



**Sooshi Mango brings the laughs – and the panini – back to Lygon St**

Sooshi Mango greet fans in character at their new Sangaweech bar on Lygon St, where hundreds queued around the block for free panini on opening day. The comedy trio's latest venture adds fresh flavour – and plenty of laughs – to Carlton's Italian heart. More on page 11. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

## Defence audit flags Carlton training depot for sale as local housing push gathers pace

“A modest Defence site in the heart of Carlton could soon become one of the most closely-watched parcels of land in the inner city, after the Commonwealth confirmed it is earmarked for divestment under a nationwide defence estate audit.”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The Carlton Training Depot, home to the University of Melbourne Regiment, is a 0.26-hectare site located about 1.5km north-east of the CBD, at 65 Grattan St. Under the Department of Defence's 2024 estate audit, it has been flagged for full divestment, with reserve and

training functions to relocate to Simpson Barracks in Macleod and administrative staff to move to Defence Plaza Melbourne.

The announcement has prompted the City of Melbourne to move quickly to secure a seat at the table.

At the Future Melbourne Committee on February 17, councillors unanimously backed a motion from Lord Mayor Nick Reece seeking to develop options for the future use of the Carlton site, alongside Victoria Barracks in Southbank and the Repatriation Clinic on St Kilda Rd.

In his remarks, Cr Reece emphasised the historic and civic significance of the Carlton depot.

“In terms of the site that is for sale in Carlton, that is the University of Melbourne Regiment,” he said. “That, of course, is the regiment which Sir John Monash was a member of. Arguably Australia's most decorated soldier, certainly one of the greatest Australians that ever lived.”

The Lord Mayor warned that the disposal of inner-city Commonwealth land must not be reduced to a simple profit exercise.

“The sale of these properties can't be all about profit. There needs to be a sensible balance here that takes into account the community's needs and delivers important community benefits.”

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HERITAGE, PAGE 02

East Melbourne Group claims victory at VCAT as Hotham St proposal refused

HERITAGE, PAGE 05

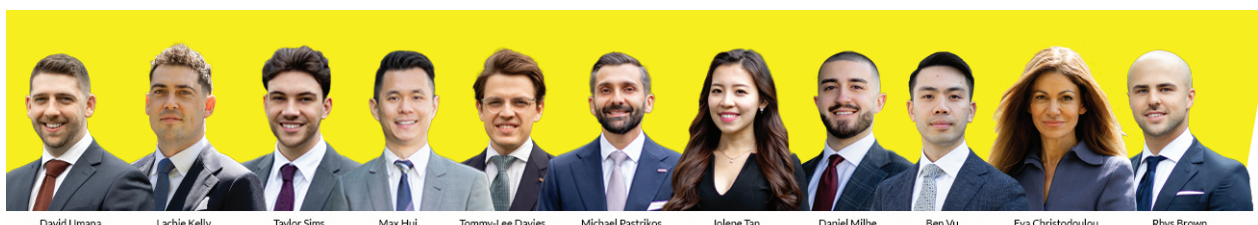
Parkville heritage review moves to panel after mixed submissions



INNER CITY LOCAL, PAGE 7

## Writing studio helps kids' life stories

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## East Melbourne Group claims victory at VCAT as Hotham St proposal refused

A contentious apartment proposal for Hotham St in East Melbourne has been knocked back by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), in a decision handed down late last year that marked a significant win for the East Melbourne Group and neighbouring residents.

**WORDS BY**  
SEAN CAR



Inner City News understands the developer, Rocclea Projects Pty Ltd, is now in discussions with the City of Melbourne about lodging a revised planning application in light of the December ruling.

In its decision, VCAT affirmed the council's position and directed that no permit be granted for the proposed three-storey, five-dwelling apartment building at 179-183 Hotham St.

The application sought approval for a contemporary apartment building with two basement levels and vehicle access via Amberley Lane. The site sits within the residential zone and the Heritage Overlay covering the East Melbourne and Jolimont Precinct.

While the council had initially raised a range of concerns – including heritage and amenity impacts – amended plans resolved some issues during the course of proceedings. However, the tribunal ultimately found the proposal unacceptable in its built form response to the adjoining significant heritage dwelling at 175 Hotham St, known as Hotham House.

In its reasons, VCAT concluded the development would “visually dominate or visually disrupt the appreciation of Hotham House and more broadly this part of the heritage place”.

The tribunal was particularly critical of the façade height and upper-level massing, finding that the proposal failed to maintain a façade height consistent with the adjoining significant building and did not sufficiently recess upper levels to protect the prominence of Hotham House.

It determined the proposed façade was between 1.7 and 1.9 metres higher than that of Hotham House and that this “is an unacceptable exceedance”.

Although overall building height was within the zone's limits, VCAT stressed that heritage policy required a more nuanced response than simply complying with maximum heights. The decision found the architectural expression – including what it described as a “heavy forward projecting balcony and lack of upper level recession” – was contrary to heritage objectives.

Beyond heritage concerns, the tribunal also identified unacceptable visual bulk and side setback impacts along the eastern interface with neighbouring properties at 171, 173 and 175 Hotham St. While overshadowing alone would not have justified refusal, the combined massing and limited articulation along the boundary were found to create an unreasonable outcome.

“The building is not sufficiently articulated to break up its scale,” the tribunal wrote, adding that the composition would read as “an oversized object out of character with the scale of the residential context”.

Traffic and access issues via Amberley Lane were ultimately deemed acceptable, with VCAT satisfied that the minor variation to access width and the projected vehicle movements would not create unsafe conditions.



The East Melbourne Group, which was formally listed as a respondent in the proceeding, had maintained that the design would sit uncomfortably within the heritage streetscape and overwhelm neighbouring dwellings.

The decision is seen as a reaffirmation of the strength of heritage policy protections in the precinct, particularly in relation to protecting the visual prominence of individually significant buildings.

However, sources indicate the developer is already exploring design revisions aimed at addressing the tribunal's concerns around façade height, upper-level setbacks and articulation.

VCAT itself acknowledged that a redesign would be necessary, noting that “greater side setbacks generally and/or modifying the extent of the top floor across the site will impact upon the remaining spaces” and that “a redesign is necessary”.

Any fresh application will likely be closely scrutinised by both the council and local residents, given the detailed findings in the December decision. ●

## INNER CITY NEWS

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# Defence audit flags Carlton training depot for sale as housing push gathers pace

Continued from page 1.

The council's motion requests management to investigate potential community infrastructure, open space, heritage-led adaptive reuse and alignment with the draft Community Infrastructure Plan and long-term precinct planning. It also seeks advice on what land use and built form controls should apply once the site is no longer in Commonwealth hands.

That last point is particularly sensitive in Carlton, where heritage and planning controls are tightly drawn.

Cr Reece referenced the Rathdowne St postal building – a former Commonwealth site that “vastly exceeds in height any of the other buildings in Carlton and overshadows the heritage-listed Royal Exhibition buildings” – as a cautionary tale of what can happen when federal land is not subject to local planning frameworks.

“It would be completely unacceptable for these sites to be developed in a way which was not consistent with the very well-considered planning controls that we have for these areas,” he said.

The Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) has also weighed in, arguing the site presents a rare opportunity to deliver social and affordable housing in a suburb where land is scarce and demand is high.

A CRA spokesperson said the association would need to ensure the site was not sold with development rights that could exempt it from state planning controls.

“The CRA believes that the existing three-storey building could be recycled and could be adapted to social and/or affordable [housing],” the spokesperson said.

They noted that the front area, currently used as a car park, is north-facing and could accommodate gardens and balconies, providing both public and private amenity for a three- to four-storey housing development



at the rear.

“The structure we believe is sound and easily adaptable,” the spokesperson said, adding that any new development “must comply with the City of Melbourne Planning Scheme and Heritage Overlay in relation to height and built form.”

The association also stressed that the site's long-standing presence in the local community means its future should be subject to genuine consultation and deliver benefits to Carlton residents.

The City of Melbourne's draft Community Infrastructure Plan provides a framework

for assessing such opportunities, identifying gaps in community facilities and open space across the municipality. While much public attention has focused on the 5.7-hectare Victoria Barracks site in Southbank, the smaller Carlton depot may prove equally significant in its local context.

Local stakeholders have already expressed concern about “the risk of heritage loss, potential commercial overdevelopment, and the lack of clarity regarding future public access and land use” following the divestment announcement.

With the Commonwealth seeking to

generate up to \$3 billion nationally from defence property sales, the pressure to maximise returns will be real.

But in Carlton – one of Melbourne's most historically layered and tightly controlled suburbs – the debate is likely to centre not on how tall or how dense, but on how well the site can be woven back into the community fabric.

Whether that means affordable housing, community facilities, open space, or a careful blend of all three, one thing is clear: as Cr Reece put it, “we will only get one chance to get this right.” ●

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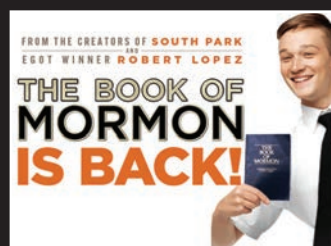
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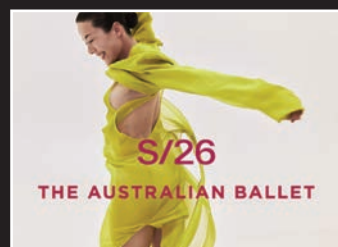
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## Parkville heritage review moves to panel after mixed submissions

“

A long-running review of heritage protections across Parkville has moved a step closer to completion, with councillors voting unanimously on February 17 to endorse post-exhibition changes and refer unresolved matters to an independent planning panel.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Amendment C444, known as the Parkville Heritage Review, seeks to update and modernise heritage controls in one of Melbourne's most historically layered suburbs. The previous studies underpinning heritage protections in the area date back to 1979 and 1985.

As Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell told the Future Melbourne Committee, "much has happened since that time," noting Parkville's evolution into a major health, research and education precinct alongside its established residential character.

The amendment was publicly exhibited between September and October 2025, attracting 19 submissions ranging from full support to objections. According to the council report, objections primarily came from education, research and institutional stakeholders concerned about the impact of new or expanded Heritage Overlays on

future development.

Two submitters addressed councillors in person at the meeting.

Racquel Dowell, representing global animal health company Zoetis, outlined concerns about the proposed Heritage Overlay affecting its Parkville manufacturing site, formerly part of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories complex.

Zoetis produces 130 million vaccine doses a year at the site and has committed to further investment to develop it into what Ms Dowell described as "a world leading biomedical centre for innovation in advanced manufacturing."

While the company recognised the site's historical significance, Ms Dowell said the proposed overlay "could potentially result in the restriction of this redevelopment and the full potential of the site."

She welcomed indications that the matter would be referred to the Planning Minister with a request to convene an independent panel and support recommendations to refine building categories and reduce the overlay's curtilage. However, she said there had been "insufficient detail" about the revised overlay for Zoetis to be satisfied that its concerns had been addressed, and reiterated the company's wish to be heard at any future panel.

A second submission focused on University High School. Heritage consultant Martin Turnor, of Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, argued that the proposal to include the school oval as a significant place within the South Parkville precinct was "inappropriate and unwarranted from a heritage perspective."

Mr Turnor said the oval had undergone

substantial changes, including excavation for a basement car park and the addition of modern buildings, and did not adequately demonstrate a tangible link to the former livestock market that once occupied a larger part of the area. He also questioned claims that the oval represented a historic provision of green open space, describing it instead as having been "an enclosed livestock compound."

In response, council management indicated that recommended modifications already addressed those concerns. Acting planning staff advised that the proposed realignment reflected the issues raised and encouraged the submitter to review the updated documentation or appear before the panel if concerns remained.

The Parkville Heritage Review identifies the need to update precinct citations, refine overlay boundaries and apply individual overlays to specific sites, including part of 30–36 Flemington Rd and the former CSL site. The council has now endorsed those recommended changes and will ask the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel to consider the unresolved submissions in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act*.

Cr Philip Le Liu said the review provided "a pretty interesting read" into Parkville's past, while acknowledging the challenge of balancing protection with growth.

"While we need to protect heritage, at the same time we do need to ensure there is enough room for development," Cr Le Liu said, encouraging submitters to consider how the council's broader Heritage Strategy sought to weigh economic, social and environmental factors alongside historical value.

The motion passed unanimously.

The independent panel will examine the remaining contested elements of the amendment before providing recommendations to the Minister. ●

## Teen arrested as investigation continues into New Year's Eve Carlton stabbings

Victoria Police have arrested a fourth teenager as part of their investigation into the violent New Year's Eve machete attack that left two young men seriously injured in Carlton.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



Detectives from the Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit and the Gang Crime Squad confirmed that a 17-year-old boy from the Melbourne area self-presented to a police station on the morning of February

17, following a public appeal for information earlier this month.

The teenager was interviewed by investigators and later released pending further enquiries.

The arrest relates to the attack that unfolded shortly before midnight on December 31, when emergency services were called to Lygon St near the intersection of Argyle Place about 11.33pm.

Police will allege that a group of males armed with knives and machetes set upon two men outside a restaurant before fleeing the scene in vehicles.

The victims – a 20-year-old man from Heidelberg West and an 18-year-old from New South Wales – sustained serious injuries and were taken to hospital. One of the men suffered stab wounds and a collapsed lung.

The incident, which occurred in the heart of Carlton's busy dining strip on one of the city's busiest nights of the year, shocked witnesses and prompted a significant police response.

Three males have already been charged over the attack: a 20-year-old Richmond man, a 21-year-old Fitzroy man and another 17-year-old from the Melbourne area. Two additional men – aged 19 and 21 from Carlton and Reservoir respectively – were previously arrested and released pending further enquiries.

During earlier court proceedings, police alleged the violence was part of an ongoing youth gang rivalry and described the confrontation as a coordinated assault involving up to 10 males.

Detectives now believe the attack was

targeted and that the parties involved were known to each other.

The February 17 arrest follows a renewed appeal for public assistance on February 4, when investigators released images and sought information about a vehicle believed to be linked to the incident.

The 17-year-old's decision to present himself to police comes as forensic testing and phone data analysis continue in relation to those already charged.

Victoria Police say the investigation remains active and further arrests have not been ruled out.

Anyone with information about the incident, or who recognises individuals involved, is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit an anonymous report online. ●

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## EVERLASTING LOVE IN THE GARDEN CITY

Melburnians have cast their vote for their favourite flower

The people have spoken, and Melbourne has a new floral emblem – the endangered swamp everlasting has won our hearts and the popular vote.

Melburnians cast almost 25,000 votes for our floral emblem, making it our most popular community engagement campaign ever. They chose from a field of 9 floral finalists.

After trailing behind billy buttons for most of the vote, the swamp everlasting rose up at the last minute to win by a paper-thin margin of just 200 votes. As it does in nature, the swamp everlasting defied all odds.

“Swamp everlasting is a beautiful flowering endangered species which was once abundant in our swampy wetlands,” our First Nations Garden City Ambassador, Margaret Parisi said.

When picturing a ‘swamp’, your mind may not conjure a field of paper daisies – but this formidable flower is a wonder of the wetlands.

“Seeing a flower which automatically says ‘Melbourne’ is a great way to create an immediate, recognisable identity ... grounded in place, respectful of Country, and distinct from any other city,” Margaret said.

### HOW WILL WE USE OUR FLORAL EMBLEM?

With the winner now chosen, we’re rolling up our sleeves to embed the swamp everlasting into Melbourne’s identity. It’s all part of the plan to make sure Melbourne is known as the garden city – a city where nature is never far.

We’ll make sure the swamp everlasting is planted in our parks and gardens, and when in flower it will feature in planter boxes outside Melbourne Town Hall. Community plantings will be timed with the weather to help this local stunner thrive again.

We’ll also honour the swamp everlasting in paint, in print and maybe even on Melbourne merch.

Newly minted Aussies will receive swamp everlastings at our citizenship ceremonies, which according to Royal Botanic Gardens seed ecologist Megan Hirst is a beautiful way to show we care.



Melbourne’s floral emblem: swamp everlasting

“I’m rather fond of the idea that flowers can express our feelings. If someone were to give me a posy of everlastings well that would be saying quite a lot, florally speaking. Don’t you think?”

Megan is a self-confessed swamp everlasting superfan who is committed to finding ways to save the species from extinction.

“It’s likely the swamp everlasting was once common across our wetlands – some of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet – and since colonisation it has been pushed into small, scattered pockets.

“And yet, it’s still here, holding on with steady resilience,” Megan said.

Like other Australian flora and fauna, the swamp everlasting responds deftly to unpredictable weather.

The plant will go dormant after flowering in summer in drier conditions, but continue to grow through summer if kept moist.

The swamp everlasting needs full sun and a well-watered garden bed or pot. It’s also the king of cut flowers. If picked when freshly opened, they can hold onto their vibrant colour for many months or even years.

You can find the swamp everlasting and other indigenous seedlings at specialist nurseries such as Bili Nursery in Port Melbourne – which is preparing to move into new digs in the City of Melbourne – and bring the floral emblem into your home.



Garden city ambassadors Margaret and Paul

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# Writing studio helps kids' life stories

INNER CITY LOCAL

“

Kids involved at Story Studios Australia are learning much more than just technical skill, its creative director says, with the programs helping them to find a voice and a community as well as see their work in print.

”

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



Story Studios Australia creative director Bonnie McRae.

“We do get a lot of people sort of peering through the window with inquisitive looks,” Story Studios Australia’s creative director Bonnie McRae told *Inner City News*.

The studio’s large, light, timber-book-shelf-lined premises on the corner of Elgin and Drummond streets in Carlton can be something of an enigma to the uninitiated, she acknowledged.

“There’s not too much else like it out there. We wanted to create a place for writers and to really nurture, I guess, that next generation of storytellers coming through.”

On Wednesday nights an ad hoc group of adults, mainly from around Carlton, turns up for a weekly, drop-in “Write Night”.

The sessions enable people to “get some writing done in a lovely space, have a chit chat with some other writers” and seek inspiration from the host.

But the events are run “for the love”.

The bread and butter of the business, and also its heart, are the activities it runs for kids.

“Now, at the beginning of the year, we’ve got about 330 kids in our weekly groups and that usually picks up. I think we ended last year with just over 500,” Bonnie said.

When speaking to *Inner City News* she has just dropped stocks of anthologies of their work – which the studios publish – off at Readings Kids around the corner.

The main anthology, *House of Stories*, features writing by more than 300 contributors in four volumes, while *Dora 503* contains the apocalyptic-techno-crash-themed work of a smaller, advanced teen writers’ group.

According to Bonnie, having their stories appear in print means a lot to the kids, who

turn up in their hundreds to an end-of-year launch event at Federation Square’s The Edge.

“We had, I think 650 people there last year, and we had all these young authors come up and do a panel, and they were so eloquent and funny and incredibly brave to get up there and just be themselves in front of such a huge audience,” she said.

The business, which moved to Carlton from North Fitzroy around three years ago, has existed in one form or another for a decade this year and was previously called Melbourne Young Writers’ Studio.

It came about after Bonnie, a former journalist, and founder Dan Nixon, a screenwriter, met while working at a performing arts school.

As Dan recently described it, the initiative was “from the first ... an absolute labour of love driven by a deep belief in the power of creative community, the power of sharing stories and a passion for helping young people unearth their imaginations and find their voice.”

As 2026 unfolds, Story Studios staff are readying for their first school holiday programs.

The programs, which are “super-duper popular” and tend to sell out, will this time focus on secrets and spies, mystery, magic and fantasy.

“We really want to bring the magic, bring the fun,” Bonnie said.



Kids at an after-school program. Photos: Hanna Komissarova.

“Our philosophy is that story[telling] is for everyone – everyone connects with it on some level, whether it’s reading books, watching TV shows or movies, playing video games, reading comic books or graphic novels.”

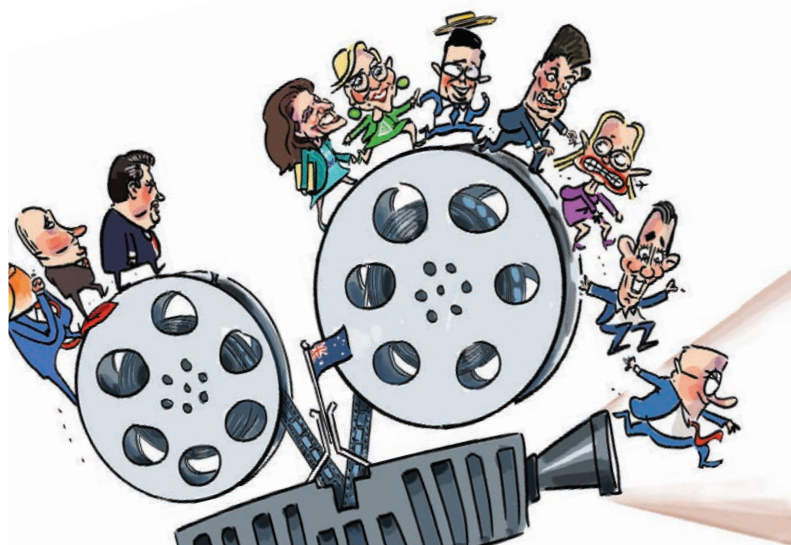
“There’s typically always a way in for us to help kids engage with whatever it is that gets them excited and inspired.”

The philosophy includes an immersive approach, with tutoring and mentorship

from working writers, such as kids TV writer Adam Bigum, comedy writer Miso Bell and songwriter Lachlan Rose from the band Cousin Tony’s Brand New Firebird.

There is also a focus on building creative community and confidence.

“To be able to help those more introverted, quirky kids, as well as the more outgoing types, to find one another and make those connections is really just a joy,” Bonnie said. ●



## BEHIND THE LINES

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## Victorian Trades Hall nominated for World Heritage listing

Melbourne's iconic Victorian Trades Hall in Carlton is a step closer to global recognition after being nominated for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



The nomination, submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, forms part of a transnational bid led by Denmark and The Workers Museum in Copenhagen to recognise significant workers' assembly halls that represent the international democratic labour movement.

Believed to be the oldest purpose-built workers' assembly hall in the world still in use by trade unions, the Victorian Trades Hall has played a pivotal role in shaping Australia's labour history. Among the campaigns hosted within its walls was the landmark eight-hour workday movement, first achieved by stonemasons in Victoria in 1856 – a reform that would go on to influence working conditions across the country.

The Melbourne hall is being nominated alongside the Broken Hill Trades Hall in far west New South Wales and two historic halls in Europe. The four sites were selected from hundreds of candidates worldwide examined by The Workers Museum.

Federal Environment and Water Minister Murray Watt said the submission marked a significant milestone in recognising Australia's contribution to the global labour movement.

"Just making the submission is a significant milestone, and we hope to know as

early as next month if the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has accepted the nomination for assessment," Senator Watt said.

"Trades halls like this one ... are a crucial part of the globally significant story of workers and their unions. They symbolise worker power, organising for better conditions, better wages, and a better life for everyone in democratic societies."

Victorian Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny said the hall was a powerful symbol of the state's labour history.

"The Victorian Trades Hall is a significant symbol of our state's labour movement dating back to 1856 when the long struggle for the eight-hour workday was first achieved by the stonemasons," she said.

If the nomination is formally accepted, the joint submission will be assessed by international heritage experts before being considered by the World Heritage Committee, which is expected to make a final decision in 2027.

Should the bid succeed, Victoria would become home to two UNESCO World Heritage-recognised sites – a distinction Minister Kilkenny described as "an extraordinary honour". The first such site is the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens.

The Albanese Government worked with the Victorian Trades Hall Council, the Broken Hill Trades Hall Trust and the Victorian and New South Wales governments throughout the nomination process.

For Carlton, the recognition would not only cement the Trades Hall's place in local history, but elevate it as part of a shared global story of democratic reform and workers' rights – one that continues to resonate more than 160 years after the eight-hour day was won. ●



## The University of Melbourne Family Club marks 60 years of supporting families

Victoria's early childhood education sector is celebrating a quiet trailblazer this year, with the Melbourne University Family Club marking 60 years since it first opened its doors in Carlton.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Established in 1964 by Melbourne University medical student Fedora Trinker and 10 other families, the centre was the first childcare service in the state created specifically for married women. At the time, professional childcare was largely reserved for single mothers or women who were the primary income earners in their households, leaving many married students without support.

The initiative emerged from necessity. Unable to access suitable childcare while pursuing her medical studies, Ms Trinker joined with other families to create an alternative model that would allow women to continue their education while raising young children. The centre officially opened in 1965, carving out a new path for women seeking to balance study, work and family responsibilities.

Six decades later, the not-for-profit, parent-led centre continues to operate near the University of Melbourne, supporting staff, students and families from across the city. With just 45 places, the service remains intentionally small, maintaining high staff-to-child ratios and an emphasis on personalised, high-quality care.

The Family Club has held an Exceeding rating under the National Quality Standard since the rating system was introduced, reflecting consistent performance across areas including educational program, health and safety, staffing arrangements and governance.

One of the centre's defining features has been its stability. Since opening, it has

had only three directors. Current director Mandy Kelly is celebrating her 25th year in the role, and more than half of the team has been with the centre for over seven years – a notable achievement in a sector often characterised by high staff turnover.

Ms Kelly said the 60-year milestone was both a moment of reflection and a reminder of the centre's ongoing relevance.

"We take great pride in offering quality childcare in an environment that's safe, caring and warm," she said.

"Our focus has always been on creating a place where children can grow, play and express themselves happily and confidently, and where families feel supported every step of the way."

"60 years is a long time in early childhood education and in that time, we've had the privilege of supporting generations of families. The sense of continuity, belonging and community is what makes the Melbourne University Family Club such a special place and why it remains an important part of the local community."

The centre offers both long day care and a kindergarten program, with a play-based curriculum designed to meet national early learning standards. Drawing on leading early childhood theorists, the program places a strong emphasis on social and emotional development, encouraging children to build confidence, curiosity and resilience through exploration and guided play.

Its origins, however, remain central to its identity. The creation of the Family Club in the mid-1960s represented a shift in thinking about who childcare was for and who deserved access to higher education. By enabling married women to continue studying, the centre played a small but significant role in expanding opportunities for women at a time when such pathways were far from guaranteed.

Sixty years on from its founding, the Carlton-based centre continues to combine that original spirit of advocacy with a focus on nurturing the next generation – one small group at a time.

The Family Club is located at 427 Cardigan St, Carlton.

[familyclub.org.au](http://familyclub.org.au) ●

### Packaged liquor licence application

**We Gertrude Grocer Carlton Pty Ltd applied to Liquor Control Victoria on 3rd December 2025 for the grant of a packaged liquor licence at 144 Elgin Street Carlton Victoria 3053.**

Any person may object to the grant of this application on the grounds that:

- it would detract from, or be detrimental to, the amenity of the area in which the premises are situated, and/or
- it would be conducive to or encourage the misuse or abuse of alcohol.

An objection must state the reasons for the objection. All objections are treated as public documents.

**Objections must be made in writing to:**  
Liquor Control Victoria  
GPO Box 4356 Melbourne VIC 3001

Objections must be made no later than 30 days after the date of this notice.

# ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

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# The Torch explores the emotional journey of artworks *To Be Returned*

“

A powerful new exhibition opening in Carlton next month is turning the spotlight on a little-seen chapter in the life of First Peoples artworks created in prison.

”

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



*To Be Returned*, presented by The Torch at its Elgin St gallery, runs from March 20 to April 11 and explores the complex, often emotional journey that unfolds when unsold artworks are returned to their creators or communities.

The exhibition is the first in a new professional development and creative collaboration series at The Torch, shaped by an open call for proposals and led by First Peoples curators to ensure cultural and artistic integrity. It has been curated by proud Nari Nari/Wemba Wemba artist Brodie Peters-Godden alongside The Torch's sales coordinator George Ironside.

Each year, The Torch supports more than 800 First Peoples artists who are currently incarcerated or recently released, using arts practice to strengthen cultural connection and help break cycles of reoffending. As artworks accumulate, they cannot be held indefinitely. After 12 months, unsold works enter what is known as the *To Be Returned* process.

For many artists, that return is not straightforward. Works often cannot re-enter prison facilities, meaning family members or friends must step in to receive them. For artists in the community, changing personal circumstances can make accepting a returned piece complicated.

*To Be Returned* brings these layered realities into public view, platforming works that in some cases have never been exhibited before. The exhibition highlights the logistical hurdles, institutional constraints and emotional weight tied to return, while underscoring the importance of visibility, recognition and community.

"This exhibition is not only about return; it is a powerful opportunity for connection, inviting audiences to participate in and become a part of each artwork's journey," the gallery states.

Artists' reflections featured in the exhibition speak to resilience and cultural continuity. Wiradjuri artist Aalayah describes life's pathways as curving "through light and shadow, like the tracks of my Ancestors", each one leading back to belonging to Country. Bunurong/Boon Wurrung artist Corey He reflects on looking to Bunjil for guidance during seven years of incarceration, saying his paintings and cultural protector have helped shape a new direction in life.

Alongside the exhibition, The Torch will host a floor talk with the curators and an exhibiting artist on March 28, and a live painting session on April 11, offering audiences a chance to engage directly with the artists and their work.

Held on Wurundjeri Country at The Torch Gallery, 146 Elgin St, Carlton, the exhibition is free to attend and open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, and Saturdays, 11am to 3pm.

Through *To Be Returned*, The Torch invites the community to consider not just the creation of art, but its full journey – and the human stories carried within each canvas. ●



Jaye, Gunaikurnai people, *Coming Together #2* 2023, acrylic on canvas, 76 x 65 cm.

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## Carlton Inc.'s Easter Egg Hunt returns to Lygon St

Carlton Inc. is bringing back its popular Easter Egg Hunt to Lygon St on Thursday, April 2, following last year's major success which drew strong participation from local families.

The free community event will run from 3pm to 6pm, giving children the chance to explore the precinct and collect Easter treats from participating traders in the lead-up to the long weekend.

Last year's inaugural hunt proved a hit, with hundreds of families turning out to take part. The event not only delivered a festive afternoon for children but also provided a welcome boost for local businesses, many of whom reported increased foot traffic and new customers discovering their stores.

The format will remain largely the same as 2025. Families will begin at a designated starting point on Lygon St before following a map to participating retailers, where children can collect Easter eggs and stamps along the way. Participating businesses will once again display event signage so visitors can easily identify stops on the trail.

In addition to the hunt itself, organisers are planning a lively atmosphere throughout the precinct, with the possibility of special guest appearances and family-friendly activities designed to create a welcoming, community feel.

Carlton Inc. says the event is part of its broader strategy to activate the Lygon St precinct and strengthen connections between traders and the local community. The association has increasingly focused on seasonal activations, building on the success of its Christmas initiatives and other community-focused events.

For traders, the Easter Egg Hunt offers an



opportunity to showcase their businesses to local families and visitors who may not otherwise frequent the strip. Participating retailers will be provided with Easter eggs and promotional materials to ensure a coordinated presentation across the precinct.

With Lygon Street continuing to navigate the challenges facing retail and hospitality, events like the Easter Egg Hunt are seen as an important way to maintain momentum and encourage people to shop and dine locally.

Families are encouraged to arrive early to ensure they have enough time to complete the trail. Carlton Inc. will release further details closer to the date, including the official starting location and a list of participating businesses.

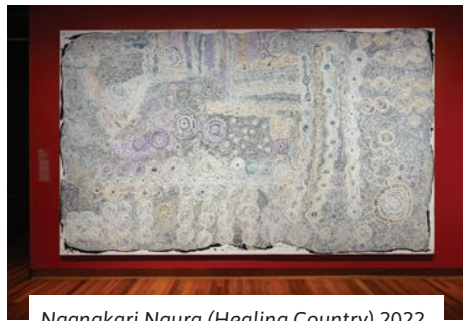
Businesses interested in being part of the Easter Egg Hunt can contact Carlton Inc. directly via [info@carltoninc.org.au](mailto:info@carltoninc.org.au) for more information.

After a strong debut last year, organisers are hopeful the 2026 event will be even bigger, cementing the Easter Egg Hunt as a regular fixture on Carlton's community calendar. ●



## Potter Museum of Art's landmark Indigenous art show

An exhibition that sought to redefine Australian art and reveal hidden histories closed at Melbourne University's Potter Museum of Art in late 2025 having attracted 50,000 visitors. According to its organisers, it made a significant contribution to cultural understanding.



Ngangkari Ngura (Healing Country) 2022. Photo: Christian Capurro.

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



Opening in May as the first show at the refurbished Potter Museum of Art in Swanston St, *65,000 years: A Short History of Australian Art* was hailed by one high-profile reviewer as "something that will blow people's minds".

The show collated and explained an extraordinary array of pieces from around the continent, and from across mediums, genres and time periods.

Its aim, according to University of Melbourne director of art museums Charlotte Day, was to celebrate and share the "rich, dynamic culture-making" of Indigenous Australians while also telling stories about colonisation and its ongoing impacts through their perspectives.

The exhibition's 11 galleries – each dedicated to place, people, theme or phase of colonisation – were decorated in different colours and arranged across several levels, with the visitor travelling further north in Australia as they moved upwards.

On the ground floor, the forest green Art of Victoria and Lutruwita (Tasmania) gallery assembled customary cultural objects like hunting weapons together with artworks illustrating early colonial life made both by

and about Aboriginal people.

These included a series of portraits of "named ancestors", among them the Wurundjeri leader William Barak, who was said to have been present as a boy when John Batman met with elders to "purchase" the Melbourne area in 1835.

"Once my people were as many as the leaves of the gum trees, but now only old man left. Soon the white man can have it all," Barak was quoted as saying.

Upstairs, the skill and beauty embodied in bark paintings and weavings by generations of Yolngu people across Arnhem Land was on display.

Many of the items had been commissioned or acquired in the 1930s and '40s by Melbourne University anthropologist Donald Thomson, whose vast collection was returned from long-term loan to Museums Victoria for the show.

A shift to interpreting pieces like these as art, rather than anthropological items, had taken place in recent decades, Day said, and underlining this was a key focus for the curators.

Against the red walls of the Central and Western Desert room, hung the kind of vivid, joyful depictions of country in dots, strokes and patterns that are recognised around the world as Aboriginal art, including two works by renowned Anmatyerr painter Emily Kam Kngwarary.

A gallery of a different kind – dedicated to the university's involvement in eugenics – revealed an array of disturbing exhibits, among them a telegram ordering "70 cases for crania" to be sent to northern Victoria, where staff from the medical school were digging up bones from a burial site.

Work in other rooms offered counterpoints to the horror of this "scientific racism".

For instance, at the top of the stairs in the Cultural Astronomy gallery – its walls black as the night sky – were the magical life-sized figures of seven sisters woven from native grasses by the Tjanpi Desert Weavers. According to the Ngaanyatjarra story, the sisters launched themselves into the sky to escape a dirty old man, creating the Pleiades constellation in the process.

According to Charlotte Day, 65,000 years had its beginnings in an invitation for Professor Marcia Langton AO to look over the university's Indigenous collections and create a show from them.

When Langton found the holdings too geographically scattered and hatched a plan to increase the scope of the project, curators Judith Ryan AM and Shanyssa McConville were brought on board.

The university, involved as part of an ongoing "truth-telling process", worked with the trio to borrow, buy and commission pieces that would flesh out their vision of Australian art.

From inception to opening, the exhibition took a decade to develop, Day said, with a lot of time spent consulting with communities and artists.

Despite minimal funds for advertising its reputation spread, and over a five-month run it drew 50,000 people through the doors. Among them were 2500 school students and "quite a lot" of interstate and international visitors who had come specifically to Melbourne to see the show, Day said.

In addition to the exhibition itself, a book documenting and extending its content was produced and has already been reprinted.



65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art. Curators: Judith Ryan AM, Professor Marcia Langton AO and Shanyssa McConville. Photo: James Henry.

The project has also seen the creation of resources for schools, which are online and free, through the university's Ngarrngga program, according to Day.

Overall, the museum's director thinks the exhibition has made a significant contribution in a context of incremental change.

"I think we did have an impact in terms of increasing people's understanding of the history of Australia ... and maybe in having a more nuanced understanding of Australian culture," she said.

"This is hopefully part of a broader movement in Australia to really celebrate what's special and unique to our culture."

And what that is, she believes, begins and might end with First Peoples' artmaking and meaning.

Information about the exhibition is available on the Potter Museum of Art website.

The book, *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art*, is available from Readings or the North Carlton library. ●

## LYGON LOCAL

## Sooshi Mango brings the laughs – and the panini – back to Lygon St

“

The “Sooshi Mango boys” were running on very little sleep in the lead-up to the opening of their new Sangaweech shop at 300 Lygon St

”

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



A few days before launch, brothers Joe and Carlo Salanitri and their long-time friend Andrew Manfre were up at 4am visiting the bakery producing their panini bread for a final taste test. Months had gone into refining the 12 Italian sandwiches on the menu – selecting ingredients, perfecting combinations and ensuring everything met their exacting standards.

Then came February 28.

On a 29-degree day, the trio emerged in full character to greet fans, pose for photos, sign autographs and hand out salami on the street. The first 500 customers were offered a free panini, and the queue stretched half-way around the block – down Lygon St, along Grattan St and into Drummond St. Although doors opened at 11am, the first person reportedly arrived at 6am.

For those unfamiliar, Sooshi Mango – known for their affectionate send-ups of European migrant families – perform primarily as their “mothers” (Angela, Giuseppina and Carmela) and “fathers” (Johnny, Vince and Sam). The mothers are dramatic, food-obsessed and prone to hysteria over poorly cooked pasta; the fathers grow vegetables, fix everything with gaffer tape and recount tales of hardship to their long-suffering sons.

On opening day, the “mothers” told passers-by they had opened Sangaweech out of jealousy after their husbands launched Johnny, Vince & Sam’s Ristorante a few doors down in 2023.

The new late-night shop, set in a former hair salon, is styled as an “homage to the ethnic kitchens of the ‘60s and ‘70s,” complete with red, white and green balloons



Sooshi Mango in character as Angela, Giuseppina and Carmela with their first customer at Sangaweech. Photos: Hanna Komissarova.



and Italian classics on the turntables. It’s a theatrical extension of the trio’s world – but the food, they insist, is no joke.

“We spend a lot of time trying to get everything as good as we possibly can,” Carlo told *Inner City News*. “People might think we’re milking it, but we put so much heart and soul into everything we do.”

From a few viral videos about “ethnic dads” a decade ago, Sooshi Mango have grown into a global comedy act with more than a billion online views, sold-out arena shows and collaborations ranging from The Wiggles to former Prime Minister Scott Morrison. They’ve been Moomba Monarchs, won an AACTA award, appeared in *Wog Boys Forever* and published a cookbook, *Eat!*

In April, they’ll embark on another leg of their *Home Made* tour, performing more than 60 shows across North America, the UK and Europe.

Yet for all the success, their focus on Lygon St appears genuine. The trio have publicly backed calls to revive the Lygon St Festa and are working on a feature film centred on an Italian social club in Carlton, inspired by a visit to Società Isole Eolie.

They speak sincerely about wanting to see Lygon St’s Italian heritage celebrated

and revitalised – not just as nostalgia, but as a living part of Melbourne’s identity.

While they may be perfectionists about bread, tiramisu and décor, their costumes remain gloriously low-budget. Joe notes that Johnny is still wearing the same \$8 Kmart pyjamas bought eight years ago – a detail that feels entirely in character.

Of their growing list of projects, the trio said, “It’s good to keep busy”.

“And we’re still having fun,” Andrew added. ●

## Council backs writers festival, calls out funding cuts

The City of Melbourne will write to the Premier urging funding be reinstated to Writers Victoria as the council prepares to host celebrations for the 40th annual Melbourne Writers Festival and promote itself as a UNESCO City of Literature

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



The City of Melbourne has resolved to petition the state government over the cutting of funding to several high-profile writing organisations in the latest round of Creative Victoria grants.

Writers Victoria had its \$150,000-a-year funding cut to zero in December last year, and while emergency funding has

been extended by the state government until the middle of 2026, the future of the organisation, which supports the development of Victorian writers, reportedly looks uncertain.

Also singled out in the council’s motion was literary youth arts organisation Express Media and not-for-profit Australian Poetry, which have both lost government support.

The cuts were part of a Creative Victoria funding round that was described as “a bloodbath” across the arts.

The City of Melbourne Future Melbourne Committee resolution to write to the government came as part of a motion on support for the Melbourne Writers Festival, which turns 40 this year.

“Given that future Melbourne writers festivals will suffer without Writers Victoria, Australian Poetry and Express Media, especially their support for early- and mid-career writers, editors and poets, [the Future Melbourne Committee] asks the CEO to write to the Victorian Premier and Minister

for Creative Industries urging the restoration of multi-year state funding to these organisations, which, if withdrawn, would make Victoria the only mainland state in Australia without a state-funded peak body supporting writers,” the motion said in part.

It also noted the financial pressures Australia’s literary and festival sectors were under, affirmed the council’s support for Melbourne’s “literary ecosystem” and identified the festival’s 40th anniversary as a “timely opportunity” for Melbourne in light of the recent cancellation of Adelaide Writers’ Week.

The main purpose of the motion, moved by the council’s Creative and Arts portfolio lead, Cr Philip Le Liu, was to approve the use of Melbourne Town Hall, at an estimated cost of \$20,000, for a special Melbourne Writers Festival 40th anniversary celebration.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece enthusiastically seconded it, noting that together with in-kind promotional support and

partnership funding, the city would be providing well over \$100,000 worth of support for this year’s festival.

Cr Mark Scott, portfolio head for tourism and events and deputy for creative and arts, expanded on the significance of Melbourne’s status as a UNESCO City of Literature, which he claimed reflected “a living breathing literary ecosystem that sustains writers, readers, festivals and fundamentally, ideas”.

Organisations such as those cited in the motion “build the pipeline of talent that fuels [Melbourne’s] literary culture,” he said.

Weakening them and the writing community risked weakening “the festival sector, our creative economy and Melbourne’s global reputation as a city of ideas,” which would have flow-on economic impacts.

The Melbourne Writers Festival, which runs from May 7 to 10, was a successful recipient of a multi-year arts grant from the City of Melbourne and is receiving \$60,000 a year over three years, from 2025-27. ●

# Life's Too Short: East Melbourne wine bar blends jazz, art and old-world drops

Run by a chef and a sommelier, this small East Melbourne venue punches well above its weight, with quality wines, “bespoke” cocktails, gourmet food, local art, live jazz and wine education all on offer.

WORDS BY  
JENNY DENTON



Sigrid de Castella believes “life’s too short to drink bad wine or cocktails or to eat food that doesn’t nurture your soul”.

The wine bar she runs with her sommelier husband, Antony Anderson, offers a way to avoid those misfortunes.

Housed in Tribeca Arcade, within the old 1854-built Victoria brewery building in East Melbourne, the bluestone-walled venue is a place where the couple aim to provide “really good value, really good, home-crafted tasty food, great cocktails and really good old wine,” Sigrid told *Inner City News*.

Notably, with the wine stored under argon gas, there are 24 types available by the glass, none of them over \$20, and the cocktails are made to order.

In 2025 the business was recognised with two different “bar of the year awards”, Sigrid said.

While the drinks are a serious matter – with a rotating calendar of organised events offering insights into such mysteries as the



difference between tequila and mezcal, cheese and wine matching, and old and rare wines – she said that the bar was like an extension of the couple’s lounge room.

“The vibe is very relaxed. If we’re not busy, we’ll sit down and have a drink and a chat with people,” she said.

On the stereo most often is jazz, which can also be heard live at the bar every second Thursday.

On the walls are exhibitions – currently of prints by artist Louise Donovan, an East Melbourne resident and regular customer.

There are regular poetry and prose readings.



And unlike a lot of venues where customers are “just left alone”, at Life’s Too Short they will often be seated at shared tables.

“We’re trying to create the right space for people to feel comfortable and engage with each other if they want to. It’s all about creating connection and joy,” she said.

Cocktails for \$12 and \$15 no doubt help, along with Sigrid’s impressive menu of freshly made and largely gluten-free tapas dishes, share plates, soups, desserts and degustation dinners.

The couple, initially inspired by the hospitality, variety, and ambience of a bar they visited in Rome, took the plunge and

opened Life’s Too Short in 2020.

In doing so Sigrid has invoked the wine-making spirit of the dynasty she is part of.

Her great-grandfather, Hubert de Castella, established St Hubert’s station in the Yarra Valley with his brother in 1853.

The 21st century chef and bar owner describes her own venture as “a homage to all the amazing pioneering wine making families” in Australia.

“They toiled so hard so that we can enjoy the amazing wines that Australia and the world enjoy today,” she said.

Life is just long enough these days to appreciate that. ●

## CARLTON COMMUNITY HISTORY GROUP

### Kathleen Syme: a successfully repurposed building

In Faraday St, Carlton there is an example of an old 19th century building that has twice been successfully reconfigured and repurposed. Built 150 years ago as a state primary school, it is still in use today as a modern, well-used community centre and library.



It was built in the years after the introduction of the 1872 Education Act that made primary education compulsory in Victoria. This meant that a large number of schools had to be built over a short period of time to accommodate all the extra children now attending school.

The result was the largest education building program ever seen in this country – 615 new schools constructed in just five years. One of them was State School No. 112 in Faraday St, constructed in 1876-77. It was used as a primary school for nearly 100 years, including as a practice school for trainee teachers from the nearby Teachers Training College in Grattan St. The school was closed in 1972.

The building was then acquired by the adjacent Royal Women’s Hospital, and reconfigured as an education centre for the training of nurses. On May 22, 1978 it was officially opened as the Kathleen Syme Education Centre, named after Kathleen Alice Syme O.B.E. (1896 - 1977) who was an Australian journalist, company director, welfare worker, and member of the hospital’s Board.

The building was used as a nurse training centre for 30 years. In 2008 it was vacated when the Royal Women’s Hospital moved to a new site on the corner of Flemington Rd and Grattan St.

At this point, the whole of the old Royal Women’s Hospital site, bounded by Faraday, Swanston, Grattan and Cardigan streets

and including the Kathleen Syme Centre, became available for sale. The University of Melbourne was keen to purchase it and eventually did.

However, a community campaign was mounted by the Carlton Residents’ Association to have the old school building excluded from the sale so that it could be used as a much-needed neighbourhood centre for the local community. The campaign was successful, and in 2010 the building was purchased by the Melbourne City Council for use as a library and community centre.

A \$15.5 million restoration then transformed the old building into a creative, learning and community space. Opened in 2015 as the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, the building is now home to a library of 40,000 items and a community centre with learning and training rooms, a computer lab, recording studio, meeting rooms, activity spaces, and a café.

Externally, the restored building remains faithful to its Victorian era architecture, but behind the facade is a modern centre where members of the community can read, connect, learn and create. ●

Caption: The Faraday Street State School, which 150 years after it was first built is still serving the community as a local library and community centre. Photo: State Library of Victoria.

## STATE MP

### Labor’s arts cuts put Melbourne’s cultural heart at risk

Melbourne is the cultural capital of Australia. It’s one of the many reasons people love living here.

And the creative industries employ around one in 10 working Victorians.

But all of that is at risk because the Allan Labor Government has recently delivered devastating funding cuts to some of our most important arts institutions

In December, Writers Victoria learned that its four-year funding of \$600,000 would be cut to zero – a 100 per cent cut. If this stands, Victoria will become the only state in Australia without a peak writers’ body – an extraordinary step backwards for a UNESCO City of Literature.

Abbotsford Convent, Musica Viva Australia and the Centre for Contemporary Photography have had their funding from the state government slashed as well.

Carlton’s beloved La Mama Theatre – where artists like Cate Blanchett began their careers – has had its guaranteed funding essentially cut in half. Its future is now only guaranteed for two years instead of the four it has traditionally relied upon.

These cuts make it very clear that the Allan Labor Government is simply not prioritising the arts.

This is a government that spent \$350 million for luxury corporate box upgrades at the Grand Prix, and put up an extra \$1 billion for private prisons, but won’t provide a tiny fraction of that for the arts.

Arts and culture enrich our lives and fuel our economy. They are part of what makes Melbourne, Melbourne.

We cannot let arts and culture in Melbourne die under Labor. My Greens colleagues and I are fighting to reverse these cuts because we know how important artists, writers, performers and musicians are to all our lives.



If you’d like some information on how you can help protect Melbourne’s arts and culture institutions, get in touch with me at [ellen.sandell@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ellen.sandell@parliament.vic.gov.au) ●

**Ellen Sandell**

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



## "Agenda for Carlton" ... alive and kicking!

The "Agenda for Carlton" was developed by the Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) committee in June 2024 following a survey of members.

WORDS BY  
MARTIN BRENNAN

The "Agenda" is a platform to promote Carlton residents' values of contribution, communication, cooperation (and the unwritten, coffee!). The opportunities and initiatives to drive those values are heritage, planning, greening and mobility.

Over the past year the committee overseeing the agenda included president Trish O'Loughlin, myself as vice president, secretary Lyn Cracknell, treasurer Phillip Watts and committee members Peter Sanders, Marisa Doyle, Megan Stevenson and Les Kilmartin. The Annual Report is available on the CRA website: [carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/meetings](http://carltonresidents.org.au/cra-2012/meetings).

In her report to the Annual General Meeting last month Trish O'Loughlin emphasised our work to strengthen community connection, to welcome new members and to meet with organisations who have a part to play in helping us achieve our "Agenda for Carlton".

Some of the highlights and low lights in the report include the planning sub committee's ongoing work to ensure that the heritage values and our built form

characteristics are sustained and work to limit the threat to Carlton of our two neighbouring universities, RMIT and Melbourne. We seek to work in collaboration with their master plans as they build their respective futures but not at our expense.

While the reopening of Queensberry St has not yet resulted in the planned single lane of traffic in each direction and bicycle lanes along with tree plantings, the CRA will continue to lobby the City of Melbourne and the state government to turn their promise into action.

The CRA proposal for the rejuvenation of Lygon St with its aim to reduce through traffic, widen footpaths, and increase planting and street parking, has received Carlton Inc. support and would prioritise pedestrians and add to the viability of the street for local business. Mobility that provides sustainable, integrated and accessible is a high priority of the CRA.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens is a unique World Heritage site for the city, the state and the nation. The significance of the site is however not matched by those who have local, state and commonwealth powers for ensuring its maintenance and protection.

The CRA believes this stewardship requires the current use of the Carlton Gardens by the MARI Group, an international behemoth that runs commercial sporting and cultural events, is not compatible with the heritage status of the Carlton Gardens.

We continue to seek the support of the council for alternative venues in the CBD for a Melbourne International Festival of Flowers.



The greening of Carlton is a priority agenda. We need to ensure that the maintenance of our parks and gardens is enhanced through new greening opportunities and the creation of pocket parks. This will reduce hard surface coverage and allow for an increase in canopy cover to offset the heat island effect.

The CRA has advocated for a pocket park outside the Kathleen Syme Library that will enhance the library and community experience and improve access to Lygon St via Faraday St.

We have continued our relationship with Ellen Sandell the State Member for Melbourne, and we are developing a relationship with Sarah Witty, the Federal Member for Melbourne along with the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor. We have

encouraged our councillors with portfolios relevant to the Carlton community to engage with our expectations and their responsibilities.

The CRA continues to advocate for the reform of the council to ensure that its electoral provisions match the current and future needs and interests of residents of Carlton and the municipality. While the suggested move toward an inner urban council comprising Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip is tempting it should be built on democratic principles and not as in the past by a neoliberal ideology of cutting costs and people.

In 2026 the CRA will build on the "Agenda for Carlton", revisit outstanding matters and seek to continue to reflect the voices of Carlton residents. ●

## PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

### A month of reflection

Parkville is a truly wonderful place and events in February gave me time to reflect on two wonderful individuals we lost recently.

I was honoured to attend the commemoration of the life of Professor Emma Johnston, vice chancellor (VC) of the University of Melbourne, a former student of University High and a recent resident of Parkville.

In April Emma was our guest speaker at the Parkville Association AGM. The room was enthralled hearing about her research work and diving under the Antarctic Sea ice! She was, without doubt, the most wonderful speaker to have addressed our association.

Emma was clearly the most approachable VC and bumping into her at the gym or at the tram stop she always had a smile and time for a chat. Not only that she was a keen supporter of the Carlton Football Club! As "O" week begins it is hard to believe this time last year Emma was just taking the reins of the University. RIP Professor Emma Johnston AO.

We also lost a very long-time resident of Gatehouse St, Brian Hogan. He had an amazing celebration, musical numbers, readings and a finale all said goodbye to Brian, among other things head of drama at University High. In fact, Brian actually featured on Olivia Newton John's episode of *This is Your Life*.

Laughter filled the room as former students, friends and neighbours recalled an incredible life. Once in Brian's circle of friends there was no escape! The program of the event will be kept for many years. RIP Brian.

To our new neighbours, the students joining our community for the first time, welcome! We love seeing you have fun during



Professor Emma Johnston

"O" week; we were all young once even if it is hard to believe looking at some of us. Your time in Parkville may be longer than you think as many of our older residents began life here as students and never left!

As my time closes as president of the Parkville Association I can reflect on many wonderful residents who have made the past 10 years fly by. More about this in my last column next month.

We still need new committee members in this, our 60th year, so please let me know if you are keen. We also need a new president and volunteers please.

Enjoy March and reflect on the wonderful people that have passed through Parkville in their lives. ●

**Rob Moore**

PRESIDENT

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION



## EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK



### March activities in East Melbourne

The East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN), a voluntary run community group, has created an expanded range of health and wellbeing activities for people of all ages.

WORDS BY  
ANN-MAREE ECKERSLEY – PRESIDENT

Activities include Pilates; chair yoga; yoga and movement; book groups; walking groups; community choir; morning meditation; yoga; ukulele; gentle exercise; social morning coffee; our guest speaker series; and intergenerational activities (with kindergarten children and seniors).

For full details of program activities, check out the EMNN website: [emnn3002.org](http://emnn3002.org).

org or email: [emnn3002@gmail.com](mailto:emnn3002@gmail.com) for further details.

**The East Melbourne Community Choir welcomes new members**

If you like to sing, would you like to try, or you miss singing in your life ... come and join in!

No auditions. You don't need to be a "good" singer; just enjoy singing together.

If you want to be involved in something special in your community, join this welcoming choir which places more accent on fun than the formal.

- Rehearsals: Tuesday night (during school term)
- Time: 7pm to 8.30pm
- Venue: Powlett Reserve Community Room, corner Grey and Simpson streets, East Melbourne
- Cost: \$100 per term

For more information email: [eastmelbournecommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:eastmelbournecommunitychoir@gmail.com), or visit [emnn3002.org](http://emnn3002.org).

You can also call Richard on 0401 555 498 or Ann-Maree on 0417 173 818. ●

Quiz



- Angora wool comes from which type of animal?
- What name is given to the smell produced when rain falls onto dry soil?
- For which film did Irish actor Barry Keoghan (pictured) receive an Academy Award nomination?
- In which local suburb did author Penny Tangey base her new crime novel?
- Lord Mayor Nick Reece moved a motion in February that sought to curb vandalism of what?
- Which oval in Princes Park recently received a council surfacing upgrade?
- A person who draws or produces maps is known as a what?
- Who starred alongside Audrey Hepburn in the 1963 film *Charade*?
- What is the title of La Mama's opening show for 2026?
- True or false: Australia is the only continent without any current volcanic activity?
- Which heritage-listed Carlton building was saved from a student-accommodation redevelopment after being bought by an independent school?
- Which school purchased the building?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- Rabbit 2. Petrarch 3. *The Banshees of Inisherin* 4. East Melbourne 5. City statues and monuments 6. Crawford Oval 7. A cartographer 8. Cary Grant 9. *SANITS* 10. True 11. The Allan & Co piano warehouse at Lincoln Square South 12. Freshill

5x5

No. 321

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

S		L		Y
	E		V	
A		G		L
	C		R	
M		L		S

SOLUTIONS

SPLAY, FEEVE, ANGEL, SCARP, MELTS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION  
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March, 2026

Sudoku

No. 056

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Medieval Weapons

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| ARROW    | LONGBOW     |
| AXE      | LONGSWORD   |
| BALLISTA | MACE        |
| CLAYMORE | MORNINGSTAR |
| CROSSBOW | POLEAXE     |
| FLAIL    | SHORTSWORD  |
| HALBERD  | SPEAR       |
| LANCE    | WARHAMMER   |

Secret message: Sharp and pointy

Crossword

No. 056

ACROSS

- Plant cultivated for its grain-like seeds (9)
- Main actor (4)
- Goop (3)
- Anti-Communist era of politics (11)
- Helpfully (8)
- Overseas (6)
- Nerd (4)
- Waitstaff (7)
- Mythical horse-man (7)
- Scheme (4)
- A spice (6)
- Any place (8)
- Extreme conservatism or rightism in politics (11)
- Siesta (3)
- Yin's counterpart (4)
- The world's largest island (9)

DOWN

- Resent someone's pleasure or good fortune (8)
- Schools of a university (8)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
										9				
10				11										
12										13				
14						15			16					
						17							18	19
						20							21	
22													24	
25									26					
									27					
28														29
30														
									31					

- |   |                                |    |                         |
|---|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 3 | Native American beads (6)      | 16 | Grant (9)               |
| 4 | Capital (9)                    | 17 | Token (7)               |
| 5 | Teaching period (4)            | 18 | European country (8)    |
| 7 | Greek sea-god (6)              | 19 | Dauntless (8)           |
| 8 | Fix (6)                        | 22 | Power (6)               |
| 9 | Reddish stalk used in pies (7) | 23 | Lineage (6)             |
|   |                                | 24 | Coloured wax pencil (6) |
|   |                                | 27 | Shallow bell (4)        |

SOLUTION

G	N	T	I	N	E	E	W	O		D	N	V	A	
I	T	O	J	N	O	I	D							
D	V	N	A	R	V	N	O	I	D	O	A	V	A	
E	E	V	S	D	N	R	E							
E	A	E	B	E	H	M	E							
I	O	O	O	W	S	E								
N	V	I	P	H	V	I	N	E	O					
I	S	B	O	N	W	S	E							
A	N	V	A	R	V	N	O	I	D	O	A	V	A	
O	V	O	U	B	B	A	T	R	O	S	E	N		
E	I	P	N	W	A	T	R	O	S	E	N			
W	S	I	A	H	I	R	V	A	R	V	N	O	I	D
E	E	S	I	A	X	V	O	E						
R	S	I	A	H	I	R	V	A	R	V	N	O	I	D

Codeword

No. 056

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

SOLUTIONS

W	A	S	H	I	X	K	C	L	P	F	B	J	N
9	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
W	A	S	H	I	X	K	C	L	P	F	B	J	N

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

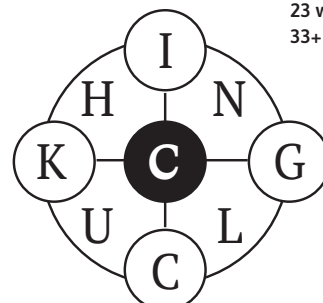
9-Letter

No. 056

Today's Focus:

- 15 words: Good
- 23 words: Very good
- 33+ words: Excellent

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

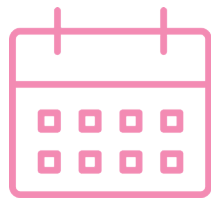


Reference: Macquarie Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

chic, chick, chin, chink, chunk, chucking, chuckling, chug, chunk, cinch, click, clinch, cline, clink, cluck, clucking, cluing, clung, clunk, cuning, culch, culching, guck, gulch, hick, huck, inch, kulch, lick, luck, lunch, nick, unci

# WHAT'S ON March



Experience the inner city buzz this month with festivals, markets, exhibitions and more.

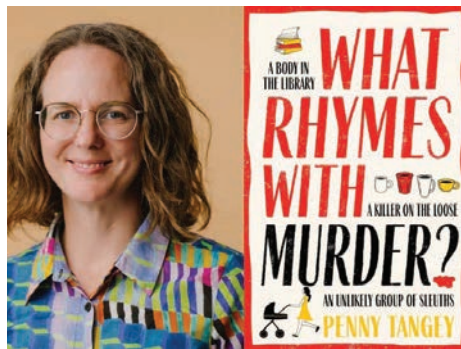


### MOOMBA PARADE

Since 1955, Moomba's parade delights all ages with colourful floats, dance, music, and famous Monarchs like Caterina Mete and Sammy J.

Kings Domain, Alexandra Ave

MONDAY 9 MARCH, 10.45AM – 12PM



### PENNY TANGEY IN CONVERSATION

Award-winning children's author Penny Tangey debuts adult crime novel; joins acclaimed writer Fiona Hardy for Melbourne launch conversation event.

East Melbourne Library

TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 6PM – 7PM



### AFRICA FILM FEST AUSTRALIA

Africa Film Fest Australia premieres in Melbourne, featuring acclaimed African and diaspora films, including award-winning Ghanaian feature *The Fisherman*.

Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St, Carlton

27 – 29 MARCH, 2PM – 8.30PM



### SUMMER NIGHT MARKET

Melbourne's original night market celebrates 25 summers with food, drinks, shopping, live music, entertainment, and themed pop-ups, creating a vibrant, lively summer night atmosphere.

Queen Victoria Market

UNTIL 11 MARCH, 5PM – 10PM



### MELBOURNE CBD HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

Melbourne's two-day Holi festival features vibrant powders, music, dance, food, and family-friendly celebrations of unity and joy.

Treasury Gardens, East Melbourne

14 – 15 MARCH, 12PM – 11PM



### DEGROWTH FESTIVAL

The Degrowth Festival celebrates community-led activities, skills sharing, workshops, music, stalls, and resilience-focused practices in a fun, accessible, park-based event.

Curtain Square, Rathdowne St

SUNDAY 22 MARCH, 11AM – 7PM



### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

The Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show returns in March, showcasing vibrant gardens, floral artistry, design, lifestyle experiences, & outdoor creativity.

Carlton Gardens, Carlton

25 – 29 MARCH, 10AM – 9.30PM



### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Celebrating 40 years, with a month-long, citywide program featuring favourites, rising stars, international acts, family shows and hundreds of performances.

Melbourne Town Hall

25 MARCH – 19 APRIL



### LOWKEY

Gen Z comedian Louis Prandolini delivers a lowkey stand-up hour blending storytelling, PowerPoint gags and interactive twists, reflecting with cheeky intelligence on life in your 20s.

The Motley Bauhaus, Carlton

23 MARCH – 5 APRIL, 8.30PM – 9.30PM



### SONGBIRDS

Songs, rhymes and stories will engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language. Age: newborn to 18 months.

East Melbourne Library

UNTIL 10 DECEMBER, 10.30AM – 11AM



### SWINGING 60s

This exhibition explores 1960s Victoria, showcasing music, fashion, protest items, instruments, and Barbie memorabilia, highlighting youth culture, rebellion, and social change.

Old Treasury Building, East Melbourne

UNTIL DECEMBER, 10AM – 4PM

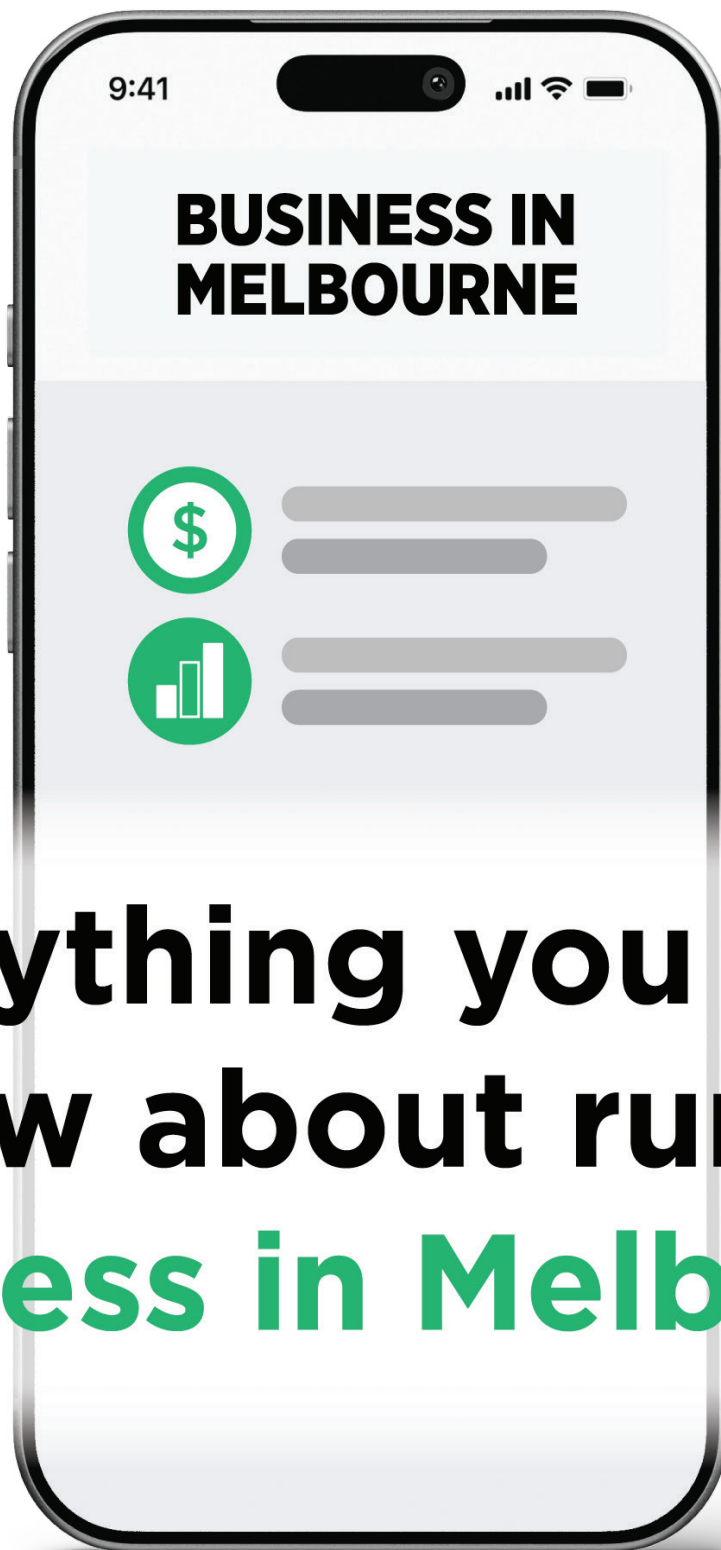
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