

# INNER CITY NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P18



**There's no place like Rome**  
Photo by Hanna Komissarova

Celebrating all things Italian, the annual Melbourne Italian Festa returned to Carlton on November 26 at the Royal Exhibition Building and the Museum Plaza in an exciting event transformation. *Pictures page 12.*

## Landmark heritage review delivered for Parkville after four-decade hiatus

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HERITAGE

The University of Melbourne's International House and global biotech giant CSL's two-storey brick Poplar Rd headquarters are among historical landmarks up for heritage listing under a sweeping heritage review of Parkville, the first of its kind to be undertaken in four decades.

Twenty new individual places, including four complex sites, as well as four new precincts, with the later "to reflect distinctive periods of development and significance", have been recommended for heritage overlay inclusion.

The proposals are part of the City of Melbourne's Parkville Heritage Review, the first heritage study to be conducted since 1979, with an update made in 1985, marking a momentous occasion for residents of Parkville, which is renowned for its Victorian-era architecture and significant contributions to Melbourne's history.

Councillors endorsed the 1400-page review at their November 14 Future Melbourne Committee meeting after the council engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd in November 2021 to review the heritage values of the area. The review will now go before the state government for approval

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## New taskforce to address East Melbourne aircraft noise after residents have their voices heard in Canberra

*Long-standing concerns about aircraft noise in East Melbourne have been heard at Parliament House in Canberra, with the federal government committing to establishing a taskforce aimed at improving outcomes for the community.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

For years, East Melbourne residents have tirelessly fought against the effects of aircraft noise, which they say has impacted their daily lives and affected their overall wellbeing.

Concerns have included light aircraft and helicopters, most of which travel from Moorabbin and Essendon airports and fly over the suburb for joy flights or pilot training, as well as commercial airlines using flight paths to take off from and land at Tullamarine Airport.

The residents' stance prompted the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman to investigate complaints about flight paths over East Melbourne, with a report in June 2021 making three recommendations accepted by Airservices Australia.

One of those recommendations said Airservices was to "continue its efforts to engage with the complainants to resolve their complaints including careful consideration of the alternate flight path suggested by them".

The East Melbourne community has now achieved a significant step forward, particularly with the advocacy of federal Melbourne MP Adam

Bandt, who had been instrumental in speaking out on the need to mitigate aircraft noise, with the federal government confirming in November it would establish a taskforce to address aircraft noise.

A departmental spokesperson said the taskforce, through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, "will work directly with aircraft operators, community groups, Airservices Australia and the operators of Moorabbin and Essendon airports to identify further steps to improve noise outcomes for East Melbourne communities".

"While aviation supports our nation's very way of life, from connecting communities to getting freight to markets, the Australian Government acknowledges that aircraft noise is an issue for communities in East Melbourne," the spokesperson said.

In thanking the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King for creating a taskforce, Mr Bandt addressed Parliament House in Canberra on November 13, saying such a measure marked a turning point for the community "as a result of that community pressure, with the Greens working side by side".

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## Brunetti's brings a new local to Drummond St

*Just when you thought Lygon St legend Brunetti Classico couldn't get any bigger in Carlton, a new concept boutique store will soon open at the rear of its current flagship store on Drummond St.*

### BUSINESS

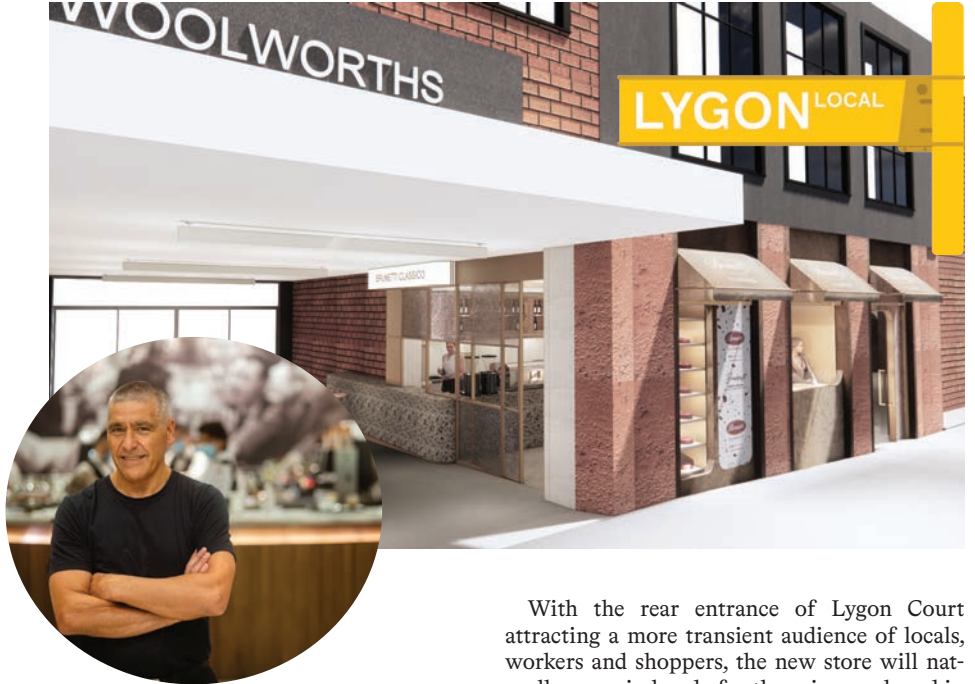
Inner City News caught up with Brunetti Classico owner Fabio Angele last month who gave us an exciting sneak peak of the new café where workers were busy putting on the final touches ahead of its long-awaited opening in December.

Located at the Drummond St entrance to Woolworths, Mr Angele said the new concept boutique would largely focus on a new takeaway style offering for patrons, with only limited seating to complement its established operations at Lygon Court.

"Drummond St will have a much smaller footprint to our flagship restaurant on Lygon St," he said. "It's only 40sqm and will seat approximately 10 people, [so] it's designed for customers who are ready to try something new when they're on the go."

Mr Angele said some of Brunetti Classico's new menu items, that would be showcased at the Drummond St concept boutique, linked back to his family traditions.

"We are excited to launch a unique Roman



sweet product, the Maritozzo, which our pastry chefs have spent a considerable amount of time developing and perfecting," he said.

"It's a centuries-old recipe, which my father Giorgio learnt when he worked in Rome 60 years ago. It is a beautiful light brioche, which is traditionally filled with a sweetened fresh cream, almost like an Aussie-style finger bun, but the Italian version."

"Maritozzi originated in ancient Rome, and a traditional Italian romance story that is told is that men would propose to their love by placing a ring inside the Marriozzi. So, it's a pastry that leads to marriage."

"A range of Maritozzi flavours will be available at Drummond St, including tiramisu, biscotti caramel, zabaione, cookies and pistachio raspberry. We will also have a few savoury options filled with fresh cured meats and locally made cheeses, ideal for those seeking a quick takeaway lunch."

With the rear entrance of Lygon Court attracting a more transient audience of locals, workers and shoppers, the new store will naturally come in handy for those in a rush and in desperate need of great coffee.

Brunetti Classico's custom blend of Italian-style coffee, which is roasted by locals Griffith Bros, is sure to ignite the senses as soon as customers enter Brunetti Classico Drummond St.

"Patrons can pop in for their coffee of choice, whether it be an authentic espresso, macchiato, latte, cappuccino, and pair it perfectly with one of our signature treats, like a Maritozzo or Dolci," Mr Angele said.

"At the boutique, we will also have a new style of croissant piped on the spot with your choice of flavour."

Brunetti Classico on Drummond St will open from early December, seven days a week. ●

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

## New taskforce to address East Melbourne aircraft noise after residents have their voices heard in Canberra

*Continued from page 1.*

"There will now be a taskforce aimed at better understanding the issue and determining operating procedures that will better protect residents from overflight," Mr Bandt said.

"There will be a very big difference if some changes to flight paths are made – not changes that push the problem onto other people but changes, for example, that could result in leisure flights flying down the [Yarra] river or over the rail yards instead of over the people's houses, so everyone can still get a good look at Melbourne but not have an impact on residents".

"Changes to flight paths could see flights come in and turn at a different point that's not over people's houses, so again you don't push the problem onto other people but ensure that resident amenity is protected."



Mr Bandt emphasised the negative consequences of aircraft noise, saying residents had spoken of their windows shaking and the effect it was having on people's mental health.

"Some people have said to me, 'It's like it disrupts your ability to just live a normal life.' This

is not what people sign up for."

Mr Bandt thanked members of the East Melbourne Group (EMG) and all residents "who have not taken no for an answer and have pushed and pushed".

"We are starting to see progress. Now we need to see action."

EMG president Greg Bisinella said it was pleasing to see "meaningful progress on this issue" and thanked Mr Bandt and Ms King for their efforts.

"We remain cautiously optimistic that this aircraft noise in East Melbourne taskforce will finally bring relief to residents who have had to endure the impacts of unnecessary aircraft noise over our suburb," he said.

"We hope to achieve an outcome that mitigates the impacts of noise, not only over East Melbourne, but all suburbs." ●



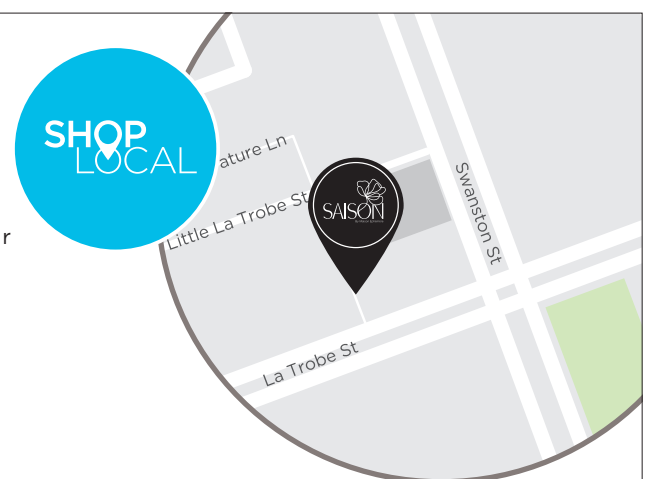
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# City of Melbourne elections: who's staying, who's going?

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

It sounds a bit cliché to proclaim, “the next term of council could be the most important ever for the City of Melbourne”. After all, every new term of local government is as important as the last.

But it's not every council term during which one can say a once-in-a-generation pandemic occurred, causing Melbourne to be the victim of the world's longest lockdowns.

Remember the last council elections in 2020? Seems like a lifetime ago now, doesn't it? It was an election campaign dominated by virtual-only campaigning and “Meet the Candidates” events.

As we head into 2024, and find ourselves in what is already the final year of the current term at the City of Melbourne, councillor hopefuls will be relieved that we won't be seeing a mass return to Zoom.

While three years doesn't sound like a particularly long time, it is in politics when one considers the impacts the prolonged lockdowns have had on the city, with cost-of-living and housing crises hot on the pandemic's heels.

“  
*The word one could most aptly use to describe the current council term is “recovery”. All the focus has been placed on getting Melbourne back on its feet and helping it rediscover its mojo.*”

”

Given these immense challenges, compounded by consecutive budget deficits and a high-inflationary environment, it's hard to give the current group of councillors, led by the city's champion flag-bearer Lord Mayor Sally Capp, anything less than a safe pass mark.

Considering the widespread devastation and what appear to be generational changes to working patterns in the CBD, the fact the city has emerged as well as it has so quickly is a testament to the council's efforts.

But while some pre-pandemic trends have returned, and in some cases, increased, across the city, there are still so many areas of concern. One only has to look at the many pockets of the CBD during the week, Docklands generally and a disparately patronised Lygon St, to see that we still have a long way to go to “getting the buzz back”.

That's why one could reasonably argue that the next council term is, in fact, THE most important in ensuring the thriving Melbourne we all once knew not only returns but continues to find new ways of reinventing itself.

So, what could a new council look like?

It's hard to see Lord Mayor Sally Capp not running for a second term and she'll be tough to beat. While in the past she's hinted at being a one-term councillor following her initial by-election win in the wake of Robert Doyle's sudden departure, there is plenty of unfinished business.

Namely, her signature Greenline project will be central to her motivations for running again.

The project, which seeks to revitalise the entire stretch of the north bank of the Yarra/Birrarung, still has a long way to go in terms of securing the necessary funding from Commonwealth and state governments. The council is even considering selling Citywide to help tip in some cash, so her leadership will be required to help see it through.

There's always the question of who will run against her for Lord Mayor, but whether anyone will present a serious challenge is another.

Many are expecting former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood to put his hat in the ring again, while *Inner City News* understands a prominent group of Melbourne business identities are already preparing to mount a challenge to overthrow Sally ... more on this in the new year!

Assuming Sally goes again, one expects Nick Reece will run alongside her as Deputy Lord Mayor once more. Whether Kevin Louey, the silent but influential councillor, will run in the number one spot on her council ticket again remains to be seen. It would be a remarkable fifth term serving on council if he did.

But it's fair to say Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell won't take the number two spot on the Team Capp ticket as she did in 2020. There's been a clear divide between Capp and Campbell during this council term on a number of issues including transport, climate policy and a safe injecting room in the CBD. The philosophical misalignment appears to be too great to reconcile.

After a failed byelection in the federal seat of Aston this year, and an earlier nomination for the seat of Casey in 2021, it's clear Roshena still has aspirations for Canberra with the Libs.

It's likely she could head up an unofficial Liberal Party ticket of her own at the next council election as a way of providing her with a platform for whatever her next federal tilt might be. Only time will tell!

The big change will come in the form of Greens councillor Rohan Leppert, who is understood not to be contesting for what would be a fourth term. This is a significant and irreplaceable loss for the council – his incredible knowledge and expertise will be missed.

This will likely see Olivia Ball moved up to the first spot on a Greens ticket, presenting an opportunity for a new Greens councillor to join her at Town Hall.

As for the rest of the current council, one would think the return of Davydd Griffiths will be nothing short of a formality on another Labor Party-endorsed ticket, while Elizabeth

Doidge will likely seek re-election again with the strong support of a union-backed ticket.

Docklands resident Jamal Hakim will also run again as an independent and is in a good position for re-election having built a positive profile and strengthening his electoral hand since last squeezing onto council in 2020.

Phillip Le Liu is also expected to run again, but having since resigned his Liberal Party membership, it's difficult to see a clear path to re-election for what would be a third council term. Who he decides to align himself with will be key, but one can never count him out.

That leaves Jason Chang, the councillor elected through Arron Wood's ticket. As proprietor of the business Calia, as seen at Emporium, his personal mandate was always to be a voice for small business.

But running a business alongside being a councillor seems to have weighed heavily on his ability to make a significant impact, so it's a question of whether the fire's still burning for a tilt in 2024. And, of course, who he runs with.

So, apart from the exit of Cr Leppert and uncertainty surrounding a handful of other positions, it's hard to see too much changing in 2024. But all councillors and other hopefuls will already be busy making their moves and mapping out pathways towards election, with plenty to contemplate over the Christmas break.

On that note, *Inner City News* wishes all our readers, advertisers, and supporters a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year. As always, we look forward to bringing you more local news from the City of Melbourne in 2024. ●



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## OUT AND ABOUT IN CARLTON

With its beautiful parks and international eateries, there's always so much to see and do in Carlton.

- Join Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre's end of year celebration with music, face painting, craft activities, a gardening workshop, food, and more on Saturday 2 December, 11am-1pm.
- Catch a free jazz session at The Motley Bauhaus on Elgin Street on Saturday 2 December, 5-7pm. See Melbourne's finest jazz musicians playing much-loved standards and originals.
- Interested in tracing your Italian family heritage? Join a workshop where you'll be introduced to tools to start your research journey. At Kathleen Syme from 2-5pm on Saturday 9 December. Book at [trybooking.com](https://trybooking.com)
- Explore more about the post-war migrant journey in multimedia presentation Bonegilla: The Migrant's Journey at Melbourne Museum Theatre on 7-8 December. Book at [trybooking.com](https://trybooking.com)
- Did you know that Carlton Baths has women's only fitness classes from 7-8pm Wednesdays?
- Women can also cool down at City Swim(h)er - women's only swimming sessions at Melbourne City Baths from 2-4pm Saturdays.
- Need an event space? Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups can book Kathleen Syme Community Centre for no cost.
- Access affordable fresh food with the Community Grocer's Carlton market at Carlton housing estate, 510 Lygon Street from 8am-12pm Fridays.
- Have an idea that brings your community together? Apply for a City of Melbourne Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grant with up to \$2000 to run your activity.

Want to connect with your neighbourhood? Contact your Carlton neighbourhood partner, Nas Mohamud, at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/carlton](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/carlton)

## A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Elle Morell with participants from Open Door's sewing class

## Open Door is a haven for Carlton tower residents

Operating from the base of the Carlton public housing estate, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre's (CNLC) Open Door has been supporting the community since 2019. The centre offers locals a place to socialise and learn life skills.

It was founded by Elle Morrell, Community Development Manager at CNLC, which has been a lifesaver for locals for more than 40 years. Open Door has become a safe-place for many people living in the towers.

"I founded this centre in 2019 for migrant and refugee residents to access employment services, social work and English language skills as well as being a place to socialise, participate in workshops, borrow equipment from our kitchen library, and access information," Elle said.

"As our Open Door venue is based out of the Carlton towers, a lot of our work involves this community. My work includes supporting housing estate residents to feel safe. Some people live in fear of their neighbours and drug activity. We help them to be more resilient and tackle the issues involved with living with 2500 people as their neighbours."

With 55 per cent of Carlton residents born overseas and 81 per cent living in flats or apartments, the centre is perfectly placed to support the community.

Open Door recently started offering sewing classes and Elle said she's been heartened by how the women have responded to learning a new skill.

"The women feel really happy to be part of the classes and learn together," Elle said. "We have a great teacher and students get to make bags, dresses, skirts - it's great to see them happy and what they make."

Elle is passionate about community and supporting people to feel more connected as well as receive the support they need to thrive.

"As an organisation CNLC is known for really taking the time to listen to our community - you're not just another number in a queue. We want to help in any way we can," Elle said.

"Recently we've been supporting residents with the news that the Victorian Government will be retiring all of its public housing stock. Of course, the residents are concerned about if they will be placed near their community.

"During (the pandemic) I also initiated the concierge program with cohealth at Carlton to employ bilingual residents to work with the estate community with health information and support. This program was rolled out to all inner-city housing estates based on the success of employment for residents and their unique skills at relating to their community and being a conduit for important information."

Elle is also Chair of the Carlton Community Network, a collaboration of more than 50 agencies across Carlton. Among many other things, the network has organised the annual Carlton Harmony Day festival for the past 15 years, an event supported by the City of Melbourne, and also supported the Carlton towers during the lockdowns.

Elle is working with neighbourhood houses across Melbourne to improve the digital divide many communities experience.

"We're currently working with the Federal Government to get our communities a concession on their WiFi bills as it's such an essential service," Elle said.

"By partnering with University of Melbourne, we were also able to hand out end of lease laptops to these communities which were really appreciated."

In addition to Open Door, CNLC's venue in Carlton North has a community garden, chickens, compost hub, and offers a recycling hub for those hard-to-recycle things, such as paint and CDs. The centre also runs 10 community events each year, including Eid, Christmas, Reconciliation Week, International Women's Day and Refugee Week.

Elle's journey to Open Door was a natural one.

"I founded a national environmental youth organisation when I was just 14 years old, then went on to complete environmental studies at RMIT. I was involved in the environmental sustainability movement for more than 20 years," Elle said.

"While the environment was still really close to my heart, I felt I had to move beyond education and help communities become more resilient, through community development."

To see more classes offered by CNLC and Open Door, visit [cnlc.org.au](https://cnlc.org.au)

## Meet your Neighbourhood Partner

Passionate about our area, Neighbourhood Partners are here to respond to community needs in a localised way.

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# “It’s like Russian roulette”: Lygon St traders reiterate calls for footpath revamp



*Carlton traders have once again voiced their concerns over the state of footpaths along Lygon St, calling for urgent upgrades to improve pedestrian safety and the streetscape.*



WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



Traders argue the current condition of the footpaths was hazardous, with cracking and lifting around street trees becoming a common sight.

Carlton business association, Carlton Inc. said traders had repeatedly told the City of Melbourne that the footpaths were in desperate need of repair, and that their poor condition had also impacted on the aesthetic appeal of the popular dining strip, but “nothing has happened”.

“It’s not getting any better and we’ve had no response from council,” Carlton Inc. executive officer Phillip Mansour said.

Mr Mansour said he was particularly disappointed that the council had not taken any action to fix the issue given the *Inner City News* had run a front page story in its June 2023 edition.

“Since we had the front-page photo, they (the council) responded by putting a witch’s hat on the footpath (where a tree had caused serious

damage to a section of the footpath), but it was gone after a week,” he said.

“The damage is still there; nothing’s changed. What does it take for something to be done?”

In a statement, the City of Melbourne said Lygon St had been identified as a “priority area”, with some footpath renewal works completed outside Trades Hall at the corner of Lygon St and Victoria St.

“Community consultation for further upgrade works along the full length of Lygon St is set to take place in 2024,” it said.

Tiamo restaurant owner, Fab Succi, said a

plane tree out the front of his business had lifted the pavement creating a tripping hazard, which he had reported to the council but they have “just ignored it like nothing has happened”.

“It’s like Russian roulette, sooner or later someone is going to trip over ... council has got to have some liability.”

“It needs to be fixed especially heading into a busy Christmas trade, but nevertheless, they [the council] should be attending to where the problem is straight away instead of ignoring it.”

Another trader, Angelo Gibaldi, owner of Stuzzichino Restaurant and Bar, said he had to re-tile his venue at a cost of \$7500 after it was damaged by street tree roots.

“It’s absolutely ridiculous. We’re paying a permit to have tables [for outdoor dining] and you can’t even utilise the space,” he said.

As previously reported by *Inner City News*, Maurice Blackburn principal lawyer Dimi Ioannou, who specialised in personal injury law, said all councils had a responsibility to ensure footpaths were safe for all pedestrians and the City of Melbourne was no exception.

The City of Melbourne said it had invested more than \$12 million to upgrade, renew and maintain roads and footpaths across almost 80 locations.

“Footpath upgrade and renewal programs are set each financial year, and locations chosen are based on a range of factors – including safety, community need, and time since renewal or maintenance work.”

In addition to the footpath issue, traders also expressed disappointment over the outdated



and lacklustre Christmas decorations in Lygon St, saying it was “looking more bleak than ever”.

“Given we’ve come out of COVID, it’s been tough times, businesses are trying to flourish. It’s a feel-good thing especially with families coming down to have some Christmas cheer but that’s not even available, it’s sad,” Mr Succi said.



# SHOWING FROM BOXING DAY AT CINEMA NOVA

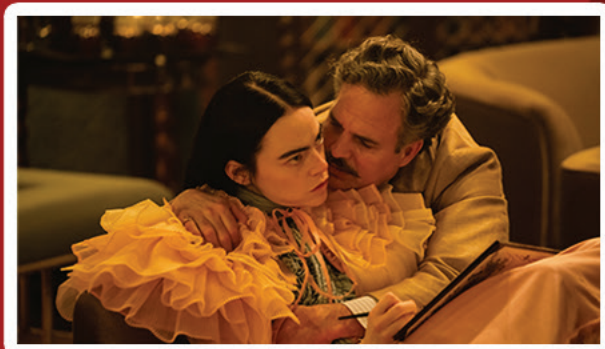
COUP DE CHANCE (PG)



ONE LIFE (PG)



POOR THINGS (CTC)



TWO TICKETS TO GREECE (M)



**NOVA**  
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# Para-athlete inspires University High students



Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) para-triathlete Liam Twomey visited University High School on November 24 as part of the institute's "Be Fit Be Well" program.



WORDS BY *Afraa Kori*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Marcela Lehocka*  
EDUCATION

The initiative provides an opportunity for those striving for success in sport and life, to develop new or improve on their current skills, while connecting with friends, teachers and pro athletes.

VIS community engagement coordinator Amy McMahon said the program had long-lasting healthy lifestyle and career benefits.

"The program helps to promote physical activity and its links to wellbeing and features interactive and inspirational presentations with elite athletes from the Victorian Institute of Sport," she said

"Key topics are tailored for specific school year levels and include motivation, resilience, goal-setting, coping with pressure, health and nutrition."

A VIS presenter who is aiming to compete at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, Mr Twomey said young people could expect to find valuable strategies through the program.

"I think an athlete's coping skills or strategies are really beneficial to anyone in any way," he said.

"I present Be Fit Be Well as a way for students to learn about sport and life as an athlete and how they can implement strategies that athletes use to perform in sport in both school, life, work, home or whatever it is that they choose."

Mr Twomey has also connected with young people, as an ambassador for Black Dog Institute, The START Foundation and the Challenge Cancer Support Network.

"One of my strengths is my ability to be very open and honest and vulnerable with complete strangers. My teenage years were filled with more dramas than most, especially my schooling," he said.

"I wasn't the best student by any stretch and being able to come back and share my story about not having to be the best student to be successful in life, have success personally, is something I really benefit from. If I can get one student engaged in the presentation, then it's a win for me."

He added that he believed developing a positive attitude was one of the most vital skills in building a fulfilling life after experiencing and surviving cancer.

"I change my perspective to look at the fact that being alive is a big win and probably there have been many days of frustration where I wish it wasn't me."

"But I realised because I lost my leg, I actually have this amazing opportunity to do the sport I love, I get to travel the world and speak to schools. I am only lucky to do what I do but it's only due to something negative that happened in my life."



"So, I think perspective and motivation for me is more about realising I have every opportunity and having cancer hasn't changed either. It probably upgraded that for me."

The head of sport at University High School, Jack Brook, told *Inner City News* the program was unique in that it was inclusive.

"It's not like you have to be selected to compete, every student here gets the opportunity to compete," Mr Brook said.

"I think a lot of other schools select teams and send out one or two teams, whereas here there's an opportunity for everyone to try and compete. There might be some teams that are a bit more competitive than others, but participation and engagement is something for our school and not many schools around here do that."

However, Mr Brook has recognised University High is getting extremely crowded which presented the only downfall for the program.

"We are sending out a lot of teams so there might be some students that are still getting a lot of opportunities to go out on sports but with so many teams they might not be with some of their friends. They might end up playing with people they don't know, which again it's good to make some new relationships," he said.

"But with the program itself over the last few years I've set it up to run pretty strong and I think most of the students are pretty happy with the way the program has been running."

Over the past 30 years, the VIS program has encouraged primary and secondary school students to stay active and lead a healthy lifestyle.

The Be Fit Be Well program is free for government schools, with funding from School Sport Victoria (SSV), while non-government schools can participate for a fee. ●



# Calls renewed to address anti-social behaviour at emergency accommodation in East Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

East Melbourne residents say concerns of anti-social behaviour at an emergency accommodation site have been going on for "too long", and they have called on authorities to address the issue.

Their renewed call for action comes after Victoria Police responded to an incident during which a man barricaded himself inside a building on Albert St about 10.40am on November 21.

Police said responding officers negotiated with the man who at times was on the outside of the building on top of an air-conditioning unit on the first-floor roof.

"After several hours of negotiations, the man surrendered into police custody," a police spokesperson said.

Sources who spoke to *Inner City News* said the incident occurred within the location of the Comfort Inn Hotel and City Edge Apartments at 90 and 92 Albert St, which are used as emergency accommodation sites by specialist homelessness agencies.

Residents have previously spoken of concerns over drug activity, graffiti, and rubbish being sighted within the buildings, which prompted one resident at a City of Melbourne meeting last year to say authorities "need to step up".

In response, the City of Melbourne installed a CCTV camera in a "very specific location" as a trial under its Safe City camera program following community feedback in "relation to issues raised either directly to council or via Victoria Police".

However, the recent incident has further fuelled anxieties of the community, with the East Melbourne Group (EMG) saying it continued to work with stakeholders to ensure the

best outcome for everyone.

"We are aware of the complexities of the issues facing some of the guests, however we also express our disappointment that this matter has been going on too long," EMG president Greg Bisinella said.

"Our residents are experiencing fear, loss of sleep, theft and property damage as a result of the anti-social behaviour of guests of this facility. Action needs to be taken to support the at-risk guests through better wrap around services or they are found more appropriate accommodation."

According to one source, the man in question involved in the police incident is understood to have recently been discharged from jail with his allocated accommodation having expired.

Police said the 43-year-old man of no fixed address was later released to appear at the Heidelberg Magistrates' Court at a later date on unrelated matters.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) said it did not have direct arrangements with private hotels such as the City Edge Apartments and Comfort Hotel in East Melbourne.

However, when matters of concern are raised with the department, agencies supporting people in accommodation are notified, DFFH said, adding all criminal matters are to be reported to Victoria Police.

The department stated it funded specialist homelessness agencies that assist people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness to access emergency accommodation including hotels, motels, and other short-term options.

It said providers were to ensure housing was safe and fit-for-purpose, noting Homes Victoria did not have a direct relationship with hotel accommodation providers and did not have regulatory powers over those private businesses. ●

INNER CITY NEWS

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# Landmark heritage review delivered for Parkville after four-decade hiatus

*Continued from page 1.*

to prepare and exhibit the Parkville Heritage Review Planning Scheme Amendment.

Such an amendment would also see four new precincts created including South Parkville, The Avenue, West Parkville, and St Georges “to reflect distinctive periods of development and significance”, while recognising large areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity reflective of the historic and cultural associations of the area.

The heritage status of 190 properties has also been changed, the majority of which are being upgraded.

A major recommendation being sought is for Heritage Victoria to list the International House complex at 197-259 Royal Parade, and the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) building at 39-79 Poplar Rd under the Victorian Heritage Register after the review found both sites “as having potential state significance”.

International House, set among 1.5 hectares of gardens, opened in 1957 and is the second largest residential college of the University of Melbourne, accommodating 350 students. It was built after WWII when the Australian government invited university students from countries in South and South-east Asia to study in Australia, with Rotary as a major supporter.

In another win for the Parkville community, the Harcourt building at 35-39 Royal Parade, which residents have fought to save after losing a state planning tribunal fight, has been assessed as a “significant place” with “high historical merit”.

The 1920s-built building was used as a boarding house, and more recently was occupied by Trinity College. The council knocked back an application by Sinclair Dermatology to turn the building into a medical centre, but the decision was overturned at a VCAT hearing this year.

According to the council, interim heritage protection is proposed through the amendment to protect identified properties, including buildings or streetscapes.

The Parkville Association’s president Rob Moore expressed his enthusiasm for the review, saying “given the timelines it seems like an eternity however the significance for Parkville is incredible”.



▲ Rob Moore at St Carthage’s Church. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

“To Suellen Hunter and Ros Rymer from the council who I worked very closely with, they were incredible. Their passion and support of our small part of Melbourne was first class. To recognise the importance of intra-war buildings was very important given most are now around 100 years old,” he said.

The council’s heritage portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert described the review as a “beautiful piece of work” with the “environmental histories and the thematic histories that have been written about the history of how Parkville came to be are fascinating”.

“It is important that as a responsible level of government, council is ensuring that the way that local heritage is measured and represented in our planning scheme is contemporary and that makes sure that we’re reflecting the values that are held dear by the community,” he said.

“I encourage the Minister to sign off on those interim heritage controls quickly and we can get cracking with the permanent heritage controls as well; exhibit this massive but really wonderful piece of work, this planning scheme amendment, and I encourage everyone to make a submission and have their say.” ●



## A Carlton Christmas spectacular

### EVENTS

Christmas fever is taking over Carlton with live music along Lygon St, a Christmas Roller Rink, performances at La Mama, a Hot Rod Social Toy Run for the Salvation Army, free local gift cards, and more.

The line-up of events and activations is brought to locals thanks to Carlton business association, Carlton Inc.

First up is Bella Ciao bringing sounds from the Italian Peninsula with their three-piece band taking over Lygon St every weekend from Friday, December 1 to Saturday, December 23.

Next on the bill is a La Mama take-over of the Piazza Italia (Argyle Square) from December 1 to 16. Bring the kids for a family friendly

program featuring performances and live music every Friday and Saturday from 2pm to 8pm.

In the festive spirit of giving, the Hot Rod Social will host their annual Lygon St Toy Run supporting the Salvation Army on Sunday, December 3 from 7am to 10am.

All toys, clothing, food, and cash donations will be collected for children and families in need this Christmas.

Finally, continuing the spirit of generosity, Carlton Inc. will be giving away free gift cards to spend at Carlton businesses. ●

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



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# The good, bad, and delayed: Council releases “honest account” of how key projects are tracking



*The City of Melbourne has released an appraisal on where it's falling behind, and what it's doing well.*



WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has conceded key projects like Greenline and the Queen Victoria Market renewal were behind schedule as part of an “honest account” of key initiatives.

The appraisal, as part of the council's annual report released in late October, featured concessions it had not met some goals set out for the 2022-23 financial year.

Other indicators within the municipality were positive, in particular, slashing the number of shopfront vacancies, which had become a feature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the council acknowledged that key milestones for big-investment projects had not been met.

As part of a warts-and-all report of happenings throughout the municipality, the City's two key projects in Greenline and the QVM precinct renewal were marked as “behind schedule at 30 June 2023”.

A pledge to establish a funding plan for Greenline – crucial for the full project going ahead – and beginning stage one works at Birrarung Marr were not met.

Sibling publication *CBD News* revealed in September however that works on site one (at Birrarung Marr) would begin in April 2024.

Key 2022-23 milestones for the Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal (the council's largest ever investment) such as completing the sheds' restoration and the Food Hall, and starting works on the new Trader Shed, weren't met either.

However, the latter two weren't far behind schedule; the Food Hall was set to open in November and works began on the seven-storey Trader Shed in October.

Some delays, the council said, were out of its hands.

“There's no doubt supply chain issues, experienced by others in our economy, have affected our capital works,” City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton noted in the report.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the report was designed to identify where the council had “fallen short”, and to “hold ourselves to account”.



▲ *Renewal of Queen Victoria Market and Greenline (right) are among projects identified by the council as being behind schedule in its latest Annual Report.*

He argued they had even gone further than required.

“We've been fully up-front about activities that have been delayed or deferred and where we're behind or ahead of schedule,” Cr Reece said at the October 31 council meeting.

“This report goes way above and beyond what's required under our statutory reporting obligations. Way beyond.”

Long-time Greens Cr Rohan Leppert said the reporting was “best in the [local government] sector”.

“This sets the standard now,” he said.

“This is a level of disclosure on not just how each major initiative is being progressed over the course of the financial year but each individual activity beneath that, and it's an honest account as to whether we've been able to complete those activities or not.”

The council said one of its successes in 2022-23 was around retail recovery.

In the two years to June 2023, it had more than halved the number of empty retail spaces, from over 31 per cent to 14.4 per cent.

The “Shopfront Activation program”, which concluded in March, transformed 67 vacant shops into new retail spaces and enterprises in the CBD, Lygon St and Docklands.

Its business concierge team provided 14,081 businesses with support and mentoring.

The council's city activation chair Cr Roshena Campbell said the program was “the most tangible example” of the city's economic recovery.

“Anyone who walked the streets of Melbourne after COVID, towards the end of 2021, the fact that more than 30 per cent of our shops were vacant was one of the most stark realities about the impact of the pandemic on our city,” Cr Campbell said.

“The fact that we have halved that rate, that we are now down to 14.4 per cent, says a lot about how strong our city is, about the green shoots and the fact that we're coming back. But it didn't happen on its own.”



She said there was still a way to go. “The reality is 14.4 per cent isn't good enough, we know that we've still got to go further, but it does say that we have come very far along this journey and anyone walking our streets today can see the difference.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while they were formally required to release an annual report each year, this year's went above the minimum requirements and urged locals to read it online.

“Really what is the point of this document if it's not a document that welcomes and encourages people to read it, and to gather that information and to hold us accountable and to be involved in that measurement of our progress,” Cr Capp said.

“We can also see from the Annual Report that nothing is ever really over, really. And it does really set us up for the ongoing work at council.”

## Major projects behind schedule

- Greenline
- Queen Victoria Market precinct renewal
- Munro library and community hub
- Increase of public open space
- City Road Master Plan
- Increase/upgrade women's sport facilities

## Major initiatives on track

- Power Melbourne
- Homes Melbourne
- New neighbourhood model
- Public art program
- Heritage reviews/new planning scheme amendments
- Delivery of new design panel/committees
- Rapid response cleaning team

## What's going well?

- Gross local product: \$114 billion (up from \$107.4 billion in 2021-22)
- Number of jobs: 480,600 (up from 465,600)
- Number of visitors: 12.4 million (up from 6.3 million)
- Vacancy rate of retail premises: 14.4 per cent (down from 19 per cent)
- Number of start-ups in the municipality: 1251 (up from 1180)

## What's not?

- Municipal greenhouse gas emissions: 4.55 million CO2e (up from 4.23 million CO2e)
- Number of businesses in the municipality: 13,829 (down from 14,513)
- Proportion of dwellings within 300m of public open space: 94.7 per cent (down from 96.3 per cent)
- Proportion of people reporting food insecurity (no change)



## Other positives:

- Average score out of 100 for resident wellbeing: 73 (up from 72 in 2021-22)
- Proportion of people who regularly visit a park in the municipality: 88 per cent (up from 85 per cent)
- Proportion of people who participated in arts and cultural activities in the municipality: 24 per cent (up from 19 per cent)

## Other negatives:

- Number of people supported through a range of accommodation: 91 (down from 118)
- Number of trees planted in the municipality: 2554 (down from 3041)
- Melburnians' self-reported sense of belonging to community: 63.1 per cent (down from 64.8 per cent)
- Number of people sleeping rough who have not been offered accommodation: 73 (up from 38)



*David Schout*  
JOURNALIST  
DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



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# Local groups recognised in the Melbourne Awards

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*  
LOCAL NEWS

A Carlton-based sexual health centre and a family violence memorial in East Melbourne were among the winners at this year's Melbourne Awards on November 11.

The annual ceremony, which awards the coveted Melburnian of the Year honour, and, for the first time this year, the Young Melburnian of the Year, identifies eight key areas that are central to helping Melbourne thrive, including:

- Aboriginal Melbourne (ganbu guljin)
- Access and Inclusion
- City Design
- Arts and Events
- Community
- Knowledge and Innovation
- LGBTIQ+
- Sustainability

Located on Swanston St, the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) took home the LGBTIQ+ award for their work in improving people's sexual health in a safe, and non-judgmental space.

The centre provides world-class clinical services such as STI testing, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as responding to LGBTIQ+ issues in the community and working with individuals to improve wellbeing and quality of life.



A statement from MSHC read: "Our LGBTIQ+ community still faces numerous challenges, including stigma, human rights issues, and discrimination, but this award highlights that we need to work together and support each other to strive for the optimal wellbeing for our LGBTIQ+ community."

The City Design award was presented to the Victorian Family Violence Memorial located on the corner of St Andrews Place and Lansdowne St in East Melbourne, honouring the victims and survivors of family violence.

The landscaped garden features purple flowers that bloom year-round, the colour symbolising the global movement to end family violence, and a pathway that leads to an English Elm tree, representing the passing of time and renewal.

A statement from MUIR Architecture and OPENWORK landscape architects, who collaborated on the project, read: "Our team is grateful for this recognition and we'd very much like to thank the many people who have contributed to the project's design and delivery."

The Victorian Cancer Biobank (VCB) in East Melbourne was also among the finalists for the Knowledge and Innovation award, a program that aims to improve clinical outcomes for people with cancer by collecting and distributing tissue samples for cancer research.

"We are very excited about being a finalist for the Melbourne Awards – the recognition as an unsung hero for Melbourne community is very appreciated as it describes well on our contributions as backbone of critical scientific research,"



VCB general manager, Dr Wayne Ng told *Inner City News*.

The Melbourne Awards also recognised Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM as the Melburnian of the Year for his work in developing the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Australia's largest independent refugee organisation.

Additionally, the Young Melburnian of the Year was awarded to Georgie Stone OAM for the first time since the category was introduced this year, celebrating her advocacy for trans and gender diverse children and youth. ●

## For more information:

[mshc.org.au](http://mshc.org.au)

[vic.gov.au/family-violence-memorial](http://vic.gov.au/family-violence-memorial)

[viccancerbiobank.org.au](http://viccancerbiobank.org.au)

## Festive picnic brings East Melbourne community together

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Hanna Komissarova*  
EVENTS

East Melbourne residents gathered for a festive day of fun on November 25 with musicians and, of course, Santa arriving on a fire truck bringing joy to the crowd.

The annual picnic tradition, held at the historic Bishops court garden, featured musicians, market stalls offering an array of delicious treats and crafts, children's face painting, Christmas carols and singalongs and more.

The day was organised by the East Melbourne Group, which also celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Attendees, who rolled out picnic rugs under sunny skies, said the gathering was highly successful, creating a vibrant community atmosphere and an opportunity to come together. ●



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# CITY SET TO 'SLEIGH'

# THIS CHRISTMAS



Enjoy free festivities as part of the City of Melbourne's Christmas Festival



Christmas is the most magical time of the year and the city is the place to discover all the fun and festivities.

And the best part – most of the fun is free.

It's because we want everyone to be able to have an affordable day out in the city and enjoy the Christmas activities on offer.

This year's Christmas Festival is set to be our best yet with a spectacular new laser show on the Yarra River – Birrarung and a brand-new home for Santa's Workshop in Howey Place, transforming the laneway into

a Christmas wonderland perfect for a jolly good photo moment.

The inaugural Christmas River Show will illuminate Southbank each night of the Christmas Festival - dazzling Melburnians with water fountains, lasers, lights and projections to a soundtrack of festive favourites.

An array of Christmas decorations will also adorn the city, including showstopping projections, laneway theming, giant presents, and nutcrackers.

And if that's not enough, wrap up your Christmas list at the city's iconic strips, malls and arcades. Shop little laneways and markets to find the perfect present for everyone in your life.

Catch up with loved ones in the city this Christmas to feast under festive lights or celebrate the sparkle season from rooftops.

Highlights of the festival include:

- Mesmerising Christmas projections – illuminating Melbourne Town Hall and State Library Victoria.

- A pop-up Christmas-themed roller rink – keeping the free festive fun rolling into Carlton's Argyle Square. Entry is free, with optional \$10 skate hire.

- The new-look Christmas Cinema – screening iconic festive films at the stunning Capitol Theatre.

- A festival maze in Docklands – inviting Melburnians to win their way through a full-sized labyrinth of giant presents and interactive games.

- Festive thrills and classic carnival treats – as the Christmas Carnival returns to the banks of the Yarra.

- The Listies Ruin Xmas – the acclaimed comedic duo returns to put the slay into sleighbells with an uproarious take on the holiday pantomime.

- The return of the Christmas Quest and Treasure Hunt – the ultimate Christmas-themed scavenger hunts with plenty of prizes to be won.

All attractions are free, except the Listies Ruin Christmas and the

Christmas Cinema. Proceeds from these events will go to the Good Giving appeal for Make Room – a City of Melbourne project creating new pathways out of homelessness.

The Christmas Festival is supported by major partners including the Victorian Government, Fed Square and World Vision.

For more information, visit [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au) and search for Christmas.



Our Make Room project will provide supported accommodation and pathways to long-term housing for rough sleepers. We thank people like Helen Matthews, pictured with Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who has experienced the hardships of homelessness, for helping us deliver this important service.

## PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

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

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

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing.

That's why the City of Melbourne is working to reduce homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

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

The Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services and other wraparound support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they can find long-term secure housing.

The design and service model have been informed through people with lived experience and support the needs of residents from different backgrounds. It will offer care and support services, with specialist health, housing and support staff located on-site.

### HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP

This is a project that will change people's lives. By giving to Make Room, you are helping to give our most vulnerable community members a safe and secure roof over their head.

Donate at [lmcf.org.au/makeroom](http://lmcf.org.au/makeroom)

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Your City of Melbourne community update

# SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Melbourne is rolling out the sparkling red carpet for a New Year's Eve celebration like no other.



Get ready to don your sequins and glitter as the city sparkles for the annual New Year's Eve spectacular.

The City of Melbourne will host a massive city-wide midnight celebration with a special 'all that sparkles' theme.

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

For the first time, Melbourne's iconic buildings and streets will be drenched in sparkles for the occasion - with trees across the city lit up, glittery projections across Town Hall and the State Library, late-night busking performances

and free sparkly New Year's Eve hats available at Celebration Zones.

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

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks and laser extravaganza that will light up the city across 27 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
2. Head to our family-friendly Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and a 9.30pm localised fireworks display.
3. Revellers can also savor the celebrations at renowned city

hospitality venues, with special events taking place at Arbory Bar & Eatery, Afloat, HER, Marvel Stadium, Blossom Rooftop and many more.

4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by the Heaps Good live music festival.

Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.

With half a million people expected to attend, safety remains our number

one priority. A detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and emergency service providers.

Plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues or attend a Celebration Zone, as large crowds are expected to close a number of roads.

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

For more information, visit [nye.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://nye.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## Keep your cool this summer

Melburnians are urged to prepare for a hot and dry El Nino summer and reminded of the dangers posed by heatwaves in our city.

By 2050, Melbourne will experience an average of 16 days a year over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is working to reduce the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is that Melbourne provides places of respite for residents,

workers and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

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

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

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

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



## ANNUAL REPORT OUT NOW

Find out how the City of Melbourne supported the city and the community in the 2022-23 Annual Report, available to read online now at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/annualreport](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/annualreport)

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# There's no place like Rome

*Celebrating all things Italian, the annual Melbourne Italian Festa returned to Carlton on November 26, relocating from Argyle Square to the Royal Exhibition Building and the Museum Plaza in an exciting event transformation.*

EVENTS

From pizza, cannoli and gelato to Italian wine and cocktails, the one-day-only festival was a true salute to some of Melbourne's best Italian offerings.

Across indoor and outdoor stages, the program featured a variety of live entertainment, providing the community with an opportunity to learn more about Italian culture and history, as well as creating a space for Italian-Melburnians to enjoy their own slice of Italy in Australia.

The festival also included Melbourne's own Mercatino S.Lucia, an Italian Christmas market ahead of the festive season.

The first Melbourne Italian Festa was held in 1978 to celebrate the growing Italian community in Lygon St and has since become one of the most highly anticipated events among locals. ●



EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

## Reflections of 2023

WORDS BY *Greg Bisinella*  
PRESIDENT - EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

A smile ... knowing collectively the East Melbourne Group (EMG) has achieved so much for the East Melbourne community.

Bringing members together with a myriad of events; trivia night, community safety forum, sausage sizzle, gala dinner, and a community picnic in the beautiful gardens of Bishopscourt last Saturday.

Seeing the construction of the exercise equipment in Powlett Reserve and knowing we played a pivotal role in this initiative. Enjoying access to some of the most beautiful gardens, right on our doorsteps, and knowing we have a dedicated team working to keep an eye on them.

Co-operation with the other community groups – East Melbourne Historical Society and East Melbourne Neighbour Network.

A genuine sense of hope that our 10-year battle to mitigate aircraft noise in our suburb is getting some real traction.

Some ongoing frustrations – having to fight inappropriate development applications has continued to consume much time and resources. Thankfully, we have had some success, tempering the excesses at the former Magnolia Court Hotel site in Powlett St and defeating the proposal at 96 Wellington Parade.

Disappointingly we are going to head back to VCAT for a second time, to again fight another oversized proposal at 204-208 Albert St. And, speaking of Albert St, the accommodating of vulnerable people in residential hotels without appropriate wraparound services has continued to see a stream of police attendances at these venues and contributed to safety concerns of residents.

Thanks to the EMG committee, convenors, members, volunteers for all the time you have dedicated to the community this year.

And, still more to come with a free community sausage sizzle at the East Melbourne Library on Saturday, December 2 at 11am.

May 2024 be one filled with much happiness, good health and good cheer for all our fellow residents, businesses and visitors to Melbourne's most liveable suburb. ●



## Blue Jean

*Blue Jean is powerful directorial debut from creator Georgie Oakley supported by the emotional range of lead Rosy McEwan.*

WORDS BY *Ruby Lowenstein*

Set in 1988 Britain, the film follows Jean, a lesbian high school teacher whose life is thrown into anxiety after the enactment of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's notorious Section 28 which prohibited the promotion of homosexuality.

The resultant job insecurity places palpable pressure on Jean to maintain a mask in her work life to the detriment of her personal relationships and values.

While the film brims with accolades worthy of recognition, its most noteworthy strength is arguably its balance. In both direction and character development, *Blue Jean* walks a tightrope with poignant delicacy.

Oakley manages to honestly embody the repressive social climate propagated by Section 28, without descending into melancholy. Our protagonist is not a shining ideal of nonconformity, but a real and flawed woman struggling



under the burdens of discrimination and inter-generational trauma.

Yet despite this unvarnished exploration, the film's gaze manages to be confronting without



descending into pessimism. We are exposed to sadness and failure but also community and forgiveness.

In this way, while it is not as obvious a rebuke of the "bury your gays" literary trope – evident in other contemporary creations like *Heartstopper* (2022), *Red White & Royal Blue* (2023) and *Bros* (2022) – the film concludes with hope.

The narrative's emotional landscape is keenly felt without being heavy handed. Its visual direction, at every turn, is beautiful and symbolically rich.

In carefully chosen moments, Oakley commendably eschews dramatic literalism in favour of an emotional realism that delivers a searing insight into characters interiors. The film's blue colour palette unifies the narrative without falling prey to artificiality.

While in moments, this aesthetic choice is suggestive of Jean's inner sadness it also hints at liberation – the euphoria inducing flashing blue lights in the club, the limitless stretch of the ocean and soaring blue skies all belie a burgeoning freedom and embracing of open spaces that foretell a brighter future.

Ultimately, the film favours the subtle victories of the inner life rather than embarking upon a quest to wrap up its narrative with a neat rainbow ribbon. As the phrase goes, "The horrors persist, but so do I".

Jean will continue to live in a flawed society but her capacity to navigate such a world with courage and compassion has grown. The outer world will not destroy the sanctity of the inner life and as such, the victory is complete.

Sessions now showing – check Nova's website for upcoming times/individual session times. ●

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

MELBOURNE ZOO



## Get a whiff of this! Popcorn-scented duo arrive at the zoo

Two elusive creatures are buttering up visitors to Melbourne Zoo with their unique scent and shaggy style.

Binturongs Bhalu and Tugu are a sight to behold with their cat-like faces, bear paws, prehensile tails and – a natural scent that smells just like freshly buttered popcorn!

Melbourne Zoo's carnivores and ungulates life sciences manager Laura Weiner (pronounced: wine-er) said lucky visitors will be able to see and smell the two male Binturong as they explore their new habitat.

"Binturong are nocturnal so if you come to our after-dark experience – Roar n' Snore – you'll be able to see 10-year-old Bhalu and 9-year-old Tugu climbing the trees, gripping onto branches with their tail and foraging for food," Ms Weiner said.

"During the day they may be sleeping but you'll still be able to smell that butter popcorn scent that comes from glands underneath their tail used to mark their territory."

Often called "bearcats" due to their appearance, Binturong eat a varied diet of fruits, insects, small mammals, and fish.

Although shy, they are a vocal species and make a chuckling or purring sound when they are happy and a high-pitched wail or hiss when they are challenged.

"Binturong are excellent climbers due to their hind legs which can rotate backwards and a prehensile tail which they can hang from," Ms Weiner said. ●

# Pet's Corner



Welcome to the latest *Pet's Corner* by Pups of Carlton!



*In this regular segment we feature local pets to promote our pet-friendly community, and offer local tips.*



PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Marcela Lehocka*

Kevin, the Mini Schnauzer and Maple the Groodle from @pupsofcarlton couldn't be happier living in Carlton. Both pups are best friends and mischief makers.

We started the Instagram account @pupsofcarlton recently to share their local adventures, mischief and support local businesses, with a spotlight on pup-friendly adventure.

Below are our top five pup-friendly cafes in Carlton, for you and your pooch:

- **Good Measure (and Counter Measure bar):** We love the Japanese-themed ambience of this café. Good Measure recently revamped their courtyard to allow your pooch. Enter via the side lane, the courtyard has a house-like feel, relaxed vibe with a Japanese maple tree as a courtyard feature. A must-try is their signature drink, the Mont Blanc. They also make a fab Matcha latte.
- **Shooter McGavins:** We can't walk past this café without the pups making a beeline to the counter for barista pats. Kevin and



Maple are grateful they offer puppuccinos on their menu, and are now seasoned Melburnian coffee drinkers.

- **Parco:** We love this New York outdoor inspired café located next to Argyle Square. The kitchen, housed in an 1800s cottage, is the place to go for your morning egg-and-bacon bun. Pups particularly love facing the park and watching the world go by
- **Fenton Farmhouse:** We love the Fenton community ethos and farm-to-table menu. A must-try is their farmhouse breakfast and tahini brownie. Pups look forward to accepting pats from the joggers from the Tanaka running group, post their morning run.



- **Snack Monster:** A recent discovery located at the back of Jimmy Watson's, this has to be a true hidden gem. The logo is designed after the owner's pup, but we think the name embodies Kevin and Maple. Head down for a glass of vino and tapas inside or better still, on their rooftop on a warm summer's night

Have we missed any pup-friendly local cafes? Please share them with us @pupsofcarlton - Michelle & Sean.

Want to feature in the next edition of *Pet's Corner*? Email [admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au)



Inner City Local

## Carlton's infamous median strip trio

*With an IPA in one hand and a pack of cards in the other, it's easy to see why the Carlton median strip is Besha and Ryan's "favourite bar in Melbourne".*

WORDS BY *Georgie Atkins*

Originally from the city, Besha lived in the States for more than 26 years where she met her North Carolina husband, Ryan, and had their son, Felix.

Having lived in Carlton ever since moving back to Melbourne six years ago, Besha now works as a restaurant critic for *The Age*, while Ryan runs the kitchen at St Mary's House of Welcome, a homeless charity in Fitzroy.

On any given day, the iconic median strip is sprawling with families, picnic-goers, and anyone wanting to soak up the sunshine, but it's Besha and Ryan's smaller, colourful companion that has caught the attention of locals.

"Felix turned 14 the week that we got here, and it was a really hard transition for him, so he decided that he needed a bird and that would help him to not feel so lonely," Besha said.

The family's beloved Chobi is a green-cheeked conure parrot with a hilariously infectious personality, often spotted taking in the Carlton surrounds from his cage out on the strip.

"He [Felix] put together a PowerPoint presentation on types of birds we should have, and pictures of our cats playing with the bird - I think we both really felt for him at that point in time and wanted to do something that would cheer him up."

While best friends for many years, Felix and Chobi unfortunately had a "falling out" over Felix getting into relationship, as parrots tend to get "very jealous and attached their owners".



Although Felix has since moved out of home, Chobi is happily living with Besha and Ryan where he is able to fly freely around the house, often choosing to perch on their shoulders for a "snuggle".

When they aren't at home or work, you'll likely find the husband-and-wife-duo in their camping chairs under the trees, with Chobi by their side.

"We come out a few days a week and we play cards out here, Chobi likes to come with us and eat cloves of flowers and talk to the dogs that pass by," Besha said.

"I'm very attached to the median strip, I love it so much."

Ryan describes living with Chobi as similar to "having a toddler", often throwing tantrums and mumbling "bad words" under his breath - despite the couple insisting that they only ever use "nice words" around the house.

"It's odd to have a pet you can actually talk to, he's very smart - he can roll over and play dead, and really do anything you ask as long as he gets a sunflower seed," Ryan said.

Even at the mention of his name, Chobi radiates confidence with a reassuring, "yeah".

"The little girls who live across the street love feeding him flowers and coming to talk to him, there's even a woman who bikes past that also has a green-cheeked conure and likes to come and tell us stories of what he's doing," Besha said.

With no plans to move from Carlton anytime in the near future, the trio is sure to be enjoying the strip for many years to come. ●

**Church of All Nations (Carlton Uniting Church)**  
 180 Palmerston St Carlton

**Christmas Services**

Sunday Dec 17 at 10.00am Intergenerational worship

Sunday Dec 24 at 10.00am Service of Lessons and Carols

Monday Dec 25 at 9.00am (note earlier time) Christmas Day

Come along and share in the Christmas spirit.  
 For more information - [minister@cancrlton.org.au](mailto:minister@cancrlton.org.au)

**A Home of One's Own**  
 SUMMER AT THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION  
 18 OCTOBER 2023 - 11 FEBRUARY 2024

**GUIDED TOURS | LECTURES | EVENTS**  
 Fairhall is an exhibition-house in East Melbourne with a superb collection of Georgian, Regency, and Louis XV antiques regularly rearranged and reimagined.

**BOOK ONLINE** [johnstoncollection.org](http://johnstoncollection.org)  
 (03) 9416 2515 | [hello@johnstoncollection.org](mailto:hello@johnstoncollection.org)

**TJC**

## BUSINESS

## Supporting women's health

“

*For many women, juggling busy lives, careers, parenting duties and competing priorities means their healthcare needs are slipping further and further down the “to do list”.*

”

No. 1 Women's Health has established a multi-disciplinary one-stop clinic for women's health and medical needs with on-site general practitioners, gynaecological management, fertility expertise, pregnancy, and antenatal care all under the one location.

Based in East Melbourne, No. 1 Women's Health compliments the important work of leading fertility clinic, No. 1 Fertility, run by fertility specialist Dr Lynn Burmeister, who has worked in obstetrics and fertility for more than 20 years.



In addition, No. 1 Women's Health has a specialist women's health and fertility dietician and offers holistic and alternative therapies including acupuncture and cupping therapy. “With the everyday demands of a career and a family, working women often don't prioritise

their health the way they should. The fast pace of life means they may be putting additional stress on their bodies and be at risk of physical and mental burnout, chronic disease, or mental ill health,” Dr Burmeister said.

“At No. 1 Women's Health, we have made it

easier for even the busiest of women to get the healthcare and support they need with multiple services.”

“We recognise that when it comes to healthcare, there are a number of women's health issues that are specific to females, so that is why we have established a dedicated service so women, particularly young women, feel comfortable and supported in accessing the care they need.”

From pregnancy and childbirth, to menstruation, women's related cancers and menopause, the expert team at No. 1 Women's Health can help. The service can also assist with routine procedures, including skin checks, breast checks, pap smears, sexual health advice, contraception, IUD insertion and removal, iron infusions and minor surgery.

As part of its dedicated service, No. 1 Women's Health offers complimentary nurse phone chats to provide initial advice about the best individualised treatment options available before patients are referred to a general practitioner.

No. 1 Women's Health is co-located at Level 1, 120 Jolimont Rd, East Melbourne, with its affiliated partner No. 1 Skin.

To book your appointment at No. 1 Women's Health, call (03) 9132 9644. ●

**For more information:**  
[number1womenshealth.com](http://number1womenshealth.com)

## Celebrate the festive season at Paper Republic

*As we near Christmas, and festive fever hits the world, there are few better shopping experiences than taking a walk down Bourke Street Mall.*

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*



It all starts with soaking in the Myer Christmas windows, a tradition for Melburnians dating back to the 1950s, then stepping back in time while walking down the magical Royal Arcade.

Decorations hang from the arcade's ceiling, shopfronts are filled with festive cheer and an enormous Christmas tree greets you as you enter this 150-year-old piece of Melbourne's history.

“It's an experience more than just a place to shop, the Royal Arcade in Christmas is a truly wonderful place to be,” said Courtney Oehms from iconic fine stationery and boutique gift store, Paper Republic.

Paper Republic sources high-quality artisan creations from around the globe, accompanied by a strong focus on Australian designed and manufactured products.

According to Ms Oehms, the excitement that is beginning to build, not just in store or the arcade, but throughout Melbourne, is something to behold.

“The experience of walking down Bourke St and into the arcade, seeing the decorations and the buzz you can feel around Christmas, we've brought that feeling in store and celebrated it,” she said. “It's an overwhelming time for shopping, especially in the city, there is so much you don't know where to start. When you walk into our store, you'll find well-made and thoughtful gifts, hand wrapped ... it's a special experience that matches our special location.”

“With our range of gifts there is truly something for everyone. You can get someone something as simple as the perfect soap, or a beautiful journal set. No matter the price point or intention, you will find something whoever

you're shopping for.”

Paper Republic specialises in hand-crafted, bespoke diaries and calendars, stocking brands like Cavallini & Co., Blue Island Press and Paper Blanks, and for this festive season, they are offering free gift wrapping for all in store or online purchases.

“I love the internationality of Christmas in Australia. Whether you have friends or family interstate, or the other side of the city, or even the other side of the world, the appreciation for every type of Christmas in Australia is wonderful,” Ms Oehms said.

“We cater to whatever Christmas means to someone. It's a personal thing, especially in a country like ours that is so diverse and so multicultural, not everyone has the same definition of Christmas. It's so important to appreciate and celebrate that ... we bring it together really well. It's a celebration of what brings joy to people.”

To complement its instore experience, Paper Republic has just launched a new and improved website which will give these products the best spotlight possible for those people that might not be able to visit instore.

The New Year will see plenty of new products on the shelves, expanding on their Australian made range, while importing some of the best products from across the globe like Italian leather journals, stationery, and cards. ●

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

## The latest from The Johnston Collection

*Acclaimed East Melbourne exhibition-house The Johnston Collection warmly welcomes Dr Louise Voll Box as CEO and introduces a new exhibition A Home of One's Own.*



The Johnston Collection (TJC) is a hidden gem in the leafy surrounds of East Melbourne. TJC features an astonishing array of fine and decorative arts from the 1600s to the 1900s and was a gift to the people of Victoria from antique dealer and East Melbourne real estate investor, William R. Johnston (1911-1986). Johnston's premises, Kent Antiques in Armadale, set the tone for British-inspired interiors in Melbourne.

Current TJC exhibition, *A Home of One's Own*, at historic townhouse, *Fairhall*, brings together objects, collections, and design inspirations that have developed over many years, but continue to resonate today. Visitors will discover antiques and much-loved decorative pieces that draw on iconic designs of the past, combined to create an inviting, intimate, and timeless expression of “home”.

This special rearrangement is inspired by a 2008 exhibition at TJC curated by renowned Melbourne-based interior designer, Robert Thomson, formerly director at design firm Riddell Marly. During the past 10 years of his life, William Johnston entrusted Robert to undertake special projects at *Fairhall*, and Robert is now a valued ambassador of TJC.

TJC recently welcomed a new CEO, Dr Louise Voll Box, who was appointed in July 2023.

Louise's background encompasses business and the arts, and her experiences in strategic planning, leadership and arts education bode well for the future of the museum.

“It is an honour and privilege to lead the next exciting chapter in the evolution of TJC in partnership with such a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and supporters,” Dr Voll Box said.

“I'd particularly like to thank the East Melbourne community for their warm welcome, and I look forward to welcoming local residents as they re-discover inspiring art and experiences at TJC.”

Visiting TJC is an intimate experience. Visitors enjoy a guided tour of the historic townhouse and collection led by knowledgeable volunteer guides, and view beautiful objects arranged in a domestic setting without ropes or labels.

As *Fairhall* is located in a residential area, TJC's address cannot be published, but that only adds to the mystery!

Visitors are welcomed at Pullman Melbourne on the Park and arrive at the museum via a courtesy bus – only a five-minute journey.

*A Home of One's Own* is open until February 11, 2024. The Johnston Collection is open Wednesday to Sunday for pre-booked tours. ●

**For more information:**  
[johnstoncollection.org](http://johnstoncollection.org) or call  
(03) 9416 2515

# Heritage review presented

*I recently attended the City of Melbourne's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting where the heritage review for Parkville was tabled and adopted by councillors.*

For those interested the review can be found on the City of Melbourne website. It gives greater heritage protection for several key buildings and looks at Parkville in four different areas. South Parkville, where the majority of homes built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century has stronger protection with several new properties given greater heritage status.

The main thrust is that intra-war buildings are now given heritage protection. Given we are now about to be in 2024 many intra-war buildings are more than 100 years old and

significant to Melbourne's history.

Ironically, 35-39 Royal Parade, where based on Ray Osborne's excellent work we presented the building as "significant", the review stated the following:

"Assessed as a Significant place within [street-scape] part of a well-preserved group, shows some signs of alterations. Of some architectural interest. Typology previously unassessed. Unusual place type in precinct - high historical merit from a similar period or style. Of social value to the precinct."

Many thanks to the two leads, Ros Rymer and Suellen Hunter, from the council on the project. Sadly the review is not retrospective, however, it justifies the passion Ray showed for the project!

During the month Rob Krelle and I had a couple of meetings with the council department responsible for traffic. Our key discussion points were "rat running", volumes of traffic, safety, and parking.

The council does not treat closures as the

answer but is more about making traffic move slower through the flat speed humps and pedestrian crossings. All these measures would ensure traffic cannot speed, yet they would not get rid of the volumes we encounter.

For those who were at our annual general meeting (AGM) in March 2020 pre-COVID (just) the Lord Mayor canvassed a 30kph speed limit which would ensure our children and grandchildren would be safer playing on our streets. We will be canvassing members on this shortly and also Parkville residents overall.

At our AGM everyone in attendance gave support to the idea. While yet to be implemented outside the CBD this can be done and particularly in South Parkville and around the Avenue it would make life safer.

I would like to know the views of residents so if you can please email me at [parkvilleassociation@gmail.com](mailto:parkvilleassociation@gmail.com)

As I write this column the super stop for trams is being constructed on Royal Parade either side of Grattan St. It is very necessary given

the proximity to the hospital and will enable wheelchair access to the Number 19.

It does unfortunately push all traffic into the outer lanes which makes vehicle access from the smaller streets a little difficult, however, it's a small price for helping those needing trams to be easily accessible.

One of the key discussion points at our meetings was the desire to make the city more walkable ... that is good! But back to my recent columns, that means respect from all users particularly cyclists and scooter riders!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all seasons greetings and a very happy 2024! ●



*Rob Moore*  
PRESIDENT  
[PRESIDENTPARKVILLEASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PRESIDENTPARKVILLEASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM)

## EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



▲ Image: Source: *The Australasian Sketcher with Pen and Pencil*, April 11, 1883, p.68.

# Smelling history

“Smells trigger memory just as effectively as old photos or objects.”

Think of some of Melbourne's more famous smells such as tomato sauce from the old Rosella factory in Richmond, or baking bread from the Capitol Bakery in South Yarra, or even roasting coffee from Quists in Little Collins St.

East Melbourne had its own famous smell emanating from the Victoria Brewery in Victoria Parade. Thomas Aitken had founded a brewery on the site in 1854, more than 50 years before CUB took it over.

But the smell must have been very strangely altered in 1868 when Charles Fisher Bates moved his cocoa mill and confectionary business to Albert St, behind the brewery.

According to the *Leader* of June 5, 1869, Bates had dared to challenge the apparently unchallengeable foreign product and had "imported the requisite machinery and materials, and established the first and, so far as we can learn, the only cocoa works ever established in the colony".

The smell of the roasting "cocoanuts" mixed with brewing beer is hard to imagine but it certainly would have given East Melbourne an aroma all its own.

After roasting the nuts were sent to the "nibber" to be cracked, and then on to the "winner" where the nibs were separated from the husks. Some of the nibs were packaged and sold

to other manufacturers; most were processed on site.

Bates' main, but certainly not only, product was cocoa: Homeopathic cocoa, Iceland moss and Vanilla cocoa. Later he added Dandelion cocoa. This latter was apparently very popular as a digestive aid, and Bates had to advertise for men to cultivate dandelion roots so great was the demand.

In 1883 Bates made additions to his factory and was thus able to introduce the production of maizena (corn flour) and mustard to his repertoire. In all Bates employed 50 to 60 people. Men and boys were employed in the manufacturing and delivery service, while women, "clad in clean brown or white holland" attended to the packaging.

However, it was not entirely plain sailing for the business over the years. In 1871 his neighbour, Thomas Aitken, took Bates to court to "recover damages for a nuisance caused by a drain" from his premises.

This resulted in Bates' insolvency, largely due to Aitken's legal costs being awarded against him. Bates managed to denude himself of his property, and then sequestered his estate, for the purpose of defeating the judgment against him.

Later, according to his probate papers (he died in 1894) his wife attested that she owned the business, and that he managed it on her behalf. The business by then had moved to Abbotsford, leaving the quality of East Melbourne's air in the hands of the brewery. ●



*Sylvia Black*  
SECRETARY, EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
[INFO@EMHS.ORG.AU](mailto:INFO@EMHS.ORG.AU) / [EMHS.ORG.AU](http://EMHS.ORG.AU)

## EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK

CALLING ALL TIPPLER LOCALS

COCKTAILS  
CANAPÉS

MONDAY  
18TH DEC, 6.00PM

FREE COCKTAIL  
ON ARRIVAL

CANAPÉS

LIVE JAZZ BAND

The  
**TIPPLER**  
& Co.

# Jazz in East Melbourne

*As the end of 2023 approaches, we look forward to a special jazz night for locals on Monday December 18.*

### The Tippler Jazz Night

Join us for an unforgettable evening at The Tippler & Co, where cocktails, canapes, and community unite for a great cause. We're dedicated to supporting our local neighbourhood, and this special event is all about bringing us together while raising funds for the East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN). With the soulful melodies of jazz trio Judee's Jeneration, two hours of delectable canapes and cocktails, it's guaranteed to be an amazing night for all.

Monday, December 18 at 6pm. The Tippler & Co. [Link to tickets:](#)



We are currently planning our program for 2024. Some of the activities include:

### Community Choir

The East Melbourne Community Choir was established in early 2023 with the support of a grant from the City of Melbourne and has grown into a friendly, relaxed group of community members who love to sing together.

The choir sings an eclectic repertoire of music including musicals, pop, folk and classical in two-, three- and four-part harmony and is made

up of both experienced singers and beginners; those who read music and those who don't.

Musical director is Robyn Cooper-Bugg who provides a nurturing environment for members, as she draws on her vast professional experience in a variety of vocal and performing technical skills. Pianist, Andrea Chan is an experienced musician and a classically trained pianist.

We welcome new members for 2024. If you would like to be part of this community choir, please come along for a term and try it out at no cost. Please join us in 2024 and help bring our community together through the joy of singing.

**Rehearsals:** Tuesday (during school term)  
**Time:** 7pm to 8.30pm each week  
**Venue:** Unitarian Church, 110 Grey St, East Melbourne.

**Fees:** First term is FREE. Ongoing: \$60 per term (fee assistance is available if required)

### Health & wellbeing activities:

The 2024 Health and Wellbeing Program will commence in January. Stay fit and healthy all year round in with a range of activities including:

- Monday: Yoga, Chair Yoga and Stretching, Book Group
- Tuesday: Walking Group, Mindful Mat Pilates, Tai Chi, Book Group, Community Choir
- Wednesday: Postnatal Pilates
- Thursday: Pilates, Ukulele for Beginners
- Friday: Gentle Exercise, Mindful Mat Pilates, Social Morning Coffee ●

**For more information, email:**  
[emnn3002@gmail.com](mailto:emnn3002@gmail.com)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

# Stories of transformation

*From where I stand, as a witness and a guide in the realm of fitness, I've seen countless of these stories, which aren't just about weight loss or muscles gained.*

WORDS BY Kane Hamilton  
PRIME4OPERSONALTRAINING.COM.AU

These stories of transformation are about rediscovering oneself at an age many mistakenly see as a time their bodies start to slow down.

It's about redefining personal limits and embracing a journey that transcends physicality.

Take, for instance, Mark. At 48, he came to me with a mix of hesitation and determination in his eyes. He had just signed up for his first marathon – a challenge he never thought he'd take on in his "later years". Each training session peeled back layers of doubt and unearthed a resilience he never knew he had.

Watching Mark cross the finish line wasn't just about celebrating his physical achievement; it was about acknowledging his mental fortitude and the breaking of invisible chains that age often binds us with.

Then there's Linda. At 55, she walked into the gym, driven by a sense of urgency to counter the aches and the creeping rigidity that seemed to mark her ageing body. She had heard whispers about the benefits of strength training, and it was time to try something different.

The weights, initially daunting, soon became her allies in a quest to rebuild and rejuvenate herself. What Linda didn't anticipate was the journey going beyond physical rejuvenation.

With every session, she not only fortified her muscles but also her confidence and resilience. Linda's story was no longer about countering age; it was about embracing and celebrating it with a vigour she rediscovered in herself.

These stories, and many others like them, are what fuel my passion as a trainer. They've taught me that fitness after 40 isn't just a physical regimen; it's a catalyst for profound life changes. It's about discovering a sense of control, a reinvigoration of both body and mind.

This journey is not about recapturing lost youth but about honouring the present, about cherishing the wisdom that comes with age and using it to forge a healthier, more fulfilling path forward.

As we venture through these stories, one undeniable truth stands out: the immense, proven benefits of strength training, especially past the age of 40. It's more than just anecdotal evidence; it's a fact backed by science.

Engaging in regular strength training can significantly improve muscle mass, counteracting the natural decline that often accompanies aging. It's about bolstering bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis, and keeping your metabolism active and efficient.

But perhaps even more compelling are the mental health benefits. Regular strength training is a stalwart ally against depression, anxiety, and the emotional upheavals that can surface during life's middle chapters. It's a dual force, combatting both physical and mental challenges, fostering a sense of well-being that permeates every aspect of life.

So, if the evidence is so clear, the benefits so tangible, the question then becomes: why wouldn't you embrace strength training? It's an open invitation to a journey of not just physical, but holistic transformation. A journey that strengthens the body, empowers the mind, and enriches the spirit.

As your guide and witness to countless such transformations, I extend this invitation to you. Are you ready to embrace the path of strength and discover its life-altering rewards? ●

METRO TUNNEL

# Your chance to be part of Melbourne's train transformation

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*Metro Trains is hiring more than 100 station staff to work at the Metro Tunnel's five new state-of-the-art stations, opening in 2025.*

”

Applications are now open for station masters, senior station officers, station officers and station assistants to work at Arden, Parkville, State Library, Town Hall and Anzac stations – tasked with giving passengers an exceptional and safe experience.

These new staff members will be among the first to work at the new stations helping thousands of passengers get where they need to go quickly and safely.

Test trains are now running at line speed through the project's twin nine-kilometre tunnels, and enormous progress is being made on the stations, with architectural features, lights and seating being installed.

The project is now in a complex testing phase, with everything from the new, cutting-edge signalling to lifts, escalators, security systems, passenger information and the Victorian-first platform screen doors all being progressively tested to ensure all systems are working together with Melbourne's new fleet of bigger, better trains.

The testing phase will continue into 2024, before the project moves into trialling train services using the new signalling system with station staff and drivers – the “dress rehearsal” before opening the Metro Tunnel to passengers.

The five Metro Tunnel stations will be new



▲ Metro Trains passenger service resourcing lead Geoff Jacks, who worked at City Loop stations when they opened 40 years ago, and (below) the Parkville Station construction site on Grattan St.



landmarks for the city, featuring striking architecture, world-class public art and 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and amenities.

If you are interested in working in a Metro Tunnel station visit [metrotrains.com.au/metro-tunnel-careers](http://metrotrains.com.au/metro-tunnel-careers).

While station staff recruitment and training kick off, work on the project's five new underground stations – Anzac, Town Hall, State

Library, Parkville, and Arden – is progressing well, with crews working on architectural fit-out and installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment. Crews have also finished installing Victorian-first platform screen doors.

Test trains are now running at a maximum speed of 80km/h through the tunnel – the same speed they will travel at when the project opens in 2025.

At Parkville Station, escalators and the glass canopy at the main entrance in Grattan St are now installed. Work is progressing on the pedestrian underpass under Royal Parade that will connect passengers to Melbourne's health-care and education precinct.

The Metro Tunnel will create a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the north-west to Cranbourne and Pakenham in the south-east – via a new tunnel under the city – and include train access to Parkville and St Kilda Rd. ●

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

# Flemington and North Melbourne residents say “NO TO DEMOLITION”

*More than 100 residents attended a Somali Community Inc. and Save Public Housing Collective meeting at the Djerring Flemington Hub on Saturday, November 25.*

They described how they were shocked to hear about the proposal to demolish their homes and how Homes Victoria staff are picking households off one at a time with demands to sign agreements to move out that have no guarantees of where they will go or the type of housing they will have. No-one wanted to be living in community housing. They all want to remain public tenants. The following motion was passed:

“This meeting calls on the government to immediately stop the wholesale destruction and privatisation of public housing and instead maintain public housing and build new public housing on public land.”

Legal support for residents is being provided by the Inner Melbourne Community Legal team. Residents from these towers locked down in the COVID pandemic have been successful in a class action on compensation. It appears as

though demolition is the government's response to this.

Homes Victoria has major financial and delivery problems

A Herald Sun article (November 15) reported – based on Freedom of Information (FOI) sourced government information – that only a net increase of just 1302 housing units were achieved during 2022-23 despite the three years since the original budget announcement. Only a fraction of the promised new homes – just over 3000 all up – have been built with 60 per cent of the \$5.3bn funding having been spent.

The same article goes on to point out that since 2018 the waiting list for public housing has actually added 19,686 families and there are now 2733 fewer bedrooms available. These are households which have been assessed by the government as in need of genuinely affordable housing. You don't get on the list by just asking. The average wait time for homes has increased to 18.1 months!

The Big Housing Build's predecessor – the Public Housing Renewal Program (PHRP) – was a massive failure. Construction of private units at Abbotsford St, North Melbourne still hasn't started because the developer MAB has failed to secure off-the-plan sales. Similarly at Walker St, Northcote there is no construction happening.

The recent Ground Lease Model 2 announcement covering four demolished estates – including Barak Beacon – did not publicly quantify the state government's contribution for the next 40 years. They just crowed about the new federal government's Housing Australia fund contribution.

This project will see demolished public housing being replaced by far more market and slightly discounted – by a mere 10 per cent – market rent housing.

The proposed demolition of 44 towers is policy on the run with wishful thinking about its true budgetary cost to the state government over the next decades. Homes Victoria is probably working overtime on a yet another model of full private investor funding of the program with less truly affordable housing being delivered. ●

*Prepared with the assistance of the Save Public Housing Collective.*



Cory Memery  
CITY OF MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020  
[CORYMEMERY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CORYMEMERY@YAHOO.COM)



# Inner City News in 2023: a year in review

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Take a step back in time as we feature some of the image highlights from every edition of Inner City News over the course of 2023...

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▲ March: Parkville's Melbourne Mar Thoma Church on Royal Parade gets its new spire after a 40-year wait.



▲ June: Lygon Local - Watt's Shoe Store.



▲ February: Lygon Local launched with King and Godfree.



▲ May: Royal Park Golf Club celebrates 120 years.



▲ April: Locals celebrate Harmony Day.



▲ August: "Project Cultivate" gets under way at Melbourne General Cemetery.



▲ July: New Carlton dog park proposal met with concern.



▲ September: Fitzroy Gardens pavilion set for historic revamp in East Melbourne.



▲ October: A transformed Brens Pavilion is unveiled at Royal Park.



▲ November: Naughtons Hotel throws a party to celebrate its 150th anniversary.



# What's On: December 2023 - January 2024

## Community Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3  
**HOT ROD SOCIAL XMAS TOY RUN - SUPPORTING - THE SALVATION ARMY**  
 All Toys, Clothing, Food & Cash Donations Collected via The Salvation Army. Planned with Full Co-operation of Victoria Police, Highway Patrol & Melbourne City Council  
**Science Gallery Melbourne, 114 Grattan St, Parkville**



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 11AM-1PM  
**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY AT KATHLEEN SYME**  
 Join the team at Kathleen Syme for their annual neighbourhood end of year festive celebration. Enjoy a gardening workshop, help decorate their Christmas tree, get creative with Christmas crafts, enjoy festive season treats and face painting.  
**Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton**



DECEMBER 14-24  
**CHRISTMAS ROLLER RINK**  
 Get your skates on! Christmas has come to Carlton with a pop-up roller skating rink in Argyle Square. Whether it's whole-family fun or a cute date night, roll around to classic tunes with free entry and \$10 skate hire.  
**Argyle Square, Carlton**



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**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 11AM-2PM  
**CHRISTMAS BARBECUE AT EAST MELBOURNE LIBRARY**  
 As well as the barbecue there will be Christmas carols, a free one-to-one interaction cooking event, pop-up stalls and Christmas activities for children.  
**East Melbourne Library, 122 George St, East Melbourne**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AND 10  
**GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
 Come along to a German Christmas Market and get into the spirit of the festive season. The Christkindl from Nuremberg will open the market, and you will be able to meet St. Nikolaus (Father Christmas) and have your picture taken.  
**German Lutheran Trinity Church, 22 Parliament Pl, East Melbourne**



CHRISTMAS 2023 WORSHIP TIMES  
**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH EAST MELBOURNE**  
 Carols - December 17, 6pm  
 Christmas Eve - Eucharist with carols 9pm  
 Christmas Day - Eucharist with carols 9am  
**All welcome.**  
 Cnr Clarendon and Hotham St.  
 holytrinitymelbourne.org.au



DECEMBER 1-3  
**THE BIG DESIGN MARKET**  
 The most anticipated festive season shopping extravaganza, The Big Design Market, is back, and it's grander than ever.  
**Royal Exhibition Building, 9 Nicholson St, Carlton**  
**thebigdesignmarket.com**

## Business Directory

### Health & Fitness

**N°1 WOMEN'S HEALTH**  
 women's health matters  
 Telephone (03) 9132 9644  
 www.numbertwomenshealth.com  
 notwomenshealth

**THE GYM MELBOURNE**  
 KICK - START YOUR FITNESS GOALS AND GET THE RESULTS YOU DESERVE!  
 Royal Children's Hospital  
 48 Flemington Road, Parkville, Vic 3052  
 P: 03 9347 7229  
 E: info@thegymmelbourne.com.au

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

### Real Estate

**DONAZZAN**  
 Contact our team  
**Gina Donazzan 0412 430 326**  
**Kim Davey 0418 924 324**  
**Suzie Inglis 0416 671 572**  
**Will Caldwell 0419 010 270**  
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### Politician

**BE STRONG NOT TIRED**  
**PRIME 40**  
 13 Hyam pl, Carlton 3053  
 www.prime40personaltraining.com.au

**ADAM BANDT**  
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE  
 142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy  
 (03) 9417 0772  
 adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

*Proudly representing the community in inner Melbourne*  
**LIBERAL VICTORIA** Evan **MULHOLLAND MP**  
 NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION  
 evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

### School

www.haileybury.vic.edu.au  
**HAILEYBURY**  
 MELBOURNE BRISBANE HERWICK CITY BEIJING



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located at 1 Collins St and East Melbourne.

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