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Celebrating women
Photo by Her Place

Premier Daniel Andrews opens the *Unmasked* exhibition in early March at Her Place Museum in East Melbourne to celebrate the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife postponed from 2020. *Full story on page 5.*

Carlton residents fight back against “dangerous” development

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PLANNING

A proposed development at MacArthur Place in Carlton has angered residents who argue it would put pedestrians and cyclists in danger.

The development at 6-10 MacArthur Place intends to turn three existing houses into apartment buildings, with basement level parking for three cars to access from Nicholls Lane.

Addressing councillors at the City of Melbourne’s Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on March 16, Carlton resident Joseph Bernard said the off-street parking via Nicholls Lane would endanger cyclists and pleaded with the council to reject the application.

“I ask you to consider the safety of our residents and of the greater community which includes thousands of cyclists who use Canning St corridor every day,” he said.

“Nicholls Lane is unique; the entrance of the lane is the Canning St protected cycle corridor so any vehicles wanting to enter or leave Canning St need to cross this bike lane.”

Mr Bernard said that cars trying to access the new basement parking would have to negotiate cyclists travelling downhill at speed or try to push through bikes that are lined up waiting for the lights to change at peak hour.

“Cars do have to back out and into the bike lane,” Mr Bernard said.

“We the residents of Nicholls Lane are currently living the dream of a pedestrian-friendly, cycle-centric transport model. The approval of vehicle access would extinguish this reality and disadvantage owners, residents who rely on the lane, and cyclists who have to deal with the manoeuvres of cars which frankly put lives at risk.”

Carlton resident Constance Bernard also submitted against the motion, arguing that it went against the

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Locals working to protect Royal Park biodiversity

As the largest green space in the City of Melbourne, Royal Park is considered “the lungs of the city”.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ENVIRONMENT

But with ever-present threats of overdevelopment, members of the independent volunteer group Friends of Royal Park (FORP) have been working hard to ensure that Royal Park retains its unique qualities.

FORP convener Chris Nicholson said that through bi-monthly working bees and awareness campaigns the group had been able to prevent biodiversity in the park from declining.

“The working bees started a few years ago and focused on tasks that needed to be done like weeding, but we have also started to do some propagating by collecting seeds from the park, growing them and planting them back in the park,” Mr Nicholson said.

“Grassy woodlands are becoming rarer and rarer as the city grows so we’re preserving sites that might otherwise have been bulldozed and turned into football ovals, cricket pitches or residential properties.”

Mr Nicholson said that FORP also received a grant from the federal government to build a nursery which had been a huge asset to the park.

“We have some greenhouses with native plants, grasses, some ground covers, cuttings and shrubs which are all sourced from Royal Park,” Mr Nicholson said.

“With our working bees, we do lots of propagation work with the plants grown in the nursery and plan to create some ad-hoc sessions on the weekend to focus on that work.”

Currently there are more than 50 members of FORP, with the working bees averaging 10 people a session.

There are two working bees each



▲ Native bird in Royal Park.

month, taking place on a Wednesday and Thursday.

“It’s mainly members who come along but it’s not exclusive, we welcome everyone,” Mr Nicholson said.

Although Royal Park is protected by a heritage overlay, threats of development often loom.

Mr Nicholson said that ensuring the heritage plans were followed was a major priority of FORP.

“We keep an eye on any proposed developments, whether it’s tram lines or residential properties,” Mr Nicholson said.

“We want to make sure everyone sticks to the heritage plan and the footprint doesn’t get bigger.”

FORP secretary Kaye Oddie said the biggest concerns facing Royal Park were the development of sporting facilities and roads.

“We’ve worked closely with council to ensure that there is no net loss of the park when sporting facilities like the State Netball Hockey centre want to redevelop,” Ms Oddie said.

“We also fought back against the

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Carlton residents fight back against “dangerous” development

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council’s values of pedestrian safety and alternate means of transport.

“Twenty-five people who use this lane multiple times a day are trying to tell the council that encouraging people to cross a busy bike lane into a tight space ... is extremely unsafe,” Ms Bernard said.

The MacArthur development has been contentious in the community since it was first proposed in 2018.

After going through VCAT, the height has been reduced, the chimneys retained and the heritage qualities of the original buildings protected.

Currently, the proposal involves the demolition of the rear of the existing homes while retaining the façade and front two rooms.

A third storey would also be constructed, along with the new basement level containing three parking spaces and a car elevator with access from Nicholls Lane.

The proposal’s architect Joseph Toscano said the purpose of the development was to consolidate existing buildings on the site and add to the heritage value by reconfiguring it to its “original colonial style”.

“The planning issues that were contentious in the original report from 2019, including heritage considerations, overshadowing the two properties to the east, not fitting in with neighbourhood character, excessive carparking have been shown to be satisfactorily addressed,” Mr Toscano said.

A council planning officer also assured residents that there was no blind spot in terms of cars backing out onto the bike lane.

“The cars would not need to back out, one of the key aspects of the garage is the ability to turn the cars around internally and enter the car lift and lane frontwards,” the officer said.

“It’s not true to say that it is 11 metres, the new part is 9.9 metres from the footpath level.”

Despite this, there were 66 community objections to the development.

One of those objectors was local Mary



▲ Canning St looking north.



▲ Nicholls Lane.

Marasco who said the height and bulk of the proposed development was a major issue.

“At 11 metres, composed mainly of concrete and glass panels, it will affect heritage,” Ms Marasco said.

“Planning developments must fit in with the existing neighbourhood character.”

MacArthur Place resident James Samargis said it would ruin his view and impact the serenity of Carlton.

“It’s a calm space for inner city dwellers and residents love and respect the square, so it’s very important this heritage area is protected and not ruined by large and bulky developments in backyards,” Mr Samargis said.

Given the proposal’s applicant, owner John Peter Piccolo had lodged a Section 79 appeal (failure to determine) with VCAT, councillors were requested to form a position on the proposal at the March 16 FMC meeting, which would be determined by VCAT.

Councillors unanimously resolved that had an appeal against failure not been lodged with VCAT, the council would have approved a permit subject to a number of conditions, including to clean the non-original render and paint to reveal the original intact brickwork and bluestone elements.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the additional conditions would have made a solid contribution to the streetscape of MacArthur Place and that the off-street parking had been considered to be a safe and reasonable.

“I think we have the opportunity for a building that goes back to what those significant heritage values were all about for these three townhouses,” Cr Leppert said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that although he knew this motion would not satisfy the 66 objectors, he hoped the additional clause would be of some consolation.

“One thing we can all agree on is that MacArthur Place ... is one of the best corners of our city,” Cr Reece said. “I hope this will come to be seen ultimately as an enhancement of MacArthur Place North.” ●

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▲ Australian native garden.



▲ Trin Warren Tam-Boore Wetlands.



▲ Plantings along The Avenue.

Locals working to protect Royal Park biodiversity

Continued from page 1.

development of the East West link as it was going to destroy a large part of the park including our remnant vegetation site so we all went into bat against it.”

The group also focuses on promoting awareness in the community about the biodiversity that exists within Royal Park to help create a deeper respect for the space.

Mr Nicholson said this was particularly important as park use had changed since COVID.

“COVID highlighted that people aren’t aware of what they’re standing on when they have picnics or walk their dogs and inadvertently trample native plants and grasslands,” Mr Nicholson said.

“To some people it just looks like long grass but there’s all kinds of biodiversity within it.”

FORP is currently advocating to local and state governments for an upgraded Royal Park railway station and tram access at the rear of Melbourne Zoo to promote the park and make it safer for pedestrians.

Mr Nicholson said that as Royal Park provides an escape from the hustle and bustle of the city, promoting and protecting the park was satisfying work.

“When you’re working in the park you’re rewarded with the

“To some people it just looks like long grass but there’s all kinds of biodiversity within it.”



benefits of being outdoors, fresh air, and a sense of community,” Mr Nicholson said.

“A lot of locals really connect to Royal Park as a place where they can get away from the busy lifestyles, we have in the city so it’s important to protect it.”

If you’d like to learn more about Friends of Royal Park or become a member, search “Friends of Royal Park” on Facebook ●

Funding boost for events

EVENTS

The Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne have announced a \$5 million investment in events, helping to draw people into the city while supporting jobs and businesses.

The joint \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fun will go towards supporting events such as The Rising Festival, Winter Night Market, the World’s Longest Brunch, and Jurassic World.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said supporting events with the joint fund was a way for the council to bring back the buzz to Melbourne.

“Our city is famous for our world-class events – whether its sport, art, food or fashion – and it’s critical we support this sector to create jobs and deliver a boost to local hospitality and retail businesses,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Every visitor we can attract to Melbourne through events and activations provides more opportunities for local businesses for their cash registers to be ringing with more sales.”

More than 100 events will receive funding support, helping to attract a combined audience of up to five million people – which will deliver a major boost to small businesses in the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors.

Across the two grant rounds, 108 events have received funding support, with 83 new grants announced today worth \$4.5 million.

A further 25 grants worth almost \$500,000 were announced in December.

On March 13, 1300 diners attended the World’s Longest Brunch from the Melbourne Food and Wine

“There’s never been a more important time to invest in events.”

Festival, a three-course brunch in the Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens designed by Kate Reid of Lune Croissanterie and Nathan Toleman, Melbourne’s “cafe king”.

Chair of the council’s City Activation portfolio Cr Roshena Campbell said that the events were critical to boost the economy after COVID.

“Every event creates work for tradies, technicians, creatives, hospitality staff and many others so we will continue to invest in the sector,” Cr Campbell said.

“There’s never been a more important time to invest in events to reactivate our city and get our streets pumping with life again.” ●

For more information:
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IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

REDISCOVER YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Melburnians are avid consumers of free books, magazines, films, music and online learning through the City of Melbourne’s public libraries.

Digital library materials surged in popularity during last year’s lockdowns and our central city, Carlton, Docklands, East Melbourne, North Melbourne and Southbank branches have now reopened to the public.

If you need help choosing your next page-turner, simply ask a librarian, visit

melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries and click on ‘Read’, or listen to episodes of our *Dear Reader* and *Desert Island Books* podcasts on SoundCloud.

Many library activities are still running online, like conversation clubs and storytimes. Some in-person activities have resumed, like some daytime book clubs and Makerspaces, where you can learn to craft and code.

Discover all this and more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

STAYING IN CHARGE IN LATER LIFE

Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, 251 Faraday Street, Carlton. Friday 14, 21 and 28 May from 10am to 12pm.

Our libraries host a range of events, including this conversation with Dr Annie Bolitho about death and dying - a safe space to talk about a tough topic. For details, contact the Healthy Ageing team on 9658 9190 or email healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au

IN-BRIEF

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Get set to grin, chuckle and guffaw through more than three weeks of COVID-safe laughs when this world-renowned festival returns on stage and online from 24 March to 18 April. comedyfestival.com.au

OPEN INNOVATION COMPETITION

Got an idea to reactivate the city? Pitch it at this year’s Open Innovation Competition for a chance to share in \$30,000. Winners will also have access to international opportunities, accelerator programs and more to help take their concept global. Learn more at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/open-innovation

SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD

Look out for the new civic space in front of the ABC Centre - the heart of the Transforming Southbank Boulevard project. The space is now open for the community to enjoy and construction has commenced on a series of neighbourhood parks further down the boulevard. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects

CITY CLEANING BLITZ

A six-month cleaning blitz by the City of Melbourne to remove unwanted graffiti and litter is well underway, with additional cleaning crews and footpath sweepers deployed as people return to the city. Inner-city areas are being cleaned multiple times a day to create a welcoming environment.

SHOP LOCAL

Discover local shops and services to support in our city with the help of our Business Directory, an online resource that lists more than 1800 businesses. There’s never been a more important time to support small businesses, so check out the guide at directory.melbourne.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability. Tune in live or catch up later. Find all the details about Council and committee meetings at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

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

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EAT FRESH IN AUTUMN

Find healthy and affordable food in your neighbourhood by using the City of Melbourne’s Community Food Guide.

Data from our Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020 revealed that the number of residents experiencing food insecurity increased last year and 33 per cent of respondents were experiencing some type of food stress.

The Community Food Guide lists markets that sell affordable fresh produce, like Queen Victoria Market and Flemington Farmers’ Market, as well as agencies that provide meals for people in need.

One of the many agencies featured is the Church of All Nations at 180 Palmerston Street in Carlton, which offers fresh food for a \$2 donation for concession or Health Care Card holders on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12pm.

If you are not in need of food relief, but would like to help people who are, we encourage you to connect with your local food relief organisation to see what donations or support they need.

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



Our Community Food Guide can help you find fresh, affordable food

ENJOY SEASONAL PRODUCE

Just seven per cent of Melburnians consume the recommended two serves of fruit and three serves of vegetables each day, according to the City of Melbourne’s Health and Wellbeing Profile 2020.

However, this was an increase on the previous year, and the proportion of local residents who produce or conserve their own food is also rising.

This autumn, enjoy the health benefits of eating a ‘rainbow’ of seasonal produce like apples, beetroot and broccoli, and have a go at growing vegetables and herbs in your garden or pots.

Visit Queen Victoria Market to shop for fresh seasonal produce and groceries including fruit and vegetables, bread, eggs, meat, fish, deli goods, ready-to-eat meals, tea, coffee and pantry staples.

The market is open on Tuesday and Thursday to Sunday. Find out more at qvm.com.au

East Melbourne exhibition celebrates nurses and midwives

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ARTS & CULTURE

A new exhibition celebrating nurses and midwives throughout history has opened at Australia's only women's museum, Her Place, in East Melbourne.

Unmasked is the first exhibition to be featured at Her Place since it opened in 2019 and juxtaposes the experiences of contemporary nurses with those throughout history.

Curator Dr Madonna Grehan said the exhibition was designed to celebrate extraordinary women through ordinary objects.

"Doing an exhibition during a COVID-19 year is a challenge and a blessing," Dr Grehan said.

"Although I couldn't get anything from museum collections because everything was closed, I knew people had lots of memorabilia in their garages that they didn't know what to do with or if it was valuable to the national story."

By connecting with the relatives and friends of historically significant women, Dr Grehan was able to curate a vast collection of items.

"When you think historically about our past occupations, there are so many things that are valuable to the national story even though they're mundane," Dr Grehan said.

Some of the items include newspaper clippings from the 1800s, a Riband given to the Victorian nurses in 1900, and the first Royal Red Cross award given to Australian nurse Marianne Rawson.

The exhibition also features information and images of historical women including Lucy Garlick who invented a body chart that is still used today to identify injuries over radio.

"She devised a body chart and a set of questions so when a person rang up on the radio, they would be able to say the injury was at 1A—the liver or pancreas, for example," Dr Grehan said.

"It's still part of the Royal Flying Doctors service today."

Unmasked also highlights women who didn't receive credit for their contributions at the



▲ Her Place on Clarendon Street in East Melbourne.



▲ Director of Her Place Barbara Jennings and volunteer coordinator Esther Lee-Scott.

time, those who fought to create better working conditions, and aboriginal women.

"I'm amazed at the resourcefulness of these women, most of them were single, many women married in their 50s, had no insurance or super and didn't have savings," Dr Grehan said.

"The history of the profession is much bigger than just a handful of individuals, so we want to unmask some of the hidden history and introduce people to these compelling women who no one has really heard of."

"All these people have contributed to our profession and we don't give them credit."

Dr Grehan said showcasing the work of women in the healthcare field separate to the work of men was important to understand the history of the profession.

"From about 1880 nursing and midwifery became feminised because women were considered natural nurses throughout the English-speaking world due to their role within families and their ability to breastfeed," Dr Grehan said.

"Employing them was also convenient because they didn't have to be paid very much so it's a fascinating history that people are unfamiliar with."

Nursing is still a female dominated field with less than 10 per cent of men working in the profession to date.

Dr Grehan said COVID had highlighted the taxing work nurses and midwives do every day of the week and *Unmasked* was a celebration of their efforts.

"For the first time cameras were allowed into hospitals and made people focus on the duress nurses and midwives work under," Dr Grehan said.

"It made people understand that they were on the front line, particularly since 1500 nurses have died worldwide from COVID."

The exhibition is free and will run until April 1 before travelling all around the country ●

For more information:
herplacemuseum.com

Horse dies in carriage incident

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ANIMAL WELFARE

A horse pulling a carriage in North Melbourne has died in unknown circumstances while travelling on a usual route from the stable on Stubbs St in Kensington.

The RSPCA was alerted after a local resident, Courtney, posted a photo of the horse covered with a blanket on Arden St at 11.20am on March 21.

"We saw a horse laying on the ground with a blanket over its body and head, with a truck pulled up at the intersection, waiting to put it in," Courtney told *Inner City News*.

"The horse had passed away and the partner horse was still attached to it, along with a second cart with two horses attached to it."

Courtney, who did not want her last name published due to fear of intimidation from the carriage workers, said she was "shaken up" by the incident.

"It was so sad because all of the other horses were there and saw what was happening and nothing was being done for them, they were just left standing in the rain," she said.

"It was awful and unnecessary."

Campaign director of Melbourne Against Horse-drawn Carriages Kristin Leigh said the industry had come straight back to life after lockdown despite street trading being unlawful.

"The City of Melbourne removed their street trading permits in July 2017, but they have no jurisdiction to ban them from the roads as they're considered a vehicle under the *Road Safety Act 1986*," Ms Leigh said.

"It's absolutely ridiculous as they're clearly living beings and not vehicles."

Ms Leigh said the carriages had been operating illegally for years as they dodge the street trading permit through online bookings.

"They're allowed to accept pre-bookings so



▲ A horse lies underneath a blanket on Arden St.



▲ A truck waits to collect the horse.

whenever council goes to bust them, they'll say it's a pre-booking," Ms Leigh said.

Although authority rests with state government to ban the practice, Ms Leigh said the council needed to stop "wiping their hands of the responsibility" and do more to lobby the government.

"The City of Melbourne and Sally Capp could put more pressure on the state government to get them banned, even if it's just from the council zones," Ms Leigh said.

"We've documented the carriages endangering city commuters with cyclists being forced onto the road because they park in the bike lanes, just last week a cyclist was almost wiped out by a bus because of it."

"For tourists and locals to see a dead horse lying on the road is also awful, so this industry is negative for everyone including the horses."

Ms Leigh also claimed that one of the men in the photo was a Unique Carriage Hire employee who was condemned by the media in early 2020 for allegedly kicking a horse named Tuesday in

the head after she slipped and fell.

"The company made very clear statements to the media that he would be let go but he's still working there and they're trying to cover it up," Ms Leigh said.

PETA spokesperson Emily Rice said that placing large animals who scare easily into congested city traffic is an invitation for injury and death.

"This tragic incident is yet another testament to the cruelty inherent in the horse-drawn carriage industry, which has been banned in cities around the world," Ms Rice said.

"Horse-drawn carriages are cruel and dangerous – not only for the horses who are forced to work long hours in extreme weather conditions while walking on hard pavement and inhaling exhaust fumes all day but also for motorists and pedestrians."

"The state government needs to bring Melbourne in line with progressive cities like Amsterdam, Chicago, Montréal, and Rome and end the use of horses as vehicles for

entertainment."

Another PETA spokesperson Aleesha Naxakis said that it was seeking action about the incident and had contacted Victoria Police and the City of Melbourne.

"People are starting to wake up to the cruelty involved and aren't seeking them out and paying for them, but the frequency hasn't been reduced," Ms Naxakis said.

"The Lord Mayor Sally Capp has been quite verbal about wanting a ban and she's asked the state government who have the power, so we want to use incidents like this to urge the government to take action."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the council was aware the RSPCA was looking into the incident.

"In 2017, the City of Melbourne determined to no longer issue on-street trading permits for horse-drawn vehicles," the spokesperson said.

"Horse-drawn vehicles sit under the legislative responsibility of the Department of Transport and Victoria Police."

North Melbourne police said its officers attended the scene to assist with traffic direction, but did not have any further information about the horse's death.

Unique Carriage Hire said the horse did not belong to them and they were unaware of the situation surrounding the horse's death, however one of their drivers was on site to assist.

The company did not respond to further questions about street trading or the continued employment of the worker alleged to have abused horses ●

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Parkville parkrun returns after COVID hiatus

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
SPORT

After lockdown put a stop to community sport and gym memberships for more than eight months, the Parkville Parkrun is more popular than ever since returning.

Kicking off again earlier this year, the 5km, volunteer-led run has been a hit with locals on Saturday mornings.

Run director Ellyse Plant said that since returning, people had been coming out in droves to run or volunteer.

“We’re currently averaging 200-plus runners consistently and are getting lots of messages about people who want to come and volunteer,” Ms Plant said.

“We’ve had good feedback and everyone in general is excited to be back.”

Parkville Parkrun has been a staple for the community for almost four years and is a free event designed to bring people together and encourage physical fitness.

The course begins at 8am on the lawn area directly to the north of Ikon Park stadium and loops around Carlton’s Princes Park.



▲ Runners enjoying the Parkville course.



▲ Parkville Parkrun volunteers.

Although the event is timed and you receive a ranking, Ms Plant said the event was “for all abilities”.

“You don’t have to run. You can walk, run with a dog, with a pram, or with your kids. It’s not strictly for runners,” Ms Plant said.

“It’s really for everyone and it brings people together. Even people who are injured come along and volunteer.”

Ms Plant said that since returning, the event has also allowed the community to re-connect with each other after a difficult year.

“To have not had the event for so long and to see it open up in other states, I think people are grateful to have it open up even if there are some small changes,” Ms Plant said.

“People love Parkrun and make a lot of connections and friends from the events.” ●

For more information:
parkrun.com.au/parkville/course

Vizard House “a home away from home”

HEALTH

Caring for a sick loved one is already an emotionally taxing experience without the added pressure of travelling long distances to do so.

So, for the past 27 years, Vizard Foundation House has provided a nearby retreat for families and friends supporting patients in Melbourne hospitals.

Vizard House manager Monica Dixon said the accommodation was perfect for those who lived too far away to travel to the hospital every day.

“The houses are right in the epicentre of the hospital system and right opposite the Fitzroy Gardens, so it couldn’t be a more beautiful spot,” Ms Dixon said.

“We are a wonderful alternative to motels and hotels as we’re much more economical than a hotel and we are easily accessible to public transport.”

Based on Clarendon St in East Melbourne, the not-for-profit accommodation is within walking distance to the major Melbourne hospitals including The Royal Melbourne, the Royal Women’s, St Vincent’s, the Alfred and The Eye & Ear hospital.

The historic houses were built in 1906 by politician Sir Austin Chapman, one of the founding fathers of Australian federation.

Ms Dixon said that the two terrace houses were safe, secure and someone was always on call.

“It’s a 120-year-old building so the inside is very grand and beautiful,” Ms Dixon said.

“We have 15 rooms available with four family rooms. There is also a communal lounge area with a TV and a fully-equipped kitchen, and a courtyard with a barbeque. So, guests get to enjoy a communal environment and also have private space.”

For patients living more than 100km from the hospital, guests are also eligible for the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) rebate.



▲ Vizard House in East Melbourne.

Ms Dixon said in circumstances of financial hardship, Vizard House could also organise to bulk bill the accommodation and travel costs so the guest isn’t out of pocket.

“What we do is keep our rates in line with a Vic tax rebate so it’s very affordable for this suburb and much cheaper than a hotel,” Ms Dixon said.

There is no minimal stay required at Vizard House and guests can stay anywhere from a few nights to months at a time.

Ms Vizard said the feedback has been extremely positive from guests who have stayed in the house and urged those caring for hospital patients to get in touch.

“We get a lot of positive feedback and lovely thank you comments about the care and attention to detail,” Ms Dixon said.

“Normally fully we’re booked but due to elective surgery being postponed or delayed we have lots of space available.”

To find out more about Vizard House, contact Monica at reservations@vizardhouse.com.au or call 0400 117 544. ●

CARLTON CASH COMPETITION

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Winners will be contacted directly via Instagram!

**CARLTON INC.**





▲ CBD lawyers Faz Zamani (left) and Bridget Slokum in Treasury Gardens.



▲ Protestors call for the sacking of Attorney General Christian Porter.

Women speak out about sexual abuse

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
PROTEST

The CBD had its own version of the March 4 Justice on March 15 as thousands of women spread throughout the Treasury Gardens then launched smaller protests at significant sites around the city.

A group of young women, led by Whistleblower Activists and Community Alliance, protested outside the headquarters of the Liberal Party in Collins St.

Tears fell as they stood one by one on a seat to tell their stories of sexual abuse.

One girl said she was raped by her boyfriend at 15 and reported him to the police but a witness refused to testify. Another was assaulted at a bar and froze but this was counted as consent.

The crowd chanted “we believe you” after each of the testimonies.

Organisers encouraged the women to speak out even though they were visibly distressed by the experience.

“We’re going to stay until every person who wants to speak has spoken,” activist Marian Costello told the impromptu demonstration as she held out the microphone to the crowd.

She compared the protests to those of 120 years ago when “suffragettes took Collins St and smashed every window along the way.”

These stirring words reflect the anger of women across the country following the claims by Brittany Higgins that she was raped in Parliament House in 2019.

One group marched down Collins St with placards calling for the sacking of the Federal Attorney General Christian Porter.

Two lawyers from a CBD law firm attended



▲ Beck Yule has her say in Lonsdale St.

the rally in Treasury Gardens and said it was the first time they had ever been to a protest.

“This is the first time because it personally affects me,” Bridget Slokum said. “We’ve been sexually harassed. Absolutely.”

She said that the law was a male dominated industry. “There are a lot of alpha males. Every one of us knows someone it’s happened to.”

She said that responses were not adequate when complaints were made and that young women in particular found it hard to stand up to bosses.

“I’m old enough and ugly enough but when you’re 24 and a graduate lawyer you don’t know you can say ‘no’ or complain.”



▲ A young woman speaks outside Liberal Party HQ.

Women in the workforce don’t want to speak out for fear that it will affect their work prospects, she said, but the rally gave women a much-needed opportunity to give voice to their concerns.

Some older women couldn’t believe women were still campaigning for the same issues as they did in the ‘70s.

“I’m 51 and I’m so angry this is still an issue,” Beck Yule said, as she stopped to let a bystander photograph her placard. “I thought this issue was sorted out a decade ago. Our Prime Minister doesn’t see a problem.”

The Karter sisters, jewellers from Prahran, dressed alike for the occasion with black bows and “Enough” printed across their t-shirts.

They sat in front of the corporate offices at 101 Collins St and spoke about their own experiences of abuse.

“I used to work for David Jones in Sydney,” Helena said. “I almost lost my job after I reported someone.”

She said that the Federal Government had shown contempt for woman during the allegations of the last four weeks.

“These women’s issues have hit a note,” she said ●

“I thought this issue was sorted out a decade ago. Our Prime Minister doesn’t see a problem.”



Rhonda Dredge
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New technology to be trialled at Argyle Square

WORDS BY Katie Johnson
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Argyle Square will become the site of a new trial into data-collection technology that could become a permanent feature of Melbourne’s streets and parks in the near future.

Emerging technology such as 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) will be used to measure temperature, humidity, pedestrian traffic, bench usage, air quality and bin fullness to help the City of Melbourne make informed decisions about public spaces.

Cr Phillip Le Liu said the Argyle Square test-bed was an excellent way to explore how new and different technologies could benefit Melbourne.

“A number of sensors have been installed in the square to help track and understand park activity. Some sensors anonymously track how people use the square, while others assess the park environment,” Cr Le Liu said

“We are testing the usefulness of the data collected to explore if it can be used to improve the community’s park experience in Argyle Square, as well as other parks and open spaces in the City of Melbourne.”



▲ Argyle Square in Carlton.

The Argyle Square pilot involves placing sensors around the square to collect data that will improve the park experience and will potentially be applied to other parks and open spaces in the municipality.

Sensors will monitor things such as stage usage through motion detectors, bin fill level with infrared technology and bench usage through vibration.

The collected data will then be used by council to make the city smarter, by placing

cooling infrastructure where it gets most hot, and scheduling waste removal at the appropriate times.

The trial is in partnership with Amazon Web Services, Citywide, Peclat Technology, Phoria, Meshed, Smart City Solutions and University of Melbourne.

The council is currently looking for participants to engage in workshops in Argyle Square that will gauge community sentiment about the new technology.

Cr Le Liu said the workshops would involve one-on-one interviews with community members in partnership with Monash University’s Emerging Technologies Lab Team.

Ten walking tours will also run during Melbourne Knowledge Week in late April.

“We are working with Monash University to learn more about our community members’ hopes and concerns in relation to this data collection, as well as emerging technology more broadly. Conversations with community members have been very informative so far and the feedback has been positive,” Cr Le Liu said.

“We encourage people to come along to one of our walking tours during Melbourne Knowledge Week.”

“We’ll be able to introduce the Argyle Square pilot and the Emerging Technology Testbed function and talk more about the possibilities for using new and emerging technology in the City of Melbourne.” ●

For more information:
mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au/data-in-the-park

Carlton community garden “a melting pot” of cultures

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

From composting, to e-waste recycling, to caring for local chickens, the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre’s (CNLC’s) community garden is a hub of activity.

Located on Princes St next to the housing estates, the garden provides fresh food to residents and brings the community together through recycling activities.

Community gardener Michelle Twyford has been looking after the garden for three years and said it was a huge hit with both housing tower residents and Carlton locals.

“We currently have 20 volunteers, mostly made up of refugee and migrant students who use the produce,” Ms Twyford said.

“But we also get other Carlton residents coming in for composting or to just wander around, so it’s a big melting pot which brings the whole community together and allows people to socialise with each other.”

The garden features staples such as lettuce, silver beet, tomatoes and sweet potato, but also hosts a range of unusual vegetables catering to different cuisines.

The produce is used by housing tower residents, but if there is a surplus it will often be given to restaurant Lentil As Anything or local charities.

“We try to grow unusual things, like okra, ginger, turmeric, galangal, bitter melon and daikon radish which is the holy grail in African cultures,” Ms Twyford said.

Based on community feedback, Ms Twyford and her volunteers are currently trying to grow Egyptian spinach which isn’t commonly found in Australia.

“We’re on the seventh go and we’ll just keep going till we get the right plant,” Ms Twyford said.

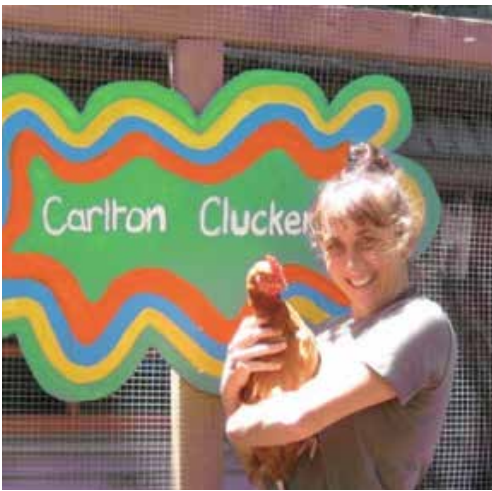
“We give it a red hot go to grow unusual plants but oftentimes Melbourne just doesn’t have the right heat.”



▲ Community gardener Michelle Twyford.



▲ Banana flower grown at the garden.



▲ Chickens at the neighbourhood house.

Currently, the Neighbourhood Learning Centre is also working on creating an indigenous edible garden which will be up and running in the next few months.

“We’re currently creating a garden with a wheelchair accessible path full of native, edible Australian plants so that we can teach people how to grow and use them,” Ms Twyford said.

In addition to workshops and gardening activities, the Learning Centre’s garden also offers the Carlton Clucker program which has resumed in the past few weeks.

The garden currently has four chickens which are cared for by rotating volunteer families and is open for the general public to enjoy.

“The Clucker program started because the student committee came to us and said they wanted chickens in the garden, so we found a chicken house on eBay and organised it,” Ms Twyford said.

“Kids can come and play with the chickens and we also sell the eggs for a low cost to housing tower residents to cover the cost of their food.”

After a long closure due to COVID, Carlton locals can also use the CNLC’s 24-hour compost hub again to drop off their food scraps.

Located near the garden, the compost bin helps to reduce food waste going to landfill and also offers compost and vegetable seedlings when available.

Ms Twyford urged the community to come along to the garden and use it as an opportunity to meet neighbours and learn how to grow different produce.

“It’s not your average garden so it’s very interesting to work on and you learn a lot,” Ms Twyford said ●

For more information:
cnlc.org.au/community-wellbeing/sustainability-temporal-changes

Injecting room report imminent

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

A make-or-break report that will determine the suitability of a proposed safe injecting facility near Queen Victoria Market will be tabled “soon” according to the state government.

After almost nine months of consultation with key stakeholders regarding the contentious Victoria St site, former Victoria Police commissioner Ken Lay was still yet to report back whether, on balance, it was appropriate.

A state government spokesperson confirmed with our sister publication *CBD News* the report was imminent, but could not confirm a specific date by the time of publishing the April edition.

The report’s findings could play a significant role in whether the Andrews government proceeds with its preferred location of Cohealth on Victoria St.

The site is currently opposed by the City of Melbourne, many local residents and market traders.

The council’s concerns relate primarily to the impact on Drill Hall affordable housing residents next door, and on the market which it has said is the city’s “most significant tourist attraction”.

The report had been due for submission at the end of 2020, but the deadline was extended into the New Year when, according to Health Minister Martin Foley, “face-to-face engagement is less restricted and key voices are more able to have their say”.



▲ North Richmond facility.

In June last year, the findings of an independent report found Victoria’s one and only safe injecting facility in North Richmond had saved at least 21 lives in 18 months, and required help dealing with demand.

The City of Melbourne, which recorded 51 overdose deaths between 2015 and 2019 — second only in the state to the City of Yarra — was nominated in the report as the preferred municipality to house Victoria’s second medically-supervised injecting room.

But the government went a step further and nominated 53 Victoria St in a move that incensed the council which had not been briefed.

While the government has maintained for some time that it remained open to “suitable” alternative sites, in December *CBD News* reported that no other site had been considered and that the Victoria St site remained the government’s preferred (and only) current option.

It is not known if the government has since found alternatives sites should the Mr Lay-led review find 53 Victoria St was not an appropriate location ●

Friday club opens to support business

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
BUSINESS

There’s a double-fronted brick house in Agnes St, East Melbourne, that has an open door on Fridays for businesses at the “pre-revenue” stage.

Local investor Chris Grey inherited the house from his father who bought it 37 years ago.

He wants to see the property put to good use as new ways of working evolve out of COVID.

The renovated house has 28 desks, some hot and others permanently occupied by small businesses which all aim to have a social impact.

Mr Grey noticed that since Agnes (as he calls the enterprise) re-opened, no-one was turning up for work on Fridays and that some larger businesses were saying, for example, that they needed 10 desks and a room one day a week.

He concluded that Melbourne’s extensive lockdown had created new ways of working which were opening up opportunities for a more flexible and creative approach to office space.

That’s when he came up with the idea of the Friday club for founders of early-stage businesses so they could test their ideas and learn from each other.

Every Friday at noon he opens Agnes’s doors to those who want to join.

A proviso for joining is that the idea being tested seeks to solve a social problem.

Chris said some founders were driven and had given up successful careers because “once they see a problem they can’t unsee it”.

One founder was so upset when her aunt died that she began tackling the problem of finding accommodation quickly for country people seeking medical help in the city.

Another business targets “maths anxiety” and a third is based on an app for dealing with the management of dementia. The app has just won an innovation prize.

Chris, who ran and sold a successful IT business in aged care, helps critically appraise ideas in terms of whether the problem they tackle is real and pervasive and if people would be prepared to pay for it to be solved.

Many office hubs and networks throw people together



▲ Chris Grey at his Agnes St office.

without a focus but at Agnes Chris is in the business of building teams and finding funding for these pre-revenue businesses.

“How do you make sure you’re ready?” Chris asked. “You have to build a team. You can’t do it all. We provide connections, coaching and capital. We’re particularly interested in working with female founders.”

Agnes has found pre-seed investors for two of the three projects, both founded by women. Chris wants to see them grow.

Chris and his dad have both run businesses at the East Melbourne house and when Chris’s IT company expanded he rented a floor in a building around the corner because his staff did not want to leave the suburb.

He’s committed to this quiet East Melbourne street which he says is close to both Richmond and the top of Collins St.

Chris said people stayed home on Fridays because they’d rather drink with their local mates and go to sport with their kids than be in town ●

Carlton businesses struggling to stay open

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
BUSINESS

With 28 per cent of street-facing shops in Carlton temporarily closed or completely vacant by the end of 2020, the suburb is struggling to bounce back from last year's lockdowns.

To help with the fallout from COVID, the City of Melbourne has unanimously carried a motion to fill vacant shops with the work of artists and entrepreneurs to entice businesses and customers to return.

Cr Roshena Campbell said that as office workers and visitors begin to return to the CBD, they need to be greeted with a "vibrant city".

"There's no doubt that Melbourne has been disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID and with 1000 vacant shopfronts, there is so much more that needs to be done," Cr Campbell said.

"With the end of JobKeeper and the state government's commercial rent relief scheme this month, we know there is a real risk that more business will shut."

At the end of January, 13 per cent of street-facing shops in the City of Melbourne were vacant and another 13 per cent were closed due to COVID.

In Carlton, this amounted to 28 per cent of shops either temporarily or permanently shutting.

Cr Campbell said the council was doing everything possible to ensure city-goers were greeted with streets and laneways converted into open-air art galleries rather than rows of empty shops.

Some of the early projects have included Melbourne Fashion Week where designer work was showcased in shopfronts and Melbourne Music week where empty shops were filled with artwork inspired by musical instruments.

Twenty-three shops across the city have also been adorned with work by local artists, with

plans to have 45 shops be a part of the open-air gallery by April.

Cr Campbell also said the council's strategy would involve \$100,000 of direct support for precinct associations to develop "tailored solutions to activate our shopping strips".

"From Chinatown, to Docklands, to Lygon St, we know we need to reactivate each precinct and we know one size doesn't fit all," Cr Campbell said.

Carlton Residents Association (CRA) president Antoinette Sagaria said although the art installations were a start, it was a short-sighted plan.

"The council should be looking at more long-term solutions like reducing the cost of starting a business in the area," Ms Sagaria said.

"Expensive overhead costs like permits, licenses, rates and land tax don't help the economy and it shouldn't be up to landlords take care of the issue by reducing rent."

Ms Sagaria also said that a more practical solution would be to funnel traffic along the main shopping strips like Lygon St.

"There is currently no right turn onto Lygon St from Cemetery Rd, so I think the turn from Swanston St should be blocked off and funnelled back onto Lygon St instead of residential roads," Ms Sagaria said.

"We need greater traffic flow along there to expose people to those shops, and entice them to start up their own shops there."

However, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Melbourne City Recovery fund would help to fund the short-term programs that will encourage other retailers to come in and use the spaces in the long-term.

"Empty shops really slow that beating retail heart we're renowned for in our city and slows economic activity for those businesses around them," the Lord Mayor said.

"Repurposing these spaces to engage artists also means we can make every job count at this critical time." ●

Book launches back up and running

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

Some tough and amusing writers attended Readings book launches last month as lit culture burst out from its hibernation with a vengeance.

Most launches are still online but novelist Irma Gold was there in person at the Collective in Elgin St.

She travelled down the east coast with her own banner slung over her shoulder.

Irma has taken on the Thai elephant industry in *The Breaking*, a novel named after the way elephants are broken in by locking them in small enclosures.

"I wanted to keep it light," she told her audience, but her story of how captive elephants are tortured to create loyalty towards their handlers was heart-rending.

"They're put in a crush box not much bigger than the elephant to torture it," she said. "Its spirit is broken. A Thai person is a mahout, like a rescuer. They remember that breaking process."

Irma has volunteered for the Save the Elephant Foundation in Thailand and said a lot of elephants couldn't be rehabilitated, such as those that had been blinded by sling shot wounds, for example.

"Talking about the book is hard because it does talk about tough things. I tried to do it with a light touch."

The underlying theme of the novel, which is seen through the eyes of young Western travellers, is the ethics of tourism.

"It was a big task to write it as an outsider," she said. She checked all of her vocabulary and used Thai words without italics to familiarise them to readers but the suffering of the elephants takes centre stage.

"You can engage with them only because they've been through the breaking process," she said.

"I played with a baby. Only because the



▲ Novelist Irma Gold at the Collective.

mother has been broken in can you get near it."

She said there were only about 2,000 elephants in the wild in Thailand but there were 40 million tourists a year pre-Covid.

"During Covid the working elephants couldn't work. It's so mean. They're chained 24/7 and the owners don't have money to pay for their food."

"It's so expensive to rescue elephants. I've seen photos with their ribs sticking out."

Emma visited 60 bookshops on her journey, with the Readings launch the last in a promotional tour to spread her message.

She calls herself a "pantser", a style of novelist who follows the characters rather than plans the narrative.

Readings in Carlton is the centre of Melbourne's literary culture. Rather than holding launches at the store, they are now held at The Collective, a large warehouse space with a bar that can safely host 60 people.

Among those at the launch was writer Donna Ward who had been to three launches that week in Carlton, including Kevin Rudd at the Nova ●

Chalk portrait inspires hope for refugee

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
PROTEST

A chalk drawing on the pavement outside Carlton's Park Hotel, where daily protests demand the release of around 12 refugees detained there, has inspired hope for an asylum seeker locked up in Papua New Guinea.

According to activist Lieke Janssen, Helal "Spicy" Uddin – a refugee who is currently being held in immigration detention at Bomana Prison by the Federal Government in Papua New Guinea – was reminded that he was not alone when he saw the Carlton portrait.

"He loves it, he felt a bit proud," she said. "He was quite moved and I do believe that when people become more in touch with him they will help him to realise there's still hope."

Ms Janssen said Spicy, who has been locked up for nearly two years, had been on a hunger strike when she asked Carlton-based artist, Peter Green, to draw the portrait outside Park Hotel.

"He was just desperate, and everything seemed like it was against him," she said.

"I asked Peter to do that as moral support for him and as soon as Peter made it Spicy showed me the picture (he'd received) from other refugees. So he actually saw it before me."

In a major blow to government, 26 men were recently released from Park Hotel detention after a Federal Court judge ruled against indefinite and arbitrary detention.

The men were brought to Australia for urgent medical attention after spending years on Manus Island and Nauru. However, around 12 men remain detained at Park Hotel where protests have continued unabated seven days a week.

Spicy had been refusing to eat or drink when Ms Janssen contacted Mr Green, a former activist and protestor-turned-art-teacher.

Mr Green said, although chalk was not an ideal medium to work with, he managed to draw an image of Spicy from a photo.

"Visual images are much more powerful than text," he said. "At the moment, I'm planning an



image of police next to a banner saying 'free the refugees'."

While protests had previously been scheduled from 5pm to 6pm on weekdays, with the detainees able to view protestors from the hotel, Ms Janssen said Australian Border Force recently changed the time of dinner to coincide with the protests.

"It's not a coincidence. It's trying to break the moral of the guys," she said. "It's things like this they do to constantly sabotage it. On the first day they arrived, they put dark plastic on the windows so they couldn't see out."

Ms Janssen said protests were now scheduled to start at 6pm on weekdays and 3pm on weekends ●



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City-focused travel vouchers finally land

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUSINESS

CBD hotel and hospitality owners are hopeful new state government incentives will help inject desperately-needed cash through their businesses.

Some 40,000 vouchers worth \$200 each were snapped up in just four minutes in March as part of the “Melbourne Travel Voucher Scheme”, a program the government hopes will provide a “shot in the arm” for the city after a difficult 12 months.

After two rounds of regional travel incentives, the latest vouchers were the first to focus on Greater Melbourne, and are expected to be heavily used within the CBD and surrounding areas.

Valid from March 19 to May 16, each voucher’s value (\$200) will be reimbursed to users provided they spend \$400 or more on accommodation, attractions or experiences, and must spend a minimum of two nights in paid accommodation.

James Fry, owner of unique rooftop caravan operator Notel on Flinders Lane, said a Melbourne-specific program was much-needed and would help his business.

“Our thoughts on the voucher scheme are pretty positive, especially as the regional incentive worked so well,” Mr Fry said.

“Anything to bring a buzz back to the city would be welcomed by not only us but by every small business who had to navigate 2020. The scheme should really help us, especially mid-week which I am sure all accommodation providers in the city can relate to.”

Mr Fry said his business — where visitors were housed in one of six refitted vintage US Airstream caravans atop a CBD rooftop — was starting to bounce back after a protracted lean period.

“Lately, things have been pretty good however the circuit breaker lockdown was a massive setback having to cancel a fully booked five days. There is only so much that a small business can take and our hearts break for all the doors that won’t be reopening in 2021.”

The government reported that 52,000 claimants in the first round of regional vouchers spent an estimated \$85 million across the state.

“*The past 12 months have been the toughest trading conditions in living memory for many businesses and that’s why it was so critical to deliver timely and valuable support.*”



Tourism Minister Martin Pakula said the government had hoped for similar success in the city.

“These vouchers will deliver a significant boost to tourism operators and will mean even more people have the chance to experience the best of Melbourne,” Mr Pakula said.

“Whether it’s a staycation or a visit from regional Victoria, there’s never been a better time to lose yourself in marvellous Melbourne.”



FOMO launch

“Get to the city or get FOMO” is the City of Melbourne’s latest bid to rejuvenate CBD visitors (the acronym means ‘fear of missing out’ for the uninitiated).

In what the council has dubbed its “most significant promotional campaign in a decade”, the five-month advertising blitz will look to attract people from across the state to Melbourne to start spending in the city.

It is fronted by Sri Lankan-Australian comic Dilruk Jayasinha, who throughout the advertisements is seen racing around Melbourne trying to experience everything the re-opened city has to offer.

“This is the most significant promotional campaign we’ve delivered in a decade because it’s so important to draw people back to the city and get cash registers ringing again,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“Melbourne is at its best when people come together to participate in the amazing experiences on offer, whether it’s fine dining, an international film festival, a live music event or a fashion show.”

Council help saves two in five businesses

Meanwhile, the City of Melbourne’s business support initiatives during the pandemic have been roundly praised after 38 per cent of businesses said they would not still be operating without the support.

An independent survey into the support — which has included grants, a business concierge hotline and virtual support summit — reported that 89 per cent of business said it had had a direct positive impact.

A total of 675 local businesses were surveyed throughout January and February, and Cr Capp said the response endorsed the council’s support.

“The past 12 months have been the toughest trading conditions in living memory for many businesses and that’s why it was so critical to deliver timely and valuable support to help keep Melburnians in jobs,” the Lord Mayor said.

“The feedback from traders is that these programs helped them keep operating and promoted their business during the COVID pandemic.

“Many businesses indicated that the grants helped to keep their teams together or get the right equipment to keep customers safe.”

Cr Capp said the “loud and clear” message from traders was that only through the return of workers and visitors to the CBD could businesses survive and thrive.

Funding boost for inner city events

The Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne also announced a \$5 million investment in events, helping to draw people into the city while supporting jobs and businesses in March.

The Rising Festival, Winter Night Market, the World’s Longest Brunch, and Jurassic World Brickman Exhibition were just some of the events to receive support from the joint \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

More than 100 events will receive funding support, helping to attract a combined audience of up to five million people — which will deliver a major boost to small businesses in the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors.

Across the two grant rounds, 108 events have received funding support, with 83 new grants announced today worth \$4.5 million. A further 25 grants worth almost \$500,000 were announced in December 2020.

More than 1300 diners attended the World’s

Longest Brunch from the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival during the weekend of March 13 and 14, a three-course brunch in the Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens designed by Kate Reid of Lune Croissanterie and Nathan Toleman, Melbourne’s cafe king.

The applications were assessed by the City of Melbourne with advice from Creative Victoria and Visit Victoria.

Some of the events to receive funding include:

- Melbourne 5km Run 2021 – March 27
- Run the Tan – April 24
- Melbourne Cocktail Festival – April 12 to 18
- Jurassic World, Brickman Exhibition – April 1 to July 18
- Cat Lovers Show – May 1 to 2
- Rising Festival – May 26 to June 6
- Oz Comic Con Melbourne – July 3 to 4
- Winter Night Market, Queen Victoria Market – June 3 to August 25
- Melbourne Good Food Month 2021 – June 1 to 30
- Lonsdale Street Day Party – November 20 to 21
- Spring into Kensington – November 6

“Delivering events creates jobs at this critical time for our economy. Every event creates work for tradies, technicians, creatives, hospitality staff and many others so we will continue to invest in the sector,” the council’s city activation portfolio chair Cr Roshena Campbell said.

“Having an exciting program of events also allows more Melburnians to rediscover the magic of our city.”

“There’s never been a more important time to invest in events to reactivate our city and get our streets pumping with life again.”

“Love Local” sticker campaign explored

The City of Melbourne is understood to be exploring the possibility of a “Love Local” sticker campaign with local businesses and residents in the CBD in response to COVID-19, as seen in other municipalities.

Under the campaign, participating businesses would place a sticker in their window to attract local residents with exclusive offers.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the idea had been submitted to the council and it would consider how it could best deliver results for the city.

“We welcome fresh ideas on how we can reactivate the city and bring the buzz back to Melbourne,” the Lord Mayor said.

“There are almost 180,000 people who call the City of Melbourne home and our residents are an integral part of our municipality.”

“We work closely with residents groups, precinct associations and local businesses and want them to collaborate as much as possible.”

“A great example is the Kensington Business Association’s ‘Discover Kensington’ gift card program that rewards residents who shop close to home and encourages them to support local businesses.”

“We are supporting all local precinct associations with an additional \$100,000 in funding to support activations like this.” ●

Comedy Festival is back

EVENTS

Locals can look forward to a barrel of laughs with the return of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2021.

Minister for the Creative Industries Danny Pearson (pictured) launched the festival on March 22, which will run a program of more than 350 in-person and online events until April 18.

Globally recognised as one of the biggest comedy festivals in the world, Melbourne International Comedy Festival has brought together a program set to reconnect audiences with their favourite acts.

“Melbourne International Comedy Festival is one of the biggest, brightest and most beloved events of Victoria’s calendar, and I couldn’t be



happier to welcome it back,” Minister Danny Pearson said.

“This year more than ever we are proud to support the festival, backing it all the way with extra funding to make it happen, make it safe and make it one to remember.”

Local talent is the focus this year with an impressive bill of much-loved Australian comedians, including Fiona O’Loughlin, Geraldine Hickey, Lano & Woodley, Zoe Coombs Marr, Aaron Chen and Wil Anderson. International-turned-locals Ross Noble and Arj Barker are also on the roster.

Festival shows will take place in venues throughout the CBD and beyond through a dedicated touring component, with a bigger than ever digital program starring international guests to complement physical activities.

The festival has worked closely with the state

government to develop a COVIDSafe Event Plan to keep festival performers, workers and audiences safe.

During the past year, the state government has provided additional funding to help the festival to respond to the impacts of the pandemic, continue to provide opportunities for artists and plan a COVIDSafe program.

Most recently, the festival is one of 16 arts organisations to share in more than \$4 million to stage live COVIDSafe events and performances ●

For more information:
comedyfestival.com.au/2021



▲ Damaged street infrastructure.



▲ Skaters line up at Chinatown Square.

Big cash grant for low-waste solutions

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*
SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Melbourne is offering local businesses the chance to share in a grants pool of \$175,000 in a bid to encourage better waste management. The Circular Economy Innovation Grant is available to small businesses, start-ups and social enterprise with 20 or fewer workers based in the City of Melbourne, as well as small- to medium-size food businesses with 199 or fewer workers.

The maximum value for individual grants between \$2500 and \$5000, with the possibility of businesses applying for up to \$7500 depending on eligibility criteria.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council wanted to encourage ideas and innovation from local businesses to help them deliver smarter waste services across the city.

“Waste and recycling services are core council responsibilities and we want to support local business and organisations to find new and improved ways of reducing waste and participating in the circular economy,” the Lord Mayor said.

The council defines a circular economy on their website as “a system aimed at minimising waste and making the most of resources”, with the aim to getting businesses to a goal of zero waste.

The \$175,000 fund was developed as part of council’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

There are three streams of funding available for grants:

- Stream 1: Mentorship and expertise (up to \$2500)
- Stream 2: Researching an idea (\$5000)
- Stream 3: Implementing an idea (\$5000)

Each stream has different aims and eligibility criteria, with Stream 1 focusing on skills development and Stream 2 offering funding for ideas development and research.

Stream 3, which is only available to food businesses, focuses on helping them reduce organic waste, or divert it from landfill.

Businesses can apply for up to two funding streams and a total of \$7500, depending on their eligibility.

The council’s environment portfolio chair Cr Rohan Leppert said council wanted to support businesses to transition to a circular economy.

“The grants are our way of helping businesses overcome the challenges in managing their waste. We appreciate it’s not easy and can be expensive,” he said.

All projects must be completed by March 31 2022, and acquittals returned by May 31 2022.

The Lord Mayor encouraged businesses to apply.

“Whether you run a café or an accounting firm, you may be eligible for these grants, so please apply if you have an idea about how your business could become more sustainable by reducing waste,” Cr Capp said.

Applications close on Tuesday, April 6 ●

Residents fed up with skateboarders

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
SAFETY & SECURITY

Irate CBD residents are considering packing up and moving elsewhere due to the perceived danger and noise created by unruly skateboarders at Chinatown and Her Majesty’s Theatre.

Cohen St resident Forrister Jenot is concerned about groups of skaters vandalising and using private property adjacent Her Majesty’s Theatre to film daring stunts where they jump out onto the road in front of motorists and pedestrians.

Mr Jenot told *CBD News* after multiple calls to police and attempts to get the skateboarders to go elsewhere, he was ready to end his lease.

“They’re a safety issue, they leap off a boulevard into incoming pedestrians [and] we’re just waiting for a pregnant mother, or an elderly member of the community to be pushed over and hurt,” he said.

“I spoke to my neighbours and there are four of us who are really well and truly jack of it; that’s four of us considering moving somewhere else.”

Recently, the City of Melbourne re-capped blue stone structures commonly used for skating in Chinatown Square in order to deter skaters.

Mr Jenot claims skaters had previously ripped the caps off, and said Chinatown Square had been recast as a “youth crime area” which meant police were now quicker to respond to call outs to the area.

But the City of Melbourne’s Skate Plan – launched in 2017 partly in response to the city’s growing reputation as a world-renowned skating hot spot – is seeking to increase the provision, designation and integration of skateable spaces across the city.

“Shared spaces provide for street style skaters and long boarders and are more socially inclusive than traditional skate facilities which typically use fencing and are specifically designed exclusively for skating,” the plan states.

To reduce conflict in these shared spaces, the council said location criteria would be used



▲ Skaters gather at Chinatown Square.

to educate skaters and non-skaters on suitable spaces for skating, with strategic design helping to manage safety.

Signage that designates when skating is allowed in a multi-use space and planned programs that encourage responsible skating are other strategies listed in the plan.

But Mr Jenot is fed up with skaters creating noise, grafting, urinating and consuming alcohol illicit drugs around his apartment.

In the past, Mr Jenot said he had been verbally abused and shoved by skaters after confronting them.

“They say: ‘you’re just an idiot, if you don’t like it, why don’t you just move?’ They then explain to you urban skating is huge; ‘we get sponsorships from big companies like Adidas and they want us to be getting footage of us jumping of buildings and people homes’”, Mr Jenot said.

“They literally trespass on property. I say to the skaters ‘do you want the Skate Melbourne

“They say ‘we don’t want to be confined to a skate park, we want to do what we want, where we want, and whenever we want and not be bothered by police, residents or council’.”



Plan?’ And they say ‘we don’t want to be confined to a skate park, we want to do what we want, where we want, and whenever we want and not be bothered by police, residents or council’”.

A spokesperson for the City of Melbourne said the council had to balance the needs of all people sharing in public space.

“We installed stronger skate deterrent fins around Her Majesty’s Theatre at the beginning of March to deter skaters from using this area,” the spokesperson said.

“The new fins have been drilled into the stone to ensure they can’t be forcefully removed. The gaps between blocks have also been cleaned out to act as a further deterrent to skaters.”

“Council authorised officers patrol the city proactively and in response to complaints, however we are unable to be in all areas of the municipality at all times.”

“We encourage residents to contact police to report any anti-social behaviour in their area.” ●

Animated possums on show in Carlton

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ARTS & CULTURE

Digital, animated possums are on show at University Square for the next few weeks for a temporary public art piece commissioned by the City of Melbourne.

Activated after dark, *Apparition* responds to University Square as a space in flux, suspended between stages of landscape redevelopment for the Metro Tunnel project.

Artist Mikala Dwyer said the holographic possums which haunted the square’s northern plaza at night were inspired by the possums that hid in the elm trees at the heart of the square.

“It is the phenomenon of storytelling that I hope to invoke through the image of a possum appearing and disappearing quietly and randomly in the night,” Ms Dwyer said.

Ms Dwyer worked with animator Gina Moore to create the life-like movements of the digital possums onto a



holo-gauze screen in the trees.

Only visible after dark, the possums shuffle around the tree before disappearing again when the sun comes up.

Ms Dwyer said the theme of the work, apparition, was chosen because they “seem to be dreamt up from a need to symbolise and make meaning out of something”.

“This apparition of possums perhaps asks the question: ‘Will you miss me when I’m gone?’” Ms Dwyer said ●

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Your City of Melbourne community update



Longrain welcomes outdoor diners to Little Bourke Street

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne businesses, creatives and event managers are rallying in the wake of COVID-19, alongside swift and strategic investment from the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

A multitude of projects are underway to reactivate Melbourne, and the city has begun to change before our eyes.

Many of the initiatives are being delivered through the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

Next time you visit the city, look out for key physical changes, including 40 km of new bike lanes and 'little streets' that have been made more pedestrian friendly.

Here are four more exciting things that have popped up around Melbourne.

1 Public art in vacant shopfronts

Creative artworks by local artists are bringing colour and vibrancy to vacant shopfronts as the city rebalances from the effects of COVID-19.

Delivered as part of the Melbourne City Recovery Fund, this program supports the creative sector and creates a welcoming environment on our streets. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/publicart

2 COVID-safe versions of beloved events

Melburnians are grinning, chuckling and guffawing through more than three weeks of COVID-safe laughs thanks to the return of the world-renowned Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Join the fun in venues and online until 18 April. Find out more at comedyfestival.com.au or discover more upcoming events at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

3 More than 1500 new outdoor dining areas

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

The City of Melbourne has extended its outdoor dining program to help venues reopen and continue operating. Find out more about this program at melbourne.vic.gov.au/outdoordining

4 150,000 new trees, shrubs and grasses

Look out for new native vegetation around Royal Park, Parkville and the Dynon Road wildlife reserve that will help support biodiversity, cool the city and create jobs.

Funded by the Victorian Government, Greening the City is the largest revegetation project that the City of Melbourne has ever undertaken. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbanforest

Looking to the future, business support will continue to be front and centre, and an advisory committee comprised of retail, hospitality and creative industry leaders will focus on rebuilding the night-time economy.

Iconic places will also be revitalised, with plans underway for upgrades to the Lonsdale Street Greek Precinct and Princess Theatre forecourt.

Our city's brightest minds will also come together for events like the Open Innovation Competition and Emerging Technology Testbed Challenge to collaborate and innovate.

While the city might not look quite like you remember, Melbourne's restaurants, shops, bars, art institutions and events are open for business. And people are hungry to return to the city they love.

We encourage you to rediscover your city and feel the buzz of what is to come.

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



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

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

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer.

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

REIMAGINE THE FUTURE AT MELBOURNE KNOWLEDGE WEEK

Join Melbourne’s brightest minds to solve historical crimes in augmented reality, learn about ‘doughnut economics’ and much more at Melbourne Knowledge Week from 26 April to 2 May.

The festival will feature more than 100 in-person and online events devised in collaboration with local and international experts, including artists, academics, economists and biomedical scientists.

Four hubs at locations across the city will host a wide range of unique, COVID-safe events – the vast majority of which are free to attend.

Immersive installations and city tours will encourage audiences to playfully explore, share and learn, and a digital hub will expand the festival’s reach across the globe.

Whether you are interested in technology, digital ethics, human-centred design, entrepreneurship, creativity, wellbeing or something completely different, there is something for you at Melbourne Knowledge Week.

Here’s how you can get involved in the festival program.

- 1 Learn from experts

Hear from the pros about sustainable economies, the rise of cryptocurrencies and how to pandemic-proof the future. Be inspired by big thinkers from around the world, in person and online.
- 2 Share your ideas

Deep-dive into tough topics like climate change, ethics and the afterlife through board games, book clubs and hands-on workshops. Working together, we can help shape a bright future for our city.
- 3 Build your network

Discover ideas for city activation as local innovators pitch their ideas, explore a showcase of local startups, and attend networking sessions for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and international students.
- 4 Enjoy a mindful meal

Book a zero-waste lunch at Cumulus Inc hosted by OzHarvest and Rotary

Melbourne or delve into the story of Gelam the dugong at a dinner event by Mabu Mabu.

- 5 Inspire your family

Build new toys from old favourites, co-create a ‘wild city’, get your hands dirty to create your own biodiverse garden and play Dungeons & Dragons with a biometric mirror.
- 6 Blow your mind

Receive a voice message from another version of you from a parallel universe, talk to a person from history using artificial intelligence and explore future Melbourne through Prototype City.

Melbourne Knowledge Week is proudly presented by the City of Melbourne.

The festival program will launch on Monday 22 March at mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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

EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER KATE RAWORTH

Digital Hub (online), Wednesday 28 April, 7pm to 8pm

Learn about Kate’s provocative ‘doughnut economics’ paradigm that shows how economies can comfortably function while looking after all people and the environment.

This live event will feature a digital keynote presentation, live Q&A and facilitated small-group conversations about how we can incorporate these ideas into our work and lives.



A CIRCULAR FUTURE

Wesley Place Hub, 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Saturday 1 May, 2pm to 5pm

Join an interactive workshop to explore how can we move from resource-draining ‘take, make, waste’ linear systems to a progressive circular economy.

Hosted by UnSchool, this event invites you to understand the complex systems you participate in every day, and recognise your agency to affect change.

WILD CITY

Meat Market Hub, 3 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne
Visit any time while the hub is open

Explore a thriving green metropolis shared equally by humans and animals and co-create new, welcoming urban habitats.

Created by Kathy Holowko in collaboration with scores of local children, the Wild City exhibition invites kids to consider how we can improve the quality of living in our urban ecosystems by being more considerate to animals.



Engaging conversations



Zero-waste dining



Immersive experiences

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

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Covering the Pacific from Carlton

As a seasoned journalist, media consultant, editor and mentor, Carlton local Sue Ahearn has worn many hats throughout her career in the media.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

From humble beginnings in community news, she came to ABC Melbourne as a journalist and worked her way up to eventually become the editor of ABC International and news editor of Radio Australia.

Ms Ahearn said that growing up on a farm in New Zealand made her fascinated about the world around her which naturally led her to journalism.

“I was always curious about things and how they worked, so reading was my big thing and I read the newspaper from a young age,” Ms Ahearn said.

Although she occupied one of the highest positions in journalism, Ms Ahearn learned the tools of the trade from her work as a young reporter.

To teach the importance of detail, her first

journalism gig involved covering weddings for the local paper.

“If you got the wrong description of the bride’s dress or the mother-in-law’s dress, they used to ring up and abuse you,” Ms Ahearn said. “So I learned a lot about wedding dresses.”

After moving to Australia in her 20s for the job opportunities, Ms Ahearn got a gig at ABC Melbourne before moving up the ranks to become editor of ABC International.

During this time, she fell in love with the Pacific region and recognised there was a major gap in the coverage surrounding it.

“It’s a constant frustration that there’s so little published about our nearest neighbours,” Ms Ahearn said.

Since the ABC International’s service was downsized, this gap has become even wider, resulting in a media desert where entire regions have little to no coverage.

To remedy this and combat misinformation, three years ago Ms Ahearn started the Pacific Newsroom – an aggregated site which draws content from many sources.

“There’s some original content but we mainly take articles from Australia, New Zealand, PNG, Solomon Islands and also get information from bloggers, academics and activists,” Ms Ahearn said.

At time of writing, one of the main issues the Pacific Newsroom was covering was the COVID outbreak in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

“Lots of people are surprised this has happened but if you’ve been following PNG you’d know there’s a complete breakdown of their health services and 2000 women die every year in childbirth, so no wonder their hospitals can’t cope,” Ms Ahearn said.

In her spare time, Ms Ahearn is also a committee member for Women in the Media – an initiative which provides mentoring programs and networking events for women working in the media.

“Journalism is one of the best careers for women. You amass this knowledge about so many different things. You can have a flexible work schedule. You get to go to places and meet people. You learn so much from it,” Ms Ahearn said.

“But it’s important for women to be able to discuss issues they may be having, whether it’s being the only woman in the newsroom, career steps, pay, or for general advice.”

Currently, Ms Ahearn and her team are lobbying for re-vitalisation of Radio Australia and a collaborative effort from all the media to ensure there is reliable, trustworthy news about the Pacific.



“There are 14 Pacific countries and each one is different,” Ms Ahearn said. “They all have stories that need to be told.”

To join the Pacific Newsroom, visit www.facebook.com/groups/Pacificnewsroom/ ●

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS’ NETWORK

In response to the Ombudsman ...

Hello readers, thanks for all the feedback from my last column. In this issue I want to talk about the Victorian Ombudsman’s report into the “hard lockdown” of the public housing residents for two weeks at 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne.



The Ombudsman’s report can be found at ombudsman.vic.gov.au

As the spokesperson for the Public Housing Residents’ Network (PHRN) and the Save Public Housing Collective (SPHC), we have welcomed Ombudsman Deborah Glass’s report that found the state government had breached public housing residents’ human rights with the imposition of their detention. The following is our joint submission to the Ombudsman’s Investigation ...

For the government through Minister Richard Wynne and backed by Premier Daniel Andrews to reject this finding is alarming, showing a complete disregard for human rights not only for the housing residents, but also for others in the community in the future.

To say they would do it again to “save lives” as Minister Wynne has stated is totally unacceptable, emotive language to seek to continue the stigmatisation of public housing residents. It makes a complete mockery of the campaign “we are all in this together”.

Public housing residents will always want lives saved but as the Ombudsman has found, the lockdowns were not meant to engage residents in COVID-19 outbreak management. The government made a political decision to use police to treat us all as criminals, unable to self-manage and work with the public health COVID-19 response team.

It is still not too late for the Premier to offer the apology Ms Glass has called for so that we can move on from what happened. An apology should be supported with appropriate compensation payments to resident households for the disruption and trauma created through the lockdowns in all nine towers, which I noted did not happen in private high-rise buildings when COVID-19 was detected.

Ms Glass has recommended the establishment of fully functional committees on all public housing estates so that residents can have a structural way of facilitating dialogue with Homes Victoria (formerly part of DHHS) and addressing issues that need attention, such as timely maintenance of facilities and repairs in flats. The government must provide the resources for this to happen.

Ms Glass has also called for COVID-19 healthcare plans to be put in place for each estate, and I call on the government to extend the current contract with Cohealth to be made permanent and be widened to have a service presence on all estates.

The government also needs to begin an immediate program of ending overcrowding in public housing towers by building new public housing (not social housing) in locations of reasonable proximity to where residents now live. This was promised by Premier Andrews in one of his weekly COVID-19 briefings a few months ago.

For the government through Minister Richard Wynne and backed by Premier Daniel Andrews to reject this finding is alarming, showing a complete disregard for human rights not only for the housing residents, but also for others in the community in the future.



As we are now getting back to some sort of normality, we think it is time to start implementing the above mentioned immediately.

The PHRN and SPHC strongly believe the public housing residents in Victoria need a Public Housing Ombudsman to deal with all issues they cannot satisfactorily resolve with Homes Victoria. Ms Glass has carried out her duties impeccably with this investigation but in the past many requests for assistance to the Ombudsman’s Office did not get a response.

Details on the campaign for a Public Housing Ombudsman can be found at:

facebook.com/savepublichousingcollective/
facebook.com/VictorianPublicHousingOmbusman2020

Please feel free to contact me about any issues you may have ●



Cory Memery
CORYMEMERY@YAHOO.COM

HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

A big problem requires even bigger solutions

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

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

This month we have asked MP Fiona Patten, Leader of the Reason Party, Member for Northern Metropolitan, chair of the Legal and Social Issues Committee and chair of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness, to share her thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians, and in particular some of the key recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry, and why solving homelessness should be considered an economic imperative for Australia ...

In the first week of March, I had the great privilege of tabling the report of the Inquiry into Homelessness by the Victorian Parliaments Legal and Social Issues Committee, on which I also serve as chair.

Unsurprisingly the final document is a weighty one, given the groaning weight of the issue on our community. Homelessness is seen as the deepest expression of social exclusion in our society, a growing and seemingly intractable problem. But we cannot, and we must not, ever give up on our attempts at ending it.

We began the inquiry before the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires in Victoria and prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homelessness was already a challenge for so many in Victoria, and these events exacerbated these difficulties for both those experiencing homelessness and those providing homelessness support. Measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the CBD of Melbourne, saw many people previously sleeping rough placed in emergency accommodation, with plans for this to transition into long-term housing.

Those who live within the city area, like me, were heartened to see that something slightly good had come from the pandemic lockdowns. It showed that with sufficient will on the part of the Victorian Government, it is possible to end homelessness for many people experiencing it. Whether that will remain the case is yet to be seen, but surely through this experience, we can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for so many and we can help get them there.

The Victorian Government's landmark Big Housing Build, which will see 9300 new social housing dwellings built, about a 10 per cent increase in Victoria's social housing stock, was announced towards the end of our Inquiry. Welcomed yes, but despite the unprecedented size of the program, this will actually still not

ensure that Victoria will meet the national average of social housing as a percentage of total dwellings, at 4.5 per cent. In order to increase long-term housing options, the Government needs to look at, among other measures, implementing mandatory inclusionary zoning in all new major housing developments across the state.

Another crucial part of our approach to homelessness should be to intervene early in order to prevent homelessness before it occurs. Whenever I have looked in depth at disadvantage in our society it has been evident that this can get to the very cause of disadvantage and turn people's lives around. As well as being a social issue, this is also an economic issue as the long-term cost and implications to society of not preventing homelessness will be larger than the investment to migrate that cost.

This means identifying those at risk of homelessness and stepping in to provide support before they reach a crisis point. It also means a focus on education. There are many skilled and passionate people in the homelessness sector who have the capacity to do this crucial work and who should be supported to do so. Government should prioritise implementing diverse, forward-thinking early intervention strategies.

Often there is a tragic transition from institutional settings into homelessness including health, mental health, care and custodial settings. Too often, people at risk of homelessness are discharged or released into the community without sufficient planning or support to find and keep accommodation. Without a home, these individuals may soon end up back in hospital or in the justice system. For those leaving incarceration, being released into homelessness inhibits their chances at successful re-integration into the community.

Currently in Victoria, we have a homelessness sector that is overwhelmed with the need to respond to people in crisis.

I have urged the Government to implement the recommendations made in the Homelessness Inquiry report. We can develop a more adaptable and flexible system of support so that the sector can focus more on early intervention rather than crisis responses.

I hope you found the above perspective by Fiona interesting and insightful. While what was said may not align with our view of the world, we all need to listen and digest what is said by others in order to find common ground. This is why we are focusing on the fact that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need (not human right) and without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that will span generations.

As I said in my first article, doing nothing is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts: info@housingallaustralians.com.au



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

Driven by diversity

First-term City of Melbourne councillor Jason Chang said he was driven onto the council by a desperate need to give a greater voice to the city's Asian community.

The 35-year-old, who owns the prominent Calia Emporium on Lonsdale St, said that while the pandemic had been challenging for all of Melbourne, it had too often been compounded by vitriol and racism towards the Asian community.

As a proud born and bred Melburnian, Cr Chang told *Inner City News* that the treatment he had often personally received just by walking the streets at times had been particularly difficult to endure given his love for his city.

His family's journey in Melbourne is yet another success story for multiculturalism. Having migrated to Australia via Fiji in the 1960s, his father, who passed away when Jason was just 12 years old, made his living as a fruit and veg trader at the Queen Victoria Market, while his mother has worked at the Ear and Eye Hospital in East Melbourne for 35 years. His family also originally ran grocery stores in Chinatown, as well as a Chinese restaurant on Acland St in St Kilda where Jason was first exposed to small business in the city.

Now a new father himself and the owner of five Calia "restaurant-to-retail" businesses located at Emporium, Chadstone, Kuala Lumpur and soon Jakarta, the addition of City of Melbourne councillor is sure to set a new standard in juggling!

But as a passionate Melburnian and member of the Asian community, he said he wasn't motivated by politics but only a desire to represent

the community and restore values of multiculturalism and equality back in the city after COVID.

"My dad and my mum taught me to give back to the community," he said. "The pandemic has shaped us all in what we can do to give back and that's the focus of what I want to do for four years on council."

"I see the suffering that the Asian community is going through right now. A lot come to me and tell me that there are so many issues, some business owners tell me their staff have been pushed to the ground just for being Asian and they come to work upset and crying."

"Unfortunately, some people are blaming us for the virus right now but it's not right. The City of Melbourne is more than 30 per cent Asian. It's a great thing to celebrate multiculturalism here in the city and that's what we're made of. People forget that sometimes."

"The pandemic pushed me to run for election because small business owners, a lot of them are immigrants who have invested their life savings and spent all their money to open a business to give their kids a better life and for these four years. I want to do my best to represent them. I want to show the community that all immigrants, not just Asians, have contributed greatly. I want to give them some hope."

Having been elected via former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood's ticket at last year's local government elections, Cr Chang is one of six new faces on the council alongside Crs Jamal Hakim, Elizabeth Doidge, Davydd Griffiths, Roshena Campbell and Olivia Ball.

He said that while he was still very much "learning the ropes", the new council was a "young" and "refreshing" team of individuals. Echoing the words of Cr Hakim in February's *Councillor Profile*, "soft on people, hard on issues" is the approach Cr Chang said was shared among his colleagues.



And another issue he was personally passionate about in addition to helping the city's small businesses and night-time economy was the gaping hole left in the city by international students.

During the height of last year's second wave of coronavirus in Victoria, his business at Emporium, which employed more than 100 staff, had supported many students through employment, as well as outreach with groceries, masks and sanitiser.

But underpinning all of it, he said it was time for equal representation of migrant communities and businesses in the city and he would be "giving a voice" to the new generation of residents, students and start-ups.

"The Asian community is known as the 'model minority'," he said.

"The issue that I found as an Asian business is that we don't get the publicity of a lot of Caucasian businesses. The election sort of helped me get more profile for the community

and for Asian business owners as well and I think that was the most important thing for me was to provide that hope and confidence."

"Speaking to a lot of small business owners last year they just didn't know what to do and a lot were closing. A lot were depressed, even contemplating suicide. You think 'how can I help them?' because they couldn't make ends meet."

"I've got four years and I'm happy to do one term and represent the community to the best of my ability. I've got four years to do what I can."



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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



Road trains and paintings: Indigenous artist Cameron Benson launches first exhibition

For indigenous artist Cameron Benson, driving trucks and painting are two things he does well. Instead of mindlessly scrolling through his Facebook feed on breaks between Geelong and Melbourne, Mr Benson uses his time to paint.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

And now, after years of roadside painting, Mr Benson has launched his first ever exhibition titled *Let The Light Shine* showcasing 17 contemporary indigenous Australian animals at the Koori Heritage Trust at Federation Square.

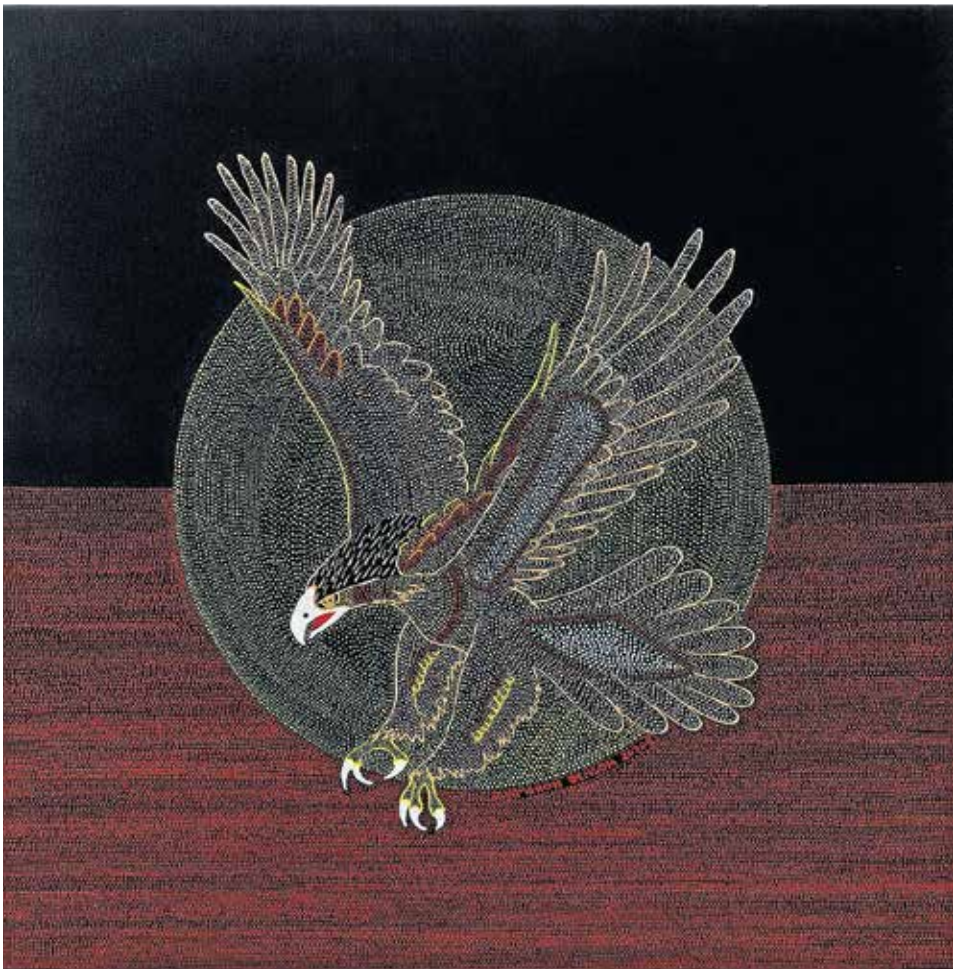
Mr Benson said he was incredibly excited.

“There’s 17 paintings, all different Australian animals; a kookaburra, a wombat, fighting kangaroos, a couple of turtles and a few other ones including some yabbies,” he said.

“It’s a contemporary style, it probably looks Aboriginal. But mine don’t have stories or cultural significance.”

Mr Benson used to live in Horsham where he painted T-shirts and other nick-knacks.

But four years ago, after finding painting T-shirts was no longer viable, he packed up and left to Geelong to seek a better market for his artwork.



Mr Benson began refining his style using different tools to paint on canvas while driving trucks between Geelong and Melbourne, where he would often stop en route at service stations for a break and a scroll through his social media feed.

But something about it didn’t gel with his desire for efficiency.

“I thought I better get something done,” Mr Benson said.

“Now, I do most of my work in my truck when I’m on a break. I’ve got a tray, I’ve got liquid paints, and when I get a chance, I get them out.”

“I have a stretched canvas in the back – it’s better than sitting on Facebook all day.”

When it comes to his artistic process, Mr Benson often draws inspiration for his outlines from photographs.

On a recent trip to Tasmania with his wife, Mr Benson snapped a few photos of a Tasmanian

devil, which he used to sketch out the outline for one of the paintings in his exhibition.

But Mr Benson’s true inspiration comes from above.

“I believe I get inspiration from God – he gave me creative ability and I’d go give him the glory for the artwork I do,” Mr Benson said.

“That’s why I called it [the exhibition] *Let The Light Shine*.”

Mr Benson said the title came from scripture, Matthew 5:16.

Let The Light Shine will be showing from March 13 to May 23 at the Koorie Heritage Trust in the Yarra Building at Federation Square. Tickets are free ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

TRADER PROFILE

The best berries in Melbourne

Renowned for its fresh produce and welcoming attitude, family-run business Berries Corner has become a beloved staple at the Queen Victoria Market.

Since 1987, the business has been selling a large selection of high-quality fruit and vegetables and ready-to-go produce boxes to the delight of regulars.

Belinda Vitalone, who owns Berries Corner with her husband Pat, said the best part about running the business was getting to know her customers.

“The fact that we have the time to communicate with our customers and have long-term relationships with them makes us like a family,” Ms Vitalone said.

“Over time we truly get to know people and watch their children grow up and get married.”

Berries Corner was established more than 30 years ago by Pat’s parents, who started teaching him the tools of the trade when he was only three years old.

Keeping with the family tradition, Pat took over the business with Belinda when his parents retired six years ago.

“Since Pat’s parents retired six years ago we updated, replaced the manual scales with electronic ones, [put in or installed new] registers, and brought a more modernised look,” Ms

Vitalone said.

As a market staple for the past few decades, the business has a host of regulars who come and visit them at the market.

Ms Vitalone said that although they were getting customers travelling from interstate, the business was missing the international customers who would usually be visiting at this time of year.

“We usually get tourists, so it was always interesting to find out where they’ve come from and talk to them about their experience,” Ms Vitalone said.

“They take fresh fruit like cherries and stone fruit back overseas with them.”

For locals who can’t visit the market themselves, Berries Corner also has an online option to pick up or deliver.

“You can do your shopping so customers can pick what they want, and all of the produce is sourced fresh from local growers at the wholesale Melbourne Market in Epping,” Ms Vitalone said.

As for her favourite produce at the stall, Ms Vitalone said one couldn’t go past their star item.



“Berries are my favourite, we have them all year round, every variety, and it’s our highlight,” Ms Vitalone said.

“That’s why it’s called Berries Corner!”

To shop online at Berries Corner, visit berriescorner.com.au or visit them on market days in Shed H ●

 **Katie Johnson**
JOURNALIST
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Safer streets for cyclists and pedestrians

Like many Melburnians, I love riding my bike

Life as a local MP and a mum of two young kids can be pretty busy sometimes, so the chance to get some exercise and fresh air while travelling to work means I can kill two birds with one stone, and I also find it clears my mind ahead of a big day.

As you might have noticed, cycling has boomed during the COVID-19 lockdowns. And while it's great to see more people enjoying healthy low-emissions transport, it's also shone further light on some particularly unsafe bike routes on state-managed roads in our suburbs.

More separated bike lanes for cyclists

Credit should go to the City of Melbourne for taking leadership and creating more than 40km of separated and pop-up bike lanes across our inner city. The newly-completed Rathdowne St separated path is just one of them.

But despite this good work, there are still several state government-managed arterial roads that are currently very dangerous for cyclists, and crying out for bike lanes.

Royal Parade alongside the University of Melbourne, for example, often carries more cyclists than drivers during peak hour. Flemington Rd is another busy but unsafe route; which people often use to travel from the inner north or west into the CBD. Both of these routes are especially dangerous hotspots for "car dooring".

To help fix these issues, I've been working with our local councillors to advocate to the Victorian Treasurer and Transport Minister for separated lanes on these roads. I've put in a Budget bid and hope to see some funding in the upcoming Budget.

Safer streets for pedestrians

In the past 12 months, my office has also engaged locals in a Pedestrian Safety Survey, which asked people to highlight concerns they had about their safety on inner city streets.

I've heard from Carlton residents about many near misses on busy roads in Carlton including along Cemetery Rd where four lanes of traffic funnel from Alexandra Parade into high density residential streets near the University of Melbourne, public housing and Melbourne's hospital precinct.

In Parkville in the middle of Royal Park there's also no pedestrian crossing from one half of the park into the other which means residents, commuters and visitors either have to walk up to Royal Parade or into the refuge island near the Melbourne Zoo where it's dangerous to wait, especially with dogs or small children.

We have the opportunity to bring life back to our city streets with more people already riding their bikes and enjoying long walks on our footpaths after COVID-19, but we also have the responsibility to keep everyone safe.

If you have any concerns about road safety or ideas on how to improve active transport options and infrastructure in Melbourne's inner city, I'd love to hear from you. Don't hesitate to get in touch at 146 Peel St, North Melbourne by emailing office@ellensandell.com or calling us on 9328 4637 •



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



▲ Ellen Sandell MP on her way to the opening of new safe and active paths outside Carlton Gardens Primary School last month.

ROTARY CLUB

Full support for Inner City News

Carlton Rotary is delighted to be associated with Inner City News and wishes publisher Sean Car and editor Katie Johnson every success in providing free hyperlocal information on issues of interest and impact for local residents and businesses in our community.

Initially chartered in June 1985 by the Rotary Club of Melbourne (which celebrates its 100th birthday on April 21), Carlton Rotary has followed the International credo of "Service Above Self" while focusing on always remaining "The Friendly Club" to our members, partners/families and guests.

We have three key areas of service to our local community: Service to the wider national and international communities and, just as importantly, service to our own club members.

This year, the year of the coronavirus pandemic, has been a year like no other. So for this reason, we created a special Leadership and Resilience During Hardship (COVID19) Award for a Year 12 student at both University High School and Princes Hill Secondary College.



Students were nominated by their schools and each winner received a \$500 Readings Book Voucher to assist them with future studies. In the past, Rotarians have also provided mock-interviews to Year 10 and Year 11 students to help prepare them for workforce job interviews.

The next program coming very soon is to assist parents, teachers and students at some local schools with the ever increasing concern with cyber safety. The program (specific details will be available in the next edition of *Inner City News*) will be led by Robyn Trevaud, founder of Cyber Safe Kids who is a globally recognised expert in online safety and digital wellbeing. Robyn was guest speaker at the Rotary Carlton Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, February 9 and made such an impact she was invited to provide this online service to our wider community.

On service to the broader Australian community, Carlton Rotary has provided drills and angle grinders to the East Gippsland victims of the catastrophic 2020 bushfire as well as three renovated caravans to families whose homes were destroyed in the fires.

Through funds raised from the popular Book Fair (originally at the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre but now at a pop-shop in Lygon St) Carlton Rotary has provided

ongoing financial assistance to youth mental health through the respected Australian Rotary Health. Just last month, \$5000 was provided to fund a bed at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Internationally, we provide financial support to the End Polio Campaign and to post graduate students studying overseas through Rotary's Global Grant Scholarship Program. Currently we have a junior doctor studying for a MPhil in basic and translational neuroscience (dementia research) at Cambridge University.

Carlton Rotay used to meet every Tuesday at lunch time (1pm to 2pm) at Graduate House (Melbourne University) but during COVID, has been meeting by Zoom. Lunchtime meetings are about to begin – probably once or twice a month. Contact president elect Keith Ryall on 0418 589 144 for further details •



Keith Ryall
PRESIDENT-CARLTON ROTARY CLUB
KEITHFRYALL@GMAIL.COM



Faces of Inner City

Question: Which inner-city business would you like to promote?



REN BUTLER & BILLY ROSE

Really passionate about a business that we manage Whisky Social – a community that runs floating events and whisky bars in the inner city. We have some of the best bars and bartenders in the world.



JUSTINE

I'd like to vouch for the Garden Organics shop in Queen Victoria Market (Shed Stalls 71-77). I bought these bananas there!



MATT

Swensk is a Swedish clothing store on 230 Little Collins [St], they import the label from Sweden, they are independently owned, the owners are lovely and they have a fantastic range of clothing.



DANIEL

Dungeon of Magic (Shop 2B Basement, Royal Arcade) provides essential space for anyone to come and play some niche board games that are otherwise hard to find or to connect with players who enjoy these games.



Nature Therapy

“I noticed a few insects around.”

Fitzroy Gardens

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Years pass but some local issues persist

It is hard to believe that 12 months ago when we held our AGM, and after being addressed by the Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, we asked Peter Doherty to give an overview of this new infectious disease, COVID 19.

Peter made us all aware of the seriousness of COVID but little did we know the next weekend we would be locked down and lives would change dramatically! A year later we are holding our virtual AGM and Peter will be reflecting on 2020 and moving forward.

Thinking back to Sally Capp's address we also discussed issues affecting Parkville – particularly the issue of “rat runners” speeding through our narrow streets.

The Lord Mayor mentioned reducing the speed limits through South Parkville to 30 kph and the 70-plus members in the room were unanimous in their support. Our streets are again being used to avoid the traffic delays in Gatehouse St and sadly traffic surveys demonstrate some very irresponsible driving.

Currently there are plans to trial flat speed humps in Degraives St where an average speed of more than 40 kmh in a short and narrow street is quite frightening. We will work with the council to pursue other measures to make our streets safer.

March also was the month for the hearing of planning amendment C278 proposed by the

City of Melbourne. Simply put, it covers off the overshadowing of parks by developments measured by the winter solstice. We made a submission and presented to the panel. Our major concern is the potential creep of the bio-medical precincts and development of apartments in West Parkville which could overshadow Royal Park.

I also attended a meeting of the Community Reference Group for Melbourne Metro where we were given a preview of the Airport Rail Link. Less than 14 minutes from Parkville station to Tulla! It's a very impressive development – just a little too late for me, having worked in Tullamarine for more than 40 years!

I also had the pleasure of meeting the principal of University High School, Ciar Foster, for a chat about what our association and Uni High could do together for the community. It was very exciting and Ciar will be joining us at a future event to meet local residents. We will catch up on a regular basis and keep all across the wonderful developments at Uni High. First opened in Parkville in 1930 we are very lucky to have this great school in our suburb.

Finally, as our AGM approaches I would like to thank our committee for their great support. It is frightening to think five years have passed since I started leading the group. Our residents in North, West and South Parkville are great contributors to the wonderful community! Thank you for your support ●



Rob Moore
PRESIDENT
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METRO TUNNEL



Metro Tunnel goes with the flow

TBM Millie is closing on her final destination having successfully negotiated Melbourne’s iconic Yarra River in March.

The 1100-tonne tunnel boring machine (TBM) has plotted a course 12 metres under the bed of the Yarra, with the cutterhead already reaching the northern side of the river. Now it’s next stop Town Hall Station for TBM Millie, while TBM Alice is following a parallel course as these two mega-machines excavate the final few hundred metres of the twin tunnels from Anzac Station. Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan recently met the team of tunnellers who work day and night on TBM Millie. Meanwhile, life on the Yarra’s surface continues undisturbed for rowers and boaters.

After crossing under the river, Millie will dig a further 300 metres to Town Hall Station below Swanston St to complete the final section of tunnel in the south-east, followed a few weeks later by TBM Alice. Tunnelling is now 85 per cent complete, with TBMs Joan and Meg digging more than 30 metres below Swanston St towards Town Hall Station from the State Library Station site. The arrival of all four TBMs at Town Hall Station in mid-2021 will mark the end of tunnelling to create the twin nine-kilometre-long rail tunnels from Kensington, under the CBD, to South Yarra. The Metro Tunnel Project will create additional capacity for more than half a million passengers a week during peak periods and transform the way Victorians travel around Melbourne. Minister Allan said, “We’ve almost got 18 kilometres of concrete-lined tunnel, while five new stations are taking shape underground with walls, roofs and platforms now being built – as we continue on the path to more trains, more often.”

Museum holiday activity a mini-marvel
The Metro Tunnel Project is joining forces with Melbourne Museum during the school holidays to bring you Mini Tunnels. With a seven-metre-long, 2.4m-high walk-through model of a tunnel boring machine as its centrepiece, there will be plenty for kids (and grown-ups) to do, including:
• A spot the difference activity;
• Fun facts and information call outs to explain how the TBM works; and
• Build Zone: an arts and craft activity space where kids can design and personalise their own tunnel ring segment. It’s fun, it’s educational and it’s a great free activity available at Melbourne Museum these school holidays. Admission is included with museum entry (admission is free for under-16s and concession card holders – visit museums-victoria.com.au). Why not combine a museum trip with a visit to the Metro Tunnel HQ visitor centre at 125 Swanston St? It’s refreshed and reopened for the school holidays ●

Mini Tunnels at Melbourne Museum.
For more information visit:
museums-victoria.com.au

Metro Tunnel HQ visitor centre at 125 Swanston Street.
For more information visit:
metro.tunnel.vic.gov.au/contact/hq

EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

Volunteering and its surprising benefits

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) is an incorporated residents’ group that works to connect the community of East Melbourne and Jolimont and to protect and improve its heritage and amenity.

When you pass through East Melbourne and see neighbours stopping in the street for a chat, enjoy its manicured gardens or admire the breadth of picturesque period architectural styles – know that it is not an accident, but the result of 70 years of community activism by dedicated EMG volunteers. The benefits of the EMG volunteers’ efforts are self-evident, but the benefits of being a volunteer are immeasurable. The heightened sense of belonging, which is gained from being part of a community residents’ group such as EMG, transports us back to a time when we lived in villages and worked together to find solutions. All residents are encouraged to get involved. Links to local residents’ groups can be found on the City of Melbourne website at melbourne.vic.gov.au/residents/Pages/resident-groups.aspx

Volunteering in a community residents’ group, such as EMG, allows you to participate in the positive shaping of your neighbourhood, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer.
In a society which is becoming increasingly digitised and isolated, volunteering can help you connect, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. Dedication your time as a volunteer develops your social skills and can introduce you to new lifelong friends. Existing relationships can also be strengthened, as you commit to this shared activity together. Volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbours, especially if you are new to an area. It galvanises your ties to the community and broadens your practical and emotional support network, exposing you to people with common interests, your local resources, and interesting and fulfilling activities. The EMG volunteers participate in any of our seven sub-committees; social, heritage & planning, parks & gardens, amenities, governance, membership or communications – so there is bound to be at least one facet that sparks your passion. These sub-committees meet regularly to prioritise and action their tasks at hand, such

as; assessment of a proposed development or demolition application, coordination of community events, pursuit of rectification or new works to the urban infrastructure, etc. This is then followed by the monthly committee meeting where sub-committee convenors can report their progress and seek direction from the group. Volunteering doesn’t have to be a long-term commitment, nor take a huge amount of your time, but gives you an outlet to apply your skills whilst contributing to your own mental health and happiness. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make real difference to the team. New skills can be learnt and existing ones cultivated, as you direct your efforts to an area of interest and community benefit. For instance, if your vocation is in human resources, you can raise awareness for your group’s member base as a volunteer, while further developing and improving your social media, communication, and public relations skills. If you’re considering a new career, volunteering can help you get experience in your area of interest and meet people in the field. Even if you’re retired, volunteering gives you the opportunity to continue to practice important

skills once used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management and organisation. The EMG collaborative team comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds at different stages of work and family life. As the demographic of our suburb continues to evolve, so does our volunteer profile and our methods for implementing action – but the ethos remains constant; to continue to protect and enhance the place we love to live. For information on how you can be involved as a volunteer or member please contact the East Melbourne Group ●

For more information visit:
emg.org.au



Lisette Malatesta
SECRETARY
EAST MELBOURNE GROUP INC.

Pet's Corner

A lovable basket case

“

When asked about her family dog, 20-year-old lifeguard Georgia had a concise statement ready to go.

”



WORDS BY *Jack Alfonso*

“He’s just a bit stupid to be honest!”

Venturing into Carlton Gardens from his regular home in Northcote, Dusty, a two-year-old Airedale Terrier, looks right at home and captivated by everything.

“He just loves other dogs,” Georgia said. “He always makes a beeline towards them and loves playing with them and other people.”

Very eager to get up and close with anyone he meets, one could be forgiven for thinking him a little bit overzealous, but “that’s just his personality” according to Georgia.

“He’s very energetic and excited all the time, and he thinks everything is for him – including all our

socks. He loves playing with socks. And pogo-jumping at the washing as soon as it’s hung on the line.”

Playing with and occasionally eating socks is just one of Dusty’s many idiosyncrasies, with a particular distaste for motorbike covers, trains, and speakers – especially the Monsters Inc. theme song.

“He gets really stressed when there’s music playing,” Georgia said. “He gets scared of stupid stuff.”

But brain capacity aside, Dusty means the world to his human family, regardless of the “mental stress” they put him through on occasion.

“We love our dog,” Georgia said. “We’ve only had him not very long, and anytime we’re not with him – he has a lot of vet visits because he’s very injury prone – we miss him lots. He’s fun to pet – and, I don’t know, he’s just a fun time. We love him heaps.” ●

CARLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Council consults Carlton Residents Association

With the Melbourne economy in recovery mode, the City of Melbourne is consulting locals and residents’ groups to decide the best way to bring buzz back to Carlton.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has brought together the presidents of residents’ associations across Melbourne to form a consultative group to help revitalise the economy.

Carlton Residents’ Association (CRA) is part of the group and will be helping the council to avoid “blow back” from residents while also propping up the night-time economy.

CRA president Antoinette Sagaria said, although it was early days, it would be interesting to see how receptive the council would be to the group’s ideas.

“It’s positive that we’re being invited to be part of the consulting process but our lobbying power may be limited due to the bureaucracy of council,” Ms Sagaria said.

“There are issues such as increased levels of hooning and crime and anti-social behaviour in and around Argyle Square which council hasn’t offered up any practical solutions for so we’re continuing to push for more police presence.”

Ms Sagaria said the council was currently trying to remove the red-tape so business could serve alcohol later and have more seating on the footpath, which had angered some residents.

“There have been complaints from residents that businesses are going beyond what they’re meant to,” Ms Sagaria said.

“We want to be able to work more closely with the commercial sector to ensure they’re playing by the rules, and also ensure residents aren’t standing in the way of the economy and we’re working together.”

For more information about how to get involved with the Carlton Residents Association, visit the CRA website ●

For more information:
carltonresidents.org.au.



Antoinette Sagaria
PRESIDENT
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The man behind Carlton’s pizza empire

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

DOC owner Michael Costanzo was the centre of a whirlwind of activity when *Inner City News* met him in early March.

In between questions he was greeting regulars, joking easily with his staff in Italian, and keeping an eye on the well-oiled machine of DOC Espresso.

When asked about the meaning behind the name DOC, Mr Costanzo said it stood for “Denominazione Origine Controllata”, the Italian certificate of quality stamped on wine bottles, cheeses and meats to show they’re authentic.

“I was sitting around a table with my two business partners when I saw it and I thought, let’s roll with it,” Mr Costanzo said.

“It works well because we pride ourselves on giving customers the best products – the best sauce, the best cheese, best mozzarella, best mortadella, best prosciutto, all of it.”

After setting up DOC Espresso 19 years ago with his two business partners, Mr Costanzo’s small coffee bar has now blossomed into an empire of five businesses well-loved for their traditional Italian cooking, authentic ingredients and famous pizzas.

The DOC empire now includes Carlton’s Pizza & Mozzarella Bar and DOC Delicatessen, DOC Mornington and DOC Southbank.

“It just slowly grew, which was nice,” Mr Costanzo said.

Inspired by his mum who used to “cook the house down” and his dad who grew his own fruits and vegetables, Mr Costanzo grew up with an affinity for food.

“Growing up as a little kid I was always eating what my mum would give me and I took inspiration from that, so I wanted to bring that authentic feel,” Mr Costanzo said.

“Italian food is supposed to have a simplicity about it.”

Costanzo’s latest venture is Bio by Doc, which opened up on Drummond St in December 2020 after three years of planning.

Breaking with tradition, it serves vegetarian, gluten-free Italian food including lentil lasagne, vegan tiramisu and vegetable tartare.

“The first time I told my head chef about the idea and he looked at me and said, ‘I’m Italian and I don’t do this,’” Mr Costanzo said.

But after taking two weeks to think about it, the chef was on board.

“We’re keeping those Italian flavours just like my mum and my grandma used to make, but doing in a cleaner, plant-based way,” Mr Costanzo said.

“People these days are a lot more conscious of what goes into their bodies.”

He’s currently trialling the restaurant in Sydney with a two-week pop up store, and if successful, it could become a permanent fixture.

“We’re testing the waters, but we know it’s all about theatre, passion, love, good food, and not cutting corners – customers appreciate that,” Mr Costanzo said.

As an employer of a large number of Italians, the biggest issue DOC faced during COVID was Italian staff not being able to stay in the country due to a lack of government support.

“We were lucky to keep our core group of staff, but to bring in new Italians to show us new ideas or staff who want to come back has been a nightmare,” Mr Costanzo said.



Despite this, the restaurant managed to hold its ground with customer numbers, as people kept coming back for the high-quality Italian DOC is known for.

“We have a cult following of people who come back for same thing, whether it be the paradelle or lasagne,” Mr Costanzo said. “We have a diverse range of customers come in, whether it’s pensioners who sit at the bar and sip on the \$2 coffees we offer, young professionals, or international students, we get everyone.”

With the stress of five businesses and a pop-up store on his shoulders, Mr Costanzo said it

was important to learn to “shut down”.

“I have a rigorous exercise routine of running, CrossFit and swimming,” he said.

“It like a meditation for me, and it also helps to keep fit with all of the delicious food around.” ●

To learn more about DOC, visit docgroup.net

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP



▲ The Federated Rubber Workers’ float. Note the 8-8-8 on the horses’ rugs. (Photo: State Library of Victoria)



▲ The Eight Hour Day parade in 1900 passing Parliament House in Spring St. (Photo: State Library of Victoria)

Labour Day – Melbourne’s forgotten celebration

During a long weekend in early March, Melbourne celebrates the Moomba Festival, which in pre-COVID times centred around a grand parade through the city.

But before there was Moomba and the Moomba parade, that long weekend was used for another grand parade that celebrated something entirely different – one of the most important improvements in the rights of workers, the winning of an eight-hour working day.

In the mid 19th century there was a movement in the UK and in the Australian colonies for the working day to be reduced from 10 to eight hours with no decrease in pay. It was called the Eight Hour Movement and it had as its basic

principle the right of every working man to “eight hours labour, eight hours recreation and eight hours sleep”. In the UK this campaign got nowhere. But here in the colony of Victoria things were different. The gold rush of the 1850s had created a shortage of skilled labour at a time when many important buildings, such as the University and the State Library, were being constructed. There was a demand for skilled workers such as stonemasons, carpenters and bricklayers, but many of these had left to seek their fortune on the goldfields. This meant that those who remained in Melbourne were in a strong position to negotiate for better wages and conditions.

On April 21, 1856, the stonemasons working at the University downed tools and marched on Parliament House, which was also being built at this time, demanding that the normal 10-hour working day be reduced to eight hours with no loss of pay. Because they were

in such a good bargaining position, they were successful in their demands. This was a world first – a recognition of the principle of eight hours work, eight hours recreation, eight hours rest. The right to an eight-hour working day was at first confined to stonemasons, but their victory provided the impetus for other building trades to agitate for similar conditions. It was later applied to a range of other trades and occupations.

The date of that first demonstration, April 21, became a day of celebration for workers and tradesmen in Melbourne for the next 100 years. It was celebrated each year in Melbourne with a grand parade through the city that attracted a crowd of tens of thousands. A feature of these parades were floats with large banners that proudly proclaimed the name of an individual union and its aspirations. In 1879 the day became a public holiday, the Eight Hour Day holiday. The parade was held on or as close to

the April 21 date as possible. But after the First World War, it was changed to March so as not to compete with the Anzac Day parade. In 1934 the Eight Hour Day was renamed Labour Day. In the years after the First World War attendance at the procession dropped away, and in 1951 it was abandoned altogether. In 1955, the Labour Day holiday was taken over by Moomba, and the Labour Day parade replaced by the Moomba parade. But the public holiday that creates the Moomba long weekend is still officially known as the Labour Day holiday ●



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保护皇家公园的生物多样性

作为墨尔本市区最大的绿地，皇家公园(Royal Park)被认为是“这个城市的肺部”。

Katie Johnson

但是随着不断出现过度发展的威胁，独立志愿者团体“皇家公园之友”(FORP)的成员一直在努力工作，以确保皇家公园保持其独特的品质。

FORP召集人Chris Nicholson说，通过每两个月进行的现场劳动和提高意识的运动，该组织得以防止公园中生物多样性的下降。

Nicholson先生说：“现场劳动几年前就开始了，主要做一些除草等需要完成的工作，但我们也开始从公园里收集种子，并且在公园里进行种植和繁殖工作。”

“随着城市的发展，花园绿地变得越来越稀有，因此我们一直在保护这些绿地，要不然可能已经被铲平变成了足球场、板球场或住宅物业了。”

Nicholson先生说，FORP还获得了联邦政府



的一项拨款，用于建造一个苗圃，这对我们公园来说是一笔巨大的财富。

他说：“我们有一些温室，里面种有本地植物、草、一些地被植物、插枝和灌木，这些都来自皇家公园。”

“通过我们的劳动，对苗圃中生长的植物进行了大量的繁殖，并计划在周末创建一些特别的会议来专注于这项工作。”

目前FORP有50多名成员，每次有10个人参加护园劳动。

每个月有两个护园劳动小组，分别在星期三和星期四工作。

Nicholson先生说“他们主要是FORP会员，但我们也欢迎任何人参加。”

尽管皇家公园受到文物遗产保护，但开发的威胁常常隐约可见。

Nicholson先生说，确保遵守遗产计划是我们FORP的主要优先事项。

他说：“无论是电车线路还是住宅物业，我们都会密切关注任何拟议的开发项目。”



居民反对“危险的”开发项目

一项拟议在MacArthur Place街上的开发项目激怒了Carlton的当地居民，他们认为这将危及行人和骑车者。

Katie Johnson

Macarthur Place 街6-10号的开发项目将三栋现有房屋改造成公寓楼，其地下层只有三个停车位，车辆从Nicholls Lane巷道进入。当地居民Joseph Bernard在3月16日举行的

未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上向议员们发表讲话时表示，在Nicholls Lane巷道上停车将危及骑车者，并恳求市政拒绝这个项目的申请。

Bernard先生说：“请市政考虑到我们居民和整个社区的安全，其中包括成千上万每天使用Canning 街的骑自行车的人。”

“Nicholls Lane巷道很特别，车道的入口是Canning 街受保护的自行车道，因此任何想进出Canning街的车辆都需要穿越这条自行车道。”

他说，试图进入新的地下停车场的汽车将不

得不面对下坡高速行驶的自行车，或者试图通过排队等候高峰时间换灯的自行车。

他说：“汽车确实不得不退回到自行车道上。”

“我们居住在Nicholls Lane巷道上的居民目前正在实现方便行人和方便自行车的交通模式之梦想。如果批准车辆在此通行，那将彻底破坏这个现实，不利于这里的物主、依赖此车道的居民以及骑自行车的人，而且不得不面对由于汽车在此通行所带来的生命危险。”



庆祝护士和助产士展览

Katie Johnson

一个庆祝护士和助产士历史的新展览在位于东墨尔本的Her Place 开幕，这是澳大利亚唯一的妇女博物馆。

《揭开面纱》(Unmasked)是自2019年开幕以来在Her Place举办的第一个展览，将并列展示当代护士和贯穿整个历史的护士经历。

策展人Madonna Grehan博士说，这次展览旨在通过普通物品来庆祝非凡的女性。

Grehan博士说：“在COVID-19疫情年间进行展览是一项挑战，也是一件幸事。”

“虽然我不能从博物馆藏品中得到任何东西，因为所有的东西都封闭了，但我知道人们在他们车库里有很多纪念品，他们不知道该拿它们做什么，或者它们对国家的故事是否有价值。”

通过与具有历史意义女性的亲戚和朋友取

得联系，Grehan博士得以策划大量物品的展览。

Grehan博士说：“当你从历史的角度思考我们过去的职业时，有很多东西对这个国家的故事很有价值，尽管它们很平凡。”

其中一些物品包括19世纪的剪报、1900年颁发给维多利亚护士的丝带、以及颁发给澳大利亚护士Marianne Rawson的第一个皇家红十字会奖。

展览还展出了历史女性的信息和图像，包括Lucy Garlick发明的人体图表，该图表至今仍用在通过无线电通讯来识别伤势部位。

Grehan博士说：“她设计了一个人体图表和一系列对应的问题，这样当一个人通过无线电话呼救时，他就可以说出受伤的部位是1A，比如1A表示肝脏或胰腺。”

“今天它仍然是皇家飞行医生服务的一部分。”



新技术的试验

一项新的数据收集技术将在Argyle Square 休闲广场进行试验，该技术在不久的将来可能成为墨尔本街道和公园的永久特征。

Katie Johnson

类似5G和物联网(IoT)等新兴技术将用于测量温度、湿度、行人流量、长凳使用情况、空气质量和垃圾箱充满足度，有助于墨尔本市政对公共空间做出明智的决策。

市政议员刘乐(Phillip Le Liu)说，用Argyle Square休闲广场作为试验场地是一个绝佳途径，以探索一个使墨尔本受益的新技术。

刘乐说：“广场上安装了许多传感器，跟踪和了解公园的活动。一些传感器跟踪人们如何使用广场，而另一些传感器则评估公园的环境。”

“我们正在测试所收集数据的实用性，以探

索是否可用于改善社区在Argyle广场以及墨尔本市中心其他公园和开放空间的公园体验。”

Argyle广场试点项目包括在广场周围放置传感器来收集数据，这些数据将改善公园体验，并有可能应用于市政的其他公园和开放空间。

传感器将通过运动检测器监控平台使用情况，通过红外技术监测垃圾箱填充水平，通过振动检测来了解长凳的使用情况。

市政将收集到的数据用于城市的智能管理，比如将冷却设备放置在最热的地方，并在适当的时候安排垃圾清除。

What's On: April 2021

Community Calendar



Future of Peace Leadership Symposium

Online. 21st-22nd April

In celebration of its centenary in Australia, Rotary has invited leaders in peace and conflict resolution to provide perspectives on challenging global and domestic issues and how we can all contribute towards building a more peaceful world over the next 100 years.

Carta e Fantasia

Museo Italiano, Carlton

Thursday, 8 Apr & Tuesday, 13 Apr, 10:30-12

For \$10 per child, immerse yourself in the world of Bruno Munari in a workshop designed to stimulate your creative, surrealistic side.

New El Paso: Tex-Mex Takeover

Johnny's Green Room, Level 2/293-297 Lygon St, Carlton

Sunday, 11 Apr, 12pm-12am

In a free, walk-ins friendly event, enjoy the combined efforts of hospitality heavyweights Casey Wall and Chris Watson as they serve your favourite Mexican-American themed dishes.

Australasian Quilt Convention

Royal Exhibition Building

Thursday, 15 Apr, 10am – 4:30pm

Australasian Quilt Convention 2020 is one of the largest convention and conference, which is designed to bring together quilters from all over Australia.

Homophonic!

La Mama Courthouse, Carlton

Saturday, 24 Apr & Sunday, 25 Apr, 2pm-4pm & 7:30pm-8:30pm

Presented as part of Midsumma Festival, Homophonic! celebrates ten years of queer classical music. \$30 for adults.

Silent Disco at Kathleen Syme Library

Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, Carlton

Wednesday, Apr 7, 10:30am-12pm

Book ahead for a free price, and enjoy a disco where only you can hear the music with your family in this Silent Disco.



Junior Rangers – Mysterious Mammals

Australian Native Gardens, Royal Park, Parkville

Tuesday 13 Apr – Friday 16 Apr, 10am – 12pm

Book ahead free of charge for a kid-friendly day of discovering animals that once roamed Royal Park.



Pist Idiots at The Workers' Club

The Workers' Club

Friday Apr 23

Pub-punk rockers Pist Idiots are back in town to tour their new single Juliette in what will be a vibrant, energetic show.

Improv Attacks Humanity

Vodka Temple, Carlton

Tuesday 6 Apr – Tuesday 13 Apr, 9:45pm – 10:45pm

For \$25, witness a diverse cast of talented performers first create their own improvised versions of Cards Against Humanity prompts.

Judith M Perrey Memorial Retrospective Exhibition

Victorian Artists Society, East Melbourne. 1-12 April

Enjoy the work "one of the most naturally gifted students" to have passed through the National Gallery School.

The Will To Be

La Mama Courthouse, Carlton

Monday 19 Apr – Friday 23 Apr, 6:30pm – 7:30pm (21st/23rd: 8:30 – 9:30)
Explore Australia's queer history through theatre.



Monsters, Monsters Everywhere

Museo Italiano, Carlton

Wednesday 7 Apr & Saturday 17 Apr, 10:30am – 12pm

For \$10, children can recreate Dante's dark forest with monsters of their own creation.

Business Directory

Catering



Ray Pantovic
Managing Director

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