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▲ Carlton local Joseph De Francesco enjoying a bowl of pasta at the 43rd Melbourne Italian Festa.

Is Lygon St still Melbourne’s “Little Italy”?

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
FEATURE

From chariot races to the greasy pole competition – the Lygon Street Festa of the ‘80s was a grandiose celebration of Italian Carlton that brought people in from far and wide.

Attracting more than 700,000 people at its peak, the Festa shut down the entirety of Lygon, Elgin and Queensberry streets for the weekend to let the masses through.

But fast-forward to 2021 and the Festa is a far-cry from what it used to be.

On April 18, the now-called Italia Festa was a small affair confined to Argyle Square with a handful of food trucks bombarded by long lines of people.

While there was a stage with live music, classic Italian

cars and cooking classes, the Festa has become tamer since its inception in 1978.

Frank DiMattina, who has owned businesses on Lygon St since the ‘80s, said that due to the lack of resources and people losing interest, the Festa hadn’t been the same for the past 15 years.

“In the old days, the Festa was amazing – there were chariot races down Lygon St, the waiter’s race, the greasy pole competition and walls of people walking the streets,” Mr DiMattina said.

“But it hasn’t been like that for some time.”

With a cultural evolution happening under Carlton’s surface, the downfall of the Festa has been a long time coming.

Due to low levels of Italian migrants in recent decades, the 2016 census revealed there were only 60,000 Italians in Melbourne compared to nearly 90,000 in 1996. In Carlton, there are now only 254 Italian-born residents.

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Gender-equal plans for Ikon Park

Carlton’s Ikon Park will become the first AFL facility in Australia where training areas for women are identical in size and quality to those for men.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

The famous ground, historically known as Princes Park, will for a first time in 157 years provide an equal footing for all.

As stage one works at the ground neared completion – which included new change rooms, gym and medical spaces – stage two works were approved by the City of Melbourne at an April 13 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

These included plans for new “away” change rooms and indoor training facilities, plus improved lighting (to ensure AFLW matches are broadcast-quality for TV audiences), spectator access, landscaping and connections into the ground.

Carlton Football Club CEO Cain Liddle said the club was “incredibly proud” of the impending works and paid tribute to the council’s partnership.

“[We will] be the first partnering LGA (local government area) and AFL football club anywhere in this country where female facilities are now identical size and quality to our male change rooms,” Mr Liddle said.

“Same size, same quality. Our athletes, male and female, will share the same gym, same aquatic facility, same football department.”

While Carlton’s men’s team play home games at both the MCG and Marvel Stadium, the women’s team plays at Ikon Park.

Works will see the facility become “the home of the AFLW”.

“No female will ever walk into the Carlton Football Club again and feel, in any way, any sense of inequality as the facilities for our men and women, now for the first time in 157 years

will be totally equal,” Mr Liddle said.

The Pratt Stand is set to be demolished to make way for an indoor training field and new match day facilities, which would decrease the ground’s capacity from 24,000 to 22,000.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the upgrades were a “fantastic step forward”, a sentiment echoed by Cr Jamal Hakim.

“Sport plays such an important in role our community but also here in supporting gender equity, and that cannot be understated,” Cr Hakim said.

“So, I hope this is only the start to see the changes in physical forms that can be considered and championed around the country for women in sport.”

What do the works mean for locals?

Lord Mayor Sally Capp indicated that local groups, too, would benefit from the new facilities.

“I note that leadership around the change rooms and facilities for male and female participants, and that is really built around the elite teams that play at Carlton, but also has benefits for the community groups that can, and will, into the future be able to use those facilities,” Cr Capp said.

There were also interest around the ground’s new “broadcast lighting”.

The submitted plans claimed it would “less obtrusive” than existing lighting and would be permitted on no more than 12 occasions in any one calendar year.

It also stated that all broadcast lighting would operate in accordance with agreed standards, which included a curfew time of 11pm.

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D La Mama theatre back at full capacity



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Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade
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innercitynews.com.au
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR
Katie Johnson

PUBLISHER
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd
ABN: 57 623 558 725

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▲ An artist's impression of the new facilities at Carlton's Ikon Park. Source: Populous.

Gender-equal plans for Ikon Park

Continued from page 1.

The council also confirmed that existing parking would not be affected under plans, and that the primary entry point to the site would remain on Royal Parade.

Existing secondary entry points around the ground would not be altered.

Mr Liddle said the overall designs were "strongly considerate to the history and heritage of the area" ●

Outrageous art hits East Melbourne

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

A hotel manager has staged an art happening at her normally quiet East Melbourne apartment block to honour one of her guests, an outrageous painter who used to live on the streets.

The story of the friendship between Jenny Kerr and Painta Painter is an amusing tale of two creative personalities hitting it off.

The result was an artistic extravaganza over three levels on a Sunday afternoon in April.

Homeless people have had a rags to riches story during the lockdown when the government housed them in hotels but then turfed them out again when the health risks had dropped.

"I had 18 rooms for the homeless here," Jenny said, who has managed the refurbished 1960s block as a hotel for 17 years. "It was very challenging." Now there is only one of those guests left, the artistic and popular Miss Painter, who has a vast following on Instagram.

"She's staying here until she finds something better and safe," Jenny said.

Jenny befriended her guest when she discovered her artistic talent and was drawn to encourage it.

"When she first came in March or April she stood out," Jenny said. "Her face had sores. She was in a bad way."

"She used to go to Hosier Lane every day before COVID got bad. She came back one day and showed me what she could do."

"I've got plenty of canvasses", I said. Because there were no cars or paying guests I put up a big sheet on the back wall and said you can do it there."

Her painting style was a bit on the wild side. Painta uses a drop sheet, sprays and dances to the beat of music.

"I don't really like using painting brushes," Painta told *Inner City News*. "Some [paint] ends up on the canvasses, the rest elsewhere. The office was blue, Jenny was blue."

Birches Apartments is a moderne brick place and the abstract works of swirls and drips work



well against the architecture, creating the right kind of freeform accompaniments to the era.

East Melbourne locals approved and were at a reception in the car park complete with bubbles and hors d'oeuvres, along with street artist mates of Painta. Most of the works had red stickers.

Miss Painter (her real name) goes by her Instagram name of Painta. She is well-known in welfare circles such as the Living Room and her supporters were there to see the show.

"It's all a bit much," Painta told *Inner City News* as visitors traipsed through the apartment block. "I'm enjoying it. It's somewhere safe to be."

She said she was assaulted before moving into the apartment and that the show was never really a thing. "It just evolved."

Painta is known for her colour, joy and inappropriate language.

"One of my painting's a dick," she said. "Jenny wants to hang it in a room. Will we call it a fertility suite?" ●

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Is Lygon St still Melbourne’s “Little Italy”?

Continued from page 1.

Mr DiMattina said that the suburb had been undergoing a cultural shift for decades now.

“Lygon St is changing all the time, it’s not like Little Italy anymore,” Mr DiMattina said.

“New businesses are opening up – Indian, Pakistani, Chinese – so it’s a different feel.”

Lygon St has been constantly evolving since European migrants began arriving during the gold rush era.

Before the Italians moved in post-World War II, Lygon St used to be the Jewish precinct of Melbourne.

The Yiddish-speaking street boasted tenants such as Altshuler’s Jewish Book Shop, Berenholz’s shoe repair, the Markov pharmacy and Kanatopsky grocery.

Although there are still many Jewish landlords on Lygon St, in the late ‘40s, the Italians settled in and the Jews moved down to the Balaclava area.

Carlton Community History Group president Jeff Atkinson said it was a “misconception” that there had been a turf war between the Italians and the Jews, and the shift had been a natural one.

“Lygon St has always been a refuge for new migrants, particularly young men, while they came together and found their feet,” Mr Atkinson said.

“After the Second World War there was a flood of Italian migrants as large numbers of immigrants from all over Italy, fleeing a Europe devastated by years of war, came here in search of a new life of peace and prosperity.”

“So, Lygon St slowly took on the character of an Italian village with Italian-owned grocery and fruit shops, barbers, bakeries, patisserie shops, cafes and restaurants.”

Between 1945 and 1981, some 400,000 Italians migrated to Australia, 40 per cent of them to Victoria, and a significant proportion of those to the Carlton area.

By 1960, it’s been estimated there were some 7000 people of Italian origin living in Carlton,



▲ A performer at the 1979 Lygon St Festa.



▲ Main stage at 2021 Italian Festa.



▲ Stall holders at the 1979 Festa. Source: CO.AS.IT.



▲ Kids enjoying Transformers street performers.

making up more than 25 per cent of the area’s population.

Mr Atkinson said that since then, Italian migration had dwindled, and new migrants were driving another cultural shift.

“While much of Carlton has become gentrified, cheap high-rise accommodation has ensured that the suburb still attracts newly arrived migrants who these days come from Africa, Asia and the Middle East,” Mr Atkinson said.

“Lygon St has been adopted by the whole of Melbourne.”

Casa Del Gelato owner Eric Pace, whose mother Joanna Pace started up the original Lygon Street Festa in 1978, has seen that shift first hand.

“There’s not many of the original family-owned Italian businesses left on the street,” Mr Pace said. “You can see how many vacant shops there are now, but that was happening even before COVID hit.”

With a vacancy rate of 28 per cent at the end of 2020, Carlton has lost many Italian business icons like Grinders Coffee which had been on Lygon St since 1962.

But from the ashes new businesses are starting to pop up – including an Afghani restaurant near Argyle Square.

Although Lygon St was changing, Mr Dimattina said that it was important to appreciate memories for what they were and to go with the flow.

“I have unbelievable memories of Lygon St and the Festa, there was so many people in the streets you could barely walk through it,” Mr Dimattina said. “But like everything, with time, it changes.” ●



Katie Johnson
EDITOR

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Ethel Carrick *Flower market* 1907 (detail) National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Presented through The Art Foundation of Victoria by the late Major B. R. F. MacNay, and Mrs D. MacNay, Fellow, 1994

Twenty-four refugees now detained in Carlton's Park Hotel

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
PROTEST

Twenty-four refugees are now indefinitely detained at Carlton's Park Hotel after 13 additional refugees were transferred from a Brisbane quarantine facility on April 19.

The men, who had been transferred from Nauru and Manus to receive medical care in Australia, were awoken at 4am to news they were being moved from Brisbane's Kangaroo Point Hotel to Melbourne.

Park Hotel refugee Hamid Yousefi who was detained on Manus Island for seven years and in hotels for two years, said the arrival of the new men was due to "sadistic and tortuous policy".

"Serco woke up all the refugees who were fasting during Ramadan to move them to the Park Hotel," Mr Yousefi said.

"At first they said we would be forced to share rooms which they eventually did not, but we are all so broken and tired from not being treated like human beings."

The transfer took place due to a dispute involving the hotel owners, the lessor, and sub-lessor Serco which runs detention sites for the federal government.

While the council doesn't have any say in the matter, *Inner City News* understands that City of Melbourne (CoM) councillors weren't given any warning of the transfer.

Despite this, Mr Yousefi, who has been recognised as a genuine refugee since 2015, said the City of Melbourne was indifferent to the men's suffering.

"They only care about the beauty of Melbourne, they don't care about us," Mr Yousefi said.

"They don't support us at all, only look on at our torture."

When asked what action had been taken to advocate for the men's release since the council voted for a watered-down "refugee-advocacy policy" on February 16, a CoM spokesperson said the following had been done:



▲ Hamid Yousefi and other refugees inside the Park Hotel.

"Council has requested further support and medical services be provided to refugees that remain detained in the Park Hotel in Carlton. We have also requested information regarding the status of their cases," the spokesperson said.

"The Lord Mayor has written to the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, seeking an explanation for their continued detention and requested a response regarding the medical and mental health support being provided."

While the Lord Mayor's office awaits a reply from the Minister for Immigration, the Park Hotel refugees have not received any information about when they will be released.

Activist and former CoM candidate Apsara



▲ Nightly protests outside the Park Hotel.



▲ March for justice for refugees rally on Palm Sunday.

Sabaratham said the mental health of the men remaining was declining every day they remained imprisoned.

"The men are very distressed, particularly since they've watched so many of their friends be released and they don't know why they're left behind," Ms Apsara said.

"The Park Hotel has 100 rooms, and 24 of those are occupied by refugees, so the hotel is also profiting handsomely from having them there."

Ms Sabaratham said protests were currently being held outside the Department of Home Affairs on Wednesdays and Fridays to educate Melburnians about the cost of indefinite detention.

"Among other things we're drawing attention to the fact that in the last eight years, offshore and onshore detention has cost the community \$20 billion," Ms Sabaratham said.

"This regime is not only brutal but it costs us as taxpayers and the economy immensely."

Refugee Action Collective member Chris Breen said the situation was "grave" as the men's mental health was deteriorating every day they remained inside.

"The City of Melbourne needs to immediately call on the federal government to release the men in the Park Hotel," Mr Breen said.

"There have been releases of more than 100 people, so the men left behind for no good reason are despairing."

Mr Breen said recently there had been multiple self-harm incidents, a suicide attempt and two people have been sent back to Nauru.

"There's no information about why these 11 men have been left so they feel helpless," Mr Breen said.

"The first few people who came out all had legal cases where they'd applied to go back to Papua New Guinea or Nauru because they said it was worse here, and at least offshore they could wander around."

Protestors have continued to hold vigils every night outside the Park Hotel at 6pm to advocate for the men's release.

More than 1500 people also participated in the March for Justice for Refugees Palm Sunday rally on March 28.

As the largest rally since lockdown ended, the protesters marched from the State Library of Victoria to the Park Hotel in Carlton where the then-11 refugees watched on from their hotel windows.

When asked what life was like in the Park Hotel, Mr Yousefi said it was like living in limbo.

"We are not awake, we are not asleep, we are between life and death for the past eight years," he said.

The next Free the Medevac Refugees rally will be held on May 29 at 2pm ●

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Flu vaccines are free for children aged between six months and five years, pregnant women, Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander people, people aged over 65, and those who suffer from chronic conditions.

The flu vaccine is available for adults, and children aged five years and older, at a cost of \$20.

In your neighbourhood, flu vaccines are available on the mornings of Thursday 13 May and Thursday 10 June in the mornings and on Monday 24 May and Monday 21 June in the late afternoons at Carlton Learning Precinct on the corner of Palmerston and Rathdowne streets.

During COVID-19, we have introduced additional measures to protect our community and staff during community immunisation sessions, including physical distancing and additional hygiene and screening processes.

Bookings are also essential. For more details, and to find out how to make a booking, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation

ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines is being managed by the Federal Department of Health. For the latest information, check health.gov.au/covid19vaccines

The COVID-19 vaccination does not protect against seasonal flu. You must wait at least 14 days between a dose of the flu vaccine and a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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Carlton Gardens

The gardens also have a collection of Moreton Bay Fig trees where local Aboriginal people have traditionally met and socialised, a children's playground and the Carlton Gardens Tennis Courts.

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Mass COVID vaccine rollout begins at Royal Exhibition Building

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HEALTH

One of Melbourne's biggest COVID vaccinations hubs, the Royal Exhibition Building, had a steady trickling of people when *Inner City News* visited in late April.

AstraZeneca vaccinations resumed on April 21 at the building for Victorians over 70, and for frontline workers, after a two week pause due to blood clot concerns.

Joan Hoogenraad, who had driven from St Andrews with her husband Nick to receive the vaccine, said it represented "hope and freedom".

"I'm excited to get it done, I just called up this morning to book and it was a very easy process," Ma Hoogenraad said.

"But I'm disappointed that I can't get it at my home clinic in St Andrews as they said there would be a two- to 12-week wait and they were only getting 50 doses in at a time."

Victoria University employee Matt Harvey was also checking in for the vaccine and said he was "feeling good" about getting the jab.

"My wife was getting the vaccine, so I thought I'd come with her and just walk up and get it," Mr Harvey said.

"There's lots of check-in questions but other than that it's an easy process."

The Royal Exhibition Building became a mass vaccination hub for public sector workers, including healthcare staff, police and paramedics in late March.

But when the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advised the Victorian Department of Health to pause the administration of first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to people under the age of 50 in April, there were mass cancellations.

The disruption meant frontline workers and all others eligible for the vaccine under phase 1A and 1B of the program including those with an underlying medical condition were turned away from the Carlton site.

Minister for Health Martin Foley said although the disruption had put a pause on



▲ Entrance to the COVID vaccination centre.

vaccine targets, the rollout was back underway.

"Our medical experts' recommendations obviously impacted the national rollout, but here in Victoria, we've worked around the clock to find solutions to get vaccines in people's arms as quickly and safely as possible," Mr Foley said.

"By April 21, our health professionals will have everything they need to administer AstraZeneca to eligible Victorians of all ages, and they will continue to do so to the highest standards of safety and quality."

"While this expansion provides more options for Victorians over the age of 70, it's expected most people in this category will continue to receive it locally with their trusted GP - that's something we're pleased to encourage."

The Royal Exhibition building is one of three of Victoria's high-volume vaccination centres,

alongside the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and the former Ford factory in Geelong.

This will be the second time the Exhibition Building has been used during a pandemic, as it was first used as a makeshift hospital in 1919, during the Spanish Flu pandemic.

With the three sites making up for the widespread shortages at GP clinics, the Victorian government says the state is on track to deliver a total of 300,000 vaccine doses by May 16.

On the day of the rollout at the Exhibition Building there was also a small group of protesters monitoring the site.

Lawyer and founder of the group Chase Truth Peter Little, who was liaising by the group via Facetime, said the Victorian government was "covering up" the adverse effects of the COVID vaccine.

"We have AusVaxSafety statistics that 25.4 per cent of people surveyed after they receive the AstraZeneca vaccine can't work the next day due to illness," Mr Little said.

"But as the Victorian government is no longer surveying Victorians after they receive the vaccine, what is happening is a widespread experiment on the Victorian population."

The vaccine statistics Mr Little cited are from surveys conducted by legitimate agencies Vaxtracker and SmartVax.

However, the data states that vaccine symptoms are "mild and short-lived", last under a day in the majority of cases, and "may be coincidental and due to other causes".

The day off work is also in contrast to the 910 people in Australia and more than three million people worldwide who have died from COVID without the vaccine.

Currently, the vaccine is being manufactured at CSL's Parkville site after the company received approval in March.

The Federal government initially had a target to have every adult in Australia vaccinated by October this year, however due to the slow rollout of imported doses the target is lagging behind.



▲ ChaseTruth protester outside the building.



▲ The Royal Exhibition Building was used as a makeshift hospital during the Spanish Flu in 1919. Source: Museums Victoria.

At the time of publishing, around 1.6 million vaccine doses had been administered nationwide, well short of the four million dose goal originally set for March.

A Victorian Department of Health spokesperson said the team had worked hard to get the mass vaccination site up and running to make up for the shortfalls.

"Teams from St Vincent's Hospital have worked hard to get this iconic site ready for high-volumes and it has vaccinated thousands of Victorians since it opened last month," the spokesperson said ●

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Lord Mayor Sally Capp with
Beverly Caprioli, University Café



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EVENT PARTNER





Community plants 2000 new plants at Royal Park

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ENVIRONMENT

Thousands of native plants have been planted at Royal Park in a community effort to bring native vegetation and wildlife back into the space.

With the help of a \$12,000 grant from the federal government, The Royal Park Protection Group (RPPG) planted 2000 new plants into Brens remnant and invited locals to come and participate.

RPPG secretary Anne Phefley said the planting project brought back the native bush feel in the park which had been lost over time.

“This special space amazingly still holds remnant vegetation, but we’re going to be planting native plants that are part of the palate of the park that they believe would have been there before,” Ms Phefley said.

As part of the federal government’s Communities Environment Program 2019, the Royal Park Protection Group was given the grant to plant native plants such as kangaroo grass, gold dust wattle, and hedge wattle.

The 2000 new plants have been sourced from all over Victoria from areas including Diggers Rest, Thomastown and Galada Tamboore.

Ms Phefley said that the new plantings would entice

small birds and other native wildlife to dwell in the main section of the park.

“There’s a fabulous population of blue wrens in the wetlands but they won’t come into the main part because they’re often scared off by cats and other animals when they don’t have enough protection,” Ms Phefley said.

“We want to plant native prickly plants which provide good protection for birds and recreate the native habitat which would have been there before it was destroyed.”

Due to development projects and destruction by park owners over the past few decades, Ms Phefley said the protection group’s goal was to educate the public about the significance of Royal Park.

“Some of the plants have survived, but not everybody looks at bush land and recognises the significance,” Ms Phefley said.

“Just recently a whole lot of trees were taken out and someone put a bike jump and ripped up all the dirt.”

Ms Phefley encouraged the community to come and participate in upcoming plantings as it was an initiative that generations to come would be able to appreciate.

“There’s so much joy in being able to contribute to the park and then come back and look at what you’ve done,” Ms Phefley said.

“You can think ‘we did that!’ which is so satisfying.” ●

How Carlton Scouts blazed through lockdown

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

From tying knots to camping under the stars, Scouts Clubs are championed for their group-based outdoor activities.

So when lockdown put a pause on their plans for 2020, the Carlton Scouts had to get creative.

Carlton Scouts leader Annie Asquith said that as Scouts had been preparing for lockdown before it was announced, they were able to seamlessly take their activities online.

“One of the good things about Scouts is it covers so many kinds of activities which are all about personal development and life skills so we were able transfer that to the online space,” Ms Asquith said.

“We had cooking nights where they would compete to cook cakes, video game nights, an online escape room, music night where Scouts performed different instruments, and we also had craft and knot-tying sessions.”

Ms Asquith, who has been involved in Scouts since she was nine years old, said the club was a great way to ensure people still felt part of a community during lockdown.

“We scheduled a two-hour check-in chat each week which was really important and would usually run overtime,” Ms Asquith said.

“Especially during last year, it was all about maintaining everyone’s mental health, particularly the youth leaders and all the Scouts.”

“We found ways to keep people engaged and still picked up new members.”

The Carlton Scouts have programs for around 80 young people aged five to 25 and operate out of the hall in Carlton North.

After returning in Term Four of last year, the Scouts met in Royal Park for their first in-person meeting in months.

“We had a 30 to 40 Scouts there for hut building night where they would build a structure with sticks they could find,” Miss Asquith said.

“Everyone just needed games and social interaction and the nights were run with the Scouts themselves.”

Their next major event will take place on ANZAC Day, and there are plans to have 5000 Scouts at the end of December in a state-wide event.

Miss Asquith said the major benefits of joining the Scouts was giving young people a sense of community.

“A sense of community is so vital particularly with lockdown,” Ms Asquith said.

“Longer-term Scouts knew the family was there for them to provide structure, community, and a safety net of people of different ages and backgrounds.”

Carlton Scouts are currently looking for new Scout leaders and volunteers. If you’re interested visit the website below ●

For more information:
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Il Gambero

La Mama back to full capacity

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

The theatre is finally running at full capacity at La Mama and Carlton's iconic theatre group is putting on three plays a week for the Midsumma Festival as it comes out of the lockdown.

CEO Caitlin Dullard is so busy she was pumping breast milk in the foyer in between solving lighting problems for the next production.

"I don't have a desk," she said, but that didn't seem to bother her.

Normally the theatre stages one production a week but Midsumma was cancelled in January. It was back just as the city began experiencing wintery conditions.

The Will to Be, which remakes the *Romeo and Juliet* story from a queer perspective, was on at 6.30pm, and *Sam I Am*, featuring a deaf gay millennial, was at 8.30pm with a set change in between. Then, there was another production on the weekend.

"We're going hard," Caitlin said. "That's our nature. As soon as I could open, we opened."

Three festivals will run back-to-back in the catch-up and the busy CEO was still taking proposals for *Banksia*, the four-day rebirth festival to celebrate the return to Faraday St in October.

Unlike other theatres which have changed direction during the introspective times forced on them during the pandemic, La Mama has reaffirmed its support for the artistic vision of others.

"We're responsive and flexible," Caitlin told *Inner City News*. "People have been glad to get back to the office. We don't feel bound to the office desk. We like to see who wanders in and has a conversation. I really missed it."

The lockdown was equally full-on. "I had a baby, we lost our funding in April, we shut in March. We did some online stuff. Lots of the time we were making plans then unmaking them."

"We would have been better to have spent time resting. It was go, go, go all year."



▲ CEO Caitlin Dullard takes a breather in the La Mama foyer.

La Mama has always given space for artists to express their approach to their work.

An artist's statement is up on the wall for *The Will to Be* claiming that the playwright wanted to be like Shakespeare but then changed his mind.

This casual approach to theatre is disarming. "I sort of think we've been loose here for a long time," Caitlin said.

The original La Mama theatre in Faraday St was damaged by fire two years ago and is being refurbished.

It is due to reopen in October with a traditional, intimate performance space – seating for 30 to 35 and "just an empty room".

La Mama was established back in the day when Carlton was "more slum-like, the uni was thriving and it felt like home. Now most of the people who come here can't afford to live in Carlton," she said.

Caitlin has moved to a country town and commutes two days a week to Carlton in a car she shares with her partner ●

Toy libraries go from strength to strength

WORDS BY Jess Carrascalao Heard
COMMUNITY

"Yes! They're going to open a toy library!"

It was 2016 and Emily Corcoran was pregnant with her first child.

She was excited; she had just heard about a toy library opening up on Cardigan St, across the road from her home.

Knowing there would be a toy library nearby took some of the pressure off. Ms Corcoran and her partner lived in an apartment, and the prospect of storing everything for their new baby was daunting.

"If you have a suburban home with a garage, people pop stuff in the garage to store. That's not really an option for city families," she said.

It's a service which has been helping new parents in Carlton and Kensington for many years.

This year, Melbourne Community Toy Library is entering into its 20th year of operation and is going from strength to strength, with a new branch having just opened up in Docklands last month, as well as a pop-up trial library operating in West Melbourne.

It's now nearly five years since the Carlton branch relocated to Cardigan St, and Ms Corcoran is now the president of the community group.

She and her partner first joined the library when her son was four months old, and they quickly became frequent visitors.

"It was a lifeline for us as new parents ... we used to pop over every week or so to borrow and swap toys," she said.

The Melbourne Community Toy Library has toys which cater to babies and children aged up to six years old.

There are several different categories of toys, from first toys for new babies to jigsaws, construction toys, games and musical instruments, and parents can browse the available toys via the Melbourne Community Toy Library website.

The library is made up of a combination of toys which have been donated, as well as toys which have been bought by the group.

"Some of our toys are 20 years old and they're still going strong ... and you think about how often they would have ended up in landfill," Ms Corcoran said.

When using the library's funding to buy new toys, they try to go for more durable, sustainable options.

Melbourne Community Toy Library is run by a volunteer committee and over the past two years has been funded through a Social Innovation Partnerships grant from the City of Melbourne.

Ms Corcoran has her fingers crossed for more funding from the council going forward.

"We're in that cycle where we hope we'll receive funding. And we would love sustained funding from the City of Melbourne," she said.

Ms Corcoran herself has been on the committee since 2016, the same year she joined the library.

She laughed when she described the timing of the meetings; she said they're held at parent-friendly hours, after the kids were asleep.

"[The committee is] parents of young kids, meeting once a month at 8pm," Ms Corcoran said. "That committee decides on the direction of things."

Currently each of the libraries is open twice a week – once during the working week, and once on Saturday mornings.

But in the future, she's hoping to open the library for more days, giving parents the freedom to visit whenever is convenient.

"Our dream for the toy library is for it to be open at Carlton five days a week, and families can just know it's there ... drop in, have a play and connect with other people from the community," she said.

She said last year's COVID lockdowns highlighted how isolated parents in the City of Melbourne had been.

"We want to create a space where parents can come, where kids can play, relax," she said ●

On being a spinster

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

Spinsters are supposed to be retiring women sitting quietly in the sidelines while all the action takes place elsewhere.

But Donna Ward, a self-proclaimed spinster, has been busy doing talks and attending festivals since the release of her memoir.

She wrote it while sitting at the window of one of Carlton's coffee houses.

The first draft was done in Brunswick St but when she became too well known she shifted to Lygon St.

Melbourne's lit culture is centred at Readings and the Lygon St bookstore was the first to promote Donna's book.

She I Dare Not Name was launched just before the lockdown and it has hit a nerve both here and in the United States.

Donna set out to write a book of personal essays about being single but she discovered that much of the theorising was being done by women who had partners and children.

"In the '90s women could have it all," she said. "I challenged them on it. They told me to

stop feeling sorry for myself. What do you need a man for? What do you need all this trouble for?"

Many of the essays in her book are bitter-sweet ones about being young and expecting romance, only to see it peter out without commitment.

"My aim was to describe the life I lived," she said but after doing research into the issue the book became more political.

"I wanted to address the prejudices of being a spinster and the assumptions that it's better than being coupled."

"The dominant culture tells about being in a family. I feel excluded. My story isn't told. The simple question, 'are you married?' becomes complex."

"My main message is about prejudice. Many women feel the burn deep in their soul. Do you have children? Do you have a partner? I've felt the burn."

One of the surprising discoveries was that when she tried talking to friends about being a spinster, the overwhelming response was one of envy.

The book has yet to be released in the United States but there's a network called Gateway Women with two million members who are childless or childfree.

They have been responsive to her writing. "I want to get the book to them," she said.

International rights have been difficult during COVID with the Frankfurt Book Fair going online.

Back home the reviews have been good with some negative ones from a group Donna calls the "fierce feminists" who work in academia.

"I'm an everyday feminist," she said. "Women are losing rights. The other stuff is not relevant. We have the right not to be raped. That's worth fighting for."

Donna is speaking at the Sydney Writers' Festival this week in a session *A Bit of Shush*, discussing the pleasure and pitfalls of solitude ●



▲ Donna Ward at her 'writing desk' on Lygon Street.

Cockatoos taking over Carlton

ENVIRONMENT

Huge flocks of corellas and cockatoos have been seen all over Carlton to the delight of some residents.

Locals have reported seeing the birds on Canning, Pigdon, Palmerston and Neil streets during April.

Carlton resident Mel Campbell said the birds were hard to miss as you could hear them screeching from a mile away.

"They're making a huge noise and some of them are making this drawn-out screech like when you hold open the neck of a balloon and let the air out gradually," Ms Campbell said.

"They're perched in the plane trees on Barkly St and feasting on the seeds, it's raining plane-tree fluff and the seeds are thudding to the ground all around."



Another resident, Marie Contraire said they "cheeky" birds had been visiting her window and mock-meowing at her cat.

"They're quite noisy and aggressive!" Ms Contraire said.

"They tried very hard to get inside. Banging on the window before giving up." ●

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Il Gambero: the heart of Lygon St

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
BUSINESS

With its warm, familial atmosphere, unrivalled hospitality and the ever-present smell of homecooked Italian, Il Gambero has been a well-loved gem of Lygon St for more than 50 years.

Completely family-run, owner Frank DiMattina operates the business with wife Angela, son Frankie, sister Angela, and nephews Xavier and Lance.

Mr DiMattina said Il Gambero had stood the test of time by serving unique, quality dishes which had kept customers coming back for decades.

"I think it's the family influence, the care for customers and the quality food at reasonable prices which has kept people coming back," Mr DiMattina said.

"We're one of the oldest restaurants in Lygon St now."

Before the DiMattina family took over in 1983, Il Gambero had already been operating on Lygon St for more than 10 years.

The restaurant was originally owned by the Malaspina brothers, related to Sisto Malaspina who was fatally stabbed outside his Bourke St restaurant Pellegrini's Espresso Bar during a terror attack in 2018.

But when they decided to sell, Frank thought it was time to get into the restaurant business.

"I was the first one to move into restaurants and now a lot of the family has followed suit," Mr DiMattina said.

Sharing the same passion for hospitality, all three of Mr DiMattina's sons have followed in their Dad's footsteps.

"Paul owns Lamaro's Hotel in South Melbourne, Andrew is now in the Gold Coast with Matteo's Pizzeria and Frankie has stayed with Il Gambero," Mr DiMattina said.

Aside from being food connoisseurs, the DiMattinas also have AFL running through their veins.

Mr DiMattina played for Richmond and North

Melbourne in the '60s, while his sons Paul and Andrew played for the Western Bulldogs and Collingwood, respectively.

"All the family are football and cricket devotees, so we have a big following from the football fraternity," Mr DiMattina said.

That football following meant that for many years, Il Gambero was the unofficial hub for the Sydney Swans.

"I had a close relationship with the coach, so every time the team came to Melbourne, they would get off the plane and come straight to the restaurant," Mr DiMattina said.

"It was a really exciting time."

Other famous visitors to the restaurant have included Jerry Lewis, John Farnham and Michael Bubl .

"It was definitely a highlight having Jerry Lewis come in as I was a fan," Mr DiMattina said.

Using the best Italian and local produce, Il Gambero is well known for its authentic dishes based on family recipes which have been passed down through the generations.

Co-owner Xavier DiMattina said that many of the items had been on the menu for decades which kept generations of customers coming back.

"A lot of people will say 'oh our parents brought us here when we were kids', or people coming in for anniversary dinners because they had their first date here," he said.

"We've had proposals, and people who would get take-away from Il Gambero when they were having a baby since the Women's Hospital used to be right around the corner."

Popular menu items include their specialty marinara pizza, princess pasta, and Nonna's meatballs – a homage to Nonna Rosa who used to make sauces in the kitchen.

But when asked about his favorite dish, Mr DiMattina deviated from the classics.

"You know what I've come to love is the risotto vegetarian," he said.

"I have it all the time, worth a try."

Visit Il Gambero at 166 Lygon St ●

Campaign to ban horse-drawn carriages fires up

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The tragic death of an un-named horse in Arden St, North Melbourne last month has sparked a series of emotional protests about horse-drawn carriages in the CBD.

The death of the horse while on the job was first reported in the April edition of *Inner City News's* sister publication *CBD News*.

A graphic picture of it covered by a blanket while still attached to the carriage has galvanised animal activists.

On Tuesday, April 13 demonstrators were outside Town Hall to protest, hoping to get their message across to those attending a council meeting.

By the next day Greens Cr Rohan Leppert had tabled an intention to put up a motion at the next Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on April 20, which despite some varying levels of agreement, was supported unanimously by councillors.

The motion, seconded by Cr Dr Olivia Ball, called for a forum on the issue within the next three months.

While some may have been hoping for a stronger result, Cr Leppert said the forum would at least try and resolve a long-standing and complex issue.

Demonstrators in front of Town Hall were urging the City of Melbourne to ban the use of the horse-drawn carriages in the Hoddle Grid.

But the council maintains that it doesn't have the power. It revoked the street trading licenses of carriages in 2017 but protestors say that enforcement has been difficult.

They are calling for the council to lobby the state government, which controls legislation defining what constitutes a vehicle. Council officers don't have the power to approach drivers of vehicles.

Cr Leppert's move seeks to cut through what he calls "an impasse" between the local and state governments over the issue, which hit an emotional peak last month when the graphic pictures of the dead horse were published.

Kristin Leigh, campaign manager for the Melbourne Against Horse-drawn Carriages, said that the incident had precipitated the recent bout

of demonstrations.

"It has spurred us on to put on more pressure," she said. "Potentially we'll demonstrate at every council meeting. This is the second this year."

She said they had a petition online with almost 40,000 signatures.

"We've been saying for seven years that horses will be injured and killed. This is not the first time."

Cr Leppert said that with the increase in traffic in the city and increased truck movement with the Metro Tunnel works he was concerned that an accident was waiting to happen.

"I'm nervous about people coming back to the city," he told *CBD News*. "This might be the year the roads crack."

In the motion Cr Leppert claimed that Swanston St was the busiest in the world in terms of tram traffic but horse-drawn carriages were still operating there, particularly at weekends.

Protestors say they have had enough. They cite cases of near-misses with cyclists, run-ins with trams, U-turns in the middle of the street and a host of other potentially dangerous activities.

The forum will include all interested parties, including Victoria Police, the RSPCA and industry representatives.

"The council alone and the state alone can't act," Cr Leppert said. "The only way is to get agreement."

He said that horse-drawn carriages could operate around the Domain Parklands just over Princes Bridge where there were fewer traffic issues.

Huge numbers of submitters lined up at the April 20 FMC meeting expressing fierce opposition to the horse-drawn carriage industry. One submission even played a graphic video showing countless examples of traffic violations, alleged illegal street trading and animal cruelty by carriage operators.

While opinion on the merit of the industry was divided among councillors, Cr Leppert said whether it was animal welfare, public safety or reputational damage to the City of Melbourne, further action was necessary.

"The status quo isn't working. This is just a situation that we can't turn a blind eye to," Cr Leppert said ●



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Your City of Melbourne community update



MELBOURNE'S ROAD TO RECOVERY

Enjoy the city's revival by exploring upcoming events that bring the buzz back to Melbourne and boost local business.

Festivals, events and a host of not-to-be-missed experiences will be the talk of the town thanks to a recent \$5 million investment in events as part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a joint initiative from the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

The funding will support events such as the RISING festival, new night markets and the Jurassic World by Brickman exhibition, among many others.

With more than 100 COVID-safe events receiving funding support, organisers are anticipating a combined audience of up to five million people to the city – which will help support jobs and businesses in the city.

'Supporting events with this joint fund is another way we are working to bring back the buzz to Melbourne,' Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

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

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

Local businesses can also expect a boost from a five-month marketing campaign encouraging people to 'Get to the city or get FOMO'.

Businesses during COVID-19

Melbourne's businesses were hit hard this past year. Early and effective support has been crucial in helping businesses keep their doors open and

find new and innovative ways to offer their services.

This support included targeted COVID-19 grants and an expanded Business Concierge Service.

In 2020 the City of Melbourne's business grant programs delivered \$17.3 million in funding for almost 3000 businesses.

The funding helped businesses adapt through digital and online measures, business transformation, and reopening costs including COVID-safe equipment, small-scale capital works and outdoor dining furniture and infrastructure.

The Business Concierge Service was established in March 2020 to provide direct support and advice to businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The service has made more than 11,000 outbound calls and responded to almost 9000 inbound calls, providing information about ways businesses can access funding and support.

Earlier this year, the City of Melbourne sought feedback on business grants and the Business Concierge Service.

A survey of 675 inner city businesses found that two in five respondents (38 per cent) said their business would not be operating without the support, and 89 per cent said the support had had a direct positive impact on their business.

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

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

Support your local retailers

Right across Melbourne, businesses are seeing foot traffic pick up as people rediscover their neighbourhoods.

The City of Melbourne supports local precinct associations, which are at the heart of their communities.

We recently provided nine recognised precinct associations with an

additional \$100,000 one-off payment for activation programs, to further stimulate economic activity in areas such as the central city, Docklands and Kensington.

Among the many creative initiatives being delivered, the Docklands Dollars program will offer rebates for people taking a two-night 'staycation' near the harbour.

To find out more about what's on in your local area, browse whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

RISING FESTIVAL

See stunning art and performance in secret spaces

26 May to 6 June

Visit rising.melbourne

WINTER NIGHT MARKET

Enjoy cosy meals at the Queen Victoria Market

3 June to 25 August

Visit qvm.com.au/whats-on/night-market

JURASSIC WORLD, BRICKMAN

Explore a prehistoric world build from Lego

1 April to 31 May

Visit exhibition.thebrickman.com

OZ COMIC-CON

Experience cosplay, gaming and comic art with fellow pop culture fans

3 to 4 July

Visit ozcomiccon.com/melbourne



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

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

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business to subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter and explore the help on offer, including grants, rate relief, marketing support and free outdoor dining permits.

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

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Your City of Melbourne community update

10 HIGHLIGHTS OF YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL

Explore more than 150 dynamic events that celebrate First Nations culture presented by YIRRAMBOI Festival between 6 and 16 May.

Meaning 'tomorrow' in the shared local languages of the Boonwurrung and Woiwurrung peoples, YIRRAMBOI Festival is a celebration of the diversity and continuous evolution of the longest living cultures in the world.

The festival features a dynamic program of free and low-cost events spanning genres and art forms including music, dance, theatre, film, exhibitions, markets, fashion parades, family-friendly events, talks and symposiums.

Creative Director of YIRRAMBOI Festival and Boonwurrung and Wemba Wemba woman Caroline Martin said this year's festival is all about what's next.

'When you immerse yourself in the many free and paid events you will be a part of the first live audience that many of our creatives have had in more than 12 months, and we can't wait to celebrate with you,' Caroline said.

Here are 10 of the festival's highlights:

1 Women's Healing Place

Thursday 6 to Saturday 15 May, various dates and times
Queen Victoria Women's Centre

Attend a series of workshops led by proud First Nations women that explore identity, culture, trauma, healing and self-care through storytelling, yarnning, visual art, song and movement.

2 Arterial

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 May, 8.30pm
Meat Market Cobblestone Pavilion

Marvel at a breathtaking acrobatic performance by the Na Djinang Circus, led by award-winning entertainer Harley Mann, that explores the ancient connections that tie First Nations people together.

3 Barring Yanabul: City-wide Blak Out

Saturday 8 May, 8.30am to 8.30pm
Across the city

See 40 top acts pop-up across the city in this all-day celebration of Blak culture. Explore the city's iconic public spaces and laneways to discover art, music, dance, theatre and fashion. Free.



4 Crumbs

Saturday 8 to Sunday 16 May, various times
ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr

Bring kids aged 5 to 10 to enjoy a magical story of a cubby, a sneaky neighbour and a fight for survival. See the epic battle unfold in this hilarious show from writers NazAree Dickerson and Nathan Maynard.

5 Blak Makers Market

Sunday 9 May, 10am to 5pm
Malthouse Outdoor Stage, Southbank

Discover something new, handmade or delicious at this outdoor market. Browse stalls showcasing fashion, jewellery, crafts and bush food – all from proud Blak makers. Free entry.

6 Madhanbaa Mayrra

Saturday 8 May, 8pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Hear traditional-style songs in Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay languages infused with techno rhythms and the rich sounds of Melbourne Town Hall's Grand Organ. James Henry blends unlikely genres in this unmissable gig.



7 BRED

Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 May, various times
Meat Market, North Melbourne

See the stars of Briefs Factory interrogate First Nations history with trademark drag, sass and performance art at Meat Market. This cabaret creates space to salvage cultural connections and closeness post-lockdown.



Nartarsha Bamblett will facilitate a workshop as part of the Women's Healing Place program

Photo: Yotography

8 Deadly Funny Showcase

Friday 14 May, 6.30pm
Malthouse Outdoor Stage, Southbank

Giggle and guffaw at some of Australia's freshest and funniest Blak comedians. Cheeky and loud, Blak and proud, these side-splitting acts will be welcomed to the stage by your host, Gurindji showgirl Constantina Bush.

9 Blak Fillums

Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 May, 7pm nightly
The Capitol, Melbourne

Settle in on Swanston Street for three nights of films from First Nations creatives, including a documentary about an Australian company mining in Greenland and a revealing look into the lives of Transblack people.

10 Considerable Sexual Licence

Wednesday 5 to Saturday 15 May, various times
Northcote Town Hall

Take a flirty, filthy and passionate look at the true history of sensuality down under. This provocative performance led by proud Wiradjuri man Joel Bray celebrates country, community, consent and kinship.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the festival showcases the diversity and creativity of First Nations arts and culture.

'We're bringing the buzz back to Melbourne through Australia's largest and most exciting First Nations festival, celebrating a cultural history stretching back more than 65,000 years,' the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

'Melbourne's First Nations people make significant contributions to our city and we're incredibly proud to have this opportunity to appreciate and recognise their culture and their talent through the YIRRAMBOI Festival.'

'Not only is YIRRAMBOI Festival a celebration, it also provides genuine economic benefit to more than 200 First Nations people working in the creative sector.'

For bookings and further information, visit yirramboi.com.au

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Olivia gets the ball rolling on council

First-time councillor Dr Olivia Ball is bringing a renewed focus on human rights to the City of Melbourne.

As a member of The Greens, Cr Ball joins her experienced Greens colleague Rohan Leppert on the new-look council and fills the party's void left by the departure of former Cr Cathy Oke, who served three terms at the City of Melbourne.

While the experience of an election campaign last year wasn't new to her having run on the Greens ticket at the previous two City of Melbourne elections, she told *CBD News* that nothing could have prepared her for stepping inside Town Hall.

"I've run twice, but you don't know until you get inside really the magnitude and the detail," she said. "There's no way of campaigning on any of that. It's just massive – you have no idea!"

"I mean people say it's just roads, rates and rubbish and that's the least of what council does. I have two portfolios now, which I'm delighted with, and they have nothing to do with roads, rates or rubbish!"

Born in East Melbourne, a current resident of Carlton and having lived, worked and studied in the City of Melbourne for most of her life, you'd be hard pressed to find a more "local" councillor if you tried!

As the chair of the council's health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio and the deputy chair to Lord Mayor Sally Capp on the Aboriginal Melbourne portfolio, Cr Ball's wealth of human rights expertise is already being put to good use at the council.

With a Masters and PhD in human rights, Cr Ball began her career as a psychologist working with refugees and survivors of torture and trauma. She is also a published author, a founding director of the non-government organisation Remedy Australia and currently works at Fitzroy Legal Service. And as if that's not enough, she is also currently studying urban planning.

When it comes to the portfolio she chairs, which focuses on the city's health, recreation and community services, and oversees critical issues like homelessness, she said she was "delighted" to be playing a leading role.

"I think human rights is relevant in all levels of government but the most obvious issue for me is homelessness, which falls under my



portfolio. We have some very exciting potential there," she said.

"Housing lies with all levels of government so it's not just an advocacy role. We have a role. We can provide land and build social housing as we've done before, and we can do again. And we certainly provide services for people experiencing homelessness."

"But I'm pleased to say that the council already has a housing-first model which is a philosophy or approach in homelessness that is not focusing on services which basically allow people to remain homeless. That's not what we want to do."

While originally a Labor Party member as a student, Cr Ball has been a member of The Greens for the past 20 years. She said like many other generational Greens members, she was drawn to the party by the then-federal government's handling of the Tampa affair in 2001.

But she said her political activism first began as a student when she campaigned against the apartheid in South Africa, kickstarting a lifelong passion for human rights which has since extended to a range of other issues, including the environment, refugees and indigenous affairs.

And now as the deputy lead on the council's Aboriginal Melbourne portfolio, which last year passed its new Reconciliation Action Plan complete with a landmark component of "truth-telling", she said her experience from South Africa was very applicable.

"Coincidentally, I wrote a book with a Zimbabwean activist named Paul Brady, he's a British academic and specialised in the Truth Commission [South Africa], and that winds us back to Victoria – we're going to have a truth commission in Victoria."

"It's a very exciting time to be alive! It's

terrible in many ways but I'm very thrilled to have this [Aboriginal Melbourne] portfolio."

"Of course, we have an Aboriginal department that is fully staffed by indigenous people. But we [the council] are keen to look at ways of how we can govern with the five sovereign nations that are components of this municipality. What does it mean to recognise their sovereignty?"

While she is still learning the ropes as a councillor, she said the new council was a diverse and hard-working group of individuals who were all equally committed to "revitalising" Melbourne amid COVID-19.

But while the pandemic has caused a great deal of devastation on the city, Cr Ball said it had presented new opportunities to do things differently.

"Revitalisation of Melbourne is our biggest priority. I won't use the word 'recovery' because it implies going backwards. I don't want to go back. A lot of what we had before wasn't working. We have, in fact, worsening inequality," she said.

"We have just finished a community consultation and the number one issue is health and wellbeing, which is hardly surprising in these crazy times. If you haven't got your health, what have you got?"

"But the number two issue, is climate. We [the council] have declared a climate emergency and we need to make that part of our everyday activity on council. Economic revitalisation is primary, but we don't have an economy without the environment."

"I know we [councillors] can work together and grow to understand and listen to each other. I'm adamant that we have to work together – I'm not interested in party politics for its own sake. I want to get the outcomes." ●



Sean Car

PUBLISHER

SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

Membership matters: Strength in numbers

“

Back in the day, our Shires were divided into numerous council wards, each representing roughly the same number of voters. In principle, this allowed a single council member to focus on the issues pertinent to each discreet precinct.

”

By the 1990s, the City of Melbourne (CoM) was divided into four wards, Flagstaff, University, Hoddle and Domain, until 2001, when further streamlining abolished the wards model. The current CoM local government structure of Lord Mayor, Deputy and nine councillors, represents around 180,000 residents spread over 15 diverse suburbs. By contrast, Bayside, with 40 per cent less residents, spans nine suburbs and is managed by seven council wards.

Each CoM suburb has its own unique character and demands. It is now the responsibility of residents to communicate their needs and seek action. East Melbourne and Jolimont are the two suburbs which are given voice by the East Melbourne Group Inc. Ours and other volunteer-run inner city resident groups, such as the Carlton Residents' Association and Parkville Association, are essential to represent their communities at a local council level. Investment in membership gives power to residents to set the agenda and guide council in the priorities which matter to their constituents.

Community resident groups now, more than ever, form a critical role in the local government framework. The cost of membership pays for the facilitation of the group's key objectives, which, in the case of the East Melbourne Group, are to protect and improve its suburb's heritage and amenity.

For 68 years, the East Melbourne Group

(EMG) has worked alongside authorities and government to preserve the village-like social fabric of our community and maintain the balance between development and preservation. Our neighbours are brought together in friendship via the social activities, community events and the initiatives implemented in times of need. During the COVID lockdown we created a "buddy" network connecting the vulnerable with the able-bodied, and also worked with the integration of the homeless placed in our serviced apartment accommodation venues. Our emailed monthly member updates, quarterly door-dropped magazine publication and social media channels all keep our businesses and residents connected and up to date with the goings on in our suburbs.

East Melbourne is an amazing place to live, and we are very blessed. Our proximity to parks, gardens, infrastructure, medical, sporting and cultural sites, all make it a very attractive proposition for residential development. Increasingly, pressure is being applied by developers to be bigger and bolder with their application proposals. In the absence of CoM mandatory height limits and resolute rules on the nature of development and demolition, we are forced to fight to protect the characteristics which make it liveable. It is a geographically small suburb, yet the decades of coordinated preservation showcases the breadth of

architectural history in our city. Fine examples of almost every period of architecture can be referenced here. The major allocation of our membership fees goes to make a case to uphold this unique urban fabric. VCAT hearings are expensive. In rallying together, our residents' voices are amplified with a unified strategy to achieve our common goal.

Membership

Membership provides an added level of belonging and support. You might be a member of a footy club, golf, gym or social club – the objectives are the same. Your money goes to support something you care about and you get to benefit from the experiences it provides. We welcome all business operators and residents of East Melbourne and Jolimont to join us ●

For more information visit,
emg.org.au/why-join-emg/



Lisette Malatesta

SECRETARY
EAST MELBOURNE GROUP INC.

The need for clear rules on accessible housing



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



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

This month we have asked Dr Ben Gauntlett, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, to share his thoughts about why the objective around housing all Australians is important, and in particular, for those of us who have disabilities...

Good disability policy benefits all Australians. Sometimes it requires governments to mandate outcomes to overcome market failures.

It is important that we house all Australians, rich or poor, because it reduces pressure on Australia's health, welfare, disability support and aged care systems.

More than four million Australians presently have a disability and to future-proof the country from health and disability policy challenges it is necessary for all levels of government to act decisively (and cleverly) on housing policy.

It is not enough that governments give someone a roof over their head and ignore their other needs. The housing must be adequate and appropriately designed for a person's circumstances so they can remain healthy and undertake social, community and economic participation.

For Australia to have enough accessible housing will take a combination of well-designed social housing, mandatory laws regarding the incorporation of accessibility features into new houses, and the temporary or permanent renovation of existing housing. The scale of the problem requires action from both government and non-government organisations.

Some people and organisations think social and economic policy concerning housing can be divided into "disability" and "non-disability" silos. This siloing ignores that around 80 per cent of disability is acquired in a person's life, universal design principles benefit everyone and the majority of disability is invisible. For example, parents of young children can benefit from step-free access to a house and a bathroom area just as much as a retiree living at home and dealing with mobility challenges.

In addition, accessible housing is not just of benefit to individuals who presently have mobility challenges. It may also benefit individuals of all ages with a significant intellectual and cognitive disability (e.g. early-stage dementia), sensory disabilities (such as people with low vision) and people who are neurodiverse. When care or support is provided in the home, it is cheaper, safer and easier if it is provided in an appropriately designed space. Furthermore, a well-designed home can mean care or support does not need to be provided.

In the United States of America, it has been estimated that there is a 60 per cent probability that any new house will be occupied by a person with a disability over its life span. In Australia, more than 90 per cent of people with disability live in private housing. There is no reason to expect this US figure to be different in Australia. This highlights the need for private housing to exhibit accessibility features.

But it has been estimated that only five per cent of new private houses built in Australia are accessible. This is troubling given the human rights imperative to live in appropriate housing, the likelihood of people with disability living in poverty, the wish of many Australians to remain in their own home as long as possible and the dangers created by institutionalisation.

All Australians have a human right to an adequate standard of living, which includes appropriate housing. This right has been

recognised in numerous human rights' treaties that Australia has signed and ratified. For example, the right has been recognised in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1996). Later human rights treaties, including those relating to violence against women and the elimination of racism, have also acknowledged the importance of an adequate standard of living and appropriate housing.

For people with disability, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities acknowledges the right to an adequate standard of living (which includes housing) and social protection. This right has been recognised together with a need for accessibility in the community and a right to live independently as part of the community.

However, in 2019, when Australia's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was reviewed by the supervising Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it was found Australia needed mandatory rules regarding accessibility of new houses. Furthermore, it was concerning to the committee only limited consideration of persons with disabilities, particularly indigenous persons with disabilities, had occurred in strategies to reduce poverty and homelessness – including the National Affordable Housing Agreement and National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Any organisation advocating for compliance with human rights or sustainable development goals should be concerned by these findings of the committee.

People with disability are more likely to live in poverty, be jobless and require social or public housing than people without disability. The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare has reported in 2020 that 41 per cent of all households in social housing include a person with disability and 62 per cent are single adult households. Therefore, social housing policy must be informed by the ongoing and future needs of people with disability in Australia.

Perhaps unsurprisingly Australians want to remain in their communities near families and friends for as long as possible. When the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety commissioned a research paper in July

2020 concerning, "What Australians Think of Ageing and Aged Care" the following question was asked: "where do Australians want to live if they need support or care?" Older Australians indicated a strong preference to stay in their own house if they need support or care. Only 25 per cent stated they would prefer to live in a residential aged care to access required care.

Care institutions, which includes aged care facilities, can unfortunately be gateways to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The World Health Organisation has found that people in aged care facilities are twice as likely to experience abuse. Institutions for people with disability are unlikely to be any different.

Reliance upon institutional care options has led to the need for Royal Commissions and compromises the efficacy of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

But what is the solution? The National Housing Dialogue on Universal Housing Design in 2010, which led a consensus agreement by industry, the community, government and human rights organisations to seek to have minimum liveable housing design standards by 2020 has failed.

It is obvious we need clear rules.

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

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



Rob Pradolin

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

INFO@HOUSINGALLAUSTRALIANS.COM.AU

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

We all need affordable housing and job opportunities

The new call to provide affordable housing for "essential workers" by the Committee for Melbourne has added support for solutions to a growing problem.

However, I don't agree with its idea of a "bushfire type levy" to raise funds to build this housing.

It has proposed a levy on all Victorian residents and businesses to fund the construction of new dwellings. I don't accept that those who have not created this problem should pay to fix it.

Private developers could step up to solve the crisis by offering to support the building of affordable housing as part of their new developments, whether they are residential, commercial or industrial in the City of Melbourne. This is called "inclusionary zoning" across the globe and City of Melbourne has it in its draft housing strategy.

Under inclusionary zoning, land and/or money can be offered by developers for public or community housing to be built, with governments adding additional funds to build public housing or community housing organisations raising funds to do so. The state government's own current planning laws encourage this to happen. This is not a radical – it just seems that the state government prefers to not challenge

The Arden Precinct can have both new public housing for those on the state's waiting list and to reduce overcrowding in the towers.



nor mandate through planning laws for developers to do the right thing.

The Arden Precinct in the city's planning process is a great opportunity for this to happen. Public housing could be built in the new precinct through funding available in the state government's Big Housing Build. More than 4000 Victorians have signed the Save Public Housing Collective's petition to Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Housing Richard Wynne for this type of investment to happen as a fundamental part of their proposed 10-year strategy for social and affordable housing.

There is widespread community support for public housing in the Melbourne community. We all saw this with the huge community support for public housing tenants who were locked down during last year's COVID-19 lockdowns that the Victorian Ombudsman found breached their human rights!

Community members in their thousands were the first responders with culturally appropriate food and other support within hours of the lockdowns happening.

The Arden Precinct can have both new public housing for those on the state's waiting list and to reduce overcrowding in the towers.

The Committee for Melbourne could complement this approach to providing affordable

housing by supporting and seeking funds for training programs that would enable public housing tenants to become the "essential workers" Melbourne needs living close to their future workplaces ●

For more information:
change.org/p/daniel-andrews-prioritise-public-housing-to-protect-the-most-vulnerable



Cory Memery

CORYMEMERY@YAHOO.COM

ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



More than a walk

For many of us, the walk from the city to the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) usually signifies one thing. Bright lights, colourful scarves, meat pies and butterflies running rampant. But for indigenous man Rob Hyatt, the walk to Melbourne's cultural home of footy means much more. "There was a ceremony camp at the site of the MCG," he said.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

"In the modern context, whether it's a major event, we still have Welcome to Country, and elders practising ceremonies there where their ancestors before them practised."

As Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT) manager of education and visitor experience, Mr Hyatt takes people on walking tours across Melbourne, educating and informing the public about indigenous culture, language and diversity. "Culture is practiced in the urban landscapes, and that means the broader public, tourists and visitors can experience Culture as well," Mr Hyatt said.

"I enjoy promoting Aboriginal Victoria and Aboriginal Melbourne because there's still sometimes a lack of understanding, or a lack of knowledge if you like, of the fact that Aboriginal people are present in our urban spaces."

The Birrarung Wilam walk begins with an introduction to Aboriginal artefacts at the KHT centre at Federation Square. Along with providing a space for the broader community to engage with culture, Mr Hyatt said the KHT also enabled local Aboriginal

community members to visit and experience the artwork in their own ways as well.

"One of the things our visitors come to learn is that there is a diversity to Aboriginal Victoria, and the Heritage Trust and the site that we're on actually is the lands of a particular nation, and in this case, we talk about the Wurundjeri people," he said.

From there, walkers amble along the banks of the Yarra River adorned by Aboriginal art installations, while Mr Hyatt explains the nuances of life by the river and the impact of colonisation.

He also highlights the towering legacy of Wurundjeri elder, William Barak, who became a spokesperson for Aboriginal social justice in the 1800s during Melbourne's formative years. Known for his artwork depicting indigenous life and encounters with Europeans, Barak also played a key role in the survival of his own people while gaining the support of non-indigenous people, Hyatt said.

The William Barak building in Swanston St – a visually striking 32-storey residential apartment block – displays Barak's face through the ingenious use of negative dark spaces flowing through balconies.

As part of the walking tour, Mr Hyatt explained how the building was the largest piece of Aboriginal artwork in Victoria.

"The entire building is the canvas," he said. "He's looking over his traditional country right across the CBD."

Up until recently, the Aboriginal walking tour was delivered only in person.

But now, in the wake of COVID-19, the walk is also delivered online, ensuring regional Victorians, including students, can gain the same experience as Melburnians. And for city and country folk alike, Mr Hyatt said the experience "blows people away".

"It's about understanding your own backyard and understanding the connection," he said. "It takes people away from the typical or romanticised perspectives of Aboriginal environments.

"Aboriginal culture is everything – it's connection to country, it's connection to your ancestors, it's connection to our stories." ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Former Yarra Park State School

The East Melbourne Historical Society is undertaking a project on the history of the former Yarra Park State school.

The school, which was closed in 1987, and converted in the early 1990s into residential apartments, was opened in July 1874 and was one of the first large urban state schools constructed after the passing of the 1872 *Education Act* which established secular, compulsory and free education in Victoria.

Built on a small parcel of land of three-quarters of an acre on the corner of Punt Rd and Wellington Parade, the school was designed in the Tudor style by the prominent colonial architect Charles Webb whose other designs included the Windsor Hotel, the Royal Arcade, the Alfred Hospital and South Melbourne Town Hall.

Under the initial head teacher Joseph Walker, the school very quickly gained an excellent reputation for its educational results, firm discipline and sporting achievements. In its early years its enrolment was in excess of 1700 students and its average daily attendance was around 900 to 1000 students. For a number of years, it was the largest state school in Melbourne.

As there was virtually no state provided secondary education in Victoria until the early 1900s, the Government of Victoria offered from the early 1870s a small number of scholarships or "exhibitions" to students in the state schools who were unable to afford the fees of

the grammar schools and colleges. Students from all over the state sat a competitive exam for these exhibitions. The Historical Society's research has found that in almost every year from 1874 until the early 1890s when the scholarships were abolished, that one or more students from Yarra Park was awarded a scholarship. In five separate years during this period a student from Yarra Park was the top student in the state in these examinations. One of the students to win one of these scholarships was Harold Stewart who went to Wesley College and subsequently became headmaster in the 1930s.

The school produced an impressive list of alumni from its early days. Perhaps the best-known alumnus was Sir John Monash who attended the school for a brief period in 1877 before he attended Scotch College. Another famous alumnus is the sculptor and medallist Sir Bertram Mackennal. Two of the first female graduates in medicine from Melbourne University, Dr Elfrida Gamble and Dr Bertha Main, also attended Yarra Park. Cricketers from the school who played for Australia include the fast bowler Ernie McCormack, the left-handed batsman Vernon Ransford who later became the secretary of the Melbourne Cricket Club, and Sam Loxton who was a member of Don Bradman's "Invincibles". Quite a number of prominent Australian Rules footballers also attended Yarra Park.

More than 300 past students enlisted for active service in World War I and a large honour roll was erected on one of the internal walls of the school in honour of these ex-students. Despite extensive enquiries, the honour roll appears to have gone missing after the school was closed according to Ian Hind, committee member of the East Melbourne Historical Society, who is coordinating the research.



More than 300 past students enlisted for active service in World War I and a large honour roll was erected on one of the internal walls of the school in honour of these ex-students.



During the 1970s and 1980s, demographic changes in Melbourne's inner suburbs brought a downturn in the enrolments of many schools and Yarra Park was one of the schools that was closed as a result of this demographic change. In 1986 the school was classified by the National Trust of Victoria and in 1992 the school, because of its architectural and historical significance, was placed on the Australian Heritage Register.

People who have had a past association with the school in any capacity and would like to know more about the project can contact the Society ●

For more information:
info@emhs.org.au

Experts think wishfully too!

“A learned fool is more foolish than an ignorant fool” – Moliere

WORDS BY *Jacob Caine* –
CEO, CAINE REAL ESTATE

I was told recently the story of Han Van Meegeren, an infamous, and one might argue ingenious, mid-20th century art forger.

Van Meegeren's recreations of works by the Dutch master Johannes Vermeer, in particular, have become the subject of books, movies and even folklore. Among those duped into acquiring a Van Meegeren “Vermeer” was none other than Hitler's Reichsmarschall and confidant Hermann Göring, who traded 137 looted (but genuine) artworks for what he believed to be just one of 34 known Vermeers, a work titled *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery*.

Following the end of World War II, as Allied forces worked their way through Aladdin caves of stolen and hoarded artistic treasures, the provenance of *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery* was traced back to Van Meegeren where it abruptly stopped. Van Meegeren was questioned about where he had acquired the piece but was unable to provide a satisfactory answer. Upon arrest by the Allied authorities, Van Meegeren was confronted with a

Mortonian dilemma; admit that he had painted the piece and face trial as a forger, or be tried for the more heinous crime of acting as a Nazi collaborator in the supply of priceless national treasures to the Third Reich.

Needless to say, he took the forgery path, and in the process of a highly-publicised trial became, if only momentarily, a Dutch national hero. Van Meegeren painted the picture (pardon the pun) during his trial that he had intentionally swindled Göring to teach the Nazi a lesson and secure a symbolic victory for his nation. The veracity of these claims is highly questionable, given a copy of Van Meegeren's own anti-Semitic “book” *Tekeningen 1* was found in Hitler's personal library with an inscription from the author that reads: “To my beloved Führer in grateful tribute, from H. van Meegeren, Laren, North-Holland, 1942”. It is said that upon being told of the swindle, Göring, for the first time, looked as if he “had discovered evil existed in this world”.

It all makes for fascinating storytelling, and a new movie starring Australia's Guy Pearce, *The Last Vermeer*, will soon present another “recreation” of the Van Meegeren story. There is a lesson to be learned from the whole saga, in

truth probably many, but the lesson I'll focus on concerns the folly of wishful thinking.

You might be wondering how it was that Van Meegeren managed to convince the art world he had obtained these previously unknown and undiscovered treasures. To gain legitimacy Van Meegeren sought out the world's foremost authority on Vermeer, Dr Abraham Bredius, to secure the endorsement of his first Vermeer imitation, a piece titled: *The Supper at Emmaus*.

Now, this is where the true genius of Van Meegeren's ploy lay, and wherein also lies our lesson. Throughout his long and illustrious career, Bredius had written extensively on Vermeer, and often speculated about “missing” periods in the little-known life of the painter. Bredius believed Vermeer had, at one point, travelled to Italy to learn more of his craft from significant Italian painters, and wondered whether any works had emanated from this journey.

Before Bredius ever laid eyes on *Emmaus*, Van Meegeren created an elaborate back-story for the piece. This was the story of an old aristocratic Italian family, attempting to raise funds to flee fascist Italy, selling off their treasured family possessions among which was this painting. A painting that had hung on their villa walls for generations. Bredius, himself a noted and public anti-fascist, despite being retired, felt empathy for the Italian family's plight and consented to assess the work.

The painting itself, to the untrained eye, looked nothing like any other genuine Vermeer. Yet, to the trained eye, there were certain flourishes that were very characteristically Vermeer. A smattering of breadcrumbs on a loaf of bread, the shade of blue used on the robes of the protagonist. Things you and I wouldn't notice, but an expert would. Here was a work that, if actually painted by Vermeer, would confirm Bredius' long-held conviction about Vermeer's travels to Italy. A work that would prove he had been right all along. At age 82, Bredius wanted *The Supper at Emmaus* to be real, he needed it to be real. Bredius declared it “the masterpiece of Johannes Vermeer of Delft”.

So, what is the lesson and what exactly does this have to do with property? Bredius got it very wrong when it came to Van Meegeren's Vermeer. Bredius' wishful thinking blinded him to the overwhelming evidence that the painting in front of him was not a Vermeer, was nothing like a Vermeer – something you or I would have recognised in an instant. *The Supper at Emmaus* wasn't valueless, far from it, it just wasn't as valuable as the expert thought. When it comes to our homes, our houses, our apartments, the properties we own or live in, each of us is the expert. We can see the minute details that make it special, that make it unique, that make it valuable, that, at least to our eyes make it ... priceless. The question is, does everyone else see them too? ●

ROTARY CLUB

News from Carlton Rotary Club

As mentioned in the April Edition of the Inner City News, since its establishment in June 1985, the Carlton Rotary Club has regarded itself as “The Friendly Club” with its motto, “Caring for Carlton”.

During the summer just past, Carlton Rotary was thrilled to be able to have facilitated five lessons for six children in conjunction with Drummond Street Services and Carlton Baths. All six children were from African backgrounds and two children had never swum before. These lessons were important for the children's social integration as well as being a necessity for all children growing up in Australia. We were delighted with the progress these children made during the swimming term and the way they made the most of their weekly visits to the pool. The Rotary Club of Carlton is grateful to be able to partner with these other members of the Carlton Community Network to support our local community.

All readers of the *Inner City News* are invited to the launch of *Walk in My Shoes*, a youth homelessness augmented reality experience and design and photography exhibition to be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 6pm in The Atrium, Federation Square. It is one of the projects that Carlton Rotary member Anne Mitchell has been involved in during her inspirational work with Concern Australia which continues to do life changing work with homeless teenagers in the Melbourne metro area. If this date does not suit, there will also be a very special photography exhibition from Concern Australia at the 282 Lygon St branch of the Bendigo Bank from May 31 until June 13. Further enquiries may be made to Anne at anne.mitchell@concernaus-tralia.org.au or Keith Ryall at keithfryall@gmail.com.

As mentioned in the April edition of *Inner City News*, Carlton Rotary also created special perseverance and resilience awards for secondary school students; here is a comment on the University High School (UHS) Year 12 student selected by the Year 12 coordinator – Mary* has remained upbeat and positive about UHS, her cohort, and academia throughout her VCE and particularly despite her many responsibilities during her lockdown. She has faced challenging home circumstances, acting as a carer for younger siblings as well as a handful of cousins, a few under the age of 7, while simultaneously attending online schooling.

Mary is also an active part of her sporting community (track and field) as well as attending daily spiritual classes before school.

She was courteous and on top of managing her time, communicating with teachers effectively, while managing her responsibilities.

Mary is incredibly well-liked and respected by all her peers and is responsible and diligent in managing her many responsibilities. She hopes to pursue a career in paramedicine – a role in which she will be outstanding, as well as spending time doing military service.

Mary was subsequently accepted into a Bachelor of Nursing at Deakin University so was presented with an additional \$400 to assist her in purchasing her uniform and placement badge, clinical instrument pack and police check. This was in addition to an initial \$100 Readings book voucher.

Carlton Rotary is currently working with cyber security expert Robyn Trevaud, founder of Cyber Safe Kids. The schools and parents involved in the program will be advised of the timings (likely to be around May 5 or 6) by their local school.

Carlton Rotary currently meets online every Tuesday at 1pm – please use the Zoom link to join. All are welcome and there is no entry fee: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85726370198>

Contact Keith Ryall (president-elect) at the email address mentioned earlier for enquiries. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, we meet face-to-face for a 1pm lunch meeting at Graduate House, 220 Leicester St, Carlton. The May lunch will be on May 25 and in June, there will be a special dinner to mark the end of another Rotary year, to be held at Graduate House at 6.30pm on June 29.

* name changed for privacy reasons ●



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

METRO TUNNEL



New-look Metro Tunnel HQ back in business

Metro Tunnel HQ is back doing what it does best – giving Victorians the chance to explore some of the biggest construction projects underway in our state.

The visitor centre was closed temporarily when COVID hit last year, but it's once again open to the public with a new look.

Jo Hopgood of Rail Projects Victoria (RPV), the agency delivering the Metro Tunnel Project for the Victorian Government, said the re-vamped centre on Swanston St now included information and education about the broader range of RPV projects.

Jo, who is deputy director, marketing and brand, said, “We've been reviewing what visitors liked best about the existing spaces and experiences as well as considering what stories we'd like to be able to tell at HQ and what digital capability we would need to tell those stories.”

Part of that has been thinking about how best to incorporate more than one project into the space for the first time.

“New visitors will notice a lot of changes,” Jo said.

“That includes new projects to learn about with Melbourne Airport Rail, Regional Rail Revival and Geelong Fast Rail included in the

displays, as well as the traditional Metro Tunnel content.”

Staff at Metro Tunnel HQ are thrilled to be back in their revitalised city space.

“They're excited to welcome visitors to the new space and check out the new experiences,” Jo said. “They are enjoying chatting with visitors again and getting back to what they do best.”

RPV has been monitoring visitor traffic on Swanston St closely, as the city comes back to life after tight COVID restrictions.

“Visitor numbers on the footpaths around Metro Tunnel HQ are back to around 65 per cent of pre-COVID traffic,” Jo said. “There are plenty of people back in the city and we are also looking forward to welcoming lots of schools to HQ again.”

For details of HQ's opening hours and current activities, check out the Metro Tunnel website.

Metro Tunnel HQ is at 125-133 Swanston St, across the road from the Melbourne Town Hall. Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm; Saturday to Sunday: 10am to 4pm ●

For more information visit:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



JOSHUA

“It is a great city but the one thing I love about Melbourne is Degraives St. You enter from Flinders St and walk down; you feel like you walked into an entirely different city, completely painted from floor to roof and you can enjoy a good lunch and great coffee. Tucked away, it’s a good place to spend an entire day.”



JOSH

“This shirt is to promote the charity we started during the lockdown period for the hospitality people ([Covid19EAD.com.au](https://www.covid19ead.com.au)). So, I’m grateful for all the friends that supported us and helped each other during the lockdown.”

Faces of Inner City

What are you grateful for when it comes to Inner City Melbourne?



GABRIEL, CHARLOTTE & KARINA

“In the past before COVID, it was the nightlife; but these days, I enjoy going with family to the parks, recreation centres, gardens. Our daughter [Charlotte] likes running around in the park chasing the birds, going to the play centre and the GoClimb for sporting activities.”



PETER & AMELIA

“Richness of culture, lots of cuisines, people from different nations ... all these are making the inner city unique and attractive. I do like the art scene, and I love going to the cinemas for the culture they represent.”

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

East-West: Here we go again

So, the State Opposition is reviving the East West link project in time for the next state election.

Tim Smith, the Opposition’s roads spokesman, talked about the necessity for the missing link and the fact that \$4 billion of federal funds were available. With the Westgate Tunnel being constructed and landing in North Melbourne which will undoubtedly bring more traffic through North Melbourne and Parkville, there may well be an argument for construction of a cross town connection. However, not in the largest and most beautiful of Melbourne’s parks.

The previous plans would have destroyed a large portion of the park from the zoo to the Tullamarine freeway. The area included the Ross Straw sports field, the Trin Warren Tam-boore wetlands and an undisturbed remnant area of native bushland. The very special White’s Skink habitat would also be under serious threat. Ironically an apartment block built, compulsorily acquired and resold would have to be purchased yet again!

Mr Smith needs to be reminded that Governor Charles La Trobe set aside 10.36 square kilometres for parkland and open space in 1845. This was reduced to 2.83 square kilometres when Parkville, North, South and West were constructed around 1873. I stress the park was for the people of Melbourne and any attempt to further reduce this wonderful area would be against all Victorians! At the recent local government elections for the City of Melbourne all key mayoral candidates were asked their position on the East West link and

those elected were against its revival.

As mentioned in last month’s column Gatehouse St is now a major thoroughfare (parking lot!) and South Parkville is a paradise for “rat runners”. We need to preserve inner city living and more importantly, the great Royal Park.

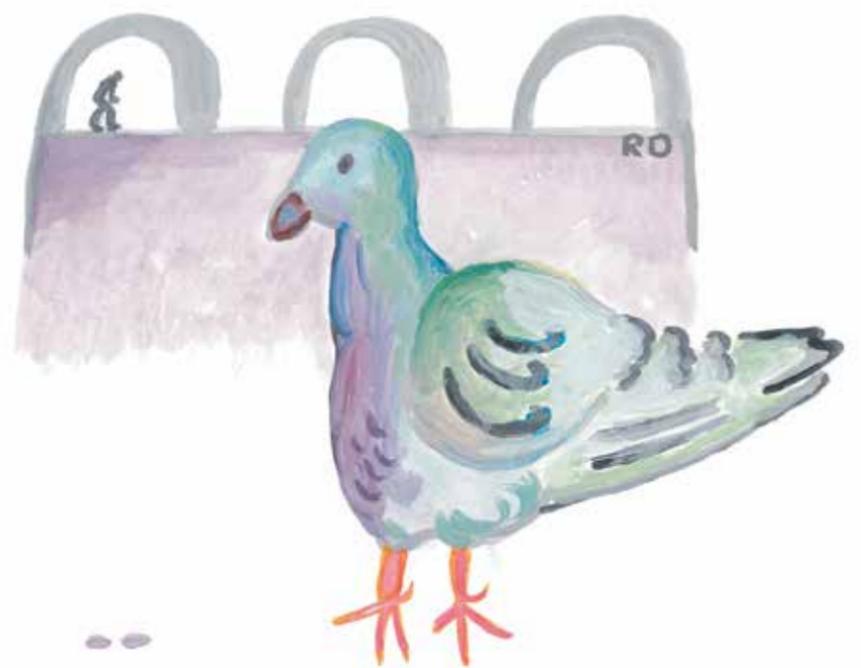
On ANZAC Day local resident Gordon Ley organised a small gathering to acknowledge local WWI heroes at the Parkville War Memorial on the corner of The Avenue and Royal Parade. In a poignant address, Gordon’s grandchildren read the names of those lost in action. He then gave an amazing overview of one of the soldiers, Corporal John Jageurs. In Parkville we all know of Jageurs Lane and his family were long-time residents of Parkville. John’s father, a stonemason, built the memorial. We will publish Gordon’s address in a future Parkville Association update.

Finally, all Parkvillians are saddened to say goodbye to Father Michael Elligate, Chaplain to the University of Melbourne and Parish Priest of St Carthage’s in Parkville. Michael has chaired many important organisations since arriving in Parkville nearly 34 years ago. To us he is Michael – a great local resident and dear friend. Clearly loved by his congregation who drove from all over Melbourne to attend Mass with him. We will miss the cheery welcomes and the time he has for all locals.

Good luck and many thanks from all in Parkville ●



Rob Moore
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENTPARKVILLE
ASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM



Nature Therapy

“Not my favourite species”

*The Quadrangle
University of Melbourne*

MELBOURNE ZOO

All together now

It's a beautiful thing to watch elephants interact. As an elephant keeper at Melbourne Zoo, every day is different, and we are always learning about our beautiful animals.

WORDS BY *Lucy*
MELBOURNE ZOO TRAIL OF THE ELEPHANTS ACTING COORDINATOR

On a bright morning recently all seven of the elephants came together in the same space for the first time since our newest arrival Luk Chai joined the herd. And it was one of our most exciting days of the year!

Melbourne Zoo is home to seven Asian elephants: females Mek Kapah, Dokkoon, Num-Oi, Kulab and Mali, our young bull Man Jai, and new breeding bull Luk Chai, who only arrived at the Zoo from NSW in December last year.

Why gather the herd now? Simply because our approach to caring for elephants at Melbourne Zoo is all about relationships. They all have different personalities, and they all play a vital role within the social dynamics of our herd.

You may have seen that Zoos Victoria previously announced plans to move our entire Asian elephant herd from Melbourne Zoo to Werribee Open Range Zoo in 2024, following completion of an \$84.5 million expansion of Werribee funded by the Victorian Government. The future is exciting, but what is happening right now at Melbourne Zoo is also exciting.

Melbourne Zoo is part of a regional breeding program for Asian elephants, with the overarching objective of supporting the conservation of the species, which is classified as endangered

by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. Habitat loss is a huge threat, often associated with the spread of unsustainable palm oil plantations. That's what our "Don't Palm Us Off" initiative is all about.

As elephant keepers, what we aim to do is work on replicating the natural biology of elephants and their social networks, so that their life reflects as closely as possible what they would experience in the wild. We have a wonderful social network of female elephants that are cohesive and live together all the time. And then, on the periphery, we've got males Luk Chai and Man Jai, who was born in the maternal unit and weaned out of it when the time came. This is just how it is in the wild, with a core female unit and males who regularly join the herd and then leave to spend some time alone. But the arrival and inclusion of 11-year-old Luk Chai meant that we could now start doing introductions of all seven together for the first time.

What we saw from Luk Chai at the herd gathering was absolutely perfect. He's a lovely breeding bull with loads of confidence, but also loads of respect. He's become very familiar with them all through the introductions we've done over the past months. He waltzes into that herd unit with those females. He heads in and starts eating a bit of food with the females. Then Man Jai comes in and watches that. This is a great life-learning opportunity for Man Jai. He's like, "okay, that's how you behave. That's



the right way to enter a herd unit with females." Just to be calm and confident. Luk Chai is such a perfect role model for Man Jai, and the herd gathering was a perfect life-skill development opportunity for every individual in the herd.

I couldn't be happier with how the day went. We saw calmness at the start with them all eating and watching each other. And then, after a good feed, you saw the interactions pick up, and the play, and the communication.

When they spend time together, you can really see how interactions and relationships are managed by each individual. They all read each other's behaviours and act accordingly. The beautiful thing is that they make their own decisions. When the herd shows us it's time, we can separate them. We could see Luk Chai start to wander off from the herd, which was

perfect. He's telling us, "All right, I'm ready to head off now back to my space." So, we pick up on that behaviour and he's able to leave. The females enjoy the rest of the day together, and the males move away from them, exactly as would happen in the wild. We ended that session on such a high!

It's such a varied, dynamic situation at the Trail of the Elephants. We've got different habitat rotations, and different social opportunities. It might be bulls together one day, or a bull in with the females. And what we see from that is great enrichment because every day they have something new to experience. The Trail of the Elephants is a great place to sit and spend some time, to observe and enjoy this amazing, endangered species. I hope you'll set some time aside to do just that next time you're at the Zoo! ●

INNER CITY LOCAL

Half a century of schnitzels and Strauss

It was 9.25am on April 23 and Donati's Fine Meats at the top end of Lygon St was in a state of quiet industriousness.

WORDS BY *Jess Carrascalao Heard*

A few early morning customers had already come and gone. Boxes of fresh ducks had been wheeled through the door on a tall, orange trolley not half an hour earlier. Now, Leo Donati, with his son Marcello and the rest of the team were packing the day's orders.

Mr Donati chatted to *Inner City News* while getting on with his morning jobs. At this moment, behind the counter at a butcher's block with a book of the day's orders open in front of him, Mr Donati was making clear his opinion of two classical music composers who shared a surname: Strauss.

"That's just me, eh ... it's Richard! Johann's a little old nothing," he laughed, scoffing at the thought of the Austrian composer Johann Strauss – whether Johann Strauss senior or junior we never got to the bottom of, but what's clear is, Mr Donati's not a fan.

As he crossed off another of the day's orders from his list, the warm, operatic voice of the late soprano Jessye Norman filled the shop, singing the song cycle *Four Last Songs*.

He had put on the track as soon as the conversation had turned to opera. Richard Strauss, the German composer who wrote the *Four Last Songs* (and the composer who was not to be confused with Johann), was one of Mr Donati's



▲ Leo Donati (right) has passed on his trade to his son Marcello (left).

all-time favourites.

As the singing continued, he waved his hand to indicate the music, his eyes becoming charged with a mixture of incredulity and wonder at the piece.

"What a gift to leave this, and then to die," he said.

Opera is often heard at Donati's Fine Meats, a point for which the long-standing butcher's shop has become famous, along with its diverse range of meat and smallgoods.

Mr Donati got his love for music from his parents.

"My mother and my father, they loved opera. And I grew up with them playing it ... I'm tone-deaf, I can't sing, all that, but I think opera's magic. It's the perfect art form," he said.

Along with the music, Mr Donati's chats with his regulars is another point of fame.

"We can talk music, books, whatever you like. It's my platform, you know. Politics. We do everything," he said.

It was Mr Donati's father who first got him into the butchery trade in the early 1960s.

To keep a teenage Leo off the streets during the school holidays, his father found him a job as a clean-up boy and by the age of 15, Mr Donati was working as a butcher on nearby Elgin St.

After a few years, he was drafted into the armed forces.

"I had two years in the army. And then when I came out; '72, I came here. And I've been here since," Mr Donati said.

With 49 years of trade on Lygon St, Donati's Fine Meats is deeply imbedded in the fabric of Carlton's history, alongside other stalwarts like Readings and Jimmy Watson's Wine Bar, both of which sit opposite the butcher's shop.

At the time, Lygon St was in its heyday as Melbourne's little Italy, which was reflected in the shop's customer base during that era.

Over the years, Mr Donati retained some loyal customers from those early days, with the last of them passing away only last year, nearly half a century later, at the age of 90.

The items on offer at the shop today still have an Italian flavour, but with more food knowledge in the community, a more diverse range of people visit his shop.

"Everyone is now more sophisticated. And people have travelled more, that's the other thing," he said.

But he also believes that in one sense, the type of customers who enter the shop haven't changed over time, with the ones who care about food coming in while others find their meat elsewhere.



▲ Donati's Fine Meats has been on Lygon St for 49 years.

"It doesn't change. The ones that want to know, know, and the ones that don't care, don't care. And I don't see too many of those that don't care," he said.

The fare for sale is inviting to a curious cook. Ox tongues sit next to scotch fillets; tripe between the porterhouse steaks and the chickens.

On this particular day, the very front of the window display was decorated with large bunches of parsley, artfully placed between whole and half lamb legs, rounded off with a full forequarter in the two front corners of the window.

When asked about his favourite cut, Mr Donati's answer was simple.

"I love everything! Tripe. Tail. Fillet steak. Porterhouse ... everything. You know, cooked properly, everything is fantastic," he said.

Things were getting busy in the shop now. Another phone order had come in during our interview, and the business of the day was pressing.

It was time for the conversation to wrap up, but with the ethereal strains of the *Four Last Songs* still floating in the air, there was one last question for the opera aficionado: who was his favourite singer?

"Renata Tebaldi. Because of my mother," he said. "And, you know, you can't go past Maria."

Callas?
Standing behind the veal schnitzels and the vacuum-packed corned girelli, Mr Donati smiled.

"Yep," he said ●

Pet's Corner

Han Han keeps everyone honest



Five-year-old golden retriever Han Han is so universally loved that even his owner Leo's friends try to claim ownership!



WORDS BY *John Tadigiri*

"I tell everyone he's my dog, but it's Leo's dog," Roshine, a friend of Leo for almost three years told *Inner City News*.

According to Leo, Han Han means all the good qualities in Chinese, such as loyalty and honesty, and he said it wasn't a hard task to come up with that name for him as he had always been "calm and collected, loyal and kind".

"I got this dog when he was only three months old, now he is five years old," Leo said.

"I live in Wheelers Hill on the weekends and with my girlfriend, Nina, in the city near Queen Victoria Market during the week. So, wherever I go, he comes along."

"He is one of those typical dogs that you see looking out of rear windows of cars along the road."

When asked if Han Han preferred life in the suburb to the city Leo said, "Han Han likes the suburb for the vastness of space to run around; but in saying that, in the city, he likes to meet a lot of people which he seems to enjoy."

"He is very quiet, calm, gentle and very friendly as you'd expect a golden retriever to be. Anyone can stop and pat him and he will readily welcome that. He is, however, a very curious dog; he wants to suss out everything and everyone ... but he also gets scared so easily. If there is any noise, he will run away and hide."

Roshine – a dentistry student – said that every time she got a break during classes she enjoyed taking Han Han for a walk with Leo's permission and always made sure she booked in appointments for walks a week in advance! ●

STATE MP

"Cash for cans" is finally coming to Victoria!

After more than 10 years of campaigning from the Greens and community groups, Victoria is finally about to introduce a "cash for cans" scheme! The final design of the scheme was announced in April and we're really pleased.

South Australia has had a scheme like this for more than 20 years, and almost every other state and territory now has one too. Victoria is late to the game, but it's better late than never.

From 2023, Victorians will be able to take their bottles and cans to depots at convenient and accessible locations across Victoria to return containers including shops, reverse vending machines, depots, pop-ups, and drop-off points. These will be run by recyclers, small business, and charity, community, and sports groups.

This will get litter off our streets and clean up our waste stream so recyclable materials like bottles and cans don't end up in landfill, but are actually recycled. It will also add welcome cash to sports clubs and other organisations and people who can collect the money for the cans and bottles.

This scheme is a direct result of the Greens in Parliament. When China stopped taking our waste, it led to a crisis in Victoria which finally shone a light on the fact we were shipping our rubbish overseas and not dealing with it here at home. The problem was, the state government had very few plans for what to do next. So, the Greens initiated a Parliamentary Inquiry to look at solutions. This inquiry recommended a cash for cans scheme, among other solutions, like a fourth glass kerbside bin and building more recycling factories right here at home.

We're really pleased the state government has taken up so many of these solutions.

While 2023 isn't as soon as I'd hoped for when it comes to a "cash for containers" program, it will be a major step forward to reducing our waste and cutting out dangerous litter pollution on our streets and in our local parks, rivers and creeks.

I'm also pleased that companies like Coca-Cola and other big corporations didn't get their way when it comes to the design of the program. They were lobbying the state government to design a scheme that would've locked out local community groups and kept more profit with big corporations, which we fought against.

I will now be turning my attention to what needs to happen next. Many people in the CBD and Docklands still don't have access to composting, and this needs to change.

One of my personal pet peeves is pointless single-use plastics, like bananas and other fruit wrapped in plastic, and the enormous plastic packaging that confronts us when we head to the supermarket. We need to end pointless unnecessary plastics packaging and take solid steps to move away from this disposable society.

I'll continue to advocate in the State Parliament to reduce the amount of waste we produce, by banning unnecessary single-use plastics and ensuring food scraps are composted (not sent to landfill) in our green waste bins,

▼ Ellen Sandell MP at the Recycling 2 Parliament action in 2019 calling on the state government to implement a 10-cent refund scheme for cans, bottles and containers.



among other solutions.

I'd love to hear about your experiences with recycling or ideas for how we can move to a less wasteful city. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch at 146 Peel St, North Melbourne by emailing office@ellensandell.com or calling us on 9328 4637 ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

Gelato pioneer celebrates 40 years on Lygon St

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

When Casa Del Gelato opened in 1980, most Melburnians had never even heard of gelato.

“People didn’t know what gelato was, let alone spell it,” co-owner Eric Pace said as he fielded tasting requests from the steady stream of kids coming into the store last month.

But for the past 40 years, Casa has become a Lygon St icon known for its award-winning scoops of traditional Italian gelato and its colourful, welcoming space.

“I can confidently say we educated people about gelati,” Mr Pace said.

As a family-run business, Casa was started up by Eric’s father Ottorino Pace, who had been a feature of Lygon St since 1973 with the now-closed Carlton Continental Cake Shop.

Now 86, Otto is still in the picture but has passed the lead role over to his son Eric and daughters Ersilia and Lucy.

“Dad is in good nick and will never stop, he was in here cracking eggs for me this morning,” Mr Pace said.

“We’ve kept it close to our chest which is nice because there’s not a many of the original, family-run businesses left on the street.”

Although gelato has since exploded onto the Melbourne scene, Casa has steered clear of artificial ingredients and stayed true to traditional Italian methods and ingredients.

Mr Pace said customers could taste the difference, as it was like “cooking minestrone from home-made stock as opposed to buying chicken noodle soup from the store”.

“

“We don’t take short cuts or use bases, we use the traditional method which I learnt from my dad and you can taste the difference,” Mr Pace said.

”

“It’s just fresh cream, milk, sugar and eggs – clean ingredients with no puffing agents.”

The interior of the store has also stayed true to tradition – the walls are adorned with vintage Lygon St Festa posters and an open space intended for gathering.

Since lockdown ended the spacious interior has been a blessing, as the store is filled to the brim on Saturday nights.

“Since we unlocked it was like Lygon St 20 years ago,” Mr Pace said.

“It went bananas, people were everywhere, it was just busting at the seams.”

Among Casa’s customers are a host of regulars, who have been coming to the store for more than 20 years.

“Now we get the third generation coming in, people who are now parents bringing their kids in which is nice,” Mr Pace said.



Some of the most popular flavours are Casa classics like chocolate, ricotta, pistachio and hazelnut.

But they also have more traditional, hard-to-find flavours such as Zuppa Inglese.

In a deviation from tradition, Casa also caters to the growing vegan movement with soy flavours like chocolate, pistachio, coffee and

non-dairy fruit gelato.

When asked what his favourite flavour was, Mr Pace said he couldn’t go past the true classics.

“My personal favourite is Zabaione, I love the Italian ones.”

Visit Casa Del Gelato at 163 Lygon St or at casadelgelato.com.au ●

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP



▲ The Carlton women’s football team, August 1933. 16-year-old Myra MacKenzie is in the front row on the left.



▲ Merle Lane (captain) leads the Carlton team onto the ground in August 1933.

Women’s football in the 1930s

Women and girls playing football is these days regarded as normal and strongly supported, as evidenced by the current success and popularity of the AFL Women’s league. But it was not always so.

In previous generations football was regarded as a males-only sport and women and girls were excluded. However, there was at least one occasion during this era of male chauvinism on which women’s teams did play on a major football ground in Melbourne. This was in August 1933 when two women’s teams wearing the colours of Carlton and Richmond took to the field at the Carlton grounds in Princes Park.

But the match was regarded as a novelty and not really taken seriously. It was part of a fundraising event that featured other

novelty matches and events – a match between past players of Carlton and between members of the Young Chinese Football Club, a long kicking contest and an amateur athletic race.

However, the women involved took the opportunity to play football very seriously. One of those was 16-year-old Myra MacKenzie who at that time lived in Garton St, Princes Hill, right next to the Carlton grounds. When interviewed in 2009 by Tony de Bolfo, historian for the Carlton Football Club, she remembered that an advertisement had been placed in a newspaper

seeking expressions of interest from budding female footballers. “My father saw the ad and said, ‘You better get over and show them what you can do’, so I went to training and about 70 or 80 women turned up”.

Aspiring women footballers “came from everywhere”, Myra said. Most were already playing some sort of sport, but not football. “The captain, Merle, was head of a cycling club, and the rest were basketballers and the like. The whole point was to raise money for the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Someone thought ‘What if we get two girls’ teams to play’, so one team wore Carlton colours, the other Richmond.”

The women and girls trained several days a week, coached by two former Carlton players, Micky Crisp and Ray Brew. Eventually two teams were picked from the better players. “We played two 20-minute halves,” Myra said. “It was very low-scoring, and we won the game.” The Carlton team kicked one goal six, 12 points,

while the Richmond team were held scoreless.

After the success of this fundraising event, there was talk of trying to organise more women’s football matches. But according to Myra, “the man in charge at Carlton said we weren’t allowed to train at the ground, and that was that”.

Myra did not live long enough to see the success of the AFLW. She died in December 2015 at the age of 98. But according to Tony de Bolfo she always took pride in the role she had played in blazing a trail for women footballers ●



Jeff Atkinson
PRESIDENT CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP
JEFFANN@BIGPOND.NET.AU

恢复大规模接种疫苗

Katie Johnson

墨尔本最大的COVID疫苗接种中心之一，皇家展览馆在本报4月下旬采访时，接种者已经人流不息了。

这次维多利亚州的阿斯利康(AstraZeneca)疫苗接种，于4月21日恢复对70岁以上以及一线工作人员进行接种，此前因血凝块问题暂停了两周。

Joan Hoogenraad和她的丈夫Nick从St Andrews开车来接种疫苗，她说接种疫苗代表了“希望与自由”。

“我很兴奋能接种疫苗，今天早上我才

打电话预订的，这个过程非常简单。”

“但我感到失望的是，我不能在St Andrews的诊所里接种，他们说要等2到12周，而且一次只得到50剂疫苗。”

维多利亚大学的员工Matt Harvey也登记了接种疫苗，并说道，对这次接种疫苗“感觉很好”。

他说：“我妻子来接种疫苗，我想我应该和她一起来，然后就这么来接种了。”

“登记时要问许多问题，除此之外，这个过程很简单。”

3月下旬开始，皇家展览馆就成为大规模疫苗接种中心，为公共部门的工作人员(

包括医护人员、警察和急救人员)进行疫苗接种。

4月份，澳大利亚免疫技术咨询小组(ATAGI)曾建议维多利亚州卫生部暂停对50岁以下的人接种第一剂阿斯利康疫苗，当时大规模的接种工作停了下来。

停止接种疫苗意味着一线工作人员以及该计划的1A和1B范围内符合条件的所有其他人，包括患有潜在疾病的人都被接种中心拒之门外。

州卫生部长Martin Foley说，尽管接种工作中断了一会儿，但现在还是恢复接种疫苗了。



卡尔顿公园旅馆的24名难民

Katie Johnson

4月19日，又有13名难民从布里斯班的一个隔离设施转移出来，现在有24名难民无限期地拘留在卡尔顿(Carlton)公园旅馆(Park Hotel)。

这些人是从瑙鲁(Nauru)和 Manus 转移到澳大利亚来接受治疗的，他们在凌晨4点得知，要从布里斯班的袋鼠角(Kangaroo Point)旅馆转移到墨尔本。

住在公园旅馆的难民Hamid Yousefi，在马努斯岛被拘留了7年，在旅馆里被拘留了2年，他说，新来者的到来是由于“残酷和复杂的政策”所致。

Yousefi说：“承租单位Serco叫醒了斋月期间禁食的所有难民，将他们转移到公园

旅馆。”

“起初，要求我们只能共用一些房间，但最终没有这样做，我们非常疲惫不堪，因为没有得到像正常人一样的待遇。”

这次的转移是由于涉及旅馆业主，承租方和二级承租方Serco的纠纷，Serco是为联邦政府经营拘留场所的。

虽然市政在这件事上没有任何发言权，但本报了解到墨尔本市政的议员没有得到任何关于转移难民的通知。

这位自2015年以来一直被视为真正难民的Yousefi表示，墨尔本市政对这些人的遭遇漠不关心。

他说：“他们只关心墨尔本的美丽，而不关心我们。”

“他们根本不给我们援助，只看着我们

受折磨。”

当问及自2月16日市政投票通过一项淡化的“难民倡导政策”以来，采取了什么行动来倡导释放这些人时，一位市政发言人表示，已经采取了以下措施：

“市政要求向仍被拘留在卡尔顿公园旅馆的难民提供进一步的援助和医疗服务。我们还要求提供关于他们案件状况的信息。”

“市长已致函联邦移民、公民、移民服务和多元文化事务部长，寻求对继续拘留这些难民的解释，并要求对所提供的医疗和心理支持作出答复。”

在市长大办公室等待移民部长的答复期间，公园旅馆的难民尚未收到任何有关他们何时释放的信息。



还是“小意大利”街吗？

Katie Johnson

从马车比赛到走油杆比赛，这个80年代的Lygon街节日是卡尔顿(Carlton)意大利节日的盛大庆典，吸引来自世界各地的人们。

节日的高峰期可吸引70多万人，在周末庆祝期间关闭整个Lygon街、Elgin街和Queensberry街的车辆通行。

在飞快进入如今的2021年，这个节日庆典却和过去大不相同了。

4月18日，现在的这个意大利节日(Italia Festa)成了一个小型活动了，局限于Argyle广场，仅有几辆食品车，等候的人群排着长队。

虽然舞台上现场音乐、经典的意大利

汽车展示，还有烹饪表演课，但自1978年成立以来的这个意大利节日变得愈加逊色了。

自80年代以来就在Lygon街上拥有自己公司的Frank DiMattina表示，由于缺乏资源，人们失去了兴趣，15年以来，这个节日已经变得和过去大不一样了。

他说：“过去这个节日非常精彩，在Lygon街上有马车赛、餐馆服务员比赛、走油杆子比赛，街上人山人海。”

随着卡尔顿街面文化的演变，这个意大利节日已经持续衰落了很长时间。



同等的女子足球训练场地

David Schout

卡尔顿(Carlton)的Ikon公园将成为澳大利亚第一个女子澳式足球(AFL)训练场地，其设施的规模和质量与男子的相同。

这个史称王子公园，157年来首次提供一个与男子同等的足球训练场地。

随着包括更衣室、健身房和医疗空间在内的第一阶段工程接近完成，第二阶段的工程在4月13日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上获得了墨尔本市政的批准。

这些包括新的“客队”更衣室和室内训练设施的计划，加上改善照明(以确保女子AFLW比赛对电视观众的广播质量)、观众通道、景观和地面连接。

卡尔顿足球俱乐部首席执行官Cain

Liddle表示，俱乐部对这个工程“非常自豪”，并感谢市政的通力合作。

Liddle先生说：“我们将成为全澳第一个以地方政府区域(LGA)和AFL足球俱乐部相合作的形式，修建一个女子足球训练设施，其大小和质量与我们的男子球队设施相同。”

“同样的规模，同样的质量。我们的男女运动员将共享同样的健身房、同样的水上训练设施和足球管理部门。”

卡尔顿的男队在MCG和Marvel体育场进行主场比赛，而女队可以在Ikon公园进行比赛。

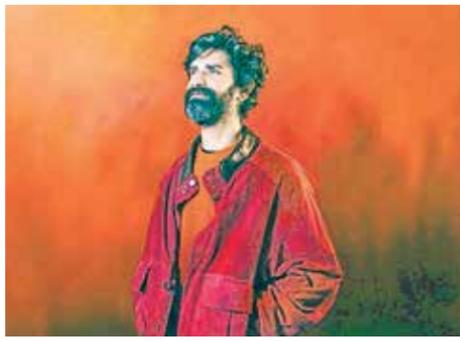
这个工程将使该场地设施成为“女子足球俱乐部(AFLW)的家”。

摄影艺术学院 晚间课程开始于6月28号
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What's On: May 2021

Community Calendar



Lofi Lounge with Pirritu

Kathleen Syme Library & Community Centre, Carlton

Saturday, 8 May

Lo-fi Lounge on the deck at Kathleen Syme Library with Pirritu for the Yirramboi Festival. Pirritu is a proud Wangaaypuwan mayi of the Njiyampaa clan.

Welcome refugees: Freedom celebration BBQ

Victorian Trades Hall Council

Fri., 30 April. 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

Celebrating and raising money for the released refugees who came to Australia under Medevac laws.

Wine Tasting

The Clyde Hotel, Carlton

Sunday 2 May. 2021. 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Premier wine tasting event. 25\$ per head.

Sri Lankan New Year Celebration

South Lawn, University of Melbourne

Saturday 1 May. 10am–1pm.

Great opportunity to experience a variety of traditional new year games and taste many Sri Lankan delicacies.

Beats after dark

Vodka Temple, Carlton.

Saturday, May 8. 9.30pm.

The first event hosted by Beats After Dark playing R&B, Hip Hop and Afro beats.

Wiggles Tour–We're all Fruit Salad

Rod Laver, Arena, East Melbourne

Saturday 8 May, 1pm–2pm.

This show will see Emma, Lachy, Simon and Anthony singing and dancing their way around Australia with all their Wiggly Friends.



Childbirth education from the Royal Women's Hospital

Online

Wednesday nights. 6pm–9pm

Childbirth education via online livestreaming.



Cinco de Mayo

Professor's Walk Cafe, Parkville

Wednesday 6 May, 6pm–10pm

Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for "fifth of May") celebrates the Mexican army's victory at the Battle of Puebla over France on 5th May 1862. Come along for Mexican food and tequila.

Lunch Hour concert series

Monday, 3 May. 1pm–2pm.

Melba Hall, Parkville

The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music's popular Lunch Hour Concert Series returns. Great for lovers of classical music.

Big Vegan Market

Royal Exhibition Building

Saturday, 8 May–Sunday 9 May.

The fourth annual Big Vegan Market is back for 2021. With over 200 stalls of food, drinks, fashion, craft and skincare, all vegan.

Walk through Carlton

Thursday, 6 May. 10am–12pm. Victorian Trades Hall.

Enjoy a meandering walk through the historic suburb of Carlton taking in its lovely architecture. 28\$ tickets.



Free the Park Hotel Refugees

Park Hotel, Carlton

Every night, 6pm.

Support the remaining refugees indefinitely detained in the Park Hotel through peaceful protest.

Business Directory

Catering

Ray Pantovic
Managing Director

Rika Premades

0477 068 777

23A Lansdowne Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3044

rikapremades@gmail.com
www.rikapremades.com

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