

INNER CITY NEWS

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“More than a façade”: residents rally to protect Parkville’s heritage

WORDS BY Carol Saffer & Sean Car
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Rachel Litwin
HERITAGE

At the time of publishing, the City of Melbourne had already received more than 140 objections from Parkville residents who have united against a proposal to demolish one of the few remaining historic commercial properties in their heritage precinct.

Around 50 local residents rallied on Saturday, June 25 in front of Hartcourt – an intra-war red brick building on the corner of Royal Parade and Morrah St, which is now the subject of an application for a new medical centre.

The building’s owner Sinclair Dermatology submitted amended plans to the council in March for a three-storey clinic with basement level car parking accessible via Jaguers Lane, with the facility expected to employ 37 full-time staff and treat more than 150 patients daily.

But in addition to the unwanted strain residents say the

proposal will have on parking and congestion in the area, it’s the applicant’s plans to demolish the building, while only retaining the façade on Royal Parade that has locals up in arms.

Led by the Parkville Association on June 25, locals demonstrated out the front of Hartcourt with signs stating, “more than a façade”, “save our heritage” and “no development or need for a medical centre in our heritage suburb.”

Among the protestors was Parkville resident and Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, who told *Inner City News* that when it came to protecting Melbourne’s heritage “continuity matters ... protect our heritage!”

Listed as a heritage precinct under the Melbourne Planning Scheme, the Parkville Precinct is considered of “state significance”, while South Parkville, where Hartcourt is located, is considered an example of “particularly intact Victorian residential development.”

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Barking up the wrong tree: opposition mounts to turn Murchison Park into off-leash dog area under council plan

The City of Melbourne will investigate the suitability of turning Murchison Square into an off-leash dog park during certain hours after concerns were raised the proposal would “completely alter the nature of the park”.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Councillors voted unanimously in favour at their Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on June 7 to consider designating eight new off-leash areas for dogs including Murchison Square in Carlton, Royal Park (Manningham Reserve) in Parkville, and Wellington Park in East Melbourne.

Under the proposal, dogs would be able to run around freely at Murchison Square and Wellington Park between the hours of 6pm and 8am every day – with no fencing.

At Royal Park, off-leash use would be outside of organised sporting activity with no additional fencing proposed.

The recommendation comes as a review of open spaces in 2019 and two phases of community engagement in 2021 identified gaps in off-leash provisions across the municipality.

A council report said while support for all proposals was strong through both phases of community engagement, round two “did reveal some opposition to the proposal at Murchison Square” including a 17-strong petition tabled last December.

However, the report noted there was “strategic justification for its use as the only appropriate open space for off-leash access in the gap area of the inner north of the municipality.”

Residents had an opportunity to speak at the council meeting which included Martin McIntosh who voiced his opposition to Murchison Square being converted to an off-leash dog area, saying it “perhaps feels a bit contrary to a significant contribution to the heritage value of the area.”

He said the park was a community space used by families and residents and many wouldn’t be able to have a picnic in warmer months if it became an off-leash dog park after 6pm.

“It’ll just completely alter the nature of the park aside from the heritage value. It will be narrowed by this to a particular community cohort other than [for who/m] it was originally intended,” he said.

Mr McIntosh said he believed the second round of consultation showed “residents are not supportive”, and the functionality and “criss-crossed” nature of the path to allow off-leash dog activities would be difficult to enforce.

Long-term Carlton resident Tom Benton also spoke at the meeting via video saying the proposal wouldn’t work at Murchison Square when he had already witnessed dog attacks and “people taking other people on in the park” over various issues including people not cleaning up after their dog.

He said one incident led to an altercation with the police being called.

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Police to step up patrols in Carlton

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Victoria Police will ramp up its presence in the Carlton area following a string of incidents that have left the community gravely concerned.

Traders and residents have expressed alarm over the level of crime gripping the area following the incident involving a 17-year-old victim who was allegedly stabbed outside a gelato store in Lygon St on May 23.

Melbourne West local area commander Acting Inspector Graham Caldwell said police had engaged with local traders and would step up their patrols with an operation also to be launched in the coming weeks focusing on anti-social behaviour around the Lygon St area following community feedback.

“We’re certainly aware and certainly focusing some attention in the area,” he told *Inner City News*.

A police spokesperson said plain-clothes police from the Melbourne Divisional Response Unit would run targeted enforcement operations in the area to catch offenders.

“Local police run regular operations and highly visible patrols of the Carlton area to not only detect offences but deter them before they occur,” the spokesperson said.

The increased police presence comes after *Inner City News* published a front-page story in June about the community pleading for immediate action on crime, saying “hope isn’t a strategy for us”.

Carlton Inc. Traders’ Association executive officer Phillip Mansour, who also voiced his frustration in the article, put several questions to the City of Melbourne which were read out during a council meeting on June 7.

“What short-term and long-term plan of action is in place to ensure people feel safe in the streets of Carlton?” he asked.

“When are the safety cameras in Carlton being installed? I’d hate to see another incident occur in Carlton.”

“Local police run regular operations and highly visible patrols of the Carlton area to not only detect offences but deter them before they occur,” the Victoria Police spokesperson said.



In response, the council read a statement saying, the City of Melbourne was aware of the incident that took place in Lygon St, and that Victoria Police have an active investigation underway.

“We are also aware Victoria Police will shortly be implementing a number of reassurance and targeted operations in the Lygon St area, which means there will be a broader police presence,” Cr Dr Olivia Ball read out.

The statement indicated that the expansion of safety cameras into Lygon St and Argyle Square had not been included in the proposed 2022-23 budget process, however as consultation remained open, “we will include your feedback in the consultation on the 22-23 budget process.”

The City of Melbourne also participated in the Local Safety Committee on June 24 for the Melbourne West police area, including Carlton.

However, Mr Mansour said he was disappointed by the council’s response which he believed was “not precise and non-committal”.

“I spoke with Paul from University Cafe last week and he was shocked to see that nobody from the council has reached out to him or any of the traders on Lygon St to speak with them,” he said.

“Considering the article was featured on the front page [of *Inner City News*], there has been no response or action from the City of Melbourne.”

Mr Mansour said “every effort” must be made to ensure business owners, residents, and visitors felt safe in Carlton.

“The City of Melbourne is simply not listening and is only worried about its own agenda, the scattered bike lanes are a great example of them not listening to businesses throughout the CBD.”

“Prompt safety and security actions are needed to protect the community now – not in one or two years’ time, emergency measures are needed here.”

Paul Ferraro, who runs the University Café on Lygon St, said the Carlton area was in desperate need of a stronger police presence.

“We need something, we need police presence and CCTV. If they’re too busy, what’s got to happen for police to come? A shooting? A stabbing? Really, it’s too late,” he said.

“They’ve got to ramp it up, do it hard for three months ... we need to make it safer for the community.” “They’ve got to ramp it up, do it hard for three months ... we need to make it safer for the community.” ●



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“More than a façade”: residents rally to protect Parkville’s heritage

Continued from page 1.

It’s for these reasons Parkville residents are pleased with the status quo of heritage fabric in their suburb, with Hartcourt considered one of just four commercial properties in South Parkville along with the post office, Naughtons Hotel and Café Piccolina.

Parkville Association president Robert Moore has called on residents to express their feelings in opposition to the planning application, declaring “façadism clearly does not replace the heritage of this great example of 1920s architecture.”

But the City of Melbourne is likely to face a challenging decision when the matter does eventually come before councillors, because despite being in a heritage precinct along the “significant streetscape” of Royal Parade, the building itself has no heritage protection.

While residents hope that a heritage review of Parkville, expected to be finalised by October, could see Hartcourt mentioned in the precinct’s heritage overlay, it by no means guarantees the building’s protection from demolition.

Sinclair Dermatology’s decision to retain Hartcourt’s façade voluntarily could be looked on favourably by the council in the absence of any heritage protections, but residents are fighting to save the building from any demolition whatsoever.

A Parkville resident and technical transport expert argued in her objection that the development did not comply with specific aspects of state planning regulations, nor the City of Melbourne’s strategic objectives, stating “it does not serve a local community purpose.”

“As a specialist commercial facility, it will generate a broad demand for its services, which will have a significant detrimental impact on local amenity due to the associated vehicle traffic and demand for on-street parking,” she said.

In raising issue with the number of patient trips forecast as a result of the number of practitioners employed at the medical centre, she argued there was no recognition in the plans



▲ Local residents rally on June 25.

Photos: Rachel Litwin.



for employee’ travel behaviour.

“This application does not present an adequate travel demand management strategy [for non-residential uses] and would be unable to develop one due to its business size and the travel behaviours of its client (patient) base,” she said.

“For unfamiliar or occasional trips, people rely on a familiar travel mode that gives them confidence and minimises travel time.”

“In Melbourne, this is driving, especially for trips over long distances, as the total travel time for public transport is far greater than car travel.”

But while Hartcourt’s lack of heritage protection presents the community with a challenging fight, Mr Moore is hopeful that Parkville’s “strict heritage overlay” as “the first heritage-listed suburb in Australia”, will be enough for the council to oppose the proposal.

Concerned that an approval could establish a concerning precedent for other sites in the

precinct, he stressed that no buildings had been demolished in Parkville in the past 25 to 35 years.

“[As president] I briefed a barrister who specialises in this area, and the Parkville Association have now retained her to act on our behalf,” he said. “If this development gets through, then the bio-medical precinct will have their eyes on other developments, and we are back to where we started in 1968.”

Hartcourt has a long history with education having been previously occupied by the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Applied Science, while its most recent owner was Trinity College.

Mr Moore said that the Parkville Association had successfully campaigned against plans by the College in 2018 to demolish the building, which it ultimately withdrew following community pressure.

Sinclair Dermatology lodged its initial planning application for the Hartcourt building

with the City of Melbourne in December 2021, to which the council requested amendments.

In March, amended plans were submitted with a setback to the top floor. According to the application, the proposal’s height of around 10.5 metres falls within the required limit for the building’s commercial status in the precinct.

Deputy Lord Mayor and the council’s planning chair Nicholas Reece said he was aware of the application, and the “extremely high number of objections that had been lodged.”

“Parkville is one of Australia’s most special suburbs in terms of the preservation of heritage homes and its unique character, and this application will be scrutinised very, very closely by council,” he said.

Sinclair Dermatology was contacted for comment by *Inner City News*. ●



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Trees cut down along the centre of Lygon St

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne began stage two of its Lygon St Centre Median Upgrade project on Thursday, June 16, with the removal of 20 London Plane trees between Queensberry and Pelham streets.

According to the council, the London Plane trees demonstrated poor health due to substandard soil quality and constrained site conditions which subsequently impacted their lifespan and canopy growth.

"The Lygon Street Centre Median Upgrade is one of many improvements we're delivering as part of our Urban Forest Strategy, which aims to increase canopy cover on public land to 40 per cent by 2040," said a City of Melbourne spokesperson.

The tree removal project is similar to works undertaken in 2018 along the first section of the Lygon Street median strip between Victoria and Queensberry streets, which included tree replanting and soil improvements.

The replacement trees planted in 2018 are performing well and displaying healthy growth.

Carlton Traders Inc executive officer Phil Mansour said the City of Melbourne advised Carlton Inc. that it had consulted the community about this plan eight to 10 years ago.

"The traders want the Plane trees cut down, but there's no clear plan from the City of Melbourne to beautify Lygon St," Mr Mansour said.

"To show you how disjointed the City of Melbourne is, during the pandemic, they spent more than \$200,000 on lighting to light up the canopies of the trees through the median strip of Lygon St," he said.

"To this day, the lights installed have not done what was present in a provided artist's impression."

Mr Mansour said the council was replacing the Plane trees with a species that drops hard berries that will cause a tripping hazard.



"No logic or planning is coming from the City of Melbourne; there was definitely no consultation with businesses in the precinct," he said.

"The Plane trees need to go, but we must keep the street's beautification."

"Mature trees are needed to replace the Plane trees; oak trees would be beautiful, not trees that drop berries."

Adrian Pagano, co-owner of Parco Canteen, situated next to Argyle Square on Lygon St, said removing the Plane trees was a fabulous idea.

"For three months of the year during spring, the trees' pollen is so bad no one wants to eat outside," he said.

"It is a horrible tree."

The council said the proposed replacement species is *Celtis Australis* (Mediterranean Hackberry), matching the tree species already planted in the first stage and also

noted as suitable for changing climate conditions.

While it is a fruiting tree, the level of crop observed in Melbourne is low compared to its natural habitat.

"As people generally don't walk down the median strip, I can't see how the berries of the replacement Hackberry tree could be a problem," Mr Pagano said.

Planting the trees in the median strip minimises the impact on pedestrians and cyclists.

The council's regular street cleaning program will remove debris from the road and can be carried out more regularly during the fruiting season if required.

Proposed works include tree replacement, greater soil volume, and quality improvements to provide suitable conditions for long-term healthy tree growth.

"This project will help restore the urban forest in this pocket of Carlton, with trees that are better suited to Melbourne's future climate," a City of Melbourne spokesperson said.

"City greening projects are essential to support a diverse urban forest, increase canopy cover and keep our city cool in a warming climate."

Canopy growth of the replacement trees is expected to exceed that of the existing underperforming Plane trees.

Angelo Mercuri, the owner of Universal Italian Restaurant, said the pollen from the Plane trees had always been a problem for his outside diners.

"During spring, we have to wipe the pollen from the tables constantly," he said.

"If the Hackberry tree provides a shade canopy during summer and

spring and no pollen, it's okay by me."

The council advised that community engagement for the current median works took place in May and included letters to residents, the notification of traders through the council's Business Concierge service and signage at prominent locations highlighting removals.

A works notice was also distributed to nearby properties and businesses.

It also stated community engagement on the broader Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan took place in 2013 before endorsement and implementation.

The plan guides upgrades and improvements in the precinct over 10 years.

It is anticipated that the current median program will be completed by the end of June. ●

Barking up the wrong tree: opposition mounts to turn Murchison Park into off-leash dog area under council plan

Continued from page 1.

Mr Benton also questioned how the council would enforce the rules of "off-lead dogs running everywhere" in a park that was surrounded by busy roads and frequented by cyclists and walkers.

"It's going to be bedlam," he said.

"Everyone is totally against it, and we'll be taking it further if this gets through."

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said he shared the reservations raised by residents about Murchison Square.

"It is a beautiful square, it is also a small square and some of the practicalities around it being a dog off-leash area, I think we need to hear further advice on how those issues may be managed," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said before any plan was put in place at Murchison Square, the council would "monitor dog behaviour, owner behaviour, proximity and interaction with shared paths and also proximity to traffic."

The council will consider all proposed off-leash dog parks by the end of June before councillors vote on putting the recommendations into action.

Environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said by reviewing the consultant's report before the end of June, it would ensure "we've done our due diligence" and explored the time-access "properly" before making a



decision that the community "is comfortable with".

He said the review would also take into consideration a submission from the Friends of Royal Park and other stakeholders.

Cr Leppert added there was a dog off-leash problem next to Manningham Reserve "in one

of the most sensitive ecosystems in the municipality", which he believed should be made a dogs prohibited area with signs installed warning the public.

The council meeting heard Macarthur Square in Carlton had been previously "tested" as an off-leash dog park but was not supported by

“

It'll just completely alter the nature of the park aside from the heritage value. It will be narrowed by sense to a particular community cohort other than it was originally intended.

”

the community. The Carlton Gardens was also considered but "didn't feature prominently" in the Carlton Gardens Masterplan.

Other new off-leash areas include portions of Kingsway and Moray St Reserve in Southbank, Point Park and Ron Barassi Snr Park in Docklands, and Eades Park in West Melbourne.

Councillors were expected to approve the proposal at their June 28 meeting, shortly after *Inner City News* published its July edition. ●

Residents of public housing tower fear funding for vital health program will be cut

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HEALTH

Residents of a public housing tower in Carlton are desperately hoping to keep a health program running in their complex after learning its funding may soon be pulled.

Since November 2020, residents at 510 Lygon St have embraced a health concierge program which has proven successful in the dissemination of health information campaigns during the pandemic.

Led by not-for-profit group Cohealth, the program has seen 84 public housing residents working as health concierges across inner city high-rise towers while representing more than 10 language groups.

Their role has been to monitor the health and wellbeing of residents moving in and out of the building, taking temperatures, providing the latest health information, and linking people to support services.

In Carlton, women of all ages and abilities, including single mothers and their children, elderly women and people with mobility issues have also been supported.

As the health concierges are also residents, the program has allowed them to build trust and has been widely successful in increasing COVID tests.

However, with its funding due to expire at the end of June, there are fears the program may discontinue.

Victorian Greens leader and Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Samantha Ratnam has vocalised her support for the program and called on the state government to urgently commit to funding.

Ms Ratnam addressed parliament on June 24 saying the pandemic had "highlighted the inequalities and service gaps in our communities, especially for people living in public housing."

Ms Ratnam said the High-Risk Accommodation Response program (HRAR) had funded an important on-the-ground services and programs for residents living in high-density housing, "but with the funding ending in July, community organisations will leave the estates and so many great local programs will end."

"My question is: will the government urgently renew HRAR funding to ensure we do not lose these important programs?"

The government has 30 days to respond to the question.

The Department of Health and Human Services was contacted for comment.

Hodan Noor who is employed as the health concierge at her Lygon St building, said the program had provided a range of services as well as fostering a stronger sense of community and connection for many women.

"It's really concerning and alarming because COVID is still in the community. It's a bad time for leaving the community behind," she said.

The Carlton health facility, which has a clinic, also runs a women's health and wellbeing program, coordinating trips to local yoga classes and women's only swimming.

Without this program, Ms Noor said many of these women would be unable to attend these important health and wellbeing activities.

"It's a multicultural community, and they speak many languages, so they get a lot of benefits."

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said the health concierge model had been a "gamechanger in delivering culturally appropriate support during an extraordinary time in recent history."

"As we emerge from the pandemic, we must not forget the lessons learned about the value of community empowerment in improving people's own health and wellbeing," she said.

"We are incredibly grateful to the residents



▲ *Hodan Noor, who is employed as the health concierge at 510 Lygon St, said she hoped funding for a program supporting the health and wellness of residents would be reinstated.*

who stepped up to work on the frontline to make sure communities hardest hit by the pandemic had the support they needed."

"When most of us were safely locked down in our homes, the health concierges and other bicultural workers were delivering food and medicines, translating health information, updating residents on the latest public health advice, helping to dispel vaccination misinformation, and connecting people with testing and vaccinations."

"These trusted and familiar faces will be greatly missed, and their work will not be forgotten." ●

Ellen Sandell to recontest seat in November election

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
POLITICS

Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell officially announced on Wednesday, June 1 that she will recontest the seat which she has held since 2014.

While Labor won enough seats in the recent federal election to form a slender majority government, Ms Sandell said the election of four Greens and many Teal Independents demonstrated the appetite for political change in the community.

"The federal election made it clear: to get strong action on climate change, we need more Greens MPs and climate champions in our Parliament to push Labor and the Liberals further and faster," Ms Sandell said.

"We did it at the federal election – now we need to do it at the Victorian election too."

"I'm excited to run for the seat of Melbourne again, and continue serving my local community while pushing the next government to go further and faster on climate change, affordable housing, integrity in Parliament and better women's representation."

Her achievements over the past eight years include campaigning successfully to get the ALP to reverse its position and stop the "polluting" East West toll road; campaigning with regional communities across the state for an Australia-first ban on fracking; and helping stop a gas import terminal at Westernport Bay.

She also took a hands-on approach in helping residents access food, medicine and vital information when nine public housing towers were suddenly forced into a hard lockdown by the Victorian Labor Government in 2020.

"In Melbourne, we're seeing housing become totally unaffordable, while the Labor Government has stopped building public housing," she said. ●

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Firelight Festival will take over Docklands from 1 to 3 July with fiery installations, luminous light shows, pop-up foodie feasts and more.

Feast on Melbourne's best wintery pop-up food and drink offerings and experience a packed program of live performances across three sites at New Quay Promenade, Victoria Harbour Promenade, and Harbour Esplanade.

This year's program is jam-packed with free, family-friendly fun, including:

- A new lighting installation, which

will transform Buluk Park into a magical forest with brilliant light stems and colourful petals standing six metres tall.

- A 10-metre-long crystal lion shimmering with thousands of LED lights, which will roam the festival emitting a spine-tingling soundscape.
- A seven-minute liquid, light and laser show with water jets featuring a larger-than-life fiery phoenix, playing every hour at Victoria Harbour.
- More than 100 performers, including dazzling fire breathers

and twirlers, flaming trumpeters, roving entertainers, musicians and other artists.

- 40 fire pits and drums, 35 flame jets, two fire sculptures and two fire arches.

More than 20 food vendors will offer seasonal delights to warm even the coldest winter nights, from smoked meats, soup and woodfired pizza to mulled wine, hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows.

Festivalgoers can take advantage of the Docklands Dollars program, which offers up to \$210 cashback on

spending on hotels, restaurants and entertainment in the precinct.

Firelight Festival is being delivered with support from the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund – a joint partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government. The City of Melbourne also thanks festival partner Development Victoria for its support.

So gather the family and warm up at Firelight Festival this winter. For the full program, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/firelight

MOVING INTO MUNRO HOW AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHANGED THE LIFE OF A LOCAL CREATIVE



A cosy apartment at Munro Community Hub

By 2040 more than 20,000 new residents will live on Queen Victoria Market's doorstep.

The Munro development is the exciting new addition to the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

The site is currently home to the market's 500-space underground car park, and will soon be joined by a library and a line-up of hospitality businesses, building on the glorious offerings of the market. But did you know it's also home to 54 affordable housing dwellings?

Affordable housing seeks to meet the housing needs of those in low and moderate-income households.

In December 2021, the Munro development waved hello to residents from near and far, filling spots in 48 affordable apartments which are

owned and operated by Housing Choices Australia.

In May, the City of Melbourne also handed over the keys to an additional six apartments to the Transport Accident Commission for special needs clients.

These affordable apartments have provided many with a safe and secure place to call home – making strides in the City of Melbourne's Affordable Housing Strategy for 2020-30.

Local creative and art enthusiast Christientae Saint-Piaf is one of many who was delighted to make the move into the Munro building.

Since moving to her new home on the doorstep of the market, seconds from Flagstaff Gardens and a stone's throw away from the city and the clinic where she regularly donates blood,

Christientae said she has experienced a significant improvement to the quality of her life.

'It's an affordable, safe and secure home, built with dignity in mind – far better than anywhere I've lived before,' Christientae said.

As an active member of the local community and LGBTIQ+ groups, Christientae also admires the warm and welcoming environment among the building and staff.

'The festivity of the QVM area breathes life, fun times and community,' she said.

Feeding into her love for literature and creativity, Christientae is most looking forward to the Munro Library, set to open its doors in 2023.

The Munro site is expected to deliver an estimated \$70 million of economic and community benefit to the growing city north precinct.

In the coming months new hospitality venues, including Brick Lane Brewery, ST.ALI & The Queen, and sushi outlet Moonfishh will join the Munro development too, making it the ultimate hub to live, shop, dine and dwell.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Christientae enjoys the community terrace

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Artist behind Shane Warne mural left gutted after facing criminal charges

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
ARTS & CULTURE

An artist charged with vandalism after painting a mural in Carlton in tribute to the late cricketer legend Shane Warne says he has been left shattered.

Jarrod Grech spent 30 hours creating his mural in honour of his sporting hero, which is situated on a brick wall of an abandoned home in Canning St.

“I thought everyone could appreciate it and they could see it’s a genuine tribute. It’s not just for me, it’s for the community,” he told *Inner City News*.

“When people walk past and they talk to me, which is the best part, it makes people smile; honestly it brings joy to 99 per cent of people in the community.”

He said he had previously painted on the wall and didn’t think it would be an issue.

That was until police officers pulled up in a patrol car and spoke with the 34-year-old about his work, but to Mr Grech’s relief he was initially told, “you’ll probably never hear from us again”.

However, he was later hauled in for an interview before receiving a summons in the mail which contained criminal damage charges against him.

Mr Grech described it as an “absolute waste” of police and the court’s time, adding “I think they’re trying to use me as a scapegoat to say they’re doing something.”

“I’ve painted on the wall before, I’m not hiding it. I signed my name there. It’s not like I’m running around tagging.”

“It was pretty disappointing; it’s put me off painting.”

Mr Grech, who by day is an electrician, said he had tried to capture the “charisma and fun nature” of Warne – with Warne’s children and ex-wife all contacting him to say they supported his mural.

Mr Grech said he had hoped his mural would inspire youths and prevent them recklessly vandalising walls as the City of Melbourne battled a surge in graffiti.

He said the Canning St wall was a hotspot for taggers but since his work had gone up, it had been left alone.

Mr Grech said he had tried to speak with the owner of the property, but no one was home with the windows were boarded up.

Melbourne artist Adrian Doyle threw his support behind Mr Grech, saying he “certainly doesn’t deserve to get into trouble”.

“He didn’t hurt anyone by doing that, Melbourne’s definitely a better place for having this artist,” he said.

“He wrote his full name, it’s not like he was trying to hide it. Worry about the people that are actually scary, running around the street and abusing tourists and [who] are on drugs and being unpredictable.”

Others took to social media to say, “what a waste of time” and “should be more of yours and less of the scribble that’s around.”

“As an ex-copper, I would have never charged you,” another wrote.

Victoria Police said a Mernda man has been summonsed to appear at the Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on October 26 for one count of criminal damage. ●

Carlton Gardens masterplan reveals effects of climate change on precinct

At least 43 trees in the heritage-listed Carlton Gardens have been earmarked for replacement – with nearly half from two older avenues – as the City of Melbourne responds to climate change impacts under a new masterplan.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new tree management and replacement plan was one of two new recommendations added to the Carlton Gardens masterplan, which was endorsed unanimously by councillors at their Future Melbourne Committee meeting June 7.

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning portfolio chair Nicholas Reece told the meeting there was concern that some tree species like English Elms and white poplars among others “would just no longer be suitable in the gardens.”

“With climate change affecting the ability of certain species to grow and thrive, that did raise a number of challenging questions for our arborists, in terms of what new tree species we would be planting in those gardens,” Cr Reece said.

The Deputy Lord Mayor said the council would look meticulously at the original plantings at the site so that the heritage character – “that character that I think so many Melburnians currently love about the Carlton Gardens will be preserved going forward, so I think it’s a very good outcome.”

“It’s good to see that this difficult and involved question will now be the subject of a tree management and replacement plan where we will be able to look at the suitability of some of those species and identify other like-species.”

Under the masterplan, 43 trees or 10 per cent of the Gardens’ existing trees – which have been part of the landscape since its beginnings in the 19th century – are expected to be replaced in the next 10 years.

Of this group, 19 trees are from two older avenues as well as a recently planted row of white poplar trees – which will be “assessed as being climate vulnerable in both moderate and extreme future climate change scenarios.”

In their place, a short-list of options for climate-resilient species would be considered to allow “advanced growing”.

For “major” tree avenue replanting, the council will investigate the feasibility of reinstating shrub beds if they were part of the earlier 19th century historic presentation.

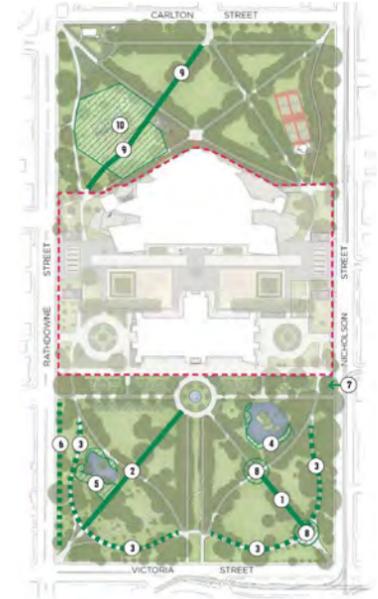
Before any plans are finalised, the council would invite feedback from Heritage Victoria; the historic heritage branch of the federal Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment; the World Heritage Management Plan steering committee, and the public.

The council will continue to “monitor and nurture the existing historic trees and maintain the garden character.”

A second recommendation in the 57-page masterplan will see the council work cooperatively with Museums Victoria and the steering committee as part of a temporary events management plan for the entire site.

The new recommendations, which were not included in the draft Carlton Gardens masterplan that was approved in October last year, followed extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders.

A council report said the community was supportive of a range of proposals including a reintroduction of shrubs, new lighting, more trees for shade in the playground and picnic areas, new public toilet facilities, and improvements



▲ A graphic highlighting the council’s replanting priorities.

to pedestrian access across Victoria St.

The masterplan will form part of the revised World Heritage Management Plan currently under preparation by the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage steering committee, which must occur every seven years.

Environment and heritage portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert thanked the community and everyone who made submissions which was part of a “very important process”.

As a World Heritage Site, he said “it’s only proper that we are incredibly thorough in the way that we master plan for this area.”

Cr Elizabeth Doidge said the gardens held a special place in her childhood and was “very humbled” to see the recommendations from the draft masterplan “positively received”, including a toilet upgrade which is “going to be widely felt by everybody who uses the park.”

The Friends of Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens and the Protectors of Public Land said the masterplan for the gardens had “many good qualities but there are issues that it does not address”.

“Firstly, a definition is needed and agreed on, for how our world heritage significant gardens should look, and to what level of care and presentation they are to be conserved and protected,” they said in a statement. “We say the lack of definitions for the Carlton Gardens might be the reason the Carlton Gardens are not resourced as well nor presented at the same high standards as the Fitzroy Gardens.”

In terms of the plan proposing to replant heritage trees and selecting climate hardy varieties, they questioned “what exactly does council intend? Are there better solutions especially, where the trees in questions are increasingly scarce heritage trees that are prescribed in the world heritage significance listing?” ●

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New-look Western Pavilion unveiled

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
 SPORT

The City of Melbourne celebrated the completion of its \$2.6 million redevelopment of Western Pavilion at Royal Park in June.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp and councillors Jamal Hakim, Dr Olivia Ball and Davydd Griffiths joined local sporting groups on Saturday, June 18 to mark the opening of the upgraded facilities.

Cr Capp said the council was “delighted” that the works had been completed.

“This much-loved space has been transformed to accommodate more players and is ready at the perfect time for the winter sport season,” she said.

“Local sport was hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic but is experiencing a significant resurgence. It’s never been more important to get people outside and physically active, with local sport a meaningful way to improve your health and connect with the community.”

Located near Park St in Parkville, the upgraded Western Pavilion includes a new social room and kitchen, four new gender-neutral change facilities, two umpire rooms, ambulant toilet cubicles, accessible unisex toilet, accessible



showers, and baby change facilities.

Work is also well under way on the council’s \$6.2 million redevelopment of Brens Pavilion in Royal Park, located between Melbourne Zoo and Royal Parade. The council says the project is scheduled for completion early next year.

The Lord Mayor said the Brens Pavilion

project would help meet “growing demand in community sport and, in particular, the number of women taking to sporting fields and facilities across the municipality.”

“The new Brens Pavilion will feature eight gender neutral and universally accessible change rooms, as well as dedicated umpire changing

facilities and significant improvements to the kitchen and social spaces,” Cr Capp said.

The council is also currently in the design phase of a joint redevelopment with the Victorian Government of Ryder Pavilion, located near the corner of Park St and The Avenue, which is expected to begin next year. ●

Rug up for winter 2022 at La Mama

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
 ARTS & CULTURE

La Mama’s winter program kicks off on Sunday, July 3, running through to Sunday, October 2, focusing on solo performers.

Expect to see works showcasing emerging, established and iconic artists from Melbourne and afar.

Music Jam, a La Mama for Kids workshop program for pre-schoolers, is presented by Karen Davitt, an Australian actress with an extensive career in film, television and theatre, possibly most known for her performance as Zoe Hamilton in *Blue Heelers* from 1995 to 1998.

Karen, who also plays the double bass with her Melbourne band All Day Fritz, said she had worked in all-ages music for more than a decade with the band.

“Since I had my daughter, I had this idea that kids are quite sophisticated in their musical taste if you give them interesting choices.”

After tossing around the idea of weekly music classes for kids in partnership with their parents, La Mama generously supported Karen’s concept.

“This is the first season of weekly classes,” Karen said.

“Four classes over a month and a booking for all four costs \$50.”

With a maximum of 10 people in each class, Karen explores interactive music with the basic rhythm, pitch and tempo.

Karen said going from a band to flying solo was different.

“A band gives you a sense of support because your gang is there with you; it is my happy place.”

“*Music Jam* is like being the leader of a band you haven’t worked with before.”

“What I enjoy most about performing is playing music with other people, including kids, because it is incredibly powerful and fun,” Karen said.

Another one-woman show features Jane Clifton, who wrote and performs *A Day at a Time in Rhyme*, an immersive new piece combining spoken word, soundscape, image and music.

“I made this rather stupid resolution in 2018 that I would write a poem every day,” Jane said.

“It was my New Year’s resolution; a terrific exercise of writing 365 short poems.”

Jane wanted to do a recitation of some of her poems at La Mama after the book was published.

Before she had the chance, La Mama burnt down, and then COVID arrived on the scene, so it has taken a while for her to finally bring the book to life.

She said it will be a bit of fun, a rollercoaster of many things that has her on stage for about an hour.

“You get to spend a year with me: four seasons in one hour, a poem for each day.”

“It’s lovely on the page, but it comes to life when I read and act it out.”

Music Jam runs from Monday, September 19 to Monday, October 10 at La Mama HQ at 205 Faraday St,



Carlton.

A Day at a Time in Rhyme is on stage from Wednesday, July 13, until Friday, July 24.

The performance on Friday, July 15, at 6.30pm will be livestreamed

La Mama’s on-screen and livestream seasons provide a broadening platform of accessible options for those unable to attend theatre in person.

La Mama’s winter season will program shows postponed due to COVID.

The highly anticipated *We Too Us Too Me Too Too Too*, will finally open at La Mama Courthouse, while *Little Brother Big Sister* will complete the season it began in 2021. ●

For more information:
lamama.com.au

East Melbourne residents push for mandatory planning guidelines for historic neighbourhood

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 PLANNING

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) will call on the City of Melbourne for “greater transparency and accountability” in its planning governance following its decision to approve the redevelopment of a historic guesthouse.

The group, which provides a voice for residents, announced it would push for mandatory planning guidelines “to restore clarity, openness, and trust in the planning governance system in East Melbourne.”

It comes as the council approved an application in April to redevelop the historic Magnolia Court property at 95-101 Powlett St despite receiving 95 objections.

Residents say the “major commercial expansion” would not be appropriate for the area, while also citing concerns of noise and amenity, increased traffic, heritage impacts, and the “negative precedent” the development would set for the entire precinct.

The EMG confirmed with *Inner City News* it would be taking its fight to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal after accusing the council’s approval “to be latest in a series of planning missteps and errors in what is one of Australia’s most significant and renowned heritage areas”.

“Despite overwhelming and detailed local opposition to the plan, residents’ concerns were largely ignored in the council’s planning department’s report, and subsequent decision by councillors, in favour of the developer,” the EMG’s planning convener Greg Bisinella said.

However, in approving the plans, 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.

He said the application had been “very intensely scrutinised” by councillors, and council believed a residential hotel would be an appropriate use in the East Melbourne neighbourhood residential zone, adding there would be no inappropriate demolition of the building’s heritage fabric.

But the EMG said a “lack of transparency and consistency” as well as a “lack of responsiveness” to the concerns of residents, “with this and other rulings now pointed to a planning governance system which had broken down.”

Mr Bisinella said the redevelopment of Magnolia Court had the potential to undermine the precinct’s planning and heritage integrity and represented a “significant departure from precedent which confined such proposals to the precinct’s periphery”.

Under the mandatory planning guidelines proposal, the EMG believed “clearer and more consistent” guidelines would be set down for planning decisions, based on consultation with all stakeholders.

The EMG has also lodged a freedom of information request to seek “detailed information” as to why the council approved the Magnolia Court planning application.

It will also work with other residents’ associations in the inner city to push for greater transparency and accountability in the planning governance system.

City of Melbourne deputy planning lead Cr Rohan Leppert said East Melbourne had a “complicated mix of mandatory and discretionary built form controls and policies, which don’t always satisfy everyone”.

“The most important tasks before us are completing the East Melbourne Heritage Review, to make sure those demolition prevention controls are as up to date as possible, and implementing a new Municipal Planning Strategy, to get our policy directions for each neighbourhood in line with community expectations,” he said. ●

Council's night-time committee extended for another year

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

All 18 members of the City of Melbourne's first Night Time Economy Advisory Committee (NTEAC) have been reappointed for a further 12 months to continue supporting the city's recovery from COVID-19.

The NTEAC was established in 2021 in response to the devastation caused to the city's night time economy during the pandemic. NTEAC met for the first time on June 28, 2021 – just prior to Victoria's major Delta outbreak which wouldn't see lockdowns lifted until late October.

At a council meeting on May 31, 2022, councillors voted unanimously in favour to extend the committee's tenure for a further 12 months to push forward with its "high-quality strategic advice on revitalisation measures".

Councillors acknowledged the "very difficult" year of rolling lockdowns and restrictions since the committee was established and that the group "is continuing to embed its own corporate identity and styles of working."

As such, the recommendation from council management included minor amendments to the committee's terms of reference, with the final motion adopted by councillors "empowering the committee" to elect its own chair at its next meeting.

The NTEAC is currently chaired by Cherry Bar owner James Young who is one of 13 executive members representing the city's hospitality, arts and entertainment settings. Other members include academics, state government representative Max Coffman and councillors Roshena Campbell and Jason Chang.

According to the report by council management, 100 per cent of members recently surveyed regarding the NTEAC's performance recorded answers ranging from "somewhat

“

I know everyone has taken so much time out of their day and businesses to take part in this committee ...

”

satisfied" to "extremely satisfied."

"All members have indicated that they would be prepared to continue for a further term," the report stated, which also highlighted an "eagerness" among members to better understand night time economy best practices and trends from other leading cities.

Cr Chang told the meeting that it had been a "privilege" to serve on the committee but acknowledged that there was "still work to be done."

Cr Jamal Hakim, who seconded the motion on May 31, said that the extension would allow the NTEAC to move from advocacy into action.

"I know everyone has taken so much time out of their day and businesses to take part in this committee, so I really wanted to thank everyone," he said.

"The pandemic and the lockdowns that we had during the first year of this committee meant it was difficult for the committee to act on its terms of reference and responsibilities so this is an opportunity to actually move into action."

Since its establishments, the NTEAC has developed a number of "key milestones" including supporting the Melbourne Money and Project Night Justice programs. ●



New mobile library drives digital literacy to locals

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
COMMUNITY

A new City of Melbourne initiative is seeking to bridge the literacy gap for those local residents unable to access the council's six library branches.

The City of Melbourne's first mobile library "Mel-van" has already hit the road providing access to books and resources, wi-fi and digital support to school children, the elderly and culturally diverse communities, stationing neighbourhood houses, community centres, parks, and festivals and events.

Launched by Lord Mayor Sally Capp at the South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre on Friday, June 24, the colourful van will be filled with a selection of books, technology, craft supplies and games, handpicked for the communities along its route.

The Mel-van enables library staff to connect community members with online resources through a publicly accessible wi-fi hotspot as well as providing digital literacy support to get more people online, and boost community connectivity through emails, social media and other online platforms.

The Mel-van is part of the council's pop-up library series, joining a food-themed library in the Queen Victoria Market precinct, a library for kids at Fed Square, the Express Book Bar for city workers on Little Collins St, the Lygon Street Biblioteca for enthusiastic writers and the Bourke St Micro-Lab.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council wanted to make it as easy as possible for Melburnians to access their library services, no matter "where they live, work or play."

"The Mel-van is our new library on wheels, allowing the council to take its services out of its buildings and into our communities," the Lord Mayor said.

"We've launched six pop-up libraries across Melbourne in the past year, which have been visited by more than 17,000 people. We can't wait to build on their popularity as our new Mel-van zips around town."

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

The Mel-van will have a permanent home in the City of Melbourne and "will continue its mission to empower Melburnians with digital literacy, knowledge and resources." ●

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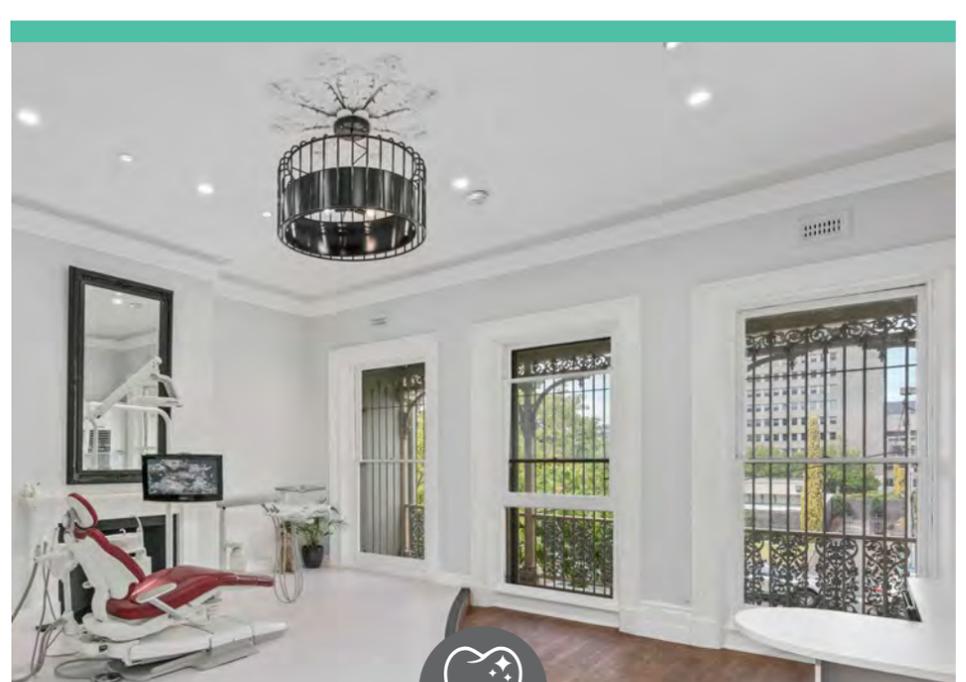


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“A complete mess”: Unprecedented public response as council muddies bike lane message, but Grattan St and Royal Parade prioritised

The City of Melbourne was heavily criticised for reportedly slamming on the brakes of its accelerated bike lane rollout in June. But while this wasn't really the case, it has few to blame after a series of mixed messages.



WORDS BY David Schout
TRANSPORT

On a cold Thursday afternoon in early June, the City of Melbourne dutifully uploaded its agenda papers online for an upcoming meeting the following Tuesday.

The standard, five-day period of notice from the council gives residents and all those interested the chance to make a submission about particular items on the agenda that might concern them.

On a typical night there might be 10 submissions, and on a particularly controversial meeting it might nudge 100.

But this time, it surged past 1000.

A recommendation in item 6.9 that councillors vote for a 12-month “deferral of further installation of new protected bike lanes in the Hoddle Grid” caused uproar from Melbourne’s growing and, as the council would find out, highly engaged cycling community.

The justification was that “following two years of accelerated delivery” during which 19km of bike lanes were installed, it needed time to take stock, as the city “continues to recover and travel behaviour settles into a new rhythm.”

The recommendation, nestled in among a much larger update on the implementation of the council’s Transport Strategy 2030, snowballed into an issue the council clearly had not forecast.

By Friday the topic was front and centre of both major newspapers in the city, which then spilled to considerable airtime on both TV and radio.

Those ardently opposed to bike lanes felt emboldened by the recommendations from the council’s management in the agenda, and in interviews spoke of how they now hoped they would not only stop the accelerated rollout of bike lanes but also “rip up” existing lanes.

Those at the opposite end of the debate were outraged that the city would halt what it had promised to do, and had been doing, for the past two years.

Days of analysis followed — ranging from talkback callers to economic think pieces — on a topic that had yet to be put before councillors.

When that time finally came on the Tuesday evening (June 7), protestors stood outside Melbourne Town Hall and the public gallery was full.

The topic was debated for well over two hours — a period longer than many entire meetings — as 33 people addressed councillors.

All 33 were in favour of the council’s protected cycling lane projects to date, which had been accelerated in recent years.

In fact, of the more than 1100 written submissions that eventually landed before the meeting, less than one per cent were in favour of pausing the CBD rollout.

Many spoke of an improved

confidence travelling to and from the CBD on their bikes as a result of the lanes and warned that any halt to the rollout would set a dangerous precedent.

Others spoke about the recent tragic death of a cyclist on King St, and how that incident only reinforced the need for physical separation between cars and cyclists.

Almost all councillors, too, spoke positively of the bike lanes and what they had meant for the city.

In fact, very few of the many voices at Town Hall that night had a bad word to say about the lanes, which would only add to the confusion in the room: why, if bike lanes had been such a positive addition to the city, were they being “deferred” in the CBD?

Councillors eventually voted 10 to 1 in favour of the pause, although an amended motion specified it would be restricted to the 2022-23 financial year only.

But confusion remained.

The positivity of the night seemed incongruous with the vexed debate prior to the meeting.

It took one questioner to stand up at the end of the five-hour meeting to ask, quite simply, what had just happened.

“Could a councillor explain the reason for the one-year pause?” he asked.

“I don’t think that really came through tonight. It didn’t come

through to me in the council report either.”

“The optics have been shocking”

The question struck a chord, and many following the meeting online were similarly puzzled.

“I have only come away feeling more confused by this pause issue,” one user said on Twitter.

The reality was that yes, the City of Melbourne voted to pause the installation of bike lanes within the CBD until July 1 next year.

But a look at the fine print would suggest the move is far from catastrophic for cycling advocates.

The council would still spend its budgeted \$4 million allocation for bike lanes within the next 12 months, merely outside the Hoddle Grid.

It would instead focus on delivering bike lanes to the area immediately north of the CBD, including on Arden St, Macaulay Rd, Grattan St and Royal Parade, with works to start in the coming months.

No financial cut was made to the rollout.

What made the issue an own-goal from the City of Melbourne was that the installation of key CBD bike lane projects to come — including on Flinders St — were still a considerable way off being ready for approval from the Department of Transport anyhow.

The council had not, as had understandably been assumed by many of the protesters and submitters, called a halt to shovel-ready works within the Hoddle Grid.

This makes recommendations for a year-long pause appear excessive; a move that unnecessarily re-empowered the same bike lane sceptics that the council was trying to overcome.

Outspoken bike lane advocate Cr Rohan Leppert was highly critical of council management for the “complete mess”, and accused officers at Town Hall of “playing 3D chess”.

“Where this stupid episode all went wrong is when City of Melbourne thought it would be a good idea to sell the non-delivery of new bike lanes in the Hoddle Grid for a year as a ‘deferral’. That happened on Thursday,

The Age headline didn’t help, and outrage followed,” he tweeted after the meeting.

“The recommendation to pause Hoddle Grid bike lanes for a year was not supported by the data and arguments in that report. But that was the recommendation, and so it generated the perception that council had a raft of Hoddle Grid projects ready to go and for political reasons we would ‘defer’ them. Not so. Our significant shovel-ready projects are outside the Grid.”

Cr Leppert said “the optics have been shocking” from a council perspective.

The confusion of the evening was perhaps best underlined by the fact that outspoken anti-bike lane councillor Roshena Campbell voted *against* the motion to pause the CBD rollout.

Pro-cycling councillors voted *for* the deferral, despite almost every pro-cycling submitter urging them not to.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp attempted to provide some clarification to that concluding question asked by a member of the public.

She said it gave the council a chance to “adjust” and respond to “issues raised by our business owners and delivery vehicles” about the new makeup of the roads.

While lamenting some reporting around the issue, Cr Capp acknowledged mistakes on the council’s side.

“As misleading as the headlines have been, as confusing as some of our own wording might have been, this motion this evening — and voting in favour of it — represents a balanced approach to safe access to and around our city for all modes of transport and the work that needs to continue to achieve that.”

One would assume that the whole sorry saga might’ve been avoided with clearer, concise communication about their plans prior to the meeting.

The community response, both prior to and during the meeting, was unprecedented, and the council will likely tread far more carefully when next approaching the hot political topic. ●

Beloved Brandon Hotel to remain as is

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker
BUSINESS

Concern has been growing among the Carlton North community after local pub the Brandon Hotel was spotted for sale on a real estate website.

Fortunately, it has been confirmed by both the real estate agent and publicans, the pub’s lease holders, that the Brandon Hotel will remain in business as per usual.

“What is for sale is the actual building itself, so our landlords have made the decision to sell the building they have owned for more than 50 years,” current Brandon Hotel co-publican Prue Grant said.

“Both myself and Andrew Boreham [co-publican] still own the leasehold to operate the pub and we have a current lease in place to operate the business for another 10 years.”

Both Andrew and Prue have been an integral part of the running of the Brandon Hotel for many years, with Andrew starting in 2006 and Prue in 2014.

It is through this time they have been able to see the incredible strength of the Carlton North community coming together to support businesses in the area during the pandemic.

“We consider ourselves so incredibly lucky every single day to be a part of this community



and the past couple of years has only just cemented this and made it even clearer to us,” Prue said.

Following their reopening to business as usual, both Prue and Andrew have found themselves overwhelmed by the number of people

coming through the doors, resulting in them having to “increase staff numbers”.

Now with the selling of the Brandon Hotel being public knowledge they also want to stress that the community can rely on them for the same service.

“We don’t see the pub changing in any way significantly to what its current offering is to the community, and we certainly don’t want to destroy any of that good will and do anything dramatically to it,” Prue said.

“We want to be a place that people can come to, recognise, feel comfortable in and be part of that heartbeat of what is happening in the neighbourhood.”

The reason the business owners are departing after 50 years has been unknown to Prue and Andrew.

But following further enquiries by *Inner City News* into the reason for selling, it has been confirmed that the decision to sell the family business comes from the family simply wanting to move on.

An auction for the Lee St building is scheduled for Thursday, July 14 with two open inspections having already been conducted at the time of publishing. ●



Kaylah-Joelle Baker

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On location with *Better Man*

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

Musical fantasy came to Hotham St in East Melbourne last month when the quiet street was transformed into the hang-out of UK boy band singer, Robbie Williams.

Hotham St is a tree-lined English kind of location where not much happens in a normal time frame.

"It was totally dead during the lockdown," said Phillip Groves, the owner of the nearby East Melbourne Cellar.

But now the street is having a remake in a biopic called *Better Man*, named after the hit song by Williams, and filmed by visual effects artist Michael Gracey.

The movie set focused on a two-storey Victorian home belonging to Anne Leahy in real life, but who knows how it will appear in the film once the CGI guys get cracking.

Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis* was filmed in Queensland rather than Memphis. Why can't East Melbourne be turned into Stoke-on-Trent?

Most of the filming was done inside the house and focuses on the young Robbie's road to stardom and its roller coaster effects.

Actor Jonno Davies is playing the young Robbie and he was seen walking in front of the church.

"He would have been in his late teens or early '20s," said Phillip, who watched the action from his window.

"The amount of equipment was quite amazing." There were about 20 trucks, five portable toilets and a cherry picker for lighting. They occupied a full block between Pownlett and Simpson streets.

Not all locals are fans, however, of the manufactured sound of '90s pop



▲ The house where filming took place.



▲ Hotham St in reality.

culture nor the hype surrounding the film industry.

"The real story is that the film industry is using Australia to create jobs and help the local economy," said Lisette Malatesta of the East Melbourne General Store.

"We didn't experience it here."

The film crew had their own catering and didn't visit the store plus the street was closed off, forcing delivery vans around the block.

This isn't the first time locals have dealt with a Robbie Williams fantasy. In 2007 he simulated a 1994 Manchester concert at Rod Laver Arena and fans paid \$100 for the privilege of being an extra. ●

What life is like as a refugee

WORDS BY Carol Saffer
COMMUNITY

Around 30 people attended a panel discussion "Your Voice, Our Voice, Responding to the Global Humanitarian Crisis" hosted by Carlton's Mercy Hub as part of this year's Refugee Week.

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate their positive contributions to Australian society.

The week aims to provide an important opportunity for asylum seekers and refugees to be seen, listened to and valued to create an open culture of welcome within Australia.

Juliet Talarico, programs and activities facilitator at Mercy Mission, Action and Spirituality Hub, describes Refugee Week as a platform; a jumping-off point to spark discussion and education.

"It is about raising an awareness and informing the public about refugees and celebrating them and their contributions to Australian society," Ms Talarico said.

"We wanted our audience to have a human experience with refugees and listen to their story from a personal perspective rather than a sensationalised report on the news."

"[These news stories] often focus on statistics and lawbreaking rather than the fact that people are fleeing conflict and often face the possibility of death."

Ms Talarico said the aim of the discussion panel was for the attendees to feel a sense of connection and empathy with the speakers and understand their commonalities or differences.

Panelist Libby Saunders, the coordinator of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, has worked in the refugee-asylum seeker sector for eight years.

She said during this time, refugee conditions had worsened, not improved.

"With the reduction of income support and a greater demand for services, people are having to beg from agency to agency for a permanent visa in order to sponsor family reunions," Ms Saunders said.

Ban Maroky, a refugee from Iraq, arrived in Australia in the 1990s.

She spoke of her experiences of the war and trauma in her homeland.



The separation from her family members aggravated the situation.

"If your family is separated at the time your visa is provided, then the whole family does not leave at the same time," Ms Maroky said.

"It happens that sometimes children and parents live separately, so they do not enter Australia together."

There is also the issue of debt for new arrivals.

"The cost of airfares means many families face the added burden of repaying loans while trying to obtain accommodation, employment, and dealing with the government services such as Medicare and Centrelink," she said.

Ms Maroky, a language teacher at the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, said, "I pray the new [federal] government will somehow ease the trauma and the suffering for refugees who left family behind."

Ms Talarico said the event facilitated great discussions, and the audience was enthralled with each of the speakers' stories and comments. ●

The Melbourne Rare Book Fair is back this month

WORDS BY Carol Saffer
EVENTS

Twenty-two Australian antiquarian, rare book and rare print dealers are thrilled to set up their stalls in the University of Melbourne's Wilson Hall again after a two-year hiatus.

The Melbourne Rare Book Fair, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, running from Thursday, July 7 to Saturday, July 9, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a wide range of rare and beautiful antiquarian books and prints stockpiled by the dealers during the pandemic.

This is the place for book lovers or collectors to browse and buy a vast range of antique, rare and collectible books, prints and ephemera across a wide range of subjects at prices suited to their interests and budget.

Come and search through and discover topics on cooking, local history, Australian, poetry, literature, art, children's books, militaria, LGBTIQ+, counterculture and

colonial Australia.

Antiquarian bookseller Kay Craddock presents the Fair's possible piece de resistance, an extremely rare example of the *Second Folio Shakespeare (1632)*.

It is the earliest edition of Shakespeare practically obtainable on the market and arguably the most important book published in English.

On the other hand, imagine owning a rare, limited edition of *The Antarctic Book: Winter Quarters, 1907-1909*; a record of Shackleton's expedition to the Ross Sea signed by each member of the shore party.

If you are a fan of William Blake's works, make your way to Archives Fine Books to pick up a scarce copy of *The Pastorals of Virgil (1821)* with rare woodcuts by William Blake.

Beyond these highlights, there will be much more, ranging from medieval illuminated manuscripts of the 14th century to rare and unique items from the 21st century.

For further information, contact Tim White on 0432 569 809 or info@rarebookfair.com. ●

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

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North Melbourne VIC 3051

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



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Your City of Melbourne community update

CREATING CONFIDENCE IN THE INNER CITY

Community consultation on the City of Melbourne draft Budget 2022-23 and the draft Annual Plan 2022-23 has concluded.

After consideration of the public feedback, councillors were set to endorse the documents at a Council meeting on 28 June.

The Budget sets out how we plan to invest in the inner city to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities.

The Neighbourhood Statements in our Budget also outline the key initiatives we'll undertake in each suburb across the municipality.



OUR KEY PRIORITIES IN CARLTON

We know how important protecting Carlton's heritage is to our community, while also welcoming new development, so as part of our work in this space in 2022-23, we will progress the planning scheme amendment to implement the Carlton heritage review recommendations, to protect and celebrate heritage places and neighbourhood character. Plus we'll submit the Carlton Gardens Master Plan to Heritage Victoria as part of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Master Plan review, and progress designs for Grattan Street innovation spine and public realm improvements.

We'll continue to support businesses in Carlton who have endured the most difficult trading times over the past two years.

We will deliver and manage the Business Precinct Program, deliver the Shopfront Activation and City Activation Grants programs.

Melbourne is the arts and culture capital of the country and in 2022-23 we will provide accessible creative opportunities to everyone through expanded arts and library programming.

Mitigating the impact of climate change is a priority for Melbourne, so we'll facilitate integrated water management solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay, Yarra River - Birrarung and Moonee Ponds Creek.

Through our strategic work we will progress delivery of:

- City North Structure Plan
- Melbourne Innovation Districts City North Opportunities Plan
- Carlton Gardens Master Plan implementation
- Lincoln Square Concept Plan implementation
- Princes Park Master Plan implementation
- University Square Master Plan
- Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Neighbourhood planning
- Disaster preparedness and resilience planning
- Municipal Planning Strategy.



OUR KEY PRIORITIES IN EAST MELBOURNE



Melbourne is the arts and culture capital of the country and in 2022-23 we will provide accessible creative opportunities to everyone through expanded arts and library programming.

We know how important protecting East Melbourne and Jolimont's heritage is to our community, while also welcoming new development, so as part of our work in this space in 2022-23, we will begin the East Melbourne - Jolimont heritage review.

And to make East Melbourne more liveable and more sustainable we will deliver East Melbourne

pedestrian improvements and facilitate integrated water management solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay and Yarra River - Birrarung.

Through our strategic work we will progress delivery of:

- Fitzroy Gardens Master Plan
- East Melbourne Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Neighbourhood planning
- Disaster preparedness and resilience planning
- Municipal Planning Strategy.

OUR KEY PRIORITIES IN PARKVILLE

We'll continue to support businesses in Parkville who have endured the most difficult trading times over the past two years. We will assist and facilitate marquee projects and stimulate economic development to support business growth.

To ensure Parkville retains its liveability we will finalise the Parkville heritage review and begin the planning scheme amendment to protect and celebrate heritage places and the neighbourhood character, progress designs for



Grattan Street innovation spine and public realm improvements, and construct a new Brens Pavilion in Royal Park to improve accessibility for women and girls to participate in sport.

We'll also facilitate integrated water management solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay, Yarra River - Birrarung and Moonee Ponds Creek.

Through our strategic work we will progress delivery of:

- Royal Park Master Plan
- Parkville Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Melbourne Innovation Districts City North Opportunities Plan
- Neighbourhood planning
- Disaster preparedness and resilience planning
- City North Structure Plan
- Municipal Planning Strategy.

To find out more about our key projects in the inner city this year, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/ourplans



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

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Some of our neighbourhood partners outside Melbourne Town Hall

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERS

From historic Carlton to the glistening harbour at Docklands, each City of Melbourne neighbourhood needs different services and support based on its unique demographics, strengths and challenges.

We're working to better understand and respond to community needs in a highly localised way through a new neighbourhood model.

Led by seven passionate neighbourhood partners, the model aims to "connect the dots" between council, residents and businesses to empower local people, build community capacity and guide city projects.

The neighbourhood partners recently completed in-depth community consultation and analysed the data to draft key priorities for each suburb.

This process is revealing opportunities for council to explore new projects, adjust upcoming work to respond to community needs, and better communicate our progress on existing work.

Neighbourhood partners will continue to engage with the community year-round, recording feedback into a central knowledge bank that will inform council projects with rich insights into the future.

New online portals will enable everyone to keep in touch with local news and share feedback more easily.

The interactive portals will deliver up-to-date information relevant to each neighbourhood, and connect community members with Council through the Neighbourhood Partners.

The portals feature:

- An acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung places of significance and a link to the new, interactive tool for Mapping Aboriginal Melbourne
- An overview of each neighbourhood, including facts and figures about the area
- A list of local priorities, community feedback and Council plans in action
- A range of good news stories from the community.

The Carlton, East Melbourne and Parkville neighbourhood portals will be live later this year.

REI OF SUNSHINE FOR EAST MELBOURNE AND SOUTH YARRA

Community pride and connection is the name of the game in the communities of East Melbourne and South Yarra, which are proudly cared for by neighbourhood partner Rei Chin.

Rei began her career as a teacher, working with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds who were on journeys to build their sense of belonging in their new home.

She progressed into working in community development at a grassroots not-for-profit organisation, where she often worked in partnership with a local council.

After observing the diverse ways councils can work with communities to help strengthen connections and enable community-led actions, she became interested in local government.

She is now one of seven neighbourhood partners supporting communities across the City of Melbourne municipality.



Rei Chin

'I love that I get to work with a team of other community development professionals who have come to their roles from very diverse professional backgrounds,' Rei said.

Rei works closely with the communities of East Melbourne and South Yarra to build connectivity and help make local people's visions for their neighbourhoods a reality.

'East Melbourne and South Yarra are both very established neighbourhoods that take pride in their unique community identity and care deeply for their environment,' Rei said.

'East Melbourne has a village-like atmosphere where people feel that they can rely on their neighbours, and South Yarra takes pride in the beautiful Domain Parklands and Fawkner Park.

'There are families who have been living in the neighbourhoods for generations, and young professionals and students who enjoy the serenity while being close to the surrounding busy areas.

'There are also a range of businesses that have been serving local people for decades and bringing visitors into the neighbourhoods.

'Both neighbourhoods attract many frequent visitors who feel strongly connected to the gardens and parks.'

While all of our neighbourhood partners develop a strong affinity with their 'patch', the whole team is dedicated to revealing and implementing the community's vision, rather than their own.

'A neighbourhood partner's role is to gain a strong understanding of their neighbourhood's strengths and

priorities to inform City of Melbourne's work and to support community-led initiatives and projects,' Rei said.

'Our team's work enables more community-led projects to flourish, through community capability and capacity building.

'It also enables the organisation to work with the neighbourhoods more closely to ensure that decisions are well communicated to the community and, wherever possible, decisions are made with strong community input.'

East Melbourne and South Yarra both have resident groups led by locals who are dedicated to fostering community connectivity and ensuring the unique character and heritage of the local area is protected.

Rei has been working on an extensive community consultation project to collect local feedback to help inform neighbourhood plans with unique priorities for each area.

'In East Melbourne, community members have said that they would like to see more community activities, events and initiatives in their local area where people of all backgrounds can come together to build meaningful connections,' Rei said.

'South Yarra community members also envision a community that is more connected, with active community and green spaces where people meet to socialise and engage in programs that look after people's health and wellbeing.

'Both neighbourhoods want to create safe, inclusive, and sustainable communities that support their neighbours and local businesses to thrive.'

LOCAL WISDOM SHAPES PLANS FOR CARLTON AND PARKVILLE

Neighbourhood partner Nasteha (Nas) Mohamud is building connections between residents, businesses and council to help make the suburbs of Carlton and Parkville the best they can be.

After working with not-for-profit and grassroots organisations to build community resilience, strengthen participation and build a sense of belonging, Nas knew her heart belonged in community development.

So, when the opportunity came up to become one of our neighbourhood partners, Nas was excited to join the City of Melbourne team.

'I really love working with Carlton and Parkville – each of the neighbourhoods is very special,' Nas said.

'Carlton has very diverse and connected communities, with lots of amazing organisations and service providers that connect everyone who lives, learns, works, visits, worships or plays in the neighbourhood. Carlton is also known for its Victorian heritage streets and buildings and beautiful gardens.

'Lygon Street is of course beloved for its restaurants and retail, and I encourage people to come and support the businesses. Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre also offers great activities for all ages.

'Parkville has a deep history and heritage with beautiful mansions and

terrace houses. I even met a resident whose family has been living there since the 1800s. It's wonderful to learn from long-term residents about how times have changed, and their vision for the future.

'I encourage people to enjoy a long walk in Royal Park, an afternoon in the acclaimed nature play area, or a trip to Melbourne Zoo. There's so much to love about Parkville.'

Nas has been busy consulting with the community to create neighbourhood plans tailored to the specific needs of local residents and businesses.

'I really like the neighbourhood approach, because it recognises that one size doesn't fit all and the importance of listening to local communities. Every neighbourhood is unique in its own way and I look forward to collaborating with community members to build the future of Carlton and Parkville,' Nas said.

'Something I've heard across the board is that people want more events and gatherings that celebrate diversity and encourage community connection, especially after COVID-19. People have been isolated for so long and want to connect.

'That's something I'm excited to help achieve. That's what community development and engagement is all about.'

Other priorities recorded for Carlton and Parkville include supporting

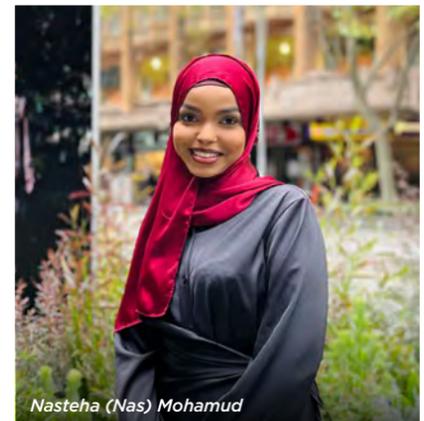
businesses to bounce back after COVID-19, protecting heritage, greening, improving safety and preserving our parks and open spaces.

No matter what community projects she's working on, Nas said people are the highlight of her job.

'The people I meet in these neighbourhoods are so passionate and driven. You meet people from all walks of life who do completely different things, and who come from different places in the world,' Nas said.

'They all bring so much knowledge and wisdom, as well as ideas about how we can make things better. I really enjoy all the conversations I have with the people I meet.

'I love that every day is different in this job.'



Nasteha (Nas) Mohamud

To find out more about neighbourhood planning, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

How does it feel to live in the nocturnal natural world?

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
EDUCATION

Tyama: A deeper sense of knowing, a digital multi-sensory exhibition taking visitors on a journey into Victoria's vibrant nocturnal world, is opening at the Melbourne Museum on Friday, July 22.

It is a world-first immersive experience based on First Peoples' practices of embodied learning, incorporating different projections and music composed specifically for the event from soundtracks of the natural world.

Tyama (chah-muh) is a Keerray Woorroong word that suggests ways of knowing that use all of our senses.

Miriam Capper, *Tyama's* experience developer and concept lead, describes the exhibition as "creating the nocturnal worlds of Victoria's natural environment using 360-degree projection, fantastic soundtracks and reactive technology."

"Allowing people to feel like they have become the creatures and see the world through these creatures' eyes, you are getting to try on something else's shoes and see the world through their senses," she said.

"You are stepping into it and becoming it, but at the same time, you recognise the amazing skills [of the creature] that humans don't have."

Ms Capper uses the example of the moths in the exhibition.

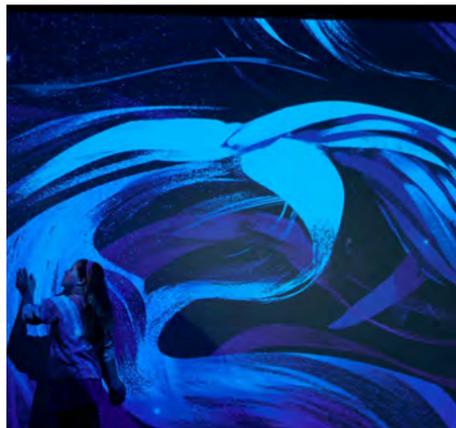


They use their antennae to smell pheromones miles away, so as part of the immersive experience, the viewer gets to follow and chase them to experience that life.

"It's one thing to be able to step into the world; it is another thing to be given these superpowers of the different creatures to experience their world from their perspective," she said.

The First Peoples' way of becoming part of nature is "embodied learning"; becoming the creatures. In their culture, they paint up and dance like the creature to connect.

"In the exhibition, the projections paint over the visitor, and then you act as the creature does.



The viewer achieves this by immersing themselves in the pollination of flowers. You act like these creatures and connect with them in this unique way."

There has been much research on embodied learning.

It helps a person create memories, remember things for longer, and understand things in a way that is deeply connected to a person's humanity as opposed to just being facts and figures.

Museums Victoria CEO and director Lynley Crosswell said *Tyama* was a transformational museum experience, converging presentation

of collections with First Peoples' knowledge systems and leading-edge digital immersion.

"It lets visitors experience the wonder of the natural world through extraordinary multisensory digital environments that bring to life the rich cultural and scientific life of Victoria," Ms Crosswell said.

"Developed in close collaboration with Keerray Woorroong citizens Yoolongteeyt Dr Vicki Couzens and Yaraan Bundle, First Peoples' storytelling and traditional ways of learning are at the heart of *Tyama*, inspiring us to learn about the connections between all living things that create the fabric of our world."

Dr Couzens and Ms Bundle's knowledge of the language and the First Person's ways of "being, doing and knowing" was vital to the exhibition's creation.

The exhibition uses the new science of embodied learning known by the First Peoples for thousands of years to share that depth of connection with the natural world.

Tyama is an honouring of Country reflecting the knowledge of those who have been honouring Country for thousands of years. ●

For more information:
museums victoria.com.au



July is documentary film month

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
ARTS & CULTURE

Melbourne Documentary Film Festival (MDFF) proudly presents its seventh edition, *Punks, Rebels, Mavericks and Renegades*, at Cinema Nova in Carlton and online.

MDFF runs online for the entire month of July, while the program at Cinema Nova screens from Wednesday, July 20 to Sunday, July 31.

Carlton-based GP and part-time filmmaker Fiona Cochrane will present her latest film *Patou: In Black and White*, a film about Jamaican singer Pat Powell, one of Australia's most accomplished yet hidden vocal talents.

He lives in Sydney and has performed with many bands in a career that spans more than four decades across the globe.

He is the artist that everyone wants to work with – the singer's singer who performs with 15 bands, including the ARIA award-winning Melbourne Ska Orchestra.

Ms Cochrane said, "my film focuses on his music and Patou as a family man."

"He has four children to four different women, all white."

"This raises identity issues for the children, and they talk about their feelings and experiences of racism."

Unlike Ms Cochrane, Craig Miller is screening his first film *Cuba My Soul* at the festival.

It is his first film, the first time he has been to MDFF, and *Cuba My Soul* screens as the festival's closing film.

The festival showcases documentaries produced by Melbourne filmmakers and international festivals such as Tribeca, the Freep Film Festival, Telluride, and the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

MDFF will launch seven world premiere films and screen 24 Australian feature-length documentaries in competition. ●

For more information:
mdff.org.au

Raptor in Royal Park

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*
ENVIRONMENT

Ken Tay, a self-taught amateur photographer, started photographing in Royal Park two to three years ago for two hours of freedom and sanity each day during lockdown.

He was in the car park of the hockey and netball centre recently and noticed all the birds in the surrounding area going crazy.

"They were warning [each other] that there was a predator around," Mr Tay said.

"It was a Peregrine Falcon on the hunt."

Peregrine Falcons feed on birdlife, rabbits, and other day-active mammals and fly at speeds of up to 300 km/h, soaring to great heights in search of prey.

Mr Tay said there was a small reserve near the railway station where there were a lot of flowering eucalypts out at the moment.

"There were heaps and heaps of lorikeets in the area, and he was looking for a tasty, sweet snack," he said.

The falcon perched on the mobile tower nearby and spent a lot of time looking at Mr Tay, before making a pass at him in the car park area.

"On that pass, he was checking me out; they process what they see 200 times per second while humans process 30 times a second," Mr Tay said.

North Melbourne resident Mr Tay said the falcon's nesting sites were cliff tops, so they gravitated toward tall buildings.

There were two definite nesting sites nearby, he said.

"One is the Collins St nest, which is very well known."

Since 1991 a pair of the Peregrine Falcons have roosted on the rooftop of 367 Collins St, with livestreaming CCTV footage available during nesting season.



"The other nesting site is in Niddrie in the old quarry," Mr Tay said.

As the birds have a flight range from the nest of about 20 to 30 km, both pairs could spend time in Royal Park.

"This bird is a juvenile because the feather pattern and colour are not that of an adult," Mr Tay said.

"The local twitchers are so excited as there hasn't been a juvenile spotted in the area before."

Mr Tay said there had been a pair of Peregrine Falcons roosting, not nesting, in the Flemington flats for quite some time.

One of them was found on the Flemington Racecourse in March. According to Crime Stoppers, the Conservation Regulator is seeking information about the suspected shooting of a Peregrine Falcon in the Flemington area on Monday, March 25.

Crime Stoppers launched an investigation after a member of the public came across the injured falcon on Flemington Racecourse. It was taken to a local vet clinic and referred to specialist veterinarians at Melbourne Zoo for assessment.

X-rays showed fractures and possible fragments of shotgun pellets in the deceased bird.

The Peregrine Falcon was euthanised due to the severity of the injuries. The maximum penalty for destroying protected wildlife is \$9087 and possibly six months in prison. ●

An emotional beat

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

Gigs at the Curtin Hotel in Carlton feel special with the threat of closure on the horizon.

Rambal released an album in 2021 and they were having their first Melbourne appearance since then.

The band got straight into the music without any preamble after the support act finished.

Previous gigs at the Curtin have been poignant, what with the lockdown blues and the shutdown fight.

But this one was pure, unadulterated, classy funk/jazz with refined vocals.

Singer Nardia Brancatisane was pitch perfect, even better on the album *Hold Your Fire*.

All of the songs were original, quite amazing since they sounded familiar.

Some magic moments were reserved for the live performance, such as the sweet, more contemporary voices of guitarist Justin Yap and the back-up vocalist.

The band was formed by Justin Yap whose light, emotional blues guitar was appealing, and he seemed to own the songs.

The Curtin is a great venue for hearing new bands who choose the pub for the Melbourne leg of their tours.

The pub does special deals and offers free tickets to subscribers. It's a laidback establishment without the heavy-duty bouncer contingent of other venues like the Corner Hotel.

The crowd drifted in in dribs and drabs with a casual approach to décor beloved by the live music scene fan, including the obligatory sticky carpet.

While the voice of Nardia could have been a little too slick for some, her driving presence got the ball rolling after the instrumentals of The Winfield Experiment.

The combination of bands posed questions about the role of vocals. Should they dominate or be part of the sound?

The Rambal sound connects back to the funk of the '70s, particularly Allen Stone.

The trumpet was also very cool and restrained.

Winfield lacked a little something and were best in their Latin numbers which gave the sound an emotional beat.

Rambal with The Winfield Experiment, The Curtin Hotel, June 18. ●

STATE MP

Your Melbourne Greens team continues (and grows by one!)



I have some news: at the time of writing (early June), my baby is due in one week! And before I embark upon a short period of maternity leave, I wanted to “officially” announce that I’m putting up my hand to continue as your state MP for Melbourne at the Victorian election in November.



There’s no denying that the last few years have been a rollercoaster. But after the recent federal election, I am feeling very hopeful.

The election saw big swings towards candidates pushing for strong climate action and integrity in our parliaments, sending a strong

message to the new government that this is what Australians want (and need!).

With more Greens in the federal parliament our MPs will push the government further and faster on climate change, integrity, women’s representation in parliament and affordable housing.

As someone who has worked my whole adult life for action on climate change, the results gave me a new spring in my step. They gave me hope about what we can achieve, together with the community, at the state election in November.

With just a few Greens MPs in the Victorian Parliament, we’ve already been successful at pushing Labor to change its position and implement a ban on toxic gas fracking, stopping the polluting East West toll road, and getting a cap on political donations.

When China stopped taking our waste a few years ago, it was the Greens-initiated parliamentary inquiry that pushed the Government to adopt new solutions like a 10c refund on bottles and cans, a ban on single-use plastics and an overhaul of our recycling system.

And during the pandemic we were able to stand up for public housing residents affected by the hard lockdown – with new support programs now in place – as well as successfully advocate for rent relief for people struggling to pay rent and support for casual workers and



▲ State Greens MP Ellen Sandell (right) with re-elected Federal Greens MP Adam Bandt (left).

terrible housing affordability crisis.

We also need strong advocates to put forward bold solutions to reinvigorate our city post-COVID.

Given all of this, I think our work is more important than ever, and I’m excited to continue it as we head into the election in November.

It’s a pleasure to work alongside the community on important local and global issues.

While I’ll be taking a short time off to care for my new baby, which is very exciting, my office will remain open as normal.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch through email and I can’t wait to see many local residents when I return (with a baby in tow!). ●

Get in touch:
office@ellensandell.com



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

CARLTON INC. TRADER PROFILE

La Spaghetтата – the first pasta house in Australia

Sicilian husband and wife Tony and Giovanna Cattafi arrived in Melbourne in 1965 with only their suitcases and no English.

WORDS BY Carol Saffer

Like many Europeans who journeyed to Australia in the ‘60s, they worked hard from the moment they arrived, building a new life in West Footscray.

In 1981 they purchased La Spaghetтата on Lygon St, Carlton, an authentic Italian restaurant claimed to be the first pasta house in Australia.

“Toto’s was the first pizza house, and we were the first pasta house,” second son Fabio said.

Over the years, the family table expanded with the addition of four children, all of whom

spent time helping in the business.

At 13 years of age, Fabio remembers buttering the garlic bread, washing dishes and sweeping the floor.

Cousins, brothers, and aunts all did shifts in the restaurant when they needed money back in the day to pay for university or build a house.

“My dad set up a lot of people by giving them work,” Fabio said.

He recalls his and his siblings’ childhood memories filled with the aromas of family meals and the stories shared around Giovanna and Tony’s table.

La Spaghetтата was and still is on Lygon St, Carlton.

Fabio said they loved being a part of it and the annual Lygon Street Festa.

Elders son Mauro worked with his dad for 20 years.

When Fabio joined him, “we carried on the legacy, updating and adding modern marketing systems such as social media, but still retaining



the authentic and traditional ambience.”

Fabio said that when you dined at La Spaghetтата, you became part of the family and its story.

Mauro and Fabio have helped build the business and the clientele after trading for 40 years.

Some of their regular customers are now bringing grandchildren into La Spaghetтата.

Fabio mentions Terry and Shirley, who come every second Sunday like clockwork.

“We love them; they are a big part of our family now. I spoke to Terry last week just to keep in touch,” he said.

Another couple, Helen and Peter, have dined with them since the ‘80s.

When asked what their recipe for longevity was, Fabio replied, “it is our consistency of great food and the connection and relationships we have formed with our customers.”

“We’ve seen so many changes, but we still have diners who keep coming back to us for our fresh Italian food and the hugs and familiarity as they pull up a chair in our authentic rustic farmhouse building.” ●

For more information:
laspaghetтата.com.au

QVM TRADER PROFILE

Farm to mug: Healthy tea revolutionised

Since purchasing a Bunyip farm in 1999, husband and wife Deva and Lily Wijeyewardene have been making the most of the farm that was previously used to grow herbal teas.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Taking over and expanding the production of the herbal teas has been a worthwhile adventure for the couple, who now have their own business by the name of Australian Tea House.

Their products are sold at Queen Victoria Market among other locations.

“We actually got serious about our farm and started focusing on it around 2009 when we started selling at farmers markets and weekend markets,” Deva said.

“We have a permanent position in the St Kilda Esplanade Market and then one day we

got a visit and were invited to have a stall at Queen Victoria Market which for us was a big invitation because I feel it is the pinnacle of all markets.”

Opening up their stall at QVM in April last year, while a slow start due to obvious reasons, has been a massive opportunity for the couple and one that has given them a presence to have “direct contact with [their] customers”.

“QVM is seriously a fantastic community. It’s a very vibrant ecosystem,” Deva said.

“People don’t just come in, run their stall and go home, there is a lot of interaction and the management is also very concerned about everyone being comfortable.”

This supportive environment combined with the success Australian Tea House has been having both online and at the markets has provided Deva and Lily to think in more depth about where they see themselves going with their teas.

This has led them to move their focus from traditional teas of spearmint and chamomile to a new range of functional herbs which are known for helping people deal with health concerns.



▲ Lily Wijeyewardene in front of the couple’s Australian Tea House stall at Queen Victoria Market.

The unique functional herb blends are continuously well-researched by Deva and come in the form of both teas and supplement powders, with various teas focused on aiding constipation and cold and flu symptoms.

The supplement powders on offer that have helped the line become their fastest moving yet

are the full spectrum turmeric powder and the full spectrum moringa powder.

While the turmeric mix aims to help inflammation and “arthritic issues” the moringa mix is created to support the improvement of memory.

The growing success of the functional herbs have led Deva and Lily to start brainstorming what the future of their company looks like, as they consider converting their farm into a community farm for people to visit.

They are also in the process of setting up a dehydration plant with support from the state government and hope to produce more organic powdered products.

Happy with the progress their company has been making, both Lily and Deva are “impressed” with the Queen Victoria Market and are feeling “positive” about the big changes to come for their company. ●

For more information:
australianteahouse.com

BUSINESS

Natural instincts

There's something afoot at the Carlton Learning Precinct. The Gowrie Victoria early learning centre and kinder, which only opened two years ago, is working to transform its outdoor space into a natural haven that inspires curiosity and imagination.

Gowrie Victoria, which operates six services across Melbourne, is renowned for its strong focus on natural materials, all-weather play and connection to Country. The integrated learning centre, which shares a building with Carlton Primary School, runs an indoor-outdoor program every day, rain or shine, allowing children of different ages to access the central outdoor space any time.

Centre manager Alistair Gibbs said the outdoor space at Carlton Learning Precinct was not as established as some of the other sprawling gardens at Gowrie's services. "It's encouraging us to think a bit more creatively, about how we can connect with our philosophies and utilise what we have in the space," Alistair said.

This creative thinking can be seen throughout the outdoor play area in the use of rocks, sand, timber and recycled materials. A garden bed for growing vegies has been crafted from an actual old bed frame, filled with soil. Native plants are dotted throughout the area and a shared alleyway along the side is lined with pot plants.

The outdoor area is one of the main learning spaces and allows children to flow between the different rooms and mix with different age

groups.

"Each of our spaces has an open-door policy," Alistair said. "The children can move between the rooms and connect in the outdoor area. The alleyway offers a quiet space for anyone needing a break. It's a place to reconnect with that sense of self."

An emphasis on materials foraged from nature is evident throughout the service and offers a great opportunity to explore connection to Country as part of Gowrie Victoria's First Nations Perspectives Program.

"The children in our care are gaining the foundations for respect and kindness and understanding what that looks like through social interactions and culture," Alistair said.

Carlton Primary School, located on the first floor of the hub, has a football field and playground, with a leafy corner that the early learning centre uses for its bush classroom. "There are lots of trees, benches and native plants here, and we can access that space at any time," Alistair said.

A connection to Country is reinforced through everything from the resources available to discussions about seasons. Even the rooms have been named after native plants chosen by



the children.

"The children are really involved in sustainability, whether it's creating edible spaces or using natural materials the land has offered us as part of their play," Alistair said. "Everything we do at the service and in the community, we bring that connection back to nature, back to land."

Gowrie Carlton Learning Precinct currently has places available for three and four-year-olds.



For more information:
gowrievictoria.org.au/carltonlearningprecinct
 or call 1300 446 974 •

Queen Victoria Market online provides welcome boost for traders

Despite the challenges and evolving landscape presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has defied challenges being faced by other markets with the success of its online delivery service.

WORDS BY Sean Car

In response to the pandemic, QVM Pty Ltd said it sought to implement a number of creative initiatives to help build "a stronger, more resilient market for our traders and community."

QVM Online service was one such initiative, allowing customers to shop for fresh and

specialty food from multiple market traders in one online checkout.

Considered "an important step" for the market to maintain a competitive advantage in the current retail and e-commerce environments, QVM Online has fulfilled more than 15,000 individual online orders since launching in November 2020.

As the only service of its kind remaining in operation today, the success of QVM's online produce delivery service has gone against the wave of other major Melbourne markets which launched online services during the pandemic, which have all now closed.

And the service continues to go from strength to strength. Beginning with 2000 unique products, it now offers more than 3500 products across fresh meat, fish, poultry, fruit and vegetables, bread, eggs, deli, nuts, ready-made meals, organics, coffee, tea, wine, craft beer and gin, flowers, vitamins and more.

With more than 50 of the market's traders operating on the one platform, it has proven to be a resounding success and much-needed boost amid ongoing challenges many small businesses have faced during the pandemic.

Having originally delivered within 15 kilometres of the market in December 2020, it now delivers to 220 postcodes within 30 kilometres around Melbourne, with the CBD, North Melbourne, Flemington, Fitzroy and Carlton making up the top five suburbs.

QVM Pty Ltd said there was also a strong customer base in the western suburbs across Werribee and the Point Cook area.

Customers can collect their goods from the designated click and collect zone in the market car park or have their shopping delivered directly to their home or office, with two delivery windows available every market day (1pm to 5pm or 4pm to 8pm).

Delivery is \$15 per order and customers can



order by 10am on a market day for same-day service. Orders are delivered in cardboard boxes with minimal to no plastic packaging. •

For more information:
qvm.com.au/shop

INNER CITY LOCAL

Every garment has a story

Fernanda Covarrubias is a Melbourne-based clothing designer tucked in the corner of the Preston Zly bespoke shoe shop on Elgin St.

WORDS BY Carol Saffer

The clothing racks that mark her territory within the store are crammed with a colourful array of garments that Ms Covarrubias describes as "unique, dazzling, yet stylish".

She created her eponymous brand, locally manufactured using deadstock fabrics, in Mexico.

Thirteen years of experience in the fashion industry and her passion for fashion and fabric craftsmanship were the drivers for bringing her clothing brand to Carlton.

She met Johanna Preston, co-owner of Preston Zly, at the launch of her label.

It was Ms Preston's suggestion to use the

space in her store, and six months ago, she moved in.

Her garments are handmade and transformed in her studio with a timeless design, a solid individual identity, and a story behind them.

She said, "they highlight women's beauty, and most importantly, help them feel empowered and comfortable in their skin, despite age, ethnicity, or body shape."

"I understood the power of clothing to communicate a message of personal authenticity," she said.

"My garments are designed for women who want to be noticed and stand out in the crowd."

Like many small fashion labels, the small quantities and made-to-order garments she produces for her clientele preclude her from having her garments made by local clothing manufacturers.

"So, I design the garments, create the patterns, cut and sew them and using recycled, pre-loved and fabric offcuts deliver to the customer something that no one else will have."

The women who shop at her studio are in the 30-to-50-year age group and do not buy their garments at shopping malls or large department stores.



They come to see Ms Covarrubias for clothing that will make them look different.

Every detail of her creations is carefully designed to express part of her story, the materials, and her clientele's story.

"I have accessories and scarves from \$100 to around \$240, or you can spend more than

\$1000 for a one-of-a-kind coat," she said.

Each garment she makes has a story that she wants to share with every owner.

Tucked carefully inside is an NFC button; tap the button with your smartphone to reveal the story in detail via a web browser. •

METRO TUNNEL



▲ The City Square acoustic shed will be brought down in the coming months as part of Metro Tunnel Project works.

City Square acoustic shed to come down

“

A six-month operation to dismantle the massive acoustic shed at City Square has started as part of Metro Tunnel works.

”

It marks an exciting new phase of construction at Town Hall Station as work to install two 50-metre cranes starts on Swanston St for construction to begin on the station's upper levels and entrance.

The shed, designed to reduce construction noise, light and dust, went up nearly three years ago and allowed crews to work 24/7 as they build the underground train station – one of two new stations in the heart of Melbourne.

The shed also provided a massive canvas for Emma Coulter's bold artwork *Spatial deconstruction #23 (resilience)* adding a colourful boost to the CBD since the start of 2021.

With work on the station up to 30 metres below ground now well advanced, crews have begun installing footings for the first crane that will be used to dismantle the temporary shed.

The cranes will sit over the Swanston St footpath, between Collins St and Flinders Lane, on 20-metre-high gantries – tall enough for people to continue using the footpath beneath them.

Installation of the first crane, at the northern end of the footpath, will require closing the southern Collins St footpath at the corner of Collins and Swanston streets for about two weeks, with some changes to access for the southbound City Square tram stop on Swanston St.

The second crane, at the southern end of the footpath, will start going up in early July and be fully installed by early August.

From late August, the cranes will start dismantling the acoustic shed in stages, which will take around three months.

Once the shed is removed, the cranes will use the new loading bay to move materials and equipment to and from site.

This is the second Metro Tunnel acoustic shed to be brought down after the St Kilda Rd structure over Anzac Station was dismantled earlier this year.

Town Hall Station is 260 metres long – longer than a city block – and as deep as a five-storey building. When it opens in 2025, it will connect to the Metro Tunnel's four other underground stations and the new Sunbury to Cranbourne/Pakenham Line, and will have a direct, underground pedestrian link to Flinders Street Station and City Loop services. ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Kalingra: a story of firsts

East Melbourne is rightfully known for its Victorian era streetscapes. However, between the wars it went through a period of redevelopment resulting in a scattering of buildings that are markedly different in style.

WORDS BY *Sylvia Black*
SECRETARY - EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One of these is a small block of six flats at 109 George St. It was originally called *Kalingra* but the lettering on the gatepost has been damaged and it is now known as “Kalingi”. It is notable for having as its designer, Edith Ingpen, the first woman to gain an architecture degree from the University of Melbourne, passing her final exams in 1933.

Before completing her degree, Edith had begun work in the practice of Harold Desbrowe-Annear, the leading architect of his generation. Desbrowe-Annear died soon after, in June 1933, and Edith took the plunge and set up on her own.

Edith had graduated at an opportune time: Melbourne was beginning to emerge from the devastation of the Great Depression and work for architects was on the rise. Even so, such a large commission as the East Melbourne flats to be given to a brand-new practitioner is surprising. It was, perhaps, a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

The Ingpen family, consisting of Walter Cecil Ingpen, his wife Emma Louisa and Edith herself had, in 1931, moved into a flat at Thorlinda, 108 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, immediately behind 109 George St. Also living at this address were William George Pamphilon and his wife, Marjorie Lillian. It was William's brother, Henry Thomas Pamphilon, a well-known bookmaker, who had bought the old house at 109 with the intention of knocking it



▲ 109 George St.

Photo Gavin John.

down and building the new flats. Introductions were no doubt made.

This was Edith's first job and also a first for East Melbourne in being the earliest building designed in the Moderne style. She lost no time in getting to work on the project, lodging plans with the council in August 1933.

A feature article about Edith and her work in *The Age* of July 24, 1937, highly praised the result, commenting that the architect was required “to design a building sufficiently imposing and dignified with only [a] meagre 28 feet [frontage] to work on” and continued that “the light-toned colour scheme and horizontal windows and balconies give the effect of added breadth”.

On completion of the building William and Marjorie Pamphilon moved into the flat on the second level overlooking George St. Henry let them have it rent free as William was not well, suffering severe shell shock in WWI. In return William acted as caretaker for the building until his death in 1952. Marjorie remained there until the early 1970s when she moved into a nursing home. Henry had died in 1940 but the property remained in his estate at least until Marjorie



▲ Edith Ingpen. *Australian Home Beautiful*, August 1, 1936.

moved out.

Henry appears to have been a kind and generous man, and that is perhaps part of his reason for giving a kick start to the career of an unknown architect, plus of course his ability to judge a good bet.

Edith, meanwhile, continued her practice, specialising in residential buildings, until the outbreak of WWII. Again, opportunities for architects dried up and Edith joined the Victorian Public Works Department where, as a woman, she was severely handicapped in terms of pay and promotion. Finally fed-up she resigned in 1965 and moved to Bristol, England to follow her long-held ambition to be a painter. She died in England in 2006.

Kalingra remains Edith's major work and, like its contemporaries, it sits among its older neighbours quite peacefully, unlike its many times larger and more strident modern counterparts.

Sylvia Black, secretary,
East Melbourne Historical Society
info@emhs.org.au and emhs.org.au ●

MELBOURNE ZOO

Mouse matchmakers bring native back from the brink

A tiny endangered native mouse has a big future thanks to a new conservation breeding program that's been launched at Melbourne Zoo.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced a new breeding program which pairs Pookila – coupling the native mice to regenerate the wild population.

The Victorian Pookila Captive Breeding and Reintroduction Program will see genetically diverse breeding pairs matched and housed at Melbourne Zoo and Moonlit Sanctuary with the eventual goal of releasing the offspring.

Derived from the Ngarigo word for “mouse” – bugila – Pookila was adopted by the federal government in 1995 as the Indigenous name for the species formerly known as the New Holland Mouse.

The small, burrowing rodents, native to south-eastern Australia, are endangered in Victoria. Similar in size to the introduced House Mouse, they can be distinguished by their large eyes, rounded ears, a bi-coloured pink and dusky brown tail, and the absence of “mousey” odour.

Seven of the known Victorian populations have become extinct in the last decades, with sites shrinking to just five across the Gippsland region, including at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The population decline is due to habitat loss including from drought and bushfire, feral predators, competition from non-native rodent species and loss of genetic diversity.

To combat this, a team of scientists has “paired” – specially matched based on where they were collected, their genetic diversity and behaviour – 22 of the 3000 mice that remain in Victoria.

The program aims to breed more genetically healthy and resilient mice that can be released into the wild, strengthening existing populations and creating new ones.

“We're making record investments into biodiversity so our unique native species – big and small – can thrive in the wild for generations to come,” Ms D'Ambrosio said.

“We're proud to use the Ngarigo name for this adorable native mouse and to be investing in its future.”

Zoos Victoria Native Rodent Biologist Dr Phoebe Burns said wild populations of the Pookila had crashed in recent decades.

“Here in Victoria, we have probably only got a few thousand Pookila left in the wild, and that is quite a catastrophic decline,” she said.

Working with our conservation partners we want to boost numbers in the wild back up to a sustainable level where they can be safe into the future.

“We are going to be pairing our animals based on how genetically different they are so that their babies are going to have the best, most diverse genetics and then we can reintroduce those animals back out into the wild to boost



genetics in the wild populations.”

“The mice will be housed here at Melbourne Zoo and at Moonlit Sanctuary down in Pearcedale. So, we will have two great facilities where we can breed the mice and build up our numbers so that we have animals to release back into the wild.”

“It is really exciting to be able to make a difference in the long-term conservation of this gorgeous native species.”

Moonlit Sanctuary founder and director Michael Johnson said his team was looking forward to working with the Pookila.

“Moonlit Sanctuary is thrilled to invest in the recovery of another threatened Victorian species,” Mr Johnson said. ●

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK



Morning coffee meeting

There was a good turnout for the monthly East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) Morning Tea on Friday, June 11. Guest speaker for the day was Dr Laurie Bartak, a psychologist and world authority on autism.

WORDS BY *Sue Henderson*

Dr Bartak has long experience in the field, and it was clear that over his career that there has been a huge change in the way that autistic behaviours have been assessed and in the ways that strategies have been developed to deal with autism. If I could summarise the theme of his talk as I saw it, it would be that autism causes people to process information differently from the way most people do; because they may react differently in this process it may seem that they are being stubborn or anti-social, but this is not the case.

Laurie said that in his experience he was struck by how much autistic people tried to “do the right thing” in terms of what would be regarded as “normal” behaviour. Giving autistic people strategies was one aspect of this but having a wider understanding of the issue by the rest of the community was also important.

The next meeting will be at 10.30am on Friday, July 8 at 67 Grey St, with guest speaker Arthur Andronas, an architect who has had great experience in heritage restoration of cathedrals. Any residents are welcome to attend and get to know a few of your neighbours. This is a free event.



Join our new choir!

East Melbourne Neighbour Network is putting together a new choir and wants YOU to be part of it.

We are currently seeking a musical director to lead the choir and would also love to hear from any community members willing to get involved in the planning.

- No auditions needed.
- Even if you think you can't sing but want to be involved in something special in our community, come and give it a go.
- Whatever your musical ability, you'll be very welcome.
- Rehearsals: Choir will begin in January 2023 at a time and day to be advised.
- For more information contact: emnn3002@gmail.com or call Ann-Maree on 0417 173 818 or Sue on 0402 356 533

Health and Wellbeing program

We are currently preparing our Term 3 timetable and our current program will be continued with a few modifications.

This is due to the temporary loss of our wonderful Pilates and Qigong instructor Alissia, who has undergone surgery for a back injury. We all join to wish Alissia a speedy recovery,

she will be missed by the various class groups she so capably led. We will try to get a temporary replacement teacher to cover the classes while she is away.

The two Friday morning general exercise classes have capacity for a few more members as instructor Jeff has kindly agreed to take on a few more people. We can also cope with a few more members for the chair yoga at 10.30am Mondays and the gentle yoga class at 5.30pm on Mondays.

All classes are held at Powlett Reserve Community Room, Grey St, East Melbourne. Call Susan on 0402 356 533 or Ann-Maree on 0417 173 818 if you are interested.

New ideas are sought from the community as we seek to provide additional meaningful, fun, and engaging activities for all age groups. Any resident of any age who would like to get involved – the EMNN would love to hear from you. Your ideas and involvement will help strengthen our community and enhance the health and wellbeing of your neighbours. ●

For more information:
EMNN3002@gmail.com

Still Sacred and Golden: A reminder of the true gold

An exhibition focused on celebrating plants and cultural practices is being presented at the Koorie Heritage Trust, but while not blatantly obvious from first glance, the work actually explores deeper themes.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Behind the *Still Sacred and Golden* work is award-winning multimedia visual artist and proud Wadawurrung woman Dr Deanne Gilson, who through her work hopes to share how the objectification of Aboriginal women has resulted in deep pain – a topic she closely examined in her PhD at Deakin University.

“I am looking at the objects of our daily lives and as a First Nations artist responding to the objectified and yet showing us as still here, and our culture is still sacred to us,” Dr Gilson said.

“The flowers are all about honouring the beauty of Country and our women with the knowledge held in the baskets I will be painting.”

The exhibition has 17 new paintings and each speaks about how Aboriginal women who were subjected to objectification by both the male and female colonial gaze, particularly within Dr Gilson’s ancestral line, lost their spiritual connection to place, Country and each other.

“I hope my artwork aids in some small way towards the awakening of my women’s spirit once again. The bond for me is still sacred and it is not broken, but it has been just quietly resting until now,” she said.

Dr Gilson grew up in Naarm – Melbourne – before relocating back to her Ancestral Country, which includes Ballarat and surrounding areas, with her family.

As an experienced artist, Dr Gilson’s previous work has surrounded deep themes of colonial disruption, loss of family, culture, language and traditional women’s practices and the continuing impact of loss on Aboriginal women today.

Through the self-reflective aspect of her contemporary art she hopes people can take time to heal, and disrupt and challenge the gaze.

The concept of celebrating both the plants, cultural practices and contemporary women’s business comes through within the exhibition’s title of *Still Sacred and Golden*. A strong title with an even stronger meaning behind it, similar to Dr Gilson’s work.

“The gold references two things for me, the gold fields in which I live and that our knowledge is golden and important and worth more than gold,” she said.

“My ancestors had no use of gold itself, it is just a metaphor. The true gold isn’t the gold from the gold fields, it’s us.”

Still Sacred and Golden opens Saturday, June 18 and continues at Koorie Heritage Trust in Federation Square until Sunday, September 18.

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP

American soldiers in Royal Park

“During the Second World War, Royal Park in Melbourne became a massive US Army base, which at its peak housed thousands of American troops.”

America entered the war in December 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour. The Philippines, which had been run by the Americans, was then invaded and occupied by the Japanese army. General MacArthur who headed the US forces there was evacuated to Australia, basing himself in Melbourne. As the Japanese moved further south and closer to Australia, there was a build-up of US forces here in preparation for a counter-offensive.

When he arrived in Melbourne in March 1942, General MacArthur found US forces already well established, with their main presence being in Royal Park. This camp had originally been called Camp Royal Park, but the name was changed to Camp Pell in honour of an American airman, Major Floyd Pell, who had been killed defending Darwin against Japanese bombers. The main street through the camp was called MacArthur Rd, the name by which it is still known.

As well as Royal Park, American troops were accommodated on the Melbourne Cricket Ground and in temporary encampments in



▲ At Camp Pell in Royal Park in 1942, the US flag is lowered at the end of the day as buglers play *The Last Post*. (Photo: State Library of Victoria).

the churches and others who were concerned about illicit sexual activities that might occur between US soldiers and local women. The attraction of the American soldiers was that they were better dressed than most Australian men, had more money, and were better mannered towards women. The saying at the time was that the Americans were “over paid, over sexed, and over here”.

The presence of American soldiers in Melbourne, and in Camp Pell in particular, acquired an ominous overtone. However, when it was found that a soldier from the camp, Private Edward Leonski, had murdered three local women, he was subsequently arrested, tried by an American military court, and hanged in Pentridge Prison.

As the war progressed the American military presence in Melbourne declined. After the war had ended in 1945, a housing shortage led to the Victorian Housing Commission using the huts left over from the army camp as a transit camp for newly arrived migrants. It was also used to accommodate families that had been evicted from their homes by the Commission’s slum reclamation program. The poor conditions and lack of amenities in Camp Pell meant that it gained a degree of notoriety. By the late 1950s, most of those in the camp had been rehoused in Housing Commission estates. Camp Pell was closed, and the Melbourne City Council embarked on a program of restoring the area to park land with ovals and other sporting facilities. ●

Fawkner Park in South Yarra, at the Port Melbourne football ground and in Frankston. A number of buildings, hotels and schools in Melbourne were also requisitioned for use by the US military, including University High School in nearby south Parkville.

The American presence in Melbourne peaked in June 1942 with some 30,000 men stationed in the city. It declined somewhat in August when General MacArthur moved his headquarters north to Brisbane in order to be closer to the fighting front but increased again in early 1943 when US Marines were based near the city.

The American presence sparked alarm from



Jeff Atkinson
PRESIDENT CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP
JEFFANN@BIGPOND.NET.AU

Parkville Association through June!

As we grow the Association's life gets a lot busier particularly with the development at 35-39 Royal Parade. As this is a feature issue this month I will let that story convey the message. Suffice to say on Saturday morning there were more professors on the Parkville side of Royal Parade than at the Uni!

In June I attended several meetings on behalf of the Parkville Association. Melbourne Metro Community Reference Group had its bimonthly meeting where there were some exciting videos of the new station platforms where rails will be built very shortly. Having been a member of this group since pre-construction, it is exciting to see the actual station take shape. Not wanting the next three years to fly, however the thought of catching a train from Parkville is incredible!

The North Melbourne Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) met and Brunswick MP Dr Tim Read attended to, among other things, discuss some drug-related issues. The group, which I chair, covers Carlton, Parkville, Kensington, Parkville Gardens and North Melbourne.

The PCCC has an objective to monitor crime, manage safety, and bring police and the population closer in a positive way.

Leading Senior Constable Nick Parrisis has a full-time role giving talks and working with many of our local schools and residential towers in his area. School camps have had remarkable outcomes where the kids have formed great relationships with the local police. Following that Melbourne West and Melbourne North held their first Neighbourhood Policing local safety meeting at Victoria Police Headquarters in Spencer St.

This group is covering a larger area with clear objectives to make the city safer through communication from the community discussing current and emerging safety issues.

Any issues you wish to raise please email me presidentparkvilleassociation@gmail.com. The police do an incredible job, and this initiative is to bring back the feel of local policing.

Following that we had the current quarterly



meeting of the presidents of residents groups with the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

The meeting focused on safety and homelessness, traffic, cleaning, planning and heritage and community engagement. Clearly for Parkville at the moment the heritage issue is very important, and we look forward to the publication of the heritage review which took place in April.

We are also excited to welcome Nelson Alexander as the sponsors of our *Parkville News* which was delivered over the weekend of June 25-26 to Parkville residents. Their sponsorship enables us to publish quarterly and brings old friends Nick West and Tom Roberts into the association as members. We look forward to developing the relationship further over the next few years!

Finally, although strictly the other side of Royal Parade, it is great to see the Carlton Football Club sitting nicely on the ladder. For those of you who have moved to Parkville since 1995 Naughtons Hotel has always been the location where Carlton has started its premiership celebrations. Hopefully Ryan Moses (landlord of Naughtons) will enjoy being part of that sooner rather than later! ●



Rob Moore
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENTPARKVILLEASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM

CARLTON ROTARY

Passionate volunteer awarded outstanding community leadership award

In 2010-11 the Rotary Club of Carlton instigated a Community Leadership Award to recognise people in the local community who have demonstrated by example a commitment to initiating programs and/or supporting their communities.



▲ *Jazmyn Walkin*

In 2017-18 the name was changed to the Paul Carlin Outstanding Community Leadership Award to recognise Mr Carlin as one who did more than anyone in our club to inspire our motto "Caring for Carlton".

This year, the award is being presented to Jazmyn Walkin, a volunteer coordinator at the Brotherhood of St Lawrence's Breakfast Club.

Her nominator Lexi Middleton, a community engagement officer at the Brotherhood, said Ms Walkin's "ongoing voluntary commitment to supporting young people in Fitzroy exemplifies all the values you are searching for".

"I oversee Jazmyn's inspiring and dedicated volunteer work in the community and truly believe Jazmyn is a prime candidate for this award," she said.

"Jazmyn has been volunteering with a locally ran wellbeing and food security program Breakfast Club for over five years and played an integral part in facilitating and adapting the program throughout copious challenges presented by Covid-19 including a change of location (from Connie Benn Centre, Fitzroy to Sacred Heart Primary School).

"Breakfast Club lays the foundations for better concentration and participation at school, as children enjoy a nourishing meal every weekday before school and take part in fun learning activities."

Ms Walkin has played an integral part in the program by offering a variety of skills, including facilitating wellbeing activities for students.

Ms Middleton said the Breakfast Club currently has about 30 students attend who continue to benefit from Jazmyn's kind and nurturing nature and modelling of community values.

"Jazmyn has led several community and corporate volunteers by displaying incredible commitment, innovation, and initiative in facilitating Breakfast Club activities and builds supportive and nurturing relationships with

staff and students, all in a voluntary capacity on top of other personal and professional commitments. Jazmyn is consistent, reliable and a pleasure to work with," Ms Middleton said.

Ms Walkin will be presented her award certificate and a cheque for \$1000 at the Carlton Rotary's changeover dinner at Graduate House on June 28.

At that dinner, district governor elect (from July 1) Ron Payne from Eaglehawk Rotary Club will induct Ian Ada as president from July 1 to follow on from Keith Ryall who has completed his one-year term of office.

Prayers for the Tolley family

We reported in the June *Inner City News* on the plight of a young 12-year-old boy from Beechworth who had suffered horrific burns in a fire that totally destroyed the family home on the outskirts of Beechworth in early May. The following comments are taken from the Tolley Love and Support page on Facebook on June 18.

COVID19 has given them all a knock and resulted in Jack back in ICU with some heart complications as well as sepsis (infections). He is now back on the ward and even though his amazing resilience shows, he is tired, worn out and struggling at times especially with pain. So far, the battle has been for just over two months.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to young Jack and all members of the Tolley family for a complete and reasonably rapid recovery.

For Rotary opportunities or membership enquiries contact Ian Ada on 0447 173 084. ●

For more information:
iada@bigpond.net.au

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

Residents meeting



Finally, the newly-formed Carlton Estate Tenants' Association (CETA) has had its first meeting, this occurred on June 20.



We have another meeting arranged for Thursday July 14, from 5pm to 6.30pm, it will take place at the base of the 480 Lygon St building, where Open Door is located.

I encourage all residents of all the buildings on the estate to become involved in CETA. We all deserve to contribute and have a say on things that can be improved on the estate.

Local issues

The newly proposed design and upgrade of the foyer at the above-mentioned building all looks bright and glossy, but it ignores residents' concerns over safety. There is nowhere in the design to build a security office.

This estate here in Carlton is the only high-rise estate in Melbourne to not have security officers placed in a protected area to assess who comes in and out of the buildings. Residents are outraged with Homes Victoria and the Minister for Housing Richard Wynne. Start listening to residents' concerns.

I would like to thank Ellen Sandell MP for bringing to parliament the issue of the Carlton Housing Estate continually being ignored and forgotten about.

On a positive note, I would like to congratulate the residents in the housing estate at 495 Cardigan St for their ongoing campaign to get security doors installed at all the apartments. The motion was first mooted over a Zoom meeting with Minister Wynne and a few representatives of the Carlton estate in September 2021. The installation is due to begin before the end of August this year. Residents will now feel safer and more secure, they will also be able to open the front doors without fear of anyone walking in freely. Ventilation is also a big problem, not being able to open the door has created hotboxes in the summer months. Well done to all concerned, great work.



Housing

This is my review of the statement announced from the Minister for Housing Richard Wynne on April 1, (yes, I also thought it was a joke).

The 90 per cent of local median market rents is a significant departure from the past announcements of 75 to 80 per cent of market rent.

The Ascot Vale and Heidelberg Estates are mentioned as locations in the statement, meaning some, if not all of the housing being built at Dunlop Ave (Ascot Vale) and Tarakan St (Heidelberg) will be allocated to this program. All the other locations that are mentioned were announced under the PHRP (Public Housing Renewal Program) now the BHB (Big Housing Build).

The fact that there will be caps of 30 per cent of household income does not make it an acceptable policy in my view. The prospective residents will not be from the VHR (Victorian Housing Registry), and how they will be selected is specified as being through "partner agencies" which we can reasonably expect to be community housing organisations.

The rents discounts will only apply for three years, after that time it is most likely that the housing will be formally transferred to the community housing organisations involved, adding to their stock of housing, which mostly has been gained through public housing transfers from the state government.

The state government may provide an ongoing subsidy to cover the 10 per cent of market rents, that will continue to rise, or community housing organisations might just go to full market rents to enhance their revenue.

Any feedback is greatly appreciated. ●



Cory Memery
CORYMEMERY@YAHOO.COM

Pet's Corner

Grandma's little helper

“

Five-month-old border collie Shadow lives with a busy family of four. Lucky for her, grandma Pippa breaks up the long hours when everyone is at work and school by taking her out to play fetch.

”



WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*

“The children are really meant to look after her, but it tends to fall to Granny, which is fine because I love dogs too,” Pippa laughed.

“I like to move around, so it's perfect that I have some time with this one and some time without a dog, without the responsibilities.”

Pippa is from a long line of dog lovers. When she was young, her mother used to breed boxers.

The next generation has inherited this affection, and Shadow loves them all in return.

“Shadow was initially called Lottie, and then when she was very little the children changed it to Shadow because she just followed them everywhere,” Pippa said.

“She's very devoted to my granddaughter who is at the school just down here. If I walk down past the school, she won't go past the gate, she's waiting for Grace to come out.”

Shadow is the third border collie the family has owned, but the first they have had since it was a puppy.

Although border collies are bred for farm work, Pippa said they could adapt well to inner city life.

“[It's] absolutely fine as long as you exercise them and give them something to round up, which in her case is a ball.”

Thanks to her heredity, Shadow is “very smart” and picks up quickly on how to act with other dogs.

She's learned to be wary after rushing up to



dogs that weren't so happy to see her. “I think they learn as they get older what the signals are in the dog world,” Pippa said.

There are plenty of chances for Shadow to socialise at her local in Carlton.

“There must be a lot of dog lovers here because this park is always full of people with lovely dogs,” said Pippa. ●



Alex, 18
I'm on a holiday from Brisbane and taking a break in the park by setting up my hammock and listening to some music.



Bella, 18
I normally do my writing in the morning, but I couldn't today because it was so hectic checking out of my accommodation. I decided to find a piece of nature in the middle of a busy city to write.

Faces of Inner North

Question:

Why have you come to visit Carlton Gardens?



GEOFF, 80
I've come from Venus Bay to see the exhibition of Greek artefacts at the museum. I'm planning to draw a picture book for my grandchildren about Venus Bay, including imagery of Apollo and Venus.



JUNRAN, 19
I recently finished my exams and I wanted to go to a park, so I looked up this place and it's very beautiful in autumn.

公园无牵绳放狗遭反对

墨尔本市政将审查Murchison广场公园在某些时段里成为一个允许无牵绳放狗的公园的适宜性，因为有些居民担心这项提议会“完全改变此公园的性质”。

Brendan Rees

市议员在6月7日举行的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上一致投票赞成，考虑指定八个新的无牵绳放狗区域，包括卡尔顿的Murchison广场、Parkville的皇家公园(Manningham保护区)和东墨尔本的Wellington公园。

根据这项提议，每天下午6点到早上8点之间在Murchison广场和Wellington公园可以无牵绳放狗，公园不设围栏。

在皇家公园(Royal Park)，除了有组织的体育活动之外，可以无牵绳放狗，也不建议再加围栏。

该提议是在对2019年的开放空间和2021年两轮社区参与活动审查时提出的，确定全市范围无牵绳放狗区域的规定。

市政的一份报告称，在两轮的社区参与活动中，尽管对所有的提议都很支持，但第二轮咨询活动中，“对Murchison广场允许无牵绳放狗的提议确实提出了一些反对意见”，包括去年12月提交的17份反对意见请愿书。

然而，报告指出，“在市内北部的区域里，将其用作唯一适合无牵绳放狗的开放空间具有战略意义。”

居民有机会在市政会议上发表意见，其中Martin McIntosh先生表示，反对将



Murchison广场变成一个无牵绳放狗区域，他说“也许感觉有点违背这个区域的重大的遗产价值。”

他说，公园是家庭和居民使用的社区空间，如果下午6点后成为一个无牵绳放狗公园，许多人将无法在温暖的季节里在此野餐了。

他说：“除了遗产价值以外，还将完全改变这个公园的性质，将从使用意义上缩小到一个特定的社区群体，而不是这个公园最初的目的。”

他表示，第二轮咨询表明“居民不支持”市政这个提议，而且公园里“纵横交错”的路径将很难实施无牵绳放狗功能。



街道隔离带的梧桐树移除

6月16日星期四，墨尔本市政开始了第二阶段的Lygon街中央隔离带改造工程，移除(在Queensberry街和Pelham街之间)街道隔离带上20棵伦敦梧桐树。

Carol Saffer

根据市政的说法，这些伦敦梧桐树健康状况不佳，原因是土壤质量低于标准，场地条件有限，影响了其寿命以及树冠生长。

墨尔本市政的一位发言人说：“作为城市绿化战略的一部分，我们正在进行许多改进，Lygon街中心的中央隔离带升级就是其中之一，我们的目标是到2040年将本市公共土地的树冠覆盖率提高到40%”。

这次的树木移除工程类似于2018年Lygon街(在维多利亚街和Queensberry街之间)第一阶段进行的中央隔离带工程，包括树木再植和土壤改良。

2018年种植的替代树木很健康，生长良好。

卡尔顿商会组织(Carlton Traders Inc)负责人Phil Mansour说，墨尔本市政告知卡尔顿团体，在8到10年前就该计划咨询了社区。

Mansour先生说：“商家希望移除梧桐树，但墨尔本市政没有明确的计划来美化Lygon街。”

他说：“在疫情大流行期间，市政花费了超过20万澳元用于照明Lygon街中间地带的树冠，说明市政的工作是多么的脱节。”

“直到今天，安装的灯光还没有达到艺术家印象中的效果。”

Mansour先生说，市议会正在用一种会掉落硬浆果的树种取代梧桐树，这种掉落的硬浆果会导致绊倒危险。

他说：“墨尔本市政对此没有任何逻辑或规划，也绝对没有与该街区的商家企业协商，梧桐树是需要移走，但必须保持街道的美观。”

“需要成熟的树木来代替梧桐树；橡树会很漂亮，而不是会掉落浆果的树。”

位于Lygon街Argyle广场旁边的Parco Canteen咖啡屋业主Adrian Pagano说，移除梧桐树是一个好主意。

感知夜间自然界展览

7月22日星期五，墨尔本博物馆将举办一个名为“Tyama更深层次的认知”的数字多感官展览，带领游客进入维多利亚充满活力的夜间世界。

Carol Saffer

这是世界首创的沉浸式体验展览，基于原住民的亲身体验，结合不同的投影技术和专门为自然界创作的配乐。

Tyama (chah-muh)是一个Keerray Woorroong 土著词语，表示使用我们所有感官的认知方式。

Miriam Capper是Tyama 体验的开发者 and 理念领头人，她将此次展览描述为“运用360度投影、美妙的配乐和反应技术创造维多利亚自然环境的夜间世界”。

她说：“让人们感觉自己已经变成了生物，通过这些生物的眼睛看世界，就好比穿着别人的鞋子，并通过他们的感官看世界。”



“你正在步入其中并成为其中一员，但与此同时，你认识到了人类并不具备这种生物的惊人技能。”

这个展览使用了新科技来体验数千年来原住民亲身所经历的亲身体验，分享与自然世界的深度联系。



Tyama 是一种国家的荣誉，反映了几千年来一直为国家带来荣誉的经历。

欲了解更多信息，请访问：muse-umsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/tyama/

La Mama剧院上演冬季节目

La Mama 剧院将在7月3日至10月2日上演冬季节目，主要是个人表演。

Carol Saffer

参加表演的演员来自墨尔本和其它地方的新兴、成熟和标志性艺术家。

Music Jam是一个剧院面向学龄前儿童的项目，由Karen Davitt主持，她是一名澳大利亚女演员，在电影、电视和戏剧职业生涯里具有一定的影响力，最出名的可能是她在1995年至1998年期间在Blue Heelers中扮演的Zoe Hamilton。

Karen还在她的墨尔本乐队All Day Fritz里演奏低音提琴，她说她和乐队从事各种年龄段的音乐工作已有十多年了。

“自从我有了女儿，我就有这样的想法，如果你给他们有趣的选择，孩子们会有非常不同的音乐品味。”

她提出了与父母们合作为孩子们开设每周音乐课的想法，得到了La Mama剧院的慷慨支持。

她说：“这是每周音乐课程的第一季。”“一个月四次课，全部四次课程的预订费用为50澳元。”

每个班最多10人，Karen开发了学习基本节奏、音调和音速的互动音乐方法。

《A Day at a Time in Rhyme》将于7月13日(星期三)至7月24日(星期五)上演。

7月15日(星期五)下午6:30的演出将进行网上现场直播。

La Mama屏幕和网上直播季节为那些无法亲临剧院的人提供了一个可供选择的更广阔平台。

La Mama剧院将上演由于COVID疫情而推迟的冬季节目。



备受期待的 We Too Us Too Me Too Too Too 最终将在La Mama 的剧场开演，而Little Brother Big Sister也将完成自2021

年开演以来的表演节目。

欲了解更多信息，请访问：lamama.com.au

What's On: July

Community Calendar



Women's Social Soccer (FREE)

Crawford Oval 121 Princes Park Drive
Carlton North

Saturday afternoons 1pm to 3pm

Melbourne Social Soccer runs free social games for women.

Contact 0456 700 688
admin@melbournesocialsoccer.com



Preschool Storytime at East Melbourne Library (FREE)

27 APR - 30 NOV
Wednesdays 10.30am - 11.15am

East Melbourne Library
122 George St, East Melbourne 3002

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

Ages 3 to 5 years; no bookings necessary.
Call 03 9658 9600 for more details.

Farmers Market

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



Yarra: Stories of Melbourne's River

Old Treasury Building
20 Spring St, East Melbourne 3002
10am - 12pm | 1pm - 3pm
03 9651 2233
E: info@otb.org.au



Melbourne Rare Book Fair (FREE)

The Melbourne Rare Book Fair will again feature rare and wonderful books, manuscripts, ephemera, prints and much more. It's a gathering of buyers, sellers and lovers of books that's not to be missed.

7 JUL - 9 JUL
Building 151, University of Melbourne
Wilson Hall, Wilson Ave, Parkville 3010



Old and Rare Wine Tastings (FREE)

Join sommelier Antony Anderson and increase your wine knowledge in a jovial environment as he opens his private cellar once a month and shares rare and old back-vintage wines, and his insights, in a never to be repeated experience.

15 JUN - 21 SEP
Life's Too Short Bar - Tribeca Arcade
Shop 2/412 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne 3002

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Get active, meet new people and have a really great time learning to dance Bachata

15 JUN - 21 DEC
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E: hello@energystudios.com.au

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PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION LOCATED AT EAST MELBOURNE

Telstra plans to upgrade an existing telecommunications facility located at 320 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002 (Lot 259 PS545348)
www.rfnsa.com.au/3002017

- Telstra are currently upgrading existing mobile network facilities to allow for the introduction of 5G to Telstra's network. As part of this network upgrade, Telstra proposes the installation of NR850 (5G) and NR/LTE2600 (4G) technologies at East Melbourne locality and surrounds.
- The proposed works at the above site include the removal of three (3) panel antennas and three (3) tower mounted amplifiers (TMAs), installation of three (3) panel antennas and six (6) TMAs, and the installation of associated ancillary equipment. All internal equipment will be housed within the existing equipment shelter.
- Telstra regards the proposed installation as a Low-Impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 2018* based on the above description.
- 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 written submissions should be directed to Jasmine Bautista, Aurecon Australasia via email to: Jasmine.Bautista@aurecongroup.com or via post to: Jasmine Bautista, Aurecon Australasia PO Box 23061, Docklands VIC 8012 by 5pm on 14/07/2022.

Politician

ADAM BANDT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy
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adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

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STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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

Shopping

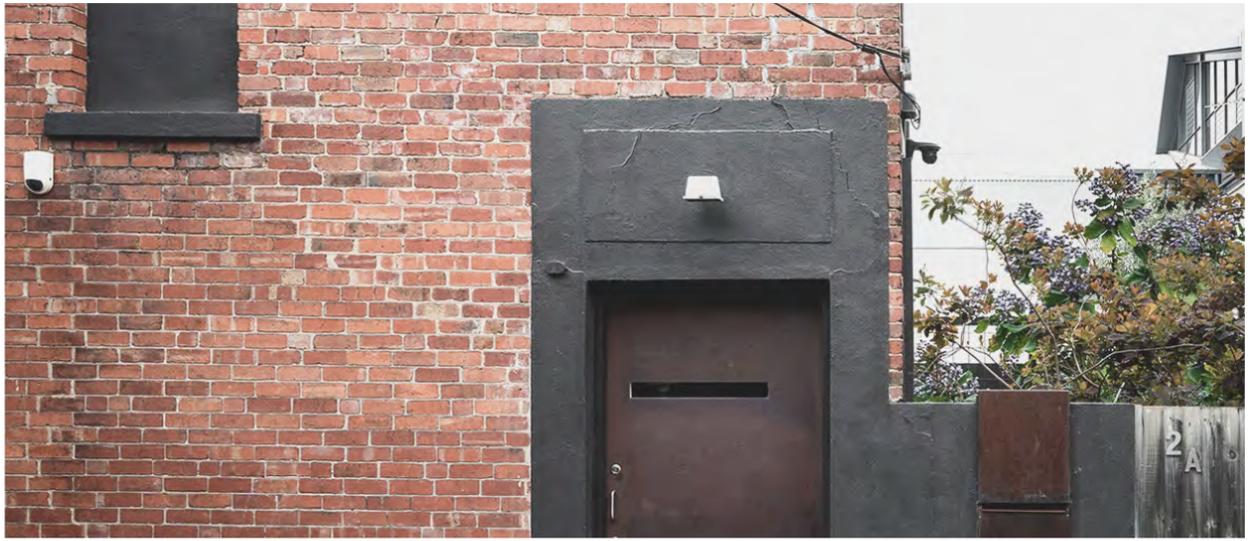
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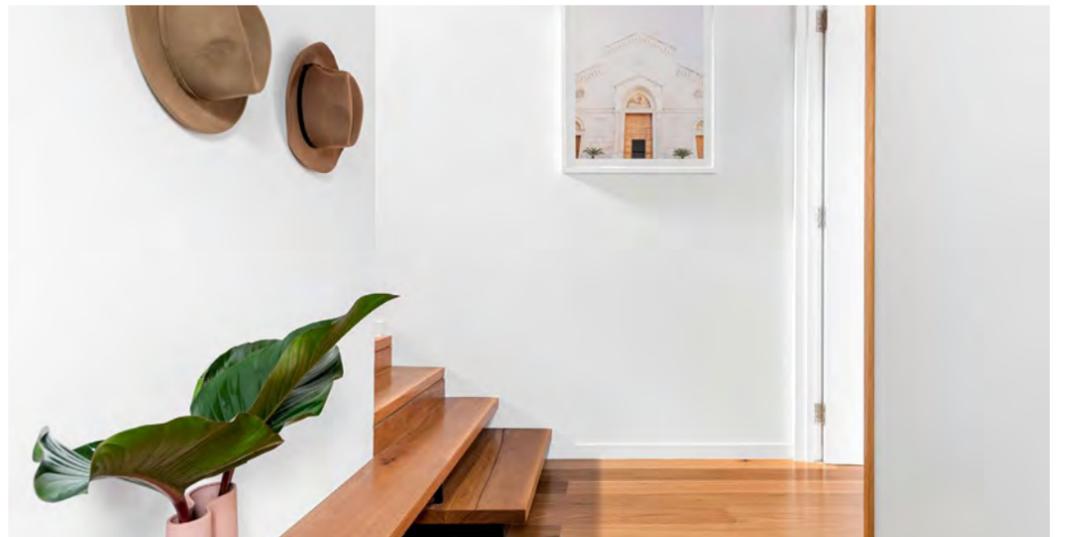
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