers are working to deliver a calendar of events that will celebrate our city's resilience, curiosity and creativity. Find out more at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

6 Discover talented buskers

Our beloved Melbourne buskers are back and ready to entertain you from Bourke Street to Southbank and everywhere in between. Sing along and tip generously.

7 Watch your step

Our revamped laneways, bike lanes, shared zones and outdoor dining areas mean the landscape of the city has changed. We'll be updating our lane closure information and mobility maps, but please be mindful that traffic conditions on roads and footpaths may be different to the last time you visited the city.

To find out more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneisopen



A busker in Bourke Street



KEEP COOL

Discover the coolest routes through the city on hot summer days by using our new Cool Routes tool.

As Melbourne experiences more frequent, extended and intense heatwaves due to climate change, this tool is designed to help you travel through the city more safely and comfortably, using a mix of city research and data from microclimate sensors.

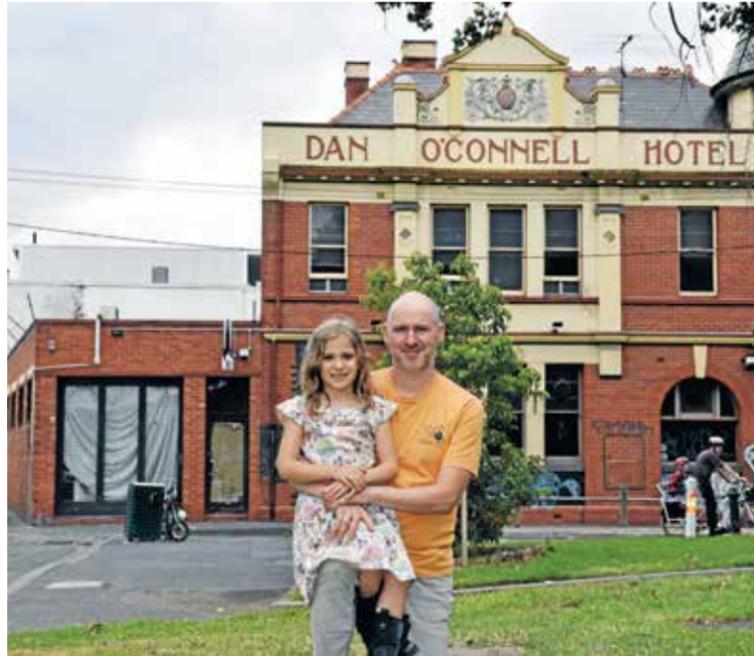
To find out more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves

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▲ Tim Berryman with daughter Abby.

Historic Dan O'Connell Hotel to become alternative primary school

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
EDUCATION

After paying more than \$3.2 million to purchase Carlton's historic Dan O'Connell Hotel, Fitzroy Community School (FCS) will be taking over the space.

The double-storey Irish pub was purchased on October 30 and will soon be transformed into a school for more than 100 students.

Fitzroy Community School principal Tim Berryman said the planning application had been submitted and works would be underway shortly.

"It's still in the pipeline but we plan to open at the start of the school year in 2023," Mr Berryman said.

Fitzroy Community School was established in 1976 and already has schools in Fitzroy North and Thornbury.

But Mr Berryman said the demand for another school was there and the Dan O'Connell would be the perfect site.

"There are more families applying to live within the City of Melbourne and even the CBD so the Dan will be really convenient for them to get to," Mr Berryman said.

As one of Melbourne's oldest pubs, Mr Berryman said that FCS would be preserving both the exterior and interior of the historic 136-year-old building.

"We're absolutely planning to keep the original building, inside and out. We're not even removing the old signage," Mr Berryman said.

"The kids are going to be going to school in the original Dan O'Connell."

Much like its Brunswick St campus which is based in a building constructed in the 1800s, FCS plans to work around the original room structure and keep the features which make the building distinctive.

"Old buildings have a charm to them that new buildings don't, particularly ones which have evolved their use over time," Mr Berryman said.

"We want to keep that gentle softness the space has, brick walls and everything."

FCS plans to create a designated drop off-zone for parents and will have limited onsite parking.

Mr Berryman said the conversion of the building from a pub to a primary school would mean locals would no longer have to fight for parking spaces in the area.

"Parking for locals will be hugely improved because a primary school doesn't require a lot of parking spaces," Mr Berryman said.

"There really couldn't have been a better site for our new school." ●

Wi-Fi inequality at housing towers

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HOUSING

For some, working from home during lockdown was a welcome break from the office and the grind of the daily commute.

But for those without secure access to the internet and a computer, staying at home was a luxury they couldn't afford.

In the Carlton public housing towers, 32 per cent of households aren't connected to the National Broadband Network (NBN) according to the NBN's 2020 survey.

And with libraries and internet cafes closed for most of last year, many residents were left without secure access to the internet.

To combat the problem, the University of Melbourne is partnering with Carlton neighbourhood associations to research Wi-Fi inequality in the suburb.

Lead researcher professor Nicky Dulfer said lockdown highlighted how many residents were disadvantaged and isolated by a lack of internet access.

"Even though some residents had computers they didn't have a reliable internet connection and many students were hot-spotting off their phones," Dr Dulfer said.

"But actual reliable connection is missing for quite a lot of that community, so we want to find out how to better support them."

The study, which is currently underway, will map how Wi-Fi access is distributed across Victoria and what demographics are most affected.

It will also involve surveying the community and employing a resident of the housing towers to find out what the limitations are on public digital access.

"If you live in Carlton for example we want to find out where you could access Wi-Fi for free and what the limitations are on that, such as download speed or site restrictions," Dr Dulfer said.

"We also want to talk to the community and find out what help is available, and how much of this is about affordability, digital ability, or cultural nervousness."

Currently, 2.5 million Australians are not connected in any way to the internet due to rural placement, lack of digital ability among older communities, and affordability.

During lockdown, many residents in the Carlton towers also experienced a lack of computer access.

"In some cases, there would be a family with five kids and only one laptop so that presents a problem for online school," Dr Dulfer said.

"Even though some residents had computers they didn't have a reliable internet connection and many students were hot-spotting off their phones."



During last year's lockdown, the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre partnered with the University of Melbourne to gift laptops to those without them.

"The university gifted their old hardware through recycling programs and ended up providing 110 laptops to the Carlton towers," Dr Dulfer said.

After the new study is completed, the findings will be used by advocacy groups to help close the digital divide.

As one of the advocacy groups involved, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre community development co-ordinator Elle Morrell said she wanted to provide practical solutions to the problem.

"Fast internet is an essential service that so many people can't afford so we're trying to work out how big the problem is and what we can do about it," Ms Morrell said.

"There's no concession card that decreases the prices either so we're looking to provide a more affordable option."

Dr Dulfer said that that the project was a significant step towards understanding digital inequality in Carlton.

"It's really about hearing from the community, providing evidence of what's going on and then advocating for their needs whether that be affordability or education," Dr Dulfer said.

The study is likely to be completed in October ●



▲ Towers at 480 Lygon St.



▲ Elle Morrell at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre.

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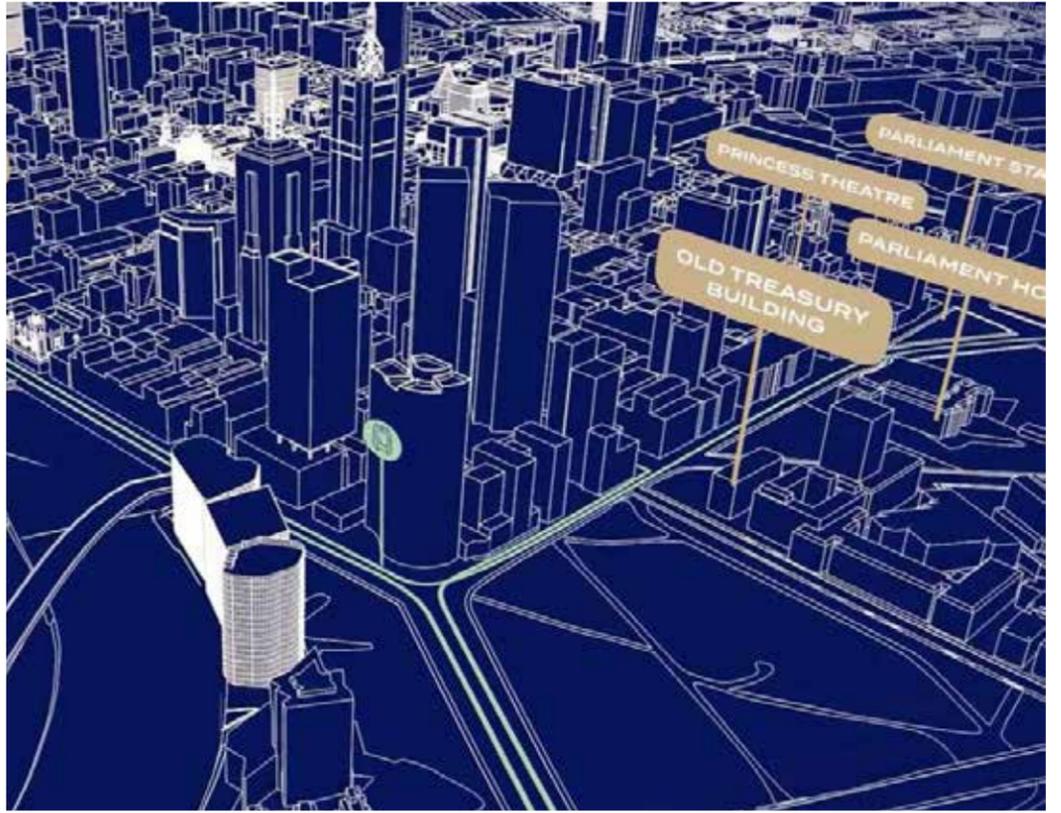
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CITY OF MELBOURNE



▲ A render of how a development might possibly take shape at the site.



▲ A graphic highlighting the site's strategic location between East Melbourne and the CBD.

“Bitter disappointment” over Treasury Square deal

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PLANNING

The Treasury Square Gardens deal that will see developers build residential and office towers on prime public land has locals up in arms.

After buying the land in May last year, Cbus and Mirvac plan to build three towers on the 1.4-hectare slice of land spanning the Flinders St railyard to Wellington Parade South.

East Melbourne Group planning and heritage convenor Greg Bisinella said the decision to sell the land to private developers put “Melbourne’s backyard” at risk.

“It’s a very significant, open site that requires careful planning and we’re bitterly disappointed with the outcome,” Mr Bisinella said.

“There was a lack of consultation with the community for such an important piece of land which is part of the railway grid from Fed Square to the MCG.”

Developer Mirvac and superfund Cbus property won the bid for the land in May last year after the state government’s VicTrack put it up for sale.

There was huge interest from national and international organisations as the site was



Public open spaces are very scarce in Melbourne and the Treasury Square Gardens could have been great opportunity to create a new public space.



marketed as an opportunity to own up-market real estate with a value of more than \$2 billion.

Prior to the deal, the City of Melbourne also voted to subdivide the site and rezone the land as Capital City to allow building to occur.

Mr Bisinella said that this decision wrongly “extended CBD planning laws into East Melbourne”.

“That hard edge is designed for a purpose, it provides beautiful views over the Yarra, and now you’ll have an ugly building blocking the view and overshadowing Birrarung Marr park,” Mr Bisinella said.

“Public open spaces are very scarce in Melbourne and the Treasury Square Gardens could have been great opportunity to create a new public space.”

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo also said that council should be more focused on protecting and creating public space.

“The perspective of residents is that it could be better used as a public space and for the long-term future of Melbourne it’s important to protect open land,” Mr Camillo said.

“If we start getting massive towers all around the park it will overshadow the space that makes Melbourne special.”

In the long term, rail lines east of the Russell St extension to Batman Avenue will be decked over to form what could be Federation Square East.

A new pedestrian and cycle link between the city, parks and Yarra River has also been proposed.

In the original submission to parliament the City of Melbourne said the possibility of this

connection made the site “very significant and strategic.”

“A generous pedestrian connection north-south from Flinders St through the site would connect the southeastern end of the central city to the Yarra River corridor, and link Treasury Gardens and Birrarung Marr,” it said.

Although there is pressure for the developers to obey local planning guidelines, Mirvac and Cbus have complete freedom when it comes to what to build.

Early plans outline that the development will likely take the form of residential and commercial buildings, but formal plans are yet to be released.

Mr Bisinella said that he hoped the developers would carefully consider the impact on the city as a whole before they began building.

“This project is too significant to rush,” he said ●



Katie Johnson

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Carlton suffering from lack of international students

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
EDUCATION

Despite the City of Melbourne's (CoM) efforts to bring international students back to the city, the state government doesn't seem to be budging.

Premier Daniel Andrews said this month that bringing back international students in 2021 was "impossible", despite it being Victoria's largest service export.

"Tens of thousands of international students coming back here is going to be incredibly challenging, if not impossible, this year," Premier Andrews said.

"We want to get it back as fast as we can, but the government is not spending hours and hours to try and make something I frankly think is not possible, possible."

Pre-COVID there were 200,000 international students from 170 countries living in Melbourne, bringing in \$13.7 billion in export revenue for the state.

But with student arrivals now at half, CoM has estimated Melbourne's education sector will lose more than \$1.5 billion in revenue and there will be 6800 fewer jobs.

During the last Future Melbourne Committee of 2020, Cr Phillip Le Liu said welcoming international students back to Melbourne was a major priority for council.

"Melbourne is the third best student city in the world, and I think we should aim to be number one because it's going to be a very competitive market in a post-COVID world," Cr Le Liu said.

The council also unanimously passed a motion that would see Lord Mayor Sally Capp write to the state and federal governments to urge them to put measures in place to return international students to Melbourne in 2021.

But with Premier Andrews' latest comments,

With student arrivals now at half, CoM has estimated Melbourne's education sector will lose more than \$1.5 billion in revenue and there will be 6800 fewer jobs.



the prospect of students returning in time for the academic year seems unlikely.

An RMIT spokesperson said that as of January, international student applications were down by around 25 per cent compared to the same time last year.

"We know many of our international students are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to come back to Melbourne to complete their education and graduate," the spokesperson said.

"RMIT is working closely with the Victorian Government and other Victorian universities on a state-wide approach that will allow international students to enter Victoria."

A Melbourne University spokesperson said that they are still in talks with the government about how to facilitate a safe return of students.

"We recognise the challenges involved and look forward to being able to welcome all students, including our international students, back onto campus as soon as safely possible," the spokesperson said.

With the once-booming market of international students ground to a halt, Melbourne's mass of student accommodation is also lying empty.

Carlton is now predicted to have the highest vacancy rate in the country after lockdown ravaged the university sector and more students were staying home.

Carlton Residents Association president Antoinette Sagaria said that the vacancy rate was one of the biggest issues facing the suburb.

"There is a grave concern that the use of these properties would change over time and it would be inappropriate use such as short-term accommodation," Ms Sagaria said.

"We would rather have permanent residents."

Scape owner Jenna Weber told the ABC that their empty accommodation would be best used as a quarantine facility if the government would consider it.

"A lot of our buildings have single studio apartments — they're perfect to be used as quarantine," Ms Weber said.

"If international students could quarantine with us, it won't bottleneck those Australian residents coming back."

Other countries such as the UK and Canada are already facilitating a staged return of international students.

CoM's director of economic development and international Andrew Wear said that it put Melbourne at risk of being left behind economically.

"If international education is unable to return to Australia in 2021, Australia risks losing market share to other countries, with severe long-term consequences," Mr Wear said ●



Drink driver no match for barrier

POLICE

Thankfully this is the image of a lucky escape after a man and his female passenger crashed into a tram barrier in Carlton on January 21.

Police have been told the man was driving along Nicholson St when he ran into a tram stop barrier, near Elgin St, at around 12.45am.

The 33-year-old man and his female passenger were very lucky they weren't injured when the Mercedes AMG mounted the barrier and became stuck.

The man returned a positive breath test before furnishing an evidentiary breath test result of .127.

The Braybrook man's licence was immediately suspended and he was later charged on summons with drink driving ●

Carlton Community Network helped save Carlton housing towers from hard lockdown

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HOUSING

When nine public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington abruptly went into hard lockdown in July, Carlton residents were fearing the worst.

But after the community rallied together, the residents of the towers on Lygon, Elgin and Drummond streets were able to avoid facing the same fate.

Carlton Community Network (CCN) convener Elle Morrell said the actions of the network with the residents meant the Carlton towers never went into a hard lockdown.

"We had a testing room set up in the towers the Thursday after the towers in North Melbourne and Flemington went into hard lockdown because we anticipated that we would eventually get an outbreak," Ms Morrell said.

"Together CCN rallied, among other things, to prepare the community legal service to assist residents and be aware of their rights, set up a food delivery service so residents could access free food, and made a leaflet into nine languages which had information about all the Carlton key services available."

When the Carlton towers eventually did have an outbreak of 63 cases, the work of CCN meant they were much better prepared.

Ms Morrell said that by engaging residents about how best to support them was the key to successfully avoiding the police-driven hard lockdown that occurred at North Melbourne and Flemington.

"We reached out to community leaders at the estates and set them up to go door-to-door with DHHS to let residents know it was important to get tested, with interpreters present to make sure the information was in their own language," Ms Morrell said.

CCN also had the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) write a statement to say that working with them was only in the interest of health and was not related to their immigration or tenancy status.

"There's a lot of mistrust between residents and DHHS so it was important to have open communication between them," Ms Morell said.

"We also had residents give feedback to DHHS constantly and advocated for door-to-door testing because



▲ *Elle Morrell and housing tower resident Nesrin Idris.*

many residents were worried about the risk of transmission by going to the testing room."

In mid-December the Carlton Community Network was awarded the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Award for Excellence for Community Response and Recovery in recognition of their collective response to the pandemic's impact on public housing in Carlton.

Ms Morell said that while the circumstances were difficult, it was a learning exercise in how the government can communicate better with housing tower residents.

"It's so important to engage with the community and their leaders to empower them to work with agencies to achieve their needs and find out how best to support them," Ms Morrell said ●



▲ *Hoon driving is a regular cause of disruption to Lygon St diners.*

Hoons rampant on Lygon St

SAFETY & SECURITY

Cars speeding and revving their engines along Lygon St increased tenfold since lockdown ended, according to local residents.

Carlton Residents' Association president Antoinette Sagaria said hooning was a constant problem in Carlton and endangered pedestrians.

"Lygon St is supposed to be a place where people can walk around, get an ice cream and enjoy a quiet evening, so that kind of dangerous, anti-social behaviour can ruin atmosphere," Ms Sagaria said.

"We want Lygon St to be a welcoming place."

Carlton resident Stephanie Chia also said since lockdowns had eased, the hooning had started up again on Lygon, Queensberry and Lonsdale streets.

"It turns up like clockwork every night from 8 to 9pm and can go past midnight some days," Ms Chia said.

"On the weekends it's even worse so I decided to invest in a really good pair of earplugs. But it's a shame that I can't indulge in a nice, silent

evening."

Due to the severity of the hooning, Ms Chia said she was looking to move out of Carlton.

"I've spoken to another resident who was moving out last weekend who agreed that it was a major issue, and I'm going to start looking at moving out this year," Ms Chia said.

Ms Sagaria said the residents' association was currently lobbying council to instate noise cameras along the street to deter hoons.

"The UK has implemented noise cameras in many of their busy streets which monitor noise levels and catch cars which are revving their engines," she said.

"We're hoping the City of Melbourne might consider something similar."

The City of Melbourne said it would consider implementing noise cameras based on community feedback. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) also plays a central role in monitoring noise pollution from vehicles and has the power to issue infringements.

Victoria Police did not respond to a request for comment ●

People have their say on Australia Day

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PROTEST

Australia Day was no picnic for inner city parks as protestors took over the Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens to present their political views of what is becoming the most controversial day of the year.

Kim Campbell, a resident of East Melbourne, said Fitzroy Gardens was the quietest she'd seen it in terms of picnics.

"Every day has been full during lockdown," she said. "It's normally chocka on Australia Day."

Just one picnicker turned up in the Fitzroy Gardens. Dennis Hall drove 300 kilometres from Bairnsdale and set up outside Captain Cook's cottage.

"I have a particularly strong view about Australian democracy and celebrating the day for democracy," he told *Inner City News*.

He sat and ate his sausages outside the cottage while flying an Australian flag.

Just over the rise, tens of thousands of protestors were objecting to the celebration of Australia Day, preferring to call it Invasion Day.

The well-organised march proceeded in bubbles from Parliament House, down Bourke St, along Swanston St, up Flinders St to Treasury Gardens where protestors dispersed.

There were more people carrying Aboriginal flags in the gardens than Australian ones.

The march was organised by the Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance and it attracted supporters from all over the city who object to celebrating Australia Day because of its connection with racism.

Some attacked the statue of Captain Cook in Swanston St while others quietly gathered with mates to show solidarity for the cause.

Jasmine Firebrace and her brothers and sisters from Fairfield came to the march to meet their cousins from Richmond.

She said her tribe was from New South Wales but the issue was "too political" to make a statement about Australia Day.

She was happy to be photographed with her slogan: "No room for racism."

People made up their own slogans, some written on the back of



▲ Jasmine Firebrace, second from right, and her siblings after the Invasion Day Rally.



▲ Dennis Hall, the only picnicker in the Fitzroy Gardens on Australia Day.



▲ Invasion Day protestors.



"There were more people carrying Aboriginal flags in the gardens than Australian ones."



Mountain Goat cartoons, others on dogs.

"Change the date. Don't get on the beers" was the advice of one protestor and another commenting on the period since the first fleet's arrival wrote: "wasn't exactly a flash 233 years either, ya bastard."

Wurundjeri elder Bill Nicholson supervised a smoking ceremony. Call me "Uncle Bill", he said.

"The smoke is a physical cleanser. It shows we're part of the environment. It's cleansing of the spirit."

Protestors chanted: "Always was, always will, be Aboriginal land." ●



▲ Wurundjeri elder Bill Nicholson.

Tech tutorials now open at Kathleen Syme

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

If you fancy learning a new skill this year, the Makerspace at Kathleen Syme Library and community centre is open for business.

From 3D printing, to sewing, to soldering, the space offers free materials, machinery and tutorials to anyone who's interested.

Creative technology activator Alex Castro said that tutorials were being offered in the absence of larger community classes.

"If you want to use the Makerspace all you need to do is have a library card, be over 15 years old, and complete a 30-minute safety induction," Mr Castro said.

"We're running tutorials instead of our usual community classes due to COVID and the caps on the number of people who can be in the library."

The Makerspace is focused on technology and creativity and has a range of tools available.

"We have 3D printers, a heat press, rolling cutters, CNC machines, sewing machines, airbrush kits, UNITY servers for video game development and Tinkercad software for 3D



▲ Creative technology activator Alex Castro.

modelling," Mr Castro said.

During the COVID lockdown, the library stopped running community workshops for kids and adults and are currently waiting for the green light to start them back up.

In their absence the library started running classes on YouTube including watercolour painting, collaging and tapestry which are still available to watch.

Mr Castro said that now the library was opening back up the community should feel welcome to try out the Makerspace.

"Most people learn by returning to the space and picking up bits of info as they go but the tutorials can be a great way to pick up a new skill if you've never used the machines before," Mr Castro said.

Kathleen Syme is open from 10am to 6pm most weekdays. ●

For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/community

More than 500 student apartments approved despite community objection

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PLANNING

After two years of deliberation by the City of Melbourne, the inner city will be home to the first private, fully-catered student accommodation in Melbourne.

Scape plans to build a 22-storey, 533-bed student accommodation building on Victoria St, despite more than 100 community objections.

Carlton resident Andrew Richards said that with so many studio apartments the building was a "gross overdevelopment" of the site and would make it impossible to socially distance.

"There is only 3.1 sqm of communal space per student for indoor space and only three lifts proposed, which will be clearly inadequate, as up to 1066 people could reside in the building," Mr Richards said.

"Social distancing is completely impossible as there are a multitude of shared and crowded spaces built into every part of the design."

CBD resident Mark Furlong also said the building's layout would not be COVID-safe.

"It would be unconscionable to permit developers to build an uber-congested ant colony comprising hundreds of contiguous units, almost none of which have private cooking facilities," Mr Furlong said.

Scape's plans state that the building will serve as a space for student communities to thrive, and will be equipped with "lounge areas, gym, cinema, dining room and connected terraces".

Student meals will also be provided for students during their tenure, much like a university college would.

Daniel Soussan from Tract consultants said that Scape had gone to great lengths to ensure students had enough apartment space, with a floor to ceiling height of two point seven metres.



▲ Renders of the proposed development on Victoria Street.

"In relation to student accommodation that [height] is acceptable as it meets building code," Mr Soussan said.

"The student rooms will exceed the requirements of the City of Melbourne's student housing policy, with generous indoor and outdoor communal spaces."

The building was designed by architect Denton Corker Marshall and has a modern exterior decorated with tree plantings.

Carlton resident Ewan Ogilvy said that the new building could dominate the heritage overlay of the area.

"Why couldn't the council have reviewed the massing of the development to ensure that important views towards the Royal Exhibition Building along Mackenzie St are retained?" Mr Ogilvy said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nick Reece said council had carefully considered the plans since they were proposed in 2019 and were confident Scape would create a "stand-out" building for Melbourne.

"They are making a bold statement with the design of this building and it's a real juxtaposition to Drummond St and the heritage buildings of Carlton," Cr Reece said.

"It is one of those designs that if it is executed with quality materials and quality finishes it could be a real stand out building for Melbourne, but if it's not done with high-quality materials and detail it could be a real ugly duckling."

Cr Reece also said that although the building could provide a positive addition to the suburb and benefit pedestrians, more needed to be done to improve the standards for student accommodation.

"There is a large number of people going into this building and it is a matter of great regret to me that we do not have the equivalent of the building and apartment design guidelines for student accommodation," Cr Reece said ●

Protestors silenced by council laws

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PROTEST

The release of 26 refugees from detention in the Park Hotel in Swanston St is a victory for their supporters and a strong campaign over the Christmas period.

Instead of celebrating, protestors were back again outside Dan Andrews' office on January 20 in a silent vigil.

The protestors were wearing crosses over their masks to signify the silencing of their campaign.

"The silent aspect of today's action is a critique of last week's treatment by Victoria Police and the City of Melbourne," protestors claimed in a written message.

In a surprising move, council officers threatened protestors with prosecution under a little-known by-law that restricts noise by buskers.

The Melbourne Activist Legal Support has condemned the action, comparing it to the use of a by-law prohibiting the distribution of leaflets during protests against the Vietnam War.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said, "if the use of megaphones or amplifiers at protests creates excessive noise and becomes a public amenity issue, our officers can issue verbal and written warnings, and as a last resort, an infringement."

"We give a number of verbal warnings before any infringements are issued. Issuing fines at demonstrations is not a regular occurrence and we respect the right to protest."

"The matter will be reviewed internally before any fine is issued."

Two protestors were served with notices to comply at a rally on January 13 outside the Premier's office for using a public address system. They have refused to pay the fine.

One protestor was Greta Gillies, a member of Stand Together for Justice, who organised the second rally a week later at the Premier's office.

"Using busking legislation on protestors is a bit heavy-handed," she told *Inner City News*.



▲ Greta Gillies outside the Premier's office.

"We were using a PA system. It's normally what we use."

"The point is that protestors use them all the time. When we used them on this issue, they applied the legislation inappropriately."

The two protestors were threatened with \$500 fines but say they have received no further notifications from the City of Melbourne.

The Age reported that the council has discretion over whether to proceed with the prosecution, but the question remains as to why the



▲ A protest at the Park Hotel.



▲ Police outside the hotel as refugees are taken onto busses for release.

legislation was enacted in this particular case.

The City of Melbourne is a Refugee Welcome Zone and the protestors were delivering a petition to the Premier's office containing almost 40,000 signatures calling for the release of the refugees, who were transferred into the municipality in December.

According to the Melbourne Activist Legal Support, police have used these council local laws in similar ways against various protest events over recent years.

"Megaphones and small portable speakers are regular features of protest event throughout Victoria. They provide the means for voices, political demands, arguments and protest music to be heard by large groups of participants and the public at large. The ability to amplify voices and political messaging is fundamental to protest."

Protestors also called on the Premier to speak up on behalf of refugee cruelty. "We're calling him to comment," Ms Gillies said. "He is able to speak up. He has some influence over the police and he has OK'd them (the refugees) coming to Victoria."

The men were transferred from Manus Island and Nauru on medical evacuation grounds. They spent a year in a hotel in Preston before being moved to the Park Hotel where supporters rally at 5 pm each day to support them. Twenty-six were issued with bridging visas on January 20.

"It's great to hear about the men being released," Ms Gillies told reporters at the rally. "There are 60 men in that hotel. There are concerns about them being locked up. They're in buildings they can't get out of. We want them all released."

She said their detention was particularly moving at a time when people were experiencing the impact of being locked up in quarantine.

"The quarantine qualms of tennis players are highlighted in the media, but the detention of these men is not publicised. They've been in detention here for 16 months. That is a human rights violation." ●



Rhonda Dredge

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People like you will change the world

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PROTEST

Helen Albinis was an ordinary mum with two children and a job in pharmaceuticals when she first went into lockdown in Preston.

By the time she came out she was helping organise anti-Dutton rallies.

The story of her politicisation is one of neighbourhood solidarity in the face of a cruel refugee policy.

Who could forget her face as she stepped forward into the bicycle lane on Swanston St and began waving her phone at the windows of the Park Hotel?

Her black coat billowed around her. It was quite cold for a summer day and she looked as if she was standing on the edge of civilisation somewhere, signaling to the troops.

The day is etched in her memory as the first after the refugees she had grown to love as neighbours were moved from the Mantra Hotel in Preston to the Park Hotel in the city.

“When we were doing walks with the puppy, I realised how lucky I was to be walking. We had 101 days of lockdown. They’ve had 13 months,” she said.

Helen was determined to stay in touch with her lockdown buddies. She’d begun communicating with them while doing her daily walks and the sickening realisation that they were suffering was sending her half-crazy.

Helen is an immigrant, and she is not afraid to be articulate about her concerns. She realised early on that this was a battle of words.

By her fourth visit to the Park Hotel, actors on the back of a truck were performing the roles of Peter Dutton, the Minister for Home Affairs, and the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and condemning them as “professional racists” while a bunch of refugees waved from a window.



▲ *Pela Soupos consults a refugee inside the Park Hotel.*

But the first time Helen arrived, the windows of the hotel had been darkened, covered by a film to stop the outside from looking in.

“I’m heartbroken,” Helen told *Inner City News*. “In Preston you could see their faces and signal to them. Nothing is visible here. You can use a phone. You can like them on Twitter. You can turn on a light. It’s the only way you can communicate with them. It’s very cruel.”

Helen checked her phone. A message had just arrived from a guy called Moz. “Hello I see you right now,” he said. Her spirits lifted. They could see out.

In the days that followed the numbers outside the hotel swelled. Hundreds of protestors gathered over the past weekend before Christmas with carols, performances, speeches and

dancing but Helen was still worried.

“You can see they’ve been deteriorating in the last couple of weeks,” she said. She was worried about insects in their food and Moz had had a tooth extracted.

“I wanted to know what was happening, that he was receiving pain relief,” dentist Pela Soupos said, who did a consultation over Facetime from the street outside the hotel. “My understanding is that they are not receiving preventative dental care.”

She and her sister Maria were politicised two years ago when they saw the film made by Manus Island detainee Behrouz Boochani. Footage was sent out of the prison on a mobile phone.

On December 21, The Greens organised a



▲ *Helen Albinis at the Park Hotel.*

rally outside the Department of Home Affairs in Lonsdale St to protest against the hotel detention. CBD activist Aspara Sabaratnam urged people to connect on a personal level to the struggles of the refugees.

“It can’t just be at a surface level,” she said. “It has to be deep level organisation.”

Moz, one of the Park Hotel detainees spoke in a recorded message at the rally.

“When I am inside my room and walk along the corridor, I feel I’m back on Manus Island,” he said. “It’s a different address but the same torture ... all of you who came to protest, people like you will change the world.”

Protestors are keeping up a vigil outside the hotel every weekday at 5 pm and weekends at 3 pm ●



▲ *Bushrangers basketball team.*

Carlton Baths to open inclusive sporting hub

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*
HEALTH

Australia’s largest LGBTQIA+ sporting club is developing an inclusion hub at the Carlton Baths to provide a safe space for participation in community sport.

Bushrangers Sporting Alliance president Stella Lesic said the inclusion hub would provide an opportunity for gender and sexual diversity people to participate in basketball, swimming and skating teams.

“Sport and physical activity hasn’t always been a safe space for marginalised communities,” Ms Lesic said.

“The hub would be a chance for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies to turn up and give something a go. It’s designed for beginners and those who have felt like they haven’t been included in mainstream sport.”

Final development discussions are still ongoing between the Bushrangers Sporting Alliance, the Carlton Baths and YMCA, with the aim to open the hub by the end of the year.

Stella said the Carlton Baths, which had been the home base for the Bushrangers Basketball team and the Ranger Rollers skating group for several years, had been strong supporters in the development of the hub.

“The Carlton Baths has been an amazing partner for us in making sure that we’ve got spaces that are completely inclusionary and they are supportive our policies and culture,” she said.

“It just made sense to make sure Carlton Baths would be the main base for our activities.”

In creating the hub, the Bushrangers Sporting Alliance aims to create a governance model, policy, and processes that other sporting groups can follow to develop their own inclusionary spaces.

“Sometimes it is really hard as a member of the community to trust that the space is safe. A lot of well-intentioned organisations will put up a rainbow-flag once a year but they don’t have anything underneath that. That’s where we would be able to help,” she said.

“Our aim is that we won’t have to exist in 10 years’ time.” ●

Fitzroy Gardens Pavilion rented out despite community pressure

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The Pavilion in Fitzroy Gardens has been rented out as an art exhibition space, despite months-long pressure from residents’ groups to use the building for community events.

For the next six months the building will now be available to local artists and creatives as an exhibition hall, through the City of Melbourne’s (CoM) Creative Spaces program.

East Melbourne Group (EMG) amenities convenor Susan Henderson said that the outcome was disappointing after six months of lobbying the council.

“The Pavilion has been sitting locked and empty for four years, so we as a community thought it would be a great, COVID-safe facility to host events for people who were feeling isolated,” Ms Henderson

“We put in a submission and twisted ourselves inside out to meet the Creative Spaces criteria but were apparently unsuccessful.”

EMG along with the East Melbourne Neighbour Network claim to have been assured by the CoM that they would be able to use the building for community events after a short contract for city cleaners finished.

But after months of back and forth they were told that the council’s property department had decided the space should be used to help the struggling arts sector.

“We feel that the process completely sidelined ratepayers and casual users of the Fitzroy Gardens who could have joined in on the activities,” Ms Henderson said.

“It was a very disheartening process with a lack of transparency.”

EMG had planned to use the Pavilion for exercise classes, sketching, yoga, tai chi and art classes.

Ms Henderson said that the activities were aimed at reducing isolation among the older population.



▲ *View from inside the Pavilion.*

“We have several hundred people and groups who would like to use the facility and a lot of them are older people who find technology very difficult,” Ms Henderson said.

“During COVID there are a lot of people who are losing mobility, who are very lonely because they’re so isolated and this was an opportunity to help remedy that.”

Ms Henderson said that with the Pavilion off the table, something needed to be done to address the lack of community gathering places in East Melbourne.

“We have no proper community spaces in East Melbourne and COVID has really highlighted the need for more community-based activities in the suburb,” she said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Pavilion was given to Creative Spaces as the council was working to adapt vacant spaces to help the city recover from COVID.

“We sought Expressions of Interest to activate the Fitzroy Gardens Pavilion from January to June 2021 and received 16 applications,” the Lord Mayor said.

“The two successful applications for three-month residencies both had strong community and public outcomes.”

“We want to continue working with all groups about how best to bring to life under-utilised facilities and spaces. All ideas are welcome, and I’d like to thank local residents in East Melbourne for their engagement with the City of Melbourne in this area.” ●

Leadership roles assigned as council revamps meetings

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Key portfolios for the next four years have been assigned to recently-elected City of Melbourne councillors, who have endorsed a new way to conduct meetings.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will take over transport chair duties, an important portfolio in the next four years as the council looks to implement its Transport Strategy 2030.

Since entering Town Hall in 2018, Cr Capp has been a strong proponent of redistributing CBD space to both pedestrians and cyclists, who make the vast majority of trips within the Hoddle Grid.

The Lord Mayor will also become the Aboriginal Melbourne chair.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has retained the planning portfolio, a role he held in the previous council term (2016-2020).

Rohan Leppert will remain as his deputy, while also taking on the role of environment chair after fellow Greens councillor Cathy Oke stood down last year after 12 years in the chamber.

Cr Leppert holds his role as heritage chair but relinquishes the arts portfolio after eight years.

Town Hall's current longest-serving councillor, Kevin Louey, has been assigned the Business and Global Opportunities portfolio.

Once the chief of staff to former Lord Mayor John So, Cr Louey has entered his 13th year in the council chamber in 2021.

Second term councillor Philip Le Liu has

been assigned as finance chair, taking over from former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, who in October ran unsuccessfully against Cr Capp in the 2020 City of Melbourne election.

Cr Leppert said given its scope of responsibilities, councillors decided a portfolio structure was again the most efficient way to conduct business.

He added that the process was a harmonious one.

"At this point in the electoral cycle some councils are tearing themselves apart deciding who gets which position. We don't do that," he said

Remaining portfolios were largely assigned to recently-elected councillors.

Dr Olivia Ball, the second Greens councillor alongside Cr Leppert, will chair the Health, Wellbeing and Belonging portfolio.

Roshena Campbell, who in her short time on council has been a strong advocate of a voucher program to kick-start the local economy in 2021, will lead City Activation.

Jason Chang will take the lead on Small Business, Elizabeth Doidge has been handed responsibility for Sustainable Building, Jamal Hakim will become Creative Melbourne chair, and Davydd Griffiths will lead the Education and Innovation portfolio.

At the December 15 council meeting, councillors also announced a shakeup to its decision-making framework for the next four years.

From now, Future Melbourne Committee meetings — which represent around two-thirds of all council meetings and where key decisions impacting the city are typically made — will no

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will take over transport chair duties, an important portfolio in the next four years as the council looks to implement its Transport Strategy 2030.



longer be structured in portfolio segments as featured during the previous term.

Instead, the Lord Mayor will take on the role of committee chair of all but one portfolio.

That remaining portfolio, Planning, will continue to be chaired by the Deputy Lord Mayor.

Cr Leppert said the new system eliminated an overly-centralised decision-making process. "I am actually quite glad that we've done away with what I thought was becoming a little bit of a problematic conflict, where the portfolio holder was also the chair of the committee, the proponent of the motion before the committee, the media spokesperson and becoming a bit of a policy lead," he said.

"We have to be conscious that all councillors have equal decision-making authority and responsibility. I think this model brings us back to that in two key ways; it doesn't make the portfolio lead the chair — the Lord Mayor will be the chair."

"Secondly, we're seeking to a brief a whole lot of portfolios together in a way that's going to make life as efficient as possible for the administration."

In what was the final meeting of 2020, councillors also endorsed its latest code of conduct.

"This code of conduct represents our commitment to respectful behaviour, to setting an appropriate tone and example for the rest of the organisation, and certainly reflecting our culture," Cr Capp said ●

Injecting room report delayed

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

A key report that could determine the future of a proposed second injecting room near the Queen Victoria Market has been delayed.

The state government announced that former Victoria Police commissioner Ken Lay had not finished his consultation period with key stakeholders and required more time.

The report's findings could play a significant role in whether the Andrews government proceeds with its preferred location of cohealth on Victoria St that is currently opposed by the City of Melbourne, many local residents and market traders.

As late as November 20, the state government confirmed with *CBD News* that the report would be finalised "by the end of the year", after which the government would make a decision on its plans.

But it has since said that more time was required.

"While significant headway has been made to date, the government has accepted a request by Mr Lay to extend the consultation into the New Year, when face-to-face engagement is less restricted and key voices are more able to have their say," Health Minister Martin Foley said.

"While we remain determined to see this important and lifesaving service up and running as soon as possible, we also want to give Mr Lay the time he needs to work through the complex issues in a thorough manner."

The next phase of the Mr Lay-led consultation is believed to include local businesses and people with lived experience of addiction.

Consultation has already taken place with health and drug reform experts, plus market traders and Drill Hall residents who remain opposed to the new facility being housed next door at cohealth.

Drill Hall, a pre-war army officer training facility, was refurbished in 2011 whereby seven levels of affordable housing were built atop the original building, and residents now occupy the 56 apartments inside.

There are particular concerns, including from the City of Melbourne, regarding the impact of a safe injecting facility on vulnerable residents at this location.



▲ A syringe on the ground at QVM.

How did we get here?

In June last year, the findings of an independent report found Victoria's one and only safe injecting facility in North Richmond had saved at least 21 lives in 18 months, and required help dealing with demand.

The City of Melbourne, which recorded 51 overdose deaths between 2015 and 2019 — second only in the state to the City of Yarra — was nominated in the report as the preferred municipality to house Victoria's second medically-supervised injecting room.

But the government went a step further and nominated 53 Victoria St in a move that incensed the council which had not been briefed.

While the government has maintained for some time that it remained open to "suitable" alternative sites, in December *CBD News* reported that no other site had been considered and that the Victoria St site remained the government preferred (and only) current option.

Where to from here?

A stoush between the council and government could eventuate.

And while that is a battle usually won by the latter, the council has a long-term lease control of the site, which could complicate matters.

The council has said it "accepts the evidence that medically supervised injecting rooms save lives", but "does not believe that the cohealth site opposite the Queen Vic Market is the appropriate location".

Late last year, a spokesperson outlined the council's opposition to the site: "It is one of the most densely populated areas in the City of Melbourne; opposite the QVM which is the city's most significant tourist attraction, a transport interchange, child care services and vulnerable residents all within hundreds of metres ... we have provided factual information to Ken Lay to demonstrate why this location is not the right choice." ●

“

While significant headway has been made to date, the government has accepted a request by Mr Lay to extend the consultation into the New Year, when face-to-face engagement is less restricted and key voices are more able to have their say.

”



David Schout

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Your City of Melbourne community update



The City of Melbourne has welcomed its newly-elected Council. Here is a brief introduction to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors at the City of Melbourne. To find extended biographies and contact details for councillors, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil



**Lord Mayor
Sally Capp**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in May 2018

Sally began her career as a solicitor and was the first woman to hold the post of Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe and Israel. She has also served as the CEO for the Committee for Melbourne and COO of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Sally has held senior roles at both KPMG and ANZ, and she took the small business she co-founded to the ASX. Most recently she was Victorian Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia. A passionate Magpies supporter, in 2004 Sally made history as the first female board member of Collingwood FC. She is involved in a number of charities.

Sally is the first woman to be directly elected as Lord Mayor.

.....
'The people of Melbourne are great collaborators and we've seen the benefits of this during COVID-19. As restrictions ease, we are rediscovering what we love about the city, and what we have taken for granted. I am excited about what we have planned for Melbourne's future to drive positive change.'
.....



**Deputy
Lord Mayor
Nicholas
Reece**

Elected Deputy Lord Mayor in November 2020, after having previously been elected Councillor in 2016

Nick is an executive in Chancellery at the University of Melbourne and holds an academic position of principal fellow and teaches at the Melbourne School of Government. Nick is the chairman of global men's health charity Movember and, for more than 10 years, he was a director for the street newspaper *The Big Issue*.

Nick has considerable experience in government and policy making, having worked as a senior adviser to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Victorian premiers Steve Bracks and John Brumby. He is a commentator for SKY News and a regular columnist for The Age.

.....
'Melbourne has been hit hard by COVID-19, but we are going to come roaring back. During this time, we've seen what the city can do, from taking action on homelessness to pivoting to outdoor dining. I am so excited about the four years we have in front of us.'
.....



**Councillor
Philip Le Liu**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016

Philip is a local resident and a long-time worker within the City of Melbourne. With more than 10 years of experience across a variety of sectors, including government, utility, telecommunication, and financial services, Philip is a trusted adviser to many in the community, business, and government sectors.

Philip is a regular speaker at conferences and on panels across Australia and Asia, and he speaks on key issues in the media. In 2019, he was recognised as one of 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and winner of the Public Sector/Government category. Outside of council, Philip is an entrepreneur and heavily involved in helping local communities.

.....
'I love that Melbourne is so diverse and multicultural. During my first four years on Council I learnt a lot and enjoyed helping people, especially the business owners, residents and students, that call Melbourne home. The best of Melbourne is yet to come and we all have a role to play in her success. Vires Acquirit Eundo.'
.....



**Councillor
Rohan
Leppert**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016 and 2012

Rohan is a member of the Victorian Greens. He has lived in the City of Melbourne his entire adult life and currently lives and works in Kensington. He has worked as a musician and teacher for more than 15 years, and more recently as an urban planner.

Rohan is a board member of the Municipal Association of Victoria and is an associate of the Planning Institute of Australia and a member of the National Trust (Victoria).

Rohan's priority and passion as councillor is planning Melbourne in the public interest, for a more economically just, environmentally sustainable, accessible and creative city for future generations.

.....
'As a returning councillor, I know how hard economic recovery is going to be, but I also feel that we've got a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the city more affordable, environmentally sustainable, and to bring creative practitioners back into the middle of the city to work and live.'
.....

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Your City of Melbourne community update



**Councillor
Jason Chang**

Jason is co-founder and CEO of Calia, a restaurant-to-retail brand created in Melbourne specialising in quality products and ingredients. His hospitality and retail group employs hundreds of people across his stores in Melbourne and Asia, and for his online store operations.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Jason knows all too well the devastating impact that COVID-19 is having on Melbourne's beloved hospitality, retail, international student and tourism industries.

'I love going to restaurants and cafes around Melbourne. As a small business owner and trader, I understand the pain and suffering businesses are feeling right now. I really want to give them a voice and show them that we're here to help to revive the city.'



**Councillor
Elizabeth
Mary Doidge**

Elizabeth was born, raised, and has lived her entire life in Melbourne. She has a proud career in the trade union movement, playing a key role in communication and stakeholder engagement. Elizabeth currently works in the construction sector engaging with a diverse range of industry and community stakeholders.

Elizabeth recognises the important role Council will play in the recovery of our city and the opportunity presented to Council to contribute to the design of a more productive, inclusive and enriched city for all.

'The pandemic has had a devastating impact on everybody, but this period of change also presents opportunities to restructure some things that didn't work so well before and help make Melbourne a better, more enriched place - a more inclusive place for everybody.'



**Councillor
Olivia Ball**

Olivia has lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne for most of her life. With a Masters and PhD in human rights, and experience working in women's, children's, refugees', workers' and older people's rights, she brings human rights expertise to the diverse activities of Council, from the affordability of housing to the accessibility of our city and democracy.

A published author, Olivia also has a science degree, giving her skills in assessing evidence and applying research. Most recently, she has been studying urban planning.

'What I want to do on Council is to take this current crisis, which is consuming us so much, and give birth to a new world - a better Melbourne, with better outcomes for human rights and the environment. A fairer, more affordable, more sustainable Melbourne.'



**Councillor
Kevin Louey**

Re-elected in November 2020 after having previously been elected in 2016, 2012 and 2008

Kevin has extensive experience across the business, government and community sectors and spent seven years at the City of Melbourne as Chief of Staff to the former Lord Mayor John So, before being elected as a councillor in 2008.

Kevin has been the City of Melbourne's appointment to the advisory committees including Enterprise Melbourne Pty Ltd and Business Partner City Network.

Kevin is passionate about working with small business and activating the city to increase visitation.

'Over 20 years on Council, I have enjoyed seeing the city change. We will continue to focus on business support and reactivation as we meet the challenges of COVID-19 and embrace opportunities for recovery. I look forward to working together for another four years.'



**Councillor
Jamal Hakim**

Jamal is Managing Director of a national health non-profit that has safely and successfully navigated COVID-19. Having worked in complex, challenging global organisations his entire career, he is both an entrepreneur and business person at heart. Jamal is a GAICD and holds a number of board roles, including with Democracy in Colour, Marie Stopes PNG and previously with Midsumma Festival.

A resident of Docklands for 12 years, Jamal is passionate about ensuring a thriving community that is physically, emotionally, culturally and environmentally safe for everyone. Jamal is also an advocate for representative and evidence-based decision making.

'What I really love about our great city is the diversity and intersectionality of people that live, work and visit here. We have this amazing community that is so fun, adventurous and inclusive. We need change that is driven by the people.'



**Councillor
Roshena
Campbell**

Roshena is a barrister with expertise in commercial law and corporate governance. Prior to that she was a solicitor with a leading national law firm for nearly a decade. She has represented some of Australia's largest companies as well as state and local government bodies.

Roshena has put down deep roots since moving to Melbourne as a 20-year-old and has lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne. She has three young children. She is passionate about contributing to Melbourne's re-emergence as a vibrant, thriving city. Her priority is ensuring that Melbourne is Australia's greatest city to do business in and the destination of choice for families to live and visit.

'I love Melbourne's vibrancy and rich culture. I am delighted to see the return of workers and visitors and the reopening of beloved restaurants and attractions. I believe there is so much we can do to positively shape the city over the coming four years.'



**Councillor
Davydd
Griffiths**

Davydd moved to Melbourne to study in 1993 and since that time has lived or worked in the City of Melbourne. Davydd worked as a school teacher for many years and remains passionate about the power of education to transform lives and connect communities.

After leaving teaching he worked as a policy advisor in both education and health with a particular focus on community health provision, men's health and mental health. Addressing the impact of loneliness, particularly in rapidly transforming urban communities, is another of Davydd's key interests. In recent years, Davydd has owned and operated hospitality venues in Kensington and West Melbourne and has experienced first-hand the impacts of COVID-19 on business.

'I have a pub in West Melbourne and I do my banking at the other end of town just so I can walk through the city and see it change. I'm excited to help bring people back into Melbourne after the disconnection and isolation of the COVID experience.'



KEEP IN TOUCH

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Popular parklets could be here to stay

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*
BUSINESS

Lygon St restaurants said the outdoor dining parklet program was assisting in the recovery of the popular strip after the COVID-19 shutdown.

Cafe Notturmo manager Kash said its parklet area was “very popular” with customers.

“It’s the perfect time for it, being summer. Most customers prefer to be outside and now we have more space to fit them,” Kash said. “It looks much prettier”.

Kash said the City of Melbourne had done a “great job” with the project.

“We haven’t had any complaints about the extra space being taken up,” Kash said.

“We would definitely continue with it if the council lets us after the end of March. We could put heating and a roof up during winter. It would be great”.

The parklet program, which has seen dining areas take over footpaths, on-street car parking, laneways and street space, is part of a \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund being delivered by the council and the state government to support the hospitality industry.

Criniti’s manager Nabin Neupane said the parklet had been popular with customers.

“It has helped when we’re busiest on Friday and Saturday nights by providing more tables to scatter people all over to ensure we’re following social distancing rules,” Mr Neupane said.

Mr Neupane said the restaurant would “definitely” look to continue with the program following the parklet program’s expected finish date in March.

Carlton Inc president Luca Sbardella said that business in Carlton had bounced back incredibly well after lockdown.

“There’s probably no other suburb in Melbourne that does outdoor dining like Carlton does,” Mr Sbardella said.

“The parklets are great for the street too because they come with the ability to bring in more customers.” ●



▲ Criniti’s manager Nabin Neupane.



▲ Parklets on Lygon St.

Corner store up for sale

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
BUSINESS

A cute little corner café in George St, East Melbourne is up for sale but there’s no need to worry about the loss of a much-loved institution.

The building is for sale for \$2.3 million but the George Street Café will keep trading, business owner Michael Cheng said.

He said the landlord, who lives next door, was moving and wanted to sell both properties.

The café had one of the earliest food permits in Melbourne when it first started up as a corner store in 1856, making it part of Melbourne’s culinary history.

Like many establishments in East Melbourne it has stayed connected to its history.

Where other early developments have folded, such as the first biscuit company that started in 1854 and the first Spanish and Chinese restaurants, 65 George St is still in the food production industry.

Michael is modest about his connection to that history but is worried about the business. Normally they would be 30 to 40 per cent busier with the tennis, he said.

Lisa, a local, pops in with her dog to reassure Michael. “We won’t let them go,” she said.

Michael bought the George Street Cafe eight years ago and has traded through the difficult lockdown period.

When he began looking, he said he could have gone for a business in the CBD, but he liked East Melbourne better.

“I wanted to interact with people, so I bought this,” he told *Inner City News*.

Michael is a hands-on owner and clearly enjoys the patter he has going with the local professionals who frequent the cafe.

“We don’t have tea,” he said to one customer, then laughed. “English breakfast or Chinese?”

Michael worked for 20 years as a warehouse



▲ Michael Cheng, owner of the George St Cafe.



▲ The building at 65 George St is on the market.

Where other early developments have folded, such as the first biscuit company that started in 1854 and the first Spanish and Chinese restaurants, 65 George St is still in the food production industry.



manager in Richmond before he went into business.

“In life you never plan. You come across something and it’s okay. You might have a strategy plan for years and nothing happens. I looked at it and it was within my budget. I’m open-minded,” he said.

That strategy has paid off. He employed a chef and can now make some of the dishes himself.

These include smashed pumpkin on toast for breakfast and fruit salad, which he makes on the spot. There’s also a five-bean bake served with roti ●

67-million-year-old Triceratops to call Carlton home

KNOWLEDGE

Melbourne Museum is preparing to welcome one of the most complete and best-preserved dinosaur fossils to its collection of natural history in 2021.

The 67-million-year-old Triceratops fossil is currently in the late stages of excavation and will be ready for public viewing later this year.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said that the fossil would be a valuable addition to the museum's flagship Carlton campus.

"Museums Victoria offers incredible experiences for visitors and world-class research behind the scenes – it's fitting that Melbourne Museum will now host one of the most important dinosaur discoveries in history," Mr Pearson said.

"This triceratops fossil will be a must-see attraction for all ages and a major new attraction for Victoria."

The gigantic skeleton was discovered on private land in Montana, USA in 2014 by a fossil collector who spotted a pattern on a sandstone rockface that looked like a dinosaur tail.

270 bones, or 90 per cent of the skeleton have been recovered and the rest are being excavated from rock at a depth of 1.5 metres.

Measuring six to seven metres from tip to tail, standing more than two metres tall and weighing one tonne, the fossil is larger than a full-grown African elephant.

Museums Victoria CEO Lynley Crosswell said that not only would the fossil be a major attraction for Victoria, it will help researchers to crack the code of how one of the world's best-loved dinosaurs lived.

"Museums Victoria offers incredible experiences for visitors and world-class research behind the scenes – it's fitting that Melbourne Museum will now host one of the most important dinosaur discoveries in history," Ms Crosswell said.

"We know our triceratops will delight and



▲ Melbourne Museum's curator of palaeontology Dr Erich Fitzgerald with the lower jaw of the triceratops.

amaze audiences, and it will inspire us to consider the remarkable wonder and fragility of life on Earth."

The museum's popular taxidermy collection which has been running for 11 years closed in late January to make room for the new exhibition.

The triceratops will be added to the museum's collection of more than 17 million items and join dinosaur fossils including "The Cape Patterson Claw", a Theropod claw that was the first dinosaur bone found in Australia in 1903.

Melbourne Museum is currently preparing to debut the fossil and expects to have it ready for public viewing at the end of this year ●

For more information:
museums victoria.com.au

AFLW hub underway at Ikon Park

WORDS BY Jack Alfonso

SPORT

The development of elite facilities and tailored AFLW change rooms at Ikon Park will seek to boost resources for women footballers to the same level as the men's league.

With work now underway on the club's currently below par facilities, Carlton president Mark LoGiudice, players Maddy Prespakis and Taylor Harris, the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula and Federal Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and the Digital Economy Jane Hume gathered last month to observe the new developments taking place as the club try to reinforce a culture surrounding gender equality.

Minister Pakula labelled it a "win for the current crop of elite players", but also for future AFLW players "who will be inspired to follow in their footsteps."

"Elite footballers like Maddy Prespakis and Tayla Harris deserve a level playing field – that's why we're backing this landmark project and others like it across Melbourne," Minister Pakula said.

The changes are set to include the demolition of the Pratt Stand to be replaced with purpose-built AFLW change rooms and an elite indoor training facility, additional to refurbishments to the current training and administration building to provide equal access to club resources for both the AFL and AFLW teams, while lighting is due to be upgraded to allow the broadcasting of AFLW night matches.

"These new ground improvements will be a big win for the Blues and the entire AFLW

community, giving us the facilities that players and fans deserve," Mr LoGiudice said.

After shouldering \$20 million of the \$42 million project, the state government has reaffirmed its stance supporting women's football, matching a plethora of other provisions dedicated to upgrading facilities such as those at Moorabbin Oval, Whitten Oval, Casey Park and Victoria Park.

The federal government will also provide \$15 million to the total, with Carlton and the AFL combining to account for the outstanding \$5 million.

This is the first move of many expected by the government after the state budget cited redevelopments for AFLW facilities at Essendon, Richmond, North Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs all expected to take place later this year.

Since its inception in 2017, support for AFLW has steadily increased despite an abrupt end to the 2020 season due to the pandemic.

After hosting a sell-out crowd for the first ever AFLW match, Ikon Park will be hoping to replicate similar audience reception to a reduced crowd in lieu of the pandemic at the 2021 season opener on January 28.

The City of Melbourne endorsed plans for the transformation of Ikon Park back in August last year. Chair of Planning Cr Nicholas Reece said at the time that any development of the ground would need to be consistent with the Melbourne Planning Scheme and respectful of the landscape and heritage character of Princes Park. "So many Melburnians have nostalgic memories of going to games at Princes Park. Everyone agrees there's a different experience watching games in the suburbs compared to Docklands or the MCG," Cr Reece said.

"It's exciting that these facilities could be upgraded to elite sporting standards. The proposal includes upgrading the oval along with delivering a new coaching hub, sports injury prevention centre and an allied health facility." ●



▲ Corkman pub in 1957 when it was known as the Carlton Inn Hotel. Supplied: State Library of Victoria.



▲ Corkman Irish Pub before it was demolished.

Owners responsible for illegal demolition of Corkman Pub sentenced

WORDS BY Katie Johnson

HERITAGE

The owners responsible for the illegal demolition of Carlton's Corkman Irish Pub have been ordered to pay \$250,000 in legal costs, fined \$150,000 and sentenced to one month in prison for failing to comply with an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The 158-year-old Leicester Place pub was illegally destroyed in 2016 by developers Raman Shaqiri and Stefce Kutlesovski, breaching the City of Melbourne's (CoM) planning laws.

Speaking late last year, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the outcome was well deserved.

"These developers deserve this outcome. They have trashed Victoria's heritage, refused to build a park, and shirked their legal obligations at every step," Mr Wynne said.

In 2016 the men pled guilty to breaching building and planning laws when they knocked down the historic Carlton pub.

They were fined more than \$1 million and found themselves subject to legal action brought by the council and the Victorian Government.

In December last year the men also failed to clear the demolition site so it could be

transformed into a public park and were fined \$400,000 for not complying with VCAT orders.

President of the tribunal Justice Michelle Quigley found that the developers had wilfully and deliberately failed to clear the Carlton site and make it available for public recreation.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp welcomed the outcome as the developers prevented the public from using the space.

"We took on these proceedings in the public interest because it's completely unacceptable to ignore a court ruling," the Lord Mayor said.

"Today's decision vindicates the court's authority and sends a clear message that we won't tolerate developers disobeying a court order."

The Corkman Pub, formerly known as the Carlton Inn Hotel, was built in 1858 and was covered by heritage rules.

The state government had originally wanted the developers to rebuild the Corkman, but that plans were abandoned after the enforcement order to do so was deemed "not legally sound".

It was demolished over the course of a weekend in 2016, a week after a fire was lit inside the building.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said she hoped the site would be cleared swiftly so that it could be used as a public space.

"We look forward to seeing the site cleaned up and available for the public to enjoy." ●

INNER CITY LOCAL

The science of food

A lifelong interest in science and a passion for food has led Carlton resident Emma Donnelly to start her own culinary science business.

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*

Born in Western Australia to two science teachers, Emma said following her parents' path wasn't so much a choice, as it was expected. "I was the first born so it was a case of 'you will go to university and you will do science,'" Emma said.

Following university, Emma went on to work in scientific communication, helping scientific organisations such as the CSIRO communicate their ideas and discoveries to the public in plain speaking English.

It was Emma's experience at university which also awoke an interest in food. "My parents lived in the country, so I had to move down to Perth for uni. For a few years there it was just about eating to survive," Emma said. "After a while I started getting into food and I thought 'maybe I could do this', then I started teaching myself to do all these things".

From there, a passion for the intersection of science and food was born.

"I'm trying to look at recipes and say, 'this is the best way to make that recipe', and get rid of all the old wives tales. Get rid of all those inconsistencies and make recipes that are easier to understand. Or alternatively, explore recipes that have some science attached to them," Emma said. "I thought maybe there's a way I can sneak some science in there for people who don't like science. Or for people that don't like cooking, I can show them a way that is foolproof."

Emma has a particular interest in the field of neurogastronomy, where psychology and food intersect to examine flavour perception.

"Certain things that you do can make people experience food differently. For example, research shows that if you serve the same exact dessert on a white plate and a black plate, most people believe that the white plate is sweeter," Emma said.

"There's all these little tips and tricks businesses can be doing to make people think they're getting better quality food."

Emma's culinary science business was kick-started when she was a contestant on the popular reality TV series *My Kitchen Rules* in 2012.

"It was a good opportunity for me to launch my business, but it was an interesting ride. Reality TV is a beast to say that least," Emma said.

Since then, Emma has self-published a cookbook *Eat, Drink, Think - recipes for the evidence-based cook*. "It's about breaking down barrier for people. Providing them with education but also memorable experiences," Emma said. A fan of the Carlton culinary scene, Emma credits the Brandon Hotel in Carlton North with helping to get her through the lockdown. "They do really good food and do home delivery. I was very thankful during a rough time," Emma said. You can learn more about Emma's business at culinaryscience.com.au ●

▼ *Emma Donnelly At her house in Carlton.*



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

A true community councillor

When *Inner City News's* sister publication *Docklands News* ran Jamal Hakim's image on the front page of its September 2020 edition ahead of last year's City of Melbourne council elections, he really would have liked his chances!

And sure enough, the long-term Docklands resident, multicultural campaigner and managing director of a national health not-for-profit defied the odds and snuck into one of the nine coveted councillor positions ... not that we're suggesting our help had anything to do with his success!

Off the back of some clever preferences with other like-minded resident candidates and an "open and honest" dialogue with the rest of the field, Mr Hakim said he had always remained optimistic about his chances.

"I take things in my stride, I guess," he said. "I'm the kind of person that leaves myself open to all possibilities. So, part of me did feel optimistic. But at the same time, I was realistic that it's the first time I'm running and I'm an unknown character."

"I went into the preference discussions the same way I would any other negotiation, which is to align from a values perspective. Have those conversations, be really honest and look at the policies of the other candidates."

"My goal was to work with the other resident candidates to say, let's get an independent resident on council. It doesn't matter who it is."

Mr Hakim is one of six new faces on the council and his election to the City of Melbourne should come as welcome news to local residents throughout the municipality, given his pledge to carry his own lived experience into the role.

Not only has he lived in Docklands for more than 10 years, his professional experience working with Democracy in Colour, Marie Stopes and previously with Midsumma Festival means community will be central to



▲ *Newly-elected councillor and long-time Docklands resident Jamal Hakim.*

his approach as a councillor.

Having been assigned the Creative Melbourne portfolio and deputy lead on the Health, Wellbeing and Belonging portfolio, he told *CBD News* that he was passionate about promoting multiculturalism, safety and deliberative government in our city.

"I think safety in the city is a really big issue because it underpins everything," he said.

"People feel less safe in the City of Melbourne year on year and that's probably because we're not understanding what safety encompasses – it's emotional, psychological, cultural, accessibility, environmental and all sorts of things."

"Deliberative government is also something that I'm really interested in. We really need to create a way of collaboration that takes into account our community in all of its forms."

"About 70 per cent of the recommendations from deliberative processes in Scotland are enacted. I think when you have that you have a more engaged community. You have to represent community realistically and be able to show representation within council."

While Jamal's life is about to get a whole lot busier as a councillor, he is no stranger to a full workload having only recently completed his Juris Doctor (JD) at RMIT University so expect

him to take the juggle in his stride!

He said that the combined fresh talent of fellow new councillors Jason Chang, Olivia Ball, Elizabeth Doidge, Davydd Griffiths and Roshena Campbell, with the experience of Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and councillors Kevin Louey, Rohan Leppert and Phil Le Liu placed the group in good stead for a productive and pragmatic council term.

"What's really terrific about this council, and I can say this confidently, after meeting and sitting down with everyone individually is that we really got to know each other and we all set some ground rules around our behaviours and how we want to engage together," he said.

"What came from that was that we have a bunch of councillors who don't necessarily agree on everything, but they agree on the way we want to interact. Everyone wants to go into this in a way that is positive and be soft on people and hard on issues."

"All eyes will be on council post-pandemic and I think everyone is conscious of that fact in that whatever we do in this term will have implications for years and years to come – similar to what happened with Postcode 3000 and some of the other major changes in Melbourne."

"What we do with a city that is really changing in terms of how communities and businesses interact and how people's livelihoods are going to be impacted is going to be a challenge, but an opportunity to do things better." ●

Sean Car
EDITOR

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Investing in social housing, in the era of working from home



Welcome to the sixth of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians.



This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity.

This month we have asked Peter Colacino, Chief of Policy & Research, at Infrastructure Australia to share his thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians, and in particular investing in social housing in the era of working from home, should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

As Australians continue to feel the impacts of COVID-19 and the rolling series of lockdowns, adequate housing for many members of the community is a barrier to maintaining productivity and avoiding social isolation.

With one in three workers still based at home as a result of the pandemic, and 10 per cent of the total workforce intending to continue working remotely into the future, the measure of adequacy for housing has shifted. So too, the importance of suitable and affordable broadband has grown.

This shift has created, for many workers, a new hurdle for accessing work. The home internet connection becomes the link to economic and social opportunity, the living room the office as well as the place for family and the costs of utilities have shifted from employer to employee.

As we spend more time working from home, the pressure on those in an unstable or unsatisfactory housing situation has intensified. This risks further detaching those who are already

vulnerable from economic and social opportunities, and risks pronouncing isolation.

Infrastructure Australia's recent report *Infrastructure beyond COVID-19* anticipates the value of face-to-face contact and agglomeration in CBDs is such that two-thirds of those working remotely will return to the office and CBDs.

However, for those remaining at home, and those with reduced frequency in the office, optimising their productivity while working remotely is critical both to the economic performance of the nation and to avoid entrenching of financial disadvantage for individuals.

The pandemic, and the new needs of our workforce, should serve as a catalyst for the owners of housing for those on the fringe, including public, community and affordable housing, to rethink the economic value fit-for-purpose housing offers through enabling participation.

It is already widely understood that social housing is an economic enabler. As noted by KPMG in its evaluation of post-GFC investment in housing, social housing provides on average multiplier boost to the economy of \$1.30 for every \$1 spent.

However, just as the Commonwealth Treasury has noted, economic infrastructure provides an estimated four dollar return for every one dollar spent, although the impact of each project varies and the benefits of good projects can be many times higher.

Defining housing quality and pinpointing its incremental benefits remains a key challenge. To secure appropriate prioritisation of housing it will be necessary to turn the focus from considerations of the macro impacts of housing, to gaining a deeper understanding of the specific benefits of tangible housing projects and interventions. It is now paramount to consider the role that investment in fit-for-purpose housing plays in connecting its residents to the workforce.

While it's clear that many frontline roles cannot be undertaken remotely, research from the University of Sydney in September 2020 found the diversity of people working remotely is relatively high, both during and before the pandemic. While the transition to working from home has been most substantive in white collar roles, it extends beyond that. Clerical and administration roles shifted from 20 per cent to more than 56 per cent remote, while sales staff working remotely shifted from 22 per cent to 30 per cent of the workforce and more than 10 per cent of the labourer and machine operator/driver workforce is also remote.

Analysis from McKinsey across nine

countries has shown that many activities such as information gathering and processing, communicating with others, teaching and counselling, and coding data can theoretically be done remotely.

With much of the workforce operating at least intermittently from home, the challenge of meeting people's housing needs has been complicated by the suitability of a person's housing to allow them to work from home. Housing now has a resounding impact on the kind of employment people can access as a result of its location, physical and digital connectivity and configuration.

The challenge of housing inequity, with social housing failing to meet the modern needs of the community, was highlighted in the 2019 Australian Infrastructure Audit. In particular, social housing faces the dual challenges of ageing, inappropriate assets and long waiting lists. This is exemplified by many multi-bedroom dwellings remaining under-occupied, while there is overcrowding elsewhere.

While this inequity in access is not new, the pandemic has thrust it into the spotlight. The acceleration of the move of the workplace online has also accelerated the move of social housing from social policy to a paramount economic issue that could directly impact our economic recovery. If we are to hasten the economic recovery, address workforce constraints and boost workforce productivity, it is critical that every individual has the opportunity to participate. With as many as one in 10 Australians now living in social housing, and two-thirds of that group employed, it is critical this substantial cohort is provided the opportunity to engage in the workforce.

Social housing tenants in the workforce are both more likely to exit social housing, and more likely to have access to higher incomes. The opportunity to achieve these two outcomes is now more closely tied to the nature of the property.

To encourage investment, we need more data and robust analysis of how public, community or affordable housing infrastructure interventions have improved outcomes for individuals. It is well known that investing in social housing has benefits for residents and our national economy, but we understand less about how these benefits are impacted by the type of housing we invest in. We need to better define fit-for-purpose housing and the economic case for enabling interventions.

The other side of the coin from Australia's property boom has been pronounced challenges in the delivery of affordable housing. While

existing community housing appreciates in financial value, locking up the balance sheets of owners, these assets age, deteriorate and their service value erodes as they no longer meet the needs of residents. The costs of minor maintenance, the costs to heat, cool and digitally connect, all grow.

While there is an established and growing need to refresh existing social housing assets, the opportunity to use the sale of existing houses to fund new, higher-quality dwellings strengthens.

Despite the opportunity, well-intentioned community attitudes to maintain the level of publicly-supported housing can compound the challenges associated with inadequate housing stock. Perceived friction associated with recycling or transitioning of housing stock to private ownership to create a stream of revenue for investment in new housing assets is a major hindrance. It is incumbent on the owners of existing public housing to educate the community on the shortcomings of existing assets.

If we are to address the challenges of economic and social isolation that impact those in publicly supported housing, it is critical that we can support an informed public discussion about the contribution of housing and digital connectivity to our communities. COVID-19 provides a catalyst for this discussion, and a burning platform to build the data and knowledge to support modern, right-sized assets to meet the needs of the post-pandemic home-based workforce.

I hope you found the above perspective by Peter interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations.

Doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act, and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts: info@housingallaustralians.com.au



Rob Pradolin

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Landfill tops Koorie Art Show

"I've always used art in a political way," artist Clinton Naina told Inner City News. In December, Clinton was awarded the Koorie Art Show's top prize for his work Landfill.

WORDS BY Meg Hill

The work is on exhibition at the Koorie Heritage Trust until February 21.

"It's a way of telling a story or exposing things that need to be thought about. Art can tell a political story as well as being political in and of itself," Clinton continued.

Clinton made *Landfill* out of domestic bleach and cotton. The artwork, a depiction of and commentary on societal waste, was made during Melbourne's lockdown. Surgical masks are depicted alongside a plastic bag.

"It's commenting on the waste that society uses that is filling our land. There's better ways of using or reusing these materials and we should be looking at ways to recycle and making sure we're not polluting the land because it's all we have," he said.

Reflecting on societal waste during the pandemic, Clinton said he saw the two phenomena as connected: there is sickness and illness all around the world, and we're chopping down the

forests that protect us from germs and disease.

"I think every time we chop down a tree or a forest or another creature dies, we're getting closer to destroying ourselves," he said.

He's has been exhibiting his art since he was a teenager, but he's been politically active even longer.

"My mother was Eleanor Harding, a political activist and community service worker. She was from the Torres Strait Islands, her lineage descends from Meriam Mer people of the Eastern Torres Strait and the Ku-Ku people of north-west Cape York," he said.

"I was taken as a newborn to my first Aboriginal land rights protest when I was one month old – to the first Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra on Australia Day 1972."

"That was the start of my political awareness of my people's ongoing struggle to survive."

He said art was a way of exposing things that needed to be thought about.

"I've particularly always looked at the politics of the environment, animal welfare, the Torres

Strait Islander people, land, mining – land is entwined with everything else in Torres Strait Island culture, it's not separate like in Western culture," he said.

In a way, Clinton said he felt responsibility to depict those things in his art: "We're not the only ones here anymore, so we have to teach the people living on the land how to look after it," he said.

"So, it was my responsibility in a way not just to be an artist but to do work that can shed light on those things and help the situations that we're in."

The 8th Koorie Art Show is open to the public Sunday, February 21 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Federation Square. Entry is free ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au



Faces of Inner City

Question: How has business been since lockdowns ended?



LING, GEWÜRZHAUS SPICE MERCHANTS

Ling said people had returned to Lygon St following the end of strict lockdown restrictions and the shopping strip was quite busy. Gewürzhau stayed open throughout lockdown and were busy with online and telephone orders.



AMBRA, PIDAPIPÓ

Ambra said business was good following the end of stage four lockdown and that crowds had definitely returned to Lygon St. Ambra said the popular gelateria remained open throughout the shutdown and was now enjoying a busy summer period.



ANGELA, READINGS KIDS

Readings Kids manager Angela said business had been okay since customers could return to retail stores. Angela said there was an initial rush of excitement when doors had first opened but after that, business slowed. Readings Kids remained open for online orders through shutdown. Angela said online orders went crazy during the first period of lockdown and remained consistent throughout 2020.



KELLIE, GELATISSIMO LYGON ST

Kellie said business had been “amazing” since lockdown restrictions ended. Kellie said it was definitely back to pre-COVID levels or even felt like it was busier as locals returned to Lygon St.

METRO TUNNEL

Parkville progress takes shape

Work on the Metro Tunnel’s new Parkville Station has begun the new year in earnest after many project milestones were achieved during 2020.



Excavation continues for the Royal Parade station entrance, the retail area and the north-east emergency exit area.

Construction across our worksites is progressing well but there is still a lot of hard work to be done during the next few years to ensure the project is completed as safely and quickly as possible.

The Metro Tunnel Project remains on course to be completed in 2025, a year ahead of schedule.

Traffic changes are in place as part of Metro Tunnel works, and drivers and public transport passengers are encouraged to plan ahead before travelling.

There will be changes to how vehicles and pedestrians move around the Metro Tunnel site on Grattan St West in Parkville, between Flemington Rd and Elizabeth St/Royal Parade from end February 2021 ●

One of these landmarks was achieved just before Christmas when tunnel boring machine (TBM) Joan completed the one-kilometre section from Parkville to State Library Station.

TBM Meg – following the same course – is expected to arrive at State Library Station soon.

The Metro Tunnel will create a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in Melbourne’s west to Cranbourne/Pakenham in the south-east, running through twin 9km tunnels between Kensington and South Yarra.

The Parkville Station will mean train passengers can arrive right on the doorstep of Victoria’s world-renowned education, health and research precinct.

The Metro Tunnel will enhance access to the University of Melbourne and facilities such as The Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Royal Women’s Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Once the TBMs left the Parkville Station box, construction continued on remaining slab and wall structural works.

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/disruptions



Nature Therapy

“Caw.”

Argyle Square, Carlton

PARKVILLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome from the Parkville Association



Firstly, I am thrilled that the decision has been made to have a news medium that covers Parkville.



WORDS BY *Rob Moore - president*



For those of you not aware, Parkville is on the northern edge of the CBD. With a population of 7500, the majority of whom live in South and North Parkville, it is known for the beautiful treelined streets and heritage-listed terraced houses. With the first house built in 1873, Parkville will celebrate its sesquicentenary in 2023. Parkville also, of course, houses the University of Melbourne, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Women's Hospital, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, University High School and hosts the headquarters of CSL. We are very lucky to have Royal Park as part of the suburb which during lockdown was well-used by our residents. With 181 hectares of parkland there are many special areas to visit. I will talk about this in more depth in a later issue. The Zoo is also an important part of Parkville and waking up in the morning to roaring lions and monkeys is part of life in North Parkville.

Now for a little about the history of the Parkville Association, which was born out of the threat in 1967 to resume most of Levers Reserve and demolish surrounding homes to build the main hospital. An even greater threat would have seen the area between Story and Morrah streets demolished for a further takeover by the government. Several members who started the fight to preserve Parkville are still residents in the area. South Parkville became the first classified area in Australia including being included in the State Historic Register. The Parkville Association also gained heritage listing for Royal Parade. Sadly, many historic mansions along Royal Parade had already been demolished prior to this!

Today we are forever grateful for the wonderful team that kept our suburb intact, the association has a very strong membership and we are fortunate to have many life members that have been residents for more than 50 years. Our focus has turned to community (while still maintaining heritage) and that spirit prevails across the whole of Parkville. During the COVID lockdown, groups looked after the elderly and it always amazes me the smiling faces and great conversations that take place over a coffee at the Parkville Store or Naughtons – our historical pub on Royal Parade!

Parkville of course also enjoys close proximity to the city and Carlton and many of us exercise around Princes Park. In just under five years the first trains will leave Parkville Station and later of course we will have a direct link to Melbourne Airport. As you can see I love the area and have great pride having lived here for many years. There is nowhere else in Melbourne with the peace of a village so close to the city and major education, research and healthcare precincts.

I look forward to keeping all readers up to date over the next few issues. Again, well done on this great initiative! ●



Rob Moore
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STATE MP



Fixing our broken housing system during a pandemic

2020 was the year that none of us expected.

To be honest, it was a bit of dumpster fire – especially for parents having to work while home-schooling, people left juggling toddlers with no childcare, stranded international students having to line up for food parcels, and those who lost businesses and jobs, not to mention those impacted by the health effects of COVID-19.

For me, the pandemic shone a light on society in a way we haven't seen in my lifetime - both the good, and the bad.

The pandemic showed the great power of community coming together. It also made us appreciate our parks, creeks and public space in ways we may have overlooked before.

But it also uncovered structural deficiencies in how our society and government is run, and exposed how these systems hold up against unexpected shocks.

For our public housing residents, COVID-19 exposed and deepened the cracks and injustices that have been brewing for a long time.

During the public housing "hard lockdown" in July, public housing residents were subjected to conditions that no-one else in the country faced: unable to leave their homes for 24 hours a day, and unable to even receive deliveries of essential food and medicines for several days.

As I worked on the ground to get people insulin for their diabetic children, to get a mother access to her sick newborn baby in intensive care, and to get food, medicine and laptops delivered to people in lockdown, I couldn't help but be angry at how this was allowed to happen.

It also made me even more passionate about fixing our broken housing system.

The recent Ombudsman's report into the public housing lockdown revealed how systemic failures and breakdowns in the housing system in Victoria contributed to this problem.

For years, I've been campaigning alongside the community for more and better public housing.

If one good thing came out of the pandemic, it's that this campaign finally had a big win: with more than \$5 billion being invested in social housing in November's state budget. Although, most of this will not be publicly-run housing, which is another fight we now need to have in the coming months ●



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CARLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome from Carlton residents

Since inception in 1996, The Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) has convened to the benefit of residents, aiming to preserve and protect this melting pot of a suburb.

As the suburb heaves with new residential developments and comes alive with the sounds of heavy traffic, there have been times where residents have felt a loud and protective voice is needed.

It's not to say that all our work is adversary, in fact, to the contrary. Our committee meets monthly to address not only concerns, but mostly how we can bring the needs of residents, financial stakeholders and businesses together to create a wonderfully vibrant community.

My time as president has been spent connecting with other relevant associations in order to band together for the betterment of Carlton. We have had wonderfully productive meetings with Carlton Inc. – the local trader's association – to gain a better understanding of the needs of our local restaurants, cafes and businesses. One of Carlton's great appeals is our restaurant culture and ensuring that our iconic thoroughfare prospers is very much to the benefit of our residents. During the lockdowns of 2020 we had regular meetings with other resident groups in the City of Melbourne as well as Lord Mayor Sally Capp. These meetings were held over Zoom and we

were able to learn about issues affecting other areas of our great city. I thoroughly enjoyed getting regular updates on how the council planned to assist residents, businesses and those less fortunate, and we would like to extend our thanks to the Lord Mayor for such guidance and leadership in troubling times.

In 2021 we look to continue assisting residents and forging strong relationships with those around us. Memberships are open to all residents of Carlton ●

For more information:
carltonresidents.org.au.



Antoinette Sagaria
PRESIDENT
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Pet's Corner

Modest Mochi

“

Mochi, the three-year-old mixed Pomeranian, came into Jenny's life two years ago when she and her partner rescued her.

”



The pair now spend their time walking Mochi through Carlton Gardens, around the corner from Jenny's house.

Mochi enjoys walking through the gardens, however she is scared of most other dogs and is very selective about who she spends her time with.

“You can tell straight away if she likes you or not, she doesn't hide it,” Jenny said.

She said Mochi's best quality was her lack of subtlety.

“If she's hungry, she'll let you know by licking her

lips,” Jenny said.

Speaking on pet and owner similarities, Jenny said Mochi's upfront attitude was one they shared.

“You know where we both stand”.

When Mochi's not strolling through Carlton Gardens, she enjoys sleeping on the couch.

“She's a bit of a couch potato. She also loves her food,” Jenny said.

“Mochi uses the park to get her energy out but then it's time to relax” ●

CRITIC

High-flyers of the 20th century

A few lively works have emerged out of the store room of the Victorian Artists Society in Albert St during their recent renovations and can be seen at a short, 10-day exhibition.

A self-portrait by Norma Bell stands out, striking a note of joy in the mainly traditional fare on show in the three galleries.

And a painting by student Fay Smith captures a glamorous evening event at VAS some time in the '50s.

The works have not been curated and so the viewer has the enjoyable task of figuring out the dates and creating a story out of what is depicted.

This is the first time all of the works in the VAS collection have been on display, providing a rare insight into the workings of this prominent East Melbourne institution.

Two styles of painting dominate the collection, portraits and landscapes, with most of the sitters in sombre, formal poses in dark interiors and the landscapes quite literal.

Portrait with Blue Headdress presents artistry in the pose and dress of the subject, Norma Bell. It could have been painted in the '30s but judging by the biography of the artist is probably more recent.

Compare it to *The Black Coat*, a portrait by Ron Crawford of a respectable woman, possibly a local. The painting is dated '84. Is that 1984 or 1884?

Virtually all of the works, hung plus propped on the floor, are painted or rendered in pastel

so that the subject is recognizable to the viewer.

Even though the VAS was connected to the avant-garde in its early days, the organization has evolved to value traditions. Yet it is democratic and promotes contemporary artists.

There's the sketchy *Portrait of Ray Hewitt* by Lewis Miller on display, which is more expressionist and takes a few risks.

Those nostalgic for some glamour in their lives might appreciate the slim ankles of the 1950s, lit up in the street scene of Fay Smith's *Untitled*.

“The girl inside is in a gown,” VAS president Eileen Mackley said. “The others are down to short cocktail dresses.”

A couple of horses stand out the front, suggesting the governor's visit, she said.

The VAS is facing the task of documenting the 130 works, some of which have won prizes.

Norman Bull was a member between 1932 and 1937 before working as a war artist in England.

She studied at the National Gallery School after doing an arts degree and would definitely have qualified as a high-flyer for the times.

Two degrees meant something back in the 20th century and studying in Paris was de rigeur.

VAS Art Collection, Victorian Artists Society, until February 5.

vasgallery.org.au ●



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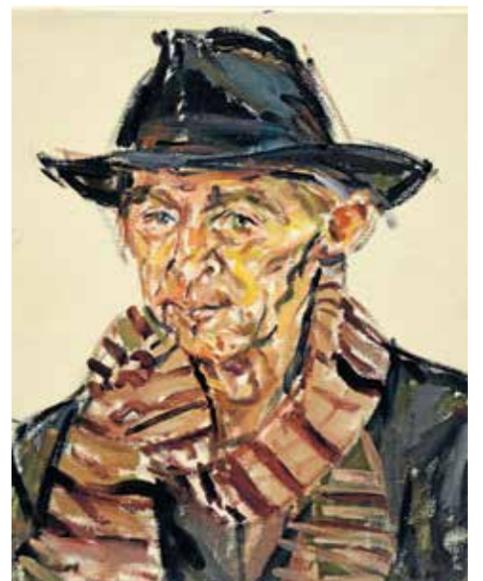
▼ *Portrait with Blue Headdress* by Norma Bell.



▼ *Untitled* by Fay Smith.



▼ *Portrait of Ray Hewitt* by Lewis Miller.



▼ *The Black Coat* by Ron Crawford.



TRADER PROFILE

The new gold standard for Italian hospitality

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

Walking into Café Gilli, customers are instantly greeted by a sun-flooded space, the smell of homecooked Italian food and a warm welcome from owners Carla Russo and Joe Vitale.

As business and life partners of more than 30 years, the pair is well versed in making sure customers leave with a full belly and a warm heart.

“All the feedback from customers we’ve received so far is that there’s nothing like it in Melbourne,” Ms Russo said.

“It’s a really nice, unusual place where you can go sit down, have breakfast, read the paper and watch the world passing by you.”

Café Gilli opened up on Therry St two days before Christmas among a flurry of activity at the market.

Ms Russo said that although the beginning was tough, it had allowed them to flourish in the new year.

“Even though it was the worst time to open and I went home crying a few times, it allowed us to see the holes, reflect, and fix them before we opened again in the new year,” Ms Russo said.

“Now everything has been running smoothly.”

Carla and Joe have been at Queen Victoria Market for decades and already have three businesses: Café Verona, Q75 and Geloso Gelateria. But Café Gilli is a chance for them to move

“

It’s all about the hospitality and, as Italians, we live for that.

”

outside of the hustle of the main market and enjoy the slower-paced environment.

“I love being back in the restaurant business because you get to know the people who come in and sit down, learn their names and look after them,” Ms Russo said.

“It’s all about the hospitality and, as Italians, we live for that.”

Gilli serves a menu of mainly Italian food, including fresh lasagne, pasta and paninis, including their famous Porchetta panini.

Ms Russo said the space and the menu are both inspired by her travels to Florence where



she came across a café that she fell in love with.

“When I was there, we came across a café called Gilli that we went to everyday. It had an incredible atmosphere and delicious food so I said to Joe that if we were ever to open up another café it would be like this,” Ms Russo said.

“I wanted to do the Porchetta panini which we have been doing for the past 30 years at the night market and make that the hero.”

Based on customer feedback so far, the pair has succeeded in bringing a slice of Florence to the Queen Victoria Market and has already had a host of regulars coming in.

“It’s a great atmosphere where you can sit alone and never feel lonely because you can watch the world going on around you over a panini,” Ms Russo said.

Café Gilli is open on market days from 7am-3pm ●

Follow them on Instagram:
[instagram.com/gilli.qvm](https://www.instagram.com/gilli.qvm)

HISTORY

▼ This is Carlton in the 1930s. The only source of water available to this housewife is the tap over the gully trap, and her only washing facility the hand basin on the box. The house is heated with firewood and a piece of canvas has been erected to try and keep the wood pile dry. (Photo: F. Oswald Barnett collection, State Library of Victoria).



Carlton.
Wash-house and bath-room 48 Palmerston Street. The only water laid on is the tap over the gully trap. The only washing convenience the hand basin on the box. The piece of canvas was erected for the purpose of keeping the wood dry.

When Carlton was a slum

Carlton was not always the pleasant affluent suburb that it is today. For most of the 20th century it was regarded as a slum.

It had a reputation so bad that the government thought the best thing to do was to knock it all down and rebuild the suburb in a more modern style.

It started off as a desirable place to live. When it was first developed in the 19th century Carlton attracted a population of mainly middle-class artisans and well-off merchants. It was convenient to the city and on higher ground than neighbouring Fitzroy and Collingwood. The 1870s and 1880s were boom times for Carlton, a time when the great Victorian houses that we see today were constructed, built on the money from gold. Even the more modest terrace houses provided good quality accommodation for a largely middle-class population.

But in the 1890s Victoria experienced a severe economic depression, and this affected Carlton quite badly. Merchants and land speculators went bankrupt, and artisans and others found themselves out of work. Many of the grand homes were converted into boarding houses. Overcrowding became a problem and housing conditions and the health situation deteriorated badly. Carlton acquired an image of an area of unacceptable poverty, hardship and depravity. In 1890 the Melbourne City Council’s health officer reported that south Carlton was: “perhaps the most densely populated part of the city, and of late years it has become the refuge of the poorest class of the population. It is now, in a special sense, the district of narrow lanes and crowded courts, and of old dilapidated houses, occupied by persons having little regard for cleanliness”.

In 1937 a report to the Victorian Government described North Carlton in similar terms:

“Hidden behind wide spacious streets there are slum pockets which are hot-beds of depravity and disease. In many houses, dilapidation of structure is such that bugs and other vermin cannot be eradicated. These houses are infected to such an extent as to be unfit for human habitation”.

The response of the Victorian Government to this was “slum clearance” – moving people out of these unhealthy and crime-ridden areas and knocking down the decrepit housing stock. In 1938 the Housing Commission of Victoria was established to do just that. However, its work was delayed by the Second World War and by the housing shortage immediately afterwards, which forced it to give priority to the building of new estates in the outer suburbs. But by the early 1960s it had started its work of knocking down the slums that supposedly “infested” the inner suburbs and replacing them with more modern public housing. The intention was to clear as far north as Fenwick St at least, which meant that the Carlton that we know today, including areas such as Rathdowne Village would not exist.

However, opposition to this soon developed, including from the professionals and academics who were increasingly moving into the area because of its proximity to the University. They valued the heritage qualities of Carlton and had the money to renovate the old houses. Effective opposition eventually stopped the clearances, more or less at Princes St. In 1973 the Victorian Premier visited Carlton to announce that the slum-clearance plans had been dropped in favour of heritage conservation for the inner suburbs. Carlton was saved. Since then of course it has become the desirable cosmopolitan suburb that we know and value today ●



Jeff Atkinson

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居民企业联手 重启区域活力

Katie Johnson

在COVID疫情之后，Carlton区域现在正处于恢复阶段，社区团结一致，重启商业活力。根据区域发展计划，Carlton居民协会(CRA)和商业集团Carlton公司正在联手弥合居民与企业之间的鸿沟，并提高社区的参与度。CRA主席Antoinette Sagaria也是Carlton公司的执行委员，她说，现在是时候让社区来支持本地商业了。Sagaria女士说：“居民认为企业有特定的议程，反之亦然，所以我们希望两者之间有更好的沟通。”“这样，我们就能拥有一个更积极、更有

活力、更包容的社区，以及一个更美好的Carlton。”Carlton公司总裁Luca Sbardella说，重点也将是为本区域带来更多的社区活动。Sbardella先生说：“我们希望利用Piazza广场和其他开放空间来举办活动，这些活动将会引起人们的兴趣，并把顾客吸引到这个区域来。”“我们已经讨论过举办屋顶电影节和农贸市场，以展示本区域的当地艺术家和制作人。”Carlton公司是九个区域协会之一从市政辖区计划中获得了一笔10万澳元的一次性资助，以帮助企业从COVID疫情中复苏并帮助志愿者。Sbardella先生说，他们打算用这笔钱在



Carlton举办节日和艺术展览活动，以重振区域活力。他说：“Lygon街的艰难部分就在Piazza广场附近，所以我们想用这笔钱给这个区域带来更多的生意。”“由于这是一个如此大的开放空间，我们正在考虑举办一个包容性的街头节日，庆祝这

些商家及他们所呈现的不同美食。”到目前为止，Carlton公司已与La Mama剧院进行了早期讨论，考虑在整个Carlton举办艺术展览和现场表演。如果限制条件允许，他们还希望举办Grand Prix大奖赛。

财政广场交易 居民极度失望

财政广场(The Treasury Square)的交易将让开发商在主要公共土地上建造住宅和办公大楼，引起了当地居民的愤怒。

Katie Johnson



开发公司Cbus和Mirvac在去年5月购买了这块土地，计划在这1.4公顷的土地上建造三座塔楼，横跨Flinders街地铁站轨道场到

Wellington Parade 南端。东墨尔本团体规划和遗产召集人Greg Bisinella说，将此土地出售给私人开发商的决定使“墨尔本的后院”面临风险。Bisinella先生说：“这是一个非常重要的开放地块，需要仔细计划，我们对这一结果感到非常失望。”“对于如此重要的一块土地，这是从联邦广场到MCG铁路网的一部分，这个结果缺乏与社区的协商。”开发商Mirvac和Cbus在去年5月赢得了这块土地的投标，此前州政府的VicTrack将其公开出售。一些国内和国际组织对此非常感兴趣，因为

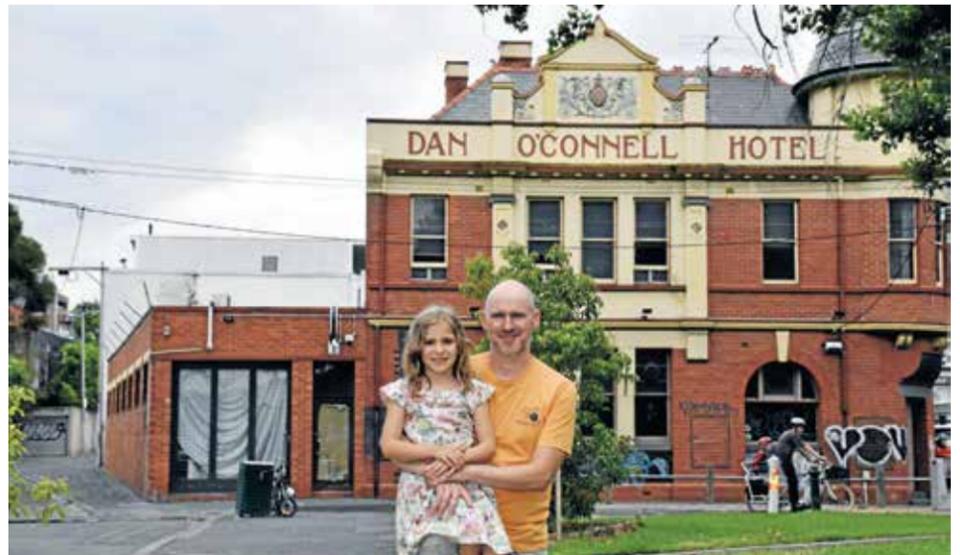
该地块被宣传为拥有价值超过20亿澳元的高端房地产的机会。在此交易之前，墨尔本市政也投票决定对该地块进行划分，并将该地块重新划为首府城市，允许建大楼。Bisinella表示，这一决定错误地“将中央商务区规划法延伸到了东墨尔本区域”。Bisinella先生说：“原先轮廓清晰的设计，体现了雅拉(Yarra)的美丽景色，现在您将看到一栋丑陋的建筑物，遮挡了视线，并给Birrarung Marr公园蒙上阴影。”“墨尔本的公共开放空间非常稀缺，财政广场花园可能是创造新公共空间的绝佳机会。”

历史悠久的酒店将变为学校

Katie Johnson

Fitzroy社区学校(FCS)耗资超过320万澳元购买了Carlton历史悠久的Dan O'Connell酒店，将筹建办学。这座双层爱尔兰酒吧于去年10月30日售出后，很快将被改造成一所能容纳100多名学生的学校。Fitzroy社区学校校长Tim Berryman表示，该规划申请已提交，工程将很快进行。Berryman先生说：“目前仍在筹建中，我们计划在2023年开学时开放。”Fitzroy社区学校成立于1976年，已经在Fitzroy北部和Thornbury设有学校。

Berryman先生说，这儿有新学校的需求，而Dan O'Connell将是一个完美的地点。他说：“有更多的家庭申请住在墨尔本甚至中央商务区，所以这个地点对他们来说太方便了。”他表示，作为墨尔本最古老的酒吧之一，FCS将保留这座具有136年历史古老建筑的外观和内部。他说：“我们正在计划将原始建筑物的内部和外部绝对保留。我们甚至都不会拆除旧的标牌。”“孩子们将在保留原始的Dan O'Connell上学。”



居民力争拯救 遗产房屋

Katie Johnson

如果向墨尔本市政提交的规划申请成功，一栋建于1883年的别墅大厦将被改造成一栋高层公寓楼。开发商计划部分拆除位于Jolimont路上历史悠久的东墨尔本Eblana住宅，为四个“高端公寓”让路。东墨尔本团体遗产和规划召集人Greg Bisinella表示，尽管申请尚未得到正式考虑，但这些计划“完全不可接受”。他说：“从我们的角度来看，他们拿走一处列入遗产名录的房产，拆除它的背面，用一座现代建筑来取代。”“这是典型的只保留外墙的改造。”如果申请成功，这项耗资1000万澳元的开发项目将把这个C级遗产建筑的一部分变成一栋九层公寓楼，可以俯瞰城市和墨尔本板球场(MCG)。



该申请称，尽管该房产将被小规模拆除，但这些公寓将提供“对现有遗产建筑的高质量改造，以满足人们在高档地段看到高端公寓的需求。”但Bisinella先生说，整个计划无视区域的强制性高度限制，市政应该仔细考量这个申请。他说：“如果申请通过，新建筑将高于这条

公共住房无线网络不均

Katie Johnson

对一些人来说，疫情封锁期间在家工作是一个受欢迎的工作方式，远离办公室和日常通勤的压力。但是对于那些没有电脑并无法正常上网的人来说，呆在家里是一种他们无法接受的奢侈。根据国家宽带网络(NBN)2020年的调查，在Carlton公共住宅地区，32%的家庭没有接入国家宽带网络(NBN)。由于图书馆和网吧在去年大部分时间处于关闭状态，许多居民无法正常上网。为了解决这个问题，墨尔本大学与Carlton社区协会合作，研究了该区域无线网络不均的问题。首席研究员Nicky Dulfer教授说，疫情封锁凸显了许多居民因缺乏互联网接入而处于不利和孤立无援的处境。

街上任何其他建筑，并将在Jolimont开创一个恶劣的先例。”“建筑高度限制应该是12-13米，而这个项目建筑有30米之高。”Eblana由Thomas Joshua Jackson和Henry Young建造的，后者是Flinders街车站对面著名的Young and Jackson酒店的所有者。

What's On: February 2021

Community Calendar



Melbourne Documentary Film Festival. Cinema Nova, Lygon St, Carlton

February 7, 11am – 9pm

Enjoy documentaries in Carlton as the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival returns for its monthly series.

Adult \$20, Student/Concession \$16.

Unsound Screening Q&A. Cinema Nova, Lygon St, Carlton

February 11, 6:30pm – 9pm

Join an advance screening of the deeply moving coming of age drama Unsound followed by a Q&A with lead actress Yiana Pandelis and supporting actress Olivia Beasley.

Austral Salon of Music. Main Dining Hall – 15 Gisborne St, East Melbourne

February 22, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Witness Juilliard graduate Elyane Laussade on piano in tandem with cellist, vocalist, and music director Luke Severn.

CLAMM + Eggy Live at The Curtin. The Curtin Hotel, Carlton

February 12, 6:00pm – late

Raw, energetic, insightful punk-rockers CLAMM make their Melbourne Music Week debut, with melodic post-punk outfit Eggy on support.

Uptown: Kerrie Poliness Live Drawing. Parliament House Steps, East Melbourne

February 6, 9am – 12pm

Partake in artist Kerrie Poliness's live drawing exhibition, where members of the public are encouraged to participate by adding their own art.

Honouring Warrior Woman – Lisa Belleair

Warrior Woman Lane, Carlton

Everyday through to February 28

Whether it be virtual or physical, experience artwork by Charlotte Allingham and Timmah Ball.



Thomas Heywood Organ Recital
St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne

February 5, 6pm – 7pm

acclaimed organ virtuoso Thomas Heywood plays a one-hour recital of music by Bach, Elgar, Grieg and more.



Carlton Farmers Market. Carlton North Primary School

Saturday, 6th February 8am–1pm

Fresh fruits and vegetables from Victorian growers, free entry.

Carlton Residents Association meeting.

5th February ,6pm.

Annual general meeting for members to discuss local issues. Location to be decided.

Parkville Online Wednesday Night Program.

February 10th, 17th, 24th, 6-9pm

Childbirth education classes via online streaming.

Melbourne Zoo sunset series.

February 17th.

Experience running the way it should be at Sole Motive's Sunset Series and enjoy a fun run/walk at Princes Park.



Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre Healing Garden workshops.

Date: 20th Feb, 27th Feb.

Unwind in the Neighborhood Centre's beautiful garden while doing gentle gardening activities, developing new skills and making plant-based creations to take home.

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A perfect time to buy with Belle Property

Words by Jack Hayes

It has been just over 12 months since we saw Australia's largest consolidation of agencies between Melbourne real estate heavyweight Hockingstuart and Sydney-based agency Belle Property.

The two companies began joint operation in late 2019, with 21 Hockingstuart offices now operating under the Belle Property brand, including their Carlton and Melbourne CBD agencies.

In that time, Melbourne's property market has seen a seismic shift following the effects of COVID-19, creating what Belle Property Carlton principal director, Scott McElroy, said was a return to a "traditional market."

"With many in the investor market reassessing their options due to high vacancy rates and interest rates so low, it has never been a better time for first home buyers, up-sizers or downsizers," Mr McElroy said.

"Throughout Melbourne's inner-north we are seeing a unique range of properties hit the market, from warehouse or studio apartments, to a double storey Victorian terrace. There isn't anything standard about real estate in these areas."

"The make-up of the inner north, in terms of property, is quite diverse. There is a



number of owner-occupied dwellings, then a whole swath of student accommodation closer towards the universities and after that you have general real estate of house and land."

Belle Property Carlton specialise predominantly on nine inner northern suburbs: Carlton, Carlton North, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Fitzroy North, North Melbourne, Parkville and West Melbourne.

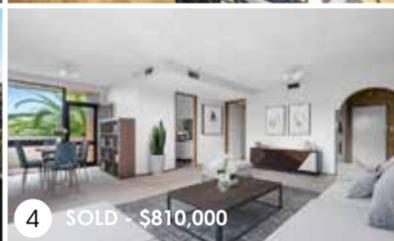
Belle Property has a national reach of more than 120 offices across the eastern seaboard of Australia, including international connections through leading Real Estate Companies of the World: a global property platform.

"This means we are now uniquely positioned to use this extensive network to sell homes and apartments for more – not to mention, connect buyers to property all over the country

and abroad," Mr McElroy said. Now a household name, Belle Property is one of three nation-wide real estate agencies, joining Ray White and LJ Hooker.

For more information, visit belleproperty.com.au

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He is such a positive person it made us relax & feel positive also. Scott's personality, experience & knowledge of the market is reflected in his success. I would highly recommend Scott to anyone deciding to buy or sell."

Penny
Vendor of 202/85 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

- 1 SOLD \$1,045,000 - 21/650 Swanston Street, Carlton
- 2 SOLD - 5/41 Cade Way, Parkville
- 3 SOLD - 202/85 Rathdowne Street, Carlton
- 4 SOLD \$810,000 - 22/521 Royal Parade, Parkville
- 5 NOW SELLING - 3/85 Rathdowne Street, Carlton
- 6 NOW SELLING - 502/495 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

For a no obligation appraisal of your property or a discussion around the market, call now.

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