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"An injustice": Uni Melb staff strike ramps up Photo by Ajay Viswanath

Staff at the University of Melbourne have joined the picket line alongside the National Tertiary Education Union in a week-long industrial action from August 28 to September 3 to negotiate better working conditions, with the potential to strike longer if demands are not met. Full story on page 2.

## \$4m revamp set for Fitzroy Gardens pavilion

The Fitzroy Gardens pavilion is set to undergo a \$4 million revamp as its new hospitality operators, including world-class chef Hugh Allen, prepare to move in.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The announcement was made at the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 15 where councillors voted in favour of locking in a 15-year lease with Vue Group, which is renowned for its esteemed restaurant Vue de Monde at the Rialto Towers.

LYGON LOCAL, PAGE 03

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece expressed his excitement for the new venture in what he hoped might become the next Noma on the Gardens or New York City's Central Park.

"This is a hugely exciting moment for Melbourne, and something I think that all Melburnians can look forward to with great anticipation, especially the residents of East Melbourne," he said.

The Fitzroy Gardens pavilion was built in 1963 to replace the original building, which served as a kiosk and tearooms from 1908 before it was later demolished.

The present pavilion more recently operated as a café, but closed at the expiry of its lease in March 2017 mainly due to the building's deteriorating condition and the major renewal works that were required to continue to operate a sustainable café space.

Continued on page 5.

PLANNING, PAGE 07



Advocates say continual delays to improving tram stops will result in keeping a marginalised community "invisible".

WORDS BY David Schout TRANSPORT

Locals with restricted mobility face the prospect of having limited northbound public transport options from 2025 unless accessible tram stops are urgently installed on Royal Parade, Lygon St and Sydney Rd.

Those living in the neighbouring communities of Carlton and Parkville looking to travel north in a wheelchair will be severely hampered when the Victorian Government closes the Upfield train line for an expected 18 months to build Skyrail, with works expected to begin in 2025-26.

The only accessible tram stops on the popular Sydney Rd tram route, once you have left the CBD, are at Brunswick Rd and at the end of the tram line.

A 5.5km stretch (between Brunswick Rd and Bakers Rd in Coburg North) contains no accessible stops, leaving the Upfield trains as the only viable options.

For those living along Royal Parade or the northern end of Lygon St, there are currently no accessible tram stops to speak of, with the closest being the Haymarket roundabout and Elgin St in Carlton, respectively.

However, the government will soon add a new "super stop" between the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Melbourne University to connect the new underground Parkville Sta-



▲ Rally for accessible tram stops, Sydney Rd.

tion when the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025.

Without access to the trains, people who use wheelchairs, have limited mobility or push prams will be significantly hindered until the Skyrail is completed, according to the government, in 2027.

While the area north of the CBD continues to be a major concern, Disability Resources Centre projects manager Ally Scott said Sydney Rd was the "big issue" they were currently focused on.

A parliamentary petition currently has almost 1000 signatures, and in June a rally was held on the tracks just north of Royal Park.

"[The trains] are the only accessible transport for locals at the moment," Ms Scott told Inner City News.

"So, during the periods of that work there will be no form of transport, at all. So, we're really pushing hard to get accessible stops built before the Skyrail work begins."

Continued on page 7.

INNER CITY LOCAL, PAGE 10 Mark Rubbo farewells Readings



Prime Minister unveils new CSL building

BUILDING, PAGE 05





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## University of Melbourne staff undertake longest strike in the university's history

WORDS BY Georgie Atkins PHOTOGRAPHY BY Ajay Viswanath BUSINESS

Staff at the University of Melbourne (UoM) have joined the picket line alongside the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) in a week-long industrial action strike from August 28 to September 3 to negotiate better working conditions, with the potential to strike longer if demands are not met by university management.

Negotiations for a new Enterprise Agreement between UoM and the NTEU have been stagnant for more than a year, resulting in NTEU members from various faculties including Arts, Law, library services, student services and Fine Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) campus initiating the industrial action.

UoM's NTEU branch president, David Gonzalez, said that issues surrounding secure work, pay increases that kept up with inflation, flexible work options, more manageable workloads, restrictions on restructuring courses, and more generous parental and carers leave were at the forefront of the union's demands.

"The university hasn't given a proposal on any of those things except parental leave," Mr Gonzalez said.

"They treat us like any stakeholder and not as the people that care deeply about the students and this institution."

Mr Gonzalez describes university management as "a master of the system" when asked how conversations at the negotiation table had progressed.

"I think they know exactly what they need to do to be considered bargaining in good faith."

A UoM spokesperson told Inner City News that management had "responded to the



union's claims but have not accepted them all." "The UoM has, and will continue, to engage constructively and in good faith with the unions in negotiating the substantive issues raised in bargaining," the spokesperson said.

One of the NTEU's biggest concerns is insecure work at UoM, where some staff have been kept on casual contracts for up to 10 years, not knowing if they'll be rehired the next year.

James Murphy is a lecturer and tutor in political science at the university and a key driver of the strike. While he has been in a dedicated teaching role for the past five years, he said that management had refused him an ongoing job.

"In terms of my own sense of worth, it's like acid on your personal worth," Mr Murphy told Inner Citv News.

"They don't seem to value the work that I do, they don't think that I'm worth guaranteeing a future for."

The NTEU has proposed an 80 per cent target for decasualisation as part of the agreement, which Mr Murphy claimed the university had refused systematically to engage with".

"I don't have a secure job, I am constantly applying for secure work at UoM and elsewhere and doing research in my free time to be competitive for those jobs - to do all of that and teach three big subjects in the undergrad, how can I possibly give students the proper focus and attention?"

As well as negotiating with the union, the university is also facing legal battles surrounding wage theft.

Among the \$80 million of wage theft in the university sector across Australia, UoM alone has allegedly underpaid staff more than \$45 million.

"It's just an injustice to have this crazy, wealthy institution stealing money from its most vulnerable workers and then not taking seriously the need to give people ongoing work." Mr Gonzalez said.

The week-long strike will be one of the longest Australian university strikes since the 1850s, with Mr Murphy describing the current working conditions at UoM as a "crisis".

'We don't want to strike, I would much rather be in the classroom and so many people doing this have said that," Mr Murphy said.

"I was really scared about how students would take our action, but it's gone so much better than I could've imagined - our working conditions are their learning conditions."

Various events will be held throughout the week for students and the community to join in solidarity of UoM staff, including picket rallies and teach-in lessons.

Donations can also be made to the NTEU Defence Fund to help support staff that will be striking without pay.

For more information:

unimelbebanow.com

## Man charged over death of man at Fitzroy Gardens

WORDS BY Brendan Rees & Rhonda Dredge CRIME

A 36-year-old man has been charged after a man died following an alleged "physical altercation" at the Fitzroy Gardens on August 21.

Police allege the man fatally assaulted the 52-year-old victim at about 6.50am. Paramedics treated the Ringwood man at the scene, but he died shortly after.

A man of no fixed address was charged with one count of murder after he was taken to hospital under police guard following the incident. He appeared before a bail justice where he was remanded in custody to reappear at

Melbourne Magistrates' Court on August 22. Police condoned off a section of the park

while detectives searched the scene for clues. A police marquee was also set up with offi-

cers collecting multiple brown paper bags of evidence.



▲ A 36-year-old man is taken away by police on August 21.

Police said the exact circumstances were yet to be determined and investigators would like to speak to any witnesses or anyone who saw unusual behaviour in the area prior to the incident.

Resident Genevieve Morgan said she was walking her dogs in the Fitzroy Gardens at 7am on the morning of the alleged murder where she saw police and ambulance vehicles.

"I told my daughter someone is dead," she said.

"We all walk through the Fitzroy Gardens all the time. I've always felt safe there. I wouldn't walk in the dark now."

"My attitude has changed. I've been pretty blasé until now. I've always felt safe. I've never seen anything bad. I walk through there every day."

In a message to the community, Victoria Police said significant police patrols would be conducted around the precinct over the coming weeks including the Fitzroy Gardens and Albert St.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au •

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1

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Metro Tunnel

site



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## Comfort Italian with an American twist

Coming up to their fifth birthday in September, Capitano may not be the latest addition to the Carlton area, but it has certainly proven itself to be at the centre of it.



WORDS BY Georgie Atkins PHOTOGRAPHY BY Ajay Viswanath

Owners Manu Potoi and Casey Wall (also behind Bar Liberty, Falco Bakery and Above Board) have been bringing authentic-ish Italian food to the Rathdowne strip since 2018, reinventing classic Italian dishes with American flavour combinations inspired by food from Mr Wall's hometown in the States.

Despite its popularity, Capitano still feels like the cosy, neighbourhood spot it has always sought to be. Assistant venue manager Alex McMaster says the "good food and relaxed style of service" is what helps the space retain its original charm.

"I often have customers come up to saying that this seems like a fun place to work and that they enjoy getting to hang out with the staff," Mr McMaster said. "It's great to see the community connecting with each other in that way."

Although Capitano is famously known for their Detroit-style square pizzas and iconic vodka pasta, Inner City News can confirm that the regularly rotating menu has more to offer Carlton locals in addition to the classics.



Chef consultant and fermentation specialist Caitlin Koether brings a wealth of food preservation knowledge to the kitchen, focusing on "hyper-seasonality" in collaboration with four different farms across Victoria, including; Remi's Patch, Day's Walk Farm, Somerset Farm and Plenty Valley Produce.

"We definitely are an Italian-ish restaurant, but the menu over the past year has evolved far beyond that," Ms Koether said.

"We are one of the restaurants that work closely alongside farms as a catalyst for growth in restaurants and in food."

Ms Koether's expertise in food preservation has elevated the menu at Capitano to showcase both what's in season and in their larder as a way of minimising food wastage.

A current favourite, a twist on a classic aglio e olio is an innovative example of what the Capitano team can do.

"During the summer, I anticipated a lack of produce in the winter so we thought of an idea for a dish with a pine nut condiment," Ms Koether told Inner City News. "We made a pine nut miso that aged for three months before we figured out the best way to implement it on the menu."

The end result became a creamy, garlic and olive oil-based pasta sauce made with the pine nut miso, then finished with a generous sprinkle of rye pangrattato and dried Kalamata olives.

"Its definitely a full team effort to make as much in-house as we can manage, but also in the creative scope of writing the menu," Ms Koether said. "It wouldn't be as successful if it didn't have the influence of everybody as a team coming up with ideas and executing them."

For Carlton 'za-lovers, the Big Cap square has been wildly popular among customers, inspired by Mr Potoi and Mr Wall's first hospitality pursuit together at much-loved Smith St burger spot; Rockwell & Sons.

A spring onion cream cheese forms the base of the pizza, which is then cooked with braised beef cheek and finished off with pickled banana peppers (from Somerset Farm), cos lettuce and, of course; the famous Rockwell burger sauce.

The drinks list is equally impressive, with specials such as the Gary's Bicycle cocktail making its way onto the menu.

A blend between a Garibaldi and a Bicicletta, this drink uses Select Aperitivo, Cocchi Americano, orange juice, orange peel, verjuice and tonic to create a refreshing Italian highball.

When asked how the Carlton community has supported the business over the years, Mr McMaster said that Capitano's neighbours have been nothing but "overly supportive".

"It's been great to see the growth in the community - from Tanaka growing in size to Fenton, and the recent addition of Bar Bellamy," Mr McMaster said. "I reckon we have the best locals around too!"

Capitano's fifth birthday will be held on September 24, and the team is looking forward to celebrating this exciting milestone with the Carlton community.

"We'd love to celebrate with everyone - I hear the team is thinking up a very special milk punch cocktail just for the party," Mr McMaster told Inner City News in an exclusive scoop.

Capitano is located at 421 Rathdowne St and is open from 5.30pm to 10pm on Wednesday through Friday, as well as from 12pm to 10pm on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information: capitano.com.au





## Residents raise safety concerns at East Melbourne community meeting

East Melbourne residents have come together to collaborate with various stakeholders at a community safety meeting on August 14.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees SAFETY & SECURITY

The meeting was chaired by Victoria Police at the East Melbourne Library, which saw more than 80 residents in attendance along with representatives from the City of Melbourne and the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC).

Residents had the opportunity to voice concerns and share personal experiences, including issues around anti-social behaviour, drug activity, misuse of e-scooters, and parking and traffic matters.

This included "chronic" traffic conditions post events or game days held at the MCG, people "making themselves a nuisance with aggressive begging" at the Fitzroy Gardens and Treasury Gardens, and suspected drug activity on Simpson St.

"On one occasion when we reported to police about drugs with no subsequent action by the police, a couple of days later, residents' cars

were broken into at the same place where the drugs were transacted and/or injected," a resident said at the meeting.

Other matters raised included anti-social behaviour at The Comfort Inn Hotel and City Edge Apartments at 90 and 92 Albert St, which, as reported earlier this year by Inner City News, were being used as emergency accommodation sites, but reports of drug activity, graffiti, and rubbish being dumped in and around the buildings had left residents feeling on edge.

Another resident spoke about e-scooters speeding and posing a safety risk to children and the elderly, while also adding they were being "left abandoned" and "destroying our amenity".

The meeting also heard that rideshare vehicles were insufficiently combating anti-social activity, with some people "yelling, littering and damaging property and plants".

East Melbourne Group president Greg Bisinella said all parties present at the meeting expressed their commitment to working closely with the community and to ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was working closely with Victoria Police and other agencies to deliver initiatives that improve safety in the streets.

"Our Safe City Camera Program is the guardian angel of our streets - operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week to reduce crime by deterring potential offenders and boosting crime detection," she said.

"We're also committed to creating pathways out of homelessness, to ensure everyone in our city has a roof over their heads. Through our Make Room initiative, homelessness support hubs, and work to support people sleeping rough, we're stepping up to provide more safe and supported accommodation for some of Melbourne's most vulnerable people."

In response to the community meeting, the council said it had already acted on several issues, including carrying out an audit of lighting at Fitzroy Gardens with globes being replaced as required and increasing proactive patrols to target illegal parking near the MCG on event days.

The council also noted its 2023-24 budget included almost \$6 million for critical safety infrastructure and resources, with lighting in key precincts and the operation of the Safe City Camera Program, as well as \$100,000 to expand the Salvation Army's street team to boost safety at night.

Outreach workers contracted to Launch Housing patrol the city from Monday to Friday and support pathways out of homelessness.

Victoria Police and the MCC have been contacted for comment. Victoria Police said last month that Traffic Management was contracted by the MCG to undertake the traffic and street closures during events.



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## \$4m revamp set for Fitzroy Gardens pavilion

Continued from page 1.

Until its closure, the pavilion had been an iconic fixture of Melbourne, attracting visitors to enjoy its beautiful garden surrounds and dining offerings.

After initial hopes of finding a tenant to use the venue as a multi-use community space was unsuccessful, the council undertook a commercial expression of interest process in December last year, with three submissions received from hospitality operators.

At the council meeting Cr Reece said the council "couldn't make it stack up" to keep the pavilion as a community space, which turned their efforts to making it available as an "innovative food and beverage destination" instead.

Under the new lease with Vue Group, rent costs will start at \$157,050 per year, with annual increases of 3.3 per cent.

The council's deputy planning lead Cr Rohan Leppert, said, "We absolutely welcome the \$4 million investment in filling out the place, which is a serious investment, and in an exchange, that's how the 15-year lease stacks up".

"This is a really extraordinary offer, and it is it is something that I hope is a great benefit for Fitzroy Gardens and Melbourne," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the "quality and a scale of investment and ambition that I think really matches the status of Fitzroy Gardens".

"It's this sort of activity that become absolute draw-cards for locals but also for visitors to Fitzroy Gardens," she said, adding the agreement with Vue Group would add "something very distinctive" and "very special".



East Melbourne Group president Greg Bisinella said residents welcomed the activation

who come to the magnificent gardens," he said.

We await further specific details, but in principle accept the council process has been thorough and has come up with the right model

Vue Group was contacted for comment.

## Prime Minister joins celebrations for CSL's new HQ building

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has dropped into town to mark a celebratory opening of biotech giant CSL's new global headquarters and research and development centre.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees BUILDING

The 18-storey building by Melbourne developer PDG occupies 54,000 square metres at 655 Elizabeth St, which is located within the city's biomedical and education precinct that includes the University of Melbourne, hospitals, and top research institutes.

Nine floors of the new CSL building feature state-of-the-art laboratories and cutting-edge research and clinical phase production suites that are meaningfully integrated with seven floors of versatile workspace "designed to promote connectivity, amenity, and wellbeing".

To celebrate the milestone, Mr Albanese visited the site of the new headquarters alongside Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, as well as CSL's chairperson Brian McNamee and CFO Joy Linton on August 21.



"This magnificent facility will help position CSL to compete in the global marketplace," the Prime Minister said.

"The work that CSL does right here will continue to be integral to Australian's health and quality of life."

The building replaces the former Toyota dealership at the site, with PDG aiming to create a \$1 billion health and research development called the Elizabeth North Precinct.

In 2022, PDG secured a 10-year lease with The Royal Melbourne Hospital as a major tenant customer as part of stage one of the Elizabeth North Precinct. The lease, which began in February 2022, covers about 10,000 square metres over six levels.

The wider Elizabeth North Precinct was a result of the state government and the City



Giuliano said Elizabeth North represented their "enduring dedication and commitment to deliver world-class biomedical research facilities and exemplar contemporary workspaces that will contribute significantly to innovative progress in the City of Melbourne".

Mr McNamee added the new building stood as a testament to CSL's transformative journey from their century-old Royal Park site.

"It is a realm of discovery and development, offering possibilities to Australia's local researchers and becoming a source of ground-breaking medicines for patients across the globe," he said.

CSL thanked key partners and stakeholders for successfully delivering this "remarkable outcome".

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of Melbourne's 10-year strategic plan for the PDG's founder and managing director Vince



"It has remained underutilised for some time and this iconic location deserves a world-class venue operator that will be accessible to the East Melbourne community and many visitors

and operator for the venue."



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## CHAMPION CHEESE SHOP NAMED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

RIPE Cheese, at Queen Victoria Market, is a treasure trove for cheese connoisseurs, offering everything from prosciutto-wrapped treats from Bruny Island to gooey truffle toasties.

Hakim Halim is the "big cheese" behind this award-winning business. But he is quick to deflect all the glory to the cheesemakers themselves.

"I am most passionate about sharing the stories and produce of all the Australian artisanal cheesemakers to everyone," Hakim said.

"Without them, RIPE will just be like any other generic cheese shop, deli and supermarket. They have done all the hard work in creating the best dairy products, and so credit goes to all our Australian producers."

Hakim started his life in Melbourne as an international student 13 years ago.

He worked his way through various

"It's incredible to be recognised in the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards, and I'm so humbled because I never could have imagined to be in this position when I first got here."

Over his time in business, Hakim has seen the Australian cheese industry blossom. And he's right there at the forefront of this growth, showcasing and advocating for local cheesemakers on the world stage.

"We see ourselves as the catalyst that brings Australian produce to the world. Last year, for example, we brought our cheese masterclasses to Singapore – who knows where to next?" Hakim said.

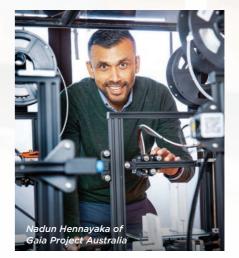
"We want to showcase Australian cheese and its producers through more advocacy, outreach, education and government lobbying. At the same time, creating more opportunities for future cheese experts through mentorship and scholarship programs." concepts and brands, and discerning customers," Hakim said.

"It is of the utmost importance to have a clear and genuine unique selling proposition that can be understood and appreciated for many years to come. Melburnians hate gimmicks!"

### About the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards

Independent small businesses, and the dedicated Melburnians who run them, are the soul of our city.

Each year we say thank you to those making a significant contribution to the city's culture, prosperity and liveability through the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.



To loove we are she for Colo at

companies and experienced many hardships, including racial discrimination, before building his successful business.

"I thought being part of the corporate rat race was what I wanted. But once I started building a business with a purpose bigger than myself, everything made sense and I found joy," Hakim said.

"That joy has pushed and motivated me to overcome any obstacles that we face, and work tirelessly to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

## Hakim's top tips for doing business in Melbourne

Are you planning to start or grow a business in Melbourne? Hakim has this advice for your onward journey.

"Melbourne has a very competitive business market with lots of different Alongside the overall winner, we also recognise Melbourne's most innovative businesses. This year, Docklands-based startup Gaia Project Australia took out the Small Business Innovation Award.

While sending lettuce to space might sound like sci-fi, the Gaia team is planning for interplanetary growth, while changing the face of local agriculture to address climate change and food security. To learn more, search for Gaia at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

## Celebrating long-standing businesses

As part of the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards, we also celebrate businesses that have reached impressive milestones of 10+, 20+ and 40+ years.

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

## Melbourne University's bold vision for 22,000 squares metres of green space

WORDS BY Brendan Rees PLANNING

Twenty-two thousand square metres of green space could be created at the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus under an ambitious blueprint that would see six buildings demolished.

The university's Vice-Chancellor Duncan Maskell unveiled the Estate Masterplan in August, which showcases a visionary development and the "future needs of the university community".

This included creating inter-connected green corridors, more pedestrian-friendly thoroughfares, improved access, and a renewal of education and research spaces.

Under the proposal, the south-west corner of the 1853-founded Parkville campus would be redeveloped, with the proposed demolition of buildings on Grattan St including the Medical Building, the John Medley Building, and the Brownless Library.

The 757 Building on the corner of Swanston and Grattan streets is also planned to be bulldozed, as well as the Old Howard Florey Building and Old Microbiology Building on Royal Parade. All heritage buildings, however, would be preserved.

According to the blueprint, this will provide "opportunities for further infrastructure investment by the University and for the broader Biomedical Precinct".

Furthermore, it stated the aspiration to transform Grattan St would bring an additional 22,000 square metres of parkland - offering a "substantial area for recreational activities and community connection".

A new development next to the Haymarket



roundabout would form a new north-south connecting walk from the urban campus south of Grattan St to the Parkville campus, the plans stated.

To the north of the campus, the plans said pre-existing walkways and courtyards within the public outdoor spaces would be enhanced.

The university will create new science facilities, which it said would "reinvigorate the centre of Parkville's historic campus, with flow-on effects to the nature of the surrounding public spaces".

Other proposals in the uncosted masterplan include a renewal of ageing science and engineering teaching and research infrastructure, a redevelopment of medical and health sciences research infrastructure, and new teaching facilities.

"What is considered fit-for-purpose in the future, will be vastly different from what we have today, so careful planning and a long-term view of the University's strategic, academic and research ambitions are required," Prof. Maskell said.

"The reimagination of our campus buildings and outdoor areas will make them more accessible, more connected to the environment, and they will be designed with energy efficiency in mind."

"We look forward to collaborating with our students, staff, the City of Melbourne, the state and the rest of the community to realise our aspiration."

The Carlton Residents Association (CRA) said in a statement that, in their view, the masterplan "does not go far enough in opening itself up to the city and the local community' and would like to see additional entry points to the university precinct along Swanston St, Cemetery Rd East and Royal Parade.

"The new Parkville Station on Grattan St has certainly provided the impetus for the opening up of the University to the city," it said, adding the planned parkway along Grattan St and the demolition of the 757 Building "will provide both access to the university and additional green open space for students and the wider community".

"However, the approval of a 15-storey development on the corner of Grattan and Bouverie streets by the Melbourne City Council in March will have a negative impact on the parkway and the priority to be given to pedestrians and cyclists," the statement said.

The CRA said it supported the reorientation of the university to face the city and a focus on its academic and research role, but added, the "masterplan requires broad and effective Melbourne City Council and community input together with transparency, accountability and timelines for its implementation".

It also noted that where new buildings were constructed, they must be "passively designed and carbon neutral in both construction and operation".

The Parkville Association has consistently expressed its desire for Grattan St to remain open to traffic.



## The Voice: "our chance to change the path that we are on"

COMMUNITY

For Sheena Watt, Victorian Upper House MP for the North Metropolitan Region, enshrining constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice to Parliament is "not just about being recognised, it's about being heard."

As Victoria's only Aboriginal member of parliament, Ms Watt knows the responsibility she shoulders; it is something she has lived with her entire life. "When you're only three per cent of the population, it is really hard to be heard by everyone else on what it is important to you and what changes need to happen to affect positive change in your life and your community's lives," she told Inner City News.

The path to this referendum, expected to be held in October, comes from the largest consensus of First Nations peoples on a proposal for substantive recognition in Australian history, culminating in 2017's Uluru Statement from the Heart.

"What the leaders in Uluru wanted is for Aboriginal leaders to be listened to on the issues that affect us each and every day, and that the Voice can never be taken away," Ms Watt said. Continue reading: innercitynews.com.au •

Disability advocates slam inaction on accessible tram stops along Sydney Rd and Royal Parade

### Continued from page 1.

Ms Scott said the issue on Sydney Rd was emblematic of a wider problem whereby the government had fallen way behind deadlines for delivering accessible tram stops.

Most tram trips in Melbourne remain inaccessible for those with restricted mobility, with just three in 10 stops in the city deemed "accessible".

A requirement for public transport in all states and territories to be fully accessible by the end of 2022 has already been missed, and according to a 2020 Auditor General report it could take until 2066 to upgrade the entire Victorian network.

"Most of the community working on this now will not live to see that date," she said, adding that works

to improve the tram network had ground to a halt. "It's currently not improving at all. Right now, there's been a complete stop on all upgrade works as we're aware."

The Department of Transport's 2021-22 Annual Report revealed that just two Victorian tram stops were upgraded to include level-access.

The Andrews government planned to build six new accessible tram stops in 2022-23 - all of which on a CBD stretch of La Trobe St - however these were not delivered, nor mentioned in the 2023-24 budget released in May.

The government confirmed with Inner City News that planning and design work was under way for the six stops.

"It's our priority to make sure our

public transport network is accessible, and we are delivering projects that are making a real difference across the state," a spokesperson said. However, Ms Scott argued the rate

at which both stops and trams themselves were being upgraded meant this was simply not true.

"Accessibility is about having low-floor trams meeting level-access stops, so it's also about upgrading the rolling stock. Although we were promised in the (2021-22) udget 100 low-floor trams, they're actually being delivered at the same rate as prior to that commitment ... it's not an escalation of that work at all, it doesn't represent a greater commitment to introducing more low-floor trams. So, there's no prioritising of it at all."

Advocates say public transport

accessibility is not simply an issue for those with a wheelchair, but includes the older population, people using prams and those with energy management conditions.

"There's a huge community that need that kind of service that works for everyone. So, it's very frustrating that the government is committing a huge sum to the Big Build project, none of which covers maintaining the existing public transport," Ms Scott said.

Residents in wheelchairs have previously told Inner City News that, even when arriving at an "accessible" stop, it was not uncommon to wait for more than 10 trams to pass until an low-floor vehicle arrived, turning what would be a short trip for most into an arduous journey.

"What that means is that people don't use public transport. You're not going to use public transport if you have to wait for an hour. You're not going to use public transport if you feel unsafe. It just means that people aren't getting out. There's a real problem that this community are just invisible."

Ms Scott said this further marginalised a community that in most cases required the low-cost transport option available to everyone else.

"There's a huge intersection between disability and poverty. Very often these are people who can't afford to run cars, they're not people who can afford to get wheelchair-accessible cabs. They're really dependent on public transport. It's an extraordinary oversight by the government." •





# Proudly representing the community in inner Melbourne



 Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076 🜔 03 9651 8242 🛛 💌 evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au EvanMulholland.com.au

🕑 @evmulholland

ADVERTISEMENT Your City of Melbourne community update

## **DOING BUSINESS**

## IN MELBOURNE

Whether you run a bespoke bakery, are looking to scaleup your startup or even have grand plans to open your first flagship store, Melbourne is the best place to do business.

Home to 13,829 businesses, 527,738 jobs and with an annual economic output of \$212.3 billion. Melbourne tops the list as the nation's best city to start and run a business.

With our diverse economy, liveability, and rich talent pool, our city is fertile ground for startups, small to medium enterprises and global headquarters.

And at the City of Melbourne we recognise our business owners are the heart and soul of the city and the engine room of our economy

Through initiatives such as Invest Melbourne and our Business Concierge, we're making it easier to do business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment to drive innovation and create jobs.

Find out more about how we can support you and your business, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business



### **SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS**

Start or expand your business in Melbourne with our Small Business Grants. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available to small businesses wanting to build on our city's reputation for innovation and creativity. Applications close 25 September. Visit melbourne. vic.gov.au/smallbusinessgrants

## Making magic happen for city businesses



Meet the business concierge who's working behind the scenes to bring dreams to life for city businesses.

Every time Lisa Guest takes a call from someone with a question about running a business in the city, she looks for the magic in the moment.

"Behind every question, I know there's something delicate and important in our hands," Lisa said. She's a case manager with our Business Concierge Service.

"No matter how big or small the idea, here's a person who believes in their dream, and we get to help those ideas come to fruition."

Lisa and her colleagues are tasked with helping businesses connect the dots as they open, run and flourish in the municipality.

"Often when I'm speaking with a prospective business, I remind myself that it's more than a question about opening a cafe. Behind every idea, there's often a family. Maybe it's the family's life savings," she said.

Since January 2022, the Business Concierge team has provided free advice and mentoring to more than

EW FUNDING

15,500 city businesses - reducing the time it takes for a business to start up in the city and supporting them as they embrace Melbourne's new rhythm.

### Woman of the world

Born to "hippy parents" in Argentina in a time of political unrest, Lisa was six when her family moved to Brazil. She grew up there and studied journalism.

Restless, she packed a bag and headed for Australia to learn English. surf and travel. She stayed in Perth for 23 years, meeting her husband and raising two children.

When her kids moved to Melbourne to study and broaden their horizons, she soon followed, and landed with City of Melbourne as a public health officer.

That's how she began to fall in love with the city, and got to know its small businesses by roaming the laneways to offer support throughout the pandemic.

Now she keeps her imagination and networks firing as part of our Business Concierge Service which offers a onestop shop for business support.

Case managers help businesses navigate government processes and find the right services. They also share

FRESH IDEAS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD TRADE

trends, identify site locations and investment opportunities.

"We work with cafes and retailers, but also pop-ups and activations," Lisa said.

"We support startups, social enterprises - many are migrant women and that is very humbling

"I have the chance to make a meaningful impact by supporting fellow migrants as they navigate the hurdles of starting a new life."

She calls opportunities like these "pinch-me moments".

"I'm not just in Melbourne, I'm in the thick of it. One day I'm on the phone with a business, hearing a big idea and it could be the next big thing," Lisa said.

"The next day I'm volunteering on the busking panel to decide who can perform in the Bourke Street Mall, hearing a keyboard player whose music just flows and transports you."

The Business Concierge Service will ramp up its work to support new and existing city businesses over the coming year, with a \$500,000 investment in the Budget 2023-24.

Got a big idea for a business? Unclear about a permit? For one-on-one advice, call our dedicated Business Concierge Service on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business), or submit your query online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2022-23, the Business Concierge helped establish 51 businesses, resulting in 605 expedited jobs, \$28 million in capital expenditure and an estimated \$55 million in gross local product brought into the economy earlier than would have otherwise been the case.

### ECONOMY SNAPSHOT SHOWS CONFIDENCE AND GROWTH

More Melbourne businesses are revamping their premises, with new data revealing permit approvals for upgrades have nearly doubled in the past year.

Our latest Melbourne Economy Snapshot shows more than 50 businesses applied to upgrade their premises in May - up almost 90 per cent on the 27 applications at the same time last year, and trending towards pre-pandemic levels.

The snapshot also shows reinvigorated confidence in Melbourne's tourism sector, with more than 10,000 additional hotel rooms becoming available in the past four years.

Activity in the city has steadily increased throughout 2023, with the snapshot revealing the colder winter months have not deterred visitation, with a 24 per cent increase in night-time activity across the city during key June events.

### **BUSINESS EVENT SPONSORSHIP** PROGRAM

Got a bright idea for a conference, expo, workshop or networking event within the City of Melbourne? Apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 to bring your idea to life. Applications close 25 September. Visit melbourne.vic. gov.au/businessevents

consumer-relevant areas of the municipality.

Iconic local retail and

Melbourne are getting a

hospitality businesses across

boost thanks to new funding

**Business Precinct Program.** 

The Business Precinct Program

to recognised precinct trader

provides annual financial support

associations representing important

through the City of Melbourne's

We are supporting 10 precinct associations with more than \$850,000 in funding for 2023-24.

The funding is designed to support traders as they attract visitors to beloved retail and hospitality venues across 10 busy precincts in the municipality.

The funded precincts are: Carlton Inc., City Precinct, Collins Street Precinct Group, Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Greek

undertake activities to boost the trader area on behalf of their members. They also build a robust membership with local street traders to strengthen community.

Precinct Association, Kensington

Business Association, Melbourne

Chinatown Business Association,

Melbourne City North Business

Melbourne Precinct Association

Associations funded under the

**Business Precinct Program** 

Association, North & West

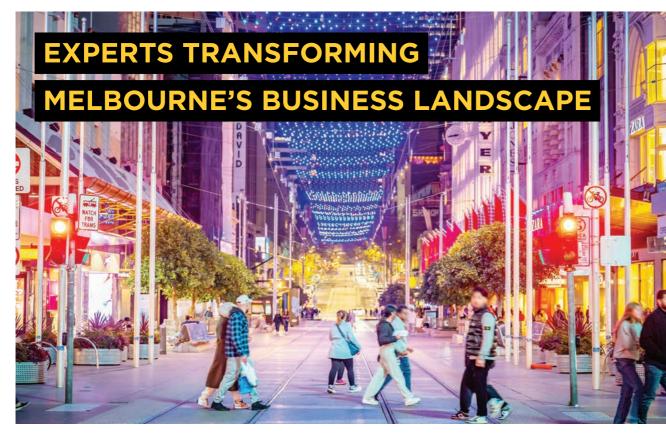
Association.

and the Yarra River Business

Precinct associations also create opportunities for local businesses to get to know one another and exchange information, run networking events and community festivals, and build regular communications with members.

Find out more about our Business Precinct Associations at melbourne.vic.gov.au/precincts

The Melbourne Economy Snapshot aims to equip city traders with data and insights to better inform business decisions. Subscribe to our Business in Melbourne e-newsletter to receive the quarterly snapshot at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business



Ever wondered who's behind the magic of turning Melbourne business ideas into reality? Meet the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board - the team that's dreaming up ways to help entrepreneurs start, grow and go global.

Invest Melbourne helps unlock business potential for many innovative and successful companies seeking to invest here in Melbourne. Are you among them? Harness this prosperity, connect with the right people at the right time, and achieve business success.

### Amanda Coombs, chair

Expertise in financial services and innovation



experience in finance, technology, innovation, energy, life sciences, logistics, property and education. The aim is to

We draw on our

develop a pipeline of opportunities that will create jobs and ensure Melbourne is an easy place to do business

We want Melburnians to be proud of their city and enjoy working and living here. There's great momentum for reimagining what Melbourne can be for businesses that are looking to land or expand in the city.

### Andrew Carter

Expertise in med tech, pharmaceuticals and commercialisation

> Invest Melbourne is a bold facilitator of ideas that prioritise long-term wellbeing over profit. Our vision is for a city

that seamlessly blends work, leisure and life experiences. A place where getting together with colleagues, family and friends is desirable and easy.

Melbourne is a city that prioritises people and offers a mix of safe spaces. We acknowledge our past and improve our natural assets, and promote commuting options that are environmentally sustainable.

### **David Chen**

Expertise in shipping, technology and general business leadership



that champions sustainable supply chain solutions and puts Melbourne at the

Melbourne is a city where culture, technology, and sustainable logistics coalesce, ensuring efficient, ecofriendly business operations.

## Amy Foo

Expertise in technology and digital innovation

I'm passionate about the

tech industry, and seeing



investment frameworks and policies, Invest Melbourne is creating sustainable economic growth.

As a global leader, we attract business, innovation and talent, and foster a vibrant city culture. That leads to good business and job opportunities for Melburnians

### Ian McCall

Expertise in information and communications technology, digital innovation



a leading city in the globally connected technology community, home to a vibrant startup community,

Melbourne is already

headquarters to home-grown technology giants and hosting a strong representation of globalleading tech companies.

Given the increasingly central role of technology in every sector of the economy, Invest Melbourne plans to amplify global recognition of

Melbourne as a leading tech city. It facilitates connections for new tech companies in the industry verticals, where Melbourne is a recognised leader.

### Scott Tanner

Expertise in banking and financial services, real estate, digital transformation, and corporate governance



Our vision is to attract the headquarters of great businesses and future industries. We want to tackle and solve new global challenges

and create new opportunities in a loop of learning, innovation and leadership.

Invest Melbourne can identify gaps and reinforce our strengths in attracting and retaining global industry leaders. We help industry and individuals create an exciting and dynamic environment where industry and individuals can achieve their full potential.

### Rachel Watson

Expertise in renewable energy generation



Melbourne is already a key hub for energy companies in Australia, and renewable energy companies in particular.

Invest Melbourne is uniquely placed to foster business activity in the renewable energy sector, which will further enhance Melbourne's reputation as a green city of the future.

### **Dr Julie Wells**

Expertise in the tertiary education, policy and partnership development



Melbourne is rich in educational, sporting, scientific and cultural institutions. I'd like to see that wealth leveraged and enjoyed by everyone.

My vision is for Melbourne to be a global hub for inclusive innovation - artistic, social, scientific - where everyone can participate and benefit.

Invest Melbourne has a great part to play as a facilitator, enabler and partner with industry, business and government to grow investment and jobs right here.

Read more about the Invest Melbourne Advisory Board, and find out how Invest Melbourne is cementing the city's reputation as a global investment destination at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/economy

## Investment in business is paying off for the city

Invest Melbourne, the City of Melbourne's investment body, is eclipsing its job creation and economic targets, further generated were 220 and 215 per cent above our targets respectively.

Invest Melbourne supported a pipeline of some 70 major projects estimated increase in gross local product (GLP) for the city through new jobs, the establishment of new businesses and headquarters, and capital expenditure.

Invest Melbourne is working across



9

### cementing our reputation as a world-leading destination to start and grow a business.

In 2022-23, the number of jobs created and capital expenditure

which are set to create more than 1,650 jobs and contribute \$430 million Sixty per cent of the projects in capital expenditure to the city.

Invest Melbourne's support is forecast to generate a \$500 million

supported by Invest Melbourne were in the hospitality and retail sectors, with our Business Concierge service

more than 140 projects - which could create or fast-track an estimated 8,000 new full-time jobs across the city and generate around \$1.3 billion in capital expenditure.

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to Melbourne News at

news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Connect with us f /cityofmelbourne ( @cityofmelbourne 🕑 @cityofmelbourne



## Turning his final page: Mark Rubbo celebrates a literary legacy

Mark Rubbo, a beloved figure of Melbourne's independent bookshop scene, has officially called time in his role as managing director of Readings.

WORDS BY Brendan Rees

With an illustrious career spanning, incredibly, nearly 50 years, which has seen Readings expand to eight shops, including two in the CBD, Mr Rubbo's departure will mark an end of an extraordinary era.

"It's been a great pleasure," he said in acknowledging the friendships and networks he has built with customers, authors, and Australia's independent publishers.

The first Readings store opened in Lygon St, Carlton in 1969, which was named after the then owner Ross Reading, who offered Mr Rubbo the store in 1976 – an opportunity he now admits he didn't know "where we would end up" after having initially run a record store

called Professor Longhair in Carlton.

"I'm very grateful to Carlton and the people of Carlton. I always say to people it's the best place to sell books in Australia and possibly the world – people are engaged and interested," he said.

At the age of 74, Mr Rubbo said he wasn't sure what the next chapter of his life held, conceding he "would play it by ear", but adding it would involve spending more time with family, and of course reading books.

A novel he's just finished and highly recommends is called *The Visitors* by award-winning author and playwright Jane Harrison, which comes out next month, with the plot reimagining the arrival of the First Fleet from a First Nations' perspective.

Speaking of his retirement, Mr Rubbo admitted he simply could not resist the pull of his beloved bookstores, saying "I've still been going in a bit".

"It's a gradual process, I'm going away for a month so that will be a real test," he laughed, as he handed the reins over to his son Joe.

"It's been a lot of fun, and it's exciting to see local publishers like Scribe, and Text, and Black Inc. Melbourne has been the centre of so many independent Australian publishing so it's

## Toys galore at The Chapel under new free service

WORDS BY Brendan Rees COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A rejuvenated toy library is keeping young minds happy at The Chapel in Carlton and, best of all, the service is now free for families.

The Cardigan St facility, along with other toy libraries in the municipality, was initially launched in 2021 through the Melbourne Communities Toy Library (MTCL), a not-forprofit, volunteer-run organisation.

But a recent review by the City of Melbourne found the model of funding was not sustainable, with the council deciding to absorb the toy library service on July 17 as part of the City of Melbourne libraries.



Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who dropped into The Chapel in August, said the transition meant the toy library service was now free for everyone, "ensuring all families have the opportunity to relish in the delight of what our toy libraries have to offer".



Membership fees were previously costing up to \$180 a year for families.

The toy library collections are also available at the Hotham Hub in North Melbourne and Library at The Dock in Docklands, with 3000 toys available, including puzzles and games for children aged to eight years.

Up to three items can be borrowed per card with a borrowing period of three weeks with one renewal.

"Toy libraries are a treasured part of our community – providing children and families with opportunities to play and develop skills with the biggest toy collection you've ever seen," Cr Capp said, adding almost 300,000 visitors had visited libraries this year.

"We're excited to be able to continue the toy library service through our network of City of Melbourne libraries, where toys can be browsed and borrowed the same way as books."  $\bullet$ 



exciting to be a part of that."

Among those to share their admiration for Mr Rubbo was Scribe Publications founder and publisher Henry Rosenbloom.

"Apart from being one of my oldest friends, Mark has always been my idea of a bookseller's bookseller – an indefatigable champion of local authors and good books, a builder of wonderful bookshops, and a great supporter of the wider community and of Indigenous literacy," he said.

City of Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor

Nicholas Reece said Mr Rubbo "is without doubt one of the world's great independent booksellers".

"For many Melburnians his bookstores are like an extension of their own homes, a favourite room they visit when they have a few minutes to spare," he said.

"Mark has been a huge supporter for publishers, writers, and people in the creative sector – he is a living treasure of Melbourne, and we are so lucky to have him."  $\bullet$ 

## Café Notturno says goodbye after nearly half a century

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees* BUSINESS

Café Notturno, a beloved restaurant of the Lygon St dining scene for the past 45 years, has closed its doors with the owner saying the memories would "last a lifetime".

It marks a sad end of an era for the institution which has been a staple of Carlton's vibrant Italian community with past guests including the late Mark "Chopper" Read and Formula One driver Michael Schumacher.

Affectionally known as "Notties", the restaurant's last day of trading was on Sunday, August 27.

Owner Salvatore Cultrera revealed the heart-breaking news of the closure in a post on the café's Facebook page, saying the restaurant had been sold, nearly half a century after it opened in 1978.

"A big thank you to all the fantastic people I've met along the way. I want you all to know how special it's been over the 30 years I've been here, and friendship will last forever," he said.

"From Lygon St Festas, World Cup soccer and Euros [tournaments] with success in the 1982, 2006 and more recent 2020 through COVID, what an amazing experience."

"For myself as the owner for 20 years and 10 years before that working here as a kid my journey with Notturno started back in 1989.

No-show \$20

BYO nibble

Tables of up to 8. Come as a team or or

https://www.trybooking.com/CJVJD

Drinks available (no BYO)

Adults \$



His cousin Sal Germano joined him in 2003 in helping him run the business.

Mr Cultrera also met his wife Linda at Café Notturno in 1990, saying he was "forever grateful" for her support, and "now we can focus on our next venture in life with our little grandson Jayden".

In his message, Mr Cultrera also thanked his children Elle, Vanessa, and Joseph "who grew up in Notturno and all worked their way through the cafe over the years".

"I'm so fortunate and proud of all of them," he said.

"Once again thank you for everyone's support over the years and I will miss Notties so, so much, but also very excited for what's next for me and my family."

Mr Cultrera said the restaurant had been a significant part of his life and wished the new tenants "the very best".  $\bullet$ 



## Say Yes to an



DYSON HALL HURCH OF ALL NATIONS CARLTON 7PM FOR A 7:15 START FRIDAY 15/9 Or on your own. ibbles

.......

### **MELBOURNE ZOO**

## Melbourne Zoo's Siamang dynasty swings into the property market

Melbourne Zoo's Siamang family has made a multigenerational house swap, with parents Isidor and Sampit moving homes to give daughter Kemala the chance for her own budding romance.

Like many retirees seeking a tree change, the elderly mum-and-dad Siamang pair has opted for a recently renovated private island home at Melbourne Zoo.

Melbourne Zoo life sciences manager primates Gill Maxwell said new climbing structures and a garden makeover were providing ample opportunities for the ageing Siamangs to employ their species-specific behaviours.

"Isador and Sampit quickly investigated all of the new structures and climbed up into the treetops," Ms Maxwell said.

"We expect to see a lot of brachiating, which is the swinging movement through the canopy of some primates including Siamang, just as they would in the wild."

Siamangs typically live in small groups of up to six individuals. A typical family unit is comprised of a monogamous mating pair of adults and their offspring. Ms Maxwell said the timing of the move was prompted by five-year old Kemala's growing sense of independence.

"Young Siamangs begin to disperse from their parents when they reach the age of five to seven years old," Ms Maxwell said.

"We're replicating what Kemala would instinctively be doing in the wild, following the signs we've seen from her that she's ready to start that journey."



Following her parents' departure, Kemala was introduced to 11-year-old Batak, who arrived from Mogo Zoo in New South Wales earlier this year.

While every new living arrangement takes time to settle, there are positive signs of companionship. "Baktak is settling in very well," Ms Maxwell said.

"He has a huge habitat to explore and has started singing, which is a sign he considers the area his territory."

"Kemala has also started singing with him, which indicates their bond is growing."

Native to the tropical forests of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, Siamangs are the largest member of the Gibbon family. The species is classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List due to an increasing threat of habitat destruction related to the production of palm oil.

Zoos Victoria's Don't Palm Us Off campaign educates Melbourne Zoo visitors about these threats to wildlife, calling for clearer labelling of palm oil to reduce the impact of unsustainable palm oil operations.

## PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

## Margaret Kelly evicted from her home!

Police and security turned up at the Barak Beacon public housing estate on August 18 to evict Margaret from her home.

### WORDS BY Cory Memery

There is still no publicly available detail on what will finally be built at Barak Beacon, along with three other public housing estates at South Yarra, Prahran, and Hampton East. These four estates were part of what has been branded the "Ground Lease Model 2" (GLM) project by Homes Victoria:



A GLM project awards developers and investors public land at no cost for 40 years for them to build and collect all rents. In the case of Barak Beacon: 126 full market rent; 126 10 per cent discounted market rents; and 98 "social" dwellings. The arrogance of a government supporting market rent housing on public land to benefit investors is breathtaking.

To accommodate residents who lived at Barak Beacon and the other three estates, Homes Victoria has had to purchase private dwellings, are leasing from private investors and are using vacant public housing that should have gone to those on the waiting list. Homes Victoria will also pay a significant annual contribution over the 40 years – in addition to free land – for the provision of the 98 "social" dwellings, which is a mere 10 per cent increase on the public housing that has been demolished and with a smaller

number of bedrooms. Retaining, refurbishing, and adding more public housing was the better way forward.

Margaret and her supporters are not giving up on the fight to defend and build more public housing, so please join their campaign:



### Affordable housing any time soon?

Rents in private housing are soaring.

More people are living in tents, caravans and cars or have moved in with friends and family as their rents have become impossible to afford.

The Australian and Victorian Greens have been advocating a national rental freeze for two years, followed by legislated caps on annual rent increases. Voters have been listening and this forced the federal and state governments to respond. National Cabinet, though, rejected the Greens proposals and decided on increased supply principally through private construction. A revised national target of 1.2 million new dwellings over five years from 2024 has been set.

Victorian planning reforms will be advised this month to accelerate approvals and support higher densities. Expert opinion, though, doubts the private sector's interest in responding. Historically they have gained fast approvals but not always built straight away deciding instead to wait to maximise sale prices: Without mandatory inclusionary zoning in Victoria and a loss of development rights and/ or significant state taxation if construction doesn't start within reasonable timeframes, the delivery of more affordable housing will not happen.

# Wish your inbox was more local?







## AND FOR EVERYONE



**KICK - START YOUR FITNESS GOALS AND GET THE RESULTS** YOU DESERVE!

SCAN THE QR CODE AND CHOOSE YOUR EXCLUSIVE OFFER TODAY

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

### METRO TUNNEL



## Work to soon ramp up on new Parkville tram stop

Major work will soon start on a new tram stop on the edge of the CBD as part of the cityshaping Metro Tunnel Project.

The new stop on Royal Parade outside the Royal Melbourne Hospital will be improved with level access and better passenger amenities, including shelter and service information.

Work will ramp up in late November when route 19 tram services will be disrupted between stop 7 (Oueen Victoria Market) and stop 19 (Brunswick Rd/Sydney Rd).

Parkville Station will slash travel times for people travelling between Melbourne's inner north and south.

Currently a tram trip from the Parkville Station location to the Anzac Station location is 25 minutes or more during the peak hour -Metro Tunnel trains will take eight minutes.

There will continue to be temporary changes for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists around the station area for the rest of 2023 and into next year, as the Metro Tunnel project team works to reinstate and improve streets and public spaces.

Parkville Station, on the city's northern fringe beneath Grattan St, will provide rail access to Melbourne's world-leading health and education precinct for the first time.

Crews have finished glazing the station's signature 54-metre-long, 6.5-metre-wide entrance canopy, which will sit about 22 metres above concourse level. All 16 of the station's escalators and seven passenger lifts have been installed and are progressively being tested.

The station will include a new pedestrian underpass under Royal Parade, providing a safe connection to the doorsteps of the University of Melbourne, Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Train testing is now underway inside the Metro Tunnel, with trains reaching full speed just weeks after the first test trains entered the twin tunnels.

Since the first 1.7km journey at low speed in late July, test trains are now running at 80km/h the speed they will travel at between all five stations when the tunnel opens in 2025.

The Metro Tunnel is the first major metropolitan rail investment since the City Loop opened in 1981 and will give Victorians more connections and faster journeys.

### EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

## Working towards protecting and elevating East Melbourne's future

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) team has continued to work hard to preserve, protect and enhance the iconic suburb we live in.

WORDS BY Greg Bisinella PRESIDENT

15. The EMG thanked the councillors for their work in our community and requested a continued commitment to improving the amenity and liveability of our suburb. Lord Mayor Sally Capp advised the meeting that she would work with the EMG to achieve these aims, while Cr Rohan Leppert committed to getting the long overdue heritage review of East Melbourne completed in the next financial year.

The EMG has also attended a regular meeting with the presidents of the council's residents'

## STATE MP

## Our pressure on Labor to regulate short-stays and address the housing crisis is working

Melbourne is a great place to live. But residents are rightfully frustrated by the lack of affordable housing and the ever-increasing amount of short-stay accommodation dominating our suburbs.

In recent months, the Greens have been ramping up pressure on the Victorian Labor Government to take urgent action to address the worsening housing crisis. With so many short-stay properties sitting empty for most of the year, we need urgent action to get more homes into the long-term market so they can be rented to families who need them.

I'm proud to share that, following negotiations with my Greens colleagues and I in parliament, the Treasurer has announced a new taskforce will be established to investigate solutions to the housing crisis.

The taskforce will consider three important issues that the Greens put on the table:

- Stopping unlimited rent increases, such as a cap on rent increases, like already exists in the ACT.
- Regulation of short-stays, such as Airbnbs.
- Strengthening Victoria's vacancy tax, to make more empty homes available for renters or first home buyers.

We've since heard that the government is considering a \$5 tax per booking for landlords who rent properties out on short-stay platforms like Airbnb, but this won't solve the problem, as owners with multiple apartments

will still be able to make significantly more money on the short-stay market and have no incentive to put their properties up for longer-term rental.

Instead, we need proper caps on the number of nights a property can be leased as a shortstay per year, in order to get homes back on the long-term rental market.

I first raised the issue of short-stays in parliament all the way back in 2014, and in May my Greens colleagues and I tried to introduce a bill to Parliament to regulate short-stay accommodation. Disappointingly, the government would not support the bill. But I'm hopeful that with this new taskforce, we might finally be about to see some action.

The Greens plan to regulate short-stays would introduce a 90-day cap on how many nights per year a property can be rented out, along with new rules to allow owners' corporations to regulate short-stays.

These are sensible measures that mean you can still rent out a room or rent out your home when you go on holiday but would prevent investors from buying up multiple whole apartments just to make mega profits and never renting them out long-term.

While the taskforce is a welcome announcement, it's frustrating that when Labor had the chance to address the issue of short-stays, they refused.



Ellen Sandell STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

HEALTH & WELLBEING

## From McDonalds to home cooking: a fresh look at modern fitness

In the bustling world of fitness, where neon signs flash promises of instant transformation and social media influencers flaunt the latest workout trends, there's a hidden trap that many fall into the allure of the onesize-fits-all fitness program.

WORDS BY Kane Hamilton PRIME40PERSONALTRAINING.COM.AU

It's a tempting proposition, isn't it? A universal solution that claims to turn anyone and everyone into the epitome of health and vitality.

But here's the catch, and it's a big one: we're ot all cut from the same cloth

more than just a superficial change. Imagine grabbing a meal at McDonald's

-----

- quick, convenient, but often lacking in personal touch and quality. It might fill you up and satisfy you in the moment, but it doesn't cater to what is best for your nutritional needs. On the other hand, a personalised fitness

program is like cooking for yourself at home: it takes a bit more effort, but the result is a meal that's tailored to you, satisfying your unique cravings, and nourishing your body in a way that mass-produced food never can.

It's a choice between the generic and the genuinely fulfilling, especially for those in the prime of their lives.

Now, picture yourself in a crowded gym, surrounded by people of all ages, all following the same routine. You glance at the person next to you, half your age, effortlessly keeping pace.

You feel your back tighten up, a reminder of your uniqueness, yet here you are, trying to fit

into a mould that wasn't designed for you.

Over the past month we have conducted a community safety meeting at the East Melbourne Library, attended by more than 80 residents and representatives of the Victoria Police, City of Melbourne and Melbourne Cricket Club. It proved to be a productive evening where attendees were able to share their concerns and experiences. Issues including drug taking, anti-social behaviour, theft, illegal use of e-scooters and parking and traffic matters were raised. There was a commitment from the presenters to continue to work with the community to get better outcomes and we plan to have further sessions in the future.

Councillors from the City of Melbourne conducted their Future Melbourne Meeting at the Eastbourne building at Albert St on August

associations and the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece. These meetings are an excellent way for us to mix with other residents' associations and tackle shared issues.

We continue to advocate for greater and fairer regulation of the airspace over East Melbourne. The EMG has attended meetings with the council, the Melbourne airport community consultation group, and our local MP Adam Bandt. Our aim is to bring about change to minimise the unreasonable impact of aircraft noise on our suburb.

The EMG is aware that some members have not been receiving email updates from the group. We apologise to these members and ask anyone who has not been receiving regular updates to contact us at admin@emg.org.au or on 0410 414 386. •

The 50-year-old dentist with a penchant for golf isn't seeking the same physical prowess as the 20-something gym enthusiast aiming to impress.

The busy mother of two juggling a career doesn't have the same fitness needs as the 20-something selfie enthusiast, more focused on capturing the perfect gym mirror pose than breaking a sweat.

So, why do we keep falling for the myth of the universal fitness solution? Why do we squeeze ourselves into programs that don't fit. like a square peg in a round hole?

The truth is, the one-size-fits-all approach is not only outdated but potentially harmful. especially for those in the prime of their lives, with varying history and experience seeking

You begin to wonder, "Is this really working for me? Is the young instructor even paying attention to my form? Or am I just another face in the crowd?"

In the world of fitness, the one-size-fits-all approach is like wearing someone else's ill-fitting shoes for a marathon. It might get you to the finish line, but at what cost? Blisters, aches, and a nagging feeling that something just isn't right.

At Prime40, we've seen the difference a more thoughtful approach can make. But the question isn't about us; it's about you. As you lace up those metaphorical sneakers and prepare for your fitness journey, ask yourself: What do I really want from my workouts? Isn't it time to slip into something more comfortable, something that truly fits?

## Moving forward with our new mobility policy

The Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) has renamed its Transport Policy the Mobility Policy to reflect the changing nature of urban transport.

WORDS BY *Lyn Cracknell* SECRETARY

The policy now provides a response to how residents, workers and visitors move around the municipality now and into the future and the importance we place on the liveability and sustainability of our suburb.

In essence, good mobility needs to be safe, reliable, efficient, sustainable, and accessible. In the longer term the objective should be to work toward sustainable mobility recognising the need to address mobility and its impact on climate change.



This will require future proofing mobility by moving to EV vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and freeing up road space for public transport, trams, and buses, extending footpaths, introducing shareable streets and increasing green spaces by freeing up road space.

During the past 45 years our streets have changed dramatically from wide, treeless

bitumen thoroughfares to attractive streets with medians and now mature trees.

Through traffic has been reduced by street closures and calming measures such as lane reductions, controlled turns, speed humps, bicycle and pedestrian paths have been improved and footpaths widened in the commercial areas to allow outdoor eating. The introduction of parklets has resulted in an improvement in outdoor dining, a reduction and slowing of traffic and improved amenity and safety for pedestrians. It has also encouraged patrons to travel by public transport.

Carlton has had good public transport for a long time and improvements have been made such as the underground rail line now under construction. Tram stops have been improved to enable those with a disability, children, and older persons to have ease of access and safety.

We believe that the remaining step-up tram stops should be replaced with those providing for the access required by all.

There are still areas for improvement and issues of concern that are covered in our Mobility Policy that is now available to CRA members and interested members of our community.

For those interested in receiving a copy please send us an email.  $\bullet$ 

## For more information: carltonresidents@gmail.com

### CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE

## Carlton's new frog bog: hopping to improve biodiversity

Introducing our new frog bog!



WORDS BY *Tony Milne* EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In late July, following expert advice from Westgate Biodiversity, a group of volunteers from Quin House, a male residential detox facility, arrived to help dig the shallow hole that became our frog bog.

Our native water plants have been set to work to clean the pond and make a beautiful habitat for our insect and frog friends.

But what is a frog bog you might ask yourself? That was also my question when our farmer raised it with me.

A frog bog typically refers to a wetland or swampy area that serves as a habitat for frogs and other amphibians. These environments are characterised by their moist and muddy conditions, which are ideal for supporting various plant and animal species.

Frog bogs are essential ecosystems because they provide a safe breeding ground and shelter for frogs during various stages of their life cycle. They usually have a variety of vegetation, including aquatic plants and shrubs, which offer cover and food sources for the frogs. The presence of standing water or slow-moving water in a frog bog helps support the development of tadpoles.



species, promoting biodiversity, ecological balance, and supporting wildlife.

- Educational and recreational opportunities: frog bogs serve as educational tools for learning about local ecosystems and wildlife.
- Air-quality improvement: frog bogs can capture and store carbon dioxide, mitigating climate change effects, and act as natural air purifiers, enhancing urban air-quality.
- Aesthetic and psychological benefits: urban green spaces, such as frog bogs, enhance aesthetics and contribute to residents' mental well-being, reducing stress and improving overall health.
- Community engagement: building and



▲ (L) Gladys Hosking, the third victim murdered in Parkville. (R) The "Brown-out Strangler" Private Edward Leonski.

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP

## The "brown-out" murders

On the morning of May 18, 1942, the body of a woman was found in a muddy air-raid trench on the edge of Royal Park at Gatehouse St, Parkville.

She was the third woman who had been found strangled, beaten and partly naked during the previous three weeks. There was a serial killer on the loose in Melbourne, who soon became known as the "Brown-out Strangler".

As part of the war-time precautions, Melbourne at that time was in the grip of what was called a "brown-out", a partial "black-out". There was still some limited lighting allowed at night, but not much, so the streets were quite dark. Gatehouse St is on the edge of Royal Park, which in 1942 was occupied by a large American military camp known as Camp Pell. The first victim had been 40-year-old Ivy McLeod who two weeks earlier had been found strangled and badly beaten in a doorway in Albert Park. An American soldier had been seen in the area just before her body was discovered. Six days later, a second victim, 31-year-old Pauline Thompson, was found in Spring St in the city, also strangled and with her clothes torn.

Australian soldier guarding some vehicles near Camp Pell had been approached by an American soldier covered in mud who asked him how to get back to the camp.

With the city now alarmed by the presence of a serial killer, the "Brown-out Strangler", several other women now came forward to say that they had been attacked by an American serviceman but had managed to escape.

Attention was now focused on the American soldiers in Camp Pell. From a line-up of servicemen, the murderer was picked out by witnesses who had been near the murder scenes and by women who had survived recent attacks. He was Private Edward Leonski, who was arrested and charged with the three murders.

Leonski's trial was unusual in that, while his crimes had been committed in Australia, it was conducted under American military law by a US military Court Mortial

These habitats are valuable to the broader ecosystem as well, as they can support a wide range of wildlife, including insects, birds, and small mammals that rely on the frogs as a food source. Nature can be cruel, but it's the circle of life, as the *Lion King* cartoon taught us.

Creating a frog bog in an urban area can offer several benefits for both the local environment and the community:

• Biodiversity and habitat conservation: urban frog bogs create havens for local frog

maintaining frog bogs involve communitydriven projects that foster ownership and stewardship among residents, encouraging conservation efforts.

- Pollination support: frogs and wetland creatures aid in pollination in urban gardens and green spaces, indirectly supporting local plant life and urban agriculture.
- Adaptation to climate change: urban frog bogs promote resilient ecosystems capable of withstanding extreme weather events and changing environmental conditions posed by climate change.

We're really looking forward to our frog bog developing in the coming months and years. Come along to the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre to check it out. Hop to it! • The third victim was Gladys Hosking, who worked as a secretary and librarian in the Chemistry Department at Melbourne University and lived in a guest house in Park St, Parkville, close to where her body was found. On the night that she was murdered, an military Court Martial.

During the trial, evidence was presented that he may have had dual personalities. His mother it seems was an unstable person and his father an alcoholic.

During the trial Leonski confessed to the crimes and was convicted and sentenced to death. He was hanged in Pentridge Prison on November 9, 1942.  $\bullet$ 



### **PUZZLES & TRIVIA**

No. 027

.....

## Quiz



- 1. Amity Island is a fictional town in which movie franchise?
- 2. What season does the term vernal refer to?
- **3**. What roundabout in East Melbourne is being upgraded?
- 4. When was Captain James Cook's cottage brought to Australia?
- 5. Breaking Bad star Bryan Cranston (pictured) played Patrick Crump in which TV series?
- 6. When did Somali-born Muhubo Suleiman come to Australia?
- 7. What does the Fields Medal celebrate?
- 8. Eon Productions is best known for which film series?
- 9. In which year was the Stone of Scone formally returned to Scotland?
- 10. How many years later did Carlton resident Graeme Coulston return the book A history of Malvern back to the State Library of Victoria?
- **11**. What community project did the Church of All Nations introduce in Carlton?
- **12**. What is the English translation for the French phrase 'bel ami'?

### **QUIZ SOLUTIONS**

5x5

12. Good Friend 10.68 years 11. A 'Little Free Pantry' 7. Outstanding contributions to mathematics 8. James Bond 9. 1996 Street 4. 1934 5. The X-Files 6. 2003 1. Jaws 2. Spring 3. The roundabout at the intersection of Hotham and Simpson

8

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

### G Ε Α

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

Sudoku

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## SOLUTIONS

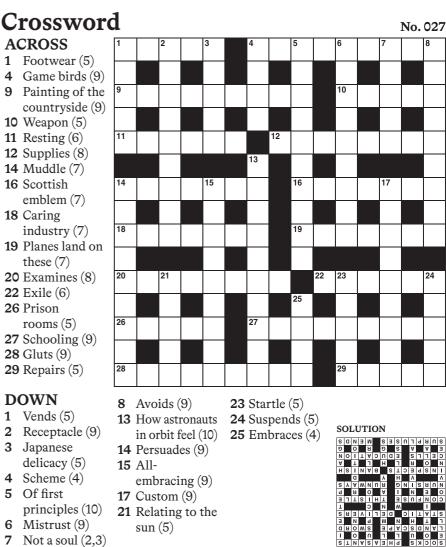
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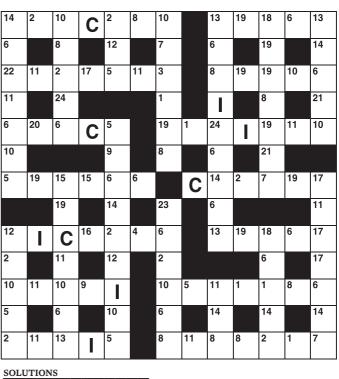
### Wordfind Theme: Winter

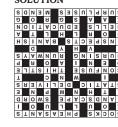
The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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## Codeword





No. 027



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9-Letter

K F K N Z O J G O M V C I

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

**Reference:** 

Macquarie Dictionary

No. 027 **Today's Focus:** 25 words: Good 37 words: Very good 45+ words: Excellent F F Α B E Ð INEFFABLE, lane, leaf, lean, lief, lien, life, line, nealie SOLUTIONS לככו, לכווחכ, לוכל, לורכ, לוחגטוכ, לוחגוכ, לוחכ, לוחכגטוכ, לוכג, לוכב, ווכג, beanie, beef, been, belief, bile, bine, effable, elan, elfin, enable, fable, fane, abele, able, alee, alien, anele, anile, baffle, bailee, bale, baleen, bane, beal, bean,

## What's On: September 2023

## Community Calendar

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 6:30PM TO 9:30PM

### **CARLTON CONVERSATIONS**

Carlton Residents Association invites you to its third Carlton Conversation this year, with novelist, storyteller, and human rights advocate Arnold Zable. Enjoy a free drink, nibbles, and a 45-minute talk followed by a Q&A.

Clyde Hotel, 385 Cardigan Street

info: carltonresidents@gmail.com



### SEPTEMBER 1-30

### **ART EXPO @ EAST MELBOURNE** LIBRARY

This year's show features the work of artist Cint Clare Stephenson, with a selection of family friendly works from a previous exhibition in Fitzroy called "Dead Dad." For more: cintclare.com.au

East Melbourne Library 122 George St, East Melbourne





EVERY SATURDAY, 8AM TO 1PM

## FARMERS MARKET

Stalls selling fresh produce on primary school grounds.

Everything from fruit, to vegetables, flowers, take home and ready-to-eat meals, honey, coffee and baked goods.

Carlton North Primary School



## **CARLTON TOY LIBRARY**

Make sure to pop by the Carlton Toy Library at The Chapel (469 Cardigan St) once its toy library reopens.

Open Monday from 3:30pm to 6pm, Wednesday from 10am to 12:30pm, and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 9.30 FOR 10 AM TO 12.30

### **PIANO LOVERS GROUP**

Piano Players and Listeners meet and play the Grand Piano on the first Monday of every month. Enjoy a chat with like minded -people about all things Piano at the Morning Tea break.

St Peter's Eastern Hill, 5 Gisborne Street (corner Albert St) Melbourne

Info: 0477 191 313



### ALTERNATING WEEKS 'TIL DEC CONNECT CAFÉ-TECH AND I.T. HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Tech Topic group workshops 10am - 12pm One-on-one tech help 10am - 1pm Alternating Fridays until 15 December. Light morning tea provided.

Kathleen Syme - P: 9658 7300

E: literacyandlearning@melbourne.vic.gov.au



## EVERY SATURDAY, 1PM TO 3PM

### WOMEN'S SOCIAL SOCCER (FREE)

Melbourne Social Soccer runs free social games for women. Contact 0456 700 688

admin@melbournesocialsoccer.com

Crawford Oval 121 Princes Park



FRI SEP 8 - 8PM + SUN SEP 10 - 4PM

### **MY FRIEND THE MOON**

Catch the world premiere of a new Victorian feature film, followed by a Q&A with director Mark La Rosa and actors Petra Glieson and Phil McInnes, moderated by The Age/Sydney Morning Herald film critic Jake Wilson.

Cinema 4, Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St

## **Business Directory**

## Health & Fitness



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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

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146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051 (03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com

Evan

(03) 9651 8242

**ELLEN SANDELL** 

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572 Will Caldwell 0419 010 270 Melbourne's Firest donazzanboutiqueproperty.com.au

Kim Davey 0418 924 324

## Politician







Our approach is centered on building meaningful relationships with our clients, ensuring that every step of your real estate journey is met with personalised care and attention. Contact our team today.

"WHEN YOU ENGAGE THE BEST, YOU GET THE BEST RESULTS. GINA AND HER TEAM ARE NOT ONLY THE UTMOST IN PROFESSIONALISM, BUT THEY ARE DOWN TO EARTH, HONEST AND EXTREMELY HARD WORKING TO MAKE SURE YOU NOT ONLY HAVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH THEM BUT ALSO TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL RESULTS. I RECENTLY SOLD A PROPERTY WITH DONAZZAN BOUTIQUE AND THE EXPERIENCE WAS MADE SO MUCH EASIER KNOWING I COULD LEAVE THE TEAM TO CO-ORDINATE AND RUN THE CAMPAIGN IN THE WAY THEY FELT WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND IT WAS. TRUST GOES A LONG WAY IN REAL ESTATE AND I'M GLAD TO SAY I PUT THE TRUST IN THE TEAM AND HAD FANTASTIC RESULTS. THANK YOU."

**TESTIMONIAL** 

## SONYA, VENDOR

## GINA DONAZZAN SUZIE INGLIS KIM DAVEY WILL CALDWELL 0412 430 326 0416 671 572 0418 924 324 0419 010 270