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City of Melbourne endorses position paper to protect Royal Park amid sky rail plan

The City of Melbourne has released a position paper addressing its concerns surrounding the proposed level crossing project at Park St in Parkville, which could impact the heritage-listed Royal Park.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The 33-page paper, which was endorsed by councillors at their May 16 Future Melbourne committee meeting and outlines in significant detail the importance of Royal Park, makes several requirements for the state government to commit to, including to “investigate all construction site options within the rail corridor” before requesting to use land at Royal Park to build a sky rail.

“Any occupation of ovals for construction purposes is unacceptable,” it said, while also imploring that before project works begin, consultation with the public “must be undertaken,” including with Royal Park sporting groups, community groups, residents, and other key stakeholders.

The state government announced plans last September to remove eight level crossings along the Upfield rail line between Park St, Parkville, and Albion St, Brunswick by 2027, however there have been no announcements or proposals, nor an assessment of how such works might impact Royal Park.

Parkville is on the municipal boundary between Merri-bek City Council and the City of Melbourne.

The proposed project has been met by community concern, with many residents saying that the design must respect Royal Park’s landscape and environment settings, heritage status and visual amenity.



Michael Petit, secretary of the Pro-tectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc., said there were concerns the Level Crossing Removal Authority’s sky rail project “could do real damage to Royal Park due to the anticipated sharp rail line curved drop from Jewell to Royal Park stations” – a sentiment also shared by the Parkville Association’s president Rob Moore.

“We commend the Melbourne and Merri-bek councils for canvassing residents and submitting concerns and recommendations at this early design stage to the state government authority tasked with the project,” Mr Petit said.

“We look forward to further opportunities for the public to assess and to comment on the plans that we hope will presented in draft for comment rather than as a fait accompli.”

The Parkville Gardens Residents’ Association said it had acknowledged the council’s paper and would be discussing the matter at a forthcoming meeting before providing a formal response.

Continued on page 5.

“Fix our footpaths”: Lygon St traders’ plea to council for action

Fed-up Lygon St traders are calling for urgent action to be taken on the deteriorating footpaths of the iconic Carlton strip, which they say have become unsafe and unattractive.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

“Traders have been here forever telling me these discussions have been going for 20 years, so it doesn’t give them any confidence that anything’s going to happen,” Carlton Inc. Traders’ Association president Sergio Alderuccio said.

“We’re famous, we just want to maintain that love affair. We’ve got new shops that are opening so people are coming back; we’ve just got to keep making it safer and attractive.”

Traders have long expressed their concern to the City of Melbourne about the state of the footpaths, which recently resulted in a much-loved 88-year-old Carlton figure being injured after tripping and falling because of a tree root lifting up a section of the pavement.

Paul Ferraro, who runs the University Café, said he and other traders were at their wits’ end over the issue.

“It seems like every time we try to do something to beautify the street, they’re always against us,” he said.

“It’s an absolute disgrace. I’ve been here nearly 38 years and I reckon they’ve redone that asphalt four times and every time it just gets worse.”

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D Getting straight to The Heart of Carlton



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Developer resubmits office building plans in East Melbourne

A developer has scaled down plans for a contentious \$15 million commercial building overlooking the Fitzroy Gardens in East Melbourne, after its previous proposal was rejected by authorities.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Developer Whitehaven Property Development Pty Ltd had originally wanted to build a nine-storey building at 204-208 Albert St, behind and adjacent to existing heritage buildings.

But following a loss at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in July 2021, the developer is now proposing a seven-storey building, which seeks to retain more heritage fabric, while also being “respectful and responsive to the character of the Albert St landscape”.

New plans have been lodged with the City of Melbourne after the council knocked back the original application. The outcome led to the developer appealing at VCAT, but the tribunal sided with the council in rejecting a planning permit.

It was also a hard-fought win for residents’ lobby group, the East Melbourne Group (EMG), which strongly campaigned against the original plan.

VCAT members Alison Glynn and Lorina Nervegna found the proposed development was “out of step with the existing scale and character of adjoining buildings and the area”.

The site is located to the rear of the National Trust-owned Clarendon Terrace at 208-212 Clarendon St, a row of three two-storey terraces built from 1856-57 and considered of “architecturally and aesthetically significant to the



state of Victoria as one of Melbourne’s grandest terraces,” according to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

The currently unoccupied building at 204-208 Albert St is listed of contributory importance, and significant to the overall context of the Albert St streetscape.

In addition to reducing the height of the building, Whitehaven outlined other key differences in its amended proposal, including removing a cantilever above the retained heritage fabric, and an increase to upper-level setbacks from the eastern boundary.

It also proposes relocating the building’s core to the western elevation, as well as revisions to the “architectural treatment and design detail”.

The plans seek to demolish part of the existing buildings to the rear of the site, but retain the Albert St heritage building including the façade.

This would make way for three basement levels, and a ground floor with a café, a lobby, bicycle facilities, while levels one to six would comprise offices. The roof top would contain plant and infrastructure. The outside of the building would include red and grey bricks, glass, and anodised aluminium.

The plans also say the proposal would not cast any additional shadow to the Fitzroy Gardens between 11am and 2pm.

However, residents say the new plans still fell short of VCAT’s requirements.

“It’s getting there but it doesn’t address the orders and reasons for the decision VCAT made last time,” EMG president Greg Bisinella said.

“They were quite clear on what they thought would be parameters of a new build, and we don’t think they’ve met that,” he said, adding, the proposal was “still too bulky” and “too overwhelming for the area, and it still doesn’t respect the heritage precinct that it sits in”.

However, Mr Bisinella maintained the developer “has every right to build something on that site”, noting, “we’re not saying no development, but [it must be] something that is more respectful and meets the planning criteria.”

Resident Rod Bower said he would lose the private outdoor open space of his home if the development went ahead, leaving it in complete darkness by 1.30pm – a difference of only half an hour of more light under the revised plans.

“Winter sun will be almost totally removed from our home and our trees,” he said. ●

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Comfortable shoes that stand the test of time

“

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”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Maria Vasileva*
BUSINESS

The family business has been running for more than a century and has become an irreplaceable part of Lygon St, so much so that the City of Melbourne named the laneway behind the store Watt Lane.

After being opened in 1895 by surgical and bespoke bootmaker William Luttgens, the store soon changed names when it was purchased by the Watt family, and it remains within the family to this day.

Joe Watt is the current owner of the store, and while he wasn't always sure he would follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, Mr Watt did work with his father for 20 years at the store, prior to becoming in charge when his dad died.

"My grandfather bought the business from the man who originally started it, and then Dad took over, and then I took over when he passed away in 2016, and I am happy to continue providing the service we do for as long as we can," Mr Watt said.



▲ *Joe Watt.*

"We provide a good service, especially with the more orthopaedic style of shoes that aren't easy to find, because there aren't many around."

While many shoe stores these days may worry about keeping up with the latest trends, Mr Watt is proud to head a store that continues to do their own thing and excel at what they know.

Due to the Watt family continuing to pass down skills of the bootmaking trade and shoe repairs, Watt's Shoe Store is the place to go if in need of someone with extensive knowledge on what makes a good quality comfort shoe.



In addition to the retail section, repair and orthopaedic services are also still available.

"We generally do more comfort sort of shoes, so not high fashion," he said.

"It's more about sticking to having everyday, comfortable, wearable shoes, which relates back to what we have always done."

Using his many years of experience, Mr Watt ensures that customers always leave with a shoe that fits properly and is perfect for the precise job they want it for.

It is this trustworthy approach and service

that has seen customers continue to come back and has seen the business build a loyal base of regular customers, ranging from students and professors to parents and grandparents.

Watt's Shoe Store is located at 264 Lygon St and is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and Saturday until 2pm. ●

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For more than 20 years, the City of Melbourne has celebrated inspirational individuals and organisations who have made a positive and valuable contribution to our city through the Melbourne Awards.

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This year, we are looking to add more Melburnians to the honour roll.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Melbourne Awards showcase some of the most driven and passionate people in our city.

'Melbourne is full of innovators and creative minds, who are leading the charge to shape our city for the better,' the Lord Mayor said.

'Our Melbourne Awards shine a light on the extraordinary work of those who are going above and beyond in their field - improving community wellbeing, driving innovation and creating a more sustainable city.'

This year, organisations will be recognised in eight key areas: Community, Sustainability, Aboriginal Melbourne - ganbu guljin, Arts and Events, Knowledge and Innovation, City Design, LGBTIQA+, and a new category - Access and Inclusion - has been added this year, recognising the great work to make Melbourne more inclusive and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Alongside the awards, entries for the Melburnian of the Year are now open - and for the first time - a Young Melburnian of the Year will also be crowned.

Among last year's winners were Reground a social enterprise embedded in the circular economy, and Kensington Neighbourhood House, for providing a place where people of all abilities, backgrounds and ages can participate.

Last year, Kuku Yalanji woman Antionette Braybrook was named as the top Melburnian for her work advocating to give a voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experienced family violence.



Entries are open until 23 June.
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“I don’t know why I exist”

Two young writers got together during lockdown and let their personalities drive the narrative as they workshopped ideas for a play over Zoom.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE



They were both idealistic in different ways and didn’t want to label their characters too prescriptively.

So, they gave them names of “A” and “B” so future actors could feel themselves into the roles.

At La Mama Courthouse on May 24, the result of their collaboration – *The World According to Dinosaurs* – opened to Melbourne audiences.

Dinosaurs is a charming, jokey play, the product of two mindsets, that is set in a café in which nature continually interferes with work practices.

B, played by Belle Hansen, is a good worker and the hero of the play who expects A, her counterpart played by Amelia Newman, to be equally efficient.

But A has no work ethic whatsoever and continually rabbits on about strange extinct creatures instead of knuckling down.

The conversations between the two different styles of worker carry the play through extinction events, comet showers and annoying customers.

There’s a fair share of latte jokes and Annie Louey, of Comedy Festival fame, plays a heavily pregnant woman with the usual millennial fears about fermented cheese.

The word play is amusing – “this is no inter-species summit” – and the concepts are original.

“Evolution knows how to fill in an empty

space,” is one memorable line from the play.

The World According to Dinosaurs has made it onto the VCE list and there were teachers at the opening night checking it out for themselves.

There is plenty of space in the production for the ideas of others, in that charm takes precedence over logic.

B was very amusing in her tense depiction of a worker just trying to get the lazy A to take the rubbish out.

When everyone is trying to be creative, who is actually going to do the work, such as clean the steam wand on the coffee machine?

Nature is a great distraction for all of us. Would you rather be pandering to millennials or pretending to be a zombie worm at the bottom of the ocean?

The answer is pretty obvious in this spoof on nerdy dinosaur seekers and knowledge geeks with starry eyes.

It turns out that Amelia Newman wanted to be a palaeontologist when she was 12 in real life, and the play ends with a great speech that encapsulates the moment as planet destruction can’t be ignored.

“I’ll end up a fossil,” A says plaintively. “It’s a waste of time. I never finish anything. I struggle with being a person. I’ve found it all so hard. I don’t know why I exist.”

The World According to Dinosaurs, La Mama Courthouse, until June 4. ●



City of Melbourne endorses position paper to protect Royal Park amid sky rail plan

Continued from page 1.

Speaking at the council meeting, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was aware of the “keen community interest” in the level crossing removal proposal as evidenced by a submission from the Friends of Royal Park.

“It should be noted that this is still the early stages of this project, and our primary request will be that the Victorian government engages with the City of Melbourne and our residents and our stakeholders very early in the process, and deeply and actively listens,” she said.

The council’s heritage portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said Royal Park was the “jewel in the crown of open space in central Melbourne and which has very significant heritage values as well” and made it clear that it was vital the state government heard the council’s and the community’s concerns.

“There are examples of level crossing removals that have been done in conjunction with community and local councils that have improved designs [and] there have been examples where the state has crashed through and not done that,” he said.

“I think the best thing we can do is itemise

all of the issues and, in a stand, in a spirit of collaboration and shared objective, share what all of those issues are right from the outset so that no-one, including our constituents, who are also the state’s constituents, is under any illusions as to what the objectives of the city and the community are.”

The paper also calls on the state government to provide a detailed botanical field survey that “meets the satisfaction” of the City of Melbourne before any project works begin.

The council said it would also not support any proposed long-term closure of Park St.

Following the council adopting the paper, Cr Capp will write to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and the Minister for Planning “advising council’s position and seeking their response to the issues as set out in the position paper”.

Melbourne Greens MP Ellen Sandell has thrown her support behind residents and the potential impact of a rail bridge on the local area. She also pledged to seek answers and details from the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure to make sure resident concerns were considered, and that community consultation was conducted. ●

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Council's ongoing payphone battle heads to VCAT

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A bid to install dozens of payphones across the CBD and Carlton that would be splashed with advertising and cause “unnecessary clutter” on footpaths is set for a state planning tribunal stoush.

The City of Melbourne is set to oppose 35 phone booth applications, which would feature 75-inch coloured electronic advertising signs, and measure 2.73m high and 1.2m wide.

It will take its case to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) over a 10-week period as outdoor billboard advertising company JCDecaux pushes to install 47 payphones across the city, which are part of Telstra's upgrading of its existing national network.

The council will support issuing a permit for 12 of the 47 payphone applications, 11 of which would replace existing payphones.

But the remaining 35 applications for “smart city payphones” would be opposed on the grounds that electronic advertising would be an “unacceptable addition” to parts of the city, “unreasonably impact” pedestrian networks, and be contrary to the character of various areas.

Councillors voted unanimously at their May 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting to proceed with the matter going to VCAT after a motion was led by the council's planning portfolio chair Cr Nicholas Reece.

“It is really important that we keep unnecessary clutter off our footpaths,” he said.

“Those footpaths are precious, and we must make sure that they are regulated carefully and that they serve the millions of people who use them every year as effectively and efficiently as possible.”

With the story first broken by sister publication *CBD News*, Cr Reece said the matter was a “long running saga” after the council rejected 81 planning applications made by JCDecaux for phone booths in 2019.

“We refused all of those applications on the basis that they weren't really payphones. They were large, electronic billboards masquerading as telephone services on the streets of Melbourne.”

In response, Telstra took the case to the Federal Court and won after arguing the phone booths were “low impact facilities” and thus exempt from requiring planning permission.

But the council appealed at the Full Court of the Federal Court, which sided with the City of Melbourne.

In late 2021 a series of procedural orders were made requiring updates and amendments to the applications to reflect the findings from the Federal Court proceedings, a council report said.

In preparing for the VCAT hearings, Cr Reece said while the council had “a long way to go”, it had created a “really robust set of criteria and a really robust framework by which to assess each of these cabinets”. ●

Council delivers record budget, but predicted surplus pushed back

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the rising cost of living was “central” to this year's budget, as the City of Melbourne remained in the red.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has drafted a record \$850.7 million budget for the 2023-24 financial year, despite posting an increased deficit and pushing back a predicted return to surplus by two years.

As the council's deficit grows from \$11 million to \$17 million, locals will pay more on their rates from July — in line with a 3.5 per cent cap imposed by the Victorian Government — however pensioners can receive a discount of up to \$253.

Despite being in a “strong position to deliver a surplus in 2023-24” 12 months ago, and similarly predicting a return to surplus in the year prior, the council was again forced to shelve any “back in the black” celebrations.

The council's total spend was its highest ever, however announcements promoting a “record budget” (as it has done in both previous budgets) were also shelved, perhaps reflective of the more sombre economic times.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that the council was “very alive to” rising mortgages, rents and bills that each household faced, which were “a central part of discussions” while putting together the budget.

“Please do know we are very sensitive to how difficult the environment is out there, and it's been central to our thinking on the budget,” Cr Capp said at the May 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting — the same day it put out its draft budget.

Councillors noted that with inflation at around seven to eight per cent and a rise in construction costs as high as 20 per cent, being required to cap rate increases at just 3.5 per cent made a return to surplus unachievable without compromising local services.

“It is a great effort by the team to be so mindful and prudent,” Cr Capp said.

“We have really done our darnedest to be able to continue to deliver on services and projects in the current environment of high inflation and higher construction costs.”

A large percentage of council revenue is raised through rates (in this budget, \$377 million), however the second-highest stream is via fees and charges (\$134 million) which was set to increase by almost \$14 million in 2023-24.

This was due in part to greater activity and visitation across the municipality but also an increase in fees, notably the move to charge drivers for on-street CBD parking until 10pm (rather than 8.30pm) and on Sundays, and the doubling of outdoor dining fees.

From July, local hospitality businesses will pay \$128 per sqm each year for an outdoor dining parklet, up from \$64.

The hike was still well below that imposed on nearby CBD hospitality traders, who will now



▲ (Main) Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Jamal Hakim with Bulgarian folk dancers from the Moomba Parade (photo: Maria Vasileva) and (above) Cr Capp announces the budget at QVM.

pay \$556 per sqm (up from \$278) each year.

Headlining the budget was a \$247.5 million infrastructure spend, which included a further \$60 million for the renewal of Queen Victoria Market, \$17 million for the “city-shaping” Greenline project along the Yarra River's north-bank, and a further \$28 million for the redevelopment of the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

A \$6 million investment in safety infrastructure was also unveiled, which most notably for locals, will see the City of Melbourne's CCTV camera network expand into Carlton for the first time.

The council included \$4 million towards its much-publicised bike lane rollout including new protected lanes along the entire stretch of Flinders St, a project flagged as its most challenging yet.

The 2023-24 budget also invested heavily in events (\$28.2 million), libraries (\$13.4 million), greening and sustainability, business support and creative industries, which includes \$2 million for new public art projects.

A total of \$2.85 million was allocated to sustainability and gas-free initiatives at council-owned facilities including Carlton Baths, while a \$150,000 allocation to the Carlton Gardens master plan works was confirmed for each of the next four financial years.

The events budget earmarked \$3.5 million for the inaugural Now or Never Festival, which features a number of notable performances at the Royal Exhibition Building.

It also set aside around \$6 million for Christmas festivities and \$5 million each for

Moomba and New Year's Eve, the latter of which attracted almost half a million people earlier this year.

As it has done post-COVID, the council continued to spend big on cleaning the city's streets, setting aside an additional \$1.5 million to bolster rubbish removal across the CBD, Docklands and Southbank.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the “strains of recent years” were apparent in the city's finances, which had seen it produce a “disciplined” budget.

“I think it's a budget that's right for the times. Somebody said to me today ‘oh, this budget seems a little bit business as usual’. Well, I'll take that as a compliment,” Cr Reece said.

“Like everybody else in Australia we're not immune to what is going on in the broader economy.”

Cr Rohan Leppert, one of just two serving councillors to have occupied a spot in the Town Hall chambers for more than a decade, said the tough economic times had created a sharper focus.

“We have put more care into this budget than any before — not that we didn't put care in before, of course — but there's no shying away from the stark realities of the financial constraints that all local government finds itself in at this point,” he said.

However, the Greens councillor said he was “particularly concerned” about whether the council had enough staff to service a booming population in coming years.

With Melbourne having overtaken Sydney to become Australia's largest city by population, the council was set to increase the number of average full-time equivalent staff next year by 44 (from 1478 to 1522), however in the following three years, from 2024-2027, it was projected to that staff numbers would increase by just 11.

Cr Leppert said this must be “constantly reviewed” to ensure the council was “not restricting the capacity of the organisation to deliver on essential services for a fast-growing municipality”.

Community feedback on the draft budget can be provided via Participate Melbourne until midnight on Thursday, June 8, with the final budget expected to be adopted by councillors on June 27. ●

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

Senator Linda White

YOUR VOICE IN THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE

As a Labor Senator, my office is available to assist you with any Federal Government issues.

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Senator Linda White @lindawhiteaus



Authorised by Senator Linda White, ALP, Carlton.



“Fix our footpaths”: Lygon St traders’ plea to council for action

Continued from page 1.

Traders say they are also “constantly adjusting the tables and chairs” because of the uneven surfaces.

The council has indicated that it said it would inspect the footpath on Lygon St as part of its routine maintenance program.

“The City of Melbourne has invested more than \$12 million in its draft Budget 2023–24 to renew and maintain roads and footpaths across almost 80 locations,” a council spokesperson said.

“Footpath renewal programs are set each financial year, and locations chosen are dependent on a range of factors – including safety, community need, and time since renewal or maintenance work.” “Any potential renewal along Lygon St will be done in close consultation with traders and community members.”

But traders feel they are being let down, with Mr Alderuccio saying they are “concerned about a gradual decline” to Lygon St unless something was done.

Mr Alderuccio, together with Carlton Inc. executive officer Phillip Mansour, met with Lord Mayor Sally Capp last December to discuss ways of beautifying the Carlton precinct, including footpaths.

Mr Mansour said traders wanted the “extra support” and hoped the council would provide a commitment.

He said the council’s announcement in the budget was “a very generic plan” with “nothing locked in for Carlton yet again”.

“We don’t want to be running around in circles for another 38 years – immediate consultation and action is needed.”

He added that tactile ground surface indicators, which are raised bumps or lines in the pavement to assist people with disabilities and the wider community to navigate the streets, were also dangerous in wet conditions and needed replacing – a concern also raised by residents in East Melbourne.



Fab Succi, owner of Tiamo restaurant on Lygon St, said he had issues with tree roots lifting the footpath, adding “it’s only a matter of time that one of my customers fall”.

“The council has been made aware, and also in the interim, the root has travelled through the building and has lifted the floor and shifted the window frame,” he said.

“It’s pretty bad damage, we’ve got a massive crack down the middle.”

Beverly Caprioli said her husband Giancarlo, 88, who was part of the wave of Italian migrants to transform Lygon St, tripped and fell to the footpath two months ago.

“He ended up with a diabetic ulcer on his leg, which took six weeks to heal, as well as an operation to improve the blood flow,” she said.

“It shows that we’re not really being looked after by council.”

While *Inner City News* was speaking to traders, a woman visiting from Perth, also nearly fell to the ground after tripping.

“If I had been more aged than what I am I would’ve gone right over because I just didn’t see it,” she said.

Maurice Blackburn principal lawyer Dimi Ioannou, who specialises in personal injury law, said all councils had a responsibility to ensure footpaths were safe for all pedestrians and the City of Melbourne was no exception.

She said people could pursue legal action if they suffered serious injuries. ●

Elderly man taken to hospital after footpath fall calls for council to act on hazardous tactile tiles

“

A 73-year-old man has called on the City of Melbourne to replace tactile tiles on footpaths in East Melbourne, following a fall that resulted in him being taken to hospital.

”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Desmond Ephraums said he suffered mild concussion, as well as a bump on the back of his head as he was walking near the intersection of George and Simpson streets on October 12 last year.

“I was dazed and shocked for a few seconds, I didn’t want to move because I didn’t know if I could at that point,” he said.

Tactile tiles, also known as tactile ground surface indicators, are made of raised bumps or lines that are placed in the pavement and assist people with disabilities and the wider community to navigate the streets, particularly at intersections.

As reported in the May edition of *Inner City News*, residents have described the tiles as “walking on an ice rink” in wet conditions, which resident lobby group, the East Melbourne Group, has been urging the City of Melbourne to fix for the past five years as a matter of priority.

Mr Ephraums said he underwent eight weeks of rehabilitation to improve his balance, which had seen him make a full recovery. But he admitted he was “damn lucky” and that “it could’ve been heaps worse”.

“My foot went right under me and before I knew it, I was on my back – it happened very quickly,” he said of the fall, which happened after he had left an appointment with a neurosurgeon to have two aneurysms assessed.

Fortunately, Mr Ephraums said three nurses, who were out on their lunch break, rushed to his aid. They called for an ambulance while the owner of the nearby George St café, Michael Chen, brought an ice pack.

The quick-thinking nurses also managed to get a blood pressure machine sent to the scene from a nearby clinic before Mr Ephraums was taken to the Epworth Hospital where he was placed under observation for about six hours.



▲ Desmond Ephraums was taken to hospital after tripping on a footpath in East Melbourne. Photo: Supplied.

He didn’t suffer any permanent injuries, but he hoped his experience would prompt the council to replace all tiles in the area that are less susceptible to wet conditions before someone was seriously injured.

“It’s negligent on their part because they’re not acting on it,” he said, in which his fall left him \$400 out of pocket in hospital and medical fees.

“Put some witch’s hats around it or something like that ... they did nothing.”

He said he wrote to the City of Melbourne and sent photos of the intersection, to which they later replied saying the tiles had been replaced in December, with other intersections to be addressed.

The council has previously said it would consider a range of amenity works and upgrades in its 23-24 financial year budget to “ensure our city remains a safe, welcoming and accessible place for everyone”. ●



Brendan Rees
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Restoration, upgrade under way for century-old Royal Parade water main

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
CAPITAL WORKS

Essential upgrades will be made to the Royal Parade water main in Parkville, with Greater Western Water (GWW) starting works on a two-kilometre section of the main this month.

Built in 1889, the existing water main will be restored to ensure clean and reliable water, extra capacity and greater protection against leaks for the Parkville community.

GWW's general manager growth and infrastructure Amanda Smith said the main was a "critical asset" to the area and was in need of the upgrade.



"Its size and location, proximity to essential services such as hospitals and current condition make it a high priority for upgrade," Ms Smith said.

The works will take place in stages between Genetics Lane to the corner of Holtom St West and Bowen Crescent in Carlton North.

Ms Smith said GWW was aiming to minimise disruptions to the community with the use of slip-lining technology, which involves inserting a new 560-millimetre diameter pipeline inside the existing water main.

"We're working closely with our partners and stakeholders and will be providing advance notice to the community as the works progress," she said.

The main's renewal is set to create 10 new jobs, with the project expected to be complete in late September 2023. ●

For more information:
yoursay.gww.com.au/royal-parade-water-main-renewal

Woman reunited with prized medal thanks to police efforts

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

A Princes Hill woman has spoken of her relief after being reunited with her treasured Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) Medal, which was stolen from her home in February.

The woman, who did not want to be named, said she was "very surprised" to have the medal returned to her by Victoria Police in May.

The medal, which has a gold-plated silver insignia of the Order, is a prestigious award issued by the Australian government recognising distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or humanity at large.

The 85-year-old woman's home was broken into in February, during which her AO medal, along with her Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) Medal, were both stolen during the burglary, with the latter medal remaining missing.

She said the medals meant everything to her and expressed her heartfelt gratitude to police for their efforts in recovering one medal.

"I was extremely surprised, when three months later, I got a call from the officer who let me know they had found one of the medals, so that was amazing, and it's a tribute to the excellent police work."

Police executed a search warrant in Parkville in May, in which they found a variety of items including a homemade firearm manufactured by a 3D printer, a machine designed to manufacture fake credit cards and drivers' licences, a stolen car, drugs, and the medal.

Other items seized included a range of weapons including knives, blades, and homemade dangerous articles, as well as 100 stolen identification cards, passports, and private documents.



Melbourne West police have been investigating a series of burglaries in the area, including the burglary in Princes Hill in February.

The warrant in Parkville resulted in four people being charged with a range of offences, including firearm possession, handle stolen goods, make false documents, theft of and from motor vehicle and drug possession.

Those charged included a 39-year-old Parkville man, a 32-year-old Parkville man, a 56-year-old from Murrumbeena, and a 33-year-old from Point Cook.

The woman, who was not home at the time of the burglary, during which the intruders also removed all CCTV cameras, said she thought both medals were "lost forever" after they were left on a bench in her study.

"I wondered what anybody could possibly do with the medals. They're inscribed with my name; they would have no resale value."

Melbourne West Senior Sergeant Peter Sambell said police were "extremely pleased" to be able to reunite her with her medal.

"Medals of such importance and value in the Australian community are a rare find during a search warrant – we knew immediately that this was a special occasion," he said.

"Finding the AO medal has also reignited hope that we will be able to find her missing AC medal – we implore anyone with information of its whereabouts to come forward to police."

Anyone with information about criminal activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via crimestoppersvic.com.au ●

Former Carlton community service building sold off

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A disused City of Melbourne-owned property in Carlton is among three properties in the municipality to have recently been sold off.

The single storey building at 47-49 Canning St, which formerly provided family and child-care services, was put on the market last year after a proposal was endorsed by the council last November, which also included selling properties at 505-513 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne, and 100-104 A'Beckett St, Melbourne.

The council confirmed the sale of the properties on May 10, saying, "following the six-week EOI campaign, CBRE (which was engaged to conduct the EOI), successfully achieved offers for all three properties at market value", with offers officially signed by the council on May 5.

The proceeds of the sales will be used to help deliver the City of Melbourne's community infrastructure projects," the council said, which a council report last year revealed would amount to \$15 million.

"By selling these properties, we will reinvest the proceeds into city-shaping infrastructure

projects and the capital works program. It was an opportunity to think about how we want to evolve as a city and be bold in creating a better future for Melbourne," the council said.

When asked how much each property sold for, the council said, "settlement of the properties will occur over the coming months".

"The City of Melbourne manages \$4.7 billion in assets on behalf of the community. The proceeds of any sales are reinvested to deliver city-shaping infrastructure projects and vital community services."

According to the council report, the most "frequent rationale" for supporting the property sales were "based on the property currently being vacant, not used or used to its full potential".

"This was particularly the case for Canning St which received the highest level of support for sale based on its current disuse," the report, published November last year, said.

The Canning St and Abbotsford St properties were also deemed too small to meet the requirements under the Melbourne Planning Scheme for affordable housing, the report said.

Community feedback and consultation were taken into consideration before each sale.

Previous family and children services



delivered from the properties have either relocated to new integrated family and children centres in Lady Huntingfield, North Melbourne Child Care Centre, North Melbourne Community Centre, or at the new Munro Community Hub to open this year.

Last year, the council had also proposed, controversially, to sell off a building at 30-38 Gatehouse Drive, Kensington, which provides a vital family clinic space to private organisation Midwives and Mothers Australia. But a community petition to keep the much-loved clinic led to councillors extending its lease by two years. ●

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Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region, Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076. Funded from Parliamentary Budget.



Council takeover of Carlton's toy library deemed a "huge win" for families

Kaylah-Joelle Baker & Georgie Atkins
COMMUNITY

The City of Melbourne will be taking over managing the Melbourne Community Toy Library (MCTL) at Carlton's The Chapel from mid-July following a struggle for permanent funding.

As a small not-for-profit organisation, MCTL has played an important part in creating spaces for families to come together; something that was made very clear to the council ahead of the transition.

"Members of the toy library volunteer committee have been working hard with the City of Melbourne to achieve the best outcomes for Carlton," MCTL president Emily Corcoran said.

"We hope that this will ensure that there is a toy library in our suburb for many years to come."

Despite telling *Inner City News* that there is "some sadness in wrapping up" the organisation, Ms Corcoran added that she is "looking forward to sitting back and enjoying the next chapter".

"The Carlton branch has been incredibly important to my journey as a parent. It opened across the road just after my son was born and I have loved being a part of the committee for the past seven years," she said.

"I have met so many wonderful people through the toy library, and it has helped me feel really connected to other parents in our community."

The takeover will now mean that after the Carlton branch closes from June 30, it will reopen from July 17 as a free service, allowing families to continue to borrow toys from The Chapel using a free library membership.

This news is being considered a "huge win for families in Carlton", as

Ms Corcoran said the previous membership fee model had been a barrier for some families in the area.

In preparation for the changeover, a stocktake and clean-out of the branch has already taken place, and MCTL and the council are asking the community to chip in with new ideas on how the collection can be refreshed.

At both the Carlton and North Melbourne branches, families are also being encouraged to complete an in-person or online survey as further aspects of the service are reviewed, such as opening hours.

North Melbourne's toy library, located in Hotham Hub, will follow the same model as Carlton's toy library when both re-open on July 17, while the Docklands toy library will look a little different.

From July 17, Docklands' residents will access toys at Library at the Dock through a click and collect service via the City of Melbourne's online library catalogue.

In place of the play sessions, the council will introduce special story time and toy sessions to residents visiting Library at the Dock as a way of "refreshing and reimagining what toy libraries look like in our city".

As is the case with the other libraries, users of the facility will only need a City of Melbourne libraries membership.

"We're working with the local community to welcome current toy library members to our library membership, and to ensure the transition of the Docklands toy library is as smooth as possible," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Toy libraries are an innovative way to support children's learning and development through play and imagination, and an accessible and cost-effective way for families to access resources." ●

East Melbourne office building to be converted into apartments

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

A former office building in East Melbourne is set to be turned into four apartments after being given the green light by the City of Melbourne.

East Melbourne Investments Pty Ltd has proposed to partly demolish the existing four-storey building at 82-84 Jolimont St and extend it by two levels.

Councillors endorsed the \$5.2 million proposal at their May 16 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, prompting praise from Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece.

"As much as I love new buildings ... I also recognise that an environmentally friendly refurbishment of existing buildings is also got to be part of the solution for Melbourne going forward rather than knocking down perfectly good buildings and building them again from scratch," he said, adding this "application does a great job at that very task".

"Seventy per cent of our carbon emissions come from our buildings – office and residential. So, we know that if we are serious about meeting this city's emission reduction targets, we've got to be really serious about reducing emissions from buildings."

Cr Reece said the Denton Corker Marshall-designed plans "look first-rate throughout" complete with a modern finish.

"It's of very high quality and importantly it meets the modern ESD standard putting excellent insulation and high energy efficiency ratings."

The proposal will incorporate four separate apartments over the upper five levels while the ground floor would contain a lobby. A carpark would be provided in a ground basement.

The council's heritage portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said he had "very, very carefully considered" the matters pertaining the planning scheme amendment that seeks to



protect winter sun in identified parks within the City of Melbourne, and that he believed the proposal provided "a good outcome for this part of the city".

A council report also said the proposal would result in "a net decrease in winter shadows to Yarra Park compared to the existing building".

"The outcomes of the proposal are consistent with the relevant provisions of the Melbourne Planning Scheme and will make a positive contribution to the Jolimont Residential and Commercial Area," it said.

However, while it noted the development proposal had a maximum height of 20.2 metres – an increase of the building's current 17.09 metres height – which was greater than the discretionary height limit of the design and development overlay, it "continues to respect the transition in building height from Jolimont Terrace to Jolimont Rd".

Under the plans, the development would replace the existing mid-1970s brick façade with a combination of U-glass and transparent glass, as well as cut out portions of the existing building to create balconies.

While the site and surrounding properties are located within the precinct-wide heritage overlay (East Melbourne and Jolimont Precinct), the existing heritage building is assessed as a "non-contributory".

Public notice of the application resulted in one objection being lodged. ●

Trades Hall statue honours the work of equal pay activist

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
ARTS & CULTURE

A bronze statue commissioned by Victorian Trades Hall Council and A Monument of One's Own was unveiled on May 30 outside the Victorian Trades Hall Council building, celebrating the legacy of one of Victoria's most influential activists.

The monument titled *Chain Reaction* depicts Zelda D'Aprano, a historical union activist and feminist figure, who was mostly known for the iconic act of chaining herself to the doors of the Commonwealth Building following the failure to award equal pay in 1969.

Convenors of the statue hope that the monument will not only honour Zelda's work and life but serve as a rallying point in the continuing fight for pay equity across all workplaces and industries.

Professor of History at La Trobe University and co-convenor of A Monument of One's Own, Clare Wright OAM, said that the creation of the statue was "a critical act of commemorative justice".

"By honouring Zelda's work in this way, we honour all women who collectively have struggled for equal pay,



▲ Former Prime Minister Julia Gillard unveils Chain Reaction.

wage justice and economic security," Ms Wright said.

The project has been funded by union contributions and individual donations, with the Victorian Government also showing its support through the Women's Public Art Program.

"Zelda is an important link in the chain of trade union women who have taken action over decades to advance the cause of women's rights at work," assistant secretary at Trades Hall, Wilhelmina Stracke said. ●

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Indian Restaurant & Cafe

Flora Indian Restaurant & Cafe

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Your City of Melbourne community update

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY TODAY, SHAPING OUR CITY FOR TOMORROW

City-shaping infrastructure projects, our biggest events calendar and making the city safer, cleaner and fairer are highlights of the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023-24.



We've planned a full calendar of events so everyone can enjoy an affordable visit to the city.

Our \$850.7 million draft Budget is delivering for our community today, while shaping our city for tomorrow.

In announcing the draft Budget, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was "designed to overcome the current economic challenges, while realising our community's aspirations for Melbourne - the nation's fastest growing capital city".

"Our draft Budget 2023-24 delivers on our commitment to create a bustling, inclusive and clean city today, while investing in a more affordable, liveable and prosperous future for our community," the Lord Mayor said.

"We're getting on with the things that matter most - making our city cleaner and safer, building better facilities and providing vital services, and boosting business with events and support."

We know Melburnians are feeling the pressure of mortgage and rent stress and rising household bills - and this has been front of mind through the development of this budget.

That's why we're doing what we can to limit the amount of increased costs that we pass on to our ratepayers.

By not passing on the full impact of inflation pressures, we will save households and families \$4.2 million.

Rates keep our city running

Our teams work around the clock to deliver essential services - from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety, and keeping our parks and gardens in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

Every Victorian council is facing the challenge of inflation rising faster than - and above - the current Municipal Rate Cap.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses and a modest

increase this year, in 2023-24 we will implement the State Government's 3.5 per cent Municipal Rate Cap.

Rates change every year as property values change. Property valuations are market-driven and determined by the State Government.

We will help ease the burden on pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$253.

Any ratepayer can apply for rate relief through the City of Melbourne Rates Financial Hardship Policy.

A cleaner, safer and more caring city



It's our responsibility to get the basics right, so we're investing a record \$60.9 million to scrub the city clean, boost safety on our streets, and work closely with our communities to identify and act on the needs of each neighbourhood.

We're investing \$36.8 million to spruce up our streets and keep the city free from graffiti. This includes funding for our expanded Melbourne Clean Team along with more graffiti removal, street sweeping, and high-pressure cleaning of footpaths, roads and street furniture.

More than \$28 million will be invested to collect waste from residents and businesses, while an additional \$1.5 million will bolster

work to remove rubbish from our streets across the city, Docklands and Southbank.

We'll invest \$5.7 million to make our city a safer place for all. CCTV cameras will be installed in seven key locations in Carlton, including along Lygon Street and at Argyle Square. The expansion of our Safe City Camera Program will boost safety and reduce antisocial behaviour in response to community feedback.

Almost \$6 million will be spent on critical safety infrastructure and resources, including upgrading lighting in key precincts such as Bourke Street between Exhibition and Spring streets.

We're working with philanthropic partners and the Victorian Government to improve housing access and affordability through Homes Melbourne. This includes \$12 million towards our landmark Make Room project, which will convert a Council-owned building into safe and supported accommodation.

Our draft Budget also includes more than \$1.1 million to ensure rough sleepers have access to food, healthcare and other support services through partnerships with Melbourne City Mission and the Salvation Army.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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Your City of Melbourne community update



The new Food Hall at Queen Victoria Market is due to open soon.

Getting on with city-shaping projects

Melbourne is the fastest-growing capital city in the country. That's why we're getting on with delivering a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects to accommodate this growth and bring vital services closer to home.

In 2023-24, we will invest \$247.5 million in infrastructure, supporting up to 1,000 jobs and creating economic stimulus now, while delivering much-needed community services and facilities for the future.

A \$60 million boost for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal program will ramp up works on a range of projects including new trader and customer facilities, as well as upgrades to the Franklin Street streetscape.

We'll break ground on our landmark Greenline Project with \$17 million for the first stage of works at Birrarung

Marr, creating an expanded riverside promenade. We'll also unveil The Greenline Project Master Plan outlining our vision for the city-shaping works.

We're investing \$28 million to get on with the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, set to open in early 2025. The facility will feature a rejuvenated pool area, full-sized multipurpose courts, health and wellness areas, and a wrap-around café.

A further \$3 million will complete the city's brand-new Munro library and hub, which is set to transform the precinct with a state-of-the-art, 3,100m² library, family services and community spaces.

Our investment also includes more than \$12 million for road and footpath maintenance, including \$3.2 million to upgrade footpaths and \$3 million to fix potholes and improve roads.



Our Business Concierge service will continue to support our city's small businesses.

Backing business and attracting investment

We're making it easier and more attractive to do business in Melbourne by cutting red tape and streamlining processes. A \$12 million boost to Invest Melbourne will bring new ventures and create jobs for the city.

Small business owners are the heart and soul of our city, so we're expanding our Business Concierge service to support new and existing city businesses with a \$500,000 investment.

Since January, the Business Concierge team has provided free advice and mentoring to more than 15,500 city businesses - reducing the time it takes for a business to start up in the city and supporting them as they embrace Melbourne's new rhythm.

Our draft Budget also includes \$1.2 million for precinct associations to create more opportunities for business networking, education and training, and initiatives to encourage visitation and local spending.

We're making it easier to do business, with \$2.4 million to complete the Digital Permits Project, fast-tracking permit approval timelines and cutting red tape for traders and buskers.

We'll also continue to back the hospitality and retail sector with \$540,000 to continue efforts to reduce shopfront vacancies.

The Shopfront Activation Program has helped to reduce the city's shopfront vacancy rate from 31 per cent in November 2021 to 15 per cent. A total of 67 spaces have been activated with pop-up shops, creative offerings and bespoke displays.



We're committed to making Melbourne the greenest and most sustainable city in the country.

A greener more sustainable city

Our draft Budget includes a \$51 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.

We love our parks, gardens and open spaces, they play an important role in making Melbourne more liveable which is why we're investing \$26.5 million to maintain them.

We'll spend \$16.5 million to secure new open space across the municipality, including pocket parks for Chapman Street, North Melbourne and Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank.

Construction will start on the Bedford Street pocket park, adding an extra 2,000m² of open space in North Melbourne. In partnership with the State Government, the project will deliver play and picnic facilities, 48 trees and safer pedestrian crossings.

We'll also improve storm water harvesting across the municipality, collecting water from drains and roads to help irrigate and drought-proof the city's parks and gardens.

With support from the State Government, \$2.3 million will be spent on a stormwater harvesting project to drought-proof Princes Park in Carlton.

We'll invest \$1.1 million to continue the rollout of our popular Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection services into mixed-used residential and commercial buildings.

The program was introduced to more than 23,000 households and apartments across the municipality last year, diverting more than 1,500 tonnes of organic waste from landfill.

We're also charging ahead with plans to combat climate change and achieve net zero emissions, investing \$1.5 million in our landmark Power Melbourne project.

This year, we'll install the first neighbourhood battery at Library at the Dock, providing 100 per cent renewable energy to the community.

Biggest ever events calendar

We're delivering our biggest events calendar with \$28.2 million in festivals, activations and cultural celebrations to bring more people together in the city.

This will cement our status as the nation's events and culture capital, boost our visitor economy and have flow on benefits for our retail, hospitality and small businesses.

All the city's favourite events will return bigger and better than ever - Christmas Festival, New Year's Eve

and Melbourne Fashion Week, along with a special anniversary celebration to mark 70 years of our much-loved Moomba Festival.

All the fun begins on 30 June when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice. Followed by our new Now or Never Festival in August, with immersive experiences of art, ideas, music and technology in a series of free and ticketed events over city streets and venues.



We're planning a special celebration to mark the 70th anniversary of our much-loved Moomba Festival.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Feedback on the draft Budget 2023-24 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Thursday 8 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Tuesday 20 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 27 June.

Have your say at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans

Salvation Army launches “life-changing” program to former prisoners

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

The Salvation Army Melbourne has launched a new program providing a beacon of hope for former prisoners left without a home or a family to “get back on their feet”.

The program called People Going Beyond (PGB), will offer a range of support services to people being released from prison so that they are “given every opportunity to re-build their lives,” including housing, counselling, training and employment supports, according to Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle, who runs the Project 614 café in Bourke St.

Speaking at the launch of the program at the Victoria Trades Hall Council on May 10, Mr Nottle said PGB would be an exciting extension to the current Salvos 614 Magpie Nest Housing Project, a partnership with the Collingwood Football Club



Foundation that provides stable and affordable accommodation to the community’s most vulnerable.

“The idea is that we’re working very closely with the prison chaplains who build relationships with people who are about to finish their sentence,” he said, adding the concept was based on the Prison Gate Brigade program that The Salvation Army launched 140 years ago on December 8, 1883, in Carlton.

“We’re then going to work with individuals to help them find their own accommodation, it might be within the Magpie Nest program, it might be another agency, or it might be private rental.”

Construction grant Hickory, which has 16 projects under way in Melbourne including Melbourne Walk, the redevelopment of the Bourke Street Mall, has also thrown its support behind PGB, saying it



would be an opportunity to create a skilled workforce.

Salvation Army commissioner Miriam Gluyas said she was “very proud” to officially declare the program open during the launch, which included performances by the Salvation Army brass band, and Jerson Trinidad, who sang a rendition of Bob Marley’s *Redemption Song*.

Ms Gluyas spoke movingly of a young woman who was in a “desperate situation” after being imprisoned four times, until she turned her life around after receiving critical support.

The woman now works in tourism, leading a team of eight people in New South Wales.

“I thought in that story everything comes together: someone met her and was able to meet the needs that she had, she got housing, she got help, she got a family, she got a job, and her life changed completely; that’s what we’re here for.” ●

Council calls for state government support for CCTV in Carlton

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

The City of Melbourne is hoping the state government will support its efforts to improve safety in the Carlton area by providing funding for new CCTV cameras.

The council’s draft Annual Plan and Budget for 2023–24 proposes a partnership with the state government, to expand, enhance and upgrade the Safe City Camera Program (SCCP).

This includes expanding the camera network to Lygon St in Carlton, as well as exploring ways to contribute to perceived community safety concerns, such as cleanliness, graffiti and dumped rubbish,” with a capital expenditure allocation of \$520,000.

However, a notice of motion put forward by Cr Rohan Leppert, which, at the time of publishing, was considered by councillors at their May 30 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, requested whether the state government would be willing to pay for the capital outlay for any future expansion of the SCCP.

If so, the motion said, “where possible, requests that any agreement is reflected in the final 2023–24 Budget”.

“Any future expansions of the SCCP will therefore only be contemplated where the state government provides the cost of purchase and installation of new cameras, with any exceptions to this policy to be determined by express decision of the council in open session, on notice,” it said. ●



La Mama goes from ashes to international recognition

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

The reconstruction of small indie theatre La Mama is being internationally recognised with design lead architect Meg White debuting her *Rebuild La Mama* installation at the Prague Quadrennial (PQ) of Performance Design and Space.

As part of the renowned international festival, Ms White, alongside La Mama committee deputy chair Helen Hopkins, will speak as part of a panel about the theatre’s rich history and the process of rebuilding the space from ash.

La Mama captured the hearts of the whole community in 2018 after it burnt down and was rebuilt thanks to the efforts of the theatre’s supporters who rallied together to raise more than \$3 million in one year.

The highly successful funding campaign reinforced the importance of the theatre, which has continued to triumph over the challenges thrown its way.

“This is so significant for La Mama, and it

seems like a really fitting end to what has been an enormous journey,” La Mama CEO and artistic director Caitlin Dullard told *Inner City News*.

“Meg’s attention to detail will result in a beautiful, considered experience that communicates the feeling and ethos of La Mama. I love our little theatre and I’m delighted to be sharing a little taste of our home in this international context.”

Ms White’s design has been described by La Mama’s team as “instrumental to its success”, but a lot of her dedication also comes from her commitment to the theatre prior to the fire.

As someone who has performed, stage designed, and served on staff as venue manager, Ms White understood just how vital it was for the rebuild to reflect the local theatre’s influence on Australia’s theatrical landscape.

“The *Performance Space Exhibition* marks the continuation of my cross disciplinary creative journey that began in the early ‘90s with performance, management and design, and that ultimately led me to the field of architecture,” she said.

“La Mama Theatre played a key part in this journey, and there was a poetic resonance in me taking on the role of design architect for the rebuild.”

Having the opportunity to debut and capture the story of La Mama has also been integral for the development of Ms White’s career as both an architect and a performing arts creative.

“Creating a piece about the rebuild for Prague Quadrennial is the next step in the evolution for me as an architect and theatre creative where the line between the two fields is joyously blurred,” she said.

The rebuild will be discussed as part of the program’s *Performance Space Exhibition*, under the title of *Acts of re-assembly: The re-build of La Mama theatre*. PQ’s 2023 festival takes place from June 8 to 18. ●

For more information:
lamama.com.au/prague-quadrennial-2023/

ARE YOU A RENTER?

Victoria is experiencing a rental crisis. Rent prices are soaring and the number of homes available to rent is plummeting.

As your state MP, I’m fighting to make renting fairer and I need your help. Please scan the QR code and tell me about your renting experience.

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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North Melbourne VIC 3051

THE GREENS

Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne 3051

SENATOR LINDA WHITE

Better future for housing within reach

Australia faces significant housing challenges. Recently, issues of housing and homelessness have dominated our national policy conversation.

WORDS BY Senator Linda White
SENATOR.WHITE@APH.GOV.AU



Finding an affordable and decent place to live is getting harder, whether you're looking to buy, rent, or just spend the night.

Unfairly, it is vulnerable Australians who suffer the most when it comes to insecure and unaffordable housing. The latest Closing the Gap Statement highlighted that First Nations Australians continue to disproportionately experience housing uncertainty and homelessness.

The fastest growing group at risk of homelessness is women over 55. Often these women have had careers, families and what could be described as stable lives, but the precarious nature of their financial circumstances means they are at a higher risk than others. Shockingly, the 2021 census revealed the number of homeless Australians has increased by 5.2 per cent since 2016.

This is the challenging set of circumstances the government faces as we try to make up for nearly 10 years of wasted opportunities and neglect by the former Coalition government.

No government can solve these problems alone, or in one go. There is no silver bullet. But we can act meaningfully and ambitiously to improve Australia's housing outcomes. And the government is doing this now, cooperating with housing advocates, and states and territories.

Where cooperation and goodwill has been harder to find is where I sit, in the Australian Senate.

The government's Housing Australia Future Fund legislation is a \$10 billion investment in Australia's social and affordable housing stock – the single largest investment from a federal government in more than a decade. It guarantees 30,000 new social and affordable homes in its first five years, and a long term and sustainable funding model. Currently, both the Coalition and the Greens are blocking this vital legislation.

Make no mistake: standing in the way of the most significant housing investment in more than a decade will not solve housing issues in our cities and regions.

But it will stop us getting more homes on the ground more quickly.

In June the Senate will again consider the Housing Australia Future Fund. By then I hope the senators blocking the reform will have listened to the advice of housing and homelessness advocacy groups, state and territory Housing Ministers and those Australians struggling to keep a roof over their head and pass the legislation.

Australians who dream of a safe and affordable place to live deserve no less. ●

BUSINESS

Join a Winter Discovery Cruise with Port Phillip Ferries

Discover the history of the Yarra River on this new one-hour discovery cruise.

Learn about the fascinating history of Melbourne's waterways by joining one of Port Phillip Ferries' new Winter Discovery Cruises. Taking place every Friday during June, the new tours take guests on a one-hour journey from Docklands along the Yarra River. Passengers will cruise under the Bolte Bridge and Westgate Bridge to where the river meets Hobsons Bay, before returning to Docklands.

There will be live commentary along the way, pointing out key landmarks along the Yarra River and sharing details of the rich past of these waterways and Melbourne's industrious port. A delicious Devonshire tea is also included as part of the tour.

Starting at only \$25 per person (groups of 10-plus are \$23.50 pp) these short cruises offer great value and are the ideal outing for social groups or friends looking for something a little different during June.

Port Phillip Ferries' modern vessels feature multiple indoor and outdoor seating areas, accessible onboard amenities, and a licensed café. They are also easily accessible for all via our boarding ramps, comfortably accommodating wheelchairs, motorised mobility scooters, and prams.

The Winter Discovery Cruises depart from and return to Docklands. The timetabling has



been set-up to coincide with ferry services arriving from both Geelong and Portarlington, ensuring passengers arriving from these destinations can also enjoy the tours.

- **When:** Every Friday in June departing Docklands at 11.30am, returning at 12.30pm.
- **Where:** Port Phillip Ferries Docklands Terminal, Harbour Esplanade, Docklands.
- **What's included:** one-hour cruise, plus Devonshire tea, tea or coffee and historical commentary. ●

For more info and tickets:

portphillipferries.com.au/packages/winter-discovery-cruises

CRITIC



▲ Storm Fronts over the Ranges Winter III by Kate Cross.

Still lessons to be learned from the past

An exhibition of small 9 by 5 paintings has opened at the Victorian Artists Society (VAS) in East Melbourne that celebrates the landscape in miniature.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

The subjects are big, ranging from awesome views of the Blue Mountains to ultramarine storm clouds.

Is it possible to capture grandeur on a small canvas or even a romantic impression of light?

According to the curators of the show, "when you draw, line is important but in painting the first thing to look for is the impression of colour".

Those works that illustrate this principle stand out such as *Storm Fronts over the Ranges Winter* by Kate Cross.

And those that keep the composition simple such as *Windswept Trees, Ocean* by Jo Reitze take advantage of the horizontal form.

This exhibition of 237 works aims to recapture the mood of the original 1889 impressionism show at Buxton Rooms in Swanston St.

The format forces artists to confine their ideas to the size of a cigar-box lid and to take on a perceptual approach to painting at a time when abstraction and conceptual work dominate.

Landscape is attractive because of its inclusive nature, expressive colour and form, both impressionist and deeply considered, and the VAS is the place for considering these questions.

"The effect is only momentary, so an impressionist tries to find his place," the catalogue says, quoting from the original manifesto.

"Two half-hours are never alike, and he who tries to paint a sunset on two successive evenings, must be more or less painting from memory."



▲ Broken River, Mansfield by Mary Ellis.

Cross manages to capture this concept of impermanence as well in three successive renditions of storm fronts across the ranges.

"So, in these works, it has been the object of the artist to render faithfully, and thus obtain first records of effects widely differing, and often of very fleeting character," the catalogue continues.

Landscape painting lives on, still a popular genre 130 years after the original exhibition, which has gone down in art history as the first truly Australian movement.

Those who have a soft spot for repetition and nostalgia will love this exhibition. There are plenty of sunsets to compare, but what about the light touch that was so typical of the Heidelberg School?

The majesty of a bluff such as *Blue Mountains 2* by Neil McIrvine can't fail to impress but what about the feathery brushwork of Streeton and the others in the group?

Broken River, Mansfield by Mary Ellis is muted, soft and ephemeral, if not quite in the freer style of the originals.

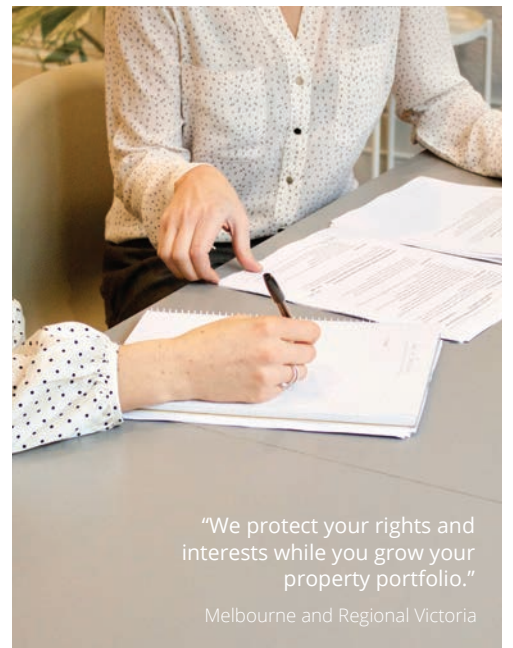
It is fair to say that landscape painting has taken a turn to the more literal and there are still lessons to be learned from the light-obsessed *en plein air* painters of the past who went out in autumn and winter to find small pockets of interest.

9 by 5 Impression Exhibition, Victorian Artists Society, until June 12. ●



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Inner City Local

Carlton duo's commitment to connection runs through their veins

Among Carlton's many cafés and coffee hot-spots, you'll find Michael and Nadeen Kelly's The Heart of Carlton tucked away on Elgin St.

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Oscar Paxton*

As you sit down on furniture handcrafted by Michael and enjoy a delicious \$5 bowl of pasta or a fresh baguette, it doesn't take long to understand where The Heart of Carlton gets its name from.

The husband-and-wife duo have been Carlton residents for the past 15 years, opening the café together just over five years ago.

With Nadeen's Italian background and Michael's hopes to one day open his own café, the opportunity to take over a vacant shop-front just off Lygon St felt "a little bit like fate."

"I've always had in the back of my mind the thought of opening a café, I like the idea of hospitality in its most genuine sense," Michael said.

"The world is sort of a crazy place, so we tried to think what we can do that's meaningful



– I guess I'm coming from that point of view."

A jack-of-all-trades, Michael's passion for craftsmanship has inspired many of the wood-ent structures that you'll find within the café.

The shop next door has also been converted into a workspace to display his art.



Stepping into The Heart of Carlton feels as if you're stepping into an extension of the Kelly's home. Photographs, knick-knacks, books, and music surround the space, telling their own story of the pair behind the coffee machine.

While The Heart of Carlton has established itself as a much-loved member of the Carlton business community, the couple's old-fashioned and honest ethos is what makes the space so unique.

"There's certainly a business aspect to this, but it's not the way that I like connecting with people," Michael said.

"I think that there's something meaningful in the idea of having a café and having a lot of interaction with people - whether I'm doing that myself or encouraging that by simply creating an environment that is conducive to peaceful things."

Michael and Nadeen's non-judgemental approach to life sees everyone welcome at The Heart of Carlton, believing that "there's plenty of room to connect with people in the good things."

"It's not exclusive, there's no cancel culture or anything like that around here," Michael said.

Whether you're a student, family, new to Carlton or a long-term resident, Michael and Nadeen's ability to connect with people from all walks of life can inspire us all in some way.

Heart of Carlton is located at 189 Elgin St, Carlton. ●

For more information:
facebook.com/theheartofcarlton

EAST MELBOURNE GROUP



Protecting what makes East Melbourne special

A visit to the suburb of East Melbourne is often the first outing for international tourists to Melbourne.

East Melbourne is a heritage suburb full of locals living in charming terrace houses or apartments. Wide, tree-lined streets and wide plantations flow through the suburb. Traffic still flows smoothly.

The neighbouring MCG makes East Melbourne and Jolimont a visitor hub as fans flow through to AFL football, international cricket, rock concerts, marathon walks, museums and more.

As many as 90,000 fans come to the MCG and 90,000 fans leave the MCG all very cheerfully, peacefully and orderly along the bridges, paths, parks, tram and train stations.

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) is the community voice in East Melbourne. It is Victoria's oldest community residents' group, which has been active and in demand for 70 years. The purpose of the EMG is to protect, improve, enhance this iconic suburb.

Since 1954 the EMG has advocated for those who have chosen to make their home in one of the world's most liveable suburbs. It works with the City of Melbourne, National Trust, Heritage Victoria, and political representatives to ensure that heritage properties are protected and the integrity of the suburb is maintained.

Building developers have a constant keen eye for sites in East Melbourne. They would like to turn heritage buildings and façades in East Melbourne into the front of high-rise developments. This has happened in the neighbouring suburbs of Carlton and Richmond.

Developers are keen to develop street gardens into 80-seat restaurants.

The EMG reviews planning applications and it engages with barristers and heritage planning experts to ensure that the suburb remains protected and well planned. All of this costs money and requires a vigilant committee.

The EMG works as a social group in its political and fundraising endeavours. This year we are celebrating 70 years. A gala dinner will be held in July to raise funds and celebrate the hard work of the volunteer members. Everyone is welcome. ●

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Royal Park – our crown jewel

When Governor La Trobe set aside 10.36 square kilometres in 1850 it was to establish parkland and open space for the city of Melbourne. It didn't take long to sell off areas of it to establish parts of Carlton, North Melbourne, and the General Cemetery.

We as Parkvillians did our bit from 1871 following the establishment of Melbourne University in 1853.

Various other incursions into the park have included the Commonwealth Games village (now Parkville Gardens), the Melbourne Zoo and, of course, the development of the new Royal Children's Hospital where the move north should have given back the land used for the new building. This has been fiercely debated!

Either way, what we now have left is most precious. Last weekend I took part in an on-site survey for the Royal Park masterplan. This has been a long time coming, however the City of Melbourne is working closely with any residents, workers or other interested parties to develop a plan for the next 20 years.

The council has extended the consultation and I encourage all residents to visit the site and participate. The survey can be found at participatemelbourne.vic.gov.au Personally, my love of the park is for the flora and fauna there, the great natural areas and Trin Warren Tam-boore wetlands. There are magnificent trees and when walking at quiet times the park provides an amazing feeling of peace almost in the centre of our great city.

The sporting ovals are also a great asset, and the council has recently started to rebuild some of the facilities particularly to cater for the great upsurge in female sport. These are wonderful initiatives and add to the park being used by locals and visitors.

This brings me to the development of the latest tower block on the north-western side and the proposed "sky rail" on the north-eastern corner and on to the Royal Park Station. If the latter goes ahead, the park will be bookended and also cause issues for residents in The Avenue and in Brunswick.

The joy of the park is to look across all vistas and the sky rail will clearly be an ugly addition across the corner



to Royal Park Station. La Trobe would be very upset seeing his vision disturbed in so many ways.

The Royal Park protection Group and Friends of Royal Park work constantly together with Chris and the Serco team to plant and maintain the area and any loss of trees for the sky rail will be tragic!

Please complete the survey and ensure the park remains the lungs of the city!

Clearly as I write this column there is no news on the Morrah Street VCAT case. We have completed the funding and all costs have now been paid. The generosity of our residents was amazing. We have our fingers crossed for a positive resolve.

Enjoy our beautiful suburb and if you want a little more exercise Ryan Moses one our committee members has opened a second venue in North Melbourne having extensively renovated the Courthouse Hotel. Good luck to he and his team ... it's certainly worth the walk! ●



Rob Moore
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENTPARKVILLE
ASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM

Rotarians from around the world congregate in Melbourne

Nearly 15,000 Rotarians congregated in Melbourne in late May for the Rotary International Convention. This was the second time the International Convention had been held in Melbourne, the last occasion being 1993.

WORDS BY *Ian Ada*
PRESIDENT

It was the largest conference secured so far this century for Melbourne. The global spotlight was on our city and how we presented ourselves to the world.

The conference ran from May 27 to 31 at Rod Laver Arena and Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Rotary as an organisation provides service to others, promotes integrity, and advances world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Around 1.4 million Rotarians belong to more than 35,000 Rotary clubs located in 166 countries. This conference is a major opportunity for local Rotarians to meet and connect with people of action like ourselves from around the globe.



Speakers included leaders from within Rotary as well as world leaders in their field. Dr Shahzad Asif Baig is national coordinator of the Polio Eradication Program in Pakistan, one of only two countries left in the world where wild polio exists.

Emmanuel Katongole is an executive director of CiplaQCIL, the largest pharmaceutical manufacturer in East Africa and the only maker of antiretrovirals in Africa.

Leymah Gbowee is 2011 Peace Laureate

and founder of Gbowee Peace Foundation. She is a Liberian peace activist, trained social worker and women's rights advocate, and has been named as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders by *Fortune Magazine*.

The Victorian economy was bolstered with spending from thousands of Rotarians that delivered around \$50 million to the state's economy. For example, more than 6000 hotel rooms across 40-plus properties were required. Rotarians have come from more than 100

countries from every corner of the world.

At the Grand Opening at Rod Laver Arena on Sunday, May 28, international president Jennifer Jones from Canada, pledged another US\$150 million from the Rotary Foundation to polio eradication efforts during her opening address, bringing Rotary's total commitment to a staggering US\$2.25 billion.

On the evening of Monday, May 29, many of the interstate and international visiting Rotarians were hosted either by individual Rotarians in their homes, or by clubs in venues around the city. Carlton Rotary, together with Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond Clubs hosted 50 visitors in the barristers social club in the Owen Dixon Chambers in William St.

Cooking at Ronald McDonald House

In late March, Carlton Rotarians began cooking barbecue sausages and hamburgers again at Ronald McDonald House, after a hiatus of three years during COVID.

The House, with multiple properties in Gatehouse St, Parkville, provides accommodation for families of sick children in the Royal Children's Hospital. These families are from country Victoria or interstate and sometimes have to be close to their children for many weeks or months. Family dinners are provided weekly by Friends of Ronald McDonald House, with barbecues by a range of community groups.

Carlton Rotary will be continuing its more than 15-year involvement with the House by providing the meat and cooking on a bi-monthly basis. ●

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

Stop Margaret Kelly's eviction by Homes Victoria

Margaret's eviction notice demanded she leave her home in the Barak Beacon public housing estate in Port Melbourne by May 16. This deadline has been passed and she remains resolute about staying.

Margaret has asked to meet Minister for Housing Colin Brooks who has declined. The campaign in support of Margaret can be followed on the Save Barak Beacon Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/1210658333087123

State Budget

Despite media reports of Homes Victoria needing hundreds of millions of dollars extra recurrent funding to stay solvent nothing was included in the state budget about Homes Victoria. The past reports were based on briefings given to the government by Homes Victoria bureaucrats.

The only direct mention of Homes Victoria in Treasurer Pallas's Statement of Finances is the listing of the two Ground Lease Model (GLM) projects in Melbourne. They are described as public private partnerships along with similarly branded projects in health, schools and other services.

The GLM projects include the Barak Beacon public housing estate. It involves making demolished public housing estates land available for nothing to private investors to build a mix of community, so-called affordable and market rent housing. All rental income from these three tenures is taken by the investors, along with cash payments from the government. Marginal 10 per cent increases in community housing over the previous numbers of public housing are promised but will make up only around 30 per cent of all dwellings built. So-called affordable housing will have rents set at 90 per cent of the market rent. To describe

these projects as improving access to affordable housing is laughable.

The only other mentions of rental housing in the budget were: increased land tax on dwellings that are not primary residences of households and include holiday homes along with private investment properties and land tax discounts for private investor build to rent projects. The government has stated that rents will not go up as a result of the increase but has offered no measures to stop this happening.

Big Housing Build – it is time for an audit

There was no update on this program in the budget nor in Treasurer Pallas's speech to parliament.

There is plenty of evidence that there are major problems with the original Public Housing Renewal Program projects completely changed from delivering community and private housing to fully funded construction by Homes Victoria. For example, Walker St at Northcote remains a demolished estate with nothing being built despite the developer MAB selling \$3 million off-the-plan units with views over Merri Creek.

I understand The Victorian Auditor General will be conducting an audit of the program in the not-too-distant future and I can't wait to see that start.

COVID-19 public housing lockdowns tenants offered class action payments

No apology has been offered to residents who suffered under these lockdowns but a class action against the government has seen an offer of payments. I welcome this financial, offer but we all still need to see an apology.

This column has been written with the assistance of the Save Public Housing Collective. ●



Cory Memery

CITY OF MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020
CORYMEMERY@YAHOO.COM

STATE MP (UPPER HOUSE)

Rental crisis deepens

“Young Melburnians excited to live in the centre of our vibrant city are struggling to find a place to rent and are being priced out of our inner suburbs.”



WORDS BY *Evan Mulholland*

As a millennial MP, and a former renter of a shoebox apartment in Abbotsford, I empathise with the pain many young Victorians are feeling. Annual rent increases of as much as 17 per cent year-on-year show there is a serious failure in our rental market.

We know the primary driver of this crisis is a crippling shortage of new housing supply in our inner suburbs, and since my election to Parliament last November I've been raising the alarm on this issue.

Victoria is growing, and we should welcome new migrants who are excited make Melbourne their new home and contribute to our economy.

But with a rising population, comes an obligation by government to provide the policy settings to create new housing supply.

This Labor State Budget has decided to take the opposite approach, hiking taxes on new housing investment, which I fear will turn our rental crisis into a catastrophe.

Cost blowouts from the Andrews Government's mismanagement of major projects and the economy and has led them to increase taxes across the board. The latest cash grab is a radical overhaul to land tax, which will only result in young renters paying more.



Now almost every rental property in the state will be subject to land tax, with the tax-free threshold will be cut from \$300,000 to \$50,000 and levying charges of at least \$975 plus on any land worth over \$100,000.

The Treasurer has been forced to admit that this will be \$1300 in extra land tax for the average rental property, a cost which will inevitably end up being borne by renters and those who can least afford it.

To large landholders this new tax is a rounding error, but as the Real Estate Institute of Victoria highlights, two thirds of investors own just one investment property, close to half earn less than \$100,000 a year, and like the rest of us are just trying to save and invest for retirement.

When we have a crisis of housing supply, the worst thing we could do is raise taxes that disincentivise new housing investment and development, yet that is exactly what Labor has done.

I've been vocal about the need for local government to be more constructive when it comes to approving new housing developments, and there is much more to be done across all levels of government.

But when we see a housing catastrophe unfolding before our eyes, it's time to start getting real about the drivers of this disaster. Let's stop trying to tax our way out of every cost-blowout and start providing the economic incentives and investment opportunities that will fix housing supply and drive down rents.

Evan Mulholland is Liberal MP for Northern Metropolitan Region and Shadow Cabinet Secretary. ●

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The early days of women's cricket

With the MCG within its boundaries, East Melbourne has more than its fair share of sporting stories. One that is probably not so widely known is the foundation of women's cricket as an organised sport.



Women's cricket had been played sporadically since 1874 as a social game, often as a charity fundraiser. Some churches and schools formed their own teams and St Peter's Eastern Hill was one of these.

The vicar at St Peter's, Canon Ernest Selwyn Hughes, was a keen sportsman involved in many sports but especially cricket. His verger, Patrick Francis (Frank) Gooley, was equally enthusiastic. With their support a women's cricket team was born. It went by the name of Coldstream (named apparently after the Coldstream Guards, and nothing to do with Coldstream, the township).

It was at St Peter's in July 1905 where representatives of some of the social teams met to form the new association, to be called the Victorian Ladies' Cricket Association (VLCA).

Vida Goldstein was elected first president. Although not a cricket player herself she was keen to advance women's opportunities in any field.

However, Frank Gooley played the more active role of chairman of meetings as well as taking on coaching, umpiring and team management roles. Meetings continued to be held at St Peter's Hall. In the VLCA's first year Coldstream won 17 of its 18 matches.

East Melbourne resident and a St Peter's parishioner, Lilla Brockelbank, was a founding player in the new St Peter's team. Lilla was described as very short in stature and was compared to the English all-rounder Wilfred

Rhodes: "At the wickets she uses the right-handed stance, and when in the attack bowls a slow to medium left-hand break".

Lilla was also a clever young woman. At the end of primary school, she had been awarded one of only 10 government scholarships to continue her schooling. She matriculated in 1899. She worked initially as a clerk, then as an architect's assistant. Later, after further study at the Working Men's College, she felt able to call herself an architect.

The old VLCA was disbanded at the outset of the war because of the extra demands on women it had brought. After the war it was Lilla who was instrumental in the establishment of the revitalised Victorian Women's Cricket Association (VWCA). It was she who drummed up new interest, placing repeated recruitment ads in the newspapers calling on ladies' cricket teams to join the new association.

It finally came to fruition in 1924. Its headquarters remain in Jolimont, not far from where it all started. ●



Sylvia Black

SECRETARY, EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

Sitting is the new smoking

Test: sit up tall while reading this article.

WORDS BY Kane Hamilton



In our pursuit of a healthy lifestyle, we often prioritise exercise and diet. However, emerging research uncovers a surprising truth: even dedicated exercisers are not fully offsetting the detrimental consequences of prolonged sitting.

We lead sedentary lives. Modern comforts and electronic entertainment have stripped away the everyday movement that we once took for granted.

If you're Generation X, we will be the first generation to spend our entire adult lives sitting behind desks and screens. Similar to how it took time for the dangers of smoking to become widely known, it will take a generation for the research on prolonged sitting to have a significant impact on our understanding of longevity and health.

The more we sit, the more our muscle strength, energy levels, muscle mass quantity and quality, and metabolic function decline. Over time, excessive sitting leads to progressive muscle loss. Consequently, we lose mobility, balance, coordination, and independence, ultimately becoming frail.

On average, we spend more than half of our waking hours sitting each day—a staggering amount.

Sitting has the opposite effect on our bodies compared to movement, just as movement differs from exercise.

Movement is vital for maintaining a well-tuned and responsive body. Without it, we become sluggish, stiff, and immobile. Simple everyday movement forms the foundation of health, keeping us resilient and feeling good. It's important to note that everyday movement

is distinct from structured workouts at the gym.

Health refers to how we feel and function, typically characterised by the absence of disease. Fitness, on the other hand, pertains to our physical capabilities.

Paying attention to the fundamentals is crucial for maintaining good health and resilience.

The lack of movement leads to reduced mobility, neck or back pain, hunched posture, muscle and bone weakness, decreased flexibility, and joint discomfort—does any of this sound familiar?

Preserving mobility and muscle is the single most important aspect of successful aging.

While the signs of aging may not be evident at 30 when our peak development ends, they become undeniable as years and decades pass. However, the pace at which we age largely depends on our lifestyle choices, which directly impact our health. Lifestyle encompasses various factors like diet, quality of sleep, stress management, and resilience. A sedentary lifestyle, lacking movement, poses one of the greatest risks to healthy aging.

Next month, I will delve into what I personally do with my clients to promote frequent movement and counteract the effects of sitting on the body and mind.

So, are you still sitting up tall? ●

CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE

Finding freedom: the theme of Refugee Week 2023

“

For Jebbeh Manubah, finding freedom – the theme of Refugee Week (Sunday, June 18 to Saturday, June 24) – means much more than just words. It is a poignant and powerful encapsulation of the refugee journey.

”

WORDS BY Tony Milne
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In the fabric of human society, there exists a deeply woven thread that binds us – our shared pursuit of freedom. For some, freedom is a given, a fact of life so inherently present that its significance is often overlooked. For others, it remains an elusive dream, guiding them through perilous journeys. The latter represents the plight of millions of refugees around the world, those who are forced to leave their homes in search of safety and a chance for a better life.

Jebbeh's story

Jebbeh grew up in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. But as the civil war escalated, girls raped, boys forced to fight in the war, 18-year-old Jebbeh had no choice but to flee to the Ivory Coast. Separated from her parents and family, Jebbeh became stuck when rebels captured where she had come from, and she couldn't go back. Unable to speak French or get food, she and her cousin followed a group of people to the Buduburam Refugee camp in Ghana. While she was happy to be in a place where there were no guns, she had no family, and no hope.

Jebbeh lived in the refugee camp from 2002 to 2005. There were no toilets. There was nowhere to shower. It was a daily struggle to get food. "There was no hope. There was nothing. You just lived. It was just surviving. Your mind doesn't let you have hope," she said.

One small blessing was reuniting with one of her brothers, by luck, after a year in the camp.

As part of a UN asylum-seeking scheme refugees were encouraged to create a photo ID. Jebbeh met and married her then husband and was put on a list of families who could go to Australia, a country Jebbeh had never heard of. Some said Australia was at "the end of the world" and too far away.

After several months, Jebbeh was on a bus with 10 other families and on her very first plane flight (a scary experience) to South Africa, then Sydney, and finally Brisbane. The flight was also her first experience with Australian food. "This is a tree. Why are they making me eat a tree?" she exclaimed when they served her broccoli!



Jebbeh was happy to be leaving life in a refugee camp where there was "no future, no hope, nothing for me" and to be going somewhere where she could make a future.

But Jebbeh had also never experienced racism before coming to Australia and it was mentally draining for her.

"I didn't know I was different until I came here," she said.

"I had to fight to be accepted. But physically it was good because I had access to water. I had access to food. I had access to shelter. I never had that in the refugee camp and the war was very bad. So, yeah, I could fight it and push myself to make my second home, my home."

Jebbeh is now on student placement at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) as part of her Master of Public Health and Global Nutrition at Victoria University. She is offering valuable insight into the work we do with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and how CNLC can incorporate lived experience into our policies and work.

Understanding freedom

For refugees, freedom means living without fear of war, with basic human rights, equality, and without persecution. These are the fundamental freedoms that many of us take for granted, yet they are the very reasons why millions embark on dangerous journeys, seeking asylum.

Finding freedom is not just about escaping harm or political turmoil. It's about rebuilding lives, forming new relationships, and embracing new careers in a safe and welcoming environment. ●

Policeman shot in Trades Hall



In the early hours of the morning of October 1, 1915, a dramatic event occurred in Trades Hall in Lygon St, Carlton, that resulted in a policeman being shot dead and two burglars seriously wounded.



There had been a burglary in the Trades Hall building some weeks before and as a result the police were keeping a close eye on it. At 2.30am in the morning a policeman was passing the building when he heard noises coming from inside. He immediately returned to the Russell St police headquarters, which was nearby, to seek reinforcements and together a group of policemen went to investigate. Finding a window open, they climbed in and began searching in the dark for intruders.

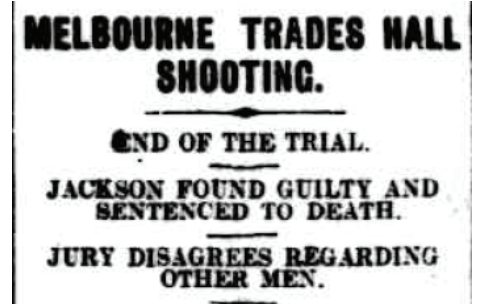


▲ Trades Hall, on the corner of Lygon and Victoria streets, Carlton, in 1916.

Ascending the main staircase inside the building, they disturbed a group of three men who were attempting to break open a safe in an upstairs office. The men were armed with revolvers and started firing as they tried to escape. The police returned fire. In the resulting exchange, one of the policemen, Constable David McGrath, was shot dead and two of the burglars were seriously wounded. The wounded men were arrested, as was a third man who was caught climbing out a window.

In their subsequent trial, one of the burglars, a career criminal named John Jackson, was found guilty of the murder of Constable McGrath and later hanged. The other two were sentenced to long periods in jail.

Constable McGrath had been a well-respected officer who had served in the Fire Brigade before joining the police force. He was aged 42 when he died, married with two daughters. His funeral was a major event in Melbourne attended by thousands. It was led by a police band



with more than 500 police, firemen and soldiers marching behind. The funeral was paid for by the Trades Hall Council as a sign of respect and appreciation for the police's efforts.

The exchange of revolver shots in the stairwell and elsewhere in the building left a number of bullet holes in the walls, which are still there and can be clearly seen by visitors to this day. The shoot-out was one of the most dramatic events in the 160-year history of the Trades Hall, and on October 1, 2015 a service was held in an upstairs hall of the building to mark its centenary. ●



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METRO TUNNEL



Spectacular Town Hall Station revealed

New images have been released showing the spectacular underground concourse of the Metro Tunnel's new Town Hall Station, under construction beneath City Square.

Town Hall Station will be one of five new stations opening in 2025 as part of the Metro Tunnel, including Parkville Station – providing rail access to the world-leading health and education precinct for the first time.

The concourse will be directly beneath Melbourne's City Square, which will be returned to the public as an open space for events and to gather, surrounded by city landmarks such as St Paul's Cathedral and Melbourne Town Hall.

Earlier this year crews finished dismantling the noise-cancelling shed over City Square, which had protected nearby residents and businesses from noise and dust and provided a space for large-scale public art.

The project is set to reach another significant milestone in October – the reopening of a section of Flinders St that has been closed for more than four years.



The eastbound lane between Elizabeth St and Swanston St, alongside the tram stop, will permanently reopen to traffic in October, improving traffic flow through the CBD.

Both eastbound lanes were closed in September 2019 to allow construction of the underground walkway between Flinders Street Station and Town Hall Station – which will allow passengers to easily and quickly switch between Metro Tunnel and City Loop services.

In the final step towards reopening the traffic lane, a small section of footpath opposite Flinders Street Station, between Dangerfield and Clements House, will be closed from Monday, May 29 until mid-September so workers can finish construction below the surface and safely reinstate the traffic lane.

The other eastbound lane, next to the footpath, will remain closed as construction continues on Town Hall Station.

When the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025 passengers getting on a train at Parkville will be in the CBD in just a few minutes, stopping first at State Library Station – at the northern end of Swanston St, with a direct link to Melbourne Central Station – and then at Town Hall Station.

The Metro Tunnel will transform rail travel in Melbourne, creating capacity for more than half-a-million extra passengers in peak periods each week. ●

MELBOURNE ZOO

Nifty zip-line delivers dinner on time to Zillie the cassowary

Zillie the Southern cassowary is using her sharp, Pterodactyl-like beak to delicately pluck fruits delivered via a new zip-line device at Melbourne Zoo.

Tomatoes, apples, stone fruits and grapes – Zillie's all-time favourite snacks – are spiked onto a tree branch attached to the zip-line for her to reach up and grab.

Melbourne Zookeeper Ryan Pilgrim said this innovative way of feeding Zillie encouraged the 85-kilogram flightless bird's natural foraging behaviours and kept mealtimes mentally stimulating.

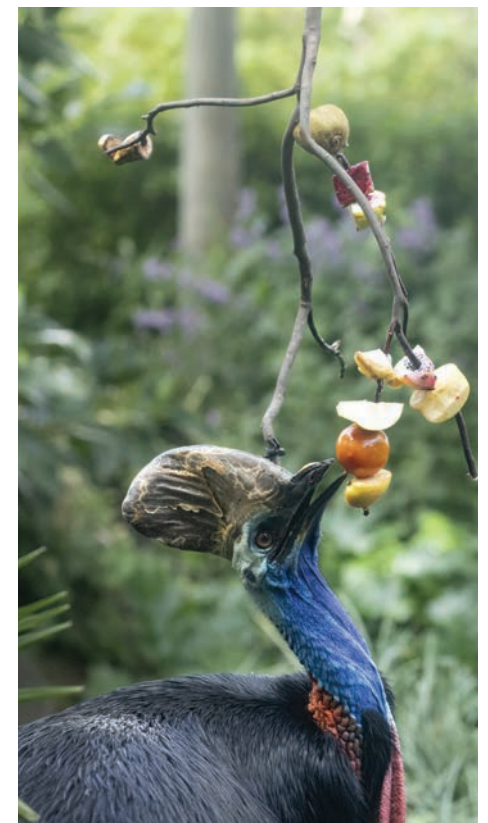
"In the wild, Southern cassowaries would feed by plucking fruit from high trees and bushes," Mr Pilgrim said. "This new device allows her to problem-solve, rather than eat fruit off the ground."

Zillie receives food from the zip-line three times a day and visitors can watch as she swallows the fruit whole. She can eat anywhere from six to 15 kilograms of fruit a day.

Mr Pilgrim said Zillie was especially fascinating for visitors to watch due to her inquisitive and calm nature. The 13-year-old bird is considered a youngster, with the species typically living up to 60 years in zoos and around 20 years in the wild.

"Zillie often stands right near the viewing window so you can closely admire her electric blue face, red wattles and grey helmet, which is called a casque," Mr Pilgrim said. "It's amazing to watch her eat as she is quite gentle in plucking the fruit off the branch, then quickly swallows the large fruits whole."

Southern cassowaries are native to the tropical rainforests of north-east Queensland and Papua New Guinea. Reaching up to two metres



tall, these powerful birds are characterised by their long legs and three-toed feet with sharp claws.

Cassowaries are an incredibly important species for biodiversity as they help to maintain healthy, diverse rainforests by spreading seeds as they eat and run.

Zoos Victoria and Melbourne Zoo visitors are reminded that all tickets must be pre-booked online at zoo.org.au. Zoos Victoria Members no longer need to book tickets. ●

Quiz



- After a year-long campaign to save the John Curtin Hotel (pictured), what has the building been awarded?
- Psittacines are more commonly known as what animal?
- Of the seven chakras, which one is located at the base of the spine?
- Works to upgrade a roundabout at Simpson and Hotham streets have begun, what will the \$420,000 project be funded through?
- Lygon Court is home to a new natural health and beauty pop-up store. What is the store called?
- When Elle Fanning made her film debut in *I Am Sam*, who played the older version of her character Lucy Dawson?
- Which Roman emperor commissioned the wall across Northern Britain in 122 AD?
- True or false: black bears are not always black?
- In which country was the Battle of Waterloo fought?
- Queenie is considered royalty to the Rathdowne Village community, where can you find the loveable bearded collie?
- A \$12.5 million six-storey development has been endorsed for Lygon St, but has obtained 21 objections: why?
- When was The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons on Spring Street founded and when was the building completed?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. A heritage listing 2. Parrots 3. Root chakra 4. The federal government's Black Spot program 5. Nefyl 6. Dakota Fanning (her sister) 7. Hadrian 8. True 9. Belgium 10. Senserrick Green Grocer 11. Excessive height and scale, heritage impacts, overshadowing, and insufficient car parking 12. 1927 and 1934.

5x5

No. 024

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

C		A		S
	E		R	
A		O		L
	I		E	
S		E		A

SOLUTIONS

CRAIG, ZEBRA, AFOUL, RIDES, STELA

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Jun, 2023

Sudoku

No. 024

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

	5	7		9	4			2
9		6		7		3		
1							7	5
		5	6					
7				8				6
					3	2		
6	4							9
		3		5		7		1
5			1	3		4	6	

HARD

7	5		9			1		
6					2		4	
			1					
	2			9		7		
			6	8	3			
		4		1			9	
					8			
	4		7					8
		8			9		6	3

SOLUTIONS

EASY

8	9	7	6	3	1	2	7	5
1	2	7	4	5	3	6	8	9
6	3	8	2	7	1	4	9	5
7	5	2	3	1	6	8	9	4
9	4	1	5	8	7	3	2	6
3	6	8	7	4	9	5	2	1
5	7	2	6	9	4	1	8	3
4	1	6	5	7	1	3	8	9
2	1	2	8	9	7	8	4	6

HARD

3	9	5	6	2	4	8	7	1
8	2	6	1	9	7	5	3	4
7	1	1	8	5	3	6	9	2
9	6	8	2	1	7	4	3	5
1	2	5	4	2	6	9	7	8
4	3	7	4	7	6	5	9	2
6	7	9	5	3	1	2	8	4
5	4	3	2	7	8	1	6	9
2	8	1	8	2	6	3	4	5
7	8	4	4	6	3	5	3	2

Wordfind

Theme: Australia

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

D	H	L	T	H	E	N	C	Q	M	N
A	T	A	L	U	A	A	V	U	A	S
R	R	T	C	M	P	K	I	E	T	Y
W	E	S	D	E	Y	D	C	E	I	D
I	P	A	Y	S	E	O	T	N	L	N
N	R	O	C	S	N	T	O	S	D	E
B	R	C	E	A	O	A	R	L	A	Y
K	U	R	I	B	N	S	I	A	S	A
T	T	D	N	S	W	M	A	N	R	R
Y	N	A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E	R
I	A	R	R	E	B	N	A	C	T	A

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ACT | INDIAN OCEAN |
| ADELAIDE | MATILDAS |
| BASS | NSW |
| BRADMAN | PERTH |
| CANBERRA | QUEENSLAND |
| CAPE YORK | SYDNEY |
| COASTAL | TASMAN |
| DARWIN | VICTORIA |
| DESERT | YARRA |

Secret message: The lucky country

Crossword

No. 024

ACROSS

- Biking (7)
- Keepsake (7)
- Come together (3)
- Chance (11)
- Objects of worship (5)
- Unspoken (6)
- Keeness (6)
- US state (7)
- Merriment (3)
- Section of a book (7)
- Water-surrounded land (6)
- Half conscious state (6)
- Wildlife (5)
- Purchase order (11)
- Help (3)
- Reading or copying machine (7)
- Carefree (7)

DOWN

- Awareness (10)
- Informal (10)
- Golf clubs (5)
- Plaster ingredient (6)
- Sharpshooter (8)
- Indian Ocean nation (9)
- Metal fastener (4)
- Ornamental quartz (4)
- Knowledge of words (10)
- Female servant (10)
- Exaction (9)
- Limit (8)
- Acme (6)
- Conclusive (5)
- Weapons (4)
- Prefix meaning water (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9				10										
11						12								
												13		14
15				16				17						
								18						
19										20				
										21				
												22		23
24				25										
26													27	
28										29				

SOLUTION

N	O	A	O	T	V	H	E	N	N	A	O	S			
E	R	Y	A	E	O	N	W								
G	I	V	N	O	I	L	S	I	N	O	E	R			
I	T	I	N	I	L	V	W								
W	N	N	V	F	E	C	O	N	V	B	L	E			
W	B			Z	O	O	T	E							
Q	N	V	I	S	I	B	E	L	D	V	H	O			
N	O	Z	L	I	N	E	X	I	L	I	N				
Y	N	O	Z	L	I	N	E	H	O	W					
H	A	L	W	W	O	S									
H	A	I	W	S	N	I	O	D	I						
X	T	H	X	S	N	I	N								
A	L	I	N	U	L	R	O	F	O	T	E	D			
N	V	V	V	A	R	O	O								
O	I	N	E	R	W	G	N	I	L	O	A				

Codeword

No. 024

18	22	7	13	3	10	18	I	18		J	10	13
11			11		10	19		20		11		I
18	13	9	4	24	20	3	4	7	7	10	15	
13		18			14			15				10
4	16	10	9	4	23	10		15	10	5	10	9
I				8		13		22		10		
7	10	4	9	17	22		4	24	4	9	12	18
		8		11		2		4				11
1	11	4		I	15	9	10	23	I	8	10	7
11		15		4		10				4		12
I	7	23	10	7	11	10		5	3	19	13	19
13		4		20		6		11		9		24
10	15	8		10	21	10	8	5	13	I	19	7

SOLUTIONS

J	I	I	M	G	W	X	C	S	O	A	B	S	L	K
19	11	15	10	7	11	10	4	9	12	18	2	4	11	13
1	11	4		I	15	9	10	23	I	8	10	7		
11		15		4		10				4		12		
I	7	23	10	7	11	10		5	3	19	13	19		
13		4		20		6		11		9		24		
10	15	8		10	21	10	8	5	13	I	19	7		

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

9-Letter

No. 024

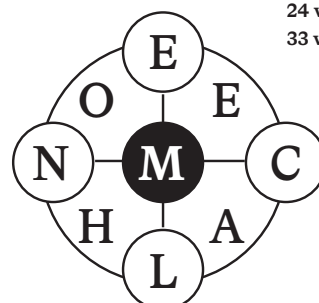
Today's Focus:

16 words: Good

24 words: Very good

33 words: Excellent

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



SOLUTIONS

acme, ahem, amen, calm, came, camel, canoe, chamelion, clam, coma, come, enema, helm, holm, home, lame, lemon, loam, mace, macho, male, mane, manhole, meal, mean, melon, menage, moan, mocha, mole, name, nome, omen

Reference:

Collins Concise English Dictionary

What's On: June 2023

Community Calendar

EVERY FRIDAY, 10AM TO 12PM
CONNECT CAFE: TECH I.T HELP FROM PEOPLE 55+
 NOTE: **Final session on June 2.** Light morning tea provided.
 Learn new skills on your mobile, tablet device or laptop. Weekly workshops and one-on-one tech help with a trained and skilled Lively Tech Helper.
 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre. Book: 9658 9190



EVERY TUESDAY, 10:30AM TO 11AM
SONGBIRDS
 Songs, rhymes and stories to engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun rhythm of language.
 For babies and toddlers up to 18 months old, no bookings required.
 Kathleen Syme Library



EVERY SATURDAY, 8AM TO 1PM
FARMERS MARKET
 Stalls selling fresh produce on primary school grounds.
 Everything from fruit, to vegetables, flowers, take home and ready-to-eat meals, honey, coffee and baked goods.
 Carlton North Primary School



EVERY SATURDAY, 1PM TO 3PM
WOMEN'S SOCIAL SOCCER (FREE)
 Melbourne Social Soccer runs free social games for women. Contact 0456 700 688.
 admin@melbournesocialsoccer.com
 Crawford Oval
 121 Princes Park

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10:30AM TO 11AM
STOMPERS
 Share the wonder of books with your preschooler at this storytime with stories, songs, rhymes, and activities.
 For children aged 18 months to 3 years old.
 East Melbourne Library



UNTIL JUNE 25
LA MAMA'S AUTUMN 2023 PROGRAM
 Catch the last shows on La Mama's Autumn 2023 program before it is too late. From *The World According To Dinosaurs*, to *Adrift*, *Little Brother*, *Big Sister*, and many more.
 Info: lamama.com.au/whats-on/



UNTIL JUNE 30 (BEFORE RE-OPENING JULY 17)
CARLTON TOY LIBRARY
 Make sure to pop by the Carlton Toy Library at The Chapel (469 Cardigan St) before it closes for a brief stint on June 30.
 Open Monday from 3:30pm to 6pm, Wednesday from 10am to 12:30pm, and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.



UNTIL JUNE 30
FITZROY GARDENS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
 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. 10am to 4pm.
 Fitzroy Gardens Visitor Centre
 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

Business Directory

Health & Fitness

women's health matters
 Telephone (03) 9132 9644
 www.numbertwomenshealth.com
 notwomenshealth

Politician

ELLEN SANDELL
 STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
 (03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com
 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

Real Estate

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 sales@caine.com.au
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 Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au Epping VIC 3076

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 Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326
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 Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572
 Will Caldwell 0419 010 270
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MELBOURNE
BOUTIQUE
PROPERTY



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