

INNER CITY NEWS

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Hands off our pub: Unions unite to save The Curtin from development

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
PLANNING

The Carlton community has thrown its weight behind unionists who have vowed to form a picket line, if necessary, to thwart any plans of redeveloping the historic John Curtin Hotel.

It comes as the Building Industry Group, which represents building and construction unions, declared a “green ban” on the site – a strike action first used in the 1970s – after learning the iconic pub had been sold to an overseas buyer.

The ban will mean union members will be advised not to participate in any development of the 150-year-old institution – with any other construction worker to be told

to “go work somewhere else” if they attempt to walk onto the site.

“We are very worried that these international developers are going to come in and rip this building down just like what happened to the Corkman [Hotel] to try to whack up apartments – that is inappropriate to this site,” Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary Luke Hilakari said in announcing the ban on April 29, which saw a group of unionists, community members, and musicians come together in solidarity to protect The Curtin.

“We’re going stand by this building, we’re going to protect it, if necessary, with ourselves, and you’ll see people form their own picket line to protect this building.”

“We can’t keep losing them like this. We need to ensure that The Curtin is still there in 150 years’ time.”

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East Melbourne residents set to take Magnolia Court redevelopment fight to the state’s planning umpire

East Melbourne residents have vowed to launch an appeal against a City of Melbourne decision that would see a historic guesthouse redeveloped into a residential hotel, saying it would “seriously impact” the area.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Developer Primeland will breathe new life into the three-storey Magnolia Court guesthouse at 95-101 Powllett St under a \$4.5 million proposal, which would include a new restaurant and see the number of guest rooms increased from 26 to 37.

City of Melbourne councillors unanimously approved the development at their April 12 Future Melbourne Committee despite receiving 95 objections, with residents expressing concerns the new venue would create noise, increase traffic, and, overall, would not be appropriate for the area.

Magnolia Court is currently vacant after its previous owner, an East Melbourne resident, put the property up for sale in 2020 after it had become rundown, and operating as a “low average daily rate hotel.”

The guesthouse changed hands after Primeland Group and Singaporean fund Baksh Capital reportedly paid \$9 million for the site with the intention of renovating and refurbishing the building, which was originally built in 1861.

Among those to address the packed council meeting at the Treacy Centre in Parkville was Ian Mitchell, president of the East Melbourne Group, who said the development would have a “massive impact” to the residential area, which he described as

having the “finest heritage streetscapes in Melbourne.”

“We’re not against liquor licences on the periphery of East Melbourne such as Wellington Parade, however, it’s totally inappropriate in the middle of the residential area,” he said.

“This will be a watering hole for patrons en route to and from the MCG and other sporting precincts.”

“This also sets a terrible precedent for other potential cafes and premises to morph into bars.”

“If the matter goes to VCAT (Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal), as it surely will, we propose to call expert evidence to support what we say.”

“Please do not reverse your position and ruin our suburb for a 37-room hotel with a 128-seat restaurant, and staff parking for only four cars and in a noisy stack-up; it’s totally inadequate,” he pleaded with councillors – with his speech, along with other residents invited to speak, drawing applause from the gallery.

The council resolved to add conditions to the application, including that the venue be limited to 88 patrons with a maximum of 22 people in the ground floor outdoor area and four patrons on the first-floor outdoor terrace.

Patrons would also need to be notified of the unavailability and restrictions of on-street car parking within the area.

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Verbal fireworks at pre-election community meeting

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
ELECTIONS

The Church of All Nations hosted a pre-election candidates forum for the eight nominated electoral candidates standing for the federal seat of Melbourne to present their platforms on Thursday, April 21.

Each candidate was allocated 15 minutes to speak about their policies to the 80 or so people in the audience.

The United Australia Party and the Liberal Party candidates did not attend.

Before the presentations began, *Inner City News* asked audience members if they were fence-sitters attending the forum to help decide how to vote.

"As much as I think Adam is a good local member who attends events and is available to listen to your concerns, I will be voting Labor," Jane Miller, a self-described senior citizen, said.

Rebecca Thistleton, 37, said she was not a fence-sitter; she had already decided. "I came tonight to hear all the candidates and what difference it makes to us as the CBD is our home," she said.

First-time voter Ned Lindemayer, 19, said he also had made up his mind but was "interested in their philosophical ideas."

After a ballot to organise the order of presentations, Keir Paterson from the Australian Labor Party was the first cab off the rank.

Mr Paterson listed the aims of Labor to govern.

"This is the most important election in living memory, and Labor will focus on care; Medicare, aged care, child care and NDIS," he said.

"We have to get rid of the government; we are dealing with a Prime Minister who lies easily; he will do and say anything to win."

Liberal Democrat Richard Peppard, a medical specialist, spoke on reducing taxes, debt, government size, and the use of electric cars and nuclear power. "I am not, frankly, expecting



▲ Left to right: Keir Paterson (Labor), Colleen Bolger (Socialists) Adam Bandt (Greens), Bruce Poon (Animal Justice), Richard Peppard (Liberal Democrat) and Walter Stragan (One Nation).

to be elected," he said.

Bruce Poon, from the Animal Justice Party, touched on its key priorities. "We bring the animal perspective of kindness to all," he said. "Are they important enough for your vote?" Echoing sentiments expressed by the previous speakers, Mr Poon said, "our first priority is to remove the current government; it has to go."

"We need to bring in a serious anti-corruption agency to end the random corruption that runs riot in this government."

Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate Walter Stragan, resplendent in a suit and eye-watering orange tie, represented One Nation in its first attempt at winning the seat.

As articulate as his party's leader, Mr Stragan's speech was laden with questions without answers and statements issued without basis or fact.

"This [current] government hived off to the states to force everyone to take the job," he said. "We are all guinea pigs. I am not anti-vax; I am pro-choice."

"I am an accountant, and I know all of the loopholes multinationals use to avoid taxes."

"They are building concentration camps in Mickleham. Why can't they give money to get

people out of the gutter [who sleep] with rats and mice?"

"I have never seen a government so appalling."

"If we vote for Labor, Liberal or the Greens, we may as well go to 1933 Nazi Germany because that is where we are heading."

The Greens' sitting member for Melbourne Adam Bandt was up next, and it was apparent he took umbrage to Mr Stragan's monologue.

"Calling these towers behind us concentration camps and to call me, the Labor party and the Liberal parties somehow akin to 1933 Nazi Germany, that is utter disrespect to people who had to live through that and everything it stood for," Mr Bandt said.

"It is an appalling thing to say, and you should withdraw that before the end of the night."

"No one should be allowed to disrespect the memory of people who lived through the Holocaust and the millions of people who died."

He then commenced his speech by elaborating on his party's policies on social justice issues and the climate crisis.

In what was becoming a common theme on the night, Mr Bandt stated, "this government has got to go. We need an anti-corruption watchdog with teeth."

The last speaker Colleen Bolger, from the Victorian Socialists formed in 2019, also represents a party running for the first time.

"As socialists, we know about social justice," she said. "I definitely want to see the end of the Scott Morrison government, and I will be glued to the television set with all my comrades hoping that is the outcome." ●



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East Melbourne residents set to take Magnolia Court redevelopment fight to the state's planning umpire

Continued from page 1.

The restaurant's indoor hours of operation would also be reduced from 11.30pm to 11 pm from Monday to Sunday, with the outdoor ground and second storey terrace operating from 8am to 8pm – with no live music.

Luke Pirrie, who spoke on behalf of Primeland at the meeting, alleviated any concerns the outdoor area would become a "beer garden", saying it would be "nothing like" that.

"This will be fine dining. It will be majority inside for the restaurant guests and if they've got friends, family and hopefully residents who want to drop in and have a coffee," he said.

"It's something that we're really proud of. It's something that we hope the guests who come here not just from East Melbourne, but from all around the city can have a really unique experience."

However, the East Melbourne Group's planning convenor Greg Bisinella said the application was "problematic" and required "considerable changes to ensure a more sympathetic and respectful development is achieved."

He told the meeting the former Magnolia Court "managed to coexist with the residential properties that adjoined and catered exclusively for a small number of guests only."

"What we are advised is that this application is an over-extension of that use, and in the almost 70 years of the existence of the East Melbourne Group we have never seen an application for such an expansive restaurant and bar offering in a residential street of East Melbourne. We trust that you agree and reject the recommendation before you," he told councillors.

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece acknowledged the "significant and extensive preserved heritage precincts" within East Melbourne and assured the application had been assessed on its merits.

"I do understand the need to try and protect the atmosphere, the community and the environment," he said.

"This is an application which I know has been very intensely scrutinised by councillors, including a number of us who have been down and walked the site as well just to understand clearly what is being proposed here."

But he added, "our planning office advice is that



▲ Residents will pull out all stops to prevent a hotel from being development in their neighbourhood. Photo: Murray Enders.

a residential hotel is an appropriate use in the East Melbourne neighbourhood residential zone," adding there would be no inappropriate demolition of the heritage fabric of the building.

"While we're not considering a liquor licence tonight, we are very much considering the infrastructure, which may in future become part of a restaurant where alcohol may be served. And so, it's important that we're getting the settings I guess right from the very start."

The council's heritage chair Cr Rohan Leppert believed the application was "absolutely fair and reasonable" and consistent with council's planning policies and controls – particularly by greatly reducing the number of patrons.

"It's going to be a very different sort of hotel and restaurant with a different sort of clientele that's been there in the past and so I wish all residents and the applicant well."



Brendan Rees
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▲ Labor Candidate for Melbourne Keir Paterson (centre left), Labor's Shadow Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Ged Kearney (centre right) and Labor City of Melbourne Councillor Davydd Griffiths (right rear) with locals at Royal Children's Hospital last month.

Keir Paterson promises Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Parkville

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
HEALTH

An elected Albanese Labor Government has committed to funding Medicare Urgent Care Clinics based at GP surgeries and Community Health Centres in at least 50 locations including one in the Parkville medical precinct.

Keir Paterson, Labor candidate for the federal seat of Melbourne, said people should be able to see a doctor when they urgently need one without a lengthy wait as well as an expensive bill at the end.

"Having a bulk-billing clinic will take pressure off the emergency rooms at the Royal Melbourne and Royal Children's hospitals," Mr Paterson said.

"Families are already struggling to access emergency care and are under pressure from rising out-of-pocket

costs and straining household budgets from seeing a GP."

Mr Paterson said that out-of-pocket costs to see a GP in Melbourne have risen by 36 per cent under the current federal government.

The promised Medicare Urgent Care Clinics will remove pressure from hospital emergency departments providing treatment for minor injuries while bulk-billing the costs.

Clinics will be open seven days a week from at least 8am to 10pm covering the hours when generally non-life-threatening injuries occur.

Ged Kearney, Shadow Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing, said "Labor would always protect workers and make sure Australians could get access to free urgent care close to home."

"These urgent care clinics will crucially help ease pressure on our over-stretched hospital system." ●

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Hands off our pub: Unions unite to save The Curtin from development

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Green bans have been credited with saving Melbourne icons such as City Baths, Princess Theatre, Hotel Windsor, Flinders Street Station and the Queen Victoria Market from development.

Managers of The Curtin announced earlier this year that the pub would close when its lease expired in November after the owners put the building up for sale – leaving the community fearing that they would lose their beloved watering hole forever.

Mr Hilakari told reporters the pub had been sold for \$5.5 million to an overseas developer, however, agent CBRE would not confirm these details, nor say whether the buyer knew about the cultural and historical significance of The Curtin, providing a “no comment” response to *Inner City News*.

Mr Hilakari said he was “surprised” by the sale result, saying, “the union movement in partnership with RMIT had tried to buy the building. We had the highest bid, but that was not taken up.”

He said the green ban would create a “very significant disruption” to any developer who attempted to knock down the historic building “for a quick buck”, adding “what they have bought is not a pub – what they have bought is a giant problem.”

“We will not stand by and let our precious, historic buildings be destroyed by international greedy developers.”

“We can’t have it; we want to keep Melbourne special.”

In March, the Victorian union movement joined forces with the National Trust of Australia in nominating to have the historic pub protected on the Victorian Heritage Register after citing its significance to Victorian and Labor Party history.

The Curtin was named after Labor Prime Minister John Curtin and is one of few dedicated live music venues in Carlton – which



▲ Activists campaign outside The Curtin last month.

Photo: Murray Enders.

residents also described as the “heritage and the social fabric of Carlton.”

In a sign the City of Melbourne is also backing campaigners, the council granted The Curtin an interim “significant” heritage protection in March under the Carlton Heritage Review Amendment C405.

The council said the measure “was in the works” before the proposed sale of the site – with the review now sitting with the Planning Minister Richard Wynne for approval.

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning chair Nicholas Reece said the interim protection would help ensure The Curtin “receives the strongest possible level of protection in any redevelopment application.”

“It means any application for redevelopment of the site would be reviewed “VERY CAREFULLY,” he told *Inner City News*.

“Melbourne has lost too many of our heritage pubs, and it’s important that we protect the venues like The Curtin Hotel – not just as an important building in a heritage precinct but also as a venue with an enormous cultural and social significance to our city ... it has played host to live and sweaty pub rock as one of Melbourne’s iconic live music venues.”

Carlton Residents’ Association president Antoinette Sagaria said while she supported heritage and hoped that The Curtin didn’t fall into the hands of developers, the “larger question” was “if there is all this movement in protecting these sites like The Curtin and historical pubs ultimately, they become very poor investments for whoever is left with them.”

“I love the idea of that heritage remaining but what is the larger idea or driver behind this?” she said.

“How do we treat these long term because they are investments for someone?”

“Are we saying we want them to be council-owned? Who is going to maintain and invest in these establishments if they are so heavily regulated in terms of what you can do with them?”

“Is the council going to step up and maybe assist or discount rates or land tax or something like that in order to still make them appealing, and ensure they remain in the right hands, otherwise what are people going to do with these assets?”

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) advocacy manager Felicity Watson said buildings like The Curtin were more than a treasured heritage site.

“It’s also about the life of those buildings – it’s about the cultural life that they are able to nurture in our cities, and to make a really incredible destination to visit,” she said, adding the National Trust was doing everything possible to ensure The Curtin remained a pub and a live music venue.

Music Victoria CEO Simone Schinkel said The Curtin was part of the Melbourne’s “live music capital.”

“It is where we make the next international act, so we need places like this to try out new ideas and new people and new voices and even that community support that inspires them to keep going,” she said.

Local musician Lucy Wilson, who has performed at The Curtin for more than a decade, said, “the power of the community” was important so that venues like The Curtin didn’t fall victim to a “city of high rises”.

CFMEU construction branch assistant secretary Derek Christopher said he would not see developers turn the iconic pub into a block of apartments.

“There’s plenty of real estate around Melbourne where they can go and build their towers. [We] stand for the preservation of what is culturally right in Victoria.” ●

Y Streetball now open at Carlton Baths

WORDS BY Carol Saffer
SPORT

Y Streetball was founded at the North Melbourne Community Centre in March 2017 by YMCA volunteers Dave and Pete to support adults experiencing homelessness or disadvantage and has since grown into a vibrant community program that welcomes everyone.

Co-founder Dave “Disco” Gunstone is excited to be introducing the project to Carlton and welcomes everyone regardless of ability or socio-economic background.

He has experienced his share of homelessness and recovery and is passionate about basketball and sport.

With his mate Pete, they kicked around ideas for a social open-door space where people experiencing homelessness or hardship could feel a sense of belonging.

A place they thought of as allowing “escape for a couple of hours.”

While Y Streetball is about playing basketball, Dave and Pete wanted it to be a place for people to “meet and greet” and feel connected to the community.

Streetball is a more free-flowing grassroots version of basketball.

The program gives participants a place to blow off steam playing basketball and a chance to socialise with new friends.

There are no costs or joining fees, just a great environment to make new friends and participate in a fun,

community activity.

Light refreshments are provided at the end of each session, and showers are available.

People wanting to play Streetball must be over 18 years of age.

Players of all genders are welcome at any skill level, from raw beginners to those who know the game well.

There is no need for a sports kit or uniform. It is about joining the game and not about the look. Mates and families are welcome to join in as spectators.

Y Streetball sessions at Carlton Baths, located at 216/248 Rathdowne St, Carlton, are held every Thursday from 12pm to 2pm.

For more information, call Disco Dave on 0401 802 548 or Carlton Baths on 9347 3677 ●







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Greens tipped to win Melbourne again as Labor look to address decade slide

Ahead of the federal election on May 21, Inner City News looks at the seat of Melbourne and spoke with both Greens leader (and incumbent) Adam Bandt, and Labor candidate Keir Paterson.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

Greens leader Adam Bandt goes into the 2022 Federal Election as red-hot favourite to win the seat of Melbourne for a fifth-straight time.

The division of Melbourne, which covers the CBD and immediate suburbs north of the Yarra River to both the east and west, has been dominated by the Greens since 2010 and remains their only lower house seat in Canberra.

Held by Labor from 1904 to 2010, the party has since suffered a huge loss in first-preference votes since Bandt's breakthrough victory 12 years ago.

That year, the percentage of first-preference Labor votes dropped from 49.5 (in 2007) to 38.1.

It has continued to slide since, to a record low 19.7 per cent in the last election in 2019.

The candidate tasked with halting this slide and deliver what would be a huge underdog victory for Labor is Kensington resident Keir Paterson.

After winning preselection in August 2021, Mr Paterson has been campaigning since September and said voters had one thing on their mind.

"There's a real mood for change," he told *Inner City News*.

"The number of people that we speak to that say 'we just need to get rid of this government' — that is the number one, two and three priority for most of the people I speak to in the electorate."

Born in Carlton and having owned his first home in North Melbourne, Mr Paterson said he had "lived on and off in the electorate my whole life."

And despite having also lived in three different continents, he counts Melbourne as "by far the best city in the world to live in."

He has worked in the mental health space and, most recently, was president of the 50,000-member Bicycle Network, which advocates for more sustainable transport and safer riding.

Mr Paterson said looking at Labor's recent election results "doesn't give you the full picture", referencing the fact Labor's previous candidate for the seat of Melbourne, Luke Creasey, withdrew before the 2019 count due to offensive social media posts that came to light.

However, Labor's primary vote had already dipped well before 2019, something he was determined to turn around.



"I don't have a theory as to why," he said.

"I can say that this campaign that we're running at the moment is probably the most active and, certainly in my view and the view of other observers, the most organised and proactive campaign [in recent elections]. We've got a really good volunteer base and a lot of supporters out there, and we're running a really positive campaign."

Labor and Mr Paterson are under no illusion as to the magnitude of their upcoming task but remained positive about their prospects.

"We're very confident about this election. There's no question it's a pretty steep hill to climb," he said.

"I feel positive about it, the vibe is good. There's no question that Adam is a strong incumbent, and this seat is a big focus for the Greens, they've got a huge budget and he's spending a lot of money in the electorate ... I'm really motivated to change this government, and we need a Labor majority to change the government. But also, I've become increasingly frustrated by the lack of action of issues like climate change, inequality, job security, aged care, childcare et cetera. And unfortunately, having a member of parliament from a minor party doesn't get us traction on those issues."

But Mr Bandt rejected this when speaking with *Inner City News* and said the growing prospect of a hung parliament — whereby no party has enough seats to secure an overall majority — means those in Melbourne could have a significant say.

"We're heading towards a really tight election and people of Melbourne again have the chance to have a really powerful seat at the table, in a very finely balanced parliament. My priorities in that position will be to kick the Liberals out, and then push the next government to act on the climate crisis, but also to get dental and mental health [services] into Medicare, build affordable housing and wipe the student debt. They're things that will make a big difference to people's lives," he said.

The Greens leader has focused his campaign broadly on climate action, the cost of living and the need for a federal integrity body.

Locally, Mr Bandt said the housing crisis had

been the "single biggest change" in the electorate since he was elected in 2010.

"The things that are good about Melbourne are still there, but they're under threat. A big priority for me is keeping Melbourne liveable, and that means ensuring that everyone can afford to live [here] ... although there might be a pause in rent [rises] in some areas at the moment, on the whole rent and housing prices have skyrocketed, and it's putting a lot of pressure on people who live in Melbourne. It's making it more difficult for people who want to live near where they work or study and we need some new thinking to tackle the housing affordability crisis, because at the moment it's getting out of control."

Mr Bandt said he did not believe the state or federal government had grasped the permanent changes COVID-19 had forced upon Melbourne, in particular what the change in work practices meant for the local community.

If elected, the Greens will push for rent reductions to innovative and creative businesses that come into the area and sign long-term leases.

He said that while the pandemic had been particularly tough for small businesses owners, particularly in the CBD and Docklands, the flow-on affects had impacted residents too.

"Speaking to inner-city residents, one clear message that comes through is that a lot of the small businesses and services that they've relied on have gone, and they may not come back ... we've got to work out how to rebuild in a way that isn't just about supporting one big event here and another big event there — we need a more sustainable way that works at a human-scale that supports residents and businesses in the area."

Both Labor and the Greens were united in the push for a national independent commission against corruption (ICAC). Mr Bandt, who introduced the first-ever bill for a federal ICAC in the House of Representatives said, "it can't come soon enough", while Mr Paterson said the issue was "spontaneously identified" by about one in three people as their number one issue heading into the May 21 poll.

"The thing that's surprised me the most this election — you expect a lot of the prominent issues, you can anticipate those — but the Federal ICAC, and in general restoring integrity and trust to federal politics just comes through as a really high priority for people. They actually nominate that as one of their most important issues, which surprised us," he said.

"I think people are really sick of our federal politics, they're sick of the perception of the lack of accountability and the perception of favouritism and corruption and they want to do something about."

Other candidates contesting the seat of Melbourne in this election include Justin Borg (United Australia Party), James Damches (Liberal), Richard Peppard (Liberal Democrat Party), Scott Robson (Independent), Walter Stragan (One Nation), Bruce Poon (Animal Justice Party) and Colleen Bolger (Victorian Socialists) ●



Victorian schoolkids encouraged to get back on the netball courts

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
SPORT

Netball Victoria has partnered with the Victorian Department of Education and Training's Positive Start in 2022 initiative to re-engage primary and secondary students and boost their physical and emotional health and wellbeing after the pandemic.

After two years of disruption to their schooling, friendships and connections to learning, the initiative will help get students back on track with access to additional camps, swimming programs, sports programs and cultural experiences.

Netball Victoria Programs coordinator Megan Avery said the organisation was excited to partner with the government as part of its initiative, offering unique and wonderful experiences for Victorian students.

Positive Start in 2022 is all about reconnecting and helping school communities join in the rich activities to join up with friends and schools again.

"Our Positive Netball Program offers three specially tailored packages aimed at different age groups and year levels with a range of objectives and outcomes for Victorian students," Ms Avery said.

"We provide Train like a Vixen Clinics, a one-day course during school terms which can be a full day or half-day where the children learn basic netball skills and the game's history."

"It is free for students to attend and will enable them to learn the skills and history of netball in a safe and fun environment."

Most of the students who attend Netball Victoria are in grades five and six, while it is also open to grades three, four, seven and eight.

"We treat each class at a beginner's level because the kids haven't had any sport for the last two years due to COVID," Ms Avery said.

The idea is for the kids to have fun, learn a new sport and get involved, hoping that schools will introduce netball into the curriculum.

The program is designed for girls and boys and all abilities children with female and male trainers engaged for the classes.

All the students receive a booklet that has QR links to their nearest netball club.

"Our aim is for the kids to go home and talk with their parents about joining a club to continue to play netball."

"They also receive a Vixens digital membership which includes access and a timetable of all the team's home games at John Cain Arena." ●

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Optus and Vodafone regard the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* ("The Determination") based on the description above.

In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: BMM Group, 1300 260 834, submissions@bmmgroup.com.au by 19 May 2022. Further information may also be obtained from the website provided above.

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Rooming house gets the green light despite strong community opposition, but developers say it will be aimed at professionals

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A controversial plan to create a rooming house within a student apartment block in Carlton will go ahead despite plenty of opposition from the community.

Developer BA Lygon Street Pty Ltd won the City of Melbourne's approval to turn the first floor of the northern tower of College Square's building at 570-574 Lygon St into medium-stay accommodation which would be "aimed at professionals", and comprise 11 rooms, a shared kitchen, laundry, and sitting area.

City of Melbourne councillors voted unanimously in favour of the project at their April 5 Future Melbourne Committee meeting despite the proposal attracting 382 objections.

Some of the concerns included existing residents not wanting people experiencing homelessness or drug users being on site, the accommodation attracting people with "social problems" as well as limited resident amenities, no 24-hour security, risk of people staying indefinitely, the building having built for the purpose of providing student accommodation, and issues of noise problems among others.

But that didn't stop councillors from giving the proposal the green light – as council officers stated in their report that potential tenants would be of "suitable and of good character," with the manager obtaining copies of their rental history, proof of income, employment details, contact details of referees, and other particulars.

David Bayley, a town planner at Clause 1 Town Planning Consultants, which represents BA Lygon Street, said his client had purchased the tenancy as there was a "demand for medium-term accommodation for city-based professionals."

Mr Bayley said the rooms would be let on a six- to 12-month basis through a letting agency with similar vetting procedures "as a standard for-lease tenancy arrangement."

"Objectors have made a number of assumptions about the tenants, that they would be low-income, be affected by drugs, be criminals, and a number of other preconceptions but without any substantiation," he said.

"Based on the material that we've lodged with the application; it is clearly not the intent of the applicant to provide accommodation which would facilitate these behaviours."

However, according to a council report, the proposal "nominates that it is for professionals but may open up to others."

Tom Bacon, a lawyer at Strata Title acting for the College Square owners' corporation, said the existing owners and landlords within the building had "suffered greatly over the last two years with reduced or no rents" and the proposal would "build the rental market at a time in which the owners and landlords are already doing it tough."

"A much better use of this current office space would have been to provide for services that would enhance the area, such as retail or a cafe or some other form of entertainment facility, rather than using this for further intensification through a rooming house, where opportunities to convert back will be lost."

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning chair Nicholas Reece said the proposal and all objections had been "very closely scrutinised" by the council, with developers reducing the number of rooms from 18 to 11 in response to community feedback.

"When people hear the words 'rooming house', they do have a certain set of preconceptions that they bring to that type of accommodation," he said.

"I take some comfort from the strict house

"When people hear the words 'rooming house', they do have a certain set of preconceptions that they bring to that type of accommodation."
- Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece.



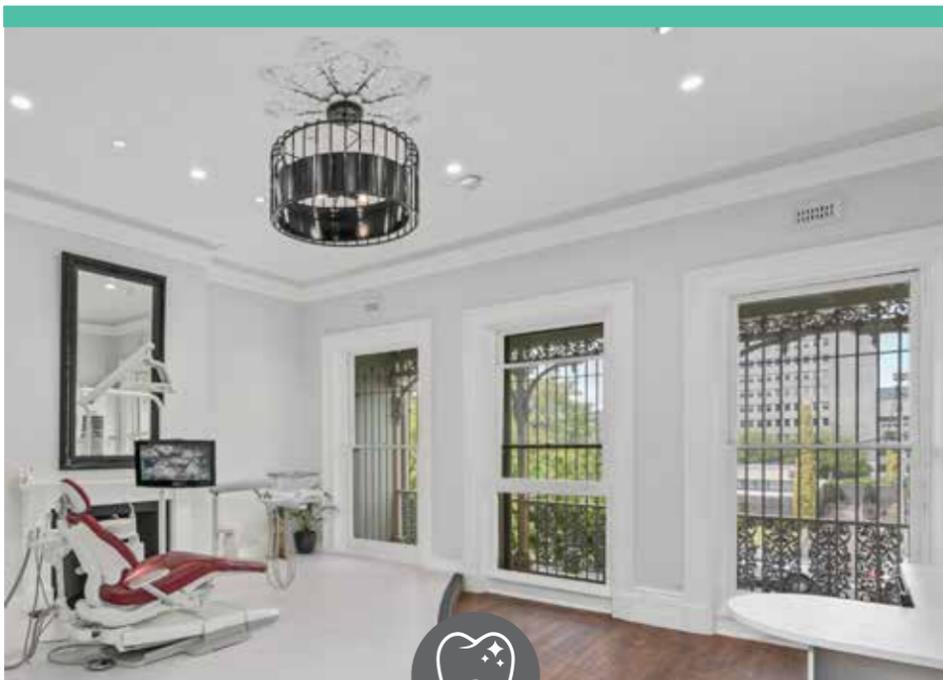
rules that have been in place for tenants here, including the prohibition on alcohol consumption in shared living spaces, strict rules preventing noise pollution, and the establishment of the complaints hotline for adjacent residents, and also rules around when visitors are allowed and so on."

He added there would also be mandating of regular meetings between the accommodation operators and neighbouring apartments.

Cr Rohan Leppert said a planning decision was a "very straightforward one" and believed the conditions recommended by council officers would "deliver a profitable and welcoming and high amenity premises." ●



▲ The first floor of the northern tower at College Square in Carlton is set to become a rooming house.
Photo: Rhonda Dredge.



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▲ Jax (centre-left) with Wednesday's Storming the City writing group at Kathleen Syme.

A positively inclusive writing group storms the city

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

Writers living with a disability are being invited to explore their craft in an inclusive and celebratory space at The Kathleen Syme Library with monthly writing groups now being held until October 12.

Under the instruction of local mentor Jax Jacki Brown, a disability and LGBTIQ+ rights activist, writer and educator, attendees of the classes will explore writing processes and how to tell their personal stories creatively.

"We've been discussing writing as a form of disability advocacy," Jax said.

"We will also have a session with esteemed poet Andy Jackson where he will talk about the creative process for writers with disabilities and explore how to incorporate that into your writing, either in the themes, in the forms, or just in the process itself."

Attracting up to eight people at both the first two sessions, numbers are expected to grow with more people continuing to register before the next session on May 11.

Pleased with how the sessions are going so far, Jax said the writing groups would carry on being an exciting time for people to not only get to know each other and feel understood, but also to engage in fun writing activities.

"Getting to know each other and creating an inclusive and accessible space which celebrates who people are and celebrates their writing is really important to me," Jax said.

"For people with disabilities, we don't often have many programs which are just for us, programs which are positive and affirming about what it means to live with disabilities, so being part of creating a space which does that is important to me as a person with disability myself."

The writing groups are the result of a partnership between the City of Melbourne and Writers Victoria, and part of the Storming the

City program funded by the council's Arts and Creative Investments Partnership program.

As well as providing a good learning opportunity, the writing sessions are also a convenient place to prepare writers for the Lord Mayor's Creative Awards with entries now open until June 30.

This year's writing awards event has five categories, following the latest addition of self-told stories by writers living with a disability. Winning entries of each category will receive a \$2000 prize. An additional \$10,000 will also go towards an overall winner.

In preparation for the category, Jax said people could register to attend an additional two free workshops that will be conducted on Thursday, May 12 and 26, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the library.

Although deeming the awards as an "amazing opportunity" for writers to have their work seen, Jax believes the sessions are most invaluable due to their potential to develop "a sense of disability community and social connection."

"The impact of programs like this are affirming and positive and supportive of people with disabilities. Our talents and skills, I don't think, can be underestimated," Jax said.

"Being a part of creating a space for us all to feel connected and celebrated for all that we are in all our similarities and differences, it's really lovely to be part of each month, and to bring my creativity and passion to the workshops."

Storming the City writing groups are held once a month on a Wednesday between 10am to 12pm at The Kathleen Syme Library.

The Wheeler Centre is also being used as an alternate location with sessions held on Saturdays with local mentor Nicole Smith ●

For more information:
writersvictoria.org.au/storming-the-city



Falafel Off comes to Carlton

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
EVENTS

Are you a fan of *The Great British Bake Off* with wonderful Mary Berry?

Have the contestants' cook-off clashes on *My Kitchen Rules* or *Master Chef* kept you enthralled or even appalled over the years?

Fancy yourself as a dab hand in the kitchen? Well, the inaugural Falafel Off competition is right up your alley.

An event to determine who cooks the best falafel will be held on Open Day at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre on Friday, May 13, from 3.30pm to 6pm as part of its Neighbour House Week celebrations.

Join guest chef judge Adrian Richardson, TV celebrity and owner of Rathdowne St's La Luna restaurant, as he tastes and decides the winner.

Renowned for nine series of *Good Chef Bad Chef*, he knows a lot, but how well does Adrian know his falafel?

Does this blue-eyed red-haired, pale-skinned chef know his fava beans from his chickpeas?

What a surprise; he is a bit of a dark horse when it comes to falafel.

His grandmother was born in Cairo, and his mum was born in Ethiopia.

Consequently, Adrian grew up eating just about anything you can get in a Middle Eastern restaurant.

"I have a strong background with Middle Eastern cooking and food," he said.

"I spent several years cooking with the best Lebanese chefs in Melbourne; Greg Malouf, Michael Bacash and Abla Amad."

Adrian said he would be looking for a nice crisp outer layer on the falafel, but it had to be cooked all the way through.

"I am also looking for flavour, which of course each region will have their kick on the types of flavours be it Lebanese, Israeli or Eritrean," he said.

"The shape, properly seasoned with spices and herbs, plus good the mouth feel is what I will be looking for."

Home-cooked falafel is part of everyday life in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.



Will Adrian choose a Middle Eastern style delicacy or something different from Eritrea to take home first prize?

Hummus to go with a falafel? Of course. So, will home-made hummus also be open for judging to determine who makes the best accompaniment to street food?

Do you make your falafel from chickpeas? Or broad beans? Are they green or yellow inside? Do you make your hummus from a recipe handed down through generations?

Come to the Open Day at Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre at 20 Princes St North Carlton and join in the fun.

Activities on the day include a Welcome to Country, a community portraits exhibition, Eritrean coffee and henna art, global food and live music.

Bring the kids and the grandparents for a fun community day.

"If we can help bring the community together one day at a time with a lovely serving of falafel, what could be wrong with that?" Adrian said.

All proceeds from the Open Day will go towards new equipment for the community garden ●

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Parkville's urban oasis for rural and regional school children

WORDS BY Carol Saffer
COMMUNITY

What began life in 1941 as the American military's Camp Pell, housing troops in tents with limited cooking facilities and no running water, is now Urban Camp, providing accommodation and educational programs for rural and regional primary school children from around Australia.

Located in Royal Park, a stone's throw from Flemington Rd, and adjacent to Melbourne Zoo and Melbourne Sports Centres, Urban Camp's location is quiet, unique and convenient.

Urban Camp's CEO Daniel Whykes said the camp's site in the park provided a safe and comfortable space for young people.

"They see bushland and hear bird noises and can go for a run in the park or kick the footy around while being only a tram ride away from the CBD," he said.

"We are advancing their education, giving them opportunities to see what there is in the city while aligning their program to their school curriculum."

Urban Camp is a not-for-profit charity that enables young people to thrive through urban experiences while providing safe and comfortable facilities, accommodation, and nutritious meals.

The camp aims to give students opportunities for personal growth and prioritise accessibility for all young people to enjoy memorable urban experiences.

Students from Grades Four, Five and Six from Newstead Primary School, from the township of Newstead situated on the Loddon River about 17 kilometres from Castlemaine, visited Urban Camp in mid-April.

The school's principal, Kathy Calender, said that Urban Camp showed them another option in life.

"It is an eye-opener and [shows them] how life is different in different places," she said.

"The kids often get to do everyday things that students in Melbourne take for granted, and



▲ (Left to right) Sese, Lewis and Eve from Newstead PS.

they experience the inner-city bustle of life." "One mum told me that her son reckons it was the best camp he has ever been on."

When 10-year-old Lewis from Grade Five and Sese and Eve, both in Grade Six and 11 years old, were asked by *Inner City News* what their favourite experience was on the first day in Melbourne. All three enthusiastically said their visit to ACMI.

All agreed that it was "a mix of everything interactive and lots of things to do and look at." They were very excited about going ice skating the following night.

Curriculum-aligned visits include excursions to such venues at ACMI, Old Melbourne Gaol, and the Shrine of Remembrance, while Melbourne Zoo provides exclusive night walks to the young people.

When school groups like Newstead's come to Melbourne via train, Urban Camp will collect their luggage on arrival at Southern Cross Station so the kids can go straight to that day's activities.

It might be their first time in the city or even

on an escalator.

They will possibly see homeless people on the city streets and encounter buskers and beggars.

Victoria Police's Safety in the City program, which covers personal safety and road awareness, is delivered to the students.

Leading Senior Constable Dinesh Nettur from Melbourne Proactive Police spoke informally with the Newstead pupils back at Urban Camp about mobile phone distractions; looking after their property; how and when to call 000 and what to do if approached by people asking for money or help.

He also covered navigating through busy city traffic and using public transport.

The Safety in the City talk was designed for Year Nine students as an orientation for coming to the city.

LSC Nettur, who presented a modified version to the younger group from Newstead, said police wanted to give the students practical advice to make their city visit safe and enjoyable.

Mr Whykes said Urban Camp focused strongly on keeping a safe venue.

"We are the stepping-stone to provide the opportunity to see what there is available to our guests," he said.

"It could be in the way of introducing them to ongoing education [in the city] or just experiencing the different types of housing in the city or urban areas."

"We provide them with a positive experience in Melbourne."

In August 1941, Anzac Hall was built for the RSL at Camp Pell as a cinema, lecture, and recreation hall.

Camp Pell was decommissioned in December 1945.

In 2000 Anzac Hall was put on the Victorian Heritage Register as significant and it now serves as the dining area of the camp, where the students sit at tables together with their mates for breakfast and dinner most days.

As well as dormitory accommodation for students and private rooms for teachers, the facility includes breakout rooms where the kids can watch movies or TV or undertake other activities together.

Urban Camp has a sustainability focus with water-efficient showerheads dispensing solar hot water from solar energy panels.

"We are committed to making as little impact on the environment as possible and have implemented many sustainability initiatives such as composting food waste with our closed-loop compost system," Mr Whykes said.

"The kids love loading the compost compactor."

Since 1984 Urban Camp has been booked years in advance. They continually roll over bookings yearly for most school clients, generally for Grade Five and Six primary school students.

Ms Calender said Newstead sent a group of their kids every three years and had been doing so for 15 years.

"Learning at camp trumps anything at school," Mr Whykes said.

Sporting, disability and community groups use the camp's facilities on weekends ●

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Data capture improves local roadways

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
TRANSPORT

A two-and-a-half-kilometre stretch of Nicholson St from Alexandra Parade in the north to Victoria Parade in the south is hosting a world-leading traffic management system using the latest technology to reduce traffic jams and improve road safety.

An assortment of sensors, cloud-based artificial intelligence, machine learning algorithms, predictive models and real time-data is employed to improve traffic management – easing bottlenecks, enhancing road safety for all users and reducing emissions from clogged traffic.

The “Intelligent Corridor” at Nicholson St in Carlton was recently launched by the University of Melbourne, Austrian technology firm Kapsch TrafficCom and the Victorian Department of Transport.

Professor Majid Sarvi is the chair of transport engineering, professor of transport for Smart Cities, and the “Transport Technologies” program director at the University of Melbourne.

He is the founder and the director of the AIMES – Australian Integrated Multimodal EcoSystem, the world’s first and most extensive network, featuring more than 100 kilometres of inner Melbourne roads for testing emerging connected transport technologies on a large scale in complex urban environments.

Statistics show that in Melbourne, from 2006 to 2019, 492 people died from crashes at urban intersections – with more than half of these being pedestrians, cyclists or motorcyclists.

“Our Intelligent Corridor will use the latest technology to better manage traffic and make our roads safer for everyone,” Professor Sarvi said.

Kapsch TrafficCom executive vice-president for Asia Pacific Mathew McLeish agreed with Professor Sarvi’s comment that one of the significant issues at the Nicholson St intersection was vulnerable users’ safety.



▲ A map showing the Intelligent Corridor area.

“If a cyclist or pedestrian is approaching the intersection on a green light, where a car is not stopping and is running the red light, data from our TrafficCom’s connected mobility platform could alert all parties to a pending incident,” Mr McLeish said.

“It is ubiquitous to see pedestrians staring at the phone when walking ... in future, we could have an app on the phone that alerts them that they are about to step out in front of a car.”

Mr McLeish pointed out that part of the road at the corner of Nicholson and Gertrude streets was occluded and pedestrians crossing the intersection were not always visible.

“[The new traffic management system] could be developed to ‘tell’ vehicles at this corner that

there are people on the crossing they can’t see until they are on top of them. It gives the driver notice to proceed with caution,” he said.

Congested Melbourne is broken up into traffic corridors running parallel. For example, Nicholson St and Punt Rd move traffic from north to south while vehicles travelling east-west use Victoria and Alexandra Parades.

“If a corridor becomes congested and a parallel one isn’t, then communicating with vehicles tells the driver they have an alternate route to divert to,” Mr McLeish said.

“This means you increase the speed and reduce the stop-start traffic, which has a tremendous impact on the environment.”

“You get an improved transport user



▲ Workers install the technology on Nicholson St.

experience, e.g. the driver doesn’t get upset at the holdup. People are happier that they got to their destination more efficiently and achieve better air quality outcomes.”

The Intelligent Corridor project is designed to collect before-and-after data to demonstrate its effectiveness. At the same time, its performance will be fine-tuned to improve outcomes on an ongoing basis over the next three years. This data capture will provide crucial evidence for implementation in other cities.

Victorian Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll said the Intelligent Corridor was an important and exciting step for Melbourne.

“The University of Melbourne’s academic expertise and technological capability, combined with the commitment of the Department of Transport and industry partners, create the ideal conditions for developing a safer, smarter, and more accessible transport future for Melbourne,” Mr Carroll said ●

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Getting up close to veterans

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

Jack Blankley was with the Australian troops in Korea and in 2004 he was marching in a parade at the Shrine of Remembrance.

An artist noticed his striking whiskers and they got talking. She offered to paint his portrait.

The portrait now hangs in the corner behind the stairs at the Victorian Artists Society in East Melbourne.

Jack became one of 40 soldiers Meg Davoren-Honey painted to commemorate the 90th birthday of the Gallipoli landing.

Most of her subjects, including some painted from photographs of World War One veterans, have now passed on.

“I had to paint fast,” she said. “I wanted to record these forgotten heroes. It’s a tribute to these men for their bravery and sacrifice.”

The “heroes” did not always want to talk about their experiences, such as World War Two veteran Robert Waters who sat for an hour at The Hero Club in Toorak.

This did not stop Meg. She made sketches and took photographs, and his portrait sits a couple up from Jack’s.

“I’m interested in their stories. That’s why I paint them,” Meg said. “They’ve seen so much and come out the other side.”

She hit gold with Corporal Jack Mayle who had written a book on his escape from Rabaul. She went up to Tallangatta and he put on his medals for the portrait, while she listened to his tales.

There are currently no Australian troops in combat zones, since the return from Afghanistan last year.

So, the annual ANZAC exhibition at the VAS has finally become a historical record of a period, in stark contrast to the battle scenes depicted in catalogues of exhibitions from the war years.

The exhibition does not present an anti-war



▲ Meg and her portraits.

message, but the portraits do question the glorification.

Meg tries to capture the souls of these survivors through their eyes. “They go away happy young men and never know how they’ll get back. They’ve learned to live with themselves,” she said.

The medals sit a little uneasily in the works because they’re mounted on stiff strips of metal. “Sometimes they extend past the soldier’s shoulders.”

Meg has travelled to Humpty Doo south of Darwin to the Vietnam vets’ clubhouse and volunteered at Gallipoli in 36-hour shifts to get closer to the issue.

“I never forget a face that I’ve painted,” she said.

ANZAC Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society, until the end of May ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
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Hope remains to protect heritage values of the Royal Exhibition Building

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HERITAGE

The threat of developments encroaching the areas of the UNESCO world heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building and surrounding Carlton Gardens is real, according to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV).

But with a strategy plan underway to consider the ongoing protections for the site, the RHSV is hopeful that the “problem of the division of the world heritage buffer zone” – which aims to prevent overdevelopment and protect the views of one of the world’s oldest exhibition buildings – will end.

It comes as concerns were raised about a proposed five-storey building at Gertrude St, and an 11-storey tower extending St Vincent’s Private Hospital to the west (which is currently under construction) would impact the heritage value of the Royal Exhibition Building.

Currently, a World Heritage Management Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens is being reviewed as a World Heritage Listed place, which must occur every seven years.

The review has resulted in a new draft Strategy Plan in accordance with the Heritage Act 2017, which is being prepared by Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd in partnership with HLCD Pty Ltd for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Under current controls, the buffer zone was split into two sections in 2009 – one as “an area of greater sensitivity” with the other being more relaxed.

The RHSV “strongly supports” the recommendation to “remove the distinction” between the two, with Dr Charles Sowerwine, chair of the RHSV’s heritage committee, arguing the area of greater sensitivity “turned out to have no protection at all.”

Dr Sowerwine told *Inner City News* the lack of specific controls meant a 60-storey tower at 308 Exhibition St was built “smack bang in the middle of the view from the dome and right against the gardens.”

“We don’t have serious protections, and that’s why we have written twice to UNESCO, promised each time to

investigate but we haven’t got anywhere,” he said.

The development along with the 11-storey St Vincent’s building have raised questions about a proposed redevelopment of the former Cancer Council building at 1 Rathdowne St and whether it would create an “incursion” on the gateway to the World Heritage Environs Area of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

The City of Melbourne brought in height controls last September for developments in the buffer zone, which is also known as the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA), with councillors also voting to extend the boundary to the west and south of the Royal Exhibition Building.

The move was roundly welcomed by residents who believed the new controls would see large properties along Rathdowne St and south of Pelham St be subject to the same built form controls as the surrounding area.

But according to the RHSV’s submission to the draft strategy plan, “The world heritage provisions in the current Melbourne and Yarra planning schemes relate only to the Area of Special Sensitivity, which makes a mockery of the designation of the remainder of the WHEA.”

Dr Sowerwine said the proposal “that the buffer zone be restored as it was promised to UNSECO in 2004, that the whole area be covered, which would make a significant difference if that is accepted by the panel and then by the Minister.”

“Some horses have bolted, but still it would be a big improvement. We’re just waiting on that one, everything we that can do has now been done – we and the National Trust and a number of other bodies made very strong supportive submissions through the panel,” he said.

“On the one hand the present situation is not good, but we do have a hope that something better will come through.”

Felicity Watson, advocacy manager for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) said the National Trust hoped that the new Strategy Plan, once finalised, would “strengthen protections in the buffer zone around the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, and prevent developments which could negatively impact the site’s world heritage values.”

Council to review sister city relationships

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has pledged to review its arrangements with international cities, less than two months after suspending ties with St Petersburg following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

A review would be the council’s first evaluation of its “sister city” ties in over a decade, with the last coming in 2010.

The council did not mention the St Petersburg link as a reason for the review, other than to say the assessment was “timely and critical.”

“In light of the vast changes in the global landscape and the new priorities within the current council strategic frameworks, it is timely and critical to commence the review,” a council document presented at an April 26 meeting read.

“This will ensure [the] City of Melbourne engages with the right cities and networks, in order to serve clear council business objectives and continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for Melbourne.”

On March 1 the council suspended its connections with the Russian port city, and the review will almost certainly spell the end of a sister city relationship that dates back to 1989.

“Our federal government has clearly stated that Australia does not accept the illegal acts of violence and war by the Russian government,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said at that meeting.

“I support this national stance and I think it’s appropriate that the city makes a clear statement of support for the people of Ukraine and St Petersburg by using the lever that we do have within our control, which is to consider the status of our sister city relationship with St Petersburg.”

Greens councillors Rohan Leppert, who initiated the process at Town Hall to suspend the relationship, has said that the City of Melbourne almost cut ties with the Russian city in 2014-15 over what he said was a “spate of homophobic attacks that were occurring at that time.”

He said that, at the time, the council was convinced by Russians living in Melbourne to maintain the ties.

“It was a difficult decision, and we were strongly, strongly influenced by the Russian diaspora here in Melbourne saying there are two sorts of relationships; one is with the government, one is with the people. This really has been a sister city relationship that works with the people of St

“I support this national stance and I think it’s appropriate that the city makes a clear statement of support for the people of Ukraine...”



Petersburg.”

Sister city partnerships generally strengthen economic and cultural ties between cities, and many are long-standing agreements.

The city’s partnership with St Petersburg, for example, was extended for more than 30 years while Melbourne’s official connection with the Japanese city of Osaka has now reached its 44th year.

The council’s closest ties, which it describes having a “robust relationship”, are with five Asian cities: Osaka, Tianjin, Nanjing, Suzhou, and Bandung.

It also has relationships with Milan, Boston, Thessaloniki and Chengdu.

The council is said to be exploring emerging opportunities across India.

Cr Phillip Le Liu rejected any suggestion that sister city relationships did not deliver tangible benefits.

“A sister city provides a formal connection for governments and allows industry and community groups to use that as an opportunity to establish or create dialogue,” he said.

“When people talk about it as a soft or fluffy thing, it’s not, because when you actually have an established sister city relationship it’s something you can use for government means to actually get the ball moving.”

Recommendations from the review are expected to come before councillors in October ●



David Schout
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Council seeks joint effort to rid the city of graffiti

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has sought the “urgent assistance” of the state government as it battles to fight a 60 per cent increase in graffiti and tagging since the pandemic began.

It comes as the council carried out a graffiti blitz in March, which saw clean-up crews target Docklands, South Wharf, the Hoddle Grid, and Southbank areas.

About 14,000 square metres of graffiti was removed – the equivalent of 50 tennis courts – after reports of graffiti almost tripled in volume since the launch of the blitz program.

The average time between graffiti being reported and cleaned was five

days, which resulted in over a 70 per cent reduction in days for completion, compared to January.

The blitz will soon cover the Carlton, East Melbourne, and Parkville areas, which will be completed by the end of June.

However, Lord Mayor Sally Capp conceded “we don’t have the unlimited resources to just keep cleaning” and successfully moved a motion at council’s April 29 meeting in which she requested the City of Melbourne work with the state government, Victoria Police, and M9 councils (an inner city-advocacy group) in a “coordinated approach to graffiti deterrents.”

“We’re seeing that heightened increase of tagging. We absolutely have

to look more broadly and use the data more deeply and efforts to deter and prevent,” she said.

Cr Capp said the joint approach would mean “our city has an opportunity not just to recover, but to literally be a city that can welcome people with its beautiful buildings, beautiful, physical environment that is not impacted in such a negative way by tagging and graffiti.”

Carlton Residents’ Association president Antionette Sagaria said more effort was needed in terms of graffiti prevention measures like education and diversionary programs to put offenders “on a better path.”

“It’s all well and good cleaning it off, but why don’t we look at why it happens in the first place,” she said.

ADAM BANDT

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SEVEN REASONS WHY NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY IN MELBOURNE



Melbourne skyline and the Yarra River Birrarung at twilight

Love inner-city living? Find out how stamp duty savings can help you make even more of iconic city experiences, eateries and glorious green spaces.

While other property markets have increased, the City of Melbourne has become comparatively more affordable, according to economist Anne Flaherty from realestate.com.au.

'Australia's property market has performed strongly and seen incredible growth over the past two years,' Anne said.

'In the City of Melbourne, we haven't seen significant price rises, so properties are comparatively more affordable for a lot of buyers.

'This can be an opportunity for buyers. Of the properties that have been on the market, many have fallen in value over the past year.'

But it won't last forever.

In our hearts, we know that Melbourne is still one of the world's most liveable cities, and surely it's only a matter of time before it returns to the top of the official rankings.

1. Make the most of massive stamp duty savings

For those who love Melbourne or want to live in the city, the biggest incentives for acting now are perhaps the stamp duty concessions available on new properties.

There's a small window of opportunity for buyers, according to Anne. The concessions have an end date, and it's fast approaching.

'If you purchase a new property up to \$1 million, you get a 50 per cent concession on your stamp duty fees for contracts signed from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

Better still, the offer can be used in conjunction with other benefits, such as the first home buyer concession, off-the-plan deals and more.

2. Save if the new property has been on the market for a while

Maybe you've had your eye on a new property that's come up in your search over the past year or so. Maybe you've wondered why nobody has snapped

it up. Maybe it could be you who does the snapping...

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022,' Anne said.

You could save up to \$55,000 on properties up to \$1 million.

3. A concession for investors and owner occupiers alike

Imagine being the first person to move into a new city pad, or reaping the rewards while renting out a sparkling new space so your tenants can make the most of city living.

There are no constraints on this temporary stamp duty concession: it's available to owner occupiers and investors.

That means you, first homeowners, downsizers and investors.

4. Newer properties are usually better earners

Newer properties can command higher rents, especially if they are modern and offer good amenities.

'The rents achievable on new properties tend to be higher than rents achievable on a property that's older,' Anne said.

'Any new apartment is more attractive, even than ones that are a couple of years older. Designs look newer, fresher, cleaner.'

No wonder tenants are often prepared to pay a bit more.

'If you can get something new and never lived in, that's more appealing than something that's had more wear and tear.'



San Telmo, Meyers Place

5. Start as you mean to go on

Are you renting in the City of Melbourne and daring to dream that there's a way to embrace inner-city life and own your own place?

You're not alone. Research commissioned by the City of Melbourne found that more than half of first home buyers surveyed are likely to consider buying in Melbourne.

Forty-eight per cent of those already living in Melbourne said they were also considering buying property in the area.

Nearly half (43 per cent) of those looking to buy in the city were in the market for an apartment or unit, with features such as natural light, views and communal areas.

Imagine being the first person to open those blinds to a unique city vista.

6. Look to the future

Melbourne offers a lifestyle all its own. This is the cultural capital, the sporting capital, a magnet for foodies. So many aspects add up to make Melbourne a supremely liveable city.

'People migrating to Melbourne are more likely to live close to the city. They're more likely to live in inner city suburbs compared to people who've grown up in Australia,' Anne said.

Maybe they'll be your new tenants.

'When migration regains momentum, it's going to be really great for the city, and this will support the recovery in rents and property prices,' Anne said.

'The rental market might be subdued for a while, but it will pick up as migration resumes. And that'll be good news for the city.'

'If the new property has been on the market for more than 12 months, you can get a full exemption on your stamp duty. That's available for contracts signed before 30 June 2022.'



Johnny's Green Room is close by in Carlton



Royal Botanic Gardens

7. This is your local

You already know that an extraordinary life awaits amid the laneways of this great city.

There's always another rooftop bar to discover, and a whole grid stacked with the best eateries.

If you're not already living in the city, you can soon roll out of bed and into the orbit of the best baristas in Melbourne. At lunchtime, the Birrarung beckons for a riverside moment.

After work, catch up for drinks and a share plate at an underground hot spot, or explore the length of the glorious gardens that wrap around the city.

Study with the best and brightest and plug into our knowledge economy. Or be part of the conversation as creative thinkers discuss big topics.

Catch a gig, indulge in a feast, go see a show. Best of all? You can wander home afterwards with no need for a long commute.

Find out how you could pay \$0 stamp duty on your next home purchase in the city at realestate.com.au/thisisyourlocal

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BOOK IN TIME TO WRITE A PRIZE-WINNER

Now may be the perfect time to dust off that unpublished short story you wrote during lockdown and enter the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards.

Win up to \$12,000 if your original work is judged to be the outstanding entry across five categories.

Our biannual Creative Writing Awards celebrate the achievements of emerging writers and storytellers, and help ensure that Melbourne's famous literary tradition continues into the future.

Melbourne is a UNESCO City of Literature and has a proud history of great Australian writing, whether readers' tastes run to Helen Garner or Christos Tsiolkas, George Johnston, Alice Pung or our most recent Creative Writing Awards winner, Yamiko Marama.

Melbourne City of Literature research tells us that Melburnians consume more books, magazines and newspapers per capita than any other Australian city.

We know how important writers are to our community and the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards are firmly

grounded in this deep wellspring of literature. In recognising emerging writers, we aim to promote our city as a place of ideas and creativity.

The awards offer plenty of scope across all genres.

This year sees the introduction of a new category. The inaugural Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability will provide an opportunity for underrepresented voices in media and literature.

The Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers will be awarded to an outstanding work that discusses or highlights a uniquely Victorian story of Australia's First People. This prize supports City of Melbourne's ongoing commitment to promoting Indigenous culture and reconciliation.

Winners in each category receive \$2000. The overall winner of the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award will win an additional \$10,000. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply for all categories.

The awards close Thursday 30 June.

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

The Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards include the following categories:

- The Dorothy Porter Award for Poetry (up to 100 lines)
- Narrative Non-fiction (no more than 5000 words)
- Short Story Set in Melbourne (no more than 5000 words)
- Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers (no more than 5000 words)
- Self-told Stories by Writers Living with a Disability (no more than 5000 words).



Submit your short story to the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards

MELBOURNE'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS IN MAY



Inspire your kids at family-friendly events



Experience virtual reality

Ideas, opportunities and innovation will take over Melbourne's CBD from 9 to 15 May for narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022.

Over seven days, more than 100 events will bring great thinkers and inquisitive learners together for what is the City of Melbourne's annual festival of ideas for a smart and innovative city.

More than 25 venues will be activated with interactive events, panels, workshops and performances, while Little Lonsdale Street will become a knowledge precinct attracting tens of thousands of innovators, gamers, thinkers and leaders.

Highlights of the narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week 2022 program include:

- A keynote presentation on the role of song in maintaining cultural knowledge and traditions, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musician, producer and creative entrepreneur Jessie Lloyd.
- Lord Mayor Sally Capp joins leaders from Melbourne's key tertiary institutions to discuss: Is knowledge more important for Melbourne's future than sport, retail or hospitality?
- Taking the Numb out of Numbers, featuring data journalist, writer and illustrator Mona Chalabi, Data Editor of the Guardian US and host of the popular TED podcast "Am I normal?". Her mission is to enable people to find and question the data they need to make informed decisions about their lives.
- At Library at the Dock, create your own DIY game controller, experience emerging gaming technologies such as eye trackers and new virtual reality devices, and discover locally created indie video games.
- Play rock, paper, scissors with a robot arm, marvel at next generation solar panels and check out the latest inventions to improve city greening and enhance accessibility at Prototype Street.
- An expanded program for kids and families, including a games day and activities, workshops and interactive exhibitions across the city.
- Several Aboriginal-led events, including a focus on urban Aboriginal history and data sovereignty.

• Stories Around the Levantine Table: a series of events that connect cultures and knowledge through the language of food.

More than 80 per cent of the program is free.

Melbourne Knowledge Week solidifies Melbourne's status as a university city.

For program details, visit mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur. All photos taken in line with health and safety guidelines.

KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne* magazine online at magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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Shakahari clocks up 50 years of business in Carlton

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
BUSINESS

The result of a Google search on Shakahari comes up with “Modern pan-Asian dishes served in a bright, Indian-inspired dining room and a colourful courtyard.”

But there is so much more to this legendary ground-breaking vegetarian restaurant than one line.

The business name was registered on February 18, 1972, and 50 years on, Shakahari is still trading in Carlton.

Malaysian-born Beh Kim Un started working there in 1977 and took over the business with John Dunham in 1980.

“When I [first] walked into Shakahari, I knew I wanted to work here,” Mr Un said.

Located next door to Jimmy Watson on Lygon St, the restaurant was staffed by volunteers.

“Many of the group that started at Shakahari were members of the Hindu religion who were like-minded and worked when they could,” he said.

He started as a dishwasher and was asked if he could cook after a couple of months.

After preparing several dishes, the boss said, “you are not a dishwasher; you are way too good at cooking.”

“Shakahari started with good intentions but without the skill to make it serious,” Mr Un said.

“I wanted to be [or do] something different as long as it was with food.”

His mother was a great chef and influenced him.

“I grew up in the kitchen working with her; I learned what taste is about and its balance.”

He became a forerunner with his vegetarian menu, a hippy owner with something he wanted to share.

“Our customers at the time thought it was very fashionable to be hippies and did a lot of travelling in Asia and the subcontinent.”

“When they came back to Melbourne, they wanted what they had experienced overseas.”

The proximity of Melbourne University



was paramount in growing and developing Shakahari.

Writers, actors, and university academics were influential in singing its praise by word of mouth.

“We didn’t know who Joan Armatrading was when she rolled up in a white limousine, but she put us on the map.”

During an interview, while touring in Australia, she was asked what was the best thing in Melbourne?

“Eating curry at Shakahari,” was her reply.

His manager and right-hand helper, Manjula, has been with him since 1978, and he describes the two of them as the witnesses to changes.

Ingredients like fresh galangal, lemongrass and coconut milk were unavailable in the late 1970s.

He respects the Vietnamese who bought their cuisine, planted new types of vegetables and influenced mainstream tastes. “I offer a great gratitude for their migration.”

Mr Un said that using plant-based ingredients to create dishes that resembled meat was tapping into a non-vegetarian circuit.

“We are different; vegetarians are the main people we cook for; anyone else is a bonus.”

“[Interestingly] most of our current customers are not vegetarian, but they prefer our menu, and when they come here, they can eat and not leave feeling hungry.”

“While vegetarianism is recognised as a cuisine, we haven’t changed much; the furniture is still the same as when it was hand-made in the 1970s.” ●

Melbourne Knowledge Week has something for everyone

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
EVENTS

Melburnians and visitors alike will have the opportunity to experience the innovations and inventions shaping the city’s future during Melbourne Knowledge Week from Monday, May 9 to Sunday, May 15.

Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp said there would be activities for thinkers, innovators and explorers of all ages. Best of all, more than 80 per cent of the program is free.

“We know innovation is critical to ensure Melbourne remains a top destination for investment and employment. We’re delighted to deliver an event that showcases the world-class experts operating right here on our doorstep,” Cr Capp said.

Melbourne Knowledge Week, narm ngarrgu, begins on the State Library forecourt with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony with the Djirri Djirri dancers.

Moving inside the library, musician and social historian Jessie Lloyd will deliver a keynote presentation on songs that integrate with Australian history and highlight corners of our history that haven’t been known about or explored.

The stories and the songs are based on her Mission Songs Project which researched and revealed the daily life of Australian Aboriginal people on the missions, settlements and reserves from 1901 to 1967.

Ms Lloyd said in a time of great distress, these truthful songs were surprisingly filled with optimism and hope.

“The songs will sound so much better when you know the stories behind them,” Ms Lloyd said.

Stories Around the Levantine Table is a series of events throughout the week that involves storytelling about Palestinian food.

Palestinian artist Aseel Tayah will explore the intrinsic connection between food, knowledge, and language through an immersive experience.

She leads an organisation called Bukjeh, an Arabic word that means a small package of belongings carried by refugees and travellers.

Taking place at Queen Victoria Market, Ms Tayah and other members of Bukjeh will bring different cultures together with stories about Palestinian food and ingredients.

“We want to bring people and hearts together in one place, having people listen to each other and share a meal with someone they have never met before,” Ms Tayah said.

The City of Melbourne will host more than 100 interactive events, workshops, and performances throughout the week, with Knowledge Hubs set up at the State Library Victoria, QV Melbourne, Wesley Place, Docklands and Carlton.

The City of Melbourne’s education and innovation portfolio lead Cr Davydd Griffiths said the week would explore exciting opportunities, tackle challenges and build the skills needed to shape our future.

“We want to support inquisitive minds and encourage learning at all ages, and this event is the ideal forum for our great thinkers and learners to come together to exchange ideas,” he said.

For the first time, narm ngarrgu | Melbourne Knowledge Week will carry a dual name in Woi Wurrung and English, following consultation with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Traditional Owners.

The four themes of the event will also be dual named in Woi Wurrung and English: marra ba gurkwegel (community and culture), biik (Earth), tartbanerra (economy) and parren (technology).

Tickets are on sale from Thursday, April 21 ●

For more information:
mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au



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The greenest thing you can do for the planet is have a vasectomy

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
HEALTH

National director of vasectomy at Carlton’s Mayfair Operating Centre, Dr Justin Low, said he was seeing an increase in the number of younger men and couples who do not want to have kids.

“Between 2020 and 2021, there was an almost 20 per cent increase in the number of childless men under 30 requesting vasectomies,” Dr Low said.

“Some men say honestly; they have no urge to have children.”

On their first date four years ago, Gordon* 27, and Lucy* 26, told each other neither wanted to have children.

“Having kids was not for Lucy or me,” Gordon said.

The couple ratified their decision to live a child-free life when Gordon underwent a vasectomy performed by Dr Low a year ago.

“Lucy has always experienced side effects from birth control, and after careful research and counselling, it was clear that a vasectomy was the best and timely option for us,” he said.

The couple chose not to have Gordon’s sperm harvested and frozen.

Gordon, who describes himself as an over-thinker, said he considered all possibilities of why the couple might change their mind in the future and is confident they won’t arise.

Dr Low said some men believed they couldn’t cope with the responsibility of children, either financially or emotionally.

Others are concerned about their relationship with their father and fear replicating their circumstances in a family of their own.

Dr Low said the most common age of men undergoing vasectomy was between 35 to 40



▲ *Dr Justin Low.*

years of age.

“They usually have one to three kids,” Dr Low said.

“We have men also in their 60s requesting the surgery due to a change of life or change of partner.”

Gavin* and his wife, both in their early 40s, have two children under six. They jointly decided that their family was complete.

“[Having a vasectomy] was our preferred method of contraception,” Gavin said.

“I had no anxiety about our decision but was a little anxious about any pain and my recovery,” he said.

“It’s been five days now, and all is okay; Dr Low was an excellent surgeon.”

Dr Low said the centre started a non-directive counselling service for young men to assist in decision-making in 2018.

“A vasectomy is a very permanent and serious decision to consider,” he said.



▲ *Jamal Hakim.*

“We offer them the possibility to freeze their sperm before proceeding with their final decision, which costs \$1000 to set up and \$350 per year to keep them frozen.”

“We also have noticed an increase with women requesting their male partner to undertake a vasectomy as an alternative to them undertaking birth control.”

The gold standard practice at Mayfair Operating Centre worldwide is the new “no-scalpel open-ended technique”.

It does not necessitate an overnight stay as the operation takes only 15 minutes, with most patients out of the centre within two to three hours.

The risk factor of regretting a vasectomy is most significant for men under 30 years of age.

Data shows that men in this age bracket are 12.5 times more likely to request vasectomy reversal.

Patients may regret having the vasectomy

done during a personal crisis or in an unstable relationship, or under pressure from their partner.

When asked about the statistics on a pregnancy occurring after a vasectomy reversal, Dr Low quoted a study showing patients who had their vasectomy reversed after three years had a 76 per cent chance of pregnancy.

If the reversal occurs after 15 years, the rate of possible pregnancy falls to 30 per cent.

Mayfair Operating Centre is owned and run by Marie Stopes Australia, the only national, independently accredited safe abortion, vasectomy and contraception provider helping women and men take complete control of their reproductive lives.

The organisation’s managing director and City of Melbourne councillor Jamal Hakim said he was excited to be expanding its vasectomy services on Elizabeth St, complementing existing services across Melbourne and around the country.

“An increasing number of men are turning to our vasectomy services to take control of their reproductive health, and we will continue to expand our services to meet this demand,” Mr Hakim said.

Mayfair Operations Centre, located in the medical precinct at the top end of Elizabeth St, charges what they consider to be an affordable fee that leaves the patient \$480 out of pocket.

“We are always looking to provide new ways for customers to access our services wherever they may live – because we believe sexual reproductive health services should not be a postcode lottery,” Mr Hakim said.

“This new location will mean more people will be able to access vasectomy services closer to home in Melbourne.” ●

*Names changed for privacy protection.

CARLTON ROTARY CLUB



▲ Antonia Kent.

Fitzroy arts graduate wins prestigious Rotary scholarship

Carlton Rotary is very proud to announce that the club's nomination for a Postgraduate Global Grant Scholarship has been successful; Antonia Kent from Fitzroy and a graduate of the University of Melbourne was one of two selected.

Antonia will receive a US\$30,000 scholarship which will enable her to complete a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Criminological Research at Cambridge University during 2022/23.

The MPhil program will allow Antonia to build on her existing skills, knowledge and networks, which she will be able to use to undertake criminological research to address pressing challenges to community safety, particularly for women and girls. Currently, Antonia is employed as a senior policy officer, Office of Women, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing within the Victorian public service.

One of her key responsibilities has been to lead the development of a whole-of-Victorian-Government budget submission to implement the renewed Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025.

In addition, Antonia has been identifying opportunities to support women's economic wellbeing and recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic in Victoria.

When asked about what winning this scholarship meant to her, Antonia said, "I am so grateful to Rotary for supporting my future studies through the Global Grant Scholarship. Not only will this grant unlock many wonderful opportunities to develop my skills and make new connections, but it provides me with greater confidence to pursue my career goals. I will honour the trust and support of Rotary by conducting rigorous research to reduce gender-based violence, and working towards a safer, brighter future for women and children. I am really looking forward to beginning a close working relationship with Rotary."

Antonia completed her secondary schooling at Brighton Secondary College, and a Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Criminology and English Literature, a Bachelor of Arts (Degree with First-Class Honours) in Criminology and a Diploma in Language (French), all from The University of Melbourne.

Carlton Rotary is always interested in hearing from graduates with an outstanding track record of achievement in both the academic world and beyond. Last year, our successful candidate was a Junior Medical Doctor (Dr Elina Ziukelis) who has just completed a MPhil also at Cambridge University in Basic and Translational Neuroscience (focus on Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease prevention).

Applications for the 2023 program will close in March 2023. Contact Keith Ryall for more information on keithfryall@gmail.com ●



Keith Ryall
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STATE MP

Arts venues at risk: we must save the Nicholas Building and The Curtin

Arts and culture is central to Melbourne's identity. Personally, it's one of the main reasons I love to live here.

Hopping on a tram to the Comedy Festival, seeing a show at La Mama, or being able to enjoy a live music gig almost any time of the week or year are some of the great pleasures of being a Melburnian.

It's wonderful to finally see the shows, fun and creativity slowly returning to our city, yet during the past few years, Melbourne has unfortunately lost many of our iconic cultural venues and heritage buildings. The Palace/Metro Theatre is just one example that springs to mind.

Worryingly, now two more arts and creative species are at imminent risk: the Nicholas Building and The Curtin Hotel.

The Nicholas Building, a gorgeous art deco landmark on Swanston St, is unique. This heritage building houses a community of more than 200 artists, creatives and other independent enterprises (think artists, writers, shoemakers and more). But now the building is for sale – at risk of being turned into more apartments.

The Curtin Hotel – a heritage live music venue and pub in Carlton that needs little introduction – is facing a similar fate. Its owners have also put it up for sale.

Heritage arts venues like the Nicholas Building and The Curtin are special and increasingly rare in our city. Once lost, they'll be gone forever. Heritage buildings don't get



▲ Ellen Sandell, MPs, artists and musicians outside The Curtin Hotel in Carlton.

rebuilt. With the loss of every venue and creative space, Melbourne loses a little more of its cultural heart.

But there is a small window, right now, to save them. The only problem is – the state government is not coming to the party.

For the Nicholas Building, the City of Melbourne and philanthropists are willing to contribute significant funds and support to buy this building and ensure it stays as a hub for creative industry workers. But they need a small amount of support from the state government – something the Labor Government is refusing to do.

For The Curtin – the Government could also step in and buy it, but have not committed to do so, despite community groups and unions pitching in with fundraisers and campaigns.

These are unique buildings. There are very few left in our city, and modest funds and support from the state government is all it would take to save them.

If these buildings are sold, it will be a huge

loss to our city, to creative worker jobs, and to Melbourne's culture.

During the past few months, I've been working hard in the community and in Parliament to try and reverse the state government's position. I'll continue to campaign to ensure they are not lost. If you'd like to get involved, please contact my office by emailing us and we can let you know how you can help!

You can also read more about my plans to support the arts and rebuild a thriving Melbourne CBD at greens.org.au/vic/cbd

As always, if there is anything I can help you with, please get in touch: office@ellensandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

CARLTON INC. TRADER PROFILE

Parco Canteen takes its coffee seriously

Jarrold Balme and Adrian Pagano, co-owners of that funky looking building adjacent to Argyle Square on Lygon St Carlton, are hospitality professionals.

WORDS BY Carol Saffer

On May 31, they celebrate four years in what used to be a power substation and is now Parco Canteen.

Eighty per cent of their clientele are local residents or workers.

They know their names, their usual orders and, in some cases, what goes on in their lives.

Friendly banter, "brilliant coffee and a great menu," Jarrold said, ticked all the boxes.

As owner-operators, they are on the floor or in the kitchen with the joy of work shared between them, eliminating staffing problems.

"We see a lot of the same faces for coffee and lunch," Jarrold said.

"Monday to Friday, we are always busy with the Carlton workers."

"We cater for people on the move and want something quick."

The uniqueness and the positioning on beautiful Argyle Square is a drawcard for their customers who have time to sit, chat, eat and drink.

"Right now, the leaves are falling, and it is very lovely," Adrian said.

"We are busier than ever, but we don't want to spread ourselves too thin."

"We still want to deliver what we consider a premium product and maintain good customer relationships."

They have been able to adapt to the changing conditions.

"We used to open seven days and cut it back to six," Jarrold said.

"This means we get Sunday off and excited about public holidays."

Jarrold said they were famous for their bacon



and egg rolls. Additionally, they make all of their sauces and condiments in-house, even though it is a tiny workspace.

They use Dench Bakery and Coffee Supreme for their menu staples.

"We like to think we are right at the upper echelon of the game," Jarrold said.

Carlton resident Lester Levinson said he and his wife Françoise were regular locals at Parco. Lester said [Jarrold and Adrian] stuck with the community through thick and thin during the lockdowns.

"It is a wonderful meeting spot, and we have no complaints about the food."

"I like a strong long black – but not too long, and they always get it right." ●

For more information:
[Instagram @parcocarlton](https://www.instagram.com/parcocarlton)

Barak Beacon public housing estate in Port Melbourne

Estate residents continue to campaign on Homes Victoria's plan to relocate them, demolish and redevelop the estate and the lack of clear advice on their future housing security.

A local public meeting is being held on May 4, where Homes Victoria is presenting. Save Public Housing Collective member Chloe Cooper will speak and I will advise the results of the meeting in my next column.

Another big redevelopment for investors, not public housing

The state government has announced another project under its Big Housing Build program: the redevelopment of the Richmond public housing estate.

This estate currently has five towers with 1020 units – 408 three-bedroom and 612 two-bedroom apartments, and around 4600 residents. Four new towers will be squashed into a small area reducing green space and residents' amenity.

The proposed new build on Elizabeth St will replace the very old units that were demolished back in 2007/2008. Those tenants were promised they could come back to new homes but that never happened and is now abandoned with the new plan.

It's another project designed to exit public

housing and use public lands for private profit under a guise of "social" and "affordable" housing. This is a reasonable assessment as the announcement mentions the government is investigating a "third party" source of funding.

It looks very much like a proposal to implement the "ground lease" model, with refurbished existing towers being included in the mix of new homes. This model will be used after the demolition of perfectly good public housing at the Barak Beacon Boulevard estate in Port Melbourne and is already in action on demolished public housing sites at Bangs St in Prahran, Bills St in Brighton and on the Flemington estate.

The model involves the state government providing land free for 40 years for a mix of community housing and discounted market rent and full market rent homes. After 40 years the state government takes up full ownership at no cost. Believing this will happen stretches the imagination.

The discounted rent stock is the so-called "affordable" housing. They pitch the "affordable" housing as being for "essential" workers – teachers, firefighters, childcare workers, nurses and now retail workers – by offering slightly less than market rates: up to 90 per cent as advised in the government's other announcement on April 1.

To use local private market rents as the benchmark for setting rents is unconscionable. It endorses escalating market rents as the norm. Discounted market rents seem only guaranteed for three years under this proposal and as the local private market rents go up so will discounted these rents.

Collingwood Estate

Residents are continuing their campaign opposing the building of community housing in open space areas of their estate.

State government's 10-year social and affordable housing strategy

The state government is about to release its 10-year strategy. It has to include investment to end homelessness which has continued to rise in Victoria.

The Save Public Housing Collective has petitioned the government with 5700 signatures to make public housing a priority in this strategy. I will provide an analysis of what is announced in my next column.

Federal Election – May 21

This election campaign has seen the cost of housing rising high among the issues that concern voters of all ages.

One group to follow in seeking more information on the escalating crisis and how it affects older citizens is the Housing Action for the Aged Group (HAAG). You can follow them on Facebook by going to this link: [facebook.com/HousingfortheAgedActionGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HousingfortheAgedActionGroup)

Liberal and National Parties are telling young and old that if you can't find affordable homes to rent go and buy one!

They have expanded first homeowner grants – with Labor's support – that expert housing economists say only drive up prices. Re-electing the current government will do nothing to solve the current crisis and may make it worse.

Labor has a very modest investment proposal on community and affordable rental housing



To use local private market rents as the benchmark for setting rents is unconscionable. It endorses escalating market rents as the norm.



committing to fund the building of only 30,000 over a three-year term of being in government. This means a mere 7500 for the whole of Victoria when the waiting list already has more than 50,000 households in urgent need.

The Greens have a visionary, fully-costed plan to fund the building of one million homes over 20 years made up of public housing; genuine community housing, with rents set the same as for public housing and shared equity for first homeowners.

Funds would be made available for refurbishing and maintaining current public housing instead of demolition and privatisation ●



Cory Memery

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METRO TUNNEL

Parkville walkway marks end of Metro tunnelling

A vital Metro Tunnel connection linking the future Parkville Station to Victoria's world leading education and health precinct beneath one of Melbourne's busiest arterials is now complete.

The excavation of the pedestrian link below Royal Parade marks the end of four years of tunnelling on the Metro Tunnel ahead of the city-shaping project's opening in 2025.

Passengers arriving at Parkville Station will have direct access to the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Women's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the University of Melbourne and other key medical and research institutions through a 44-metre-long underpass.

The walkway also sits outside the Myki ticket gates – creating a quick and easy connection for local residents and workers as well as rail passengers, without having to wait at busy traffic lights on Royal Parade.

The end of tunnelling is the culmination of years of hard work deep below the city to build a better train system for Victoria, removing 1.8 million cubic metres of soil and rock to create the twin nine-kilometre tunnels and five new stations.

In just three years' time, passengers on the Sunbury, Cranbourne and Pakenham lines will be able to get direct to Parkville without changing trains.

Passengers on every other metropolitan rail line will need one simple interchange at Flinders Street (to Town Hall Station), Melbourne Central (to State Library Station), Caulfield or Footscray to access Metro Tunnel services and Parkville Station.

Travel data shows that to get to Parkville will take 33 minutes from Watergardens Station and just 18 minutes from Caulfield.

Parkville Station – like all Metro Tunnel stations – will connect seamlessly to Tullamarine Airport via the new airport rail line being built



through Melbourne's west, with passengers able to get from Parkville to the airport in just 24 minutes.

The underpass was built by installing sections of hollow steel poles called canopy tubes in layers. The canopy tubes provide a structure to support the ground above the area being excavated for the underpass.

Five sections of canopy tubes – around 220 tubes in total – were drilled horizontally into the ground and injected with grout before the underpass was excavated below.

Once excavated, the surrounding ground in each section was reinforced with a combination of sprayed concrete, rock bolts and steel girders.

When finished, the Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than a half a million additional passengers per week to travel during peak times across Melbourne's train network ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION



Council meets in Parkville

On Tuesday, April 12, Melbourne City Council held its first ever Future Melbourne Meeting in Parkville at the Treacy Centre.

The meeting was attended by the majority of councillors and many local residents including five members of the Parkville Association committee.

Apparently, the number of attendees was one of the larger roll outs as these community meetings, which are taken from Town Hall to various city suburbs.

It was very interesting to see how the meeting was conducted, particularly on the planning side of things. It certainly gave an insight as to how prepared we need to be should we ever need to argue a case against an application!

On that subject amended plans have been submitted for 35-39 Royal Parade which will be available to us after ANZAC weekend.

From the floor I asked whether rumours were true that the council was considering going against guarantees that Grattan St West would be reopened on completion of Parkville Station.

The council reverted on the matter taking the question on notice. I have alerted the Carlton Residents' Association as the reopening is critical to both groups and, of course, the Carlton traders!

Following our annual general meeting (AGM), I took Nas Mohamud – our community liaison representative from the council – on a tour of Parkville.

It helped us both establish how the role would

work, and for Nas, the size of Parkville. Driving around our full boundary with more than four square kilometres and a population of 7500 we are an important part of the city.

Throw in the medical and biotech precinct and we are very vital to the future of Victoria.

On that subject, it was thrilling to note Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, a major French organisation, has announced it is headquartering its Pacific operation in Parkville.

On local matters a full traffic survey will be conducted in South Parkville in May looking at volumes, speeding and rat running.

Clearly post-COVID traffic is returning to normal, and, in fact, Gatehouse St appears even busier than normal.

On ANZAC Day we had a small get together at the War Memorial on Royal Parade, where we heard some tales of Parkville residents who lost their lives during World War One ●



Rob Moore

PRESIDENT

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Inspired by Italy

Parkville resident and Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne Jaynie Anderson's love of Venetian art began on her 15th birthday when she danced in the moonlight in the Piazza San Marco in Venice.

WORDS BY Carol Saffer

"On the first night after dinner, we ran down the back stairs of the hotel and arrived in the absolutely empty piazza," Ms Anderson said.

"My brother and I danced around, and this was when I fell in love with Italy."

Decades later, in 2015, Ms Anderson, in honour of her outstanding contribution to the study of Venetian art history, primarily the painter Giorgione, was bestowed with the grand-sounding title of "Ufficiale dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia", an Italian knighthood, the name of which translates as the "Order of the Star of Italy".

She is the only art historian to receive this award and one of only two recipients of the knighthood in Australia.

Giorgio Barbarelli da Castelfranco (commonly referred to as Giorgione) was an Italian artist during the High Renaissance period who died at around the age of 30 in 1510.

His work has an elusive poetic quality; however, only six existing paintings are decisively credited to him.

"I was told I would never do anything of significance if I focused on Giorgione," Ms Anderson said.

"He was a mysterious person and did very few works, but one was found in Sydney in 2017."

"Kim Newton, a librarian at the Fisher Library of the University of Sydney, sent me a happy snap from her phone, and I looked at it and couldn't believe it."

On the last page of an edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy* printed in Venice in 1497, Kim found a handwritten annotation written above a red chalk sketch of a *Madonna with child*, which could be by the Italian Renaissance artist Giorgione.

"It's a sketch [by Giorgione] thinking about [Dante's] text; it is very unusual."

"Everything of Giorgione's is contested, yet this drawing [discovered in Sydney] seems acceptable. It is now in the Sydney University library and is quite extraordinary."

Ms Anderson has been studying the artist for 40 years.

She said he worked or painted for private patrons rather than the traditional way of working in that era for the Roman Catholic Church.

"I received the knighthood because of my services to art history and Giorgione in particular."

She is a determined woman with a strong streak of tenacity; she is a detective in archival dungeons hunting for information.

"I am quite good at finding things in archives," she said.

"I always advise my students that doing a difficult subject is a good thing."

"You have to think about what might be an



▲ Jaynie Anderson in front of her Tiepolo knockoff painting done by his student.

intelligent hypothesis, where you might possibly find something, and then you can patiently sift through."

"It's the hypothesis and the patience that works and is important."

She said it would be quite fun to write a fictional biography about Giorgione because she knows him so well.

"I know he lived in Venice at a certain time; he probably knew Durer when he lived there and probably knew all sorts of interesting people."

When asked who came behind her first true love Giorgione, she replied, "I like so many things."

"If I am talking about Nolan, who probably had a studio [near here] during the war. My father was his doctor, and I think he is a great artist."

"Recently, there were two major exhibitions of his work in Melbourne, one at Heide and one at Tarrawarra, both well-curated exhibitions."

"I am quite catholic in my tastes; I look at everything."

"I was a bit of a nerd as a child. I always loved discovering things in books."

Before the Giorgione discovery in Sydney, she contemplated writing some historical novels because, "I've always been annoyed by Dan Brown and co." ●

WE LIVE HERE

Sex parties on short-stay platforms

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is about to be exposed to sordid details of drug- and alcohol-fuelled sex parties and strippers enriching a short-stay operator in a Melbourne apartment complex.

SHORT-STAY LAWS	SA	NSW	QLD	TAS	VIC	WA
STRATA RULES	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
DAY CAP	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
REGISTRATION OR APPROVAL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
CODE	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
PARTY PENALTIES	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Outraged families, couples and singles in the suburban building are fed up with the drugged and drunken behaviour of short-stay guests and the insidious threat to residents' safety and security.

While residents have managed to get the short-stay operator banned from Airbnb and Stayz, the hens' nights and bucks' parties continue unabated.

One of the residents contacted us to describe the impact of the battle with the absentee sex party operator:

"This long-term behaviour has caused many problems. Most of the owners' corporation's (OC) time and money has been spent on dealing with the appalling situation: the maintenance and the security issues of having hordes of drunk and drugged people roaming the common areas between our apartments, lift areas, carpark and everything that comes with that!"

So far, there have been zero VCAT cases where orders have been made with damages awarded in favour of a complainant in this type of scenario under the so-called "short-stay party bill". Let's hope we see a precedent set in this case.

One option for which the OC may consider seeking advice is the new legislation regarding the benefit principle. The recent amendments to the *Owners' Corporation Act* cover scenarios where an OC may be allowed to charge additional maintenance and security costs to a lot owner benefitting from the service.

Short-stay action around the nation

NSW: The short-stay operators register is scheduled to become publicly available this month. The legislation introduced in 2021 allowed for operators to be banned for repeated or gross breaches of the regulations. Open access to the register is essential for communities to be able to check on the status of operators. The most important aspect of the NSW legislation is the empowerment of OCs to vote on adopting by-laws (called rules in Victoria) that regulate short-term rental accommodation in their building. For example, an OC in NSW can legally limit short-stays to lots that are the host's principal residence, such as during a temporary absence. This reform is desperately needed in Victoria.

Tasmania: A mandatory registration system requires operators to have planning approval. Platforms like Airbnb can only market and sell permitted, registered and approved short-stay accommodation. The government has suggested that taking further measures should be up to local councils.

Hobart: Hobart City Council has implemented the first stage of a ban on new whole-home, short-stay accommodation in the inner-city area. Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said: "This is really just trying to provide some balance in our housing market in Hobart so it's more affordable and more accessible to people who need to rent a home."

Western Australia: The WA state government has released a draft planning policy outlining proposed regulations for short-term rental accommodation. The government is proposing a registration system and a cap on the number of nights before planning approval is required. The recommendations also include giving powers to OCs to limit short stays. The draft planning policy is part of the WA government's response to the recommendations of the 2019 Parliamentary inquiry and report, *Levelling the Playing Field - Managing the impact of the rapid increase of Short-Term Rentals in Western Australia*.

Queensland: Short-stay operators must have council approval in Brisbane and Gold Coast. A recent QCAT precedent has upheld an OC rule to limit short stays, based on a community amenity argument.

Brisbane: The short-term rental of an entire apartment by the property owner requires development approval from the council. The council defines "short-term" as a stay of less than three consecutive months. The development application is assessed by the council against the short-term accommodation code in the City Plan. The council says that its City Plan is designed primarily to ensure that "adjoining (sic) residents or businesses are not significantly impacted by the use."

Gold Coast: In addition to enforcing its approval process, the council has amended its planning laws to ban or regulate so-called "party houses" with changes that have been criticised as inadequate.

Noosa: Not content with waiting for the state government to act, Noosa Council has introduced a registration and approval process, a mandatory code of conduct and a 24/7 council complaints hotline. The council will act as the intermediary between the complainant and short-stay operators. The council also gave itself the power to deploy security services to observe and record activity at properties. The council says it will recoup administration costs through fees and property rates with a special

rating category for short-stay properties.

The new laws were enacted after a stakeholder consultation process where the council says it was exposed to the depth of community frustration and anger.

South Australia: The SA government has drafted the *Short Term Holiday Rental Accommodation Bill* with a state-wide mandatory registration system of all listed short-term holiday rentals and a mandatory industry code of conduct. Proposed penalties for breaches range from \$1250 for loss of amenity to \$5000 for failure to register. Platforms like Airbnb could be fined for failure to show a registration number in a listing. Operators could be compelled to pay disaffected neighbours \$2000 in damages – and multiple residents could apply for compensation from an operator. While there is no upper limit on the aggregate payment awarded, it must be "proportionate" to the loss of amenity.

Last and least, Victoria: There is no effective state-wide regulation for short stays. The current, very limited short-stay "party" legislation has resulted in no orders against operators since it was introduced three years ago. On our assessment, Victoria is the least regulated of all states: Operator registration is not required, OCs have no powers to regulate short-stays, and the very low "party" penalties are virtually impossible to enforce.

Come on Victoria, let's catch up with the rest of the country! We are lagging far behind the tames of reforms. "We Live Here" will continue to advocate for the Victorian state government to learn from the progress made in other states and implement urgent reforms ●

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 LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET

Pet's Corner

Patience and consistency makes for a cool and calm cavoodle



Three-year-old cavoodle Cooper is the “Arthur Fonzarelli of dogs”, according to owner Steve Ostwald.



WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*

“He’s super chill and everyone who comes into contact with him loves him,” Steve said, while Cooper lay beside him chewing a stick at Princes Park.

“He gets sleepovers at friends’ houses. He’s that relaxed he doesn’t need me all the time.”

Steve was able to gauge Cooper’s laidback temperament by taking him out four times before officially buying him from the breeder.

It’s an unusual practice, but one that Steve recommended to other prospective dog owners.

“After I’d walked him twice around [the breeder’s] place, and then went to puppy school, and then asked if I could have him the next day, she did roll her eyes at me, going: ‘Really?’” Steve laughed. “But he’s been great.”

A combination of good character and good

training has meant that Cooper rarely gives Steve any grief. Cooper is Steve’s seventh dog, all of whom could walk busy streets without a leash.

“It’s about patience and consistency,” Steve said of his training ethos.

“There are ways around everything with dogs, especially even aggressive dogs.”

His passion for dog obedience brought Steve as far as the USA to study under celebrity “dog whisperer” Cesar Millan.

Unfortunately, the administrative nightmares of travelling during a pandemic meant Steve had to return home before completing the course.

Cooper has been a comforting companion while Steve dealt with this setback. He’s also a testament to Steve’s natural talents raising happy and confident dogs ●

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP

Jewish Carlton

There has always been a Jewish community in Melbourne from the time of the earliest settlement. They were mainly immigrants from London and other parts of England, that is, English-speaking and part of the general British population of Melbourne at the time.



▲ There were several well-known kosher butchers in Carlton – Smorgan’s, Watkin’s, Bagatol’s and Polonsky’s. Watkin’s, shown here, was at 338 Lygon St near Faraday St. It opened in 1929, and was there for more than half a century, closing in about 1985. (Photo: Australian Jewish Herald, March 28, 1929).

Carlton, being close to the business hub and, in particular, to the Queen Victoria Market, was a convenient and popular place, and many Jewish people settled there.

By 1901, according to the census, there were an estimated 5000 Jewish people in Melbourne, and some 40 per cent of them were clustered in the inner city and surrounding areas, including Carlton.

In the 1880s and 1890s however, a change took place in the Jewish population of Melbourne and Carlton. Large numbers of Jewish people started arriving from Eastern Europe, fleeing the anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia, Poland and elsewhere.

These were different from the English Jews who preceded them in that they were Yiddish-speaking, and they looked and sounded foreign to those who had preceded them. Most of them also settled in Carlton.

They continued to come over the decades that followed into the 1920s and 1930s. Immigration of Eastern European Jews reached its peak in the years 1926 to 1928 when some 2000 arrived in Australia. Seventy per cent of them settled

in Carlton.

By the early 20th century, the Yiddish-speaking Jewish population was concentrated in and around Carlton, while the Anglo-Jewish community was south of the Yarra around St Kilda. Between the two groups, north and south of the river, there were significant cultural differences and tensions, which persisted for decades. South of the river, Yiddish was rarely heard, but in Carlton it was the everyday

language of the community.

After World War Two, a new wave of Jewish immigrants arrived, those who had survived Nazi persecution and the Holocaust in Europe. These were also mainly Yiddish-speaking and they more than doubled the Jewish population of Carlton.

Julie Meadows, who has written books on Jewish Carlton, noted that, despite the trauma they had endured, they helped shape the vibrant social and cultural life of Yiddish Carlton. In an interview with the *Australian Jewish News* (April 3, 2014), she noted:

“The newcomers, however poor or traumatised, did not come empty-handed. Along with their burden of painful memory, they brought hope, energy and the knowledge of a thousand years of Jewish life and culture; even their wry irrepressible humour. They energised us, became our schoolmates and our shopkeepers; our teachers, musicians and actors; in time, our marriage partners, community benefactors and professional colleagues. Apart from the Yiddish language we all spoke, everybody barracked for Carlton. Yiddish Carlton was a historic necessity that lasted more than 40 years. It served its purpose, and when people were no longer newcomers, they moved away. We need not mourn its passing, but neither should we forget it.” ●



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Salad Days

In the Victorian era, when architectural style leaned heavily towards the Italianate, one East Melbourne house stood out. It was beautifully depicted by artist, William Tibbits, in 1879.

Burnell, as it was later known, at 109 Albert St, was built for John Speechly Gotch, founder of the well-known firm of Gordon and Gotch, newsagents and wholesale distributors of print media.

Gotch bought the existing timber house on the site in 1863 and spent several years transforming it into a brick house of 12 rooms plus coach house and stables. This Moorish fantasy was completed by 1877.

The architect of this transformation has never been confirmed, but several tender notices appeared in *The Argus* between 1868 and 1875 under the name of Charles Webb, all calling for alterations to premises in Albert St. The ads are too vague to be conclusive but nevertheless very tempting.

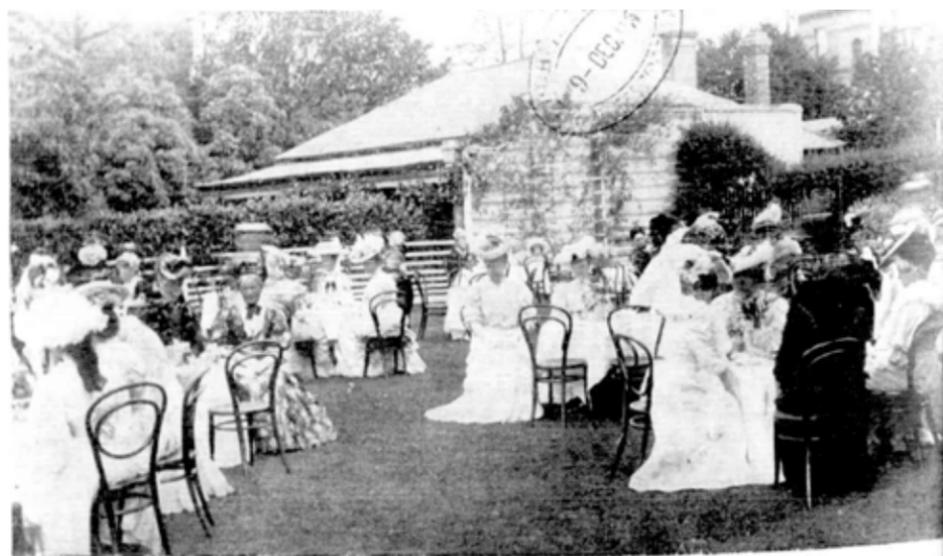
Charles Webb is perhaps best known as the designer of the Windsor Hotel, but he was active in East Melbourne designing, among others, Yarra Park State School; Mosspennoch, 36 Clarendon St; Tasma Terrace, 2-12 Parliament Place, and Burlington Terrace on the corner of Albert and Lansdowne streets.

It seems the Gotch house was built with entertaining in mind and perhaps this accounts for its fairytale appearance. There was always a reason for an entertainment of one kind or another.

Mrs Gotch was one of the founders of the East Melbourne Congregational Church (now the Antiochian Orthodox Church of St Nicholas on the corner of Victoria Parade and Simpson St) and was also an active committee member and, for a time, president of many charitable organisations such as the Austin Hospital, Collingwood Creche, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Ministering Children's League. They were



▲ Watercolour by William Tibbits, 1879. State Library of Victoria, accession no. H2008.145



MRS. J. S. GOTCH'S GARDEN FETE, AT HER RESIDENCE, ALBERT STREET, EAST MELBOURNE.

▲ Mrs J S Gotch's "At Home". Punch, Nov 23, 1905.

all helped by the money that could be raised from garden parties and fetes. Of course, there were the personal events too, "at homes" and at least one wedding. We know from newspaper accounts of such events that there was a drawing room, a dining room, a library and a music room. When the Gotch family was entertaining all were decorated with brightly coloured annuals such as poppies or nasturtiums and an abundance of grasses.

The music room had a parquet floor and an organ. On the occasion of their daughter's marriage Mrs Gotch, Elizabeth, or Lizzie, played the organ for the enjoyment of the guests. For large events tables and chairs would be brought out on to the extensive lawn on the eastern side of the house. Musical entertainments, meanwhile, would continue in the music room.

Parties remained a big part of the family's life even generations later. A grand-daughter, Gertrude Courtney Dix, made a name for herself in 1920 as the favourite dance partner of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, during his visit to Australia.

After the deaths of John and Elizabeth Gotch, in 1901 and 1914 respectively, the house was inherited by their son, Edward. In the post-war years lack of available staff meant big houses were less sought after and when the house was sold in 1920 it was advertised as self-contained flats and, for the first time, given the name Burnell. Soon after the garden to the east was sold and flats built.

In an era when love of or respect for our old buildings was minimal East Melbourne lost one of its greatest architectural treasures. Burnell was demolished in the late 1960s to provide vehicle access and carparking to the Freemasons' Hospital. History and beauty have no power against hospitals and the public good.

Now thankfully, in the 21st century, we have learnt our lesson and such a treasure would rightfully have some protection ●

For more information info@emhs.org.au or emhs.org.au

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MELBOURNE ZOO

Joey joy: Melbourne Zoo welcomes new kangaroo

It may not yet be old enough to hop, skip or jump, but an adorable new resident at Melbourne Zoo is quickly winning over the hearts of anyone lucky enough to catch a glimpse.

The Zoo is celebrating the birth of a Kangaroo Island joey to first-time parents, Fern and Moe, with the little one just starting to poke its head out of the pouch.

Melbourne Zoo Australia bush keeper Kody Davidson said both mum and joey were healthy.

"They're both eating and drinking really well, which is exactly what we want to see in a baby 'roo and a new mum," Mr Davidson said.

"Our vets perform regular health checks during the pregnancy and infancy period to make sure they are both maintaining their weight and have a variety in their diet, ensuring the joey receives the optimal nutrients it will need to grow nice and strong."

"It's been incredible to witness this process. We've seen this tiny joey kicking around in mum's pouch for weeks. It has only just started poking its head out for its first look at the world," Mr Davidson said.

When a joey is first born, it weighs less than two grams and is around the size of a jellybean.

Before they emerge and begin to explore the world on their own, Kangaroo Island joeys typically remain in the pouch for between seven to nine months. The mother will begin to wean



the joey off her milk and reduce the amount of time it spends in the pouch after 18 months, by which time the joey will weigh around five kilograms.

Mr Davidson said that, since falling pregnant, mum Fern had become much more confident and social.

"Fern used to be a bit of a recluse before she fell pregnant. She kept to herself and would only approach keepers to feed. However, since her pregnancy, she has had a complete behavioural change and is now super friendly and



loves being around the keepers and hanging out with her mob," Mr Davidson said.

"Fern is a really beautiful seven-year-old kangaroo. She is lighter in colour than the others, which makes her easy to pick out from the rest. She's doing really well for a first-time mum."

As a crepuscular species, Kangaroo Island kangaroos are typically most active at dusk and dawn.

Zoo members and visitors are more likely to see the little joey peeking out of mum's pouch within the Australia Bush precinct in the late

afternoon.

Kangaroo Island kangaroos are a subspecies of the more commonly known Western Grey kangaroo.

Evolving in isolation from their cousins on mainland Australia, Kangaroo Island kangaroos developed stockier builds and have darker coats, paws, feet and tails.

In the wild, kangaroos face threats from dog attacks and road accidents. However, with no large predators on Kangaroo Island, they have been able to thrive ●

BUSINESS

A leader in local real estate

It probably comes as little surprise that East Melbourne sits among Victoria's most affluent suburbs when it comes to real estate.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

According to the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV), East Melbourne's median house price of \$2,775,000 at the end of the March quarter nudges out other high-performing suburbs like Armadale, Camberwell and Caulfield North to place as the 10th most expensive in the state.

What *will* come as a surprise is the journey of East Melbourne's highest performing agent, Caine Real Estate's Peter Hannon.

Growing up in Belfast, Mr Hannon ventured out to Australia 10 years ago on, much like countless others from the Emerald Isle, a working holiday visa.

With a Bachelor of Property Finance and Valuation already to his name, Mr Hannon found visa sponsorship at Caine Real Estate, and after seven years, which included runner-up in the Australasian Real Estate Results Awards Young Agent of the Year and being named in Australia's Top 50 "Young Gun" Agents by Real Estate Business, he now sits as a partner of that very agency.

"As an agency, Caine Real Estate has just gone 20 years in East Melbourne," Mr Hannon said. "I feel very privileged to have worked almost exclusively in this suburb for a big portion of that time."

"Over that time, we have managed to establish ourselves in this incredibly strong community and that's why we continue to have the success we do."

Founded in 1997 by current director, Paul Caine, the Caine Real Estate brand has grown and evolved over time, but one constant

has remained: its undeniable status as East Melbourne's eminent agency for purchasing, leasing and selling property.

Walking down Powlett or Hotham streets it is genuinely hard to imagine you're only a kilometre's walk to the CBD, Bridge Rd or Fitzroy.

As Mr Hannon will say, East Melbourne is truly unique in its sense of still. This is a local trait that lures buyers close and far, coupled with a near flawless preservation of local history and heritage architecture.

"We have a lot of people who are attracted to the suburb because of the proximity to everything you need. You have the city, the MCG, Collingwood, Richmond; you have pretty much everything at your doorstep or a short distance away," Mr Hannon said.

"Due to the advocacy of the East Melbourne Group, the suburb's architecture and history has been protected, unlike other areas that have seen a lot of high-rise development."

"You will find a lot of people who live in East Melbourne will never leave East Melbourne."

According to Mr Hannon, properties in East Melbourne are considerably more resilient than other areas in times of uncertainty, like a global pandemic.

With the luxury of financial stability, many of East Melbourne's investor market have been able to hold on to stock, causing a drought in new listings.

Now, as we continue to live in more stable times, Mr Hannon expects the market to hold steady during the federal election and into winter, foreseeing a flurry of spring selling activity.

"One of the key aspects of the East Melbourne real estate market is that it attracts a diverse buyer pool. We are not just reliant on one source; it is fairly resilient market through tough times and good," he said.

"Once these new developments along Albert St are complete, you will have a row of extremely luxury apartments in arguably the best location in Melbourne. If you were an Eastbourne owner and up the road you have a similar sized apartment selling for \$1 million more, it is going to be a good thing for you." ●



“You will find a lot of people who live in East Melbourne will never leave East Melbourne.”

For more information:
caine.com.au



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
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CRITIC

Play captures weight of the world

“The staging of the one-act dystopian play #No Exemptions presented some technical problems for the La Mama design crew.”

”

But those at ground level have to make do with a narrow strip in front of the platform to argue over who gets to keep the gun.

This division of space is a powerful metaphor for the themes of the play. Who has the right to live on Earth?

Zola, played by Eva Seymour, wins the battle for the gun and breaches the battle line between the two locations when she is sent up into the building to round up residents.

Set and lighting designers Sophie Woodward and Gina Gascoigne cleverly brought the characters together visually by delineating the contours of the apartment and the hall outside with strip lighting.

The audience can see Zola pacing outside the apartment while the two women argue inside.

#No Exemptions is a brave play with some great parts for actors. It's not every day an actor gets to play a young hungry worker with both a gun and a soft side.

"You have to raise yourself," said Seymour, who had to match the hyper performances of the starving characters, played by founders of the Shift Theatre.

The play has some great lines such as "revolutionaries are not normal people" and "you can go anywhere

with kitten heels."

But these people are all *in extremis* and any good humour is about to be dashed by the heavy-duty messaging.

Playwright Angela Buckingham wants to fire up her audience about climate change. When food, water and electricity run out, it will be the duty of the young to get rid of the old.

The old are crawling around the floor in rags, anyway, demeaning themselves, so the young have to steel themselves to rid the planet of another demanding mouth.

The old theatrical guard were at the opening, and they thought there was merit in Buckingham using generational tensions to examine the issue of climate change.

But they were just as pleased to be at a La Mama opening that was like the old days with free bubbles and plenty of unsustainable chat.

A playwright creates the world that drives a production and in Angela's it is a weighty one.

The question remains whether #No Exemptions is a brilliant reflection on the fears of contemporary life, or a provocation that will turn us into activists to save the planet.

#No Exemptions, La Mama Courthouse, until May 8 ●



▲ A see-through apartment creates visual tension.



古老陈旧旅馆开发之争

墨尔本市政决定批准，将一座历史悠久的Magnolia Court旅馆开发改造为一个住宅酒店，为此，东墨尔本(East Melbourne)居民发誓要对此发起上诉，称这将“严重影响”该区域。

Brendan Rees

开发商 Primeland将注资450万澳元重建位于Powlett街95-101的三层 Magnolia Court 旅馆，其中新增一家餐厅，客房数量从26间增加到37间。

市政尽管收到了95份反对意见，当地居民表示新项目会产生噪音，增加交通流量，总体上不适合该区域，但是在4月12日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，市政议员一致批准了该开发项目。

Magnolia Court旅馆目前空置，其前物主是一位东墨尔本居民，由于物业破旧，运营“低于平均房价”，为此于2020年挂牌

出售。

据报道，开发商PrimeLand Group和新加坡的Baksh Capital以900万澳元购买下了该地块后，旅馆得以易手，其目的是翻新这座始建于1861年的古建筑。

市政在Parkville的Treacy 中心举行了市政工作会议，在拥挤的会场里，东墨尔本团体主席Ian Mitchell发表了意见，表示该开发项目将对住宅区产生“巨大影响”，他将这个区域描述为墨尔本的“最好遗产街景”。

他说：“我们并不反对在东墨尔本周边地区如Wellington Parade发放营业酒牌，但在住宅区的中心这么做是完全不合适的。”



“对于往返于墨尔本板球场(MCG)和其它体育场馆的观众来说，这将是一个酒吧场所。”

“这也为其他潜在的咖啡馆和场所变成

酒吧开了一个可怕的先例。”

“如果此事诉诸维多利亚民事和行政法庭(VCAT)，看来这是必然的，我们建议寻求专家证据以支持我们的说法。”

卡尔顿开启街球活动

青年街球由基督教青年会(YMCA)志愿者Dave和Pete于2017年3月在北墨尔本社区中心创立，旨在支持无家可归或处于不利地位的成年人，此后发展成为一个充满活力并欢迎所有人的社区项目。

Carol Saffer

联合创始人 Dave (Disco) Gunstone很高兴将这个项目引进卡尔顿(Carlton)社区，欢迎所有的人，无论其能力或社会经济背景都能来参加。

他自己有过无家可归和恢复的经历，对篮球及运动充满热情。

他和Pete伙伴一起，提出了一个社交开放空间的想法，让经历无家可归或生活艰难的人们能够感受到归属感。

提供一个他们认为可以“逃避几个小时”的地方。

虽然青年街球是关于打篮球的，但Dave和Pete希望这里成为人们“见面和打招呼”的地方，并感受到与社区的联系。

街球是一种更自由的草根篮板球。该项目为参与者提供了一个打篮球和发泄情绪的地方，并有机会结识新朋友。

该项目没有费用也无需缴加入费，这是一个结交新朋友和参加社区有趣活动的好环境。

每场球结束时供应茶点，并提供淋浴。



原意打街球的人必须年满18岁。欢迎所有性别和任何技能水平的，从原始初学者到熟知球艺的人。

不需要运动装备或制服。这是参加打球而不是外观。欢迎朋友和家人作为观众加入。

青年街球于每周四中午12点至下午2点在Carlton Baths举行，地址：

216/248 Rathdowne St, Carlton

如需更多信息，请致电 0401 802 548 联系 Disco Dave 或致电 9347 3677 联系 Carlton Baths

新技术改善墨尔本道路

一个世界领先的交通管理新系统在2.5公里长的Nicholson街上（从Alexandra Parade到Victoria Parade）启用，该系统采用最新技术以减少交通拥堵，并改善道路安全。

Carol Saffer

该系统使用各种传感器、云基人工智能、机器学习计算、预测模型和实时数据，用来改善交通管理，缓解道路瓶颈和增强道路安全，并减少交通堵塞造成的尾气排放。

这个位于卡尔顿Nicholson街上的“智能走廊”是由墨尔本大学、奥地利技术公司Kapsch TrafficCom和维州交通部共同推出。

Majid Sarvi教授是墨尔本大学交通工程系主任、智能城市交通学科的教授以及“交通技术”项目主任。

他是AIMES（澳大利亚整合多模式生态系统）的创始人和主管，这是世界上第一个也是最广泛的网络，拥有100多公里长的墨尔本内城道路用于测试复杂城市环境下大规模新兴互联交通技术。

墨尔本的统计数据显示，从2006年到



2019年，有492人死于城市十字路口的撞车事故，其中一半以上是行人、骑自行车的人或骑摩托车的人。

Sarvi教授说“我们的智能走廊将使用最新的技术来更好地管理交通，让我们的道路对每个人来说都更安全。”

Kapsch TrafficCom 亚太区执行副总裁 Mathew McLeish 同意 Sarvi 教授的说法，即Nicholson街十字路口的重大问题之一是道路弱势使用者的安全。

工党力争墨尔本席位

在即将到来的5月21日联邦选举之际，本报积极关注墨尔本的席位，对工党候选人Keir Paterson能否力挽自2010年以来该党在偏好投票中的巨大下滑。

David Schout

绿党领袖Adam Bandt是这次2022年联邦大选的热门人选，期待连续第五次赢得墨尔本席位。

墨尔本的选区覆盖中央商务区和雅拉河北部的东西两侧，自2010年以来一直由绿党主导，并且仍然是该党在堪培拉联邦议会中唯一的下议院席位。

自1904年至2010年该席位一直由工党把持，但自12年前Bandt取得了突破性胜

利，绿党夺得该席位，工党在偏好投票中遭受了巨大损失。

那一年，偏好投票的比例从2007年的49.5%下降到38.1%。

自那以后继续下滑，在上次2019年的选举中跌至创纪录的19.7%。

这次能否阻止下滑并为工党带来胜利那就看这位工党候选人，Kensington居民Keir Paterson先生了。

他在2021年8月赢得预选后，自9月以来一直在竞选，并表示选民心中只有一件事，那就是“他们很想改变。”

他告诉本报：“与我们交谈过的大多数选民都说‘我们就是需要改变这政府’，这也是这个选区中与我交谈的大多数选民的第一、第二和第三优先事项。”

Paterson先生出生在卡尔顿，在北墨尔本拥有自己的第一套房子，他说：“我一生都在这个选区中断断续续地生活。”

尽管在三个不同的地方都生活过，他



认为墨尔本是“迄今为止世界上最适合居住的城市”。

他曾在心理健康领域工作，最近担任了拥有五万名成员的自行车网络组织的主席，该组织倡导更可持续的交通和更安全的骑行。

Paterson先生说，只看工党最近的选

举结果“并不能让你了解全面情况”，他指的是工党以前竞选墨尔本席位的候选人Luke Creasey在2019年计票之前因社交媒体上的攻击性帖子而退出选举。

然而，工党的初选投票在2019年之前就已经下滑，但这次Paterson先生决心扭转这种局面。

What's On: May

Community Calendar



Women's Social Soccer

Crawford Oval 121 Princes Park Drive
Carlton North
Saturday afternoons 1.00pm to 3.00pm
Melbourne Social Soccer runs free social games for women.
Contact 0456 700 688



National Simultaneous Storytime at East Melbourne Library

On Wednesday, May 25 from 10:30am to 11:15am
This year all over Australia children will gather to hear 'Family Tree' by Josh Pyke.
122 George St East Melbourne
For further details call 9658 9600

Farmers Market
Carlton North Primary School
First and third Saturday each month
Stalls selling fresh produce on primary school grounds.



Writing Workshop: Jax Jacki Brown

Kathleen Syme Library - 251 Faraday St Carlton
Thursday May 12 and 26 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
A writing workshop as a means for marginalised people to tell their stories.
Contact 9658 7300



Behind the Lines: The Year in Political Cartoons
May 2 to June 24 at Old Treasury Building Museum
Cartoonists manage to reduce complex issues and emotions surrounding lockdown and vaccine hesitancy to bite-sized images. Contact 03 9761 2233

"Changing Social Relations in re-mote Papua New Guinea". Monica Minnegal

Friday June 3 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
617 Nicholson St Carlton North
Talk and open discussion, drinks and nibbles. Free of charge.

Free Absolute Beginner Salsa Dance Classes

Monday May 9 to June 13 from 6:00pm to 6:30pm
Energia Studios - 171 Lygon St Carlton
Get off the couch, get your body moving and meet new people with partner dance classes. Contact 0407 955 668

Switch: Strengthen Women in Touch Football

Wednesday May 4 to May 18 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at McAlister Oval
Princes Park Touch in partnership with VicHealth is running a free learn to play touch footy and fitness program.
Contact 0414 315 957

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ELLEN SANDELL
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637
office@ellensandell.com

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North Melbourne VIC 3051

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www.haileybury.vic.edu.au

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Community Group

carlton neighbourhood learning centre inc

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