

# INNER CITY NEWS

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## The Community Grocer is back! Photo by Ajay Viswanath

Affordable groceries are back on the menu at the Carlton Public Housing Estate with the return of non-profit social enterprise The Community Grocer's Carlton Market after securing \$45,000 from the City of Melbourne. Full story on page 7.

## The Curtin saved! New owners enter 10-year lease with operators

Carlton's historic John Curtin Hotel has been thrown a huge lifeline with the pub's management signing a 10-year lease just days before they were set to close their doors.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HERITAGE

The 160-year-old pub and music venue's future had remained uncertain after the building was sold to an overseas buyer in April, prompting concern the building may be redeveloped into apartments.

However, since the reported \$5 million sale to Singapore-based investment group YY Property, the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC), together with unionists, community members, musicians, and the City of Melbourne, have campaigned tirelessly to save the iconic building on Lygon St.

This included unionists vowing to form a picket line, if necessary, to prevent the pub from being knocked down after declaring a "green ban" on the site.

Heritage Victoria also recommended the pub be placed on the register "as a place of state-level cultural heritage significance" following a joint nomination from the VTHC and the National Trust of Australia.

The community's full-hearted efforts have now been paid off with the building's new owners deciding not to redevelop the site and instead enter a 10-year lease with the current operators, beyond the previous lease that was set to expire at the end of November.

"A 10-year lease is incredibly exciting," the Curtin's publican, Benjamin

"Rusty" Russell, said.

"We have been running John Curtin on a year-by-year basis since first taking over in 2012 which is an extraordinary financial risk, but we love what we do and the community we have built," he said, adding the new lease would "allow us to grow the Curtin and make the improvements we need to serve our wonderful community for many years to come".

The Curtin Hotel's music booker and promoter Paris Martine said the pub was an institution that brought together students, unionists, young professionals, locals, and musicians, young and old.

"It's an important part of the music ecology where some of the best up and coming bands have stepped up from smaller band rooms onto our stage to launch their records," she said,

"It's a living breathing piece of Melbourne's history on the gateway to the CBD and it is in no safer hands than with the Russell family."

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) CEO Simon Ambrose applauded the news.

"Celebrating the cultural heritage significance of the Curtin through maintaining its ongoing use as an iconic Melbourne hotel and live music venue is an outcome we hope to support," he said.

Mr Ambrose added the Curtin was also socially significant, having acted as an informal meeting place for

Continued on page 2.

## Calls for CCTV security grow after two men allegedly stabbed in Carlton

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

The Carlton community has been rocked by another violent incident, this time resulting in two men being taken to hospital after allegedly being stabbed on November 19.

Police were called to Little Cardigan Lane just before 4am following reports two men were set upon by a group of attackers.

Victoria Police said a 30-year-old Niddrie man suffered multiple stab wounds to his abdomen while another man, who was yet to be identified, was seriously assaulted.

Both men were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

"Police were quick to arrive on scene however the offenders had fled prior to their arrival," a Victoria Police spokesperson said.

"It's believed many people were in the area at the time and police would like to speak to any witnesses."

Senior Sergeant Paul Topham said the incident was horrific, and a "terrible, senseless act that could potentially take a life".

At the time of publishing, Snr Sgt Topham had said police had not been able to speak to either of our victims to establish what relationship was, if any, between them and the offenders "if they're known at all".

Witness Chloe Farnsworth told Nine News she heard a commotion with people allegedly yelling "let's get him, let's make this even ... let's make it square, fight, fight".

Business owners were shocked by the incident but believed police were doing everything they could to crack down on crime in the area.

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SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 02

### A New security doors installed



SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 03

### B Community happy on new crossing



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### C The paw-fect excuse to party



ARTS & CULTURE, PAGE 15

### D Melb indigenous author takes top writing prizes



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The deadline for the February edition is January 25.

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## The Curtin saved! New owners enter 10-year lease with operators

*Continued from page 1.*

those involved in working-class politics and activism in Victoria for more than 100 years, “and we wish to see this enduring association continued”.

City of Melbourne’s Deputy Lord Mayor Nick Reece said he “couldn’t be more thrilled at this result,” adding the Curtin Hotel - which was a former watering-hole for the Labor Party’s longest-serving Prime Minister Bob Hawke - was “part of the fabric of Melbourne and an important part of our history and now it has been saved”.

“It’s a win for people power, it’s a win for the City of Melbourne and state government, as well as the union movement and everyone who stepped up to protect this much-loved pub of Melbourne,” he said.

As for the long-term future of the pub when

the lease ended, Cr Reece said, “that’s a bridge that we will cross in 10 years from now”.

“In the meantime, we will ensure that the heritage protections on that building are as strong as they possibly can be so that future generations of Melbournians continue to enjoy the much-loved Curtin Hotel for everything that it is and will be,” he said.

Music Victoria CEO Simone Schinkel said the pub’s future was “really exciting”. “It has been saved because it’s special for so many reasons - one of which was supporting emerging artists and that long legacy support for the music sector and diversity,” she said.

Carlton Community History Group Jeff Atkinson also expressed relief the Curtin would continue to run, saying “If the John Curtin Hotel is lost, Carlton and Melbourne more generally would lose a key part of its history”. ●



▲ Earlier this year, resident David Bikupski welcomed an initiative for security doors to be installed.

## New security doors installed at public housing building

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A rollout of new security doors has been completed at a public housing building in Carlton, improving the ventilation and safety of residents.

New security doors at 495 Cardigan St were installed after the measure was proposed by Cory Memery, the founder of the Public Housing Residents’ Network.

Mr Memery said it was a great investment and a huge win for residents who would feel a lot safer.

“In the long run it’s going to save the government a fortune in mental health and wellbeing costs because people won’t have the anxiety they had, they’ll feel a lot safer,” he said.

“They won’t feel intimidated when they open their front door.”

The rollout began in February with Homes Victoria confirming all security doors had been installed and any associated work is due to be finished before Christmas.

Among those welcome the security doors is resident of five years David Bikupski who experienced a frightful encounter last October.

Mr Bikupski was at home with a friend when a man was allegedly stabbed outside the building following an altercation, which resulted in him calling Triple-000. ●

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## Calls for CCTV security grow after two men allegedly stabbed in Carlton

Continued from page 1.

"There's definitely a lot more youth crime around. The police can only do so much, they can't be everywhere," Tiamo restaurant's Fab Succi said.

"I'm not really sure what the answer is, it's very hard to fix. I think when something happens in Carlton, it's now another random attack. It's definitely on our doorstep."

Paul, a café owner, said while it was pleasing to see police patrolling during dinner and lunch services, he believed a greater presence may be needed after midnight "because it's happening quite frequently now".

"It's not good for the street, it's not good for anybody," he said.

"I was shocked to hear it because we left here about 11.30am and then heard about it on the news. At 3.30 in the morning, you're looking for trouble."

Carlton Inc. Traders' Association executive officer Phillip Mansour reiterated calls for the City of Melbourne to install CCTV in the area to improve safety.

"I think it's in the best interest of the City of Melbourne. The traders' association is looking forward to the response in which the City of Melbourne is going to undertake to improve the safety of the precinct," he said.

"I think it's the best way to go about it. I know it's on their agenda to achieve but it's been lingering for quite some time, and we've been requesting it."

Police have ramped up their



presence in the Carlton area in recent months after the community voiced concern of anti-social behaviour and violence.

Operation Velocita was begun by Victoria Police in July and has seen officers targeting public order, road, and vehicle-related crime on weekends.

*Inner City News* published a front-page story in June about the community pleading for immediate action on crime, saying "hope isn't a strategy for us" after a 17-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed outside a gelato shop in Lygon St in May.

The City of Melbourne said this year that a record \$5.4 million would be invested into critical safety infrastructure and resources to improve community safety.

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for public assistance in relation to the November stabbing.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, has CCTV footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a confidential report at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au) ●

## Community has its say on new pedestrian and road safety projects

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

New zebra crossings and shared zones could be rolled out in East Melbourne as the City of Melbourne explores ways of improving pedestrian and road safety.

The council recently commissioned a consultancy firm to undertake a study on potential road and pedestrian improvements needed in the East Melbourne/Jolimont area.

An online information session and a Q&A was held on November 9, allowing community members to find out more about the proposed improvements.

The council said it had identified a list of projects, which would be staged over the next three years for implementation based on funding availability, community preference, as well as expert advice and cost effectiveness.

The proposed projects include 12 new zebra crossings, seven shared crossings, traffic signals at Albert and Clarendon streets, and three left turn bans along Hoddle St.

As reported recently in *Inner City News*, new 40km/h speed limits have already been introduced in East Melbourne in September, which was approved by the Department of Transport and supported by residents.

The council's recent study, which was undertaken by transport engineering consultants at Movendo, has included a review of 10 years of community submissions and an analysis of pedestrian volumes, vehicular speed and volume data and crash statistics between 2014 and 2019.

"So far in the study we have identified a list of potential pedestrian and road safety improvement projects with high level concept plans and cost estimates, and developed an implementation plan," the council said.

The community's say will be considered by the council before a plan is expected to be finalised in December. Works are proposed to kick off in April 2023.

Funding has been allocated this financial year to begin some priority projects, the council confirmed.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was committed to improving safety across the municipality and was currently exploring ways to "make it easier for all road users to travel safely and efficiently through East Melbourne".

"East Melbourne is one of the city's most treasured



▲ East Melbourne residents.

suburbs. Its combination of heritage buildings, iconic landmarks, and open spaces right on the doorstep of the CBD make it an ideal location to live, work and visit," she said.

The East Melbourne Group's (EMG) heritage and planning convener Greg Bisinella said they had been actively engaging with the council and its contractor regarding road safety and walkability.

He said the latest public consultation on a range of projects was a welcome initiative and "gives residents and business owners in East Melbourne the opportunity to have input into the future road and walking options for the suburb".

"Having said that we have cautioned the council to step through the process and not hurriedly implement any initiatives without further consultation," he said.

"It is our experience that residents often want to get engaged at the point when council advises on the implementation of a new initiative. We have suggested that after the consultation process is completed, a list is provided for further consultation and consideration."

Mr Bisinella said ongoing meetings with the council had been productive, with the EMG particularly pleased to see new 40km/h speed limits introduced "so that the suburb falls in line with other suburbs in the City of Melbourne and makes it a safer place to live". ●

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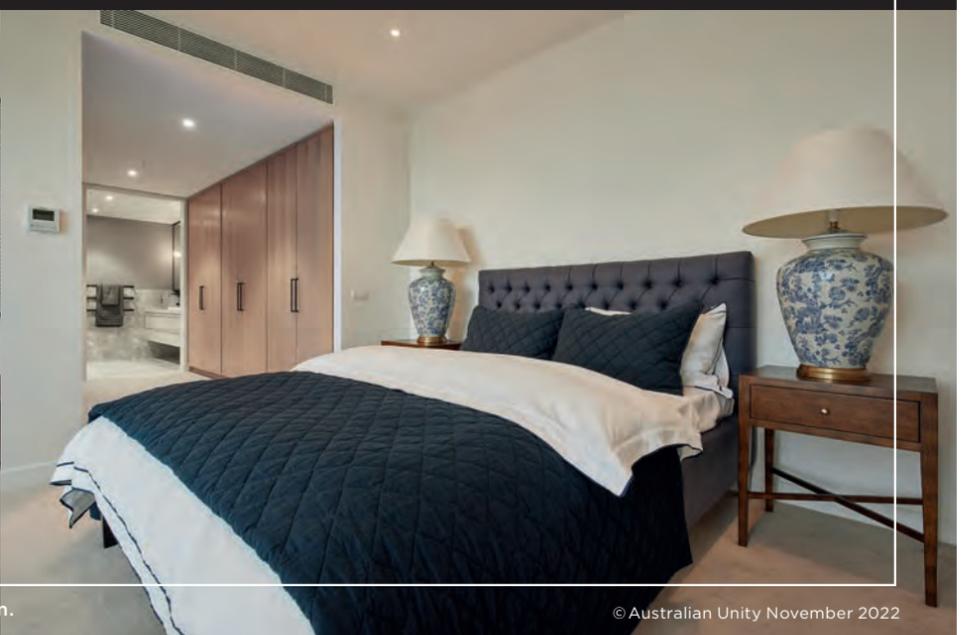
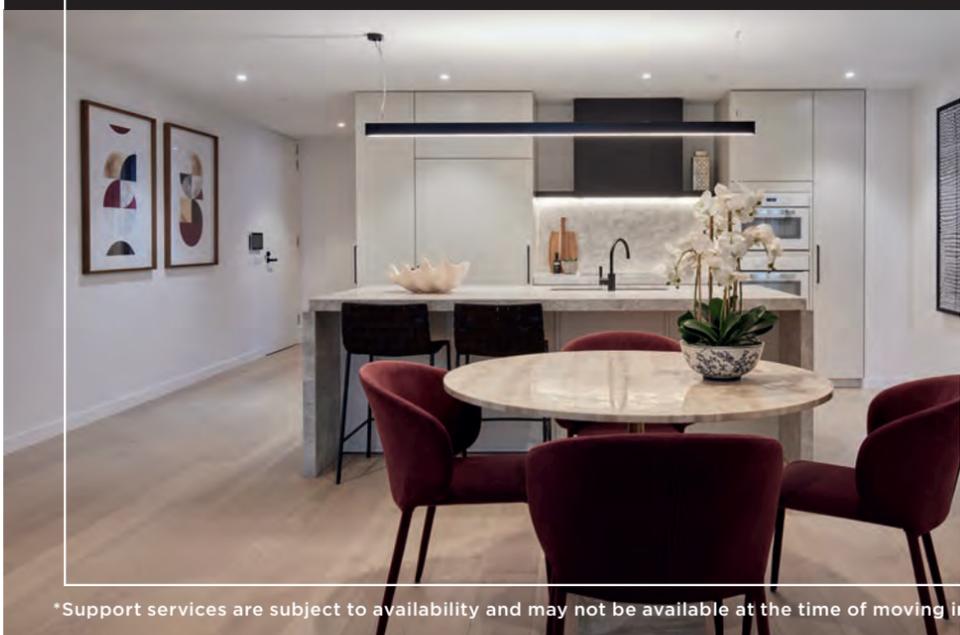
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# The creative space for your holiday crafts and innovative ideas

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

Whether you are a hands-on, make-it-from-scratch kind of person, or aspiring to be one with a little guidance, the Kathleen Syme Library's Makerspace is the creative hub to be at.

Set to close from December 19, with a re-opening date of January 17, now is the time to make the most of its offerings or to begin thinking about the creative aspirations you wish to pursue in 2023.

Open from Tuesday through to Thursday, the space is the ideal place to experiment and upskill with its free offerings of crafting, digital designing, engineering, coding, and music and video production.

Since it opened, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Makerspace had only continued to provide many "wonderful offerings" and been "filled to the brim with all kinds of innovative technologies".

"Perfect for young and old, our Makerspace is a place to unleash your creativity and learn new skills – from 3D printing and laser cutting, to sewing and airbrush painting," Cr Capp said.

An ideal spot for an end-of-year trip, the Makerspace can also be booked by community groups, schools, and businesses, to encourage creative ideas to flourish and grow through sharing and feedback.

Equipment and technology, such as guitar pedals, stem kits, robotic kits, and computer accessories, can also be borrowed by people wanting to work on certain skills outside of the library.

And for anyone unsure where to start upon rocking up, City of Melbourne staff will be on-hand at the library to offer one-on-one support, and to connect visitors with online learning modules and knowledge resources.

Because no matter your level of skill or knowledge, the space is one that encourages and welcomes newcomers to learn and have questions about what they don't know.



“

*Our Makerspace is a wonderful, welcoming spot for everyone in the community to come and try something new.*

”

"Our Makerspace is a wonderful, welcoming spot for everyone in the community to come and try something new, and our friendly library staff are always near by to lend a helping hand if you need it," Cr Capp said.

Further on from the usual day-to-day running, the Makerspace has also been host to a range of community events this year, from clothing repair workshops, to robotic technology sessions, community days, and game making days.



Following its break over the Christmas period, locals can be assured that Makerspace's return in 2023 will only be bigger and better, as it continues to strive to be the creative space to be when it comes to fostering and shaping new ideas.

As well as the Makerspace at Kathleen Syme Library, a space can also one found at Library at the Dock, and a similar Make\*It Space is at the Elizabeth Street Pop-up Library. ●

# Rolling around the Christmas tree

EVENTS

Move over Xanadu, Carlton's Piazza Italia is set to become the new home of roller skating with a pop-up roller rink taking over the suburb's most famous civic space.

The Piazza (Argyle Square) will also be getting a Christmas spruce-up with a giant purple Christmas tree and decorations – the perfect place for a festive picnic sampling Lygon St's famous fare.

The Christmas festivities will run over two weeks from December 10 to 24, with attendees enjoying free Italian tasty treats and gift voucher giveaways thanks to local business association, Carlton Inc.

Carlton Inc. executive officer Phillip Mansour told *Inner City News* Carlton's Christmas Roller Rink will transform "our famous Piazza into an all ages Christmas wonderland".

"This activation will be a great way to welcome in the festive season and bring people back into Carlton," he said.

"We will be giving away free Christmas biscuits, free gift vouchers to spend at Carlton Inc. member businesses and will have a range of live performers singing and playing your favourite Christmas carols."

The Christmas Roller Rink will be open to the public from 11am to 9pm Sunday to Wednesday, and 11am to 10pm Thursday to Saturday.

This is a free event with roller skate hire setting you back \$5.

This Christmas Festival event is presented by Carlton Inc., Malt Shop Rollers and the City of Melbourne with support from the Victorian Government.

For more information: ●



Photographer: Henry Li Photography

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## MEET YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE COUNCILLORS



# DEPUTY LORD MAYOR NICHOLAS REECE

## Think big and act local

Now in his sixth year as a City of Melbourne councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said he was inspired to stand for election after being part of a citizens' panel.

"My first encounter with the City of Melbourne - apart from having been a resident and working in the city - was running a citizens' panel that helped develop a 10-year council plan back in about 2014. That experience really opened my eyes to all the important touchpoints local council has in people's lives.

"I have been very fortunate to have a career in public service working for a Prime Minister and premiers, not-for-profits like *The Big Issue* and Movember, as well as having been a lawyer and in business. Having got under the bonnet at Town Hall I was struck by a sense that I could bring all that experience together and make a real difference.

"The thing I love about the City of Melbourne is that you get to think big and act local.

**"We tackle some of the toughest issues going around such as economic recovery after the pandemic, homelessness or climate change - but we do it in ways that make a real difference to people's daily lives."**

"We also turn up every single day and deliver all those key services that make the city hum. There is a lot of pride to be found in keeping the city, clean, green, bustling, buzzing, healthy, smart and safe."

The Deputy Lord Mayor says sustainability and design excellence are two priority interests in his role as head of the City of Melbourne's planning portfolio.

"We have a big role to play in making Melbourne a truly sustainable city - we are leading the way in moving to zero emissions and zero waste.

"Two thirds of emissions in the City of Melbourne come from buildings - so having more environmentally-friendly buildings is a critical part of the pathway to us being a sustainable city."

The Deputy Lord Mayor said he was proud of the work being done at the City of Melbourne to lift standards of design and architectural excellence.

"Too much crap was being built. So we've introduced a design excellence program which for the first time includes a Design Review Panel and a Design Excellence Advisory Committee.

"We've put in place new standards so Melburnians will see more buildings that they can be proud of, that give back to the city more than they take.

"Buildings that have high quality materials that will stand the test of time, with green roofs and walls, energy efficient, sustainable transport enabled, and delivering high levels of amenity.

"I want Melbourne to be the Copenhagen of the south, a city that people from all over the world visit because we are an exemplar of architectural excellence, urban design and green buildings."

Having been part of council before and during the pandemic, he regards 'Melbourne in lockdown' as his biggest challenge.

"As a city councillor I was coming into Town Hall a lot during that period and it was an absolute tragedy to see those empty streets. Cities without people are sad and scary places.

"COVID-19 was a one-in-100-year disruption for Melbourne and we were the hardest hit municipality in the country economically.

"Melbourne was really tested during the lockdown and the mettle of the council was tested too. I think the city rose to the challenge and showed Melburnians, and the world, our character.

"For example, when nine public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington were put into hard lockdown without warning, there were issues getting food supplies in. The City of Melbourne stepped up and played a coordinating role through our community centre to get vitally needed supplies to people in need."

He's also proud of City of Melbourne's support for international students during this period.

"They were left high and dry without work and without any form of welfare support.

"So we stepped in with food vouchers for students which they could redeem at the Queen Victoria Market - we made a very clear statement about the students being part of Melbourne, part of our community, good young people who needed our care.

"Melbourne Town Hall was also set up as a community health vaccination hub that was open to everyone - it became a popular vaccination centre for homeless and marginalised people, international students, people on temporary permit visas, and anyone else who fell through the cracks of the health system.

"We were there at the coalface, as the level of government closest to the people. The City of Melbourne was there for them."

Now that the economic outlook is more promising, he says council's support for business, events and city activation are all bearing fruit.

**"The city has gone through some really tough times, but now there is a real sense of excitement as the recovery takes off."**

"Recent data shows a record number of new hospitality venues opening. The buzz is well and truly coming back to Melbourne and it's new and exciting, and different. Melbourne right now is a city of possibility."

In distilling his approach as a councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said: "No issue too small, no issue too big. I absolutely love helping people with day-to-day problems around the city, fixing things for them. I also love being part of something bigger than any of us. The survival, then the recovery, and now the reinstatement of Melbourne as the world's best city - bigger, better and brighter than ever before."

To read the full story and watch the video visit [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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# Raise the Age: a new issue on the voter radar

WORDS BY Carol Saffer  
POLITICS

Three candidates who stood for the Victorian seat of Melbourne committed, if elected, to keep very young children out of the criminal legal system and prisons by raising the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.

In the lead-up to the 2022 Victorian state election, voters wanted to know what the contestants had to say on specific issues.

Smart Justice for Young People polled all candidates to commit to keeping very young children out of the criminal legal system and prisons by Raising the Age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.

As previously reported in *Inner City News*, some of these kids end up locked up right in the heart of Melbourne at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct.

At 5pm on Friday, 18 November, seven days before ballot boxes opened on Saturday, 26 November, more than 230 candidates from various parties had committed to raising the age and making this a priority if elected.

“We know that children belong in schools and playgrounds, never in prison and police cells,” a Smart Justice for Young People spokesperson said.

Independent candidate for Melbourne Laylah Al-Saimary, one of those 230 candidates, said it was essential to raise the age of criminal responsibility for all youth, particularly Indigenous youth.

Raising the age of criminal responsibility to 16 would be a step in the right direction.

“Look at how many of our young people are locked away, [some] as young as 10,” she said.

“On release, many are depressed, and significant numbers attempt to take or do take their own lives.”

Ms Al-Saimary said suicide was the primary cause of death for Indigenous young people from 15 to 24.

“We want to see all juvenile centres closed and the money used to keep these monsters opened channelled into connecting young people to Country, closely supervised by respected Elders, and then these young people giving back to the community.”

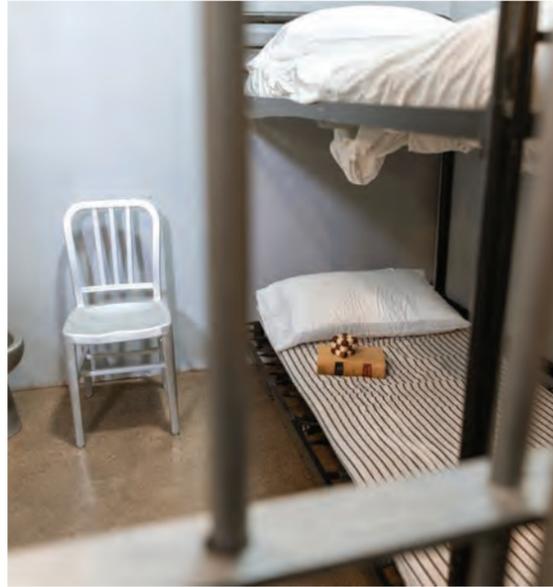
State Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell said locking up children as young as 10 was a national disgrace.

“Children should be supported and protected, not put through the criminal justice system, which also increases their likelihood of re-offending,” Ms Sandell said.

“Across Australia, 65 per cent of children in prison are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, so this is also an issue of justice for First Nations people.”

“Victoria must join the ACT and raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14, like the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called for.”

“The Greens already have a Bill before the Victorian Parliament to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14; this reform could happen tomorrow.”



▲ Photo by Rodnae Productions.

The third Melbourne electorate candidate to support Raise the Age, Colleen Bolger, said it was egregious that children were incarcerated instead of given the support they needed to lead a full life.

“Victorian Socialists support raising the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years old as part of our platform of fighting for alternatives to prison, including more funding for mental health support, public housing and drug and alcohol rehabilitation,” Ms Bolger said. Smart Justice for Young People is a coalition of more than 40 leading social services, health, legal, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and youth advocacy organisations working together to create change for children and young people who come into contact with the justice system.

The group works together to shift political and public attitudes, advise governments on innovative, evidence-based approaches, and challenge policies and practices that harm young people.

The coalition accesses the experiences and voices of young people, experienced practitioners on the ground, leading researchers and health experts, and communities across Victoria.

More than 100 organisations now support the Raise the Age campaign in every state and territory, with new groups signing up weekly.

Earlier this year, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria’s Criminal Justice System, overseen by the bipartisan Legal and Social Issues Committee, recommended that the Victorian Government raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. ●



## The Community Grocer is back!

COMMUNITY

Affordable groceries are back on the menu at the Carlton Public Housing Estate with the return of non-profit social enterprise The Community Grocer’s Carlton Market after securing \$45,000 from the City of Melbourne.

Co-chair of The Community Grocer, Dr Rebecca Lindberg, was on hand on Friday, November 25 to discuss just why it is so vital to be able to resume the market and provide low cost fresh fruit and vegetables to people in need.

“The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of our Carlton Market and we are delighted that once again we can ensure the local community, particularly those experiencing disadvantage, are able to put affordable, healthy, fresh, local fruit and vegies on the table,” she said.

“The Community Grocer customers represent 34 different nationalities, with one in five of our customers food insecure and 80 per cent on low incomes.” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the funding would allow the important community market to recommence operations for at least the next 12 months.

“Last year, one in three residents within the City of Melbourne experienced a degree of food insecurity, and the cost of living continues to increase, so we’re proud to be playing a major role in bringing The Community Grocer in Carlton back to life,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Everyone deserves to have access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and this will be another location residents can go to source their fresh produce.”

“We’re very much looking forward to being a part of The Community Grocer family as it grows and flourishes over the next year.” The Community Grocer relaunch came after Cr Dr Olivia Ball brought the motion to her City of Melbourne



*Everyone deserves to have access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food ...*



counterparts, addressing the need to move “beyond food relief to increase food security for everyone”.

“Initiatives like The Community Grocer will play a major role as we progress towards this goal,” Cr Dr Ball said. “We encourage everyone to spread the word The Community Grocer is back in action in Carlton, doing what they do best.”

The Community Grocer hosts three fresh fruit and vegetable markets in public housing estates and community centres across Melbourne and overcomes major barriers for people in accessing fresh food, such as cost and location.

By providing produce at 30 per cent lower prices than supermarkets, they can support up to 500 customers a week across Melbourne. \$5000 of the funding from the council will be put towards Grocer Gift vouchers as part of the Grocer Gift Card program, providing local organisations the ability to offer vouchers to market customers in need.

The Carlton Market runs every Friday at the rear of 510 Lygon St, Carlton between 8am and 12pm. ●

**For more information:**  
[thecommunitygrocer.com.au/carlton](http://thecommunitygrocer.com.au/carlton)

## Man charged after \$30K copper theft in East Melbourne

CRIME

A man has been charged after \$30,000 worth of copper was allegedly stolen from a building site in East Melbourne earlier this year.

Police allege two men stole two drums of copper at a construction site on Victoria Parade from around 2.15am on July 27.

They fled the scene in an older model Ford ute seen heading Melbourne’s west.

Police executed search warrants at two addresses in Sunshine relating to the theft on September 29.

A 59-year-old Sunshine man was arrested in the CBD and has since been charged with theft and other offences by Melbourne Tasking Unit officers.

He will appear at Sunshine Magistrates’ Court on March 14 next year.

“One man is still outstanding, and investigators are keen to speak to anyone with information,” a Victoria Police spokesperson said.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at [crimestoppers-vic.com.au](http://crimestoppers-vic.com.au) ●



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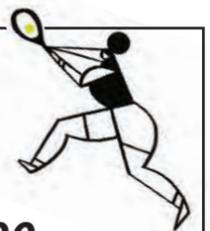


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# Charges dropped for Shane Warne mural artist

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COURTS

A street artist who was charged after painting a mural of the late cricketing legend Shane Warne in Carlton has walked free from court without a criminal conviction.

Jarrold Grech, 35, faced the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on October 26 after being charged with criminal damage for painting a mural of his sporting hero in March on an abandoned brick wall in Canning St.

He said he had tried to seek the property owner's permission – which he had previously done when he painted on the wall – but no-one was home, and the windows were boarded up.

Mr Grech said he was spoken to by police and later interviewed before being charged on summons.

But at the hearing two charges were struck out while another was dismissed which concluded the matter, the court confirmed.

The court heard from Mr Grech's lawyer who said his client was in the wrong and accepted that he must seek consent from the owner.

The magistrate also considered a character reference from a staff member at the City of Whittlesea who praised Mr Grech for his voluntary services with the council.

"Jarrod has become an active member of the arts community in the local municipality and is regularly exhibiting works and contributing to exhibitions," the letter read.

"He has even volunteered his time to work as a Gallery Sitter for local exhibitions, providing further support to his community."

"He is also a very kind and generous individual who continues to deepen his relationships with the broader community through his art and volunteering his time in his local community."

Mr Grech said he was relieved with the outcome at court, saying the matter was "not nice sitting over your head".

"I couldn't be happier with the judge actually. He saw my point of view although he did give me a slap around the ears," he said.



▲ Jarrod Grech with his Shane Warne mural in Carlton.

Earlier this year, Mr Grech, an electrician by day, said he had created the mural as a genuine tribute to Shane Warne following his death.

He said he remained keen to continue his creativity and hoped to paint a new mural in the inner city so long as he sought the permission of a private landowner or the City of Melbourne.

"If anyone wants their wall painted and it's

in an area for everyone to enjoy then I'm very happy to do it," he said.

He said he was currently painting three murals on canvases – one which would be donated and auctioned at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Another piece will be given to Shane Warne's family, while a third artwork will be displayed at a new hotel in Geelong. ●



▲ Top to bottom: Community Christmas Party at the Kathleen Syme Library, and The Drum committee.

## Celebrate Christmas in Carlton

WORDS BY *Carol Saffers*  
EVENTS

The Kathleen Syme Library is holding its annual Community Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17.

The festivity is open to the community to celebrate the year with food, interactive music and dancing, a visit from Santa and other activities, including face painting and giant games.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, "Melbourne comes alive at Christmas, and our libraries and community centres are key spaces for residents to come together and celebrate the year."

The community can help decorate the Christmas tree, listen to live music, get creative with Christmas crafts, and enjoy festive season treats and a special visit from Santa.

One of the event's highlights will be a musical performance by Asanti Dance Theatre.

Director Appiah Annan said, "we are a Melbourne-based, leading traditional and African contemporary performance company offering live music, drumming, dance and acrobatics."

Three musicians playing the harp, a drum and a kora, a West African instrument with 21 strings, will accompany a solo dancer.

The group will then hand out about 50 small West African drums to the audience for a call-and-respond interaction drumming workshop.

"There will be a lot of noise and a lot of fun," Mr Annan said.

The Melbourne Community Toy Library will run activities with toys for the youngsters.

"This annual celebration is a chance to relish the joy of community in a vibrant, inclusive, festive and fun atmosphere," Cr Capp said.

Youth project leader at The Drum Emma Levit is working with a committee of 12 young people from diverse backgrounds to plan a strong presence at the party.

"We haven't finalised all the details, but there will definitely be an exhibition showcasing artwork from our members," Ms Levit said.

"We will also provide music for the party, might be a DJ or a performance, not sure yet, and we are organising an arts-based workshop for the community to participate in."

The state government's Engage! 2022 Program is funding the Drum's projects.

The party is free, and no registration is required to attend.

Participants need not be library members or involved with Kathleen Syme Centre community groups.

While there is a focus on events for families and young children, the party welcomes anyone from the community.

The building is open on the day, and spaces such as the Recording Studio and Creative Technologies Makerspace will be available for viewing and participation.

Staff will be on hand and look forward to showcasing all their services.

The Christmas party runs from 11am to 1pm at 251 Faraday St, Carlton. ●

# Taste the delights of Eritrea

WORDS BY *Carol Saffers*  
COMMUNITY

Nima Hamid's reason for relaunching her Little Eritrean Kitchen is summed up in two words; "loves cooking".

She studied commercial cookery at the Australian College of Trade, graduating in 2019 with Certificates III and IV, just as the COVID virus hit the country.

Little Eritrean Kitchen is now open for business with Mrs Hamid preparing traditional Eritrean food.

She has catered for members of the local Eritrean community at parties and weddings, volunteered at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) kitchen, and worked in the kitchens at Cohealth.

CNLC community development manager Elle Morrell said Mrs Hamid was an English learning student at the centre around 2008 and went on to participate in its Make it Work Program.

"We were able to help her establish her catering business," Ms Morrell said.

"In particular, we helped develop her marketing material, such as flyers and cards for her to distribute throughout the community."

"We often rely on Nima to help cater meetings at different agencies across Carlton, and everyone is always very complimentary about her food."

One of the country's staple dishes prepared by Mrs Hamid is Zigni, a beef stew spiced with berbere (a hot spice blend) and simmered in a tomato-based gravy, served with injera.

Injera, central to the dining process like bread or rice, is a sour fermented pancake-like flatbread with a slightly spongy texture, traditionally made of teff flour.

Lentils and vegetables are essential ingredients in a lot of Eritrean food.

Rice with chicken or meat flavoured with chilli accompanied with homemade dips is one of her most requested dishes.



▲ L-R: Eritrean banquet, and dessert.

With five children, Mrs Hamid has plenty of taste testers and willing eaters to help with any leftovers.

Her eldest son gets requests from his workmates for his mum's food.

As the youngest child in her family when she arrived in Australia in 1997, Mrs Hamid had minimal experience in the kitchen and is self-taught using recipe books and learning from others in the Eritrean community.

"I cook the best finger food," she said. "When you love things, you are going to make it very good."

Typical desserts are cheesecake with mango or saffron, semolina cake, and large trays of walnut and date slices.

African doughnuts are a big hit with all her customers; they always sell out when she takes a stall at Harmony Day or the Eritrean market in North Melbourne.

The average number she caters for is generally



40 to 50 people. However, she can accommodate larger orders when necessary.

Her food is perfect for packing into the Esky for a beach or park picnic or simply for a change in everyday meals.

Eritrean cuisine is rarely eaten with cutlery. Eritreans eat exclusively with their right hands, using pieces of injera to pick up bites of entrées and side dishes.

The country is located in the northeastern African region known as the Horn of Africa with neighbouring countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia.

According to the 2016 Census, 4300 people in Australia were born in Eritrea. ●

**For more information:**  
[nimasaadhamid@gmail.com](mailto:nimasaadhamid@gmail.com)

# The paw-fect excuse to party

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Bakers*  
EVENTS

They say, “dogs are a (wo)man’s best friend”, and for Bianca Sondakh the truth of this statement led her to create a weekly event inviting people to pub crawl with their furry friends by their side.

Since starting the Puppy Pub Crawl in July 2019 in South Melbourne, she has seen them only continue to grow in popularity with the events now attracting anywhere from 12 to 28 people and 10 to 25 dogs. Dog lovers who may not have a dog themselves are also welcome.

And now, for the first time, the event is preparing to come to Carlton as part of the North Melbourne/Carlton Puppy Pub Crawl on Sunday, December 4.

“We have become quite well-known now and have had some bars and pubs approach us, including the Queensberry Hotel which asked if we could have a Puppy Pub Crawl there,” Ms Sondakh said.

“It will be our first event there and we are looking forward to it.”

Now with nine different locations around Melbourne that they rotate between each week, Ms Sondakh couldn’t be happier that her love for her affectionate and quirky Pugalier Hugo, and hesitancy to leave him home alone, has led to such a fun day out for all.

“I don’t like leaving my dog at home when I am not working and so when my friend asked to catch up for Friday night drinks, I saw The Palace Hotel in South Melbourne was dog-friendly and so I suggested we go there,” she said.

“We went there, and we had such a good time and then we wanted to go to another pub for live music and happy hour, but I wasn’t sure because of Hugo, but we gave another place a try and just sat outside, and it was good.”

Following going to this pub, they then moved onto another brewery, which much to Ms Sondakh’s excitement, also allowed dogs.

“I had such a good time that night, and then thought other people might enjoy it as well. So, the idea of the Puppy Pub Crawl came up and for something different at every crawl location there is also always a doggy martini or doggy cocktail,” she said.

“Now they can have a full experience as well, rather than just coming along.”

At past locations there has also been food for the dogs, too, with one Prahran location providing doggy tacos and cupcakes.

Now at the upcoming North Melbourne/Carlton Puppy Pub Crawl on December 4, attendees can also expect to see Barkaritas (Dog Margaritas) for their little friend, and enjoy a Sheep Dog peanut butter whisky shot for themselves.

The event will start at The Castle Hotel in North Melbourne, with the group then moving on to Bobbie Peels, before finishing up at Carlton’s very own Queensberry Hotel.

In addition to the pub crawls, Ms Sondakh has also started a new event called Dating with Dogs in the hope to encourage some fellow single dog lovers to “find love”.

“It is held at one location and over a drink, canapés, and icebreaker games; we make people mingle and meet one another. Then at the end of the day, if there are mutual matches on the dating cards they receive, then I let them know,” she said.

While the ideal event for people who want to bring their dog along to meet a potential match, attendees should be warned that the dog may just have the last say in whether any dating can continue.

Speaking of the funny examples that had occurred as a result of inviting dogs to social gatherings, Ms Sondakh



said, “we had our first event in October, and someone told me that they really liked this girl, but her dog hated their dog so much, so it ruined their chance.”

To get among the fun that is a Puppy Pub Crawl and meet new people alongside your best friend, book for the upcoming North Melbourne/Carlton Puppy Pub Crawl at the following link:



For anyone unable to make the upcoming North Melbourne/Carlton Puppy Pub Crawl, a follow-up event is being scheduled for February 26 next year. ●

**For more information:**  
[puppypubcrawl.com.au](http://puppypubcrawl.com.au)



*Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
JOURNALIST  
KAYLAH@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Friendly debate at polling booth

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
POLITICS

The big issue at the polling booth on Grey St, East Melbourne was who could afford to live and vote in the area.

Seasoned politician Owen Guest was claiming a local advantage and standing for the Liberals.

“I live three streets away in what used to be Jolimont,” he told *Inner City News*.

Mr Guest stood for Melbourne Ports in the 2016 Federal election and said he had a chance of gaining an upper house seat in the Legislative Council.

East Melbourne is in the Northern Metropolitan region (with the rest of the Melbourne electorate) and Mr Guest is second on the Liberal ticket.

“My background is in finance. I was a futures fund manager and I believe the state budget is out of control,” he said. “I have a small chance, but a chance because of lockdowns and cost blow-outs.”

He had a team of locals, including his daughter, handing out at the polling booth and he was scoring high on the local cred indicator.

By contrast, Isaac Jennings who was handing out for the Victorian Socialists, lived far away in Wantirna. This didn’t stop him from buying into the debate.

“I would love to be a local but can’t afford it,” he said. “This is a Liberal haven.”

Greens campaigner Rebecca Langman actually lived closest to the Uniting Church polling booth, having recently moved to Melbourne from Adelaide and was scoring points for her positive outlook about the area.

“I live in Grey St on the corner,” she said. “We’re getting lots of interest. Lots of young people are renting here.”

She said that renters have more rights in Melbourne. “You can’t put pictures on the wall in South



▲ Owen Guest: Liberal candidate for the upper house.



▲ Isaac Jennings: campaigner for the Victorian Socialists.



▲ Rebecca Langman: campaigner for The Greens.

Australia. It’s really nice and quiet here compared to the hustle and bustle of Fitzroy and Collingwood.”

The Unitarian Church on Grey St was the third quietest booth in the electorate of Melbourne with 868 voters for the day, and campaigners plus the sausage team outnumbered voters for most of it.

At other nearby Melbourne booths, such as the Drill Hall in Victoria St, there were long queues at peak times.

The relaxation of pre-polling rules meant that a majority in some electorates had already cast their votes before election day.

Policies did get a chance of an airing, but local cred was counting for more at the Grey St booth, judging by the friendly debate.

“You’re bussing in people from New South Wales to man the booths,” Mr Guest said, accusing the Victorian Socialists of not having enough people in the state to back them.

The Socialist did not deny the accusation. “We have got people to come in from New South Wales,” Mr Jennings said. “It’s a moot point though, something that someone who was feeling insecure would raise.” ●

“The relaxation of pre-polling rules meant that a majority in some electorates had already cast their votes before election day.”





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# East Melbourne through and through

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
ARTS & CULTURE

East Melbourne is one of the city's most artistic suburbs and it's not surprising that even those who have moved out return at some point in their careers.

Well-known painter and cofounder of Roar Studios, Mark Schaller, says he hasn't been back for 40 years.

He's driven through but never revisited the streets of his youth.

At one stage he lived in George St in a row of terraces classified by the National Trust with his mum, grandmother and sister.

He was standing outside his former home reminiscing when a neighbour approached him.

It turned out that she lived in the end house in the row which used to belong to her mother.

She too had returned to East Melbourne, and it didn't take long before Mark realised he knew her sister.

The connections in this complex suburb run deep, right back to the early days of the colony. Eugene von Guerard, for example, was the first director of the National Gallery of Victoria Art School in Melbourne.

The house he built is still standing in Gipps St and is used to house visiting artists. Mark has visited a friend staying there.

In the early days of his occupation, he lived in Simpson St and his grandma made cakes for the George Street Café, then called The Purple Chook.

"She was the worst cook I know but everyone loved them," Mark said. "She made meringues and cheesecake. She couldn't introduce anything. It was standard Aussie fare."

Mark now lives on Philip Island but has fond memories of the rough and tumble lanes and streets. There were drag races down Simpson St, "derros" in the lanes but these were coupled with the finer things, such as easel painting in the front garden of Ola Cohn's place, still preserved in Gipps St.

The two extremes went together, a cockatoo that told you to "f\* off" at Carlton House and a house full of sculpture by Melbourne's first female sculptor working in stone.

The suburb felt empty to Mark as a kid. "In the '60s everyone moved out to live in a quarter acre block in the



▲ Mark Schaller reconnecting with neighbour Denise Niri in George St.

suburbs with a Hills Hoist and a deep freeze. A lot of the houses were empty," he said.

"I only have happy memories here. I felt like there was no-one else around and people were nice and encouraging."

Mark's mum is now in her '80s and is living with her son. She doesn't keep up with the gossip because that's the past. But Mark carries on the tradition.

His paintings are full of anecdotes and pleasing botanical narratives that speak of his East Melbourne upbringing.

Every year he goes to Hydra, and he's become interested in the George Johnston and Charmian Clift story.

In typical East Melbourne fashion, he's tracked down George Johnston's house on Hydra and wants to see it become a residence for visiting Australian artists.

"It's still the same. They don't change the furniture in Greece when they sell a house," he said. One of his paintings depicts Johnston's typewriter, a green Olivetti.

A show of Mark's landscapes opens at @ Gallery, Sorrento, on December 23. ●

# East Melbourne community Christmas Picnic

WORDS BY Carol Saffer  
COMMUNITY

The gates of the majestic Bishops court estate will open to welcome members of the East Melbourne community to celebrate Christmas with an afternoon of music and entertainment on Sunday, December 17.

The event will be held in the estate's spectacular gardens offering a peek behind the bluestone walls.

The 30-plus voices of Rechoired, a community choir from Surrey Hills, will perform carols and other seasonal favourites.

Their repertoire includes pop, folk and classical songs in three- or four-part harmony.

Local soloists Lino Del Grudice, Alexandra Lidgerwood, and her father, John Lidgerwood, will also sing traditional and modern songs.

Youngsters can join in the fun with face painting and cheer on Santa when he pays an early Christmas visit during the afternoon handing out lollies from a fire truck.

East Melbourne Neighbourhood Network president Susan Henderson said she looked forward to the whole community getting together for a happy afternoon.

"I think the audience will love the variety of the entertainment and hopefully will sing a long," Ms Henderson said.

"A Connected Community grant from the City of Melbourne supports our picnic which is a joint project with the East Melbourne Group."

"The grants are a great initiative that spurs locals and organisations to run events like this." ●



Residents are encouraged to invite neighbours and friends and bring a rug or fold-up chairs, a picnic hamper, and drinks.

Ms Henderson said East Melbourne Neighbourhood Network would take pre-orders for hampers for those who run short of time.

"We look forward to a wonderful afternoon in beautiful surrounds celebrating the festive season with our community and friends."

Located at 120 Clarendon St, East Melbourne, Bishops Court was founded in 1848.

It is one of the oldest properties in East Melbourne and is the official residence of the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne.

It is the last intact urban estate within the City of Melbourne.

The Community Picnic will run from 2pm to 5pm. The event is free of charge, but cash donations on entry are welcomed.

Contact [emnn3002@gmail.com](mailto:emnn3002@gmail.com) for information and to pre-order hampers. ●



# Community grant supports East Melbourne residents

WORDS BY Carol Saffers  
COMMUNITY

East Melbourne Group vice president Jenny Owen applied to the City of Melbourne for a Community Connected Grant only to be told that the grant funding was not for organisations; it was meant for individuals.

So, Ms Owen applied under her name, and the Grant she received was put to good use paying for the East Melbourne Community event on Saturday, November 20, in Powlett Reserve.

"We wanted to have a 'meet and greet everyone in the neighbourhood get together' to make up time and connections lost during COVID," Ms Owen said.

"It was a huge success, we had somewhere between 200 to 300 people participate."

"Lots of the locals helped; we had two volunteers who knew a lot about bikes and offered to make small repairs to anyone's bike."

There was also a call out for donations of surplus bikes for re-gifting.

The electric scooter hire business Lime Scooters turned up with scooters and two staff to show those

willing how to ride.

"I think at least 50 people took a trial ride," Ms Owen said.

Other entertainment included Zumba dancing, face painting for the kids, and a dress-up pet parade.

The locally manned sausage sizzle gave away 300 snags, and the Devonshire tea ladies were ferrying scones and cakes throughout the crowd.

Representation from community groups included members of the Victoria Police, who were happy to listen to local concerns.

The East Melbourne Group, East Melbourne Historical Society, East Melbourne Neighbourhood Network, and local arts and crafts groups were all on hand to chat with their neighbours and members.

Ms Owen said there was a cross-section of people at the reserve.

"There were young families, people who were renters, and old timers who have lived in the suburb for decades," she said.

"One person ran into someone they worked with 45 years ago."

All the activities were free of charge, and a grand time was had by all, with many requests to make it an annual event. ●

# Di Stasio Carlton is not just another pizza place

WORDS BY Carol Saffers  
BUSINESS

Italian restaurant Di Stasio Carlton took out the Best Restaurant design at the Eat Drink Design Awards.

The Awards, approved by the Australian Institute of Architects and the Design Institute of Australia, recognise Australia and New Zealand's best projects in the hospitality sector.

From top-notch restaurants and bars to quirky hole-in-the-wall cafes and pop-ups, the Awards are a unique scene for architects, designers, and clients to present their best new projects.

Melbourne firm Hassell, a multidisciplinary architecture, design and urban planning practice, is responsible for designing and constructing the third Di Stasio restaurant owned by Rinaldo Di Stasio and Mallory Wall.

Di Ritter, senior associate at Hassell, worked with the owners to create their city restaurant Di Stasio Citta on Spring St in the CBD.

"It was a big help when designing the Carlton building," Ms Ritter said. "They already had the DNA worked out, and it was a case of fitting it in a new shell."

"Rinaldo describes it as 'Intalianity'; old school Melbourne Italian like a Thornbury house with a Nonna's garden."

The Faraday St building was stripped back to its bare bones, with the 1950s terrazzo floor retained and other areas filled with black concrete.

"Internally, it is a bit of an adventure, you would get to the bar, and then there was a tunnel [shape] that took you through to the next room," she said.

"Rinaldo already owned three artworks by Reko Rennie, [an interdisciplinary artist who explores his Aboriginal identity through contemporary media]."

"So, we created separate spaces inside to house his trilogy of Reko's work and commissioned Shaun Gladwell sculptures as well."

The courtyard was a significant focus of the design.

"The crunching of gravel underfoot and the experience of going down this inquisitive laneway lined with greenery was quite contemporary, but with an ancient fountain and the ambience of the water trickling in the background," Ms Ritter said.

Ms Wall hopes this will remind people of peering through keyholes of doors in Rome and seeing a beautiful



courtyard within.

Carlton-based interior design studio owner Fiona Lynch was a member of this year's Awards jury panel.

From her perspective, the judges looked at the entries for something distinctive and unique.

"Di Stasio met this with its inherently original yet contemporary feel that has its hallmark yet is still part of the unique Di Stasio DNA of food, art and culture," Ms Lynch said.

"It is never easy [making the final call] when standards are high, but the originality of the design was impactful from the outset," she said.

"It sounds obvious, but you know you're at Di Stasio Carlton when you're in the space because it's definitive."

"The original terrazzo floor and the different feel of the internal and courtyard spaces are the highlights of Di Stasio's design that made it stand out to the panel."

Lockdown was an advantage as the retail businesses in the area were closed.

"It gave access to the construction site without disturbing anyone during the year it took to build the new premises," Ms Ritter said.

The floor and bars were poured on site and are solid and permanent.

Ms Ritter, who lives nearby, said Lygon St was a friendly community.

"The guys from Tiamo delivered coffee daily and pizza and beers to the boys on site on Friday nights." ●

# Create a meaningful piece of jewellery and an unforgettable memory

WORDS BY *Carol Saffers*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Growing up in Vietnam, Heecho Oh knew she wanted to be a designer; she loved art, and drawing was a passion.

Her mum suggested jewellery was the path to take and, after graduating with a Diploma in Engineering Jewellery at Melbourne Polytechnic, she worked in the industry for almost six years.

Two-and-a-half years ago, she set up her workshop, HEE CHO, where she conducts two-hour jewellery-making classes in a small light-filled space, taking only four students at a time, located upstairs in The Motley Bauhaus on Elgin St, Carlton.

In the past, she offered a repair service and bespoke jewellery making but her time is now completely taken up with the workshops, which are fully booked until the end of the year.

The classes accommodate a beginner's skill level.

Spinning Ring is very popular with middle-aged women, while Lettering Silver Ring appeals to couples.

Together they each create a ring.

"Japanese tourists love the Organic Shape Ring with Stones session," Ms Oh said.

Students have to wait two weeks before they receive their finished ring as Ms Oh needs to complete the setting of the stones for them.

"When the rings are ready, I am shipping more and more to Japan these days."

Her workshops teach the basics of silversmith and jewellery making.

She breaks down the ring-creating process into quickly learned tasks, and while the procedure is basic, the completed piece always looks professional.

"Stamping can be a little tricky, so I often help the students to achieve a great result," she said.

The classes are for people to have an experience rather than teaching them the knowledge of jewellery making.

Ms Oh said, "I am very proud of this course because they can make something they can keep forever."

"Many want an image or writing that is



▲ HEE CHO.

Photographer *Ajay Viswanath Manickam*.

significant to them on the ring."

"They keep their rings and the memory together."

"So many come to make their wedding bands; it is meaningful and much more fun than just buying a ring from a store."

Keeping the attendance numbers small allows her to give everyone personal help.

"I want all my students to have a perfect experience."

Most of her young learners find her through TikTok and Instagram, and around 10 per cent return and take the complete range of courses she has to offer.

She values the time she spends teaching; engagement with her students is most important, and she strives to ensure the classes are fun.

"Next year, I think that as a jeweller, I want to do design."

"My goal in 2023 is to continue the workshops and develop and expand the brand for my jewellery designs," she said.

The popularity of the workshops is constantly growing to the point where Ms Oh would consider training and employing another

“

*“My goal in 2023 is to continue the workshops and develop and expand the brand for my jewellery designs.”*

”

teacher and moving to a bigger space; for now, she is happy with the current set-up.

Ms OH is a woman of tenacity and many talents.

When setting up the workroom, she sketched her idea for the workbench; then made it herself. "I am very good with the tools." ●

# Ten prizes of \$1000 each up for grabs for video editors

WORDS BY *Carol Saffers*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Cinema Nova is calling on film buffs and video makers to create the best pre-show video entertainment for the chance to win part of a \$10,000 prize pool.

The biggest competition the cinema has run encourages local and emerging talent to submit creative short videos for a shot at 10 cash prizes of \$1000, plus the chance to see their work on the big screen.

This contest is aimed at film fanatics and lovers of pre-movie entertainment.

The type of film-based content Cinema Nova is after is the type of video essay that is very popular now on YouTube.

"We are very flexible and open-minded in what kind of creative work we want to see; we are just excited to see what people come up with," a Cinema Nova spokesperson said.

Themed mash-ups, recaps, video essays, animation, voiceover; the sky's the limit.

Videos can be between five and seven minutes long and must be explicitly created for the competition and mention Nova.

The focus is on clever editing and an interest in the world of film and cinema.

Entries could be something contestants filmed or recorded themselves or a clever edit of or commentary on other material.

Cinema Nova CEO Kristian Connolly said, "Cinema Nova has a long history of championing filmmakers, and now Melbourne's favourite independent is thrilled to support emerging editors in the creation of fresh, bold, interesting film-focused content."

"We know that our audience's interest in cinema goes beyond the two hours they spend in their film of choice," he said.

"We can't wait to see how local creatives can enrich and excite the moviegoing experience."

"We are looking for creativity over technical perfection. We want your video to look good on the big screen."

Entries are now open and close at 11.59pm on Saturday, December 31.

Winners will be contacted via email and announced in mid-January once all submissions are reviewed.

For more information: [cinemanova.com.au/nova-video-competition](http://cinemanova.com.au/nova-video-competition) ●

# The backstory behind the Bequest

WORDS BY *Carol Saffers*  
ARTS & CULTURE

*SPLENDID*, the exhibition of the Brookes Bequest, a carefully considered connoisseur's collection of sterling silver of outstanding merit, is at The Johnson Collection (TJC) in East Melbourne until March 23, 2023.

The resplendent Bequest from Mr Clive Hele (Roger) Brookes is an impressive collection amassed over a period, initially started by Mr Brookes' mother.

From 2004, Mr Brookes was a dedicated supporter of the TJC and regularly donated items and money.

He amassed his silver collection with the idea of bequeathing it to TJC.

The Brookes Bequest of English silver ranges from the late-16<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

It includes in its vast array objects ranging from ecclesiastical wares, argyles (gravy warmers), pap boats and porringers, tankards, and trophies, to immense serving salvers and delicious strawberry dishes.

TJC Ambassador Andrew Dixon, a long-term supporter of and adviser to Mr Brookes, describes him as a "poster boy for philanthropy."

He was happy to have his name mentioned by the organisations he helped; Trinity College, Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club and Epworth Hospital, to name just a few.

"He loved people making a fuss about him, and he loved people being deferential to him, taking him out to lunch and afternoon teas," Mr Dixon said.



▲ SPLENDID.

Photographer *Adam Luttick*.

"He said he wanted to be remembered as a collector and a philanthropist."

The Brookes family was one of Melbourne's wealthiest families during the 1950s and 1960s, living at 20 Heyington Place, Toorak.

Mr Brookes' father, Wilfred, was an astute investor in mining, paper manufacturing, and finance and was a director on many company boards.

His mother had inherited some of her family's silver collection, while her son was given silverware as christening presents, and Wilfred was intrigued by the hallmarks.

The family had lived through the Depression and WWII, and amassing the collection was possibly a way of using their wealth rather than having to pay death duties when the time came.

Mr Dixon said he thought Wilfred came back from the war and decided to do what would make himself and his wife happy.

In 1962, he bought silverware without experience but had an eye for the perfect piece.

The technicality of making silverware appealed to Wilfred.

The ability to ascertain from the hallmarks who made it and where and when was

particularly intriguing to him.

Mr Brookes, a retired accountant, inherited this meticulousness from his father in his approach to silver collecting.

Many pieces of silverware have amorials, the coat of arms of the family that commissioned the item, on the front.

Mr Brookes purchased a 1750 bread basket made for and decorated with Sir Robert Peel's coat of arms.

He was thrilled to purchase the bread basket owned by the British Prime Minister responsible for creating the modern police force; the provenance of the item appealed to him.

Part of Mr Dixon's work with Mr Brookes was to research the back story of the silverware that Mr Brookes was considering or had purchased.

The Brookes Bequest is a lasting legacy of genuine enthusiasm as a collector.

As well as the brilliant silver, the Brookes Bequest includes gorgeous ceramics, dignified furniture, glorious glass, excellent clocks and watches, paintings including miniatures, and *objets d'art* predominantly of English origin.

The Brookes Bequest will become a fundamental reference resource to increase the enthusiasm, knowledge, display, and interpretation of Elizabethan times through to the Georgian and Regency periods, illustrative of stylistic development, technical production, and cultural issues, primarily through the medium of silver.

Mr Dixon said, "It is important that people recognise that Roger was so generous." ●

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Get set for Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations

**Welcome 2023 in spectacular style with the city's biggest-ever New Year's Eve celebrations.**

We know Melburnians have missed the chance to celebrate together, so we're marking the end of 2022 in style.

If you're planning to head into the city, the best place to see the fireworks is from one of our four Celebration Zones. But you can see them from anywhere you can see the city skyline, or even watch on TV.

Here are six ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in Melbourne:

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks display from 30 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for family-friendly fun like live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and extra fireworks at 9.30pm.
3. Book a table at one of the dozens of hospitality venues offering special New Year's Eve feasts.
4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by Falls Festival.
6. Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

Safety remains our number one priority and a detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing

of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and other emergency services.

Revellers are encouraged to plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues and act responsibly.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the city and the Christmas Festival are supported by the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [melbourne.vic.gov.au/nye](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/nye)

## CHRISTMAS IN YOUR PRECINCT



**Keen to keep it local this Christmas? Here's how to support your local business precinct, and share the love with nearby neighbourhoods across the City of Melbourne.**

**Christmas in the CBD:** Explore the Christmas Festival across the city. Go old-school with a Christmas Film Photowalk from 4 to 8 December. Take a selfie with the Roving Drag Santa around Degraeves Street on 3 and 4 December. Join the Look Draw Love Melbourne walking tour on 10 December.

**Giveaways at the Carlton Roller Rink:** Headed for the roller rink in Piazza Italia from 10 to 24 December? Enjoy roving performers and Italian Christmas biscuit giveaways and gift vouchers for iconic Carlton shops.

**Gift-wrapping on Collins Street:** Buy gifts from participating Collins Street stores, save the receipts and head to Howey Place for free gift-wrapping from 10am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas, starting 8 December.

**Great Greek Quarter Christmas Feast:** Join a laneway party with music, performers and food from local venues. All afternoon, Sunday 18 December. Waratah Place and Heffernan Lane.

**Kensington Christmas Fair:** Enjoy live music and entertainment on the main stage. Free activities, performers, magicians, face painting, giveaways and a visit from Santa. Saturday 3 December in Bellair Street from 10am to 4pm.

**Little Korea Christmas Festival:** Experience Korean culture and street food, with market stalls, music and decorations. Sunday 18 December in Little Lonsdale Street and Healeys Lane from 11am to 5pm.

**Christmas cheer North and West Melbourne:** Choirs, buskers and roving Christmas characters will entertain shoppers. Look for Santa in a fire truck. Enter the Christmas raffle, go late-night shopping and enjoy free gift-wrapping and giveaways.

**South Wharf Christmas Choir and Film:** Join a family carols concert and screening of *The Grinch* on the Common Lawn on Dukes Walk in South Wharf. Sunday 18 December from 5pm to 8pm.

**Twilight markets in Docklands:** Stock up on stocking-fillers at the District Docklands Twilight Christmas Market on 10 December from 3pm to 8pm. And at the Docklands NewQuay Twilight Xmas Market on 17 December from midday to 8pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## Keep your cool this summer

By 2050 Melbourne will experience an average 16 days over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is committed to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is to turn Melbourne into a refuge for workers, residents and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

- Cool the city through urban greening
- Invest in projects like Greenline to provide a cool green corridor through the city
- Help keep cool, through our Cool Routes online maps, public drinking fountains, and by providing practical support during heatwaves.

All our efforts combined aim to cool Melbourne by four degrees, to improve liveability, resilience, and community health.

Keep an eye out for heat health alerts on City of Melbourne's social media channels and from the Department of Health, or be aware of upcoming weather.

For tips on how to stay safe during the heat visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwave](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwave)

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# HOW TO HAVE A TREE-MENDOUS CHRISTMAS IN MELBOURNE

Roller-skate in Carlton, swing on a giant bell and head to the iconic Myer Christmas windows to celebrate 100 years of Disney this festive season.

The Christmas Festival is well underway, with decorations bringing colour and joy to every corner of the city.

Fed Square has been transformed into Christmas Square with Santa's workshop, our stunning 17.3-metre LED Christmas tree and festive entertainment galore.

Our popular Christmas Projections have returned to Town Hall, plus a new showstopping projection on Flinders Street opposite Fed Square.

We've also welcomed back the String Bean Alley Christmas Night Markets at Queen Victoria Market, the giant Christmas Maze in Docklands and the Christmas Carnival at Birrarung Marr.

Pillars of Light, a Chanukah celebration for all Melburnians, and Koorie Krismas, a First Nations

celebration at Fed Square, are also bringing communities together in celebration.

Exciting additions to this year's festival program include:

- a roller-skating rink in Carlton
- a pop-up playground at Queensbridge Square with bell swings, a dance floor and an interactive orchestra
- the Christmas Eve Circus Spectacular, bringing festive cheer to Town Hall.

We're also supporting small events across the city, such as Christmas markets, workshops and laneway parties, through our Christmas Collective grants program. So there's plenty more to discover.

The Christmas Festival runs until 25 December.

Major partners include the Victorian Government, Fed Square and TAC.

## PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

**Make a difference to Melburnians in need this Christmas by donating to our Good Giving program.**

Homelessness is a complex and confronting issue that can affect anyone at any point in their lives.

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing. That's why Homes Melbourne, a special entity of the City of Melbourne, is committed to ending homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

By donating to our Good Giving campaign this festive season, you will support Make Room and help those who need it most.

### About Make Room

We're stepping up to address homelessness by working in partnership with the Victorian Government, Unison, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The \$20 million Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services, and other support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they are connected with long-term housing. We are currently raising funds to complete a dedicated floor for women, who are the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness in our city.



An artist's impression of the Make Room development

### How to help

By giving direct to Make Room, you are helping provide for people's immediate needs and deliver the crucial, long-term support they need to exit homelessness.

Donate at [lmc.org.au/makeroom](https://lmc.org.au/makeroom)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



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# Melbourne indigenous author takes top two writing prizes

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Bardi Jawi man, Bebe Backhouse is the winner of the 2022 Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award and the Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers.

Both awards were for his captivating collection of personal memories, *If This Is the End: Stories of Perpetual Echoes in a Corridor*.

It was described by the judging panel of five experts in a blind selection as "beautiful to see a profoundly captured relationship with home, space and the body in the Life Writing category".

"This work would be a beautiful starting point for a larger, more developed story; a tremendous piece of writing," the statement from judges said.

In the fourth part of his story Mr Backhouse describes his grandmother, "I stared at your soft hair ... your stripey nightgown framed you in the body of a prisoner, sentenced to cancer with no eligibility for parole, but certain death row."

The Life Writing Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers recognises an outstanding work highlighting a uniquely Victorian story of Australia's First People.

Mr Backhouse said, "I write from a sincere place of truth, recollection and memory."

"I don't know any other way; this is the way I see the world."

"We are all the sum of our stories; for First Nations people, these stories extend to our ancestors."

"Recognition through these awards is transcendent; it acknowledges my work and the lives and history of my people."



▲ Award-winning author Bebe Backhouse and partner Jeremy Martin.

"I am honoured to receive this award and proud to be a part of the growing wave of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and truth-tellers changing the literary landscape across the country."

When asked what compelled him to be so open in his writing, Mr Backhouse replied, "I don't know any other way."

"There is hurt and pain behind what I've written, but just as much there is love," he said.

"I move through the world as a vehicle and a voice for my people."

"There is this incredible wave of truth-telling across the country, and I know I am playing a part in that, albeit small."

Three other emerging writers took out the top prize in the following categories.

Tim Loveday's *Mowing* won The Dorothy Porter Award for Poetry Award.

Nathan Power was the winner of the Narrative Non-Fiction Award for *Out West*.

*How to Read Your Dreams* by Jack Bastock was awarded the best Short Story set in Melbourne. As a biennial program, the City of Melbourne

introduces a wildcard category every two years. This year it was *Self-told Stories* by Writers with a Disability which provided an opportunity for those with lived experience to share their stories.

Beau Windon's *Neurodiverging into He[art]s and Darkness*, a "show, don't tell" memoir, is the winner of the biennial category.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, "as the first and only UNESCO City of Literature in Australia, we're proud that books, storytelling and writing are a key part of our identity, community and economy."

"These awards give our emerging creatives a platform to share their powerful stories with a wider audience."

"Our winner, Bebe Backhouse, embodies every part of that journey."

The council's Creative Melbourne portfolio lead Cr Jamal Hakim said, "We hope every winner can use this opportunity as a springboard for a future full of creative storytelling while inspiring and guiding the next generation of emerging writers."

Category winners receive a \$2000 prize, while the overall winner is awarded \$10,000.

The Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards, designed to encourage and give a platform to new and upcoming voices within the city's diverse literary community, were established in 2009.

Regardless of background, all emerging or unpublished writers are welcome and encouraged to enter the awards.

The City of Melbourne highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as an award category to give a platform to writers whose voices traditionally are underrepresented in media and literature.

Winning entries are published on the City of Melbourne website. ●

# Native Bushfoods Garden opens in Carlton North

WORDS BY *Jemma van Zaanen*  
ENVIRONMENT

Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) has launched its new Native Bushfood Garden at its Princes St centre in Carlton North, providing Aboriginal bushfoods and space to educate the community on native plants.

Opened to the public on November 24, the garden is home to hundreds of native plants, and space for educational workshops, as well as a purpose-built wheelchair accessible path which leads to a yarnning circle and fire pit.

The garden will also provide an important meeting place for local Aboriginal people.

CNLC's community development manager Elle Morrell said, "we are really dedicated to having a native bushfoods garden to honour the land we are on, and to welcome more Aboriginal people to the community centre."

"We hope to have cooking workshops with the bushfoods and offer local restaurants our produce. In the future, we hope to grow and offer restaurants specific bushfoods they are after."



The community centre worked with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation closely to produce an



authentic native garden. Aboriginal-run nurseries were used to source the plants which have been used to showcase

both their environmental and medicinal values to the community.

According to Ms Morrell, the development of the garden had been a "big collective process", with the garden's beds planted by an adult language class from the centre.

"We planted everything together. The class got to learn a lot about native plants and what they mean for Australia," Ms Morrell said.

The garden will be open to the public to visit, and an invitation will be put out for Aboriginal groups and communities to have "priority access" to the space.

The launch of the garden on November 24, attended by City of Yarra Mayor Sophie Wade, was described by Ms Morrell as "a celebration of being on Country and being in a beautiful garden in the middle of the city for people to learn and enjoy".

The Native Bushfoods Garden is now open at 20 Princes St, Carlton North. ●

**For more information:**  
[cnlc.org.au](http://cnlc.org.au)




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# The importance of “cyber-hygiene”

*The private data of millions of Australians has become the plaything of hackers in recent months. Massive cyber-attacks against large organisations such as Optus and Medibank have demonstrated to individuals and corporations alike just how inadequate current cybersecurity infrastructure and practices are.*

WORDS BY *Jacob Caine*

Attention to “cyber-hygiene”, essentially how safely and securely we operate in an “online” context, has been woefully inadequate in practice throughout Australia and the world generally. Hackers gaining access to the networks and systems of technology and insurance companies, perhaps, offers a moment for pause to ask ourselves: how vulnerable are we?

When I was younger, my grandmother often lamented what she saw as the laziness and indecision cultivated in the younger generations, namely me, by the invention of the television remote. “What’s wrong with just making up your mind, taking three steps, and turning the knob?” she would squawk at me. “You just lie there on the couch like a log, click, click, clicking ... choose something for Chrissakes. It’s all the same ol’ crap anyways.”

My recollection of Grandma might be a little hazy because my father assures me she was actually born in London, was very posh, and a devout Catholic who never ever took the Lord’s name in vain. But I prefer to remember ol’ Gram Gram as more of a hard-nosed, hard-living trailer park-dwelling curmudgeon.

Unfortunately, she’s no longer with us, but I have a feeling my grandmother, the real or imagined version, would have completely lost her mind at the prospect of a “smart” fridge or a “smart” toaster.

The Internet of Things (IoT), a network of billions and billions of internet-connected devices (like fridges, toasters, and vacuums), has been embraced as the next frontier in humankind’s technological evolution.

It is estimated that the IoT will comprise 14.4 billion connected devices by the end of 2022. Like the television remote, these “smart” devices are supposed to make our lives easier and more streamlined, allowing us to shift our focus away from waiting for the toaster to pop to engaging in some quality time with friends and family.

I’ll leave it to others to determine how effective these promised efficiencies have proven so far at enhancing the bonds between families and friendship groups but will draw your attention to the massively increased vulnerability the proliferation of internet-connected devices poses to the entire community, from business to government to individuals.

While operating systems, antivirus software, and companies provide some level of protection embedded in their systems, the risk of malign digital infiltration has never been greater.

Even if you are one of the few who practice first-rate cyber hygiene across your desktop and mobile devices, as the number of “smart devices” in your orbit increases, so too does your risk of being hacked.

The problem stems from the laughably deficient security protocols installed on these devices. The security technology installed in your



vacuum or networked lighting was added as an afterthought, if it was added at all. The qualitative and legislative requirements that enforce higher security standards for software and computers don’t apply to your internet-connected things (this is a real thing).

But these devices are connected to the same network that your desktop computer is connected to, the same network that your phones join when you walk through the front door,

and that your tablet uses to stream video. All of which means any halfway decent hacker can exploit the weakness of your connected TV’s security to access the information contained on other devices connected to that network.

Given the rapidly increasing “attack-surface” these 14 billion smart devices provide the hackers of the world, it begs the question: for all their claimed efficiencies, are “smart” things really just a dumb idea? ●

## MELBOURNE ZOO

# Melbourne Zoo herd welcomes female elephant calf

*Melbourne Zoo is celebrating the safe arrival of a healthy female elephant calf, the first of three expected by January 2023.*

After spending a week behind-the-scenes to bond quietly with mother Dokkoon and the rest of the Asian elephant herd, visitors can now see the Zoo’s newest arrival for themselves.

Melbourne Zoo Trail of the Elephants Life Sciences Manager, Erin Gardiner, said the team was taking its cues from mum and bub.

“We are taking a very slow, hands-off approach for these first precious few weeks,” Ms Gardiner said.

“Dokkoon is a very experienced mother, so we have been watching her closely and letting her behaviour guide when and how we introduce her calf to the other members of the herd and our visitors.”

“There may be days when the calf needs quiet and may not be out in public view.”

“We know many people will be bursting with excitement to see her, but rest assured she will stay small for a long time and there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to meet her.”

Dokkoon gave birth to the calf at 1am on Wednesday, November 16 surrounded by other female members of Melbourne Zoo’s tightly bonded Asian Elephant herd.

The birth follows a 22-month pregnancy during which Zoo vets and keepers carefully monitored Dokkoon and the calf’s health.

The calf is the first to be born at Melbourne Zoo through natural conception, thanks to first-time father Luk Chai who arrived at Melbourne Zoo from Taronga Western Plains Zoo in December 2020.

Two more calves are due to be born at Melbourne Zoo by early next year, with Num



▲ Melbourne Zoo’s latest female elephant calf.

Photo: Zoos Victoria.

Oi and Mali also pregnant.

The simultaneous pregnancies mean the calves will be raised by the entire herd, with huge benefits for herd cohesion, social development and the natural raising of young elephants.

Zoos Victoria’s 350,000 members have been

given the opportunity to help name the new arrival.

Zoos Victoria is part of a regional breeding program for Asian Elephants, which are classified as endangered in the wild by the International Union for Conservation of

*Dokkoon is a very experienced mother, so we have been watching her closely and letting her behaviour guide when and how we introduce her calf to the other members of the herd and our visitors.*



Nature’s Red List.

Zoos Victoria also maintains an international partnership with Fauna & Flora International, which is undertaking fieldwork in Vietnam to establish wild elephant numbers and to better understand the threats Asian Elephants face in the region.

The entire Asian Elephant herd, including the calves, will move from Melbourne Zoo to Werribee Open Range Zoo in 2024, following completion of an \$88 million expansion funded by the Victorian Government.

Zoo members and visitors can follow the calf’s progress via Zoos Victoria’s official social channels. ●

## EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## JWHT Douglas: gentleman cricketer

*With the coming of summer, a major event in the East Melbourne area is the Boxing Day Test at the MCG. This year's match will be between Australia and South Africa.*

WORDS BY *Tim Holland*

PRESIDENT – EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The MCG has been an iconic venue in world sport over a long period. It is the place where Test cricket was born, the very first Test being played there in March 1877 between Australia and England.

Only last month the MCG hosted the T20 World Cup final, having previously hosted three World Cup finals in the One Day International competitions (two for the men, and one for the women). It was also the venue for the athletics competition and the opening and closing ceremonies for the 1956 Olympics.

The ground is probably best known in this country as the host of the AFL Grand Final, and as the birthplace of Australian Rules football.

The stadium is justly famous for the range of major events that have been held there over more than 150 years. In that time there have been some interesting personalities who have generated colourful stories associated with their performances at the MCG, particularly in the sphere of cricket.

One such figure is John William Henry Tyler Douglas. Douglas was born in London in 1882, only days after England lost the Test match that gave rise to the Ashes legend, and not far from the Oval, the venue of that fateful match. Born close in time and place to the origins of the Ashes, Douglas was destined not only to represent his country in Ashes Tests but also to captain it in Ashes contests either side of the First World War. After leading his country to a 4-1 series win in Australia in 1911-12 he returned in 1920-21 to face a 5-0 whitewash from the home side.

Douglas was an all-rounder, being a competent batter as well as a useful bowler. He came from a wealthy timber merchant background, and this allowed him to play as an amateur. Such players were known as "gentlemen" as distinct from "players", that is, professionals. Being a Gentleman was a qualification that was pretty much an essential prerequisite for someone to be able to captain England until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Interestingly, while Douglas was technically a Gentleman, stories abound about his very combative and hard-nosed behaviour on the ground, particularly in English county cricket.

Douglas cut a dashing figure in the field and at the crease, but that belied his batting style, which has been described as "obdurate". In fact, it was so obdurate that a barracker in the crowd at Melbourne in 1911-12 interpreted his initials JWHT as "Johnny Won't Hit Today". Douglas as captain was on a winning roll at the time and countered this by saying that the initials stood for "Johnny Won His Test".

His dour batting reputation was franked at the MCG in the 1911-12 series. At that time the stands on the southern



▲ JWHT Douglas c.1906.

Photo: Wikipedia.

side of the ground allowed a view of the trains passing along the railway lines between Richmond Station and Flinders St. As Douglas walked out onto the ground to bat, he heard one spectator bet another that more trains would pass the ground while Douglas was at the wicket than he would make runs. The trains won by 23!

It is quite eerie looking at photographs of the crowds at the MCG in that series and seeing the panoramic images of hundreds of young men within range of the camera. Enjoying their day at the cricket these young men had no idea of the carnage that many of them would be a part of within a few short years with the coming of the First World War. Douglas himself served in the British army, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

In an era where sports people more frequently played at the highest level in more than one sport than is the case now, Douglas was one such person. Apart from captaining England at cricket in an Ashes-winning series down under, Douglas won the gold medal in middleweight boxing at the 1908 London Olympics. In doing so he beat Snowy Baker, a celebrated Australian athlete, sports promoter and film actor.

The circumstances of Douglas's tragic death at the age of 48 were also noteworthy. He had travelled to Finland with his father to buy timber.

On the return trip in heavy fog their ship was rammed by another ship and sank immediately. Incredibly the two ships were captained by brothers who were attempting to exchange Christmas greetings with each other and came too close to each other in the limited visibility. It was reported that Douglas died attempting to save his father from drowning, but both perished.

It was a tragic end for an English sportsman whose reputation had such a close connection to the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Tim Holland – president East Melbourne Historical Society  
[info@emhs.org.au](mailto:info@emhs.org.au)  
[emhs.org.au](http://emhs.org.au) ●

## EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK

## Community Day in East Melbourne

*November has been a very active and busy month for the East Melbourne community. On Sunday, November 20 we had a Community Fete and Sausage Sizzle in Powlett Reserve.*



Jenny Owen rallied the community to organise the event with the sponsorship of the City of Melbourne. It was a day packed with activities including e-scooter demonstrations, a dog parade, a Zumba party, craft stalls, local group information tables and of course the ubiquitous Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire Teas.

A huge thank you to all who helped organise the event and to those who participated in the fun.

### Morning Coffee

Under a heavy sky and with humid conditions 35 congregated at the Henderson household for our monthly morning coffee get-together.

It being November 11, at the appropriate time all present observed a minute's silence. Given the situation in Ukraine at the moment it was a timely reminder of the suffering war brings to everyone concerned.

Once again, the issue of the white tiles at street corners was raised as a safety issue. There have been many incidents of pedestrians slipping and falling on them, sometimes leading to ambulances being needed. We continue to ask the council to replace them with the safer granite ones ...

East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) has incorporated, with a committee formed, and this has allowed us to apply for grants to pay such things as insurance. Thank you to Ann-Maree Eckersley for all the work she did to secure these grants for us.

- The City of Melbourne has provided a grant to help the community choir. This will begin in February next year and we are still accepting willing singers. This is an un-auditioned choir, so all are welcome.
- The City of Melbourne has provided a grant to assist with the operational costs of the group.

Tim Holland gave a talk about his links with East Melbourne through various family connections and

provided some war stories about his career at the TPC/ACCC over the years in the area of mergers administration. We were all entertained by the "inside" stories and goings on.

### East Melbourne Community Christmas Picnic

The EMNN and the East Melbourne Group invite everyone to come along to our joint Community Christmas party to be held at Bishops Court on Saturday, December 17, 2pm to 5pm.

Come and celebrate the festive season with neighbours, friends, children and grandchildren. Bring along a rug and picnic and enjoy an afternoon of Christmas carols, music and entertainment including:

- Rechoired Community Choir singing Christmas songs
- Soloists – Lino del Guidice, Alexandra Lidgerwood, and John Lidgerwood.
- Children's face painting
- Santa on a fire truck
- Market stalls
- Cake stalls

### Health and Wellbeing Program

The EMNN is now working on our Health & Wellbeing timetable for Term 1, 2023 at Powlett Community Room. New ideas are sought from the community as we seek to provide additional meaningful, fun, and engaging activities for all age groups. Any resident of any age who would like to get involved – the EMNN would love to hear from you. Your ideas and involvement will help strengthen our community and enhance the health and wellbeing of your neighbours.

Contact – Susan Henderson or Ann-Maree Eckersley at [EMNN3002@gmail.com](mailto:EMNN3002@gmail.com) ●

## PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

## Party in the Park

*Parkville residents celebrated the return of their "Party in the Park" for the first time in three years. In spite of the inclement weather a decision was made to continue with the event on November 20.*

Going to bed on Saturday night, the heavens opened and the forecast for Sunday was rain all day. Waking up at 4am and looking at the weather radar it appeared miraculously to show no rain! At 9am the team assembled at Levers Reserve to set up for the day. Ryan and his team from Naughtons pushed the bar down and we built the small marquees. By 10.30am all was done and ready for the crowd to arrive.

At midday Stuart and Nikki of the Parkville ensemble and their two fellow musicians arrived and

started playing. After two pieces, the rain poured, and they had to cancel their performance. This was very sad and didn't bode well for the day. Amazingly though the sun peaked through, and the rest of the day was a great success!

Pictured are students from University High who played as the "Jazz Hands". They were most enthusiastic and very good musicians. University High School has been a part of Parkville since 1930 and the Parkville Association is thrilled that we are building a great relationship

with them. Thanks to its principal Ciar Foster and the team.

Many thanks to all who attended and, of course, the two Ryans from Naughtons and their team. Thanks also to Nelson Alexander for providing the coffee. Our partnership is going very well!

Most of this month has been focused on the VCAT action taking place at the Compulsory Conference on December 1. The proposed development at 35-39 Royal Parade is not suitable for Parkville for many reasons and was, as advised previously, rejected by the council. The developer is appealing so the Parkville Association is heavily involved in fighting the appeal.

Community is a wonderful thing and the response our appeal for donations to assist our legal costs

has shown that spirit. As the first heritage-listed suburb in Victoria we are very proud of the wonderful streetscapes and beautifully maintained homes built from 1873 onwards.

2023 is the sesquicentenary of Parkville and we are already planning some great activities next year.

November is the month for battles and we are also working hard on ensuring Grattan St reopens when the reinstatement works are complete. We were promised that post construction of Parkville Station, Grattan St would reopen however constant rumours indicate a change of heart.

While we work closely with planners and appreciate their good work sometimes they need to realise the pain caused by decisions. Sitting in

peak hour trying to drive to Carlton via College Crescent can take more than 30 minutes for the two-kilometre trip. We will continue this fight and hopefully common sense will prevail!

Hopefully warm weather returns soon, and we can enjoy walking our wonderful suburb! ●



Rob Moore

PRESIDENT

[PRESIDENTPARKVILLEASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PRESIDENTPARKVILLEASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM)

# An early Grand Final

*This photo shows what a football grand final match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground looked like in 1907.*



▲ Football grand final between Carlton and South Melbourne at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1907. Photo: Blueseum.

It was a clash between Carlton and South Melbourne. The Carlton players are wearing the early club uniform of mid-blue with beige shoulders. The dark blue guernsey with the white monogram on the front was not adopted by the Carlton club until 1909. The guernseys were made of canvas and laced up at the front. The South Melbourne uniform was a white guernsey with a red diagonal sash and red and white striped socks.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground was not as undeveloped as this photo would indicate. If the camera had been pointed in another direction, it would have shown several large grandstands holding many tens of thousands of people. According to newspaper reports at the time, attendance at this match was around 41,000.

The grand final was a close and hard-fought one in which neither team was able to obtain a commanding lead. The play was fast, at times desperately hard, and on a few occasions, nasty. At three-quarter time Carlton led by 15 points, and so close were the scores in the final quarter that one straight shot by South Melbourne at any time in the last 10 minutes would have given them a win. But Carlton managed to hold them off to win by just five points.

Shortly after this grand final win, the Carlton team travelled to South Australia to play the local state champions, Norwood, in the Club Championship of Australia. Norwood managed to do what few other teams could do, defeat Carlton 13 goals 12 behinds (90



*The win in 1907 made it two premierships in a row for Carlton, for they had won the flag the previous year.*



points) to eight goals 10 behinds (58 points). The win in 1907 made it two premierships in a row for Carlton, for they had won the flag the previous year. They went on to win the premiership the following year as well, making it three flags in a row, and came close to winning a fourth in 1909. This made Carlton one of the strongest teams in the newly established Victorian Football League (VFL).

The VFL had been formed in 1896 when six clubs broke away from the established Victorian Football Association (VFA) to form a new league. They were six of the strongest clubs – Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Melbourne and South Melbourne. The following year they invited two more VFA clubs, Carlton and St Kilda, to join the VFL for its inaugural season in 1897. The VFL introduced several new innovations to the game including having an annual finals tournament and a grand final at the end of a season, instead of awarding the premiership to the team with the best

*The grand final was a close and hard-fought one in which neither team was able to obtain a commanding lead. The play was fast, at times desperately hard, and on a few occasions, nasty.*



record over the season.

Although the VFL and VFA continued to compete for spectator interest for many years, the VFL soon established itself as the premier competition in Victoria. In those early years, the dominant teams in the League were Fitzroy and Collingwood. But following the arrival of a new coach, Jack Worrall, at Carlton in 1903, the Blues began a period of domination, including their three premierships in a row from 1906 to 1908. ●



Jeff Atkinson

PRESIDENT CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP  
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## CARLTON ROTARY

# Rotarians walk to end polio

*World Polio Day was on October 24, when we were all reminded of the wonderful work that has been done to reduce 99.9 per cent of the annual polio cases that had occurred in 1988.*



But how much more still needs to be done. We are so close to eradicating only the second disease in human history, after smallpox.

Rotary International (RI) has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years by launching PolioPlus in 1985. This was the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative, with an initial fundraising target of US\$120 million. At that time there were almost 40,000 cases worldwide.

By 2000 a record 550 million children – almost 10 per cent of the world's population – had received the oral polio vaccine. The Western Pacific region, spanning from Australia to China, was declared polio-free.

The number of polio-endemic countries had dropped to four by 2006 – Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

In 2009 Rotary's overall contribution to the eradication effort neared \$800 million and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$355 million. Because India went three full years without a new case caused by wild poliovirus, the World Health Organization certified the South-East Asia region polio-free.

The whole of Africa was certified wild polio-free in 2020.

Although polio is now only endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, hundreds of millions of children are still vaccinated every year to ensure it does not spread.

Rotary Clubs and individual members have now contributed more than \$2.1 billion through the Rotary Foundation, and countless volunteer

hours to protect nearly three billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have also played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

To acknowledge World Polio Day, Rotary in Australia and New Zealand encouraged members and their friends and family to "Walk With Us" during October, for those who can't.

Rotary Club of Carlton members, family and friends raised \$4220. Every \$100 raised buys 300 Super Combo Vaccines for Polio, Measles and Tetanus. Therefore, Carlton Rotary's contributions would buy enough vaccine to prevent more than 12,500 children from dying or becoming permanently incapacitated from these easily preventable diseases.

However, if all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could again paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year. ●



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## INNER CITY NEWS

# Wish your inbox was more local?

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# I wanted to be a ballet dancer

*It took Gregory Ladner 20 years to write his memoir.*

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*

A renowned Melbourne couturier, co-owner-creator of a successful fashion accessories business, East Melbourne resident and renovator, and fashion industry survivor of 40 years published *A Boy and his Bear* in October.

In the days before blogs became fashionable, Mr Ladner worked in Hong Kong and sent emails to friends in Melbourne, regaling them with what he was doing.

During the lockdown, when he had time on his hands, he sat down, collated, and added to all the emails to create his memoir.

Mr Ladner and his husband, Mark Grenville, live in what was previously a Lutheran Church in Hotham St, East Melbourne.

"I thought we could do it up and then flip it," Mr Ladner said.

"But I couldn't do that as there is nowhere else in Melbourne that I would live."

"When I first saw it, in a minute, I knew what I would do with it."

"I took the roof off the church and made a garden where the congregation used to sit."

Like all Lutheran churches, the exterior of the building is very plain and almost invisible in its simplicity among the usual East Melbourne mansions, terrace houses and grandiose renovations.

"East Melbourne is a village, and everyone knows everyone," he said.

Once inside the front door, the garden and



▲ *Ted and Gregory Ladner.*

*Photo: Carol Saffer.*

"He had my best interests at heart and wanted to make sure I could make it in life."

The idea of being an artist or a ballet dancer did not go down well with his father.

Mr Ladner's career in fashion started when he was four years old and making dresses for Teddy, his toy bear.

His father had a dress designer cousin who drove a bright orange Capri and was doing well financially.

"My dad said to me, 'this is what you should do.'"

"So, I taught myself how to sew and made dresses for my mother and the neighbours."

He studied fashion at what was then Prahran Tech and is now part of the Swinburne University of Technology.

During the last year of the degree, each student had to make three garments for judging and final marks.

"I made 30," Mr Ladner said.

"I got better the more I made, and I also made money."

Historian and Academic Geoffrey Blainey is Mr Ladner's next-door neighbour.

For the book's forward, Mr Blainey wrote, "He learned how to combine or contrast different materials and colours in daring ways ... impressive is the way he makes the profession seem intelligible and often fascinating."

Teddy is still with him. ●



*Carol Saffer*

JOURNALIST

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pond in the courtyard whisk you away to another world.

Each of the enormous stepping stones was transported over the front exterior wall by

mobile crane, with Mr Ladner directing the exact positioning of each one.

He grew up in Footscray; his dad was a policeman and "thought I was a sissy."

## PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

# Affordable housing and the state election

*The election results are in, and a new government will either ignore or choose to deal with housing affordability problems of hundreds of thousands of Victorians of all ages.*

The Labor, Liberal and National parties raised nothing new to deal with the crisis. They did not commit to change the current direction away from estate demolitions and redevelopment that gift investors, developers and community housing organisations with free land and funding to NOT build public housing.

In a letter to *The Age* (November 23, 2022), resident of the Barak Beacon public housing estate Margaret Kelly described how the previous government made: "a huge change to how low-income housing is provided and doing it under the umbrella term 'social housing', with the knowledge that few people will understand the difference between the funding models, or their consequences. Community housing is always more expensive and less secure for tenants. Regulations and rents vary wildly between organisations. They accept funding from private investors and therefore have to be profit driven."

Labor said nothing about a 10-year housing strategy that it had spent the previous 18 months consulting on, nor did it release the recommendations from an inquiry into the regulation of public, community and (their own definition of)

affordable housing.

Public housing estate redevelopments with market rent and so-called affordable housing saw the definition of affordable in this period change, though, from 80 per cent local market rent to 90 per cent without any transparency on how this was calculated. The only conclusion to be drawn is that it was changed to lift returns to investors.

The Save Public Housing Collective's (SPHC) petition on this proposed strategy had close to 6000 signatories wanting public housing to be at the centre of new government investments:



### Affordable housing and homelessness advocacy groups

In the lead-up to the election an alliance of organisations that included the Victorian Council of Social Services, the Victorian Public Tenants' Association, Community Housing Industry Association and the Council to Homeless Persons (Alliance) released a platform that focuses on the Commonwealth Games to be held in Victoria in 2026.

With the Commonwealth Games being held across major regional centres there are real fears in these communities that private rental housing will become more unaffordable and that there will be a further drive to



demolish public housing estates and redevelop them to fit the Games' accommodation needs.

The Alliance called for only 6000 new social housing dwellings to be added per year for the next 10 years and set a very modest target of only 30 per cent of new housing for the games be retained as "social" not public housing. It was as though they were briefed or already understood the historical neoliberal mix adopted under numerous public private housing partnerships in Australia, with 70 per cent for private dwellings being the magic number for minimal expenditure by government and a guarantee of profits for investors.

The SPHC estimates that by the end of this year close to 58,000 households – more than 123,000 adults and children – will be on the Victorian Housing Register (waiting list) by the end of this year.

The SPHC also estimates that the average trend for the past six years of more than 4000 new applicant households per year will be the minimum expected growth, so the

Alliance's numbers when you add in public housing demolition plans – that they did not criticise – means 6000 will not solve the housing affordability crisis in Victoria now, nor in 10 years.

The maths tell us the Alliance was not advocating seriously for Victorian households in crisis now and in growing numbers in the years to come. They very much appear to accept the position that private investors can solve the affordability crisis when it has only got worse under their historic dominance in new dwelling construction. There is an unresolvable conflict between profits and affordable housing justice.

### Genuine housing affordability campaigning – return to public housing

With the election out of the way hopefully public housing tenants and their community supporters can strengthen campaigning and be joined by those who are on the waiting list and other households desperate to gain access to secure, affordable housing.

At the Ascot Vale and Barak Beacon (Port Melbourne) estates we have seen Retain, Repair and Reinvest studies carried out by the fantastic not-for-profit design and research team Office demonstrate how these estates can be retained and have more public housing built:



The costs of these studies were funded by public housing supporters in Victoria.

Tenants were able to gain some publicity during the election campaign period over the shocking neglect of their homes in need of major repairs for many years.

**I want to see these voices getting louder and succeeding in convincing the new Victorian parliament to move away from thinking private investors will fix the crisis and force the new government to return to public housing investment: new construction and repairing what we have!** ●



*Cory Memery*

CITY OF MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020

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## Koorie Heritage Trust ends the year on a celebratory high

*To celebrate the start of the festive season, the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) is busily preparing for its annual family friendly Koorie Krismas, but not before it also celebrates 10 years of the Koorie Art Show.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

While a busy way to round off the year, both events are a chance for KHT to not only showcase the amazing artistic works of the Victorian First Nations community, but to also celebrate the holiday season with the broader community.

The Koorie Art Show and the Koorie Art Show Young Mob, which has been added on for the past five years, will have their community launch day on Saturday, December 3 with the award winners announced that same day.

Describing the art show as a “fantastic legacy”, KHT chief executive officer Tom Mosby said they really wanted to make the launch day “a special day” given they weren’t only celebrating an important year, but it was the show’s first time back on-site since pre-pandemic.

“We have presented well over 1000 artworks from more than 350 artists here in Victoria, and had about \$160,000 worth of prizes awarded over the ten years, so celebrating 10 years is a great thing for us,” Mr Mosby said.

This year, more than 100 artists will have their work and stories shared in the Koorie Art Show, with presentations ranging from works on paper, photography, sculpture, multimedia, to fibre art,



▲ Tom Mosby.



▲ Fed Square Christmas. Photo: Liam Neal. NearFarProduction.

and 49 of the artists are first-time entrants.

Opening up the entries to first-timers is of particular importance to KHT, as it strives to make it the type of show that is inclusive to all First Nations artists.

“The Koorie Art Show is the only award show of its kind specifically for the Victoria First Nations community, including the Koorie community, and all Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander artists who have lived in Victoria,” Mr Mosby said.

“It is all inclusive and for all artists, whether you are an established artist, an emerging artist, or just a Saturday painter who works out in your back shed.”

Included within this year’s awards is the \$3000 Josh Muir Digital Art Award.

For KHT it is an award that takes the time to honour and remember young Ballarat artist Josh Muir who sadly passed away earlier this

year.

Describing Josh as a “rising star, not just in the First Nations Indigenous industry, but also generally, Mr Mosby said the award was about acknowledging Josh as a “great young artist and role model for new artists”.

Josh was always a strong supporter of KHT, and even entered into the very first show that was held in 2013.

He then continued on to participate in the show up until 2018, winning a number of prizes along the way for his curiosity and well-known digital works.

All entries for the Koorie Art Show will also be eligible for the following awards:

- \$10,000 Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in Any Media
- \$5000 Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award
- \$5000 City of Melbourne Aboriginal

Melbourne Award

- \$5000 Lendlease Reconciliation Award
- \$5000 Viva Energy Australia 3D Award
- \$5000 RMIT University Emerging Artist Award
- 2 x \$500 KHT’s Encouragement Awards
- \$1000 KHT’s People’s Choice Award

As well as attending the launch day to hear the winners announced, attendees also have the opportunity to purchase their favourite works, although they will have to remain displayed until the show wraps up on February 19.

In addition to the excitement of preparing for the Koorie Art Show and the Koorie Art Show Young Mob, KHT is also looking forward to being able to celebrate “the start of the holiday season, but in a very special First Nations way”.

“We have put on Koorie Krismas here at Federation Square ever since we moved to the square back in 2015, [and] it’s for our community and the broader community as well, to get together and celebrate, and explore all aspects of Koorie culture,” Mr Mosby said.

“We will have music, market stalls with gifts and crafts that people can buy for Christmas presents, and also creative workshops with First Nation creative artists, designers and craftspeople, and people can come along and make things to give away as Christmas gifts.”

Also making a special appearance on the day, as has been done every year, is Koorie Klaus, who has continued to prove a hit with the young kids.

Koorie Krismas will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 10am until 3pm at Federation Square outside KHT, with performers on the main stage.

While anyone and everyone is welcomed to attend the Koorie Krismas extravaganza, KHT is asking for people to RSVP for the Koorie Art Show for catering purposes. ●

### WE LIVE HERE

## A legal labyrinth

*Navigating the legislative changes affecting owners’ corporations (OCs) over the past four years is quite a challenge. We offer this thread to help you through the maze:*

The *Owners’ Corporations Act 2006* has had two acts incorporated:

- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act No 4 2021* – a range of welcome reforms with noticeable omissions.
- The unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* – the so-called “Airbnb party bill”. This Act was supposed to be reviewed in 2020 and the review is now scheduled “between 2023 and 2027”. This Act has been treated as an amendment, despite its standalone name.

If you want to find the latest version of the *Owners Corporations Act 2006*, search for the “Authorised version 019”, dated December 1, 2021. This version has annotations showing where the amendments have been made.

We Live Here has ongoing dialogue with Consumer Affairs Victoria, which is part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety. In our most recent meeting, we learned that the proposed review of the *Owners’ Corporations Act 2006* during the term of the next government would cover both acts that were incorporated into the Act.

Short-stay accommodation was excluded from the 2014 review of the Act because of planning issues. Have these issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable. The short-stay legislation has been tested twice recently – sadly the plaintiff residents struggled to prosecute the most fundamental types of claims against

commercial short-stay interests.

In both cases the VCAT member sided with the short-stay operators.

- In the first case, the OC recognised that the VCAT member’s expressed sentiments did not bode well. The OC quietly negotiated a compromise settlement for the damage done to their building.
- In the second case, which was also lost, the OC was left frustrated and fuming because the law requiring three consecutive breaches was prohibitive.

After four years of so-called short-stay party laws, the number of VCAT orders we can find in favour of residents is still zero. If you know of any exceptions, please let us know.

Turning to the positives, the 2021 amendments introduced some long-overdue reforms to resolve unfair practices in the appointment of OC managers. The reforms limit the common practice of apartment developers awarding long-term OC managers contracts to associates. The legislation targets these ball-and-chain contracts, limiting terms and outlawing clauses that require a special resolution to remove a manager. We Live Here applauds the overall reforms – they are closely aligned with the recommendations we have made for several years. Regrettably, there was a huge oversight in these reforms; similar principles should apply to all contracts, particularly building or facilities management. There are some inner-city apartment buildings whose committees are burdened with one-sided, irrevocable facilities management contracts, for 20 years or more. The excessive tenure of these contracts can breed contempt and disrespect for committee members and owners. The government must regulate these contracts with the same type of reforms that apply now to OC manager contracts.

### Builder’s roadblock: residents turn to the council

Residents at a La Trobe St apartment building are furious over a neighbouring builder’s

plan to create traffic chaos for at least four years.

The builder has reached stage 2 of a twin tower project. Rather than use the vicinity of its first tower for stage 2 construction traffic management, the builder plans to endanger and distress hundreds of neighbouring residents.

The affected OC has contacted We Live Here, hoping we can help.

The OC has already put its case to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, and councillors Rohan Leppert and Davydd Griffiths:

The OC said, “To date, there has been zero community consultation and so we are contacting [the council] directly. We have already contacted the site services of the Melbourne City Council, which has repeatedly referred us to [the builder], and when we have contacted [the builder], they have refused to engage with us in any meaningful way or respond to our genuine questions and queries.”

This case highlights problems at intersection of the state and municipal tiers of government:

- severe deficiencies in the building approval process, in this case overseen by the former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.
- flawed traffic management processes – the responsibility of the City of Melbourne, although the council does not have an active role in the implementation.

We Live Here suggests that any residential building that could be affected by a new development must be consulted in the early planning stages so that proactive measures can be taken to ensure resident safety, minimise noise and preserve amenity.

The La Trobe St residents in this matter should not have been placed in this intolerable position.

### An OC recovers

We have been following a long-running resident challenge to a developer-dominated OC. Nerida Pohl has this update:

“After amended laws enabled fresh new candidates to be elected, residents have complimented the obvious changes.

- The previous committee members (three of the committee of five) removed their real estate agency from our residential lounge, which can be enjoyed now by all residents.
- After the cleaning company of the members was replaced, we now can instruct our cleaners independently.
- We have sub-committees working on freshening the landscape, energy and waste reduction issues, pool and gym upgrades, management of short-stay visitors.
- A lawyer is representing the committee against the forces of the shopping plaza, which still tries to keep us out of our private undercover loading dock and goods lift.

We are optimistic going into the new year that we can put all this behind us.”

We Live Here is delighted to hear there has been positive progress – a vindication of the stoic determination of Nerida and fellow residents to fight for a representative and productive committee.

### Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit [welivehere.net](http://welivehere.net). We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests. ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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QVM TRADER PROFILE



## Improving the Ambiance of Melbourne homes this December

*While sisters Connie and Mel Martino's Ambiance shop may be open all year round, this month is the time when it truly shines.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

As a dedicated Christmas shop, the duo said it prides itself on being a "world class" store that has continued to offer a range of beautiful and delicately crafted festive items for the past 25 years.

Celebrating the monumental anniversary this past August has been a truly special time for the sisters, who have seen the way their store has continued to serve two to three generations of families.

"When we started in 1997, people were bringing in their sons and daughters, and now 25 years later, those same children are grown up and bringing in their own children," Connie said.

"It's a generational thing and it's a truly lovely story."

While Connie and Mel grew up in a family that loved, and continues to love, Christmas and decorating for the festive season, it was never their original intention to always have a Christmas shop.

But once they started to entertain the idea, there was no turning back.

"Mel was a primary school teacher and I worked in the office of a secondary school, and then one day she rang me and said she didn't want to do that anymore and she was going to take long service leave and open a Christmas shop," Connie said.

"She said, 'why don't you join me, and we can do it together, because I can't do it on my own,' and I thought it was a big step, but we then literally started the business from scratch."

Moving into the empty shop on Elizabeth St was in fact a big step indeed, but once they were finished clearing out the mess left behind from the previous owner, their dream quickly came to fruition.

"We didn't even have a cash register, we just had a little wooden box we used to put money in, but then we just grew and grew from there," Connie said.

"It started just as a gift shop, but then when it got closer to Christmas everyone kept saying they couldn't find lovely Christmas gifts anywhere, and we too couldn't find beautiful

Christmas items, because in 1997 people were just putting tinsel all over their tree because that's all they had."

Seeing a gap in the market that aligned with their favourite celebration, they started researching, speaking to others, and in no time became a dedicated all year-round Christmas shop filled with all the Christmas-themed products you could ever need.

"People are always very much drawn to our ornaments because we specialise in beautiful, stunning and unique ornaments that other people don't have, and we also have products made from all over the world," Connie said.

"We also like to have as many Australian products as we can, so we have beautiful Australian Christmas tea towels made right here in Melbourne, and Christmas cinnamon sticks, candles and soaps, all made here in Australia."

As well as being passionate about their store, Connie said they also loved where they were situated in the Queen Victoria Market.

"The actual atmosphere is brilliant and there are people from all over the world and Australia, and it is just such a wonderful, vibrant and exciting place to be," she said.

"We have loved seeing how the market has evolved and it's just really breath-taking."

Ambiance is located at 509-511 Elizabeth St and is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. ●

“

*People are always very much drawn to our ornaments because we specialise in beautiful, stunning and unique ornaments that other people don't have, and we also have products made from all over the world.*

”

**For more information:**  
[ambiancegifts.com.au](http://ambiancegifts.com.au)



## Perfectly crafted chocolate shop provides a burst of flavour for QVM's Munro Build

*Eight years ago, Anya Tran and Jason Stockton were casually discussing their dream to one day have their own business and, come July this year, they were opening the doors to their very first city located chocolate shop Only Mine.*

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

While specialising in producing handcrafted chocolates was not always the obvious answer for the couple, it did quickly become their passion when they started experimenting, and since then they haven't looked back.

"We were both pretty driven people and were thinking about starting a business when one day I was baking and I said to Anya, 'I really like baking with chocolate,' and she said, 'that's funny because I have always wanted to own a dessert store,'" Mr Stockton said.

Choosing to ditch their weekend plans of going to the movies, the couple stocked up on what they thought was enough chocolate at the time – two kilograms – and started experimenting.

"Turns out it wasn't much chocolate once you start a business like this, but we took some to work and people loved them," Mr Stockton said.

"Neither of us had any experience in chocolate and self-taught ourselves. But being naive allowed us to create the products that we did initially, especially because they are quite different and unique."

While neither coming from a cooking background, with Mr Stockton having previously worked in IT and e-commerce and Ms Tran in accounting, their skill sets still proved to be quite handy when it came to creating and expanding Only Mine.

"Five years ago, we opened our first store in Olinda, in the Dandenong Ranges, which was also our factory, but then we outgrew the space and so converted it into a store and built a bigger factory in Cranbourne West," he said.

"This allowed us to open our first CBD store, which had been on the cards for quite some time."

Drawn to the location of the store, due to being situated adjacent to Queen Victoria Market in the new Munro precinct, Mr Stockton said they were "excited" to share their products more, now that they were no longer "blocked by construction".

Making up the store is a wide range of handcrafted and hand-painted chocolates, that are so perfectly displayed and crafted that they run the risk of being too beautiful to eat.

But with the products being "as much about the flavour as the look", customers can be assured that upon first bite their minds will be blown.

Only Mine's speciality staple range is the bon bon packs, and while Mr Stockton said many customers were originally drawn to the more common flavours, such as salted caramel, they



often came back for the more intriguing flavours of dried apple and cinnamon, lemon and peppermint, or Himalayan salted lime.

"The thing about us and our products is we have always been about balance and finding flavours that go well with a particular chocolate, whether it is milk, white, dark, or even Swiss or Belgian chocolate," he said.

"We find a lot of chocolates on the market will say they are a certain flavour but you either don't really get that flavour in it, or you'll get too much of the flavour and it's not a chocolate anymore. For us it's all about balance and finding the right pairing."

Creating chocolates that are unlike anything else that floods the market, means Only Mine has established itself as the perfect gift, and with Christmas fast approaching it's already thinking ahead with the recent launch of its Christmas range.

From gift packs that spread the Christmas cheer to limited edition Advent calendars to selfishly indulge in without having to share, Only Mine is ensuring everyone is prepared.

"Head in the store to get your Christmas shopping sorted because we have something for everybody, and this Advent calendar is the best I have seen on the market," Mr Stockton said.

When visiting the store for your next chocolate treat, don't forget to also grab a signature hot chocolate made with real chocolate, or a mocha or iced drink, and "see what you have been missing out on".

Only Mine is located at 13 Dhanga Djeembana Walk and is open from Tuesday through to Sunday, from 9am to 5pm, and from 10am on Wednesdays. ●

**For more information:**  
[onlymine.com.au](http://onlymine.com.au)



# 呼吁安装安全摄像头

11月19日卡尔顿社区因另一起暴力事件而震惊，这一次导致两名男子被刺伤后送往医院。

*Brendan Rees*

警方在凌晨4点前接到报告，赶到Little Cardigan巷现场，据报一群袭击者袭击了两名男子。

维多利亚警方表示，一名30岁来自Niddrie的男子腹部多处刺伤，而另一名身份不明的男子则遭到了严重殴打。

两人都被送往医院，没有生命危险。一位警方发言人说：“警察很快就到达现场，但罪犯在他们到达之前就逃走了。”

“据信当时在场有很多人，警方希望与任何目击者交谈。”

高级警官Paul Topham表示，这起事件非常可怕，是“可能夺走生命的可怕、愚蠢的行为”。

在发布此消息时，Topham先生表示，警方无法与两人中的任何一名受害者交谈，以确定他们与罪犯之间的关系，(如果有的话)，“如果他们已经是认识的话”。

目击者Chloe Farnsworth告诉9号新闻台记者，她听到有人在混乱中大喊“抓住



他，让我们扯平，让我们扯平，打、打、打”。

商家店主对这一事件感到震惊，但相信警方正在尽一切努力打击这个地区的犯罪活动。

Tiamo餐厅的Fab Succi表示：“这里肯定有更多的青少年犯罪活动，而警察也只能做这么多了，警察不可能去每个地方。”

“我真不知道这个问题的答案是什么，这确实很难解决。我觉得现在每当卡尔顿发生什么事，肯定就发生在我们的门口。”

任何人目击此事件、有闭路电视录像或信息，请致电1800 333 000与制止犯罪组织联系，或访问 [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au) 作保密举报



# 道路安全项目 征求社区意见

墨尔本市政正在探索改善行人和道路安全的方法，可能会在东墨尔本推出新的行人过路斑马线和共享区域。

*Brendan Rees*

市政最近委托了一家咨询公司，对东墨尔本Jolimont地区所需的潜在道路和行人安全改善进行研究。

11月9日举行了在线信息会议和问答，让社区成员了解更多有关改进提案的信息。

市政表示，已经确定了一系列项目，这些项目将在未来三年内根据可获得的资金、社区的意向、专家的建议和成本效益分期实施。

拟议中的项目包括12个新的行人过路斑马线，7个共享道口，Albert街和Clarendon街的交通信号，以及沿Hoddle街的三个禁止左转信号。

据本报最近报道，东墨尔本在9月份已经引入了新的40公里/小时的限速，这一举措得到了州交通部的批准和居民的支持。

市政最近委托Movendo公司的交通工程顾问进行研究，包括对10年来社区提交材料的审查，以及对2014年至2019年期间行人流量、车辆速度和流量数据以及碰撞统计数据进行分析。

市政指出：“到目前为止，通过研究我们已经确定了一系列潜在的行人和道路安全改善项目，以及项目的高水平概念计划和成本估计，并制定了实施计划。”

在12月份该计划最终确定之前，市政将考虑社区的意见。工程计划将于2023年4月开工。

市政证实，一些优先项目已获得本财政年度的拨款。

市长Sally Capp表示，市政已经致力于改善整个城市的安全，目前正在探索一系列改进的方法，“让所有道路使用者更容易、更安全、更有效地通过东墨尔本区域”。

# 卡尔顿社区圣诞庆祝活动

12月17日星期六，Kathleen Syme图书馆将举行一年一度的社区圣诞庆祝活动。

*Carol Saffer*

此次庆祝活动将对社区开放，活动包括节日美食、互动音乐和舞蹈、圣诞老人的来访等等，还有面部彩绘和大型游艺机活动。

市长Sally Capp说：“圣诞节期间墨尔本将充满活力，我们的图书馆和社区中心是居民聚在一起庆祝这一年的重要场所。”

我们的社区可以在这次活动中，帮助装饰圣诞树、听现场音乐、创作圣诞工艺品、享受节日美食和欢迎圣诞老人的特别拜访。

活动的亮点之一将是Asanti舞蹈剧院的音乐剧表演。

导演Appiah Annan说：“我们是一家总部位于墨尔本的非洲传统和当代艺术表演公司，提供现场音乐、击鼓、舞蹈和杂技表演。”

三名音乐家演奏竖琴、鼓和一种有21根弦的西非乐器kora，将为一组舞者伴奏。



然后，表演者将向观众分发大约50个小型西非鼓，进行一次“呼唤与响应”互动击鼓表演。

Annan先生说“到时将会有很多热闹鼓声，乐趣非凡。”

墨尔本社区玩具图书馆将为青少年举办玩具活动。

市长Capp说“这个一年一度的庆祝活动将在充满活力、包容、喜庆和有趣的氛围中，让人们享受社区的欢乐。”

青年项目The Drum的负责人Emma Levit正与一个由12名来自不同背景的年轻人组成的小组合作，计划在活动中有出色的表现。

这个The Drum项目是由州政府的2022社区计划所资助。

整个社区圣诞庆祝活动是免费的，无需注册即可参加。

本次圣诞活动从上午11点持续到下午1点，地点在卡尔顿 Faraday街251号。

# 东墨尔本社区圣诞野餐

宏伟的Bishopscourt 庄园大门将于12月17日星期日下午打开，欢迎东墨尔本社区的成员，以音乐和娱乐活动来庆祝圣诞节。

*Carol Saffer*

这次庆祝活动将在壮观的庄园中举行，从青石墙后面可以窥视一瞥。

来自Surrey Hills社区合唱团Rechoired的30多位歌手将演唱圣诞颂歌和其他流行歌曲。

表演曲目还包括流行歌曲、民歌和三声部或四声部和声的古典歌曲。

当地独唱歌手Lino Del Grudice、— Alexandra Lidgerwood和她的父亲John Lidgerwood也将演唱传统和现代歌曲。

孩子们可以参加面部彩绘活动，下午迎接圣诞老人提前到访，从消防车上分发棒棒糖。

东墨尔本邻里网络主席Susan Henderson说，她期待着整个社区聚在一起度过一个快乐的下午。

Henderson女士说：“我认为观众会喜欢这种多样的娱乐形式，希望他们会跟着一起歌唱。”

“这次野餐活动得到了墨尔本市政的拨



款，这也是市政和东墨尔本团体的联合项目。”

“市政的拨款推动了当地居民团体能成

功举办类似这样的活动。”

希望居民邀请邻居和朋友一起参加，带上地毯、折叠椅、野餐篮子和饮料。

Henderson女士说，东墨尔本社区网络将为那些时间不够的人预定节日礼品篮。

“我们期待在这美丽的环境中度过一个愉快的下午，与我们的社区朋友一起庆祝佳节。”

Bishopscourt建于1848年，位于东墨尔本Clarendon街120号。

社区野餐活动将于下午2点至下午5点举行。整个活动是免费的，但欢迎入场时捐赠现金。

欲知更多信息和预订礼品篮。请联系 [emnn3002@gmail.com](mailto:emnn3002@gmail.com)

# What's On: December – January 2023

## Community Calendar



### WOMEN'S SOCIAL SOCCER (FREE)

Crawford Oval 121 Princes Park Drive  
Carlton North

Saturday afternoons 1pm to 3pm

Melbourne Social Soccer runs free social games for women.

Contact 0456 700 688  
admin@melbournesocialsoccer.com



DECEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 24.

### CHRISTMAS ROLLER RINK (FREE)

Get your skates on! Christmas has come to Carlton with a pop-up roller skating rink in Argyle Square. Whether it's whole-family fun or a cute date night, roll around to classic tunes with free entry and \$5 skate hire.

Bookings open 25 November – check back for more details.

Argyle Square  
153-159 Lygon Street, Carlton 3053

**FARMERS MARKET**  
Carlton North Primary School  
Every Sunday, 9am - 1pm  
Stalls selling fresh produce on primary school grounds.



UNTIL DECEMBER 31  
**Yarra: Stories of Melbourne's River**  
Old Treasury Building  
20 Spring St, East Melbourne 3002  
10am - 12pm | 1pm - 3pm  
03 9651 2233  
E: info@otb.org.au



DECEMBER 5.

### MONTHLY SOCIAL NIGHTS DECEMBER (FREE)

On the first Monday of each month, YMCA Victoria is hosting Social Nights at the Carlton Baths. From 6pm to 9pm, in the Green Room, the night will involve food and good company.

Carlton Baths, 248 Rathdowne Street

UNTIL JANUARY 31

### LOST JOBS: THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK (FREE)

Many jobs have vanished in Victoria over the years, while others have emerged, sometimes in completely new industries. The world of work is always changing.

Old Treasury Building  
20 Spring St, East Melbourne 3002

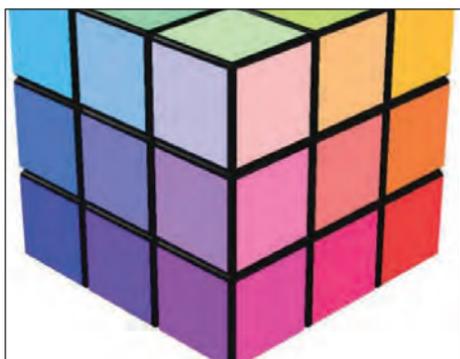
UNTIL DECEMBER 21

### FREE BEGINNER BACHATA DANCE CLASSES (FREE)

Get active, meet new people and have a really great time learning to dance Bachata

**Upstairs**  
1/171 Lygon St  
Carlton 3053

T: 0407 955 668



DECEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 18.

### RUBIK'S WORLD CUBE ASSOCIATION OCEANIC CHAMPIONSHIP (FREE)

Come along to watch 800 of the best speedcubers from Oceania as they compete in 17 events recognised by the World Cube Association.

Melbourne Sports Centres - Parkville  
10 Brens Dr, Parkville 3052



UNTIL JUNE 30.

### FITZROY GARDENS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE (FREE)

Entertain the kids by taking the outdoor adventure challenge in the heritage-listed Fitzroy Gardens. Suitable for primary school-aged children but adult assistance is necessary.

Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre  
Wellington Parade, East Melbourne 3002

## Business Directory

### Horse Racing

**SLADE Bloodstock**  
Racehorse Management & Syndication - AFS Licence 226373

**BUY A SHARE IN A RACEHORSE TODAY**

IT'S FAR MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU THINK  
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Contact Rob Slade now on 0417 036 865  
e: sladebl@bigpond.net.au  
www.sladebloodstock.com.au

### Politician

**ELLEN SANDELL**  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

### Real Estate

CAINE REAL ESTATE  
120 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne  
03 8413 8000  
sales@caine.com.au

SALES | LEASING | MANAGEMENT

### Shopping

**QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET**

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Saturday & Sunday  
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QVM.COM.AU

### Psychologist

**ADAM BANDT**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy  
(03) 9417 0772  
adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

THE GREENS

Dynamic Psychotherapy

0424 220 314  
admin@dynamicpsychotherapy.com.au  
dynamicpsychotherapy.com.au  
33 Drummond St Carlton 3053

### Tennis Coach

**DAN DONNELLY TENNIS COACHING PROGRAMS**

Royal Park T.C. (crn Park St & The Avenue, Parkville/Brunswick)

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