



## Smashing barriers for blind tennis

Royal Park Tennis Club has now kicked off its tennis programs dedicated to coaching and offering social connection for blind and low-vision players. Find out more on page 6. *Photo: Hanna Komissarova.*

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Opposition  
rises to housing  
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## University Square final concept design endorsed

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The City of Melbourne has endorsed the final concept design for stage two of the redevelopment of Carlton’s University Square following community consultation.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The square is one of Melbourne’s oldest public squares and is surrounded by the University of Melbourne.

Since the original master plan was approved in 2016, the square has been revitalised with the first phase delivering a large new open space, a garden, and terrace spaces, which was finished in 2019.

But stage two has yet to begin after the council paused any future works in recognition of the site’s context having evolved in recent years, particularly with the Metro Tunnel Project, which had prompted the council to develop a “refresh” master plan which was endorsed in October last year.

Stage two works will not begin until after the new

Parkville Metro underground railway station has been completed (which is expected to be in 2025) as it will make a key connection to the square.

The council also revisited the plans due to the architectural installation of MPavilion in 2019.

Under the plans, the new-look University Square would see a total of 250 new trees planted in 6500 square metres of open space, as well as a new barbecue area, water feature and public art.

Community consultation, which included Wurundjeri Elders and the University of Melbourne, was held from October 3 to November 20 last year. More than 130 people provided feedback through the Participate Melbourne website.

Changes to the concept plan included foregrounding recognition of Traditional Owner narratives, particularly through opportunities for wellbeing and continuation of the Bouverie Creek water story through the site.

Barry St would also be turned into an emphatic green space with ephemeral water features (including Barry Plaza as the entrance to University Square from Parkville Station).

Also proposed is enhanced pedestrian movement and relocating active recreation spaces to manage potential pedestrian and player conflicts.

Another addition is collocating activities to support a diversity of uses, including passive, active and social activities, having consideration for interfaces such as quiet places being located adjacent to the library.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung also welcomed a reconsideration of the square’s name in consultation with Aboriginal community.

*Continued on page 2.*



## Carlton Corner brings vintage charm to Canning St

Meet the quirky and eccentric family behind Canning St’s newest vintage pop-up store presenting a thoughtfully curated collection of timeless treasures, Carlton Corner, tucked away in the “multifunctional” space of the Melbourne French Theatre’s (MFT) rehearsal venue.

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# HYPERLOCAL

NEWS

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# Verdict reserved in class action over demolition of public housing towers

**A Supreme Court of Victoria Judge has reserved their decision on the state government's application to have a class action against the demolition of public housing towers thrown out.**

**WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES**



In a plan announced last September, the government said it would demolish and redevelop 44 public housing towers across Melbourne, which prompted a wave of uncertainty and fears of displacement among residents.

The North Melbourne towers are listed among the first to go along with estates in Carlton and Flemington at a yet-to-be specified time during the next 30 years.

The towers, which have stood for decades, were deemed outdated and in need of replacement.

The proposal was made as part of the government's Housing Statement, which pledged to build 800,000 homes over the decade to 2034 to accommodate the state's growing population, which is forecast to reach 10.3 million by 2051.

The tower at 33 Alfred St had been earmarked as the first tower to be demolished, with residents concerned about being forced out of their homes.

Barry Berin, a resident of 23 years at 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne, filed the class action earlier this year with Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) acting on behalf of public housing residents in North Melbourne and Flemington.

The class action alleges that residents' human rights were being disregarded and that public authorities have failed to properly consider their rights throughout the process.

The case was heard at the Supreme Court of Victoria on April 23 where Judge Melinda Richards told the court she would consider all submissions while reserving her judgment. The matter has been adjourned until May 3.

The state government-appointed legal adviser Liam Brown SC told the court, "We say, seeing there's no real prospect of success because none of the grounds have any merit, we also say, in addition to that, the plaintiff has no prospect of obtaining upon all relief that he seeks," he said.

Mr Brown added that the policy decision regarding the towers was in the government's Housing Statement.

"It's a long-term plan dealing with a very complex, multifaceted policy dilemma. But we also say another important feature of this statement is that it's high level, and it will necessarily need to be developed and fleshed out and changed, as circumstances change, and as its delivery becomes more certain," he said.

In a statement, IMCL's managing lawyer Louisa Bassini said the entire process had occurred without transparency or procedural fairness.

"The public housing estates aren't just bricks and mortar that belong to the state government. The towers are home to 10,000 Victorians and their rights matter. Their homes, families and communities are important," she said.

"The Victorian Government should not prefer expedited and secretive decision-making ahead of proper consideration of people's rights."



The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing last year said its relocation teams were working with translators and community leaders and participating in briefing sessions, community meetings, and pop-up information stalls to provide renters with information about the project, listen to their questions, and discuss the process for relocating. ●

# University Square final concept design endorsed

Continued from page 1.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the concept plans at their April 23 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp thanked the community for their "excellent feedback" that was reflected in the final designs.

"This is an important space in Carlton that CYP [Cross Yarra Partnership delivering the Metro Tunnel Project] will hand back to us as their works wrap up," Cr Capp said.

"How exciting to see that this enormous project of the Melbourne Metro train is coming to an end and that we can really start work on enhancing the urban realm around that train station and see University Square come back to life."

"Like the growing number of residents and, of course, workers and students in the area and providing the right sort of facilities to encourage their use of this, I think lovely space in Carlton, is important." ●



## Scott Alley is now open for business

Works are now complete at Scott Alley to prepare a pedestrian entrance to the new Town Hall Station.

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LYGON LOCAL



## The “Swoppy”: Carlton’s “one-stop music shop”

Nestled on Elgin St across two stores, Music Swop Shop has been the go-to spot for music-lovers for more than four decades.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Established in 1982, the iconic store has remained a beloved fixture, attracting visitors with its diverse selection of musical treasures.

While the “Swoppy” story began before current proprietor Bryan took over 37 years ago, he has remained the sole owner of the store since taking over in what he describes as a “meant to be” moment in his life.

“I worked in the public service for many years and had always played music and been in bands, but I just happened to be taking long service leave and I saw a little ad in the newspaper that said, ‘music shop for sale,’” Bryan told *Inner City News*.

“I kept flicking past and coming back to it, and before I knew it, I was making an appointment – I couldn’t see myself doing anything else.”

Stepping inside the Swoppy, you’ll find cosy chaos; guitars hanging from the ceiling and musical paraphernalia filling every corner, with the shop’s undeniable charm and friendly atmosphere welcoming music enthusiasts from all walks of life.

Selling items on consignment, Bryan and his team value honesty above all else, with no hidden charges or time limits to put an item up for sale, as well as a three-day handover period to address any faults.

“I like the idea of consignment – it’s unpredictable, you never know what people will bring in to sell or the people you’ll meet,” Bryan said. “It’s always been a forte of the shop and why people like doing it with us, we’re kind of neutral turf. We don’t have a vested interest in particular things, and rule number one is always honesty – you can never go wrong with honesty.”

Specialising in guitars and amplifiers, Music Swop Shop is also staffed by passionate musicians eager to share their knowledge.

“All my staff are tremendous, they work above and beyond,” Bryan said. “When people come in and we say, ‘can we help you’, we mean it. We genuinely want to help people, there’s no high-pressure sales.”

The business expanded three years ago, adding a second storefront across the road at 136 Elgin St.

The Swoppy’s second location stocks mainly acoustic guitars, accessories, and keyboard-related and world music items, while electric guitars, amps and pedals are available at 145-147 Elgin St.

They also offer various in-store services including instrument and amp repairs at affordable prices, as well as items available on their online store for “3am purchases after a glass of wine”.

“Every day is a different adventure. It’s not a case of, ‘I’m off to work today’, but rather ‘I’m off to the shop today’ – the staff feel the same too,” Bryan said.

“There’s been a lot of musicians that have met within the shop and bands formed over the years. I’ve developed relationships with a lot of customers too, and now the next generation and their kids are coming in. It’s a great feeling that people appreciate what we do.” ●

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## Celebrate Neighbourhood House Week in Carlton

Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre is celebrating Neighbourhood House Week with a special family event filled with fun activities.

The free event, to be held on May 8 from 3.30pm to 6pm, will feature African drumming workshops, face painting, henna art, delicious food showcasing the vibrant tapestry of the community, and more.

"There's something for everyone to enjoy," Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre executive officer Tony Milne said.

"Join us as we embrace the theme of 'Stronger Together' and create lasting memories in our vibrant community!"

Other activities and food include table tennis, a barbecue, Eritrean coffee, and donuts. A

market stall will also be held with plants, compost, pickles, and other products.

A winner will be named for the best hobby horse creation, which will be preferably made from recycled materials.

There will also be a hobby horse competition (from 5.15pm) which promises to create unforgettable memories for the whole family.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece will also drop by along with local politicians.

The event will be held at Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, 20 Princes St, Carlton North. ●

## City school for girls receives exclusive Masterclass with cast member of *Chicago*

With theatre fever in the air, Academy of Mary Immaculate in Fitzroy has welcomed collaboration with Stephen Valeri, cast member of the acclaimed musical *Chicago*, currently gracing the stages of Melbourne.

In an unprecedented opportunity, the students performing in this year's school production of *Chicago*, had the privilege of participating in a bespoke musical masterclass led by Valeri, a principal cast member in the 2023/24 Australian tour.

The masterclass, held in Term 1, was a unique occasion for the students to refine their musical talents under the guidance of a professional performer with first-hand experience in one of Broadway's most celebrated productions.

Valeri generously shared invaluable insights into character development, stage presence, and vocal techniques.

"We are immensely grateful to Stephen for sharing his time and expertise with our students," performing arts learning leader Olivia Hamilton said.

"Stephen's professional expertise and passion for the craft inspired our students, leaving a lasting impact on their performance skills."

"This hands-on experience not only enhances their understanding of the theatrical process but also instils a sense of confidence and professionalism that extends beyond the stage into various aspects of their lives."

"We feel incredibly lucky for the opportunity to learn from such a seasoned specialist. It was a workshop that truly brought the razzle-dazzle of *Chicago* to life for all involved."

The musical *Chicago* is inspired by a play of the same name by reporter and playwright Maurine Dallas Watkins who was assigned to cover the 1924



trials of accused murderers Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Valeri said it was a pleasure to work with the talented students of the Academy who impressed the performer, "not only with their performance skills, but their willingness to delve deeper into the text of this iconic piece."

"They were responsive, passionate and handled themselves professionally during the workshop," he said. "School musicals are an incredible training ground for young performers to develop their skills, not only on the stage, but in life. They foster an appreciation for the creative process and the arts in general. I'm so looking forward to seeing their fully realised production."

The Academy of Mary Immaculate is the oldest girls' school in Victoria, located in Fitzroy. The Academy is an authentic and inclusive premier learning community, dedicated to nurturing the academic, artistic, and personal development of students, where students are empowered to achieve their full potential across various disciplines.

For more information, contact Nicole Sims via email at [Nicole.sims@academy.vic.edu.au](mailto:Nicole.sims@academy.vic.edu.au) or phone **0404 873 825** ●

### FEDERAL MP

## Something has to change

Right now, millions of people around the country are struggling to pay the rent or mortgage and keep up with the rising cost of food.

WORDS BY  
ADAM BANDT

It's hard to stomach that while people are skipping meals and keeping a roof over their head, big supermarkets are making billions, and property investors are able to purchase scores of homes using

government tax concessions.

Labor is handing down another budget in the next few weeks, but don't hold your breath if you're hoping for substantial cost-of-living relief, more affordable housing or anything which will reduce the cost of groceries.

Labor's more focused on delivering for big corporations and protecting wealthy property investors than ensuring people struggling eat healthily, and sleep soundly.

They won't coordinate a rent freeze. They won't stop the hand-outs to property investors. They won't build enough affordable homes. They won't tackle the price gouging of big supermarkets.

Since coming to power, Labor's put more effort into protecting profits and property investors than they have in helping people deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

Why? Because Labor doesn't have the guts to do what's necessary, and Peter Dutton would be even worse.

They don't have the guts to take on the big supermarkets and their market power, or the wealthy property investors who get an unfair advantage when bidding against people trying to get into the housing market for the first time.

Instead of doing what's required, expect more band aids,

inadequate measures which are barely noticeable to most people.

We need to stand up to the big corporations. Make them pay a fair share of tax. And, if they have too much market power, so break them up. Big supermarkets are some of the most profitable corporations in the country.

The Greens have proposed breaking up the big supermarkets, so they can't set prices for consumers and suppliers, but the Labor Party rejected the policy out of hand. Instead, they take massive donations from the big supermarkets. If they took action, we could break up the big supermarkets, and reduce the cost of groceries.

Then there's housing. Labor has refused to limit tax concessions for wealthy profits holders. Over the next decade, these concessions are going to cost the budget billions. If the government had guts, they would be focused on winding back the tax concessions to people with more than two homes. This money should be going to helping people find affordable housing – not boosting property portfolios.

When the essentials are out of reach for many, something has to change. If you're disappointed in Labor and don't want Dutton, know that the Greens will put people first. ●

# ADAM BANDT

## FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE



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# Fruit bat electrocutions in Parkville prompt CitiPower to take action

Residents of a Parkville South street have spoken of their concern of fruit bats being electrocuted on power lines as large numbers feed on nearby ginkgo trees.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



A CitiPower spokesperson said it had been one of the most significant seasons for bat activity around its networks, some of which had caused outages in parts of Victoria.

In response to local concerns in Park Drive, Parkville, the spokesperson said they had taken some mitigation steps to address the welfare of wildlife, including trialling specially designed insulated sleeves over conductors.

It said this was designed to help bats avoid powerlines and reduce the chance of electrocution if impacts occurred.

"We will continue to monitor network activity and keep working closely with the local council and with customers in the area to improve measures to safeguard our wildlife," the spokesperson said.

According to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, the grey-headed flying-fox, also known as a fruit bat, fed on a variety of trees and shrubs.

"After feeding, flying foxes may rest on nearby powerlines. As they spread their wings to take flight the wings can make contact with live wires, resulting in electrocution. In most cases, the flying-foxes die," it said.

Resident Ingrid Wittman said while she acknowledged CitiPower's trial was well-intended, "this action was implemented in haste" without consultation with residents, "and it is far from the best available solution to the electrocution problem".

"Ideally, the powerlines along the west side of Park Drive northeast of Story St should be underground – as they are between Flemington Rd and Story St, as they are all along the

east side of Park Drive, and as they are on other South Parkville streets," she said.

Ms Wittman said she also believed removing the trees and replacing them with mature non-fruiting male trees would end the bat electrocutions.

She said this would solve other problems of the fruit that falls from female ginkgo trees that cause a mess on footpaths and parked cars.

Ms Wittman also noted the conductors were "unsightly" and distracted "significantly from the visual aesthetic of the area".

Another resident Gary said the "sensible and logical conclusion to this matter is to pull out all four female trees and replace them with male trees and let them grow back up to normal size".

In a statement, the City of Melbourne said some ginkgo trees on Park Drive had been part of the landscape for around 25 years, and all trees were assessed and pruned if required every year.

"Preserving trees provides environmental and health benefits for our community. Under our tree policy, we do not prune or remove trees because of fruit or debris falling – unless it poses a safety risk," it said.

"We collect fruit fall and debris from trees during regular street sweeping – and we increase these services during heavy leaf fall and fruiting seasons, including along Park Drive. Residents can also request additional street sweeping services on our website."

The council's next maintenance of trees will occur in June, with trees to be cleared from power lines if necessary. ●

## New lighting proposed for Carlton Gardens North

The City of Melbourne has applied for a heritage permit to undertake new lighting installations in Carlton Gardens North.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The proposed work includes new park lights along the north-east path from the Carlton Garden tennis club to the corner of Carlton and Nicholson streets.

It will also provide additional general lawn lighting to improve the playground, ball court and picnic areas, so they can be used for longer periods, particularly in winter.

The general lawn lighting will be programmed to turn off before 10pm. The proposed new lighting follows community feedback gathered when the council prepared a Carlton Gardens master plan in 2022.

Carlton Gardens North is bounded by Carlton, Nicholson, and Rathdowne streets, and the Melbourne Museum and Exhibition Reserve.

A total of eight 5.5-metre-high park lights are proposed with the poles and fixtures to match the existing park lighting in Carlton Gardens, with a "Brunswick Green" powder coat finish.

Three new and one replacement light pole are proposed for the playground area, and one new light is proposed to service the existing half basketball court and picnic area.

The poles are to be set back 1.5 metres from the path edge, with spacings of about 20 to 30 metres to match the presentation of existing avenue lighting as well as avoid tree structural root zones, the application stated.

The council has applied to Heritage Victoria for a permit to carry out the work. The gardens are located within a World Heritage Environs Area of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, but the application noted it "does not affect the World Heritage values of the listed place". ●

## Cohealth's Cook to Connect program empowering local community

In response to the increasing cost of living, cohealth in partnership with the City of Melbourne has launched a cooking class aimed at helping disadvantaged locals learn to prepare nutritious and affordable meals.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



The Cook to Connect group, held fortnightly at Carlton's Kathleen Syme Library, caters to more than 30 participants from marginalised communities, including those experiencing homelessness, insecure housing, and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Led by cohealth dietitians and peer workers with lived experience of homelessness, the class provides a platform for participants to not only enhance their cooking skills, but also forge new connections and friendships.

"While our libraries are renowned for their book collections, they also offer inclusive and welcoming spaces to collaborate and learn," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"Melburnians are cooking up a storm at our Cook to Connect classes – embracing the opportunity to serve up budget-friendly, healthy meals while bringing people together."

Since June 2023 Cook to Connect has hosted more than 320 participants over 10 sessions.

Damian Zap, a participant in the program, has been attending the sessions since November last year.

Despite initially stumbling into the



program with little enthusiasm for cooking, Damian has now embraced the sessions wholeheartedly.

"It was really comfortable, and a lot of people we're inclusive straight away," Damian told *Inner City News*. "I didn't know the name of the thing when I showed up, I had no idea it was called Cook to Connect, but it definitely does do that."

Held fortnightly on Tuesdays from 11am to 1pm, the free sessions lead participants through a variety of cuisines each week, building confident cooks and providing an opportunity to connect with the local community. ●

For more information:



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INNER CITY LOCAL



## Carlton Corner brings vintage charm to Canning St

Meet the quirky and eccentric family behind Canning St's newest vintage pop-up store, Carlton Corner.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Run by eldest daughter Heidi and youngest daughter Olivia alongside their parents, Maggie and Michael, the Bula family brings a unique blend of creativity and expertise to Carlton's fashion scene.

Tucked away in the "multifunctional" space of the Melbourne French Theatre's (MFT) rehearsal venue, a nearly 50-year-old institution co-founded by Michael, Carlton Corner presents a thoughtfully curated collection of timeless treasures.

Combining Heidi's artistic flair, Olivia's retail experience, Maggie's widely known decluttering skills, and Michael's discerning eye for fashion, the family have sourced preloved pieces from their own wardrobes, as well as cherished items passed down from their beloved Nonna.

"I've had the idea of having a vintage store for a long time, but mainly because we have so many things in the house and I've been wanting to declutter for years and years," Maggie said.

"We've finally pulled all our resources together and realised that we can do so much with what we've got."

Having "seen the world through our clothes", Carlton Corner stocks various pieces "through all different phases of fashion and weights", catering to a diverse clientele.

Entering Carlton Corner, you'll find walls adorned with vintage posters and disco lights shimmering, with one of the Bula's likely welcoming you in from their favourite spot on the couch.

"They used to really tailor things for specific body shapes, so that means when you try on vintage things, some things look really horrible and some things fit like a glove and it's like a match made in heaven – there's something really special about that, you feel like you found a gem," Heidi told *Inner City News*.

Although having lived in Carlton for many years, the Bula's have enjoyed getting to connect with the "business side" of the community, as well as introducing locals to the MFT space.

As the store's current chapter draws to a close on May 5 to make way for the MFT's rehearsals for their August performance, the Bula's are confident that the spirit of Carlton Corner will endure in the months ahead.

"We thought of Carlton Corner and the Instagram page to make it more adaptable into something new, like little art exhibitions or paint and sips," Olivia said.

"We'd love to be able to use the space to get local artists in."

Up until May 5, Carlton Corner will offer a 25 per cent discount on all items. The store is located at 203-205 Canning St and is open on Wednesday to Friday from 3.30pm to 6.30pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10.30am to 6.30pm. ●

## Family appeal for lost WWI medal

A man has appealed to the public for help in finding his son's great-great-grandfather's British World War One medal, which was lost on Anzac Day in the East Melbourne area.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



Tim Nicholas said his seven-year-old son Albie was wearing two medals, one gold and the other silver, while attending the football match between Essendon and Collingwood at the MCG.

The medals were awarded to his wife's great-grandfather, Albert Walton, who served with the British Army in WWI.

Mr Nicholas said the silver medal was the one that went missing, which had been pinned to his son's football jumper.

Mr Nicholas said following the football match, they walked from the MCG's gate two through to the Fitzroy Gardens where they stopped to kick a footy near Albert St.

"We believe it came off at some one stage when Albie took his jumper off which was over the top of his football jersey," he said.

"It's fallen off the ribbon."

He said the medal was last seen at the MCG around 6pm. They didn't realise it was missing until they arrived home in Geelong in the evening.

Mr Nicholas said he travelled back to the Fitzroy Gardens on the same night to search for the medal but without any luck.

The medal has King George V's face on one side and St George on a horse on the other. It is engraved around the edge with the name "A. Walton".



Mr Nicholas said the medal was of huge and significant sentimental value and appealed to anyone with information of its whereabouts to contact their local police station. ●

## Royal Park Tennis Club smashing barriers for blind tennis

Royal Park Tennis Club (RPTC) has kicked off its coaching and social tennis sessions for blind and low-vision players.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



Following a successful Term 1 program, the program resumes from April 15 to May 6, providing a unique opportunity for blind and low-vision players in the inner city to participate in the sport.

In collaboration with Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria, the program not only offers a space to play blind tennis, but also fosters an environment for learning and growth in the sport.

"We saw a gap in the market where we didn't have any blind or social tennis happening in the northern corridor of Melbourne, so we saw that opportunity to diversify and grow the market," RPTC's marketing and program coordinator Aleks Ceran said.

"We knew from having a member here at the club that he was keen to play some social tennis at his own club, so we thought it was a really good opportunity to start a program."

David Gordon is a participant in the program and ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Australia in his eyesight category of B2, which includes players with partial vision.

For David, he largely relies on peripheral vision to play.

Thanks to the RPTC he has been able to receive coaching to get to the level he is now, emphasising that the club had "gone out of their way to support me".

"My development's come a long way. When I first started playing tennis, I had to serve underarm, and I could barely get a ball back, but now I am more confident," he told *Inner City News*.

"I love it, the club has been so supportive of me. The secretary, the treasurer, the coach, the groundskeeper – everybody that sees me and the other players down there come up to us afterwards and ask us about the sport. We don't think we're inspirations, but they say it's inspiring to see us play."

For blind and low-vision players, there are few opportunities to play socially, which Aleks said had been proven to be the most significant impact of the program.

With a \$700 grant from Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria, RPTC has been able to purchase audible tennis balls used in blind and low vision tennis, and other



equipment to support the players participating in the program.

At the first lesson of Term 2, RPTC welcomed Jason, Amina and David who have previously participated in the program.

First-time player John also joined them, who by the end of the session was already executing an overarm serve with the support of coaches and the other participants.

"The main benefit was that they were able to find a community where they could feel comfortable to play tennis as well as hang out in the clubhouse afterwards,

so they're able to sort of feel a really great sense of community as well as improving their tennis," Aleks said.

The weekly program runs both coaching and social tennis for \$10 per session.

While the term is coming to an end, Aleks hopes that the program can continue on a fortnightly basis, as well as potentially running casual inter-club competitions with other clubs in Melbourne that cater for blind and low vision players.

"Royal Park is one of the few other clubs in Melbourne at the

moment offering a program," David said. "The density of players is obviously not as much as standard-sighted players, so you need to look around the suburbs more to find other people are that are wanting to play."

The RPTC team and participants involved in the program encourage anyone interested in playing or learning about blind tennis to come along to a session and experience the sport firsthand. ●

## Wildflower meadows bloom in Parkville

A vibrant wildflower meadow has sprung to life in Parkville, thanks to a new project boosting biodiversity in the urban environment.

WORDS BY  
BRENDAN REES



The meadow on Oak St has burst into full bloom after being planted in August last year and is now boasting more than 25 species of Indigenous grasses and wildflowers.

It is the City of Melbourne's second Indigenous wildflower meadow created in collaboration with researchers from the University of Melbourne – building on lessons from a meadow planted in Gatehouse St in 2020.

The Oak St meadow features Indigenous grasses and wildflowers including murnong (yam daisy), once a staple food of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, as well as everlasting and iconic kangaroo grass.

"It's fantastic to see the city's second Indigenous meadow in full bloom on Oak St in Parkville," the council's environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said.

"These meadows are more than just a great way to beautify the city – with the use of Indigenous and threatened species adding a layer of cultural and biological significance," he said.

"By testing out new species and planting methods, we're contributing to a growing body of knowledge about the restoration of biodiversity in urban areas."

University of Melbourne PhD candidate Katherine Horsfall was one of the team members behind the project's success.

"With each new meadow we

learn something new. For Oak St, we're really making flowers the showcase and amping up species diversity to supply lots of resources for butterflies, birds and bees," she said.

"We keep losing our grasslands to urban development and agriculture, which have made some ecosystems critically endangered. Less than one per cent of our grasslands remain."

Ms Horsfall, who was involved in the Gatehouse St meadow project, worked with her colleagues Professor Nick Williams and Sophia Blosfelds from the Green Infrastructure Research Group to design a seed mix that included 33 native wildflowers and 10 native grasses.

A dedicated team of volunteers then grew a wildflower seed for the project at the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus.

In addition to the ecological benefits of native wildflower meadows, Ms Horsfall said they



also have great aesthetic value. "I'm a fan of beauty, and if you're going to do this kind of work in urban landscapes you need to make it approachable and acceptable

for people who live alongside it," she said. "We need reliable, affordable techniques to bring these plant communities back from the brink." ●

## Science Gallery showcases Yandell Walton in Friday night program

Science Gallery launched its vibrant Friday night social program last month and is now gearing up to bring Yandell Walton's immersive work to the gallery for one night only on May 3.

WORDS BY  
GEORGIE ATKINS



With "young people at the heart of everything we do", Science Gallery formulated the Friday night socials coming out of lockdown after recognising a desire for youth to connect and experience art.

Held once a month throughout exhibition seasons with their current *NOT NATURAL* currently on display, the free event invites people to come together and experience the unexpected in a fun, social setting.



"We are not trying to be a normal art gallery and we're not trying to be a science museum – we're trying to be something in-between; a place that truly experiments, tries, and prototypes things," head of curatorial at Science Gallery, Tilly Bolin said.

"We're putting performances in learning

spaces and exhibitions in corridors and inviting dance students to come in and take over wherever they want throughout the gallery. These Friday nights give our programming team agency to break-out and experiment."

Alongside exploring the captivating *NOT NATURAL* exhibit, attendees will be immersed in Yandell Walton's groundbreaking collaboration with Harrison Hall in the

gallery's theatre space, where you will witness the "blurred lines between humans, technology, plants and the artificial world".

Using motion capture, photogrammetry, and digital communication networks, Yandell's work is an innovative example of "pushing technology in a new direction".

Dj Huntress will also be performing live sets throughout the program.

"We have two exhibitions a year, so after this Friday night social, there'll be a June social and that will be the last one of *NOT NATURAL*," Ms Bolin told *Inner City News*.

"One of my deep loves would be if people were able to make new friends at these socials that maybe they've seen across the room in a lecture or tutorial or get exposed to a particular form of performance or a way of thinking about the world that shifts their perception."

"Come in for free, there are food and drink available, and discover the happenings throughout the gallery that will hopefully surprise and delight you." ●

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METRO MELBOURNE



Department of Transport and Planning



# GUIDE TO WASTE-FREE SHOPPING AT QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET



Bettina de Chateaubourg has all the tips for waste-free shopping at Queen Victoria Market

## Bring your reusable containers and bags to Queen Victoria Market to stock up on meat, fish, cheese, antipasto, wine, olive oil, grains, fruit, vegies, soap and more.

Join the Melburnians changing the way they do their grocery shopping to help save waste from landfill and live more sustainably.

Waste-free alternatives to almost every packaged grocery item are on hand at Melbourne's iconic market, along with a hearty serving of cost savings and community connection.

### Shop waste-free with Bettina

Bettina de Chateaubourg has worked at Queen Victoria Market for 10 years. She started as a tour guide, and she's now the market's Tours and Visitor Experience Coordinator.

Low-waste living isn't something new for Bettina - the routine of shopping with her powder-blue vintage trolley, old flour sacks and reused containers is innate, and a great source of joy.

"When you shop at the market, you know that what you're buying is super fresh, and you can ask for the exact weight you need, so nothing is wasted," Bettina said.

"The traders are the produce experts. They know what the cucumbers or apples are like on any given day, what cheeses to buy and what to pair them with. We even swap recipes.

"These are great interactions - you don't get that at the supermarket."

### Check off your shopping list

Bettina says she can get just about everything she needs at Queen Victoria Market, except for toothpaste. If you'd like to try shopping more sustainably, it's easy to get started.

"Just come along to the market and explore what's on offer," Bettina said. "Shopping waste free is great because you can buy in small amounts, and only what you need."

Beyond bananas and broccoli, there are plenty of specialty and gourmet items to be found at Queen Victoria Market that can also be purchased waste-free.

Head to Bill's Farm to pick up Meredith Dairy Goat Cheese in your own jar, or browse the beloved Dairy Hall for smallgoods, antipasto, or any other treats that takes your fancy.

Bring a cloth bag to purchase grains, pulses, dried fruits at Market Organics. And forget the cleaning aisle at the supermarket - refill your liquid soap and dishwashing liquid at Soapbox.

Then head to Rewine where you can refill bottles with premium wine straight from the barrel.

### How to prepare for a waste-free shop

Queen Victoria Market has a plastic bag ban in place and encourages the use of cloth bags, reusable containers and coffee cups.

"Bring along plastic containers for meat, fish, cheese and butter. Bring jars for dips and antipasto. And bring

cloth bags, or reused plastic bags, for your fruit and veg," Bettina said.

"All the traders are very comfortable weighing and using your reusable containers. Just make sure the containers are really clean so they're pleasant for the traders to handle.

"Many fruits and vegetables don't need to be put in a bag because they have their own skin - like bananas and mangoes, to name a few," Bettina said.

### Shaping Queen Victoria Market for the future

The historic Queen Victoria Market is the biggest open-air market in the southern hemisphere, spanning seven hectares and housing almost 600 traders.

The Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal is City of Melbourne's biggest investment to date.

Alongside renewal works - like shed restoration, modernising trader amenities and turning the old car park into a vibrant public space - sustainability is a primary goal for the market.

Learn more about the market's achievements at [qvm.com.au/sustainability](http://qvm.com.au/sustainability)

### Plan your shopping trip

The market is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. To learn more, visit [qvm.com.au](http://qvm.com.au)

## IN BRIEF

### CITY CLEANING AROUND THE CLOCK

We're supercharging our cleaning efforts like never before. The city's clean team will now be scrubbing, pressure washing and removing graffiti 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Report cleaning or graffiti issues at [melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au) or phone 9658 9658.

### FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL RETURNS

Melbourne's epic winter festival will be back from 28 to 30 June with fiery installations, live music and pop-up foodie feasts. And this year, get ready to experience Firelight Labyrinth, a colourful immersive experience like nothing you've ever seen before. From 28 June to 14 July. For festival details, visit [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION NOW OPEN

Are you an aspiring storyteller? Enter the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards to win a share of \$12,000 in prizes. Choose your literary path with one of our five writing categories: short stories, poetry, non-fiction, First Nations writers or this year's special feature category, Stories by Trans and Gender Diverse Writers. Entries close 3 June. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/writingawards](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/writingawards)

### FREE EVENTS IN 2025

Are you looking to host an event in Melbourne in 2025? Our Event Partnership Program supports free, accessible events that make lasting memories for locals and visitors. Whether it's a community, music, sports, food, arts, or cultural event, we want to hear from you. Applications are open until 31 May. Visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au) and search Event Partnership Program to learn more.





ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# How we're helping keep the community safe

As the third most liveable city in the world, we take safety and security seriously here in Melbourne.

We know how important it is to feel safe in the city - it is the most fundamental aspect of a liveable city. If people don't feel safe, they won't want to live, work or visit here.

That's why we work closely with Victoria Police and other agencies to monitor antisocial behaviour and support city safety.



## CREATING SAFER, MORE SECURE STREETS

This year, we've invested \$6 million in critical safety infrastructure and resources, including more safety lighting to reduce antisocial behaviour at night.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, we've expanded our closed-circuit television camera network into new neighbourhoods - like Carlton - with eight cameras installed in key locations like Lygon Street and Argle Square by July.

We've also upgraded our safe city cameras in the CBD, along with upgrading lighting in key precincts such as Bourke Street, between Exhibition and Spring streets.

We know police can't be everywhere at once but this network of closed-circuit TV surveillance cameras helps

create a safer environment and reduce crime levels by deterring potential offending and helping in crime detection.

The cameras operate in areas where antisocial behaviour or criminal activity is historically more likely to occur.

Signage is placed in the monitored areas to alert the community of the surveillance.

Our specially trained security contractors in our Safe City Cameras Program Control Room monitor these cameras 24 hours a day, seven days a week, recording incidents and alerting police.

The footage can also be viewed at police stations and on officers' devices when responding to an incident.

In the past decade, the Safe City Cameras Program has:

- Recorded 47,258 incidents
- Provided 9,706 copies of recorded footage to Victoria Police
- And transferred 30,160 occurrences of live vision to police and triple 000.

What started with 23 cameras in 1995 and a team of one has grown to a slick operation of 254 cameras and a mobile CCTV car, plus 11 dedicated contract security staff, comprising two round-the-clock operators and a full-time technician and apprentice.

And we're not stopping there. In May, we're adding a Safe City Supervisor role from Monday to Friday.

This will enhance our proactive monitoring capability on the streets, improve training of existing and new Safe City Operators, streamline our administrative functions by processing police applications for footage faster, and provide us with a resource to constantly look at improvement of the system and operations.



Our Safe City CCTV car, which operates from 10pm to 6am on Friday and Saturday nights, will also be expanded to Thursday nights this year.

This vehicle is fitted with 360-degree CCTV surveillance cameras to record in real-time with electronic media downloaded at the end of each shift.

The car's movements are directed via the Safe City Control Room and tasked to jobs where our permanent cameras can't view - for example, if there's an incident in a small laneway.

This means we are able to report live incidents of crime, with accurate descriptions and paths of travel, to triple 000, and support police responses.

This is just one example of our collaborative efforts with emergency services across the city.

## TRENDS WE'RE SEEING IN MELBOURNE

We constantly identify and respond to emerging security trends.

One of these is an increase in high-level criminal damage and arson in some of our main amenity blocks in our parks.

Thanks to our security team's innovative approach, we're trialling an environmental sensor - the HALO - that can detect smoke, spray paint and yelling to alert us to incidents for potential monitoring.

The sensor is linked to our CCTV management system.

Already, footage has been provided to police from arson events in an amenity block in South Yarra; and incidents of arson have reduced in the past five months.

## BOOSTING SECURITY FOR BUSINESS

Our investment in security infrastructure is not only about liveability, it's also about supporting our business community.

We know that security done well supports local business and gives customers the confidence to visit our local traders.

That's why we work with our business community, encouraging them to maintain their own security equipment - such as lighting, CCTV cameras, door hardware and signage - to enhance the perception of safety in and around a property.

This also includes reporting faulty public lighting, dumped rubbish, graffiti or overflowing bins so we can rectify this as soon as possible.

If you notice an issue, report it via our hotline on 9658 9658 or at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/pages/report-issue](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/pages/report-issue)

## 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](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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QUESTION:

What is your favourite local weekend activity?

# Faces of the Inner City



AMBER  
Visiting the markets.



INGRID  
Going to live music gigs.



OPHIRA  
Getting brunch with friends.



**Monkey Man, Dev Patel's directorial debut, is an action-packed revenge thriller that unifies the classical and the contemporary. Review by Ruby Lowenstein.**

Co-produced by acclaimed horror creator Jordan Peele, the film follows Kid (Dev Patel) in his quest to avenge the death of his mother (Adithi Kalkunte) who was murdered as part of a land grab that saw the destruction of his jungle home.

The story entwines the poverty and caste system challenges of modern-day India with the mythical lore of Hanuman, the divine Hindu monkey deity who ate the sun and was stripped of his powers as punishment. Enter Patel, our modern-day "monkey man"

who has fallen on hard times since the murder of his mother, and, inspired by her boyhood stories, fights in an underground rink in a monkey mask.

But this is just to make ends meet. His true objective? To find his way into the luxury brothel "Kings" which is frequented by the objects of his revenge – corrupt Police Chief Baba (Sikandar Kher) and political figure and guru Rana Singh (Makarand Deshpande).

By pitting an embodiment of a divine Hindu deity against a corrupt guru, *Monkey Man* acknowledges the duality of religion as "a beautiful teacher" (to quote Patel) and as a smokescreen for corruption; a point of political commentary that may have unfortunately hampered *Monkey Man's* acceptance in the Indian market.

The story that follows is a bloody, neon

and grime-filled adventure that tackles questions of revenge and survival. Patel's performance is gritty and soulful. Our antagonists are just the right amount of menacing and complex for a David and Goliath-style story while Sobhita Dhulipala gives a strong, empathetic performance as the courtesan Sita without reducing her to a damsel.

Unlike some action thrillers whose more horrific elements are primed for shock value, the gore of *Monkey Man's* fight scenes reflects our hero's willingness to do whatever is necessary, no matter how unsavoury. Although there is a consuming simplicity to the character of Kid's trauma and desire

The cinematography by Sharone Meir of *Whiplash* (2014) and the *Roots* remake (2016) – is commendable. The camera movements are fast-paced without being distracting and there is a certain embodied playfulness to the fight sequences that captures the essence of a video game boss fight – a welcome twist in the action hero film genre.

The soundtrack, a mix of original scoring by Australian Jed Kurzel, classic Western hits and Indian metal is served up with dramatic flair and a keen eye for shot-change timing that distinctly enhances the film's spirited action sequences. With Kid's arrival at the Hijra community, we are treated to an excellent training montage set to the beat of a tabla – hand drum – that exemplifies the superior editing and soundtrack of this film.


Overall, *Monkey Man* is an exciting spin on the action hero thriller. It is a bold breakthrough work for Patel as a burgeoning director, which provides him with an opportunity to showcase his already proven acting skills while continuing a long-held tradition of Indian cinema in retelling classical stories for contemporary audiences.

*Monkey Man* is currently screening at Cinema Nova, Village Cinemas Crown, HOYTS Victoria Gardens, Village Cinema's Jam Factory, Lido Cinemas and Place Cinemas Penny Lane. ●

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.



for revenge, it also lends a single-minded clarity to the story that befits a contemporary take on Hindu legend and myth. His dedication to avenge his mother and help a local Hijra, third-gender, community, the targets of Baba's growing empire of corruption, speaks to Hanuman's core tenets of strength, ingenuity, and heart.



CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS



**Prof. Mazin Qumsiyeh to Speak at Church of All Nations, Carlton.**

Mazin Butros Qumsiyeh is a Palestinian Christian scientist and author, founder and director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History and the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability at Bethlehem University where he teaches.

He will be speaking of his life as a Palestinian Christian and the work of sustainability of the natural world and humans during worship at Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston St Carlton, on Sunday May 12, 2024 commencing at 10.00am.

For further information contact the minister, Ray Gormann minister@cancarlon.org.au



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## Public Housing demolitions – opposition getting bigger

I reported in my column last month the Victorian Legislative Council had voted to conduct an inquiry into the decision of the state government to demolish all of 44 Melbourne public housing towers.

Initiated by the Victorian Greens, who have been consistent, strong supporters of public housing provision in Victoria, it gained the support of the Opposition and cross bench MPs to defeat Labor in the Legislative Council. This inquiry will start up later this year.

### Labor for Housing

Soon after what happened in the Legislative Council, "Labor for Housing" – a group of Labor MPs from the Victorian and federal parliaments – were reported as strongly criticising the plan to only increase by 10 per cent the number demolished

apartments that will be replaced with community, not public, housing.

They want to see a doubling of community housing over the demolished public housing. They failed, though, to note that existing public housing residents threatened with the demolitions do not want to transfer to community housing.

Labor for Housing also failed to advise their view on the mix of dwelling that their own plan for 44 tower demolitions and rebuilds would deliver. The government proposes 30,000 new dwellings over the next 25 years with one third each to be so-called affordable and market rent. Doubling community housing means higher density or less affordable and/or market rent dwellings.

The affordable housing policy of the Victorian Government is 90 per cent of local market rents to a maximum of 30 per cent of the household income. The new funding available from the federal government will only fund projects with affordable rents set at around 75 per cent, not 90 per cent of

gross household incomes, so federal funds for demolitions and rebuilds just won't happen.

After Labor for Housing had a spray, Brian Howe, who is described as a Labor Party elder, came out with a clearer message: "NO DEMOLITIONS!"

Mr Howe, the Minister for Housing in the Hawke/Keating governments 40 years ago kept negative gearing and capital gains tax discounted for inflation in place. He shifted federal government spending away from public housing to subsidies for private investors and community housing providers through higher Commonwealth Rent Assistance and grants. The legacy of his policies, added to by the Howard government, is stark today.

### An alternative plan

While Labor in both Victorian and federal governments do dodgy maths and exercise wishful thinking over industry superannuation funds and private banks delivering high growth in new and genuinely affordable

housing, the Australian Greens have proposed a new federal authority that would build public and, at no profit, first homebuyer homes.

Such an authority could work with Homes Victoria, after it is changed from being a privatisation agency and real estate developer into a genuinely affordable housing builder. It would bring stability in an industry now plagued with bankruptcies.

This is not a wildly radical idea. It replicates what Australia's longest serving Prime Minister Bob Menzies, a Liberal, did in the 1950s and '60s and it was successful.

Combined with mandatory inclusionary zoning throughout Victoria, a plan like this can deliver. ●

### Cory Memery

CITY OF MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020



## EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK



## May activities in East Melbourne

The East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) aims to create a thriving and inclusive community and provide a range of enjoyable health and wellbeing activities for people of all ages.

Our Term 2, 2024 Health & Wellbeing Program of activities is up and running, and it's not too late to join if you're interested. Activities include:

**Monday:** Chair Yoga (10.30am); Gentle Yoga (5.30pm); Book Group (7pm)

**Tuesday:** Walking Group (8.30am); Mindful Matt Pilates (9am); Book Group (12pm); Community Choir (7pm)

**Thursday:** Pilates (9am and 10.30am); Ukulele (3pm)

**Friday:** Gentle Exercise (9.30am); Social Morning Coffee (10.30am – monthly). Rotating days: Intergenerational Activities

### The East Melbourne Community Choir is seeking new members!

Established in February 2023 with the support of a grant from the City of Melbourne, the East Melbourne Community Choir is a friendly, relaxed group of community members who enjoy singing together.

Membership is open to experienced singers and beginners; those who read music and those who don't. Anyone is welcome!

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

well as rounds and some unison.

Musical director Robyn Cooper-Bugg is an experienced professional singer and performer in opera, music theatre, cabaret and in recital.

She is a teacher of classical, music theatre and some contemporary repertoire and is a specialist in vocal technique, performance and stage skills, and languages.

Robyn is a great fit for the choir and 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 classically trained pianist.

Since 1985, Andrea has performed as a soloist and pianist for various ensembles (stage bands, jazz bands and choirs); has enjoyed playing at special occasions (weddings, corporate events, etc.); and has worked as an accompanist for instrumentalists in their AMEB exams at the VCA.

Andrea has a post-graduate certificate of education and has enjoyed teaching and mentoring in recent years. She remains a lifelong student of music herself and is an encouraging mentor for the choir.

Rehearsals take place every Tuesday during school term running from 7pm to 8.30pm each week at Unitarian Church, 110 Grey St, East Melbourne.

For further information contact: Sue and Ann-Maree via email: [emnn3002@gmail.com](mailto:emnn3002@gmail.com)

Please join us and help bring our community together through the joy of singing. ●

## CARLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Grattan St to open

Grattan St is scheduled to open in the middle of this year.

WORDS BY  
PETER SANDERS

As part of the work area for the underground railway, it was closed for several years. Queensberry St traffic was changed to two lanes each way to compensate for the reduced cross Carlton traffic flow on the understanding that it would revert to its former capacity when Grattan St reopened.

Around three years ago the City of Melbourne advertised proposed changes to Grattan St. The works included:

- Bike lanes protected from traffic by kerbs and parking bays.
- Adjustments to parking to allow for bus stops and lane changes.
- Two lanes for turns at major intersections including hook turns at Cardigan, Drummond and Lygon streets.
- An additional bus stop between Swanston and Bouverie streets.

The Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) agreed with the proposed changes.

The roadworks from Bouverie to Rathdowne streets are almost complete with only the eastern end to be finished.

The CRA asked for the retention of historically significant basalt pitches that were to be removed from the gutters to allow for kerbside bike lanes. This was ignored.

The photo below shows the work under way west of Lygon St.

Further west, Grattan St work from Flemington Rd to Royal Parade (between the hospitals) is almost ready to reopen.

Work from Royal Parade to Bouverie St, south of the University of Melbourne campus, that includes the new rail station is also advanced including hard landscaping, seats, bus stops and bike paths.

The photo below shows a section of these works with the new station entry on the right, a bus stop and bike lane.



Cr Dr Olivia Ball has advised the CRA that Grattan St is planned to open in "the middle of the year". The section from Flemington Rd to Royal Parade will open in the next few weeks and Royal Parade to Bouverie St will open to bike and pedestrian traffic soon with vehicle traffic flowing when the station work is complete.

Cr Dr Ball also informed the CRA that although "no formal decision" was made for Queensberry St reinstatement, plans were being prepared for reversion to one lane in each direction and additional trees and landscaping in the street median.

She noted that concept plans would be available for public comment in June or July. She also reported that the changes will reduce the traffic flow with reduced traffic lanes and the introduction of protected bike lanes.

The CRA wrote to Cr Dr Ball noting that existing trees should be retained and additional greening added. ●



## Melbourne's live music scene at risk

Whether you love sticky carpets and getting sweaty with a room of punters or sitting down with a nice glass of wine and listening to an up-and-coming singer-songwriter, we are so lucky to have so many incredible live music venues in Victoria.

But right now, many of our local pubs, bars, and local stages are under threat.

Rising rents and the cost-of-living is playing a part. But exorbitant increases in public liability insurance are hitting the hardest. Some venues are paying more than \$100,000 a year while others have copped a whopping 300 per cent increase in insurance premiums in the past year alone.

These insurance hikes have meant that some venues have had to close their doors forever, e.g. Bendigo Hotel in Collingwood.

Here's the deal: the Labor state government could actually help save our live music scene by offering cheaper insurance through the government's public insurer, the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA).

They've done it before during COVID when the VMIA covered events from cancellation, and they've done it with the construction industry, so we know they can do it again. All it takes is a letter from the Minister.

However, Labor is choosing to let live music venues across Melbourne die a slow death, by not stepping in to help.

Our live music venues are more than a stage and a place to dance. They are community meeting spaces and pivotal starting places for emerging artists and culture. They make Melbourne uniquely Melbourne.

In the lead up to the state budget in May, the Greens and I are calling on the government to step in and save live music in



Victoria. You can help by signing the petition at [ellensandell.com/issue/save-live-music](https://www.ellensandell.com/issue/save-live-music).

We have to protect our local live music venues, and the artists they support.

If there's anything I can do for you, please get in touch. ●

**Ellen Sandell**

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



## EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Bedggood: friendly footwear

Daniel Bedggood arrived in Melbourne in 1854. Almost immediately he set up a boot and shoe factory in Richmond.

A successful business from the start, succeeding generations kept it going and his son, John, oversaw the transition to a new and bigger factory in Jolimont, at 22 Agnes St, in 1899.

The existing building was a large, three-storey brick warehouse that had been designed for Alfred Fenton and Son, importers of china, glass and earthenware in 1887 by well-known architect, JAB Koch.

Fenton's had not been able to survive the economic crash of the 1890s and was forced to sell up. The warehouse was built slap up against the old wooden cottage that had once belonged to Governor La Trobe.

This was sold along with the warehouse and the Bedggood company remained its caretakers

for many years, even at one point commissioning Edna Walling, the eminent landscape gardener, to create a garden for it.

But eventually the factory needed to expand and the cottage, under the supervision of the National Trust, was moved to the Domain in South Yarra.

Bedggood and Co manufactured a wide range of footwear. If it was for a day at the races, or a day on the golf course, for a party, or a night at the theatre, Bedggood had the shoes for you.

And not only shoes; the company secured the contract for supplying boots to the bushmen's contingent in the Boer War.

It made cricket boots for both the Australian and English teams, and it provided fleecy lined flying boots to the Australian Air Force.

A pair of the latter travelled to Antarctica in the late 1930s on the feet of George Rayner, biologist and photographer. These boots are now in the care of Museum Victoria. The company's slogan was, "Friendly Footwear. Good



company all day long."

On February 12, 1931 *The Shepparton Advertiser* gave a detailed account of the factory and its workings, and in part reported that ...

"Last year a large Neon light sign was erected on top of the factory. This sign is very prominent and attracts the attention of many hundreds, of persons travelling by the trains between Melbourne and Richmond. The locality is a picturesque one, and the close proximity of extensive and beautiful park lands ensures to the factory operatives congenial and healthful environment."

At this time the factory was producing 3500 pairs of shoes a week, and the report continued, "The finished goods are conveniently loaded to the waiting lorries, through wide doors giving access to a broad right-of-way."

The factory closed in 1965 after purchase by an English firm, and the building demolished. Not surprisingly the site was redeveloped as an apartment complex. ●

**Sylvia Black**

SECRETARY - EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

W: EMHS.ORG.AU  
E: INFO@EMHS.ORG.AU



## EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

## East Melbourne Group news

East Melbourne Group (EMG) members will be receiving their annual membership renewal via email.

**WORDS BY**

GREG BISINELLA - PRESIDENT

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support of the group and the important work we do. For those in the community who would like to become involved you can join at [emg.org.au](https://www.emg.org.au)

Your new committee has been "sworn in" at our first meeting post the annual general meeting (AGM). We are pleased to advise members of those who have agreed to volunteer their time to help the community.

- President – Greg Bisinella
- Vice-president – Greg Watson
- Treasurer – Tristan Creed
- Secretary – Greg Watson

**Sub-committee convenors**

- Membership – Krystyn Hendrickson
- Amenities – Anne Graham
- Finance and governance – Zipporah Szalay
- Social – Debroah Brown

- Heritage and planning – Greg Bisinella
- Communications – Andrew Walpole
- Parks and gardens – Luke Martin

**Other members**

- Shelley Faubel
- Hazel Westbury
- Ian Mitchell
- Bill Gillies

If you would like to become more involved in the committees, please contact us for more information: [admin@emg.org.au](mailto:admin@emg.org.au)

We have some goals we would like to achieve this year. One of the most important is to have greater engagement with our

membership and deliver greater value to you. To that end we welcome the opportunity to hear from you as to how we can better represent you and the wider community.

We have recently held two barbecues at Bunnings Collingwood and thank Jenny Owen for arranging and coordinating these and the East Melbourne residents who helped out on the days. Funds raised from these events will go towards supporting the work undertaken by the EMG in the community.

The event at the Johnston Collection on May 2 is sold out. Rest assured our social team are working on a range of upcoming community events. Details to follow. ●

## METRO TUNNEL



Visitors flock to Metro Tunnel HQ

Whether you've wandered the CBD after a visit to Melbourne Central or popped into Melbourne Town Hall, chances are you've passed by Metro Tunnel HQ on Swanston St.

Having just celebrated its 400,000<sup>th</sup> visitor, the award-winning visitor centre remains a hive of activity for anyone wanting to learn more about The Metro Tunnel Project ahead of its opening in 2025.

HQ, opposite Melbourne Town Hall, offers a range of interactive learning experiences including a panoramic theatrette, kids' activities (spot of Minecraft, anyone?) and friendly staff with buckets of knowledge to share about the city-shaping project.

You can even take a virtual reality tour of one or all of the five new world-class train stations that will be opening next year.

Senior centre coordinator Hedley Imbert said as the transformation of Melbourne's rail network gets closer, now is great time to visit HQ.

"We are thrilled to have welcomed our



400,000<sup>th</sup> visitor and look forward to welcoming many more in the lead-up to Metro Tunnel opening in 2025," Mr Imbert said.

Since 2018 HQ has hosted online and in-person education programs catering to primary and secondary students. Community group sessions are also held in person at the centre.

Mr Imbert said the centre inspired even the youngest rail enthusiasts.

"My staff love all the questions that children throw at us. We are inspiring a new generation of budding engineers and train drivers," he said.

The centre is located between the Metro Tunnel's two CBD stations, Town Hall and State Library.

Both stations are more than 25 metres below street level and feature impressive cathedral-like arched ceilings, generous concourses and Victorian-first platform screen doors.

Town Hall and State Library stations will both have underground pedestrian walkways, providing passengers with a direct link to Flinders Street and Melbourne Central stations without having to pass through ticket gates. ●

## PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

## A day for reflection

On ANZAC Day at the University of Melbourne's dawn service, the Parkville Association had the privilege of laying a wreath in memory of Parkville residents who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

A chilly morning was attended by a large crowd including very importantly, many students. The Parkville Association, while representing our residents, also of course enjoys participating in the service at the university which is in Parkville.

There is a memorial on the corner of The Avenue and Royal Parade where some 21 local residents lost in the First World War are commemorated. The link being many of them were students or staff of the university.

Seeing the students at the ceremony and their respect was wonderful given the ages of those listed on the memorial were in their late teens early 20s – the same ages of the students. Thank you to the university for letting Parkville residents participate and recognising the wonderful suburb we live in.

Next month the Parkville Association is holding their 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. With nearly 200 members the association looks after all matters Parkville and is always available to assist in local matters! Members have been notified of the AGM and new members are welcome to join and attend.

Like any organisation we are always looking for new committee members as we look to embrace today's generations of parents and children.

It is very heartening to see so many kids living in the area and enjoying the local schools at North Melbourne Primary and University High, we will also work with Wimble Street Childcare Co-Op when we hold our Party in the Park in November. I often reflect on our beautiful terraces and



streetscapes and thank Stan Dean and Eric Benjamin for saving Parkville from being partially demolished. So, to local families we only meet 10 times a year and your involvement could keep Parkville intact for your children.

Regarding younger participation in South Parkville next week will see students from Trinity College assisting with keeping nature strips and tree beds weeded and tidied. It is thrilling to see our relationship with Trinity develop further and for students to give up their spare time helping their suburb.

Finally, the opening of Grattan St has been delayed. There is a little more kerbside landscaping and road marking to take place coupled with a slight delay in the paperwork. Hopefully we will see action soon.

Have a great May! ●

**Rob Moore**  
PRESIDENT  
PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION



## HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING

## The "Destroyed by 50" starter pack: how not to train if you love your joints

Ever wondered how to accelerate the aging process and guarantee a mid-life full of aches and creaky joints?

Fear not, for I have concocted the perfect recipe for disaster, or as I like to call it, the "Destroyed by 50" starter pack. It's proven, it's effective, and it's hilariously catastrophic for anyone who dares try it.

**Step 1: make heavy lifting your only year-round goal**

Forget seasons or cycles. Your muscles will love the monotony of year-round strain. Ignore the subtle (and sometimes loud) cries for rest – they're just signs of weakness, right? After all, who needs functional mobility when you can barely bend down to tie your shoes due to back stiffness?

**Step 2: warm-ups are for wimps**

Jumping straight into heavy lifting without a warm-up is like driving your car hard without letting the engine warm up on a cold day – what could possibly go wrong?

**Step 3: diet and sleep are overrated**

Who needs a balanced diet and plenty of sleep when you have sheer willpower? Fuel your workouts with caffeine and adrenaline and sleep a mere five hours – recovery is for the weak!

**Step 4: pain is just fear leaving the body**

Why stop training when you're in pain? It's probably nothing a little (or a lot) of ignoring won't fix. Push through it; your body will thank you later (or maybe it won't).

**Step 5: clinicians are for crises**

Regular check-ups with a healthcare provider? That sounds like something responsible people do. Wait until you're limping – then it's time for a tune-up.

**Step 6: follow elite athletes blindly**

Copy the workout routines of top athletes because obviously what works for

a professional will surely work for you. Individual needs and context don't matter much, right?

**Step 7: every workout must be high-intensity**

Why settle for moderation when you can go all out, every single session? Your adrenal glands might not agree, but who listens to glands anyway?

If you've followed these steps diligently, congratulations! You're on the fast track to becoming a physical wreck by your 50s. But let's park the satire bus for a moment and talk seriously.

Many fitness enthusiasts, especially in their younger years, adopt extreme training philosophies that promise fast results but often lead to long-term health issues. It's crucial to remember that sound training isn't about extremes; it's about balance, listening to your body, and applying principles that enhance your health without breaking it down.

At Prime40, we advocate for training smarter, not harder. Our approach is about sustainable fitness, incorporating varied exercises, proper warm-ups, good nutrition, adequate rest, and regular check-ins with professionals to ensure you're not just fit for now, but for life.

Remember, the goal isn't just to avoid becoming a cautionary tale – it's to thrive at every age. If you're ready to train with longevity in mind, come see how we do things differently at Prime40.

After all, isn't it time your fitness routine got as mature as you are? ●

**Kane Hamilton**

PRIME40 PERSONAL TRAINING  
PRIME40PERSONALTRAINING.COM.AU





**WHAT'S ON**  
**May**



Experience Melbourne's inner city buzz this month! Explore eclectic art galleries, indulge in gourmet dining, and dance the night away at vibrant nightlife spots.



**SCIENCE GALLERY FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALS**  
Science Gallery's monthly after-dark events return, with a viewing of the current exhibition NOT NATURAL, and special art installations from local artists.

Science Gallery, 700 Swanston St, Parkville

MAY 3 AND JUNE 7, 6PM - 9PM



**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 Pde

UNTIL MAY 5, 4PM - 11PM



**PRICKLY MOSES: POEMS BY SIMON WEST**

Attend the launch of a new book of poetry by Simon West, published in the prestigious Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets.

Museo Italiano, 199 Faraday St, Carlton

TUESDAY MAY 7, 6.30PM - 8PM



**BEYOND HOUSING EXHIBITION**

The *Beyond Housing* exhibition invites viewers to consider the links between both the practice and theory of creative architectural design.

Uni Melb, Glyn Davis Building, Masson Rd

MAY 7 - JUNE 2, 10AM - 4PM



**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

UNTIL MAY 20, 1PM - 4PM



**COMMUNITY GARDENING WORKSHOPS**

Join for a series of free and fun monthly gardening workshops with Cultivating Community in the front garden at Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre.

251 Faraday St, Carlton

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2.30PM - 3.3



**THE LONG WALK: NAARM 2024**

Michael Long and The Long Walk Naarm 2024 returns to Melbourne to celebrate its 20th anniversary in the Yarra Park Gardens at the MCG.

thelongwalk.com.au

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2PM - 6PM



**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

TUESDAYS, 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.  
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0448 692 650  
ben@purrrfectcatsitter.com



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## POLITICIAN

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www.prime40personaltraining.com.au

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

# DOING WHAT COUNTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Maintaining our parks and gardens is one of our core services as we know how important they are to the wellbeing of our community

Every day, the City of Melbourne strives to make a difference for the community – providing the services people rely on, while building a strong, inclusive and sustainable future.

To help guide this work, at the start of each Council term, we develop a four-year Council Plan informed by community feedback.

The Council Plan 2021-25 reflects the community's long-term vision for Melbourne and how Council will achieve it.

You told us that a greater sense of safety on roads and bike lanes, activities that foster inclusion and connection in the community, and sustainability and green waste management are important priorities for you in Carlton, East Melbourne and Parkville.

Now that we're in the third year of the plan, there's much to celebrate about what we've delivered in your neighbourhood from 2021 to now.



## Capital works and infrastructure

- Completed the Albert Street bike lane, filling a critical gap in the protected lane route.
- Consulted on East Melbourne and Jolimont pedestrian and road safety improvements.
- Across the municipality, renewed more than 59,000m<sup>2</sup> of roads and 26,000m<sup>2</sup> of footpaths.

## Safety and community wellbeing

- Expanded the Safe City Camera program into Carlton, following community and trader feedback.
- Improved safety at Fitzroy Gardens, Princes Park and Royal Park with lighting upgrades.
- Launched a new 24/7 cleaning and graffiti removal service to ensure the city always looks its best.
- Supported local activities such as the community garden at East Melbourne Library and sewing classes at Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre.
- Launched the Connection and Wellbeing Map to support community participation and connection.

## Boosting our economy

- Through our Business Concierge team, we supported and engaged with more than 13,000 businesses – small, big, or just starting – across the city last financial year.
- Invested over \$4 million in grant funding to support local business owners and activation.
- Attracted 67 major projects to the city through Invest Melbourne, creating more than 1,650 jobs and \$430 million in capital expenditure.

## Culture

- Welcomed 200,000 visitors each year to Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre for education programs, makerspace, computer access and more.



- In 2023, we enticed more than 4.6 million people to the city to enjoy 64 Council-run or supported events – pumping \$152 million into the economy

## Sustainability and city greening

- Progressed our Power Melbourne initiative to improve access to affordable renewable electricity, with three batteries scheduled for installation mid-2024.
- Maintained 46 public parks and spaces and 14 playgrounds and sporting facilities, including Princes Park, Fitzroy Gardens and Powlett Reserve.

## Recreation

- Constructed two new pavilions in Royal Park, increasing participation in sport by women, girls and other under-represented groups.
- Managed sports fields in Royal Park which cater to 26 community organisations.

## Get ready to share your thoughts

The draft Budget 2024-25, which will deliver the final year of the current Council Plan, will be available for community feedback from 14 May.

To read more about what we've delivered in your neighbourhood visit [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/doing-what-counts](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/doing-what-counts)



## Connect with us

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