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▲ Recently released refugees Thanush and Ramsi with Lieke Janssen and her children Pippa and Midas.

Parkville residents take in refugees

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Lieke Janssen*
COMMUNITY

When 26 refugees were suddenly released from detention in Carlton's Park Hotel in late January, Parkville resident Jo Fallshaw sprang into action.

"I was having coffee with my housemate Claire when her mobile started going ping, ping, ping," Ms Fallshaw said.

"It was all incoming texts from her refugee friends alerting her that they were being released immediately."

The men, who were brought to Australia for urgent medical care after spending years in Manus Island and Nauru, had been detained in hotels for more than a year under Medevac laws.

But after a major loss for the government in the Federal Court where the judge ruled against indefinite and arbitrary detention, they were suddenly experiencing freedom for the first time in years.

With help from other activists, Ms Fallshaw hosted a welcome party in the backyard of her Parkville home for the men on the same day they were released.

"I am extremely fortunate that my home has a large garden and backs onto a public park, so we were able to manage the COVID restrictions and still give our friends the welcome they deserved," Ms Fallshaw said.

Ms Fallshaw said it was "an amazing experience" to welcome the men who had been so badly abused by the federal government.

"Watching someone who has been locked up for eight years pat my dogs, or hold one of the supporter's babies was heart-warming," Ms Fallshaw said.

"It was joyous watching their big smiles while they enjoyed simple pleasures like eating spicy food after having been used to bland, processed food without fresh vegetables."

In the days after the initial release on January 20, the government released another 42 refugees from the Park Hotel, leaving 68 men on six-month bridging visas without stable accommodation or income.

While refugee-focused charities would usually take the primary responsibility for caring for the men, the sudden spike in releases meant ordinary people had to step in to ensure they didn't end up homeless.

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Is Melbourne's only world heritage site under threat?

The Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens is the only UNESCO World Heritage-listed site in Melbourne. Some heritage advocates are worried that development in the area may pose a threat to the listing.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
HERITAGE

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) asked the director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre Dr Mechtild Rössler to intervene for greater controls around the site on March 1.

The action was prompted by two proposed developments on the eastern side of the gardens – a five-storey building at 1-9 Gertrude St and an 11-storey building at 27-41 Victoria Parade.

But the concern goes back to protections placed on the site after it was granted the UNESCO listing in 2004.

"In short, the protection promised when UNESCO agreed to this nomination has been severely compromised, resulting in significant ongoing threats to the site's world heritage values," the letter to Dr Rössler read.

When the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens were proposed for a World Heritage listing, it was the federal government that negotiated with UNESCO and proposed a buffer zone of increased protection around the gardens.

In correspondence with UNESCO over the proposal of the World Heritage listing at the time, the Australian Government wrote that "all planning policies in these [i.e. the surrounding] areas discourage the demolition of Victorian-era buildings and require any development to enhance heritage values. These provisions would also apply to any redevelopment of exist-

ing modern buildings around the site, including the northern Central Business District area".

But the controls were then implemented by the state government and the make-up of the "buffer zone" was split into two different areas.

One of them, referred to as the "area of greater sensitivity", is subject to the type of protection that was promised in negotiations with UNESCO, while the other is more relaxed.

Dr Charles Sowerwine, chair of the RHSV's heritage committee, said this had a material impact on the kinds of developments that could be approved around the site.

"Most of that area of the CBD near the gardens was still not that developed when the site was listed in 2004 and had a fairly low-rise profile," he said.

"Since then, a number of buildings have gone up because the buffer zone was reduced."

Dr Sowerwine said inside the "area of greater sensitivity" proposed developments needed to be referred to Heritage Victoria and planners would need to consider any impact of proposed developments on the world heritage values. The rest of the "buffer zone", now referred to as the World Heritage Environs Area, he said, had essentially the same planning regime as surrounding areas.

There are a number of high-rise buildings that have since been built on the city side of the gardens that the RHSV conceive of as "incursions" on the World Heritage site.

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Council passes motion to reduce aircraft noise

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
TRANSPORT

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has unanimously passed a motion to discourage non-essential flight patterns over the city after prolonged pressure from East Melbourne residents.

The Fly Neighbourly Agreement (FNA) will see the council educate flight operators about the human impact of their flights and attempt to deter them from flying above residential areas.

Cr Rohan Leppert, who raised the motion at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 16, said although the council didn't have the regulatory power to compel aircrafts to change their flight paths, it could facilitate voluntary commitments from flight operators.

"We've heard loud and clear the health impacts completely unregulated aircraft movements are having on the residents of East Melbourne," Cr Leppert said.

"It is intolerable that a helicopter can hover over a house for indefinite periods and cause direct medical harm to those underneath if that flight isn't essential."

East Melbourne Group amenities convener Susan Henderson strongly supported the motion, as many of the flights were joy and training related with aircraft circling overhead "up to 30 times" and hovering for extended periods.

"There been a significant increase in the number and duration of flights over our homes in recent years," Ms Henderson said.

"We're often unable to enjoy normal conversation, even inside our houses, with the noise coming through closed doors and windows resulting in paused conversations, video and phone calls, and the inability to hear TV and radio."

Ms Henderson also said the noise resulted in pets being "disturbed and stressed", disrupted those working from home, and disturbed sleep.

"The aircraft noise is a severe impediment

to productivity and causes a great deal in the working and studying environment," she said.

"This noise is not only a nuisance but there are many studies which have shown that aircraft noise can cause significant health impacts particularly due to stress and disturbed sleep."

"Frequent loud noise, especially when disturbing sleep, is an internationally recognised form of torture and our residents are suffering unnecessarily."

As flights will begin to pick up as COVID restrictions ease, Cr Leppert said now was the time to instate the FNA and work with the state government to better regulate flight paths over the inner city.

"Once flights pick up it would be harder to intervene and instate a fly neighbourly agreement," Cr Leppert said.

"Done well, an FNA is a boon to business because it provides certainty to all parties and it allows operators to get about their business without having to deal with a gamut of complaints."

East Melbourne Group (EMG) has been campaigning for years to reduce aircraft noise over the suburb and has set up a dedicated committee to deal with the issue.

It has been particularly vocal about non-essential light fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, which created noise levels up to 85 decibels – the level at which hearing damage begins to occur.

EMG is calling for aircraft to avoid flying over residential areas in the inner city and instead strive to fly along the Yarra River and the sporting and railway precincts north of the Yarra where possible.

It is also advocating for no pilot training to occur over East Melbourne, controlled airspace to be expanded to include East Melbourne, and traffic and news helicopters to be limited.

Cr Leppert said the council could work to enable a dialogue between operators and residents.

"I know the East Melbourne Group and the sub-committee that's been specifically set up for dealing with aircraft noise and all of the



related issues knows that council doesn't have any direct regulatory power, but we can facilitate this voluntary agreement with operators," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that although many helicopter flights provided essential services to the community such as Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police, residents had a right to peace and quiet.

"As a Docklands resident I experience helicopters flying from early morning until late at night," the Lord Mayor said.

"Many residents have been concerned for a long period of time about helicopters flying and hovering over their homes and the impact that has on their physical and mental health and the liveability of our city." ●

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Carlton Kitchen Library connects locals through food

WORDS BY *Sophie Raynor*
FEATURE

Carlton home cooks are tackling complex and creative recipes with ease thanks to a Lygon Street library loaning out uncommon kitchen appliances – and bringing neighbours together in the process.

Holding more than 400 items, including bread makers, deep fryers and pasta machines, the library helps locals cook nutritious and interesting meals without crowding cupboards with unnecessary or expensive equipment.

For library coordinator Peta Christensen, it's a way of making nutritious food more accessible, while also eliminating waste.

"We're thinking about people on low incomes, people experiencing disadvantage, who might not be able to access the kitchen equipment that makes preparing food more realistic or accessible," she said.

"We live in the inner city, we don't have huge kitchens with storage spaces, and the library is a good solution. It's a whole-of-community resource. We all don't need to own an ice cream machine we might use three times in four years."

The library's 83 members pay an annual fee of \$40 or \$20 concession price to access items – electronics are cleaned, tested and tagged every six months by volunteer members and staff at Cultivating Community, the not-for-profit that launched the library in November 2019.

It opened its doors in an old Office of Housing filing cupboard at the base of the Carlton public housing estate after discussions with residents, community members, the primary school and local not-for-profits about ideas for community food projects that met locals' needs.

The pandemic hindered early plans for regular feasts and cooking workshops during 2020, but the library still managed a handful of virtual events, an in-person pasta-making workshop, and a launch-day community feast.

Carlton estate resident Khanya Ibrahim cooked injera and falafel at that opening event, and said as one of the library's founding members she was excited for its re-opening after last month's circuit-breaker five-day lockdown.

"It's good to have it; I can find what I want to use, like a big pot or a fryer if we have some kind of party or meeting and we don't have that at home, and everything is under our building."



▲ Carlton Kitchen Library assistant Julia Pecoraro outside the library.



▲ Julia organising stock in the library.

"We don't have huge kitchens with storage spaces, and the library is a good solution. It's a whole-of-community resource."



She also appreciated the event kits of reusable cutlery and crockery offered by the library, which the library said had avoided the use of 2000 pieces of single-use plasticware.

Ms Christensen said the pandemic had enhanced a sense of localisation and interdependence within the Carlton community, with neighbourhoods constrained to five-kilometre radii and people recognising familiar faces – creating the community connection intended by the library project.

"An aspect of the library [membership] is that we ask people to do a couple of volunteer shifts each year. It's an opportunity to actually feel invested in this; this is your library; you're helping to take care of it; helping to keep the wheels turning," she said.

New members from any location in Melbourne are welcome and encouraged, to relieve the library's crowded shelves, and to help the grant-funded project gain a degree of financial stability. It is funded by a City of Melbourne social innovation partnership grant to mid-2021.

The library accepts select donations of kitchen equipment, tools and appliances, and maintains a wish list of sought-after items. A tortilla press, electric spice grinder, preserving equipment and unusual cake pans are some of the items currently on the list.

During coronavirus-imposed closures throughout 2020 and early 2021 the library is offering free delivery of items within a 10-kilometre radius. It is otherwise open to visitors on Friday mornings at 480 Lygon St ●

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Colour Nightclub received a small business reactivation grant

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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Businesses across Melbourne are finding creative ways to innovate and evolve in response to COVID-19.

To support the COVID-safe reopening of our city, the City of Melbourne partnered with the Victorian Government to deliver up to \$10 million in small business reactivation grants.

Among the more than 1100 businesses awarded funding, Carlton live music

venue Colour Nightclub received a grant to expand its trading space into its private laneway.

Parkville Cafe at the Royal Children's Hospital also received funding for new equipment.

If you own a business, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the support on offer, including grants and outdoor dining permits.

For one-on-one advice, you can also call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or enquire online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.

THREE WAYS TO HELP SHAPE MELBOURNE'S FUTURE

Join conversations to influence the City of Melbourne's long-term vision for the municipality through community engagement platform, Participate Melbourne.

As 2021 takes shape, there are a number of projects on-the-go and we are seeking feedback from people of all ages and backgrounds during March:

1 Community vision

Help shape a bright future for Melbourne by taking part in a local community vision survey or workshop.

Your thoughts are important to us as we evolve our aspirations for the city and look to update Future Melbourne 2026, our 10-year plan for the city that was released in 2016.

2 Health and wellbeing

What can we do to help Melburnians lead happy and healthy lives? Share your feedback to help identify priorities for our Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and guide our work for the next four years. Some of the key areas are food security, climate change and mental health.

3 Towards a smoke-free Melbourne

Did you know that the City of Melbourne already has 12 smoke-free areas, and a vision to make Melbourne a smoke-free city by 2025? Share your feedback by registering for our community panel or via our quick online survey.

For more information, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au and sign up to receive updates.



IN-BRIEF

NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The City of Melbourne is creating a new advisory committee that will advise Council on the growth and sustainability of social, cultural and economic activities that happen between 6pm and 6am. The group will include retail, hospitality and creative industry leaders.

MARITIME HERITAGE

Melbourne has a rich seafaring history and the City of Melbourne is exploring ways to celebrate this, together with the Victorian Government. This includes exploring possible uses for the Mission to Seafarers building in Docklands. Have your say by 15 March at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

RAINBOW CARERS

Do you provide unpaid care to an older person, or someone living with a physical or mental health condition or disability? The City of Melbourne offers supportive programs for carers, including a dedicated group for LGBTIQ+ carers, in partnership with Queerspace. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/carers

ELIZABETH STREET

Works are underway to create more space for people and a more appealing streetscape on Elizabeth Street. Due for completion in May, the transformation between Flinders Street and Flinders Lane will add 400 square metres of pedestrianised space. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects

MOOMBA

Melbourne's favourite community festival returns in 2021 with a revised program and format to ensure the event will delight families and meet COVID-19 safety requirements. Join the fun from 5 to 8 March. moomba.melbourne.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Parkville residents take in refugees

Continued from page 1.

Ms Fallshaw said she was happy to be the “unofficial headquarters” for supporting the refugees and finding temporary homes for them.

“We arranged welcome parties for the release of the second and third groups of freed Medevac detainees and used the gatherings to connect them with people who may have a spare room while the men found their feet,” Ms Fallshaw said.

“The regular charities are not set up to deal with sudden spikes like this, so it takes ordinary people like me, and the amazing families who have offered a room, to step in to fill the gap.”

In the first two weeks after the men were released, Ms Fallshaw and the men’s supporters helped to place 13 refugees with locals who had a spare room.

Since then, with the help of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project and many Melbourne families, all the recently released refugees have found homes.

Ms Fallshaw said that she was amazed at the “extraordinary people” who were willing to open up their homes after seeing her event on Facebook.

“I shared the events to 5000 people on Facebook and was able to connect with so many extraordinary people,” Ms Fallshaw said.

“Young professionals living in share houses were able to take a refugee in, families with a spare room, and lots of retirees – including six retired ESL teachers – were eager to take someone in and help them get a driver’s licence and a job.”

Thanush Selvarasa, a Tamil man, was released from the Park Hotel in the second round and attended the welcome party.

Mr Selvarasa said that after being detained on Manus Island for eight years and then in various Melbourne hotels for more than a year, the welcome parties were a “wonderful experience”.

“When I was released, they took me to another hotel where people were waiting for me and screaming: ‘Welcome welcome!’ It was a wonderful moment,” Mr Selvarasa said.

“The welcome party was amazing, the support from them has always been unconditional and they have been supporting us with whatever we need. I won’t forget until my last breath what they have done for me.”

Mr Selvarasa said that after years of arbitrary detention which resulted in his mental health declining to the point of multiple suicide attempts, he was “so grateful to be free”.

“The suffering is not for only us but for our family in our home country, my mother has been waiting for me to tell her I was free for eight years, so now I can finally tell her,” Mr Selvarasa said.

Activist Lieke Janssen said it was “surreal” to



▲ Recently released refugee Thanush with Lieke Janssen and her children Pippa and Midas.

watch Thanush and other released refugees at the welcome party.

“It was really beautiful because my young kids and I have been seeing the guys in front of the tainted windows and on video call for so long,” Ms Janssen said.

“It was like a dream, I felt like we were floating.”

Another man who was placed with a family was Ramsiyar Sabanayagam, a Tamil refugee who had been detained on Manus Island since 2013 after losing his entire family in a bomb blast in Sri Lanka when he was 18.

Despite being found to be a genuine refugee in 2016, he remained on Manus island until 2019 when he was transferred to the Mantra Hotel in Preston due to intense pain from the remaining shell shrapnel in his head and shoulder.

There, he was confined for 23 hours a day to a hotel room with little natural light for more than a year – detention which costs taxpayers around \$355,000 per year per refugee.

Ms Fallshaw said it was stories such as Ramsiyar’s which inspired her to provide as much tangible help as she could.

“Ramsiyar is such a lovely person and it’s heartbreaking stories like his that make me ashamed to be Australian,” Ms Fallshaw said.

“So many of these men, who are the freedom fighters of their nation, have been without proper medical and dental attention for years and have been tortured physically and mentally.”

There are currently 13 men remaining in the Park Hotel, many of whom were formally recognised as refugees years ago and have passed security checks. No release date has been set.

“There’s a lot of mixed emotions right now because the released men have been given six months to leave the country, but most of them

“

I won’t forget until my last breath what they have done for me.

”

can’t go back to where they came from because it’s a war zone or they’ll be arrested and killed by the state,” Ms Fallshaw said.

“So, for a lot of these men it’s temporary freedom but it’s so much better than where they were in the hotels.”

Ms Fallshaw said that among all of the gloom there was the opportunity to help and urged those with the means to do so to keep that in mind.

“There are a lot of people in Parkville and the inner city with big hearts and spare rooms, and I’m hoping they’ll get in touch with me to arrange an introduction with a refugee needing a home,” Ms Fallshaw said.

“It’s an opportunity to extend the hand of friendship to those who have been brutalised by our government.”

To learn more about how you can help the recently released refugees, you can get in touch with Jo on 0412264401 or visit her Melbourne Refugee & Hosts/Helpers Networking Group ●



▲ Brandon (supporter) and Mo Imran (Medivac detainee) with Jo’s dogs at the welcome party.



▲ Supporter Claire Gomez and Tamil refugee Ramsi Sabanayagam at the welcome party.

For more information:
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Is Melbourne's only world heritage site under threat?

Continued from page 1.

They have also been identified in a report prepared by Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd in partnership with HLCD Pty Ltd for the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning as part of a Victorian Government review of the World Heritage Management Plan.

Now, the RHSV is concerned about developments on the other side of the site.

The proposed development on Gertrude St is inside the "area of greater sensitivity", while the Victoria Parade one is not. That is despite the latter being closer to the gardens.

Although the 11-storey proposed building would replace an existing 11-storey building, the height would actually increase by 15 metres.

Dr Sowerwine said the justification for concern was underlined by the approaching re-opening of the Royal Exhibition Building dome to the public. It has recently undergone a \$20 million restoration.

"From the dome, if you look out now, everywhere except for in the direction of the CBD you pretty much see what people saw at the time the building was built in 1879 – low-rise, mainly Victorian era buildings," he said.

"That is part of the reason the building won the listing. It's the only international exhibition building on its original site, with the grounds remaining pretty much as they were."

Only two UNESCO World Heritage sites have had their listings repealed – the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany was delisted in 2009 and the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman in 2007.

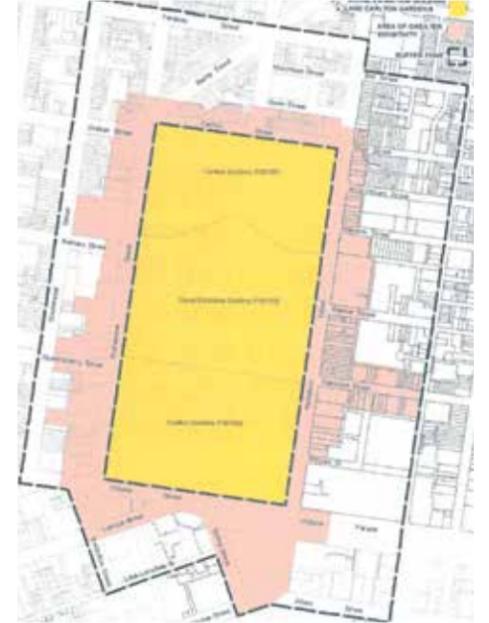
The Oryx Sanctuary was delisted due to reduction of the size of the sanctuary and a lack of protective measures, while the development of a four-lane bridge through the Dresden Elbe Valley prompted its removal.

Dr Sowerwine's concern is that slowly the integrity of Melbourne's listing is being undermined.

"Theoretically it's a possibility but we aren't there yet. We're at a point where the values of the site are being impacted by development on



▲ The proposal for the St Vincent's Hospital site.



▲ The buffer zone (red).

the city side and now the other side," he said.

The World Heritage Management Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens is currently being reviewed by steering committee including Heritage Victoria, the City of Melbourne, Museums Victoria, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and the City of Yarra.

Inner City News understands the review is expected to result in changes to planning controls in the "buffer zone".

A Victorian Government spokesperson said the review would ensure the precinct has the right controls.

"The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens are culturally and historically significant to Victoria," the spokesperson said.

"In line with their world heritage listing the Exhibition Buildings and the Carlton Gardens

require planning protection. Which is why we are reviewing the World Heritage Management Plan."

"The review will ensure the precinct has the right planning protections and continues maintain its World Heritage status and be a site for local and international tourists."

A spokesperson from the federal department of agriculture, water and the environment said the World Heritage site was protected under Australia's environmental law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

"The Department is aware of the developments at 1-9 Gertrude St and Nicholson St in Fitzroy, near the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens," the spokesperson said.

"The proponents for both developments have been made aware of their obligations under the

EPBC Act."

"Under the EPBC Act, it remains the responsibility of a person proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance, to refer their proposal to the department for assessment and approval. Substantial penalties may apply to a person who takes such an action without approval." ●



Meg Hill

JOURNALIST

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Council working to bring life back to Carlton's night-time scene

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ECONOMY

After an extended lockdown, curfew, density limits and countless trading restrictions, Carlton's night-time economy is struggling to return to its former glory.

To bring buzz back to the city, The City of Melbourne (CoM) unanimously carried a motion at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 2 to establish an advisory committee of industry leaders dedicated to reviving Melbourne's night-time economy.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the committee would be crucial to bringing back the night-time scene Melbourne was renowned for.

"Our night-time economy is a differentiator in attracting industry, jobs and visitors and investment," the Lord Mayor said.

"We have a 24-hour city now we're getting going again, and I'm confident that the proposed night-time advisory committee will be a source of advice and direction and help us bring back to buzz to Melbourne."

With COVID protocols still in place and customers wary of returning, businesses across all industries continue to be impacted.

As JobKeeper support is also due to end in March, there is the potential for more job losses if the night-time economy isn't propped up.

King and Godfree owner Luca Sbardella said although things were slowly returning to normal, restrictions were still having an impact.

"It's unlike any trading period I've experienced in my lifetime. It will be busy then not busy and keep flipflopping," Mr Sbardella said.

"Just like every other business we're trying to re-invent ourselves in the wake of the pandemic and even though we're almost getting back to normality there's a lot of external factors that are making it hard for us to operate."

Mr Sbardella said the lack of office workers, university students and tourists meant



▲ Saturday night diners on Lygon Street.

weeknights were much quieter.

"Most Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights on Lygon St you wouldn't even know we've been through this, but during the week it's slower," Mr Sbardella said.

Chair of the council's city activation portfolio Cr Roshena Campbell said that improving the lack of foot traffic on weeknights would be a priority for council.

"The City of Melbourne's night-time economy grew by \$310.3 million in 2018, contributed \$3.5 billion in annual turnover and supported 31,000 jobs," Cr Campbell said.

"However, night-time pedestrian activity in the city has dropped by about two-thirds compared to the same time last year."

Cr Campbell said that the response would need to bring together industry minds to find the best way to support businesses that have grappled with harsh lockdown restrictions and reduced foot-traffic.

"This is about harnessing the best ideas from industries – including hospitality and entertainment – from red-tape reduction to improving safety," Cr Campbell said.

"We want to bring Melbourne's night-time economy roaring back and to develop a strong plan for its future growth."

Although councillor Phillip Le Liu supported the motion, he cautioned council to remember residents when discussing night-time activities.

"Sometimes when we go full steam ahead with businesses, we forget that 40 per cent of the people living within the City of Melbourne, including me, and I know I've heard music blaring out at 1am and rubbish trucks at 3am," Cr Le Liu said.

"So, I'd be really keen for the committee to think of the people living in the city because we need to get the economy back, but we need to strike the right balance with residents."

Expressions of interest are now being sought for up to 10 external roles to help boost Melbourne's night-time economy by providing data and expertise to guide decision making ●

First Sunday Lunch brings community together in East Melbourne

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

East Melbourne residents are coming together again for the First Sunday of the Month Lunch Club now that COVID restrictions have eased.

The club, which has been running since 1972, brings local residents together for lunch on the first Sunday of every month.

Lunch Club president Andrew Walpole said the lunch club was a great way of getting people together and "strengthening the community".

"When people share food, they become family," Mr Walpole said.

"It's a long-running tradition in East Melbourne which has become even more important in the wake of COVID restrictions."

Currently there are 140 members of the club and the lunch can have anywhere from 20 to 40 people turn up.

Traditionally the lunches are held in alternating member's homes and each person brings a plate of food, however due to COVID restrictions, the most recent lunch was held outside.

"The last lunch we had in February was held in Powlett Reserve due to COVID restrictions but normally we would meet at someone's house," Mr Walpole said.

Originally the lunch began as a group of three East Melbourne residents in March of 1972, but due to the success, the club has grown significantly.

The lunches have also become an opportunity to share East Melbourne news, particularly from the East Melbourne Group, the East Melbourne Historical Society and the Neighbourhood Network.

Former president Jennifer Stanisich said the Lunch Club's simplicity was the key to its success and provided residents the consistent opportunity to share food and conversation.

"I believe the Lunch Group is an important

"The Lunch Group is an important part of East Melbourne, as a vibrant social group that is open to a range of people in the community, married, single, fit or frail who enjoy and support each other."



part of East Melbourne, as a vibrant social group that is open to a range of people in the community, married, single, fit or frail who enjoy and support each other," Ms Stanisich said.

"It also gives newcomers a chance to meet new people and join in the community."

Ms Stanisich also said that hosting the events in members houses gave residents the opportunity to explore their neighbourhood.

In the past few years before COVID, there have been the erection of several new apartments in East Melbourne, and several members have shifted into them," Ms Stanisich said.

"This has created great interest to other members, when the new owners later hosted, especially as they were encouraged to join in guided tours by their hosts." ●



Old Melbourne Gaol exhibition showcases how far Melbourne has come

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ARTS & CULTURE

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria, Old Melbourne Gaol has opened its new exhibition: *Bending the Bars*.

Curated by Andrew Gaynor and the National Trust of Victoria, the exhibition shares the stories and processes that led to the passing of a historic law reform, through the words and experiences of key participants.

National Trust of Australia CEO Simon Ambrose said the exhibition acted as both the venue and object for the exhibition.

"As a place of detention for those charged within Melbourne's CBD under discriminatory laws based on sexuality, the City Watch House as the location for the *Bending the Bars* exhibition is an important reminder of the darker episodes in the ongoing struggle for equality," Mr Ambrose said.

"We hope the exhibition allows visitors to

engage and commemorate the passing of a historic law reform, through a powerful collection of stories and experiences."

The exhibition uses an engaging combination of text, images, and original artworks to share the stories of the key participants who fought hard to achieve legislative change in 1980.

It also features information about the inhumane punishment members of the LGBTIQ+ community faced and allows visitors to enter the cells that many were kept in.

In keeping with COVID restrictions, visitors will have timed entry and online booking is advised.

The exhibition is open now at the City Watch House at Melbourne Gaol until May 17 and is listed as part of the 2021 Midsumma Festival ●

For more information:
oldmelbournegaol.com.au/event/bending-the-bars/



▲ The Parkville Store on Morrah St.



▲ Juliette Barr ready for a change.

Corner store for sale in Parkville

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
BUSINESS

The Parkville Store is up for sale in Morrah St. It first opened as a grocer in 1884 and has traded as a corner store ever since.

Juliette Barr is selling the property through Nelson Alexander for more than three million dollars.

Juliette and her husband have three teenage children and need a bigger house. But she is willing to stay on as a tenant and to continue to operate the store which trades as a cafe.

“I’m open to any options,” she said. “When I walked in here I’d never run a business before. I’ll do anything.”

Where other shops in Morrah St have closed the Parkville Store has held on, prospering during the lockdown.

“Community businesses have done better post-COVID because everyone is thinking and acting local,” Juliette said.

“During COVID I was supported by the community. One customer came in and gave me a \$50 note for some milk and told me to keep the change.”

There’s a low-key relaxed vibe with a casual menu focusing on home-made cakes, baguettes, toasties and a dish of the day such as quiche.

The aesthetics are old world with an

advertisement for John Bull oats on the external wall offering 32 ounces of breakfast satisfaction.

You could be in Paris in an historic arrondissement. In fact, South Parkville is as well-preserved, an almost intact triangle of late Victorian houses, famed for their iron lace decoration and curious embellishments. Some scenes in *Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries* television series were filmed nearby.

This district, adjoining Melbourne University and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, was classified in 1972 by the National Trust – Australia’s first Metropolitan Historic Area classification.

Large-scale demolition projects are prohibited to preserve the historic integrity of South Parkville and prevent unsuitable development over its entire area.

When Juliette bought the store 10 years ago it was operating as a Greek milk bar. The windows had been blocked up and the floor tiled.

She gutted the place, reinstated windows, introduced seating then 18 months ago outdoor tables.

The single-storey house at the back has three bedrooms and it was big enough when she moved in but the children have grown.

She wants to stay in this little corner of the city. “There’s a fantastic mix of people – oldies, academics, students, hospitals and a high school,” she said ●

Council starts graffiti blitz

WORDS BY Katie Johnson
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Unsightly graffiti and tagging in Carlton will be removed from shopfronts, bridges and building facades under a new City of Melbourne initiative.

Using the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery fund, the council will focus on removing graffiti in high places that would normally be out of reach.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the cleaning blitz would ensure Melbourne was sparkling clean for workers returning to the city.

“Unwanted graffiti and tagging is a blight on the city. We can now literally go above and beyond to remove graffiti from hard to reach places,” the Lord Mayor said.

“The significant cost of hiring elevated working platforms means that the removal of graffiti from heights above three to four metres is cost prohibitive.”

“This joint funding means we are able to contract two additional staff and hire the necessary equipment to remove graffiti from heights, including above shop awnings, bridges and on the sides and facades of buildings.”

So far, the council has identified Swanston, Elizabeth, Bourke, Little Bourke and Russell streets as priority areas for cleaning and will be adding more destinations over the next six months.

Carlton will also be a major focus for the council initiative as more people return to Lygon St.

“Our priority areas are the central city and major shopping strips such as Lygon St,” the Lord Mayor said.

Fitzroy Community School principal Tim Berryman, who recently had to clean graffiti off the old Dan O’Connell hotel, welcomed the initiative.

“My team and I have had to work overtime to clean the graffiti off the side of the building, it’s really unsightly,” Mr Berryman said.

Graffiti removal services for tagging at street level will be boosted between now and the end



▲ Graffiti on the old Dan O’Connell hotel.

of June 2021 as part of the program.

The council has hired two additional graffiti management vehicles and two more contract staff to proactively control and clean the areas on a daily rather than weekly basis.

The recovery fund will also be put towards additional waste services, including more hard waste collections for businesses and residents, deep street cleaning, additional cleaning of outdoor dining parklets and increased dumped rubbish removal.

Currently the council invests almost \$1 million on graffiti removal annually and removes around 50,000 square metres, or more than two MCGs worth of graffiti from private and public spaces every year.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the new initiative would ensure Melbourne was cleaner than ever.

“Our community has been clear that graffiti removal is important to them and they want more action taken to address tagging across the municipality,” she said.

“So together with the Victorian Government we are responding with a six-month cleaning blitz which will see our city sparkle again as we welcome workers and visitors back.” ●

New inner-city bike lanes

TRANSPORT

With office workers returning to the city and traffic becoming a reality again, the City of Melbourne has joined forces with RACV to encourage commuters to consider cycling as a convenient, healthier way of getting around.

Let’s Ride Melbourne! is a new program aimed at inspiring Melburnians to get on a bike with a range of activities including bike confidence workshops, and the fast-tracked installation of new bike lanes.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council would be prioritising new bike lanes to encourage people to ditch their cars for a bike.

“Let’s Ride Melbourne is a great way to access helpful resources and activities for new riders who want to learn more and build confidence,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

“We’re fast-tracking the installation of new bike lanes to make it safer for more people to ride, which frees up space on public transport for those who need to travel into the city from the outer suburbs.”

New lanes have already been installed along Exhibition and William streets in the city, Rathdowne St, Swanston St and Canning St in Carlton, Albert St in East Melbourne, as well as shared zones in the city’s little streets.

RACV general manager Elizabeth Kim said new research had found the pandemic significantly influenced how we choose to get around, prompting people to consider alternative mobility options.

Ms Kim added that recent and planned upgrades to Melbourne’s cycling infrastructure by local governments were making it easier and safer for a wider range of bike riders to get around Melbourne.

“The mental, physical and financial benefits of riding for transport, as well as for leisure, are being discovered by more people than ever before,” Ms Kim said.

Prospective bike riders can sign up for the workshops, subscribe to the regular newsletter and engage with the latest cycling information online ●



East Melbourne residents have new community centre

WORDS BY Katie Johnson
COMMUNITY

After months of lobbying, the City of Melbourne has agreed to give extensive use of the Powlett Reserve Community Room to East Melbourne residents.

The East Melbourne Neighbourhood Network (EMNN) will be able to host COVID-safe activities and classes in the space after being given final approval.

East Melbourne Group amenities convenor Susan Henderson said that although the Pavilion in Fitzroy Gardens would have been a better space, the community room would provide a place for residents to gather.

“Most inner-city communities have a dedicated space for community activities, and we are sadly lacking one,” Ms Henderson said.

“While this space is not ideal, it is at least a chance to hold some activities for the community which is so important in East Melbourne.”

EMNN plans to hold gentle exercise, pilates, yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong, and meditation classes and eventually create activities related to music and family history writing.

They are also open to other suggestions from the community. Ms Henderson said that as East Melbourne did not have a dedicated community space, it could be very difficult for groups to gather.

“We can try to book a space in the library, which is always heavily used. This is especially true now when so many workers and students are working from home and need a quiet space to work,” Ms Henderson said.



Most inner-city communities have a dedicated space for community activities, and we are sadly lacking one.



Unlike the Pavilion, the community room at Powlett Reserve has a maximum of 10 people able to use it at one time, so group sizes will be limited.

As a result, Ms Henderson urged the community to continue lobbying the council.

“We will be participating in the community consultation regarding the future of the Pavilion and encourage East Melbourne residents to join us in asking for it to become a community activity space,” Ms Henderson said ●

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



▲ An illustration of the transformed Brens Pavilion.

Royal Park pavilions to be redeveloped

WORDS BY *Jack Alfonso*
CAPITAL WORKS

Brens and Ryder Pavilions will receive multi-million-dollar upgrades after City of Melbourne councillors gave the all clear on revitalising the Royal Park sporting and recreation facilities last month.

The plans, supported by councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 16, will provide expanded, gender neutral and universally accessible change room facilities designed to increase participation in sport, with particular emphasis on women.

Describing the current facilities as “completely inadequate” Melbourne University Rugby Club representative Rick Boykett said the project was, “the most important redevelopment for community sport” in his 40 years at the club.

“Women interest continues to grow,” he said.

“We urgently need facilities that are gender neutral.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the plans would revitalise Brens and Ryder Pavilion to create local jobs and “provide a boost to community sport”.

“Everyone should feel included in community sport so we’re planning to deliver eight gender neutral change rooms at Brens Pavilion and six at Ryder Pavilion,” she said. Hosting 375 community teams per week including 90 female teams pre-COVID, the pavilions cater to AFL, gridiron, rugby, and cricket teams using the corresponding ovals.

The Lord Mayor added that the pavilions would

provide better facilities for local clubs and community groups, whose feedback had been factored into the proposed designs.

“We’ve spoken to local clubs, and they’ve told us that they need better change rooms, better storage and more inclusive and accessible facilities,” she said.

The project was included in the council’s 2020/21 Budget and Annual Plan and aims to increase and upgrade accessible and inclusive spaces for women and girls in City of Melbourne sporting facilities.

Consultations undertaken pre-COVID with both resident association and park groups had led to concerns over an expanded pavilion footprint and increased social activity in the area.

In the current design, sustainable features such as passive climate control through natural ventilation, double glazing on all windows, and wide eaves to shade the façade are to be included in the upgrades according to the council’s health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio chair Cr Olivia Ball.

“The pavilions will be larger than the existing buildings to give our clubs more space, but will be nestled into the park and well-integrated with the surrounding environment,” she said.

“Solar panels will be used to power the pavilions and rainwater will be captured for on-site reuse. At Brens Pavilion, excess asphalt will be removed to make way for more trees and shrubs.”

Construction on the Ryder Pavilion is expected to begin once the Western Pavilion is completed, with all projects anticipated to be finished by 2023 ●

Lost bunny reunited with family

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

When Gunther the floppy rabbit decided to escape his hutch and go for a hop down some Carlton laneways in early February, his owner was blissfully unaware.

But when Carlton North resident Julia Ford spotted him behind Scout Hall on Shakespeare St, his adventure came to an abrupt halt.

“I was stepping out my back door to get a coffee and I ran into another neighbour who asked me if I’d lost a bunny because there was one in the laneway,” Ms Ford said.

When she went to have a look, there was Gunther, happily munching on some grass.

“He was so sweet, really happy and friendly enough to let us pat him,” Ms Ford said.

At first, Ms Ford didn’t try to catch him and instead took a photo of him to post in the Carlton Good Karma Network Facebook group.

But after realising it could take a while to find Gunther’s owner, she decided to take him back to her house.

“I realised we could be waiting a while and I didn’t want to leave him there because he was so small and there could be dogs and cats around,” Ms Ford said.

“So, I just picked him up and took him home – he was really easy to catch.”

After capturing him, Ms Ford fed Gunther some lettuce, put some water out and let him hop around her backyard while she went doorknocking to find his owner.

Although she had no luck, Gunther took the opportunity to enjoy himself in Ms Ford’s garden.

“I grow zucchini in my backyard



▲ Gunther the bunny.

and he ended up eating all of the leaves on all of them,” Ms Ford said.

“I also have two little girls who were obsessed with him and loved having a bunny around to play with.”

After a few hours, the owner, who lived only a few doors down, eventually saw the Good Karma Network post and sent Ms Ford a message.

“She had forgotten to close his hutch which was how he escaped,” Ms Ford said.

Within the hour, Gunther was reunited with his owner who will now be much more vigilant about closing his hutch door.

Ms Ford said that although the experience was slightly stressful, as she wanted to get him home safely on such a hot day, she was happy to have spent some time with Gunther.

“He’s a gorgeous little bunny,” she said ●

The hidden markets at the heart of Carlton

COMMUNITY

Since 2014, the Carlton housing estates have been home to a buzzing marketplace hidden away from the main Lygon St shopping strip.

On Friday mornings the space comes to life with a hub of community activity, offering local produce, tea, handmade goods, workshops and dancing.

Community Grocer founder and CEO Russell Shields said the markets were a not-for-profit initiative all about supporting the community with locally-grown, fresh food.

“We set up the markets to improve access to high quality fresh and vegetables for everybody, with a particular focus on people in public housing towers,” Mr Shields said.

“We get our produce from wholesalers and it’s 60 per cent cheaper than supermarkets.”

The Community Grocer has been running the fresh food markets in Carlton since 2014, after the organisation recognised the site as a small pocket of disadvantage located within a broader context of wealth.

Mr Shields said that as many members of the community struggled to access fresh food locally, the markets became a community-led model that moved beyond the typical welfare style of handing out free food.

“For people who are struggling with food insecurity or access to affordable fruit and vegetables, the two biggest barriers are finances and physical access,” Mr Shields said.

“So, we’ve worked to remove those two barriers.”

Each market is run by Community Grocer market manager Isabella Bertolacci and a team of volunteers, along with local residents of the estate.

It takes place on Friday mornings from 8am to 12pm and is open to the general public.

“The market is open to the public and we’d love for everyone to come,” Mr Shields said.



Although the market was initially intended to just be fruit and vegetables, community engagement has seen it evolve.

“Residents come and volunteer, we have amazing women from the horn of Africa who sell hand-woven goods,” Mr Shields said.

“It’s a hub on a Friday, the community just comes to hang out and lots of people participate.”

This has also been the case for the Community Grocer’s other markets, which are stationed at Fitzroy, Pakenham and Heidelberg West.

Since lockdown ended, the Carlton markets have been buzzing.

“We’ve had great support from the community, they’d rather come to us than go to a large supermarket and take public transport,” Mr Shields said. “The need has definitely increased over the last year with COVID.”

The markets are located at 478 Drummond St, Carlton ●

For more information:
thecommunitygrocer.com.au

Café Lansdowne is ready for business

BUSINESS

Café Lansdowne could easily be mistaken for a regular Victorian-era terrace house as you walk down the leafy East Melbourne street.

But inside the 153-year-old building is a sun-lit courtyard, a homey dining area and hot meals prepared by owner Ray Pantovic and his wife Rika.

After buying the business in May last year, the pair have been slowly growing their business after being hit with COVID restrictions.

“When we bought the space, it was disaster time,” Mr Pantovic said.

“Everybody has been struggling but it’s particularly difficult when city office workers haven’t come back yet.”

For the past three years, Ray and Rika have sold home-made Turkish rolls and café food to local businesses.

But after some discussion the pair decided to open a place of their own.

“We wanted a kitchen space to make our pre-made rolls so we took the opportunity and decided to join the two businesses together,” Mr Pantovic said.

Now their menu has an array of hot breakfast food, hamburgers, fresh juices, rolls and kebabs.

Already, the café’s delicious food and welcoming atmosphere has attracted some well-known Melbourne identities, including former Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting and watercolour artist David Taylor.

“Ricky Ponting came in twice one month and David Taylor takes his students out to the courtyard to have lunch,” Mr Pantovic said.

“We also see Shane Warne quite a bit when he visits the hair clinic down the street from us.”

Café Lansdowne was originally built in 1867 by Jewish refugees who immigrated to Australia and used the building as a hostel.

Since buying the space, Mr Pantovic has kept



some of the old charm while adding some modern comforts.

“We have an inside area and an outside area with garden which is a cosy, relaxed get away from the hustle of the city,” Mr Pantovic said.

“It’s really the perfect spot for brunch.” ●

For more information:
facebook.com/CafeLansdowne

“Lessons have been learned”: Fourth time lucky for bike share?

WORDS BY *David Schout*

TRANSPORT

In the past three years, three share bike operators have packed up and left Melbourne. Will the newest company to take the plunge prove more successful?

Melbourne and share bikes haven't had the most compatible relationship in recent years.

In fact, most operators have upped and left.

Many will remember oBikes, whose fleet of yellow bikes were more likely to be found in trees and rivers than paths and roads during a calamitous period in 2018.

The Singaporean-based company quickly abandoned their Melbourne program amid the threat of huge fines from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

From there, the only casual cycling options Melburnians and tourists could utilise were the state government's "blue bikes".

But they too were on their way soon after, departing in November 2019.

While these sturdier "docked" blue bikes had not experienced the same dumping issues as oBikes, uptake was low.

This was blamed on a number of things, but a small network of bikes and docking stations — especially when compared with other successful programs around the world — was perhaps the most obvious.

The government tried to spin the failed program as a positive when roads minister Jaala Pulford argued it would "create more space on our footpaths for pedestrians and bike parking".

But that conflicted with the City of Melbourne, who at the same time held a press conference urging operators to give Melbourne a try.

Electric share bikes, in particular, were "part of the future" according to the council's then transport chair Nic Frances Gilley.

The council got its wish when Uber subsidiary Jump announced it would deploy 400 red bikes onto Melbourne's streets in March 2020 to fill the void.

Within weeks, however, COVID-19 lockdowns ensured share bikes quickly became redundant.

And soon after, Jump became the third company in short time to abandon its share bike plans in the city.

But, it's not all bad news.

The red bikes have returned to the streets of Melbourne after Jump was acquired by Lime.

For some time now, the San Francisco-based company has attempted to crack the Melbourne market with their primary product — electric scooters — but restrictive local laws have ensured that (as it stands) cannot happen.

By acquiring the Jump brand, however, they finally have a presence here in Melbourne with the re-badged bikes.

So, will they work?

Lime believes previous failures gives it strong intel on what *not* to do.

"I think we've come a long way from those times," public affairs manager for Lime Australia and New Zealand Lauren Mentjox recently told 3AW.



▲ Melbourne's latest share bike experiment - Jump operated by Lime.

"Lime has been operating bikes for about three years now, and we've certainly learned a lot about shared bikes, and we think they are the way of the future. We think that some of those bikes potentially didn't have the oversight that Lime has. We have strong teams on the ground ... and we're certainly making sure that we don't make any of the mistakes that were done before."

Eight hundred e-bikes are being rolled out and, according to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, there had been very few complaints to date.

"Lessons have been learned from previous share bike schemes," Cr Capp said.

"These e-bikes incorporate GPS tracking and geo-fencing capabilities, for example, which allow the bikes to be managed more easily and efficiently."

The bikes cost \$1 to unlock, and 45 cents per minute to ride.

The rate is already a 50 per cent increase on the cost compared with Jump (which was 30 cents per minute), despite being the identical bike.

The Lord Mayor did not respond to whether she believed the cost hike might impact uptake.

A day pass can be purchased for \$16.99.

Lime e-bikes: How do they work?

The bikes combine good old-fashioned pedal power and electric power, for help getting up

those tricky inclines.

They are designed to travel up to 25 kilometres per hour.

Users can borrow them by using either the Uber or Lime app, where a map reveals the nearest bike to your location.

Each bike has a QR code to scan before use, which takes users through the booking and instruction process.

Helmets are provided.

After a ride is completed, users can park them on public bike racks or, if unavailable, on the kerbside provided it is more than 1.5 metres from any building.

Lime has entered a one-year trial period with the Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip councils, and the bikes can only be ridden and parked within these areas, which are defined within the app.

Users that stray outside the three local government areas will not be able to lock the bike after a ride, and will continue to be charged.

Further, there are designated no-park zones (usually busy pedestrian areas) where users will similarly be charged penalties for non-compliance.

As for ending up in waterways or toilet blocks, Lime is confident the weight of the bikes (over 30kgs) makes it difficult to move and vandalise them, and that users are traceable through their app bookings ●

"Lessons have been learned from previous share bike schemes. These e-bikes incorporate GPS tracking and geo-fencing capabilities, for example, which allow the bikes to be managed more easily and efficiently."



Holy Trinity Church: A makeshift community hub

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

COMMUNITY

In lieu of a permanent community centre in East Melbourne, the Holy Trinity Anglican Church has become a place for the locals to gather and participate in community-led activities.

Vicar Grant Edgecombe said that through activities such as art exhibitions, concerts, meditation sessions and book clubs, the church had the means to bring the wider community together.

"When I first came to the parish seven years ago they had already started the activities including music concerts and art exhibitions," Edgecombe said.

"There's nothing in East Melbourne as big

as the church which we can use for community events, so it works well."

Although most of the events have been suspended due to COVID restrictions, the church plans to bring back a host of activities as soon as they are lifted.

"During the year we usually have all different concerts to encourage younger musicians from the Monash conservatorium to perform in front of an audience, and we also have one or two artists who hang things in the church which people can come and view," Vicar Edgecombe said.

The church also hosts a children's playgroup, a book club where people can exchange and discuss books and community meetings for the East Melbourne Historical Society and the East Melbourne Group.

"Playgroup used to meet on Wednesday

morning and we had a book café where mainly older people come to socialise and discuss the book they are reading," Vicar Edgecombe said.

"It's all been suspended because of COVID but prior to that it was very, very popular."

When restrictions end, Vicar Edgecombe said he was "slowly moving towards" making the Holy Trinity Church even more community active.

"As soon as restrictions are lifted, we're going to move all the books to the main part of the church and it will operate as a community library where people can take books and bring them back," Vicar Edgecombe said.

"It's not a huge space but several hundred books fit in there."

There are also plans to have an ANZAC day concert and an arts festival.

Vicar Edgecombe said that although he

had faced some early obstacles, he eventually planned to turn the church into a proper community hub.

"What I want to do is have the church used every day as a community space," Vicar Edgecombe said.

"There has been some backlash from parishioners who say that the space is sacred, but what I argue is how do you define sacred? Sacred to me means using it for whatever is necessary."

To keep up to date with the Holy Trinity Church's activities, visit their website ●

For more information:
holyltrinitymelbourne.org.au

“Watered down” refugee motion highlights council division

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne’s Future Melbourne committee has voted for a “watered down” refugee advocacy motion after heated debate over how to best support the 13 refugees still detained at Carlton’s Park Hotel.

The original motion moved by Greens Cr Rohan Leppert contained a clause that requested Lord Mayor Sally Capp to call on the federal government to immediately release the men.

But the Lord Mayor and five other councillors voted to amend the motion, removing the clause which would require her to advocate the council’s position to the Minister for Immigration Alex Hawke and Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs Jason Wood.

The Lord Mayor said while she noted the “passion and compassion” expressed by the community towards the issue, the council needed to work with other levels of government.

“We should never discount the economic and cultural contribution migrants and refugees make to our city,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We should find ways to work with other levels of government to advocate for the human rights of and the improved conditions for people who are being accommodated in the Park Hotel which is in the municipality of the City of Melbourne.”

The amended motion advocated “for the provision of medical and mental health support services” and an “explanation for the continued detention of those people” instead of requesting the men be released.

It also removed the clause, “joins the United Nations Human Rights Council and Human Rights Committee in condemning indefinite and arbitrary detention of people seeking asylum as a gross violation of human rights”.

In its place, the amended motion “notes all people within the City of Melbourne should be protected under the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights”.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that although he felt very strongly about the issue, he was voting for the amendment as it was an “improvement”.

“Unfortunately, this is not the Commonwealth parliament we’re sitting in tonight, I wish it was, because we could make some changes which could be very positive for Australia in this area,” Cr Reece said.

“Tonight, we get to decide what terms we advocate to the policy decision makers in this area, the Commonwealth Government, and I think the amendments that the Lord Mayor has put forward is more likely to be listened to and more likely to have an effect where policy is decided.”

Greens Cr Olivia Ball was against amending the motion, questioning why the Lord Mayor had moved to “water down” the wording and remove the call to release the men into the community.

“The amendment removes the City of Melbourne’s original commitment of a refugee welcome zone and one has to wonder why,” Cr Ball said.

“It removes from this motion any straightforward condemnation of what is happening, are we not prepared to condemn gross violations of human rights here in our neighbourhood?”

Cr Ball also said the amendment was grossly insufficient as it had no action contained within it.

“It has verbs—it advocates and it seeks—but it does not ask or direct anyone to actually do anything,” Cr Ball said.

Cr Leppert also voted against amending the original motion as replacing the “deliberately worded” condemnation of the human rights abuses of the remaining men in the Park Hotel was not sending a strong enough message.

“We’re not speculating on whether there ‘might’ be human rights abuses here, we have incontrovertible evidence that the Commonwealth Government is committing human rights abuses right smack bang in our municipality,” Cr Leppert said.

“If you water down the City of Melbourne’s position so that it no longer says anything of significance and importance, and our community and our residents can’t see what our position



▲ Protestors outside the Park Hotel. Photo: Lieke Janssen.



▲ A snap protest outside the Australian Open in February.

is, we’ve gone far too far and miss the point of representative democracy.”

Cr Leppert also said that although it puts the Lord Mayor “in a difficult position”, the council needed to lobby the people who have power to make change.

“These men are being tortured, detained with no charge in some cases for well over seven years who are now residents of the City of Melbourne and they need people to fight for them.”

“We don’t have the regulatory power to release them but what we do have is the megaphone that comes with capital city status and the ability to advocate loudly and strongly.”

After a heated debate, the motion to amend the original advocacy policy passed with six votes in favour and five against.

The amended motion was then carried with eight votes in favour and three, Team Capp Cr Kevin Louey and Liberal Party members Cr Phil Liu and Cr Roshena Campbell, abstaining. Cr Leppert said that he would support the amended motion “through gritted teeth” but that keeping the remaining men in the Park hotel was “torture happening right in the City of Melbourne”.

“This is a hotel in the heart of our city which has become a prison overnight,” he said.

“The only opportunity for fresh air is on the roof, but after a suicide attempt by one of the men, because as we know none of them have received proper medical attention, the men don’t particularly want to exercise on a narrow part of the roof which is heavily policed by guards and is the location of attempted suicides by their friends.”

Overall there were 163 public submissions in favour of the motion with none against.

Refugee advocate Ria Pillai said the City of Melbourne had an obligation to act in accordance with the principals set out in the Victorian charter of human rights and responsibilities and release the 13 men remaining in the Park Hotel.

“The City of Melbourne purports to be a refugee welcome zone, as renewed in 2014. This is a public commitment to welcoming refugees and ensuring their human rights are upheld,” Ms Pillai said.

“The council has an opportunity to uphold its declaration as a refugee welcome zone, by internally and publicly opposing the detention of refugees in the Park Hotel and expressing its full support of their release and subsequent protection.”

CBD resident and Greens campaigner Apsara Sabaratnam said when the refugees were released, there was no reasoning to who was released and who was left behind.

“No one knows what criteria was used by this government to make the decision to release some men but not others,” Ms Sabaratnam said.

“This is the cruelty of indefinite and arbitrary detention and why I’m calling on Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the City of Melbourne councillors to speak up on behalf of the men who are still locked in the Park Hotel.”

Ms Sabaratnam and other campaigners have continued their daily vigil at the Park Hotel and, more recently, have begun doing snap protests outside the Australian Open.

“At the end of the day, the amount of actions going on are creating a lot of tensions in the police,” Ms Sabaratnam said. “They’re sick of us.”

Epidemiologist Dr Aiden Varan also urged the City of Melbourne to call on Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Home Affairs Minister

“

These men are being tortured, detained with no charge in some cases for well over seven years who are now residents of the City of Melbourne and they need people to fight for them.

”

Peter Dutton to release the remaining Park Hotel asylum seekers as a COVID outbreak would be devastating.

“I’ve had the privilege of speaking with a number of these men who have fled their homes after unimaginable pain and suffering, they’ve spent about a decade in arbitrary detention,” Dr Varan said.

“The men are fearful because a security guard recently reported to have symptoms of COVID 19 and all men were placed in isolation.”

In response to the amended motion, activist Lieke Janssen said CoM should “have the guts to say what they should be saying”.

“If politicians didn’t have the luxury of people being ignorant about the conditions these men live in and their stories, they wouldn’t be able to take such a soft stance,” Ms Janssen said.

Recently released refugee Thanush Selvarasa said that it was crucial the remaining men were released to put an end to their suffering.

“I was detained for eight years so I know what they are experiencing in there, there is so much hurt and pain and it’s horrible to be detained indefinitely,” Mr Thanush said.

“Some people don’t realise until they lose something in their life what it feels like. I know the pain of being separated from family and from freedom.” ●



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Your City of Melbourne community update



San Telmo is serving up Argentinian feasts in Meyers Place

OUTDOOR DINING EXTENDED

Dine with friends in an iconic Melbourne laneway or pop-up parklet to support local businesses as they continue to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions.

The City of Melbourne has extended its outdoor dining program until mid-2021 to provide further support to hospitality businesses. The extension will allow outdoor dining spaces to remain until Wednesday 30 June.

Nearly 1500 permits for outdoor dining have been issued across the municipality, and more than 200 outdoor dining 'parklets' have been installed, to help venues reopen and continue operating.

The City of Melbourne will invest \$2.2 million to extend the program as part of the joint \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund in partnership with the Victorian Government.

This brings the total investment in outdoor dining infrastructure, maintenance and repurposing of laneways to \$7.7 million.

What businesses are saying

The City of Melbourne surveyed 150 of the more than 180 businesses with outdoor dining 'parklets' in January to gather feedback and inform decision making on the future of extended outdoor dining.

The survey indicated that outdoor dining 'parklets' had helped 81 per cent of businesses to reopen, 76 per cent to maintain seating capacity and 72 per cent were either satisfied or very satisfied with their 'parklets'.

A comprehensive evaluation of the program will be considered by councillors later this year, including an assessment of the economic benefits and recommendations for the program beyond June 2021.

WHAT IS A PARKLET?

The outdoor dining program has seen cafes and restaurants expand onto footpaths, laneways and on-street parking spaces. When parking spaces are used in this way, the new dining areas created are known as parklets. Keep an eye out for them in your neighbourhood and stop by for a meal to support local business.

A word from the Lord Mayor

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that lockdowns have had a major impact on our business community – particularly the hospitality industry – so Council is doing everything it can to provide certainty for businesses.

'The outdoor dining program has helped bring back the buzz by attracting patrons from across Melbourne and the regions,' the Lord Mayor said.

'The extended outdoor dining program has helped to provide hospitality businesses with extra capacity to seat more customers and get more revenue.

'Businesses can have confidence that outdoor dining will continue in the City of Melbourne until winter. We're looking into additional features to support outdoor dining during the cooler months such as weather protection.

'We want to reduce the administrative burden on businesses so will be directly contacting each business and have a simplified process to extend permits for those who wish to continue their outdoor dining space.

'All City of Melbourne councillors are committed to ensuring our organisation is focused on assisting local businesses that have been battling some of the toughest trading conditions in living memory.'

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



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Local businesses, services and organisations are the lifeblood of Melbourne, and our support for them is multi-layered and ongoing.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer, including grants, rate relief, marketing support and free outdoor dining permits.

For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or enquire online at the above website.

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SEEKING CREATIVES FOR ARTPLAY NEW IDEAS LAB

Do you have an idea for a brand new creative project that could be co-designed with children or families? Submit your proposal to the ArtPlay New Ideas Lab by Friday 26 March.

If you need inspiration, look no further than the current New Ideas Lab project Imagination Gamespaces, which has seen local kids creating interactive 'escape rooms' with fantastical storylines and riddles.

ABOUT ARTPLAY

ArtPlay brings together children, families and artists to explore and create innovative arts experiences at its premises at Birrarung Marr and online.

Led by Brendan Ternus, Alia Syed Rose and Shaun Wykes from Radical Attic, Imagination Gamespaces included immersive game design, creative writing, visual art and performance-based activities.

'One of the things I've learned from this project is how powerful kids and their ideas can be,' Brendan said.

'We gave kids the agency and space to create whole new worlds, and it was clear what is on their minds: the environment, wealth, equality, conflict, peace, and heroes trying to make an impact in their communities.'

'Reflecting these values and concerns is so important, particularly in this topsy-turvy world we are living in. Art can help communities reinvent themselves. It is also a real antidote to disconnection.'

Brendan moved to Melbourne three and a half years ago after working on education projects in China, France, Japan and the United States. Melbourne's thriving youth arts scene has enriched his creative career.

'ArtPlay is one of the most supportive environments I've encountered all over the world,' Brendan said.

'The New Ideas Lab supports your process from the inception of an idea all the way through to execution and, if you aren't an established artist, the team can connect you with a mentor to help grow your ideas.'

'All the New Ideas Lab projects are very different but everyone is on the same page about the value of collaboration with kids and bringing their voices to the fore.'

'ArtPlay also helps New Ideas Lab projects find new audiences after the program is over through a showcase that connects you with industry leaders. So it's the gift that keeps on giving.'

The final showings of Imagination Gamespaces will take place in the April school holidays.

How to apply

The 2021 ArtPlay New Ideas Lab will support four proposals for brand new work to be co-created with children or families, with each project valued from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

People working in the creative sector and artists from all disciplines and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applicants do not necessarily need experience in working with children, but a passion and enthusiasm for involving children in the creative process is essential.

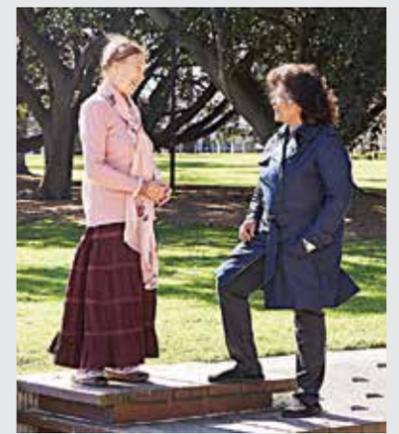
Expressions of interest are now open and close at 5pm on Friday 26 March.

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

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.

'YEARS OF OUR LIVES' PROJECT

Radical Attic also worked with older Melburnians during 2020's reimagined Seniors Festival to create a community timeline celebrating their unique life experiences and diversity. Explore the participants' reflections, treasured memories and adventures at melbourne.vic.gov.au/olderpeople



Local kids designed their own 'escape rooms' through Imagination Gamespaces

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

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Lord Mayor calls for urgent help amid “extremely worrying” report

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ECONOMY

Lord Mayor Sally Capp will meet with federal and state treasurers to urge targeted city support beyond March after a council report outlined a devastating economic impact of COVID-19 on Melbourne almost 12 months on.

The report concluded that while the local economy had shown signs of improvement after stage four restrictions were eased in late 2020, the recovery levels were not sustainable.

A survey also revealed that 28 per cent of street-facing shopfronts in Carlton had either temporarily closed or were completely vacant by the end of 2020.

The City of Melbourne has been one of the hardest hit areas in Australia as a result of the pandemic and Cr Capp had sought an “urgent” meeting with federal treasurer Josh Frydenberg and state treasurer Tim Pallas.

Two key business support packages were due to expire at the end of March; the federal government’s JobKeeper payments, and the state government’s commercial tenancy relief scheme.

The council will call for “targeted” support beyond March 31.

“While we’ve seen areas where there’s been some uplift, the fact is that these challenging circumstances and uncertainty remain for so many of our businesses and we can expect that to be the case for some time,” Cr Capp said at a February 16 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

“The data is compelling, and it is helping us really drill down and understand the sectors and the places around the city that have been most impacted by this pandemic.”

The data, compiled by the council itself and other agencies, revealed a number of statistics that were “extremely worrying” according to Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece.

The report showed that pedestrian numbers had only shown a strong bounce-back around Christmas time.

“In the period leading up to Christmas



▲ The council’s director of economic development Andrew Wear.

we had a few days that were even better than last year. But that was brief, and following Christmas, pedestrian numbers declined again,” the council’s director of economic development Andrew Wear said.

Cr Capp made no secret of the council’s wish before meeting with key figures in upper levels of government.

“Melbourne’s businesses need certainty and confidence. We’re going to keep saying it over and over again,” she said.

“We would like the state and federal government to be considering, particularly as we head into budget time, extra direct financial assistance for businesses here in the City of Melbourne that have borne the brunt of the economic fallout of this pandemic.”

Assistance needed to be “targeted” to reach “the hardest hit”.

Cr Capp said while the vaccine provided longer term hope for an end to the pandemic, businesses needed more urgent support.

“We are all excited at contemplating the roll-out of the vaccine, but there’s still some time for that to happen,” she said.

“Melbourne is the engine room of the Victorian economy, it is a major driver of the nation’s GDP. I’m looking forward to working closely — we all are — with our state and federal counterparts to reboot and sustain our economic recovery.”

The report provided an “evidence-based platform” for discussion, according to the Lord Mayor, while Cr Reece said it revealed the “dire state of the Melbourne economy”.

“We need to see JobKeeper continue in a geographically targeted way,” he said.

Cr Davydd Griffiths said that beyond the numbers, each of the municipality’s 20,632 businesses currently receiving JobKeeper had their own story to tell.

“We can look at data about businesses, but of course each of those businesses represent real human beings; owners, workers and the

“In the period leading up to Christmas we had a few days that were even better than last year. But that was brief, and following Christmas, pedestrian numbers declined again.”



communities that interact with those businesses daily.”

On February 21 the state government revealed its latest round of business support, which would assist local tourism, hospitality and events businesses.

“This funding package will help Melbourne businesses but there’s no doubt business owners are considering their future and whether they can remain open. Many have already made the decision to close,” Cr Capp said ●



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STATE MP

Inner-city life: where to after a pandemic?

This COVID-19 pandemic has hit us all hard, but for those who spend their lives in our CBD and inner-city, it’s changed things very dramatically.

Before the pandemic, inner-city Melbourne was the bustling, busy, vibrant heart of our state. But now, we are having to grapple with streets that are emptier and quieter than we’re used to, and so many businesses, cafes, bars and arts venues that have fallen silent.

With the fall in tourism and international students, and people studying and working from home, the city is a very different place than we remember.

Along with the challenges, the pandemic and lockdown has also forced us to really take notice of what we value about our local area: the little pockets of green space, the hidden delights down a laneway, a quick smile or chat with our local barista, and walks with our neighbours and community.

Now, as governments and local councils start to grapple with how we rebuild our vibrant inner-city, it’s the perfect time to think about what we actually want our inner-city to be and how we make it a great place for people to live, work and play from now on.

This is exactly what I’ve been doing in Parliament these past few months.

Do we have to go back to a city where so many people are forced to sleep on the streets, or do we want a city where everyone has a safe home and safe streets?

While apartment living has so many benefits, do we need to rethink how much power we give developers to design our cities, often at the expense of the residents who actually live there? Maybe it’s time to change our owners’ corporation (OC) laws, remove developer donations from our politics and think about creating quality homes for people in the inner-city, not just unregulated quasi-hotels or tiny shoe boxes in the sky.

Do we need to give over so much of our streets to cars, or can we do transport and outdoor living and dining better?

And maybe it’s time we re-thought about how we look at work – so that casual workers and people in insecure work are better protected through the bumps and shocks our world faces.

These are the questions I’ve been taking to the government recently. In Parliament my colleagues and I recently moved for changes to the outdated OC laws to make things fairer for residents and limit developers locking in residents to long, unfair contracts, and to make it easier for residents to do things like put solar on their roofs. These are laws which haven’t changed in the past 15 years!

Earlier last month I also raised the issue of inappropriate development at Treasury Square – between the Hoddle Grid and East Melbourne.

▼ Ellen Sandell MP in the Carlton Gardens with local passers-by (on rollerskates!) before the pandemic.



Last year, the Minister for Planning approved a Planning Scheme Amendment allowing the land at Treasury Square to be developed – but he did so without a clear plan for what would go on this site, without many controls, and without any community consultation.

The community has expressed concerns that the proposed development at Treasury Square has no links or paths to the surrounding area and is a poor-quality development that would overshadow Melbourne’s precious parkland, including one of the most important parts of our city, Birrarung Marr. I brought the community’s concern directly to the Minister for Planning

and asked him why decisions for higher quality designs and stronger planning controls for the site have been sitting on his desk for the past 14 months. We’ll continue to pursue this matter in March ●



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As much flak as Captain Cook

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Some nice people come from Captain Cook's home town of Middlesbrough although you wouldn't know it, judging by the recent protests against his arrival in Australia.

One is Kim Campbell, who has stopped mentioning Cook when people ask her where she's from.

Kim was in Fitzroy Gardens on Australia Day and saw Cook's cottage under tight security.

"They were slagging him," she said. "I felt sad the way they were thinking. They attacked statues in St Kilda."

Middlesbrough is in North Yorkshire and the people have the reputation of being the friendliest in England.

Kim grew up about 10 minutes' drive from Cook's cottage. She said there weren't any similar cottages left in the town. Her grandfather was a seafarer like Cook and there's a museum dedicated to the explorer.

But it's fair to say that Cook did not feature heavily in the young Kim's life, except perhaps as a model for moving around.

She moved into her heritage apartment in East Melbourne six months ago during the lockdown and spends so much time in the gardens "I may as well pay rent," she said.

She walks through every day on her way to the Crown Casino where she works as a croupier on the black jack and baccarat tables. Her shift finishes at 4am.

"I'm a night owl," she said, tracing her love of night life back to working in luxury hotels and on cruises where her nickname was "Kimmy Crowbar" and beer was just 50 cents, and cocktails \$1.



▲ Kim said her piece at Captain Cook's cottage.

She was arranging to catch up with her cruise mates in Mexico when the pandemic hit.

Everywhere she goes she finds a laugh. At the casino croupiers have to wear masks but some dealers are using this as an excuse not to call the game. "You have to," she said.

She loves the buzz of the tables and manages to cruise through hot spots – Cook's cottage on Australia Day, the casino when it's under investigation. "I get an email from a new CEO every day," she joked.

Days are for sleeping, walking the dog and

bird watching while nights are ... she loves the pub.

"My family is coming out of lockdown back home. On April 12, the pubs can open. In England you can have six people in a park. Who wants a picnic in this weather?"

She misses roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, good lager and cider. The fish and chips she recently had in Mornington "was a waste of money".

Kim left school at 16. "I left on a Friday and had a job on a Monday. It was a massive

supermarket. I ended up with the boss for three years. He wanted to get married. I didn't," she said.

She was more interested in swish hotels than dating and ended up working in a five-star hotel on the English Channel island of Jersey.

"I've travelled a lot," she admitted, but she's staying put here in Melbourne and was supportive of the way the pandemic had been handled.

"I think Dan has done well even though he gets as much flak as Captain Cook." ●

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

Welcome from the Public Housing Residents' Network

Hi readers, this column is from the view of a long-term public housing resident.

I will bring my opinion to inner-city residents on any matters that are current and important. Sometimes my opinion might be at odds with other people's opinions. It will be a point of view that is mine and independent.

I have lived in Carlton since 2004, being a resident of public housing at the Carlton high-rise towers estate on Lygon St. I have been a volunteer at the Church of all Nations (CAN) for many years, in particular, emergency relief. I have found this very rewarding and very enjoyable. I encourage everyone, if possible to do some volunteering, and after the year we have been through, it's time to get out and help.

I was also awarded the "Community Champion 2020" for the City of Melbourne at the Melburnian of the Year awards ceremony, which was presented to me by the honourable Lord Mayor Sally Capp. It was very humbling to receive.

I, with others, established the Public Housing Residents' Network (PHRN) in early 2020 which would bring residents of all public housing high-rise estates together to work as one group to help all the high-rise residents as a whole.

Then when COVID-19 took hold, and after the lockdowns of the eight towers in North Melbourne and Flemington, there was panic across all of the estates in Melbourne. Residents of our estate were very worried and concerned that we would be imprisoned also. After discussions with my brothers, daughter and others from various estates, we decided that we needed to be pro-active instead of re-active to protect our community.

So, a media blitz began, starting with radio



▲ Lord Mayor Sally Capp and myself after receiving the council's community champion award in 2020.

on 3AW that was soon followed by a television interview and media print, demanding that mobile testing units be present at our estate and all high-rise estates across Melbourne and beyond. We also asked to have masks supplied to residents, sanitiser on each floor and improved cleaning. After pressure was put on our political leaders by the community, they had no option other than to prioritise bringing mobile testing units to our towers and every other high-rise estate. Public pressure won.

In early July when testing began at the estate,

I organised Zoom meetings with residents, inviting various agencies, housing, police, local political representatives. As people were isolated I found this to have a positive outcome as residents could ask the various agencies anything they wanted. They had nowhere to run. They also provided information on what people could do to help get through isolation. This had an impact on residents as they no longer felt alone. The community came together and united as one for a common cause. I am so proud of my community, everyone deserved an award.

“

The statement "we are all in this together" was certainly the case at the estate, and I believe that when our time comes to be vaccinated, residents will do the right thing and get the jab. I say to the anti-vaxxers out there, stop being selfish and make your first thought about someone else's health and wellbeing, rather than yourself.

”

Thanks for reading my first column, and I look forward to hearing feedback from fellow Melburnians about any issues you would like to discuss in the *Inner City News* ●



Cory Memery

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HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

How do we solve a problem like rough sleeping?

“

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

”

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

This month we have asked Jenny Begent, Head of Social Mission for The Salvation Army, to share her thoughts on why the objective around housing all Australians, and in particular investing in social housing in the era of working from home, should be considered an economic imperative...

I am fortunate enough to live in what is considered by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), as the most liveable city in the world. Due, in no small part I suspect, to its great coffee and café culture, but also to its healthcare, education, stability, culture, environment and infrastructure. On the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), it scored an incredible 97.5 out of 100. As a resident myself, I can attest to it being a fine place to live.

Yet, from my vantage point at The Salvation Army in the centre of the city, I am all too aware that Melbourne isn't a great place for all its residents. One of our significant challenges is the increase in the number of people sleeping rough. According to the City of Melbourne, rough sleeping has increased by 74 per cent compared to two years ago. This represents 247 individuals, most aged between 26 and 60. Most are there due to housing affordability, mental health or an addiction.

Melbourne is not unique in Victoria for its rough sleepers; rough sleepers are present in all our suburbs and in our major towns. It is unique, however, in the level of infrastructure that exists as a draw for people seeking housing and support. So, like Dick Whittington, searching for streets paved with gold, the homeless, the ill, the abused come looking for support, propelled by a spectrum of problems which includes having nowhere else to go.

This increased presence has meant increased government and media attention, which has, in some instances quite frankly, not been at all helpful when agencies such as ours have been trying to support and assist this most vulnerable group. Along with increased attention, has been a call for solutions, some excellent, others not helpful. The call for the criminalisation of rough sleepers is extremely counter-productive, leading to vulnerable people being

driven underground rather than remaining visible where support can be offered. A great majority of rough sleepers are victims of crime themselves and the calls to criminalise, further stigmatise homeless street people, and penalise them for simply being poor.

The plethora of support agencies, and council and government responses have both helped and hindered this cohort. Differing agendas, targets and attitudes have meant that many rough sleepers have failed to obtain the housing and medical support they need to help them make a sustainable return to mainstream society. Until recently there has been a lack of political appetite and bureaucratic capacity for a co-ordinated approach to tackling rough sleeping. However, the creation of the Rough Sleeping Taskforce has finally been translated into a practical approach that will work towards a state-wide solution, rather than a Melbourne city-specific approach.

Rough sleepers are one of the most disadvantaged groups in society. They deserve better than to be treated as a nuisance – they may have suffered a relationship breakdown, a bereavement or domestic abuse. Instead, people need long-term, dedicated support to move away from the streets for good. Those who sleep on the streets are extremely vulnerable and often do not know where to turn for help. These individuals need additional support to leave homelessness behind, and any move to criminalise sleeping rough could simply create additional problems to be overcome. If we are to tackle the current housing and health inequalities then we need to assess and meet their needs in new and imaginative ways. It requires a broad overarching response that considers their health needs as well as housing needs. The response needs to be undertaken with main stream providers ensuring effective partnerships across a many

and varied service response.

It also requires a response from individuals, a reminder that each one of us is just one step away from homelessness. In the literal sense, as we walk around our own towns and cities and pass rough sleepers, and in the theoretical sense, we could suffer a job loss, an illness, a financial setback or a combination of the three. We could end up sleeping rough; anyone who is on the street is certainly a lot worse off than me. I look them in the eye, I say hello. When I acknowledge them, they are no longer invisible.

I hope you found the above perspective by Jenny interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations. As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts: info@housingallaustralians.com.au ●



Rob Pradolín

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

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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

New councillor is a “unionist at heart”

WORDS BY Sean Car

Having snuck into the final councillor position at last year's local government elections, CFMEU member and new councillor Elizabeth Doidge said she was looking forward to helping shape and reactivate the city that she loves.

A proud “unionist at heart”, the 31-year-old was elected to the City of Melbourne council on Lord Mayor candidate Jennifer Yang's union-backed ticket, with the CFMEU alone providing more than \$195,000 for the campaign.

Working in policy and stakeholder engagement with the CFMEU, Ms Doidge told *Inner City News* that the union's desire was just to have a place on council so it “could influence policy” and “play a part in the city that we built”.

And in what will come as music to the ears of many local residents, she said part of her ambition as a councillor and chair of the council's sustainable building portfolio was to help improve dialogue between the council, the building industry and residents.

It was a relationship tested in the CBD during the height of the pandemic when out of hours construction permits were granted by the council last year and Ms Doidge said there was a lot her union could do to help residents.

“There's never been a dialogue between the building industry and local residents, I suppose we're at loggerheads and that's something the CFMEU can do,” she said.

“It's not just because we have a lot of resident members but there can be a lot of issues resolved through collaboration – you just need those channels and I would love to be a part of that.”

In addition to her roles with the CFMEU and now as a councillor, Ms Doidge is, remarkably, also currently completing a master's degree in communications at RMIT University, where



she has been previously studying politics, international relations and media during the past 14 years.

She said the city was a “huge part” of both her own and her family's lives. Her grandfather once served as the manager of Flinders Street Station, while her grandmother was a regular shopper at Queen Victoria Market and visitor to St Patrick's Cathedral.

Having lived and worked in Melbourne her entire life, she said it was that affinity with her city that led her to the union movement, and she was looking forward to using her role as a councillor to change perceptions about the CFMEU.

She said all CFMEU members, including its controversial secretary John Setka, were far more progressive than many gave them credit

for, and had many overlapping ambitions with the council such as greening the city, sustainable development and community outreach.

“When John Setka and I were sitting down and talking about the relationships we have with council and things like that he said, ‘we need more trees, we need more green in the city ... it's getting ugly,’” she said.

“There's a lot of perceptions that the unions and the employers in our industry are always fighting with each other which is not true at all. We have fantastic relationships with builders and bosses of constructions companies, and we all work together to make sure the construction industry is healthy and safe.”

“There are jobs for our members so it's not in our interest to make building difficult it's quite the opposite – we want it to continue as much as

possible and we want jobs for our members. But we want to make sure they're good jobs, they're safe jobs and we want to see the products we're building are quality.”

With the impacts of COVID-19 sure to play out across the city for many years to come, the current council term marks as one of the most critical periods in City of Melbourne's history as it recovers from the pandemic.

In addition to the Environment and Creative Melbourne portfolios, Ms Doidge has taken on the role as deputy lead of the all-important City Activation portfolio, which is being led by fellow first-time Cr Roshena Campbell.

While she is still wrapping her head around local government processes, she said her councillor colleagues and others at the City of Melbourne had provided great support in helping her settle into the role.

It's been wonderful,” she said. “Especially now that I've been there for a while and I'm really starting to understand the role that councils play in actually shaping the city and having a really positive impact on the future of our city.”

“I pay very close attention to everything everyone says! I'm never going to walk into that room and think I'm the smartest person there or think I'm the best politician or the best councillor but that's why I love it. There's a great group of people who have very diverse political views and political backgrounds and I think we can all come together and make a big difference.” ●



Sean Car

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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



Cultural competency on the rise

Where the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift online upended many organisations last year, Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) manager of education and visitor experience Rob Hyatt said the trust's Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency workshops had soared in popularity.

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*

"There's been a massive return from moving online. We now do about 25 to 30 sessions a month," Mr Hyatt told *Inner City News*.

Through the workshops, the KHT works with various companies, including state governments and corporate and community organisations, to provide education on working with Aboriginal communities.

"The main thing we hear from organisations is a desire to learn more and provide workplace support," Mr Hyatt said.

"Many of the organisations we work with have implemented reconciliation strategies but need more education on certain issues."

The Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency workshop focuses on four key education blocks: concentration of Aboriginality and identity, history, understanding Aboriginal communities today, and hints and tips for effectively engaging with Aboriginal people.

"The workshop supports people to work with Aboriginal people but also stresses the social benefit of broader education about Aboriginality," Mr Hyatt said

The workshop includes discussions on both traditional and contemporary elements of Aboriginality, an understanding of the history of what has happened to Aboriginal people and its impacts on areas such as education, justice and employment.

Mr Hyatt said the workshop also impressed the resilience of Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people.

"One of the main points of the workshop is to underscore the continued survival of Aboriginal culture and its strengths," Mr Hyatt said.

Mr Hyatt said the workshops were based on experiential and participatory learning and encouraged discussion.

He added that workshop participants were increasingly interested in discussing "Change the Date" and "Black Lives Matter" after highly publicised social movements over the past few years.

"This is just not a lecture, we encourage participants to self-explore their own experiences, values, beliefs and behaviour," he said.

The KHT is holding the Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency workshops for organisations, and individuals and small groups throughout the year online ●

For more on the workshops:
korieheritagetrust.com.au/visit-us/education/#cultural-competency

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORY

▼ The Australasian Sketcher, December 4, 1880. State Library of Victoria.

Valetta – an East Melbourne story

East Melbourne's first Crown land sales were held on November 18, 1852.

Prior to this the area had been a popular place for local Aboriginal groups who were attracted to its swamps and lagoons as fishing grounds. Then came Captain Lonsdale in 1836 and Superintendent La Trobe in 1839, but most influential was Bishop Perry who chose East Melbourne as the place to build Bishops Court, completed in 1853 and which still stands today as the Anglican Archbishop's permanent residence. Perry is credited with setting the tone for the future suburb.

One of the earliest houses to be built in East Melbourne is Valetta at 206 Clarendon St on the corner of Albert St and just across the road from Epworth Freemasons Hospital. It has had a chequered history which in many ways parallels the history of East Melbourne as a whole. It was built in 1856 when the area was still mainly bushland, sprinkled with river red gums and wattle trees. The architect was Osgood Pritchard who was commissioned by John Gray, a farmer and horse breeder. Gray was a restless man and moved out within two years.

From 1861 to 1865 Valetta was leased to Mr and Mrs Vieusieux who ran a ladies' college there before moving to other premises. It was one of numerous schools that were a feature of the East Melbourne landscape. Many of these are still going, although no longer in East Melbourne, such as Scotch, Presbyterian Ladies College, Catholic Ladies College, Ormiston (now Camberwell Grammar), Parade College, and the Model School which eventually split into Melbourne Boys High and Mac.Robertson Girls High. Now there is a dearth of local schools with the last one, St John's Primary, closing its doors in 2008.

Next to move into Valetta was Lowe Kong Meng, regarded as the principal Chinese merchant in Melbourne. He had his own fleet of



THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE SIR REDMOND BARRY.

ships and traded in bêche-de-mer, tea and opium among other things. He married an English woman and had six children and lived the life of an English gentleman. Also living in the house was his pet kangaroo. He was very popular. He gave to many charitable organisations and was especially helpful to newly-arrived Chinese immigrants. The Emperor of China awarded him the title of "Mandarin of the Blue Button". Lowe moved out in 1875. Shortly beforehand there had been a very nasty incident when a man cleaning out a cesspit in the back yard was overcome by fumes and died.

Redmond Barry, Supreme Court Judge and first Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, became owner and occupier in 1879. It seems that it was here for the first time he shared an address with his long-time companion and mother of his children, Louisa Barrow. Barry died at Valetta in 1880, only 12 days after the execution of Ned Kelly, over whose trial he famously presided. The huge funeral cortege of around 130 vehicles assembled outside the house and along Clarendon St (pictured) before leaving for the Melbourne General Cemetery.

From 1903 to 1940 Valetta was home to Dr Edward Augustus Spowers who conducted his medical practice at the same address. He was one of many East Melbourne residents to enlist

during WWI, serving in the Medical Corps. He returned with several jugs he made out of copper shells retrieved from the battlefields. He had them on display in his house where they were much admired by his friends. During his time there, in 1929, he built a small block of "bachelor flats" in the back yard.

For another 10 years the house continued as medical rooms, but in 1950 at a cost of £25,000 the Country Fire Authority purchased the property as its headquarters. New owners later rented the house to the Australian Conservation Foundation before selling to the Red Cross which knocked down the flats and built smart new offices. In 1998 they too sold. The new owner converted the offices to upmarket apartments. But since that time the house has remained vacant and neglected amid much local controversy. News just recently to hand suggests that restoration is soon to take place. We hope this is so ●



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PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

February news!

Firstly, congratulations to the publishers for an excellent first edition of Inner City News. From chatting around Parkville, the feedback was very positive and everyone thrilled to have Parkville back on the publishing map again!

Being a shorter month, our main activities were once again trying to slow down the "rat runners" as with more young families in the area speeding vehicles cause serious issues. The council will be trialling flat speed humps in Degraives St which had the biggest traffic increase in 2020. At the last AGM, the Lord Mayor mentioned the possibility of a 30km/h limit in South Parkville and the room certainly was in favour. This is a work in progress.

Things are hotting up with the development of Melbourne's Metro Tunnel Parkville with the service lanes from the Elizabeth St roundabout to just north of the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) closed. Anyone in Parkville with issues please contact me as I sit on the Metro Tunnel Community Reference Group (CRG) and can pass concerns on.

March finally sees the amendment to C278: *Sunlight to Public Parks* hearing which has been planned for some time. This hearing is for the City of Melbourne to ensure sunlight to public

parks therefore protecting winter sun in all city parks from overshadowing. The Parkville Association has made a submission and we will present later in the hearing. This runs from March 9 to 30.

During the month, the AGM of Melbourne North Police Community Consultative Committee, of which the Parkville Association (PA) is a member, was held. The objective of the group is to establish a positive working relationship between police and local communities. The geographical area covered is Parkville, Carlton, North Melbourne and Kensington. With limited numbers the team at North Melbourne Police Station do a great job and it enables us to work with them on matters that affect Parkville. I was asked to chair the committee going forward so any issues in Parkville you wish to raise please let me know.

Our friends in Ozanam House are now back to running relatively normally and several of our residents have recommenced volunteering

to serve meals in the evenings. It is great to help our neighbours and look after their great bunch of clients. If anyone is interested in doing shifts I can put you in touch with them.

The AGM of the Parkville Association will be held virtually on March 30 and I am thrilled to advise Prof Peter Doherty, one of our members, will join us to reflect on 2020 and take a few questions. Invitations will be emailed to all members in early March.

Finally, on a very sad note Beverly (Bev) Kennedy, a life member of the Association and great contributor to Parkville passed away on February 13. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time ●



Rob Moore
 PRESIDENT
 PRESIDENTPARKVILLE ASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM



LACHLAN, CARLTON NORTH

“I think it’s really important. It’s exciting to have it finally reaching us here. I think everyone should get vaccinated for it. It’s important to engage with the people who are questioning why they shouldn’t get vaccinated and try not to shut them out. It’s important to hear what they have to say instead of making them feel alienated.”



CHRIS, CARLTON GARDENS

“I think people should have a choice. If they’re at risk, then they can take the vaccine. I think a lot of people don’t know enough about it and there are always risks and when you are forced to take a vaccine that the government isn’t going to take any liability for, then you shouldn’t be forced to take it. That’s just wrong.”

Faces of Inner City

Question: “How do you feel about the rollout of the vaccine?”



SAMUEL, NORTHCOTE

“Well, I’m 70, so I’m gonna have it because we have to combat this thing. If we don’t take it, it’s gonna spread more and more. I think people who don’t want to take it are a bit stupid.”



NICK, CARLTON

“I haven’t looked too much into it – I feel like it’s way above my pay grade to talk about it. It’s a good first step, to have at least some kind of line of defence against the virus and doing something instead of just sitting and twiddling our thumbs.”



Nature Therapy

“Not many here today.”
Royal Park

LETTERS

Love the new local

I got your newspaper in my letterbox and finally read it this morning with my coffee. I really enjoyed reading a paper newspaper and the content of your articles. Well done!!
Francesca Giorgi Monfort

What a fantastic newspaper!

I loved the edition which I read recently for Carlton, etc. and the article about the slums in Palmerston St. I have had lots of connections with Carlton over the years and stay over in Carlton on the weekends.

I despaired over the demise of local papers where I am in Clarinda – the delivery ceased last year. It is so important to keep a sense of community.

I just by chance heard the interview [with publisher Sean Car] with Raf on the ABC right now! Do hope your papers spread across Melbourne and over here? Are you ever in a position to consider articles or are you unable to do so? Thanks for your contribution and I hope you prosper in this venture.

Kind regards,
Helen Musarsa

Congratulations to all involved.

This is just what we all need ... our own local paper.
Trish O’Loughlin

Congratulations on Inner City News.

What a triumph! It hits the spot with the residents.
Barbara Paterson



Always nice to see a new print endeavour!

Mel Stark

Dear Sean and Katie,

Congratulations on having the initiative to publish a newspaper for the residents of Parkville, Carlton and East Melbourne. It provides an opportunity for all members of the community to express their ideas and concerns in a public forum.

Well done!
Bruce and Heather - Parkville

Congratulations!

So good to have local news told by locals.
Jane Slack-Smith

Metro Tunnel mega-machines on the home stretch

The Metro Tunnel Project has almost reached the three-quarter mark of building the nine-kilometre-long twin tunnels that will create a new train line running under Melbourne.

The project's second TBM Meg – named after Australian cricket captain Meg Lanning – recently broke through at State Library Station after completing the one-kilometre section from Parkville Station.

Tunnelling is now moving into the final stages, with three out of four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) on their last leg towards Town Hall Station in the CBD.

TBM Joan – named after Victoria's first female Premier, Joan Kirner – has been relaunched from State Library Station towards Town Hall Station, and TBM Meg will soon follow the same course.

The project's third and fourth TBMs, Millie and Alice, were relaunched from Anzac Station under St Kilda Rd in December and January to tunnel towards Town Hall Station.

The arrival of all four TBMs at Town Hall Station later this year will mark the end of tunnelling, stretching from the eastern entrance in South Yarra out to the western entrance in Kensington.

When the Metro Tunnel Project is completed in 2025, some of Melbourne's busiest metropolitan train lines – Sunbury, Cranbourne and Pakenham – will run exclusively on the new line.



Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan said, "The Metro Tunnel Project will transform the way we move around Melbourne, connecting key locations including the Parkville medical and education precinct, St Kilda Rd and the Arden Urban Renewal Precinct."

Colourful creation helps CBD get back on track

The Metro Tunnel is helping the creative industry to recover from the challenges of COVID-19 by using art to brighten its worksites.

The latest installation to brighten up the city is Emma Coulter's artwork that adorns the City Square acoustic shed.

Emma's design has transformed the top half of the 90m-long City Square acoustic shed on Swanston St into one of her trademark colourful, kaleidoscopic creations.

Fitzroy-based street-art studio Juddy Roller worked with Emma to engage artists to paint the work on the shed over the last few weeks in February.

Emma's previous installations include commissions in the US, Germany and Sydney, but this is her first large-scale public artwork in Melbourne, where she is based.

The Metro Tunnel Project's Creative Program features artworks on hoardings at worksites and creative wayfinding to support nearby businesses.

These help to maintain Melbourne's vibrancy while work continues on this transformational project, which will bring more trains to and from suburbs across Melbourne.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said, "This artwork shows it's possible to continue work on a huge, city-shaping project such as the Metro Tunnel in the middle of the CBD while also helping to support our creative industries and businesses in the city centre." ●

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

EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

East Melbourne people power



For nearly 70 years, the proud residents of East Melbourne have been working together to preserve their inner-city oasis, nestled between the traffic arterials, stadiums, parks and gardens.



The East Melbourne Group Incorporated: Victoria's first residents' group

Maintaining its tranquillity and heritage charm, on the doorstep of the CBD, has been a vigilant effort championed by East Melbourne Group (EMG), whose history has been recounted by Jill Fenwick, former East Melbourne Historical Society President, in the 2017 publication *The Residents Who Roared, A History of The East Melbourne Group 1953-2003*.

"This is the story of a small group of people and the organisation they formed in 1953 to protect the amenity of their neighbourhood. The East Melbourne Group (EMG) began as a citizens' protest against the removal of the stately elm trees forming a green canopy over major streets within the suburb. The Melbourne City Council ordered their removal on the spurious grounds that they were diseased or likely to become so, and thus presented a hazard to the increasing numbers of cars. There are two other theories about the council's reasons, the first that the elms were a

nuisance to street cleaning vehicles, the second that it was an attempt to "modernise" in preparation for the royal visit of Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in February 1954.

Whatever the truth was, the East Melbourne Group was the first such citizens' group established in Victoria and remains today as an example of "people power" helping to maintain East Melbourne's reputation as Melbourne's "most liveable suburb". While it was established to influence council decisions on amenity, by the 1970s the group became active in the protection of heritage places, parks and streetscapes, and today acts as the ever-watchful guardian of this small suburb which forms an essential part of the historical fabric of nineteenth-century Melbourne."

In recent times, the EMG has risen to address new challenges, initiating the East Melbourne Emergency Response Group (EMERG) and working with the council and state authorities to welcome and integrate rough sleepers in crisis accommodation through the height of the pandemic. EMERG was one of the many innovative ways we worked to galvanise our community during COVID. The scheme connected the elderly and vulnerable in a buddy system with younger neighbours during lockdown, securing enduring friendships and cheer throughout our unique village ●

For more information visit, East Melbourne Group: emg.org.au, and East Melbourne Historical Society: emhs.org.au



Lisette Malatesta
SECRETARY
EAST MELBOURNE GROUP INC.

BUSINESS

Property that meets community standards

Twelve months ago, no one would have imagined that we'd be here today saying the property market is rising at an unprecedented rate and there is no sign of this decelerating.

WORDS BY *Antoinette Sagaria*
PROPERTY ADVISOR –
ENTOURAGE PROPERTY ADVISORY

The one great anomaly that is of considerable concern is the inner-city apartment market.

At an Urban Development Institute of Australia online event held in February, Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas expressed increasing anxiety that the apartment market will see further decline until international students return and the CBD is back to pre-COVID work capacity.

It really begs the question; why is the City of Melbourne council approving more student accommodation when there's already a distressing glut of vacancies?

Plans for a 22-storey, 533-bed student accommodation building on Victoria St are in the works with the backing of the council when we currently have extreme vacancy rates. This leaves many private landlords without tenants which has flow-on effects within the community.

Education as an export has been a boon for the City of Melbourne and Australia. However, it seems like a rather narrow-minded approach to keep blindly building a product that is so singular in its use.

Is there perhaps an opportunity to repurpose some existing sites and redevelop the city of Melbourne into a more family-friendly precinct?

Areas such as Carlton, Parkville and East Melbourne have long been competitive and lucrative investment areas in the housing market. We have seen eye-watering increases in property value demonstrating a keen interest for families, young professionals and downsizers wanting to live in these inner suburbs.

Rather than single-mindedly continuing to build student accommodation, should we instead look to build apartments to meet the needs of these demographics too?

We celebrate the Victorian era terraces for their endless appeal and malleability. Some of the most expensive houses in the inner city are renovated terraces. The workers cottages of Carlton are still home to a vast number of young adults and families and they transact on the market to much fanfare. Yet the apartments we build next to them are lacklustre.

Building or renovating existing apartment buildings for first home buyers who are struggling to enter such a fast-paced property market is another possibility. The state government is providing significant support for first home buyers through stamp duty discounts and cash incentives – the problem we face at present is the lack of affordable stock.

Hopefully the post COVID era sparks a revision of how we view the inner-city property market ●

Pet's Corner

Baby Button a bundle of joy



Five-month-old Button is proving to be quite the handful for new owner Mila Arden.



WORDS BY *Micaela Togher*

Adopted in November of last year, Mila succumbed to her daughter's ongoing wish for a four-legged friend.

"She wanted a dog for a very long time and with the lockdown and everything I think I just finally gave in," Mila said.

Mila said her daughter was not the only family member who was glad to see the arrival of a new pet.

"I have a two year old as well – he was getting a little stir crazy at home. I think Button had been a very good addition to our family."

Still a puppy, long-hair Chihuahua Button loves his daily "walkies" and fetching a tennis ball similarly miniature in size.

But playing outside is not Button's only hobby.

"He loves jumping on people, which is not actually

a very good thing. He just loves jumping!" Mila said.

Indoors, Button prefers to snuggle up in the arms of his owners or cuddle up to his favourite blanket.

He is also leading to quite the learning curve for Mila's two children.

"He teaches them some responsibility so I'm actually not regretting it at all!"

Button is not the only thing that has changed for Mila during the past year. She is currently waging a war on littering in the streets of inner Melbourne.

"I think people think of me as the nightmare Mum against garbage," she said.

While Button may be proving popular among his new family, there is one member who mightn't share the same enthusiasm.

"We have a little fish, Sushi ... but I don't think anyone cares about Sushi anymore!" ●

CRITIC



▲ Continental Drift by *Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs*.



▲ Nothing's in Vain by *Emmanuelle Andrianjafy*.

Teetering between construction and deconstruction

There's a brilliant outdoor exhibition of photography in Barry St, Carlton, in a strange urban landscape next to the Metro Tunnel site for Parkville Station.

Visitors can approach from Melbourne University along a claustrophobic tunnel or dash through the gates that open and close to let concrete trucks pass.

Monumental photographs in black and white are mounted on hoardings and butt up against this site.

The closest photographs to the gates document landscapes in Mongolia, both real and fictional, taken in 2013 as a travel log by two intrepid photographers.

Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs set off in a 1987 Toyota Land Cruiser to Ulaanbattar, the capital of Mongolia. They had no clear sense of what they would find.

Judging by *Continental Drift*, their suite of photographs, they discovered some pretty monumental structures, including giant urns and concrete figures.

There are at least 50 works in the Parkville Precinct exhibition, making it a worthwhile destination among the offerings of PHOTO 2021, an international festival that began last week.

The festival is in 65 locations around the city, many on hoardings, but this is one of the biggest and the only exhibit in Carlton.

The only thing missing is a tiny bar overlooking the tunnel crossing where art lovers can congregate.

The photographs of New Zealand artist Cathy McCool are also striking, showing people in rural settings with freckles and grim expressions.

Even a horse looks out of place standing sideways between a caravan and an electricity pole.

The discomfort of these subjects, stuck in an awkward moment, is arresting and quite eerie.

Emmanuelle Andrianjafy in *Nothing's in Vain* extends the metaphor of dislocation further with portraits and street scenes that totally transform this strange little art passage beside the tunnel site.

The exhibition is the photographer's response to the port city of Dakar, which overlooks the Atlantic Ocean.

Her photography, according to the catalogue, "captures a metropolis teetering between construction and deconstruction."

These brave documentary and imaginative responses to strange landscapes work well next to Carlton's classic row of Victorian terraces in Barry St.

Metro Tunnel has managed to capture a city poised to move forward in an uncertain direction with a major railway project on one side and rosemary and lavender hedges on the other.

PHOTO 2021, International festival of Photography, until March 7 ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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CARLTON INC. TRADER PROFILE



A testament to Tiamo

Lygon Street's culinary scene is an iconic part of Melbourne's inner north, and few restaurants can lay claim to being as iconic as Tiamo.

WORDS BY *Ellen Blake*

Fabrizio "Fab" Succi is at the helm of the Carlton institution, which has been serving locals some of Melbourne's best Italian food during the past 40 years.

"My father opened it up in the late '70s. Back then it was known as Tamani. It became Tiamo in 1977," Fab said. Growing up in Carlton North, Fab never imagined himself following his father's footsteps into the restaurant industry.

"It wasn't really something I planned, especially as a young boy you don't really want to do

the same thing as your father. But it's something I gradually fell into and never looked back," Fab said.

A Carlton mainstay, Fab attributes Tiamo's enduring popularity to the old-school feel of the restaurant.

"The business never strayed away from what it used to be. It's retained the old feel and a lot of the menu has never really changed," Fab said.

"I think it speaks a lot to the quality of the service and the food. I think that's partly the charm about it."

Such is the restaurant's popularity, Tiamo 2 was opened in 1996 as an extension of the original restaurant with an increased focus on dining.

Tiamo has endured through Melbourne's extended COVID lockdowns, backed by the support of local residents.

"We morphed into what could be done. A lot of takeaways and reinvented a few bits and pieces," Fab said.

"We were lucky that we made it through it

and we were able to pick up where we left off." However, Fab holds concerns about the future of Carlton's famous culinary scene.

"All is not well because financially it's killed off a lot of would-be businesses. Even before COVID came along things were not looking good for a lot of businesses," Fab said. "So, it's not surprising to see a lot of empty shops. It's not a nice thing."

For others looking to emulate the success of Tiamo, Fab said a hospitable attitude towards diners is a must. "I think you generally have to have a good nature dealing with people because restaurants are a service-driven industry," Fab said

"I guess it's just like having a relative at home. That's how you should see your customers, as your family." ●

For more information:
tiamo.com.au

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP



The last woman hanged in Australia

In November 1949 a murder occurred in Dorrit St, Carlton, that was to lead to the last hanging of a woman in Australia before the death penalty was abolished.

The victim of the murder was an old man named William "Pop" Kent, aged 73, who rented some rooms in a house in Dorrit St. He was a bookmaker who made his money by taking illegal bets on horse races. On this particular day he was drinking in the nearby University Hotel in Lygon St after the races on a Saturday afternoon, and got into conversation with two men and a woman. They seemed to be particularly friendly, and when the hotel closed at 6pm, he invited them back to his place in nearby Dorrit St for a drink.

But this trio had evil intent. They had heard that Pop Kent kept a considerable amount of money in his home, and thought he would be an easy target. Once they were back at his place, the old man was tied to a chair and kicked and beaten by the trio who demanded to know where his money was kept. Kent insisted that he had no money stashed away. He was stabbed several times, before one of the men strangled him. Neighbours heard Kent's screams and called the police, but by the time they arrived, the trio was gone and Kent was dead. However, they were soon apprehended in a city hotel room, still wearing blood-stained clothing, and all three were charged with murder. Their trial took place in March 1950, and all three were found guilty and sentenced to death.

The woman involved was Jean Lee. She was aged 30 at the time, had a background in petty crime, and was the lover of one of the men. After being found guilty and sentenced to death, her

mental state in prison apparently declined. She was reported as alternating between violently attacking her guards and begging for mercy, while stating repeatedly that she was innocent and that they had never meant to kill anyone. As the date for her execution drew near, she grew increasingly erratic.

Their convictions were, however, appealed. In June 1950 the Court of Criminal Appeal ruled that confessions had been improperly obtained, and ordered a re-trial. But this was overturned by the High Court, and the verdicts and sentences were confirmed. No woman had been hanged in Australia for the previous 40 years and a public appeal was organised to have Lee's death sentence commuted – but to no effect.

On 19 February 1951, the morning of her execution, protestors and the press gathered outside Pentridge Prison. Inside Lee became hysterical and had to be sedated. When the executioner came to her cell, she fainted. Strapped to a chair, she had to be carried semi-conscious to the scaffold trapdoor. At 8am, Jean Lee was hanged. Two hours later, her accomplices were also hanged. It was the last time a woman was executed in Australia ●



Jeff Atkinson
PRESIDENT CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP
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CARLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Giving Carlton residents a voice

I am honoured and delighted to have been re-elected president of the Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) for 2021 and it is with great pleasure that I announce the following office roles and committee members ...

Vice president:
Lester Levinson

Treasurer:
Philip Watts

Secretary:
Ian Howie

Committee members:
Margaret Rode
Lyn Cracknell
Gillian McIntosh
Peter Sanders
Marianne Christopoulos
Trish O'Loughlin
Ivana Csar

It's very exciting to see some new names added to our list and of course, it's with sadness that some have left the ranks due to life commitments. I take this opportunity to thank Farida Fleming for her dedication to CRA over the years. Farida has held the role of vice president and secretary for many years. We wish Farida all the best and no doubt I'll still be calling her for advice and consolation throughout the year ahead.

While this time last year I was full of excitement imagining all the wonderful things CRA could achieve, it was only weeks later that under the guidance of our Premier Daniel Andrews, we were forced into lockdown and CRA activities were relegated to Zoom conference calls.

I am so proud of what we were still able to do without meeting in person.

Personally, focused on what I know I can do well with three tools, my phone, my laptop, and my voice. I fostered relationships with those

around and made it my mission to at the very least, be heard at a few "tables."

I have taken on a formal role in the Carlton Traders' Association, directly giving a voice, and consideration to residents within the traders' forum. I see it as being critical that not only do we have eyes and ears over what is being planned by the Carlton commercial sector, but it gives us the opportunity to have our opinion, needs and concerns taken into consideration. Working together is always going to be better than being adversaries.

I attended various meetings with community groups, North Melbourne Police Station and City of Melbourne via Zoom, discussing our interests, concerns and otherwise. It was reassuring and extremely helpful to understand what was happening around us and I am grateful for that opportunity. The regular Zoom meetings with various residents' groups throughout 2020 really helped consolidate our friendship and shared needs with neighbouring communities and no doubt this will progress further this year.

I have become a regular contributor to our new local newspaper *Inner City News* produced by Hyperlocal News, informing residents, and neighbouring suburbs of the happenings in our local area. It gives us a voice that can be heard by the broader community which is an exciting prospect.

Most of all I would like to thank you for entrusting me with this role over the past year and allowing me to continue on for a second term. I am grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community and I sincerely hope that this year is a good one for the residents of Carlton ●

For more information:
carltonresidents.org.au



Antoinette Sagaria
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居民自愿收留难民

1月下旬26名难民从Carlton's Park酒店的拘留中突然获释，Parkville的居民Jo Fallshaw立即采取了收留行动。

Katie Johnson

Fallshaw女士说：“我和我的室友Claire在喝咖啡的时候，她的手机开始砰砰响。”

“都是她难民朋友发来的短信，提醒他们将被立即释放。”

这些人在Manus岛和Nauru度过了数年之后被带到澳大利亚接受紧急医疗救助，根据Medevac法律，他们在酒店拘留了一年之久。

由于政府在联邦法院裁决中，被法官裁定否决其对难民的无限期和任意拘留，政府挫败，因此这些难民突然获释，体验到了多年来的第一次自由。

在他们释放的当天，Fallshaw女士在其他活动人士的帮助下，把她Parkville家的后院整理腾出，为这些人举办了一个欢迎派对。

她说：“我非常幸运，我家有一个大花园，后面就是一个公共公园，所以我们能够在COVID安全的限制下，仍然给这些朋友应有的欢迎。”

她说，欢迎这些被联邦政府虐待的人是“一次了不起的经历”。

“看着一个被关了八年的人拍着我的狗，或者抱着其中一个支持者的孩子，真令人暖心。”

“看着他们灿烂的笑容真是高兴，他们如今只是享受着简单的快乐，比如能吃到辛辣的食物，而已经习惯了长久没有新鲜蔬菜只能吃淡而无味的加工食品。”

在1月20日首次释放后的几天内，政府又从公园酒店释放了42名难民，留下68名持有6个月过渡性签证的男子，他们既没有稳定的住所或收入。



虽然那些帮助难民的慈善机构通常会承担照顾这些人的主要责任，但这次释放人数的突然增加意味着普通市民必须介入，以确保他们不会最终无家可归。

Fallshaw女士说，她很高兴能成为帮助难民并为他们寻找临时住所的“非官方总部”。



市政动议 降低飞机噪音

在墨尔本东区居民长时间的压力下，墨尔本市政一致通过了一项动议，阻止该市上空不必要的飞行。

Katie Johnson

《飞行睦邻协定》(FNA)将要求市政教育飞行经营者，让他们了解飞行的人为影响，并试图阻止他们在居民区上空飞行。

在2月16日的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上提出这一动议的议员 Rohan Leppert表示，尽管市政没有强制改变飞行路线的监管权力，但可以敦促飞行运营商的自愿承诺。

他说：“我们已经清楚地听到了完全不受管制的飞行对墨尔本东区居民健康的影响。”

“不可容忍的是，直升机可以无休止地在房屋上空盘旋，并对下面的人造成直接的健康伤害，而该飞行并非必要。”

墨尔本东区团体便利设施负责人Susan Henderson强烈支持这项动议，因为许多飞行都与乐趣和训练有关，飞机在头顶上空盘旋“多达30次”，而且长时间盘旋。

Henderson女士说：“近年来，飞越我们家上空的飞行数量和持续时间都显著增加。”

“我们经常无法享受正常的说话交流，即使在我们自己的房子里，飞机噪音通过紧闭的门窗传来，导致谈话暂停、视频和电话中断、以及听不到电视和广播的声音。”

Henderson女士还说，飞行噪音导致宠物“不安和紧张”，扰乱在家工作的人们，扰乱睡眠。

居民享用厨房图书馆

居住在Carlton的家庭主厨可以轻松地操作复杂而有创意的食谱了，这要归功于Lygon街图书馆出借了不常见的厨房用具，在此过程中加强了与居民的紧密联系。

Sophie Raynor

该图书馆拥有400多种厨具，包括面包机，油炸锅和面条机，可帮助当地居民烹饪有营养和有趣的食物，而不必在橱柜上堆满不必要的或昂贵的厨具。

图书馆协调员Peta Christensen说，这是一种更方便获得制作营养食物的方法，同时也杜绝了浪费。

她说：“我们想到的是那些低收入，处境不利的居民，他们可能无法得到那些厨房用具，而无法去做那些更实际或更易做的食物。”

“我们住在市中心，没有带储物空间的大厨房，图书馆是一个很好的解决方案。这是整个社区的资源。我们不需要拥有一台可能在四年内仅使用三次的冰淇淋机。”

厨房图书馆有83名成员，每年付40澳元或特价20澳元的年费可以租用这些厨具，电动厨具由志愿者和培育社区(Cultivating Community)的工作人员每六个月进行清洁、测试和贴标记。培育社区是一个非营利组织，于2019年11月启动了厨房图书馆。

通过与当地的居民、社区成员、小学和当地非营利组织的讨论，提出了满足当地



居民需求的社区食品项目构想，开始在Carlton公共住房底层的旧住房办公室中对外开放了这个厨房图书馆。

Covid疫情大流行阻碍了早期计划的2020年定期社区盛宴和烹饪工作坊，但图书馆仍然举办了一些网上虚拟活动、一个

当场的面食制作工作坊和一个社区盛宴的启动日。

Carlton居民Khanya Ibrahim在开幕式上制作了injera和falafel食物，并说作为图书馆的创始成员之一，她对上个月五天封闭后的重新开放感到很兴奋。

皇家公园亭馆重建

上个月，墨尔本市政议员明确表示要更新皇家公园(Royal Park)的体育和娱乐设施，其中Brens和Ryder亭馆将获得数百万澳元的改善升级。

Jack Alfonso

在2月16日举行的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上，该计划得到了议员的支持，将提供更宽阔，不分性别的，以及人人都可使用的更衣室设施，旨在增加人们对体育的参与，尤其针对妇女。

墨尔本大学橄榄球俱乐部代表Rick Boykett对目前的设施描述为“完全不够”，

他说这个计划是他在俱乐部工作40年来“对社区体育的最重要改善”。

他说：“妇女对体育的兴趣持续增长，我们迫切需要不分性别的设施。”

市长Sally Capp表示，此计划将振兴Brens和Ryder亭馆，以创造当地就业机会，并“促进社区体育活动”。

她说：“每个人都应该参与社区体育活动，因此我们计划在Brens亭馆提供8个不分性别的更衣室，在Ryder亭馆提供6个。”

这两个亭馆每周接待375个社区团队，在COVID疫情前有90个女子团队，为AFL、橄榄球和板球队提供椭圆形活动场地。市长补充说，亭馆将为当地俱乐部和社区团体提供更好的设施，他们的反馈意见已被纳入提

议的计划设计中。

她说：“我们已经与当地俱乐部进行了沟通，得知他们需要更好的更衣室，更好的储物间以及更具包容性和无障碍的设施。”

该项目已列入市议会的2020/21年度预算和年度计划，旨在增加和升级墨尔本体育设施，为妇女和女孩提供无障碍和包容性的空间。

在COVID疫情之前，该项目曾与当地居民协会和公园团体进行磋商，引起人们对亭馆占地面积扩大和社交活动增加的担忧。

根据市政健康、福祉和归属部门主管Olivia Ball描述，该项目设计将包括一些可持续性功能的升级，例如自然通风调节、双层窗户玻璃安装、以及正面宽檐遮阳。

What's On: March 2021

Community Calendar



Royal Women's Hospital International Women's Day event

Online
 Thursday, 4 March, 1.30pm-2.30pm
 Join broadcast journalist Virginia Trioli and a panel of women's health champions as they discuss the critical health issues facing women today.

Baker Boy at The Curtin

29 Lygon St, Carlton VIC
 Thursday, 18 Mar, 8 - 9pm
 Coopers Brewery and Live Nation are today excited to announce the Baker Boy, the fresh new prince of Arnhem Land, performing live at The Curtin.

Rhymetime - Carlton Library

Tue, 16 Mar, 10 - 10:30am
 Stories, rhymes, fingerplays, songs and instruments to develop language and literacy skills with your toddler (18 months - 3 years)

Australasian Quilt Convention

Royal Exhibition Building
 Thursday, 15 Apr, 10am - 4:30pm
 Australasian Quilt Convention 2020 is one of the largest convention and conference, which is designed to bring together quilters from all over Australia.

Laughs on Lygon Comedy

Vodka Temple
 Wed, 10 Mar, 8:30 - 11:30pm
 All new comedy live upstairs at Vodka Temple. Come watch some of Melbourne's best up and coming artists.

Storytime - Carlton Library

Thursday, 18 Mar, 11 - 11:45am
 Prepare children for school with stories, books, songs and fun activities that help develop language, social and motor skills (3-5 years).



Parkville Hospital Wednesday Night Program

Online
 March 10th, 17th, 24th 6-9pm
 Childbirth education via online livestreaming.



Mansions of East Melbourne Walk

Sunday, 21 March, 10.15am for a 10.30am start. Meet at the corner of Clarendon Street and Wellington Parade
 Tour the former homes of Sir John Monash and the first Jewish Mayor of Melbourne Sir Benjamin Benjamin, the Freemasons Hospital, 'Little Pardon' Queen Bess Row and more.

Community Grocer Markets

478 Drummond Street Carlton
 Every Friday 8am-12pm
 Local market selling local food, tea, handmade goods, workshops and dancing.

The Comedy Zone

Victorian Trades Hall Council- Carlton
 25 Mar - 4 Apr, 9pm
 Wall-to-wall jokes from the next generation of comedy superstars.

Walk - Discover the University of Melbourne

University of Melbourne- Parkville
 Sat, 27 Mar, 9pm
 Enjoy a walk around the impressive



2021 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show

Wed, 24 Mar, 9am-Sun, 28 Mar, 5pm
 An exhibition of garden plants, landscape advisory, seeds, edible plants, tea, sparkling wines, wedding flowers, and more.

Business Directory

Catering

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