



Hullabaloo of Harmony

Harmony Day made a triumphant return to Carlton Primary School on March 24, uniting the community in a multi-cultural celebration. More on page 6.

Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Funding cut forces La Mama Theatre to pause shows in 2025

“Carlton’s La Mama Theatre will regrettably draw the curtain on all productions in 2025 as the beloved independent institution grapples with the aftermath of devastating funding cuts.”

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES

The pause is a blow to artists and the wider community after the organisation was unsuccessful in the latest round of grants from Creative Australia for 2025-2028.

La Mama’s legacy spans more than 50 years, with funding from the federal government’s arts body contributing \$300,000 to the theatre per year – a third of its income – to support its operations.

The theatre’s chief executive and artistic director Caitlin Dullard said the news was “unexpected” and “very disappointing” for their not-for-profit organisation. La Mama will now channel its energy into finding alternative and sustainable opportunities.

“We were very hopeful,” Ms Dullard said of receiving a funding grant, when Creative Australia announced its latest allocations in December.

“We thought we were on track. But yeah, the rejection email was more gut-wrenching than shocking.”

In a statement, Creative Australia said, “We acknowledge La Mama’s significant decision to pause public performances while it reviews operations following the outcomes of the four-year investment program.”

“Creative Australia met with La Mama representatives after the decision was announced to provide feedback and to talk through future opportunities for funding.”

Ms Dullard said instead of presenting shows next year and “limping along”, they would use this as a “moment to be proactive and to actually put what resources we’ve got into some kind of strategic planning” to support staff, artists, and the community for years to come.

“I don’t think that the future lies in government funding, so I think we need to reach out to business partners and to different sectors, health sector, education, etc. and find different partnerships and different models of working and I am hopeful that we’ll get there,” she told *Inner City News*.

Ms Dullard said while the theatre community was reeling “because we’re taking away a lot of opportunity, I think most independent artists understand that the system needs some more energy put into it”.

It’s not the first setback the theatre has experienced. In 2018, a fire gutted the iconic double-storey red brick building on Faraday St, with a trove of archives lost.

Continued on page 2.

LYGON LOCAL, PAGE 03

Gertrude Grocer:
the latest
addition to
Carlton

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 05

Concerns raised
as memorial
garden could be
named a public
highway



ELECTIONS, PAGE 07

Greens preselect lead City of Melbourne councillor candidates

The Greens have preselected current councillor and Carlton resident Dr Olivia Ball as its lead candidate ahead of the City of Melbourne elections in October, with West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian revealed as its second candidate on the ballot.

1-Hour Docklands Cruise

Tuesday 2 and 16 April 2024

- Includes historical commentary along the way
- And your choice of afternoon drink & snack



From only
\$23
Per person



HYPERLOCAL

NEWS

CONTACT

Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade
Docklands 3008
innercitynews.com.au
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR

Sean Car

PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

ADVERTISING

Hyper-local print works for
advertisers in our digital world
because local people are
interested in local news.
To sell to the inner-city community,
contact Jack Hayes on 0401 031 236
or
jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome.
Send letters, articles and images to:
brendan@hyperlocalnews.com.au

The deadline for the May edition
is April 26

Opinions expressed by contributors
are not necessarily shared by the
publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Follow us on social media by
searching
@innercity_news

New CCTV cameras to support safety at Lygon St

A new CCTV camera system will service Carlton’s Lygon St precinct as part of a joint Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne effort to combat crime.

WORDS BY
GEMMA GRANT



The Safe City Camera Network Expansion Project, announced late last year, will see eight new cameras installed along the popular strip.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece was confident that the CCTV installation would directly benefit those within the area.

“We’ve listened to Carlton residents and local businesses, and we are extending our camera network to Lygon St, so everyone can feel safe and welcome on this much-loved strip,” Cr Reece said.

The Deputy Lord Mayor provided a specific message to “criminals, creeps, and taggers,” who he said, “will be caught on camera” and eventually “prosecuted” if they are “up to no good” in the area.

Live camera feeds will be monitored around the clock by police officers – both from the station control room and on portable devices when travelling to an incident.

New tracking technology will allow operators to follow individuals as they move between Victoria and Elgin streets. There will also be cameras focused on Argyle Square.

Upgrades have cost \$520,000 in total, with the state government and the City of Melbourne each providing half of the funds.

The system has already been partially installed and is expected to be fully operational by mid-2024.



Cr Reece emphasised the importance of the CCTV network, and the positive impact it would have on public safety.

“The Safe City Cameras are like our guardian angels on the street, a powerful tool to catch those up to no good and keep the streets safe. Everyone deserves to feel safe in our city, no matter who they are, where they are, or what time of day it is,” he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp added, “Lygon St is one of Melbourne’s most popular destinations, and we’re making sure everyone can

feel safe and welcome while enjoying this vibrant precinct.”

Minister for Police and Crime Prevention Anthony Carbine said the government was “proud to be investing in community safety initiatives and providing local communities the resources they need to improve public safety”.

Last October, councillors approved the expansion of the safe city camera program to include Lygon St, marking the first time the CCTV network has expanded out of the central city and Docklands. ●

Funding cut forces La Mama Theatre to pause shows in 2025

Continued from page 1.

And in 2020, La Mama missed out on funding from Creative Victoria but managed to survive and come out stronger thanks to JobKeeper and other government stimulus packages during the pandemic.

Melbourne Greens State MP Ellen Sandell said she was devastated to learn of the funding cut and urged the state and federal governments to keep La Mama “alive and thriving”.

“The arts are the lifeblood of our city. Melbourne would be so much poorer without art and theatre. They must be supported,” she said.

In a statement, Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks, said, “La Mama has

been a creative leader for more than 50 years and the Victorian Government continues to be a proud and long-term supporter of the organisation.”

Ms Dullard said she remained positive for the future.

“I think there’s actually a level of gratitude and optimism from the sector that this will be a turning point that will actually improve things if we kind of do it right.” ●

Brendan Rees
JOURNALIST
BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



Ginger Olive

A redefined casual dining spot located just off Flinders Lane, Ginger Olive offers contemporary fusion and multi-cuisine, specialising in BBQ, ribs, steaks, and grills.

With a relaxed, friendly and welcoming environment, and uncompromising warm service, Ginger Olive delivers an amazing and memorable dining experience.

Shop 2, 38 Manchester Lane

Ginger Olive

gingerolive_melb

www.gingerolive.com.au

Supporting business

Construction partner: Design & Construction

Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no Inner City News

LYGON LOCAL

Carlton welcomes Gertrude Grocer



The latest addition to the neighborhood is Gertrude Grocer, operated by a dedicated team offering locally sourced, high-quality goods to the Carlton community.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Scheduled for an official launch in mid-April, Gertrude Grocer, nestled on Elgin St, has already opened its doors to locals eager to explore its curated selection while preparing for "stage two".

"We saw this site during pandemic, and being Italian and spending a lot of time in

Lygon St, we think it's a great community," its owners told *Inner City News*.

"Seventy per cent of our products are Italian, but we do also have a lot of local products. The idea is that you come in, you have good value for money, and good quality products. We try to select the best."

The brains behind this venture are no strangers to success, having established sister stores in Kensington and the flagship outlet on Gertrude St in Fitzroy, from which the store derives its name.

"I think it's going to be a good thing and we want to get some of the community involved to try to replicate the other stores," they said.

From fresh produce and bakery delights to pantry staples like tinned fish and artisanal condiments, Gertrude Grocer caters to diverse tastes while keeping things affordable for locals.

The team also offers a range of flowers and plants sourced fresh from the local markets.

"There's no flower shop around here or plant shop, and we think our selection is quite good."

"We want to give experiences to people about things they probably don't access every day."

Looking ahead, the Gertrude Cellar and Gertrude Wine Club promises monthly tastings and educational sessions with a focus on Italian varietals.

They are also hoping to create "an Italian market feel", with plans to bring in musicians on select nights to play outside the shop.

"The wine club is about giving people the opportunity to taste wines that are not widely available, unless you go to specialised bottle shops or restaurants," the

owners said.

While having only been open for just over a week, the team is already feeling the love in the community with locals and businesses coming out to support their new neighbour.

"In the few days we've been here it's been really good, but not many people know that we are here and they are actually still surprised when they walk past – it's been great, a lot of people have introduced themselves already."

Gertrude Grocer is located at 144 Elgin St and is open Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8pm. ●

For more information:
gertrudegrocer.com



MELBOURNE
RECITAL
CENTRE

Intimate Salon Experiences 2024

FEATURING

Andrea Lam | Bhairavi Raman & Nanthesh Sivarajah
Duo Eclettico & Helen Morse | Genevieve Lacey & Marshall McGuire
Kristian Chong & Friends | Melbourne Guitar Quartet
Nat Bartsch Quartet | Olivia Chindamo & Matthew Sheens
Orava Quartet | Penny Quartet | Qais Essar | Quartz
SARAY Illuminado | The Boite | The Resonant Heart
Vardos | Zoe Knighton & Amir Farid

Tickets and more information at
melbournerecital.com.au/salon2024

15

Years of
Living and Breathing
Live Music



TEN WAYS TO CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS, PLUS UP TO \$150 TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Whether you're new to your neighbourhood and want to make friends or have been in your area for a while, many people still want the same thing: to feel more connected to neighbours.

But how do you make it happen?

Here are 10 ways to make meaningful connections with people who live in your area. During March and April, the City of Melbourne is offering up to \$150 to help you put on an activity which promotes community connection in your neighbourhood.

Have a look at the ideas below, then head to your Neighbourhood Portal to apply.

Set up a walking group

Solo walks are nice but sometimes it's even better to walk with other people. Together, you might discover something new about your neighbourhood.

Ask your neighbours to help with a clean-up day

Roll up your sleeves and help beautify your neighbourhood. Hosting a litter clean up activity is a great way to make a difference, have fun and bring local people together.

Start a reading party

Do you like the idea of book clubs but never have time to read? How about a reading party where people mingle, read in silence, and chat about books afterwards?

Organise a picnic with pups

Do you and your dog enjoy socialising with other humans and pups? Why not organise a picnic or a morning tea to get together.

Try a board game social

Making conversation with someone new can be awkward but when there's a fun game in between you and that someone, it can be easier.

Ask your neighbours for a day out

Going to events together is a great way to spend time with friends and meet new people. There are plenty of free or low-cost events all year around.

Plan a potluck meal

Do you enjoy trying something new to delight your taste buds? Is there talk about there being amazing cooks in your building or neighbourhood? This is your calling to organise a potluck meal.

Organise a storytelling night

Through stories, we make sense of the world and connect with each other. Why not host a storytelling event and honour the stories we carry.

Start a neighbourhood tools and skills library

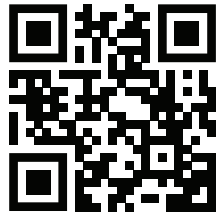
Got a collection of tools that could be used more? Do people in your area have knowledge and skills? Build a community ready to trade these, creating a neighbourhood tools and skills library.

Host a neighbours day in the park

What better way to meet your neighbours than a low-key picnic or barbecue in the park? Choose a park then put a call-out on social media or a local noticeboard.



There's so many ways to connect with your neighbours. Head to your Neighbourhood Portal at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods to apply for a voucher and to contact your Neighbourhood Partner by 30 April.



CITY OF MELBOURNE GRANTS

Did you know we also have a wide range of grants and sponsorships to support you to hold community events? Check out our website for more: melbourne.vic.gov.au/grants

Is Parkville more than a great place to learn?

Is East Melbourne just lush gardens?

Is Carlton more than great coffee?

Shape the future of your area by taking City of Melbourne's **Neighbourhood Survey** before 31 March and go in the running to win a \$200 Queen Victoria Market voucher.
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024



Call to crack down on private e-scooters at the Fitzroy Gardens

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) has raised concerns of private e-scooters zipping through the Fitzroy Gardens, endangering unsuspecting pedestrians.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Members of the group want to see a police blitz so that riders follow the rules while using their devices to ensure the safety of park users.

Fitzroy Gardens has been designated a no-ride zone for all hire e-scooters under the shared rider scheme through providers Neuron and Lime, which is controlled through geofencing technology that activates an audio warning to the rider.

A ban on private e-scooters was lifted in March last year, and they can now be used on bike lanes, shared paths, and on roads with a speed limit of 60km/h. However, riding on footpaths is still illegal, and they are also banned from using the Fitzroy Gardens.

The EMG's concerns come after resident Hazel Westbury was almost bowled over by a private e-scooter rider at the Fitzroy



Gardens near Wellington Pde in March.

"I only walked two steps and he sped right up to me, and right past me, almost knocking me over," she said.

"He was a whisker away ... he had plenty of time to see me. He increased his speed in preparation to go up the hill towards Treasury Gardens."

"I've changed the pattern of my day and I'm reluctant to go to the gardens. Instead

of relaxing I'll have to be on guard."

In a statement, the City of Melbourne said it had not received any complaints in relation to cycling and e-scooter use in Fitzroy Gardens in the past six months, noting Victoria Police were responsible for the enforcement of e-scooter regulation.

"City of Melbourne park rangers patrol Fitzroy Gardens daily – helping to deter cyclists from using the gardens as a

thoroughfare during peak commute times," it said.

EMG president Greg Bisinella said private e-scooters riders should be monitored at the gardens, including a police blitz to ensure compliance was met.

"Saying there's no complaints is a pretty meek approach to the issue. We all know they're there. We have enough evidence from our members, and it would only take a council member to stand there for a morning a week to assess the situation," he said.

The EMG's vice-president Jennifer Owen said she had requested both the council and Victoria Police to increase their patrols at the Fitzroy Gardens.

"I have suggested it would be good if there was a registration system for these bicycles and scooters as if there were number plates required, it would give victims a way of reporting incidents to the authorities," she said.

Melbourne East Local Area Commander Inspector Dale Huntington said police bike units regularly patrolled the city, targeting e-scooter riders who breached the rules.

"We are aware of it. There's always going to be occasions when they're not there. If we're getting information from the City of Melbourne, we're happy to follow it up," he said. ●

Memorial garden could be named a public highway, concerning its founder

A small Carlton community garden that has served for 35 years as a memorial to the massacres of the Wurundjeri people could be declared a "public highway", potentially putting its future in jeopardy.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The garden covers a small triangular area within Victoria Place but because it has not had a formal land title, the City of Melbourne is proposing to address the "sliver of land" by naming it a road.

According to a council document, should the laneway be declared a public highway, it would come under the council's care and management and required to be included on the council's public roads register under the *Road Management Act 2004*.

But the garden's founder and current caretaker Donald Smith said the garden, covering a mere

nine square metres, should be excluded from being a declared a road.

He said while he did not feel the garden was immediately threatened by the potential change, it could be in years to come if the garden had no protection.

"The garden is not a road. It is a garden. It has been that way for 35 years. To declare otherwise looks duplicitous," he said in his submission to council.

Mr Smith said he built the garden along with resident Marion Cincotta, and it features a native planting with a variety of indigenous trees and grasses.

"Back in the '80s, it was through the work of the historian Henry Reynolds, that we had become aware that there were many massacres of Indigenous people throughout the colonies of Australia," he said.

"We wanted to commemorate the memory of so many of the original people who had died in the first decades of Melbourne's takeover and foreign settlement ... so we built a massacre memorial garden."

The laneway garden has not functioned as a road for 35 years



since the memorial was established, which Mr Smith has maintained during this time.

At the time of publishing, councillors were to consider updating the legal status of Victoria Place at their March 26 meeting.

"This would ensure it is protected under the *Road Management Act* and give council responsibility for the road and its maintenance – including the existing garden bed," the council said in a statement.

The council report noted as most of Victoria Place was already owned by the council, the declaration "will not alter the council's powers over the area".

It also said the issue of parking controls and enforcement would not be affected by the declaration, and that the garden bed's purpose and history "is important" and that the council would be aware of its maintenance responsibilities.

Mr Smith said he was committed to the garden and was keen on a positive working relationship with the council to ensure the garden's future. He said he regularly kept the area clean and recently remonstrated with tradies from renovation jobs who had washed out cement onto the garden bed. ●



BE STRONG NOT TIRED

Melbourne's only over 40's personal training studio based right here in Carlton

"I'm probably stronger at 50 than I was at 30. If you want excellent results Prime40 will help you achieve them" **Shirley S**

📍 1/164 Cardigan street, Carlton 3053
🌐 www.prime40personaltraining.com.au



PRIME
40

INNER CITY LOCAL

Hullaballoo of Harmony: Carlton embraces diversity on Harmony Day

Harmony Day made a triumphant return to Carlton Primary School on March 24, uniting the community in a multicultural celebration.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Harmony Day saw 15 stallholders take over the school to bring Carlton residents together with a diverse range of food, fun and activities for all to enjoy.

A highlight of the festivities, the crowd was treated to a performance by Amanda Testro, renowned for her engaging children's performances with Hullabaloo Music.

Working with local organisations Drummond Street Services and the Gowrie Centre, Amanda's work transcends mere entertainment, conducting music programs and sessions for early childhood services.

"Initially I was doing one-off music sessions, and it just grew from that – I formed Hullabaloo pretty much from my association with Drummond Street Services," Amanda said.

Her groundbreaking "primary prevention program" tackles sensitive issues head-on, championing gender equality and fostering respectful relationships.

"More than one woman a week is killed in Australia by their former or current intimate

partner, so this is absolutely directly to try and prevent violence against women starting at the very baby's age and going all the up," she said.

For Amanda, the best part of performing is "feeling like you make a difference".

"I've been doing this for a long time, so I know that if the adults get bored, they'll start looking at their phones and as soon as the adults lose their engagement, their children will lose their engagement as well – I learned a long time ago that it's really important to keep the adults interested as well," she told Inner City News.

"You want it to be an enjoyable experience for everyone and the more the children enjoy it, the more fun they have and the more the messages get through – it's all fun and music and movement and everything, but it's hacked with incidental messaging and learnings."

In a world that sometimes feels "more divided than ever", Amanda envisions events like Harmony Day as catalysts for lasting change, emphasising the need for year-round inclusivity and support.

"I think Harmony Day and everything that it represents is absolutely vital. It's a pity it only happens once a year," she said.

"It needs to be consistent; it can't just be



something that's brought out on special occasions. As far as getting these important messages out, it needs to be multicultural and multigenerational."

As well as running in partnership with various local stakeholders, a group of University of Melbourne Executive Master of Arts students also returned as project managers for the event.

"Harmony Day provides our students and staff a great opportunity to connect with our neighbourhood," community engagement manager at the University of Melbourne, Aun Ngo said.

"This year we had dozens of students from multiple faculties involved in performances, health information booths and event management. We look forward to building stronger ties with the local communities and organisations." ●



Cat curfew review under way as community input is sought

Community consultation on whether a 24-hour ban or night-time cat curfew should be implemented within the City of Melbourne will be launched later this year.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The council is considering introducing a ban on cats roaming outside their homes to ensure their safety and protect local wildlife, which could affect nearly 4000 households across the municipality.

The proposal was raised at a council meeting last October in a motion successfully moved by councillor Dr Olivia Ball, who said a containment law had many

benefits including protecting cats from injury, disease, dog attacks, snake bites, poisoning, road accident trauma or other misadventures.

In response to the motion, councillors voted unanimously at their March 19 Future Melbourne Committee meeting to integrate cat containment into the community consultation activities already planned for July this year on the mandatory desexing of cats under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Council management will also work with Animal Welfare Victoria and the Australian Veterinary Association to undertake a review of cat containment measures in Victoria.

According to the council, the Domestic Animals Act prohibits cats from being on private property without permission.

"In public places, cats are currently not collected or impounded due to health and safety risks," it said.

"Cat traps are not left in public



places due to the risk of capturing animals other than cats."

The reported also noted as of February 2024, there were 3980 cats registered in the City of Melbourne with 74 per cent

registered to apartments and 103 cats not desexed.

In 2023 the council received 103 reports of roaming cats, most of these were reported in North Melbourne, Kensington and West Melbourne where there are known unowned or semi-owned cat colonies, the report said.

Michael Johnston, a research scientist who specialises in the management of feral cats, addressed the council meeting saying, "the two main points I'd like you to consider is animal welfare responsibilities and responsibilities of landowners to look after their pet so that their pet can live a longer happier life".

"I'm requesting that Melbourne City Council provides some deep consideration on whether this will be a good fit for them," he said.

"The reasons why you might like to consider it are more around improving the animal welfare impacts for domestic cats themselves but also wildlife species that inhabit the area."

According to the council, it can make orders under the Act requiring all domestic cats to be confined to the property of their owner and prohibiting domestic cats from environmentally sensitive areas but noted "further work is required to understand community sentiment or the likely effectiveness of the implementation of such orders".

Cr Dr Ball referred to two statistics; one being that council officers found a dead cat on average once a month in the municipality, and the other was that the Westgate Park boasted 168 different species of birds and "it's clearly not a place where cats should be".

Between 2020 and 2021 the council impounded 355 cats, a jump of 62 per cent between 2016 and 2017 when 219 cats were found wandering the streets.

A report will come back to council in March 2025 with an update and advice on the role of cat containment in council's next Domestic Animal Management Plan in December 2025. ●

INNER CITY NEWS

Subscribe to our EDM's for the latest news

Delivered monthly to your inbox



Scan the QR code to sign up

Greens preselect lead City of Melbourne councillor candidates

The Greens have preselected current councillor and Carlton resident Dr Olivia Ball as its lead candidate ahead of the City of Melbourne elections in October, with West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian revealed as its second candidate on the ballot.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



With current sitting Greens Cr Rohan Leppert not recontesting for what would have been a fourth consecutive term on council, many had expected that Cr Dr Ball would be elevated to the number one position on the Greens ticket.

With the Greens having been historically successful in getting two councillors elected to the



▲ Karl Hessian and Cr Dr Olivia Ball.
Photo: Julian Meehan.

City of Melbourne, Cr Leppert's departure has opened the door for a likely new face to join Cr Dr Ball in 2024.

That person is Karl Hessian – a resident of West Melbourne who works in IT in the early childhood education and care sector who hopes to translate his interest in local government and commitment to the community by winning a seat on council.

Cr Dr Ball told *Inner City News* that she was honoured to have been chosen to lead the party's ticket and was looking forward to working with the rest of her team to "increase the Greens' representation on council".

"The role of city governments in this time of climate and biodiversity emergency, and an acute housing affordability crisis, is more important than ever," Cr Dr Ball said. "Melbourne could be among the great sustainable cities of the world, so we are asking Melburnians to elect a Greener council in October."

"Due to the youth and mobility of the inner city, this will be

the first local election in which many people living in the City of Melbourne will be eligible to vote. My message to everyone is make sure you are enrolled at your current address now so you can have your say."

The Greens will hold further preselections to determine its candidates for Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, and other council seats in the months ahead, with preselections conducted by ballot of all members residing in the City of Melbourne.

Cr Dr Ball said she was pleased that the "outstanding" Mr Hessian would be joining her for the upcoming election campaign.

"I could not be more pleased that Karl has been chosen to join me on the Greens ticket in October," she said.

"He is a profoundly decent human being, broad-minded, capable, and hard-working, with an uncanny interest in local government and a passion for his community. I know he will make an outstanding councillor."

Karl Hessian will be well-known

to many in the North and West Melbourne community for his decades of community action and leadership, including as chair of the board of the local neighbourhood house, chair of the committee of management of a community-run childcare centre, and his active engagement with the council on local issues.

"I am deeply honoured to have been chosen to fill the vacancy created by Olivia's promotion to lead candidate. Both Rohan [Leppert] and former councillor Dr Cathy Oke have made extraordinary contributions to this city and have set a high bar for what electors can and should expect from their representatives," Mr Hessian said. "If elected, I look forward to working with Olivia to connect the work of city government with local communities, that we may tackle the significant challenges facing the city together."

"I have a deep understanding of how the City of Melbourne operates and I have the skills and experience to hit the ground running if elected." ●

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show blooms with success

The 2024 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) presented by Scotts took over Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building from March 20 to 24, showcasing some of the world's best garden and floral designs.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The annual show offers a world-class program from leading Australian and international landscape and floral designers, transforming the heritage-listed site into a five-day garden celebration.

One of the show's main attractions was the Landscape Design Show Gardens displaying eight unique garden designs, with Emmaline Bowman of Stem Landscape Architecture & Design and Liam Riley of ID Landscaping sweeping the competition with five awards.

Their design, titled, *Through the Looking Glass*, won gold in the Show Garden category, as well as receiving the coveted City



of Melbourne Award of Excellence for Best in Show.

"Every year, we are honoured to welcome some of the world's best garden and floral designers to Melbourne," event director, Marcus Gale said.

"From previous Best in Show winners to first-timers, and a collection who flew in just for the occasion, this year's talent mix is second to none and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all awards winners and those involved."

The Great Hall of Flowers saw locals flock to see some of the best floral designs, including a Wedding Showcase and the RMIT Floral Fashion exhibit from some of Victoria's most talented TAFE students.

For one night only on Friday March 22, MIFGS hosted Gardens by Twilight – a night-time, ambient experience for festival-goers to enjoy the show's exhibitions under Melbourne's setting sun.

MIFGS also featured an Indigenous garden in collaboration with the Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria for the first time.

"An incredible amount of work goes into producing every exhibit, and this year's program boasts some of the best we've seen in almost three decades," Mr Gale said.

MIFGS runs annually and is the largest horticultural event in the Southern Hemisphere.

Despite criticism from heritage groups of the event's environmental impact to the World Heritage listed Carlton Gardens, MIFGS continues to host a world-class event which saw tens of thousands of plant-lovers welcomed to the gardens. ●

ELLEN SANDELL

GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Hi, I'm Ellen, your local state MP.
I'm here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

(03) 9328 4637
office@ellensandell.com

55 St Andrews Place
East Melbourne VIC 3002



What’s it like to experience homelessness in Melbourne?



Jason Russell

Hear Jason’s story as we launch our draft City of Melbourne Homelessness Strategy to help end homelessness.

The rituals that helped Jason Russell survive on the streets of inner-city Melbourne for nearly two decades are hard to shake.

In the abandoned inner-city factory where he took shelter for years, Jason learnt to leave no trace of himself. Nothing that could be linked back to him.

“I was hard wired to living in a squat,” Jason said.

Even though he moved into permanent housing two years ago, he still can’t bring himself to hang photos on the walls.

And he still wrestles with the idea of keeping a “bug-out bag” handy, in case he needs to run at any moment.



“When I first got the keys to the new place, I was terrified. I slept in the lounge room. I didn’t know there was a bedroom. I wouldn’t cook in the kitchen.

“Now my place is like an Airbnb. I could put my wallet in my pocket and walk out the door and nobody would know it was me living here, apart from the didgeridoo ... that might be a giveaway!”

Inside an “18-year bad day”

In his former life on the northern coast of NSW, Jason was a firefighter and a family man with a wife and three kids. A proud member of the Birabri Nation.

Things started to unravel when an underlying mental health condition worsened, leading to an honourable discharge from NSW Fire and Rescue.

“As a firefighter we know how to stabilise a body ... but an injury to the mind, I didn’t know or understand it. Everything fell to pieces. My career, my world, my family life.”

Jason left his community behind, thinking this would help him escape his “demons”.

After roaming the country for a decade, he eventually found the anonymity he craved in inner-city Melbourne.

Ever since, he’s been unlearning the compound stresses of what he describes as an “18-year bad day”.

While Jason lurched from squat to crisis accommodation to transitional housing and back again, his instincts as a first responder never left him.

“I wanted to see how the homeless in the city were faring.”

Jason volunteered at soup kitchens and drop-in centres. He got to know the workers, the agencies. He made friends among those who were also experiencing homelessness.

He began to notice discrepancies between what he saw on the streets and the statistics on homelessness quoted in the media.

“So I started to walk through the city, counting heads. I wanted to remove the variables on who was counted and who wasn’t.”

Jason’s efforts and insights caught the attention of the sector.

Through the Council to Homeless Persons, he started advising the homelessness sector on ways to improve the collection and sharing of data.



“Knowing what it meant to be homeless has made me such a great advocate.”

Helping others while waiting for housing

As Jason waited to have his housing needs prioritised on a growing waiting list for permanent housing, he also campaigned for caseworkers to act as “emissaries” for their clients.

A good caseworker, he argued, can spare people the trauma of having to tell their stories over again each time they present at a homelessness service.

Jason has a knack for sharing insights that resonate with first responders. Together, they find ways to better connect with people experiencing homelessness.

Two years ago, Jason finally got the keys to a new house in a suburb that put some distance between him and the squats where demons still lurked.

“I’m housed in a beautiful property. I know that home is where the heart is. I passionately want to make this my home. Is it ‘home sweet home’? Not yet. I’m working on that.”

HELP END HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is something that people experience – it is not who they are.

We’re working to end homelessness in Melbourne by securing affordable and sustainable housing for all.

Join us in being part of the solution. Have your say on our draft Homelessness Strategy at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/homes-melbourne by Sunday 7 April.



Our toy libraries are free to visit and to borrow toys.

TOY LIBRARIES SPREAD JOY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Our three neighbourhood toy libraries are hives of excitement, laughter and discovery.

New toys and old favourites – trucks, slides, a miniature post office box – the City of Melbourne toy library collection spans 2000-plus items for ages zero to eight.

Bernadine Nolen, a team leader in our Library and Children’s Services branch, said that beyond a centre for fostering play and curiosity, the libraries have become social spaces for kids and their parents.

“We watch kids develop their social skills through learning to share with others, especially in a new environment,” Bernadine said.

“They’re free, they’re a social space for kids and families, they give parents the chance to trial toys before they

commit to buying them, and they’re good for the environment because they reduce waste.

“The collections are carefully curated and reviewed – informed and updated with the help of feedback from the experts, children. We focus on toys that are fun, help to develop skills and imagination and support brain, muscle and language development.”

City of Melbourne’s toy libraries are free to access – all you need is a library membership, which also provides access to books, digital content, makerspaces and digital devices.

It’s free to join and free to borrow from our toy libraries. Since July 2023, there have been more than 8000 toy loans to 654 members, and memberships have steadily increased since Council removed annual membership fees.

TOY LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Carlton

The Chapel, 469 Cardigan Street
Monday: 3pm to 6pm,
Wednesday: 9.30am to 12.30pm,
Saturday: 10am to 2pm

North Melbourne

Hotham Hub, 113 Melrose Street
Tuesday: 9.30am to 12.30pm,
Thursday: 3pm to 6pm,
Saturday: 10am to 2pm

Docklands

Library at The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade
Click and collect

To access the toy libraries, join up to the City of Melbourne libraries network at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update



Park ranger Isaac Dodd with some of his colleagues

A WILD LIFE: PARK RANGERS RESCUE ROOS AND REPTILES

A roo on the hop in Carlton. A blue-tongue lizard basking in a laneway. Ducklings in distress. Our park rangers have seen it all and know just what to do. So – before you step in – give the experts a call.

Our park rangers do important work – helping visitors, keeping our parks safe and protecting the City of Melbourne’s urban ecosystems through a range of programs.

The team members have diverse experience in fields including conservation, environmental science, outdoor education, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.



Isaac with the sedated kangaroo

It’s just as well the rangers are multi-skilled, because they often have some wild encounters. Like tailing a lost young kangaroo that was reported to be hopping up Lygon Street, as ranger Isaac Dodd explains.

“I was driving the ranger ute, snaking my way up through Carlton following reports of the roo,” Isaac said.

“He’d ended up in an apartment block backyard, highly distressed, cornered in by a resident’s dogs, trying to dig under a pool fence. I was first on the scene.”

Ranger Isaac helped remove the dogs to calm the kangaroo down, and called in reinforcements from Vets for Compassion, Wildlife Victoria, Victoria Police and other agencies. Meanwhile, residents helped hold up a roo net.

The vet team arrived and swiftly darted the kangaroo, sedating him for an in-field assessment, while another local helped by acting as a makeshift stand for an IV bag.

“It was a real team effort, with so many people and agencies working together. Thankfully the vets found the kangaroo was in great health, just overheating from the stress,” Isaac said.

“Once he’d cooled down, he was released to join up with a mob of roos out at Plenty Gorge. A volunteer patiently stayed with him throughout a three-hour nap, then after a groggy wake-up he hopped away to join his new family.

“It was a perfect outcome, even if it left him with a nasty hangover.”

Wild animals that are sick, injured, displaced or orphaned may need our help, but Isaac encourages you to think carefully and get an expert’s advice before you capture or move a creature.



The kangaroo waking up at Plenty Gorge



Many native Australian birds – like lorikeets and magpies – fledge on the ground, so they might look like they’re in distress. But removing them from their parents’ sight could be the wrong choice.

“Some birds fledge on the ground. After leaving the nest they can spend a few weeks unable to fly, building their strength and learning ‘how to bird’ while their parents protect and feed them from overhead,” Isaac said.

“Often these young fledglings can be hard to differentiate from their parents.”

Escaped pets can also cause a fuss in the middle of the city, like when Isaac received a report of a blue-tongued lizard in one of our iconic laneways.

“Although blue-tongues are native to Melbourne, this one had the colours of a Queenslander and was precariously basking in a busy CBD laneway,” Isaac said.

“He was very comfortable being handled, indicating he was an escaped or released pet. We contacted Reptiles Victoria and the team ensured he went to a special rehab and rehoming program.”

Our rangers’ other adventures include fishing a group of ducklings out of a deep drain with a long pool net and caring for a concussed sacred kingfisher before releasing the bird at Ron Barassi Park in Docklands.

HOW TO CARE FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE

Call an expert before taking action

If you spot an animal in trouble, report it to Wildlife Victoria by visiting wildlifevictoria.org.au or call their 24-hour hotline on 8400 7300. They’ll call in our park rangers to help if needed.

Understand natural behaviours

Get to know local species to recognise natural behaviours, like birds that fledge on the ground.

Don’t feed wildlife

Human food isn’t meant for animals. For example, ducks can’t digest bread – it causes severe illness. Animals who are fed can also become dependent and forget how to find their own food.

Keep your cats indoors

Cats are by far the biggest killers of local wildlife.

Leave water out for wildlife when it’s hot

Not all creatures can balance on the rim of a bowl, so add a rock for smaller creatures like lizards to drink from, and sticks so they can easily climb out.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Connect with us

[/cityofmelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmelbourne)
[@cityofmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmelbourne)
[@cityofmelbourne](https://www.twitter.com/cityofmelbourne)





QUESTION:
What brings you to the inner-city?

Faces of the Inner City



EMMA
I just finished watching *Dune: Part Two*



SEBASTIAN
I'm here [Cinema Nova] to see *Dune: Part Two*



EMMA
Seeing the beautiful architecture.



TOM
I've been working; I've been out in the sun all day.



Two legends of cinema are bid farewell in Oliver Parker's film, *The Great Escaper*. Review by Ruby Lowenstein.

This inspiring biopic is based on the true story of 89-year-old Bernard Jordan, a World War II veteran who “escaped” from his nursing home in England, wearing his war medals, to visit France for the D-Day commemorations in 2014.

After Bernard decides to cross the English Channel, the narrative splits between his adventure in France – played by the retired Sir Michael Caine – and his wife, Rene in the nursing home – by the late Glenda Jackson.

Amid the media’s frenzy over the elderly war hero’s escape and the woman left behind, unfolds a moving story of death, and survivor’s guilt, that is a touching swan song for its accomplished stars.

Michael Caine, a real-life army veteran of the Korean War and two-time Academy Award winner, worked mainly in theatre before achieving international stardom in his 1964 role in Cy Endfield’s *Zulu*. Meanwhile, Glenda Jackson, who died mid-2023, was as

accomplished in politics as in film, serving as a British MP for 23 years as well as winning two Academy Awards. The pair last appeared on screen together in the 1975 film, *The Romantic Englishwoman*, a half-century before their reunion and farewell in *The Great Escaper*.

The film offers a beautiful synergy between the context of production and its subject matter, going to great lengths to inspire, without sentimentalising. At 89, Bernard worries that he has left his visit to pay respects to his fallen comrades too late. However, inspired by the support of his wife, Bernard defies this ageist expectation.

What follows is a gritty yet humorous unpicking of old age and a testament to life’s greatest truth – that no matter who we are, we all face the same end, and no matter when we go, time is always running out.

For two stars, who achieved the height of critical acclaim and whose retirement from the silver screen suggests no diminished acting skill, this seems a fitting, bittersweet message.

Technically, *The Great Escaper* is a delicate tour-de-force. Parker employs fluid camera movements, favouring tracking shots that centre us within the protagonist’s world. John Standing, Victor Oshin and Danielle Vitalis offer memorable supporting performances as nursing home staff and veterans on D-Day pilgrimages.

The film boasts superb dialogue by William Ivory and an original score by Craig Armstrong whose credits include the soundtrack for *Romeo + Juliet* (1996), *Moulin Rouge!* (2001), *Love Actually* (2003), and *Far from the Madding Crowd* (2015).

The narrative is well-paced and nuanced,



reflecting not only on ageing but the endurance of love and the treatment of veterans. The motif of the “magic hour” – the first golden hour of sunrise – hits with pinpoint accuracy serving both as a romantic rallying point for our lovers and harkening to life’s ephemerality.

Although Parker’s modest story could be mistaken by some as suffering from a lack of ambition, the clarity of *The Great Escaper*’s telling only enhances its authenticity. Combined with the tremendous acting powers of Caine and Jackson, this film is an ode to life, a touching farewell for its stars and a worthy commemoration of those who sacrifice their life in service.

The Great Escaper is currently screening at Cinema Nova, Palace Kino Cinema, HOYTS Victoria Gardens and Palace Westgarth Cinemas. ●

Ruby Lowenstein is a writer, critic, and producer. She holds an BA with Honours in cinema and an MA in Arts and Cultural Management from the University of Melbourne.



CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

Easter Services

Thursday March 28 6.30pm
Maundy Thursday (footwashing and meal). Wear suitable clothing if you wish to participate in foot washing.

Friday March 25 9.00am
GoodFriday

Sunday March 31 10.00am
Easter Sunday (inc Holy Communion)

carltonunitingchurch.org.au | 180 Palmerston St, Carlton | 9347 7077



FIT FOR A KING:
VINCENT JENDEN REIMAGINES
THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION

28 FEBRUARY – 25 AUGUST 2024



East Melbourne's best-kept secret: explore exquisite fine and decorative arts in an historic townhouse.

JOHNSTONCOLLECTION.ORG | BOOK ONLINE



Public housing demolitions are being seriously challenged

The Victorian Legislative Council has voted to conduct an Inquiry into the decision of the state government to demolish all of 44 Melbourne public housing towers.

Labor MPs tried to stop it happening but the motion sponsored by Victorian Greens leader Samantha Ratnam gained the support of the Opposition and crossbench MPs to vote them down.

This means the state government will have to reveal in full detail why they want to demolish the homes of 10,000 adults and children, many of whom are aged or have disabilities with established support networks where they now live.

Why does a Labor government want public housing demolished?

The Victorian Government has signed up to a National Housing Accord with the

Albanese government, committing to see 800,000 new dwellings constructed in our state over the next 10 years.

This rate of construction has never been achieved in the past. In the 12 months to January, only 51,068 dwellings were approved – down 17.6 per cent on the same 12-month period the year before. High interest rates, inflated prices and now collapsing home building companies are ensuring it will stay low in the private market in the years ahead.

The Save Public Housing Collective believes this is the driving force behind the decision to demolish public housing and triple the density of housing on land where it now stands. They own the land and they do not care about current residents' health and wellbeing, so they are trying meet targets that can't be met by the private sector alone.

When you visit the estates, though, it is impossible to see how they can have this increase in density without loss of green open space.

Don't demolish: refurbish and build more

A letter from a public housing tenant published in *The Age* recently exposed the lie towers need to be demolished because of structural and repair issues:

"I reside in one 20-storey [tower] in the inner north. Starting in 2009 the exterior concrete panels were inspected by engineers and any defects rectified. Then two floors at a time the nine flats on each floor were stripped to bare concrete and rebuilt. Insulation, new electrical wiring and plumbing, new windows, security screens/doors, new modern kitchen, new bathroom, carpets and blinds. Cost over \$1 million per floor. The lifts were completely upgraded then the foyers and RFID tag access to enter. Over half the towers were refurbished like this. The building is solid. It has passed its 45-year certification." Jeff N

In my May column I will explore ways to actually deliver affordable housing for renters and first home buyers. The Australian Greens MP Max Chamber-Mather is on message and Labor is panicking.

Support the No Demolitions Campaign

You can send messages to the Victorian Premier and the Housing Minister by going to this link:



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

Cory Memery

CITY OF MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020



Rethinking the fertility journey

No.1 Fertility has reimagined the fertility journey for individuals and couples, helping them achieve their dreams of parenthood. Our team of fertility specialists is here to make these dreams come true and provide ongoing support at every step.

The innovative clinic thinks outside the box, believing that often it's the little things that make the biggest difference.

Forget what you know about clinics, No.1 Fertility has stepped away from the traditional "sterile" surrounds of a medical facility, towards a plush, comforting retreat akin to a day spa. Yet they continue to make their services accessible and competitively priced as they believe that everyone should have the opportunity to have a family whatever it looks like – whether it is starting or expanding a family.

With state-of-the-art technology and science, and a dedicated fertility day surgery onsite at East Melbourne, No.1 Fertility provides a holistic service, that strives to offer patient care tailored at individual needs.

Led by Dr Lynn Burmeister, who has worked in obstetrics and fertility for more than 20 years, No.1 Fertility offers a range of services, including low-cost egg freezing, personalised IVF services including a donor and surrogacy program and in-house ancillary services such as acupuncture.

Dr Burmeister, who has treated tens of thousands of women, said pre-conception health was paramount to the best chances of success, so No.1 Fertility put a strong emphasis on the combination of wellness, science and a holistic approach to help patients achieve a healthy pregnancy.



"Having a healthy baby starts with a healthy egg and sperm – so we first focus on the things we can control like lifestyle, diet and exercise," Dr Burmeister said.

"I look at the whole person and the whole picture. I take a detailed history of their diet and exercise routines and make sure these aren't reasons as to why they are not conceiving. I'm a firm believer that if we work on overall health first that will give us the best chance of a successful pregnancy."

Dr Burmeister said the maternal age had changed over the past 40 years with more women becoming mothers later in life.

"We understand this, and the pressures on women, with the so called ticking of their biological clocks so offer affordable egg freezing options to empower them to make decisions about their fertility," she said.

No.1 Fertility has clinics in East Melbourne and Melbourne's CBD. •

Book an appointment:
call **9132 9600** or visit
number1fertility.com



Music to guide you through school holidays

The Melbourne Recital Centre is putting on a show like no other these April school holidays with *Music Play*, a two-day festival of musical run, laughter and play.



With various activities, performances, and musical installations, *Music Play* promises something for mini-music lovers, festival-loving families, and friends.

Across two days, April 3 and 4, expect performances, installations, workshops and more, with each activity held multiple times a day, so no need to rearrange nap schedules.

Across both days, the main stage at the Recital Centre hosts a revolving roster featuring acts like Teeny Tiny Stevies, Bunny Racket and Conduct Us, while the Ground Floor turns installation haven with works like *Pivot* by Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey, *HEXADECA* by Pulsing Heart, *Melodius* by Thomas Campbell and *Rainbow Paths* by Helen Kwok and Chad Toprak.

Level Two will turn into a home of discovery with ultra-participatory

workshops like ABC of Beatboxing with LC Beats, Kidstruments with Playable Streets and the Wall of Sounds.

Andy Walker from Bunny Racket told *Inner City News* his show was "like a rock and roll party, for everyone in the family."

"It's a meeting place for people to rock out together and have absolute freedom to do so. It will put a smile on everyone's face," he said.

Alongside performances, workshops, and installations, you'll find musical face painting, a photobooth, Eliza Shephard as a roaming musical pixie, food trucks, pram parking, quiet zones, and, for parents: coffee.

Music Play is run over Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 4 with entry available every half hour between 9am and 1pm.

Tickets are \$40 or \$36 for Recital Centre members. •

Proudly representing the
community in inner Melbourne



Evan
MULHOLLAND MP
MEMBER FOR **NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION**

Unit 10, 2 Graystone Court Epping Vic 3076
03 9651 8242 | evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au
EvanMulholland.com.au | [EvanMulhollandMP](https://www.facebook.com/EvanMulhollandMP)
@evmulholland



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

Council elections 2024. We start from well behind!

As residents will be aware the Melbourne City Council elections will be held in October this year.

We will once again be confronted with the task of choosing a Lord Mayoral team that will determine if our interests and concerns are to be heard and dealt with over the next four years.

We will again be given a reality check of the City of Melbourne Act 2001 that provides for a gerrymandered council electoral system. It has been reinforced by successive Liberal and Labor governments post the Kennett era.

As residents of this city, we start from well behind non-resident and business voters who are given two votes. In fact, the gerrymander is unique in all of Australia's electoral jurisdictions and would never be countenanced in the governance of cities around the world.

That's a disproportionate weighting to bear, given we also have no wards to ensure our local interests and needs are met, and have a CBD-dominated narrative that swamps resident and small business interests in our suburbs.

The compulsory postal voting encourages celebrity and cashed-up Lord Mayoral candidates who can fill our letterboxes and have no need to reveal their real support on the ground at polling booths.

The CRA will be developing a "Resident First" campaign and will invite Lord Mayoral candidates and their team of councillor candidates to respond to a survey and attend public meetings that engage them on our issues.

We will need to separate the populist slogans and policies from those candidates who understand the diversity of the city, recognise resident and small business interests and will support participatory structures such as citizen juries to ensure voices

are heard as distinct from the silent surveys.

We invite residents to submit their issues and concerns to the CRA so we can prioritise the matters that will get us to the starting line along with non-resident and business interests.

Contact Martin Brennan CRA vice president: carltonresidents@gmail.com

Paris bans e-scooter share schemes and look what happens!

As many will be aware the City of Paris banned e-scooter share schemes six months ago to ensure that mobility was safe, effective and equitable for all Parisiennes. The ban was the result of the 15,000 e-scooters poor parking, user behaviour and safety issues.

Despite strict measures to regulate their use and limits on the number of e-scooters and the capping of speed at 20kmph, a referendum decided that a ban of e-scooter share schemes should be enforced. Private

e-scooters are still allowed, and the view is that they are used for longer trips and not used in place of walking and public transport.

The result has been an investment in cycle paths, parking stations and a boom in cycling. It all goes well for the coming surge of visitors for the 2024 Olympics and for the future of sustainable mobility in Paris.

We await the results of the extended trial in Melbourne and the state government's preparedness to empower the council to enter contracts with a limited number of e-scooter shared companies with rigid requirements for their on-road use for the safety of pedestrians.

The importance of geo-fencing to keep e-scooters out of our parks and gardens and off our footpaths is a necessary contribution to compliance. The provision of e-scooter parking bays will also be essential to ensure that they are part of an integrated mobility structure and not a disruptor. ●

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP



The anti-conscription campaign during WWI

Conscription, the compulsory enlistment of men for military service overseas, was a contentious issue in Australia during the First World War, and Carlton was at the centre of the controversy in Melbourne.

During two bitter and divisive referenda on the issue in 1916 and 1917, Trades Hall on Lygon St was a centre for the anti-conscription campaign.

Men were required to enlist in the army, but only for the local defence of Australia. Under the Australian Constitution, they could not be required to serve overseas. For that they had to volunteer.

In the early stages of the war, many did volunteer, and this provided enough troops to support Australia's contribution in Europe. But as the enormity of casualties on the Western Front became known, the number of men volunteering fell.

There was sustained pressure from the British Government to ensure that the Australian divisions were not depleted. But recruiting campaigns in Australia were not achieving the required targets.

The Prime Minister William "Billy" Hughes then decided to ask the electorate to change the Constitution, to agree to men being required to serve overseas. This stimulated bitter and divisive argument. Divisions were particularly along class and religious lines.

The unions were generally opposed, as was the Catholic Church. A referendum was held on October 28, 1916 and resulted in a defeat for the proposition.

But "Billy" Hughes was not finished yet. A modified proposal was put forward

for a second referendum. Only 7000 men a month would be conscripted, confined to single men, widowers, and divorcees without dependents. But once again bitter divisions emerged.

Typical of this is what happened at a public meeting in December 1917 in the Carlton Hall on Princes St organised by a group supporting conscription to promote the new government proposal.

But being in Carlton, the hall was filled with anti-conscriptionists. For nearly two hours the chairman and other speakers tried to make themselves heard above a pandemonium of shrieking and whistling.

At one point the audience was asked to stand and sing the (British) national anthem. About half rose, while the others broke into a Socialist anthem. Policemen were called, people were ejected, but to no avail. Finally, the chairman called for three cheers, and the police slowly cleared the hall.

On December 20, 1917 the modified proposal was put to a vote and was again rejected, by a larger majority than in the first referendum. This decisive defeat closed the issue of conscription. ●

Jeff Atkinson

PRESIDENT
JEFFANN@BIGPOND.NET.AU



PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Passionate people in Parkville

Since the Royal Park Masterplan review was announced much work has gone on behind the scenes presenting the case for retaining our glorious Royal Park as a "dark park".

On Saturday, March 16, more than 40 concerned individuals filled Walmsley House in Royal Park to listen to a review given by the City of Melbourne's senior open space planner Alicia Otto and manager of open space planning Fiona Finlayson.

Alicia presented a very thorough overview of key points raised in the various surveys and on-site meetings which enabled a

robust discussion to take place with those attending.

It was the first time in many years that members from the Royal Park Protection Group, Friends of Royal Park and the Parkville Association had gathered over a shared interest! Protectors of Public Land secretary Michael Petit was also in attendance.

The overwhelming outcome from those in attendance was to leave Royal Park as it is!

Discussions took place about lighting and most agreed that Poplar Rd could do with some additional lighting, however, clearly there is adequate street lighting on surrounding roads to enable safety. The flora and fauna of the park are the most important residents!

Nowhere in Australia is there such an inner-city natural park. It makes Melbourne so special and must remain untouched. Often, we bump into friends from across Melbourne that have travelled to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of Royal Park.

The Masterplan should be presented to the council by August which is very important given the local elections in September. Cr Rohan Leppert was also in attendance as an observer and given he is retiring from council in September this needs to be finalised during his term.

On other local matters there will be a further traffic survey in April followed by a residents' meeting with the council team responsible for traffic to talk "rat running" and safety in our suburb.

During April, Grattan St will reopen! Hopefully some of the traffic we have been experiencing will use Grattan St. It has been a long battle, but the council has supported us in ensuring Grattan reopens.

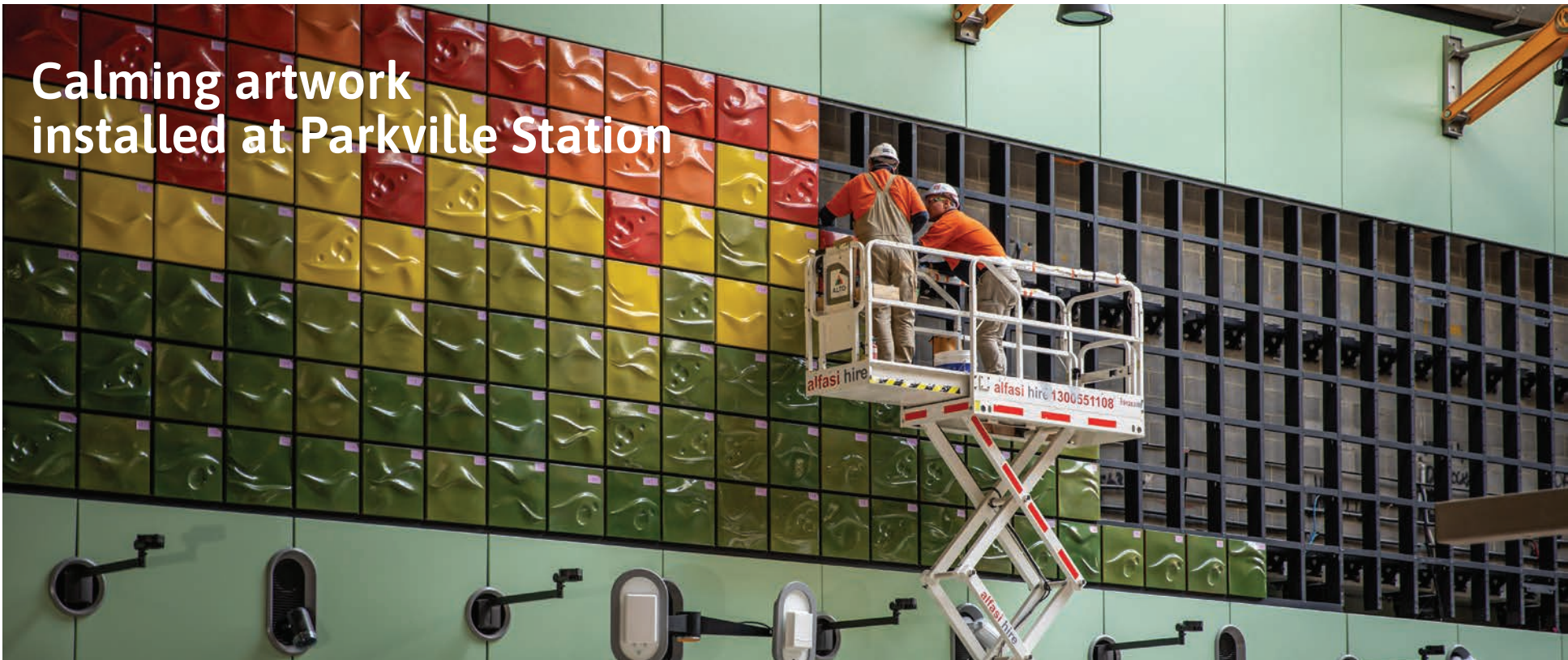
Finally, the Naughtons tipping competition is in full swing. I am trying to win back-to-back, but the competition is intense!

Have a great April. ●

Rob Moore

PRESIDENT
PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION





Calming artwork installed at Parkville Station

A major artwork designed to bring a sense of calm in Melbourne’s busy hospital and education precinct has been installed at Parkville Station.

Vernal Glade, by internationally acclaimed Melbourne artist Patricia Piccinini, is on the concourse level at the station’s main Grattan St entrance, bathed in natural light from the station’s 54-metre-long glass canopy.

The artwork is made up of more than 500 Japanese hand-crafted tiles, with a colour palette of pink, orange, green, and yellow designed to evoke calm, optimism and warmth for passengers in the busy health and research precinct. Installation took just over a month for what is Piccinini’s first permanent public artwork. Piccinini said she wanted the work to inspire people passing through the station. “The work communicates a sense of new life through colour,” she said. “These are the colours of spring,

new leaves, new foliage, the colours of ripening fruit on a tree.” Piccinini is one of the nation’s best-known artists. She has represented Australia at the Venice Biennale, exhibited in Helsinki, Tokyo, and London, and was awarded a Doctor of Visual and Performing Arts from the Victoria College of the Arts in 2016. Victorians will be able to see the artwork when the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule. Meanwhile, work is continuing at Parkville Station, including the return of The University of

Melbourne’s 150-year-old heritage-listed iron fence and basalt pillars on Grattan St. The fence was removed in 2018 and placed in storage to allow for work at the station. Crews are building footpaths, bike lanes and bus shelters, connecting utilities and landscaping in the streets surrounding the station. Parkville Station will connect this important part of the city to Melbourne’s train network for the first time, making it easier for workers, students, patients, and families to get where they need

to go. A pedestrian underpass beneath Royal Parade will connect passengers using Parkville Station and pedestrians to The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and The University of Melbourne. The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury, Cranbourne, and Pakenham lines via a new tunnel under the city. It will create an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, freeing up space in the City Loop and creating capacity to run more trains more often. ●

CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE

The pivotal role of Neighbourhood Houses in Carlton and beyond

In an average week, around 200,000 Victorians step through the doors of a Neighbourhood House, seeking connection, learning, and support.

WORDS BY
TONY MILNE - EXECUTIVE OFFICER



This figure, reflecting more than 10 million visits annually, underscores the indispensable role these centres play in our communities. Yet, despite their pivotal contribution, many remain unsung heroes in the public eye. Neighbourhood Houses, including the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC), are more than just community centres; they are vibrant hubs of growth and connection. Tailored programs address diverse needs, from education and wellbeing to social inclusion, with each initiative designed to empower and uplift. At the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC), diverse programs like *Alive* and *Active* transform lives of people with disability, illustrating the unique impact of Neighbourhood Houses. Denys, a refugee from the Ukraine, credits CNLC for his new start in Australia,

encapsulating their transformative power. In times of crisis, such as operating as a “Cool Centre” during heat emergencies, their value is unmistakable. Neighbourhood Houses are powered by the spirit of volunteerism, with 6940 volunteers weekly dedicating their time and skills. This volunteer effort, combined with the work of 5460 staff, not only supports community services but also contributes significantly to the local economy. The sector’s ability to generate \$6.80 of value for every dollar of funding received showcases its efficiency and the immense value it adds to the community. After 15 months leading a Neighbourhood House it’s clear to me that their value can’t be replicated or duplicated. They reach people and groups of people that other organisations can’t and are perfectly positioned to assist local councils, governments, and philanthropic organisations to achieve outcomes in a wide range of areas. Despite their critical contributions, Neighbourhood Houses face ongoing challenges, including funding constraints and the need for greater recognition. It is time for policymakers, leaders, and the public to rally behind these vital institutions. Supporting Neighbourhood Houses is an investment in the heart and soul of our communities, an investment that yields immeasurable returns in wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic benefits. ●

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Teaching strength: a father’s quest against modern distractions

Becoming a father of two has sharply refocused my lens on the world, especially regarding the myriad of influences vying for my children’s attention.

It’s not just about screen time control (although the AFL’s troubling embrace of gambling culture has prompted me to switch that off); it’s about guiding them through the noise towards a healthier, more grounded understanding of wellbeing. In my journey, both personal and professional, I’ve witnessed the transformative power of strength training and outdoor activities – not just for the body, but for the mind and spirit. It’s a message I’m passionate about passing on to my kids, not through words but through action. The reality we’re navigating isn’t simple. Marketing tactics and social media narratives often push ideals and solutions that are at odds with the values of hard work, resilience, and self-acceptance. I’ve seen enough quick fixes and “magic pills” being peddled to know they don’t lead to lasting happiness or health. And I refuse to let these be the only voices heard in my children’s formative years. This isn’t about sheltering them from society’s complexities but equipping them with the tools and attitudes to approach life with strength and confidence. It’s not merely academic; it’s deeply personal. It’s

showing them the importance of nurturing both their physical and mental landscapes. I want my children to see strength and nutrition not as chores or responses to societal pressure but as acts of self-care. By integrating these practices into our family life, I aim to model behaviours that emphasise persistence, self-care, and the intrinsic rewards of feeling strong and capable. Bringing my kids into environments where fitness and health are prioritised, I’m not just exposing them to a gym setting, I’m showing them a community that values effort over appearance, and discipline over instant gratification. It’s crucial for them, especially for my daughter, to see their mother embracing her strength, to understand that self-worth isn’t tied to the scale but to how you respect and treat your body. This column isn’t a manifesto against the media or a critique of modern marketing. It’s a father’s reflection on the lessons he wishes to pass on to his children. And if, along the way, they learn to navigate the world’s challenges with a bit of their father’s stubborn optimism and resilience, I’d consider that a job well done. ●

Kane Hamilton
PRIME40 PERSONAL TRAINING
PRIME40PERSONALTRAINING.COM.AU





1 Oslo 2 Emma Memma and Peter Hellerli 3 Mozart and Blink-182 4 Audrey Hepburn 5 Matt Damon 6 Costa Georgiadis 7 South America 8 The Killers 9 Tattoos from Fine Line Tattoos 10 Mazda 11 The Melbourne International Flower and Garden show 12 (C) 1963

S		A		S
	U		I	
A		O		A
	E		E	
S		E		Y

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

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

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

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

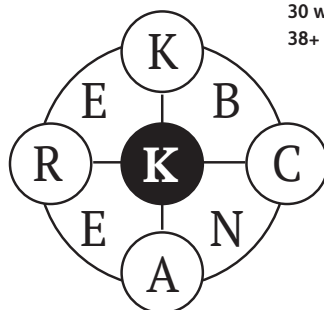
E	N	L	C	O	L	A	T	V	T	D
I	L	O	I	B	L	O	I	E	U	O
G	O	I	H	Z	R	B	G	N	R	R
U	D	E	D	T	A	D	E	O	T	O
A	B	E	O	O	Y	R	R	M	L	T
N	I	I	N	G	C	P	D	O	E	A
A	S	D	R	A	G	O	N	U	K	G
E	M	O	N	I	T	O	R	S	A	I
A	R	A	T	A	U	T	S	C	N	L
C	H	A	M	E	L	E	O	N	S	L
C	O	P	P	E	R	H	E	A	D	A

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

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

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

X	Y	G	N	J	A	O	T	K	B	W	Q	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	D	P	H	M	L	F	S	V	U	Z	E	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13



Please support our advertisers because without them we would have no *Inner City News*

WHAT'S ON
April

Autumn is here and we welcome another huge month in Melbourne's event calendar. Keep up to date with everything happening in your suburb.

AUSTRALASIAN QUILT CONVENTION
Showcasing the best Australian and global quilt crafts with workshops also on offer from renowned crafting experts.

Tickets and more information: aqc.com.au
Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton Gardens.

APRIL 11 - 14

ITALIAN FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
Interested in tracing your Italian family heritage? In this three-hour workshop you'll be introduced to the tools needed to start your research journey. Presented in partnership with Coasit.

Kathleen Syme Library, 251 Faraday St, Carlton

APRIL 6 + 27. 2PM - 5PM

YOUNG ARTIST AUTUMN SELECT EXHIBITION
Showcasing the creativity and ingenuity of young artists under 25, this exhibition features a diverse array of finished artworks, from striking paintings to innovative sculptures.

Victorian Artists Society, 430 Albert St, East Melbourne

APRIL 12 - 29. 10AM - 4PM

FRENCH AND SURREAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEV STEER
In his exhibition, 6 mois en France, Melbourne artist Nev Steer captures the grand images of the French Empire, adding a surreal touch to many of them.
Life's Too Short Bar Shop 2/412 Victoria Parade East Melbourne

UNTIL MAY 5, 4PM - 11PM

GRAINGER AMPLIFIED
In new installations we see Grainger's Museum Legends — didactic panels aimed at offering deeper insights into his musical philosophy and the context of his collection.

Grainger Museum, 13 Royal Parade, Parkville

UNTIL MAY 20. 1PM - 4PM

#SWIFTTOK BY DEAN ROBINSON
#SWIFTTOK is a deepdive into the hilarity of online stan culture, the tiktok generation, and above all is a true celebration of Taylor Swift.
The Motley Bauhaus, 118 Elgin St, Carlton
eventfinda.com.au/2024/swifftok/melbourne/carlton

APRIL 11 - 21, 6PM - 7PM

PORT PHILLIP FERRIES: DOCKLANDS DISCOVERY CRUISES
Includes a relaxing one-hour cruise through Victoria Harbour, along the Yarra River, and under the Bolte Bridge and Westgate Bridge – with some historical commentary.

portphillipferries.com.au

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 AND 16

COOK TO CONNECT
Join a dietician in these sessions to learn new tips and tricks for cooking healthy and delicious meals. Even without all the bells and whistles of a full kitchen it is still possible to make nutritious food.
Kathleen Syme, 251 Faraday St, Carlton

EVERY TUESDAY, UNTIL DECEMBER 17, 11AM - 1PM

LOCAL LUNCH CLUB
At the Local Lunch Club, a delicious free vegetarian lunch will be cooked on-site by Open Table using diverted surplus food that otherwise would have gone to waste.

Kathleen Syme, 251 Faraday St, Carlton

FEBRUARY 17 - AUGUST 17, 12PM - 2PM

BEHIND THE LINES
Behind the Lines is a travelling annual exhibition developed by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House Canberra.

Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring St
oldtreasurybuilding.org.au

UNTIL MAY 24, SUNDAYS - FRIDAYS, 10AM - 4PM

EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK
The East Melbourne Neighbour Network aims to create a thriving and inclusive community and provides a range of health and wellbeing activities for people of all ages, as well as a community choir. For further info contact:
Sue and Ann-Maree: emnn3002@gmail.com

WEEKDAYS @ VARIOUS TIMES

Business Directory

CAT SITTER

PURRRFECT CAT SITTER
Does your cat prefer to stay at home while you're away? I come to you!
Visiting the suburbs of Inner City News.
[@purrrfectcatsitter](https://www.instagram.com/purrrfectcatsitter)
0448 692 650
ben@purrrfectcatsitter.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Nº1 WOMEN'S HEALTH

women's health matters

Telephone (03) 9132 9644
www.number1womenshealth.com
[@no1womenshealth](https://www.instagram.com/no1womenshealth)

POLITICIAN

BE STRONG NOT TIRED
PRIME 40

13 Hyam pl, Carlton 3053
www.prime40personaltraining.com.au

Proudly representing the community in inner Melbourne

Evan MULHOLLAND MP
NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION
evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au



N°1 FERTILITY

START YOUR JOURNEY TOWARDS PARENTHOOD AT NO.1 FERTILITY

Transform your dream into reality.

Our experienced and compassionate fertility experts are dedicated to helping you realise your dream of parenthood by supporting and guiding you at every step of your journey.

Specialising in IVF, egg and sperm freezing, donor and surrogacy and genetic testing, N°1 Fertility's holistic approach delivers the highest quality of inclusive care.

Contact us for a confidential consultation to explore your fertility options.



BOOK AN
APPOINTMENT

120 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne 3002 | (03) 9132 9600 | number1fertility.com