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Giving back
Photo by John Tadigiri

Carlton's Church of All Nations has provided emergency relief food packages to the local community for more than ten years, but post-COVID demand for the service is increasing. *Full story on page 11.*

Lack of security creating violence at housing towers

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
SAFETY AND SECURITY

Residents at the Carlton housing estates are calling for 24-hour security and screen doors to put an end to violence, squatting and drug dealing.

Numerous incidents have taken place at the Lygon, Drummond and Cardigan street buildings over the past year which have made residents fear for their safety.

Resident David Biskupsi said that he had almost been stabbed at his home due to the lack of screen doors in the apartments.

"I came home from Woolies, propped the door open with a chair and was in the kitchen putting groceries away when the chair went flying and there was a female at the door with a butcher's knife," Mr Biskupsi said.

"She's a resident of this building who is known to have psychological problems."

Mr Biskupsi said that the buildings, which had been constructed in 2009, had a lack of security for the residents.

"People knock on the door and you have no idea who's on the other side as people can hide away from the peep hole," Mr Biskupsi said.

"In COVID times people want to leave the door open and air out their buildings so the lack of a screen door is a massive problem."

Residents of the Carlton estates along with Drummond St Services, the Church of All Nations and the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre have been sending letters to Minister for Housing Richard Wynne since April last year to no avail.

One of the letters cites a report commissioned by the Church of All Nations in 2020 which found ongoing issues such as "drug-taking by non-residents in shared facilities" and "gangs hanging around foyers of estate buildings".

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Community rallies around Leonardo's staff after fire

Staff at the Carlton pizzeria closed indefinitely due to fire will receive wage support during their time off thanks to a campaign that raised \$15,000 in just 10 days.

WORDS BY *Sophie Raynor*
COMMUNITY

Leonardo's Pizza Palace had been trading for just three days after lockdown before the fire started just before 8pm on Sunday, June 13 — igniting in the kitchen's electrical wiring and cutting power to the building.

Venue manager Laura Street told *Inner City News* waitstaff placed candles on tables in the fully booked dining room, initially surprised by the blackout because the restaurant's music was still playing.

"Twenty minutes later smoke started coming from the pizza kitchen," she said. "That's when our head chef said to start evacuating the building."

Fire Rescue Victoria said the fire was declared under control at 8.12pm — just 20 minutes after the triple zero call that reported the incident.

Evacuated patrons waited outside the restaurant as staff went around with phone torches to finalise payments.

No injuries were recorded, but Ms Street said the fire had caused significant damage before it was noticed, and until tied-up insurance assessors can appraise the damage the pizzeria's owners don't know when they'll be able to reopen.

"It feels a bit rough," she said. "We had a taste of normality again, a really nice feeling when everyone came out of lockdown and that first night back and familiar faces, and now there's uncertainty about how long it's going to be. It's quite sad."

But the sting of shutting down was soothed with the launch of a Go-

FundMe campaign to cover wages for the team's lost shifts.

It has raised \$15,000 of its \$20,000 goal — all of which will go directly to Leonardo's 21 staff, who are mostly casual workers.

Beaconsfield's O.MY Restaurant, which also fundraised after suffering fire damage just one day after exiting lockdown in November 2020, donated \$1081 to the Leonardo's campaign.

Ms Street said her team wasn't eligible for emergency cash payments from the federal government during Melbourne's most recent lockdown — some due to student payments and others due to working occasional shifts at the restaurant on a reduced staff.

Leonardo's owners Guy Bentley and Jon Harper worked quickly after the fire to assign staff shifts at their other restaurants, including Stan's Deli in Malvern and Leonards House of Love in South Yarra.

"Our owners have always put our staff first," Ms Street said. "It's a relatively small team, and we want to keep the people we have. They're kind of like a family."

Local businesses have also pitched in — offering shifts to staff, sharing the GoFundMe campaign, donating money, and pre-ordering the custom-designed fundraiser merchandise produced by Weekdays, the design studio housed in the Leonardo's building (their tongue-in-cheek shirts and totes read, "Hottest Pies in Town").

Ms Street said the reception was a welcome surprise.

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A Auskick club kicking goals in Carlton



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The deadline for the August edition is July 22.

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▲ Leonardo's on the night of the fire.

Community rallies around Leonardo's staff after fire

Continued from page 1.

"It's just really nice feeling there's this hospo community.

They've all been through a tough time themselves and they're willing to help out."

Until the damage can be assessed and repaired Leonardo's will remain closed indefinitely and its staff out of consistent work. But Ms Street is determined to see her team through the temporary closure and resume normal service as soon as it's safe to do so.

"The GoFundMe and the merch are a big part of it, but it's more when we do re-open, getting those reservations in," she said. "The longer we do this, the more creative we'll have to get." ●

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leonardospizzapalace.com.au

Auskick club kicking goals in Carlton

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
SPORT

Since 2014, the Carlton Junior Football Club has been encouraging kids from all cultural backgrounds to try their hands at AFL.

Off-field coordinator Zach Kernich said the club was started up by Carlton local Peter Behrendorff who saw a need for the suburb to have a multicultural Auskick club.

"He wanted to start up a club in Carlton and get the housing commission kids from Carlton and Carlton North involved," Mr Kernich said.

"At the time we were able to get free registration because of the multicultural nature of the club and the disadvantages faced by those in the housing estates, and we had a massive turnout."

Currently the club has 120 kids aged between five and 12 registered who come and play on Sunday mornings at Princes Park.

The day usually involves doing drills at the six stations on the field, before lining up for sausages at the end of practice.

"We have a simple system out on the field, divided into different age groups, with a few volunteers to help," Mr Kernich said.

"We mainly focus on improving skills and teamwork, but later in the season we also have game days where the kids compete among themselves."

Since the AFL stopped subsidising registration fees for kids who live in the housing estates, the culture of the club has evolved over time.

Off-field co-ordinator Zach Kernich said that "more could be done" to get kids from the housing estates involved again.

"The multicultural aspect of the club has dropped off a bit and we're getting more families from the inner city," Mr Kernich said.

"There's definitely a market for getting those kids involved, it's the same situation in North Melbourne and other suburbs where those towers reside."

Mr Kernich said the club was always willing to plan for kids facing disadvantage or financial



hardships to ensure everyone got a chance to play.

"Our thing is that everyone matters. We would love for the kids from the housing estates to come down and play, and we would do what we can to support them with subsidies," Mr Kernich said.

"At the moment if kids just want to try it out it we don't make them register, we just give them a handwritten sticker and let them go."

Mr Kernich said that Carlton Auskick was a great way for kids to have fun for an hour on a Sunday morning before "tucking in to some snags and popcorn".

"It's a really nicely run, simple Auskick centre with a great atmosphere," Mr Kernich said.

"We want people to come along and have some fun, learn some skills, participate in teamwork, and enjoy the beautiful Sunday mornings at Princes Park."

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Lack of security creating violence at housing towers

Continued from page 1.

The report also found that stairwells were often contaminated, dogs were roaming around unsupervised and non-residents were sleeping in laundries and stairwells and “behaving in an intimidating manner when disturbed”.

Carlton housing estate resident Cory Memery said that crime was constantly occurring in the building and “something needs to be done about it”.

“495 Cardigan St has had a massive amount of violence and the state government hasn’t been listening,” Mr Memery said.

“Someone even got hurt at the over-55 tower last week at 530 Lygon St.”

“The mental anguish of the lockdowns has exacerbated problems that already existed, particularly when it comes to people coming to the building to buy drugs.”

The current security service provided at Carlton includes two foot patrol guards and one control room guard working 7pm to 3am.

However, as security guards do not have the power to deny access to the building, the department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) instead advises residents to “contact Victoria Police or the department’s Carlton Housing Office immediately” should they feel unsafe.

According to the Church of All Nations report, police can often take hours to respond to these requests.

“It is not up to residents to individually advocate on issues as they arise ... preventative health and safety measures should be implemented immediately by the state government to protect residents,” the report read.

Mr Memery said that security guards needed to be present 24/7 to protect vulnerable residents.

“We only have security from 7pm to 3am and because kids know exactly when they leave that’s when the issues happen,” Mr Memery said.



▲ Residents Cory Memery and Tewelde Kinane are fed up with the lack of response from Homes Victoria.



▲ Residents are concerned that intruders on the estate could create a health risk during the pandemic.



“It needs to be 24/7 and they need to be given the power to stop people from entering the building.”

Due to the lack of security, squatters have also broken into empty flats at the 510 Lygon St tower which contain two- and three-bedroom flats reserved for families.

Inner City News understands in many cases the DFFH left flats unlocked after families were moved into larger apartments which allowed squatters to enter as they pleased.

Mr Memery said that with many of the squatters using the apartments to sell drugs, residents were afraid to leave their apartments.

“Residents are concerned and frightened to even leave their flats because of the anti-social behaviour – children are scared,” Mr Memery said.

“Residents are reluctant to report this because they are frightened about repercussions, and the lack of response from authorities such as the police and housing office.”

With overcrowded living conditions, Mr Memery said that intruders posed a greater risk to the community during the pandemic.

“Have they been tested or vaccinated? This needs urgent attention, nobody should have to live like this,” Mr Memery said.

A Homes Victoria spokesperson said that repairs were under way at three vacant properties at 510 Lygon St after they were broken into and damaged.

“We are working with the local housing office to determine the suitability of the current security services provided at the Carlton housing estates,” the spokesperson said.

“We are constantly upgrading apartments at our high-rise estates, which includes installing security doors – the majority of apartments at Carlton have been upgraded.”

Inner City News understands that Minister for Housing Richard Wynne responded to a request for a meeting with resident advocacy groups to discuss the issues on June 17.

The meeting is expected to take place by the end of June ●

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Volunteers plant hundreds of native plants in Royal Park

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne's citizen forester program is back after a year of being on hold due to COVID restrictions.

Volunteers from all around the city came to plant hundreds of indigenous plants in Royal Park during three plantings in late June.

Environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said the program was a "fantastic way for the community to get involved in creating a greener Melbourne".

"Citizen foresters are taking the opportunity to learn more about managing our urban forest, while meeting new people and contributing to their community," Cr Leppert said.

"This month, our volunteers will plant native grasses and shrubs, increasing understorey habitat to support biodiversity in the city."

"We've had hundreds of volunteers through this program and I encourage anyone interested in our urban forest to give it a go. It is open to everyone and you don't need any prior knowledge to take part."

Among the plants are local indigenous grasses and ground covers which would have existed in the park pre-European settlement.

Royal Park supervisor Chris Nicholson said the wide variety of plants was intended to increase biodiversity and attract local plants and animals.

"We're planting a wide range of species including Bulbine Lilies, Black Anther Lilies which are a great plant for attracting bees, two different species of Bur Daisy, Yellow Buttons Daisy, a ground cover called Blue Devil, and native grasses including Silky Blue Grass and Red-Leg Grass," Mr Nicholson said.

"They're all sourced from the provenance of Royal Park and some of them were grown by the Friends of Royal Park who have a nursery where they grow seeds they've collected from around the park."

The plants will take around two years to



▲ Councillor Olivia Ball planting ground covers.



▲ Volunteer Kerry O'Neil getting in on the action.



▲ Volunteers listening to a talk about the history of Royal Park and the benefits of the planting.

reach their full potential and will fully flower in Spring.

"The plants will attract all different kinds of bees and predators like small birds," Mr Nicholson said.

"Everyone is putting in a huge effort to re-vegetate the area since to try and restore it to what it looked like before Europeans came along."

Melbourne Zoo conservation campaigner Darcie Carruthers had come to the planting on her lunch break to get in on the action.

"This is the second planting that I've been to," Ms Carruthers said.

"Working at the zoo we feel strongly about Royal Park and the habitat it provides for the native wildlife."

Another volunteer Kerry O'Neil said that although she didn't live within the City of Melbourne she loved to be out in the Australian native gardens.

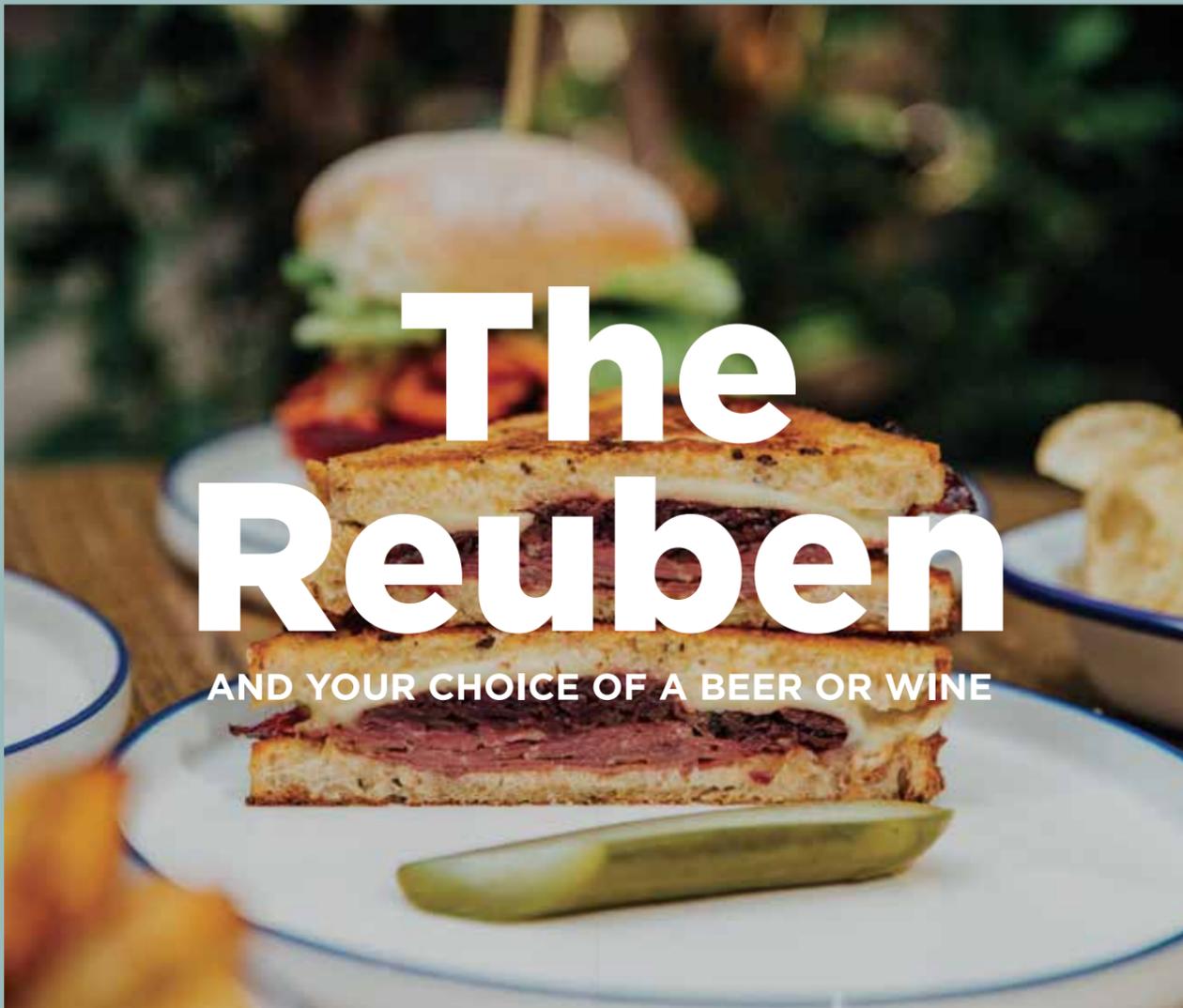
"I'm always pleased to see green space in urban areas and I hope we create more of it" Ms O'Neil said. "The City of Melbourne is much further ahead in its conservation programs than other councils I've found."

Cr Olivia Ball, who attended the planting, said she was pleased to see Royal Park re-populated with indigenous plants.

"I'm particularly pleased to be planting local, indigenous species like these beautiful everlasting daisies," Cr Ball said.

"Royal Park is such an asset when it comes to the sheer size of greenspace and work like this reflects how much the community loves and treasures this park and wants to protect the biodiversity within it." ●

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Melbourne Uni's job cuts put "buildings over staff"

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ECONOMY

After hundreds of job cuts allegedly due to the pandemic, Melbourne University is coming under fire from the education union for investing money in "buildings over staff".

Four-hundred-and-fifty staff are expected to be made redundant to account for the loss in revenue from international students, with plans to cut dozens more in the coming months.

National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) Melbourne branch president Annette Herrera said that despite their proclaimed financial hardship, the university has continued to invest in buildings that remain empty.

"We would argue this financial mess is exacerbated by the university that puts buildings over people," Ms Herrera said.

"Rather than spending on more buildings that remain empty the university should invest in its staff who are the soul of this university."

In the past decade, University of Melbourne has spent more than \$2 billion on new buildings alone, including the innovation precinct, Melbourne Connect, recently finished in Carlton.

The university is also working on the concept design for the Fishermans Bend campus which is expected to open in 2024, and Parkville's Student Precinct which will be finished by the end of this year.

In 2019, the former Melbourne University vice chancellor Glyn Davis told *The Age* that the university was investing in buildings as they will "matter in the future".

"What you don't do is load up the institution with expensive permanent staff, because you know that later this will be a significant problem," Mr Davis said.

Ms Herrera said this attitude was long-standing at the university and staff were "bearing the brunt of the pandemic" as a result.

"Discretionary spending should be limited at this time, the pandemic is not an excuse to



▲ NTEU Melbourne branch president Annette Herrera and Professor of Materials and Design Graham Schaffer.

treat staff worse as an employer and walk away from the responsibilities to be a good person," Ms Herrera said.

"There definitely is a drop in institutional trust and trust in the university will do the right thing by staff."

When the pandemic hit in March of last year, revenue losses were originally forecasted to be \$177 million with a budget shortfall of \$269 million.

Although revenue was down by \$211 million and expenses were down by \$61 million in 2020, the university still reported a profit of \$8 million.

In a letter to staff, vice chancellor Duncan Maskell said "small operating surplus of approximately \$8m" was "effectively a 'break-even' result".

Despite this, staff were told to expect more job cuts as the university was still targeting savings of \$252m in 2021 on top of the \$360 million in savings in 2020.

"The reduction in numbers of international students last year, together with the further reduction we are seeing for 2021, has a long-term impact over subsequent years," Mr Maskell wrote.

"Reducing our ongoing cost base to live within our means therefore has to remain an important part of the institution's response."

In analysing Melbourne University's annual financial report, NTEU Vice President academic Professor Graham Schaffer said the university had actually made a profit of \$168 million.

"As far as I understand it - I am an engineer, not an accountant - this "operating result" [of \$8 million] does not comply with accounting standards," Professor Schaffer said.

"It is an internal financial measure that is calculated by subtracting from the net (or accounting) result discretionary investment income, interest expense, philanthropic endowment income and infrastructure grant income."

Professor Schaffer said that the way the

university has chosen to "allocate spending" suggested management was putting buildings over staff.

"A significant amount of construction is ongoing, new construction has started and new contracts have been awarded. However, there is no information on any of this spending," Professor Schaffer said.

"Prior to the pandemic, the 2020 Capital Plan envisaged spending of \$3 billion over 10 years, of which \$1.5 billion was on property."

"Other universities have been able to mitigate the effects of the pandemic by active management of the capital plan without resorting to mass redundancies and restructuring of the workforce. However, Melbourne does not appear to have chosen this route."

Although the exact figures are unclear, casual staff in events and the library were particularly hard hit along with academics and professional staff in the science and agriculture departments.

Ms Herrera said that as the university is such a large employer in Melbourne, the job cuts are "problematic for the whole community".

"The restructures mean there's more insecure work, more outsourcing, jobs are disappearing, which is massive when you consider they employ over 10,000 people," Ms Herrera said.

"They're paying people out with these redundancies, so this is not a cash flow problem."

Mr Shaffer said that with the way management are talking staff could expect more job losses.

"My guess is more job losses, more casualisation and more outsourcing, and with that comes higher workloads and with higher workloads comes poorer outcomes particularly for our students," Professor Shaffer said.

A University of Melbourne spokesperson said that the university has "deferred \$330 million of capital expenditure in 2020".

"The majority of costs associated with Melbourne Connect was paid by the developer," the spokesperson said.

"The university's commitments were made pre pandemic." ●



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Fitting in to Hotham St

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

If you walk down George Mews in East Melbourne and turn left you'll enter an unnamed lane that takes you past a dog leg and several unmarked doorways leading off it, including a circular gate into a hidden garden.

This is laneway culture, East Melbourne style, without the hype of the city and with clever renovations that lead the eye.

When architect Lisette Malatesta moved into the suburb in 2015 she chose a '70s building to renovate.

Her aim was to complement the tastes of the locals in more ways than one. She bought the East Melbourne General Store and gave it a new second story based on architectural forms along Hotham St.

She added a deco front balcony to reference one on a block of flats and the peak of the roof is reminiscent of the black gable added to the nearby church.

"Traditionally milk bars have owner/operators," she said. "You are developing relationships and friendships with clients like a hairdresser."

During the lockdown, locals came four or five times a day, for the paper, coffee, bread, lunch, wine. Takings went up 30 per cent.

A milk bar can be the centre of community life. Lisette knows all her customers by name. Some live alone and enjoy the chat. "I've got the keys to everyone in the suburb," she said.

She offers traditional lunches such as a salad roll for \$7, made on the spot without all the trendy toppings.

"I just do it the way a milk bar would have made it," she said. The last thing she wanted was "hipster central."

The building posed a similar challenge. How could she make it fit into the site and provide a family home?

She designed the renovation, registered as an owner/builder, subcontracting to 32 tradies, and did all the excavation herself. "I rented a bobcat," she said, and got the job done in a year.



▲ Lisette Malatesta at the East Melbourne General Store.



▲ A circular entrance off the lane.

The idea of the circular entrance off the lane came from Hong Kong. She removed the roller doors and created the alluring entrance to her downstairs office. The garden is a common space shared with a tenant.

East Melbourne has the reputation for being expensive for family dwellings. Lisette has three children, is a single mum and was prepared to make her vision work. They all live above the milk bar and try and fit into the neighbourhood, ecologically and socially.

Lisette has noticed a change in the micro-climate since an oak was chopped down in the back lane.

"The owls have gone. There are more rodents and the temperature has dropped by three degrees," she said.

Her garden serves the practical purpose of absorbing water when rain creates floods down the lane ●

Tough times for musicians at the Curtin

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

The EP tour had been cancelled, tickets for a dozen shows refunded plus they were about to lose their outdoor seating.

An air of gloom had descended on the John Curtin Hotel in Lygon St during the last week-end of June.

Better times could be on the horizon but the live music industry has a weak pulse.

The Curtin stages two gigs a weekend and it's regularly booked out but the numbers just don't stack up against COVID regulations.

"We've had to postpone all our gigs," bar manager Aaron Fisher said, because they've sold too many tickets for the pub's new capacity.

"We were going back to normal," Aaron said. "We sold 130 tickets then our capacity went down to 75 sitting for the entire venue. We couldn't do anything. We would have had to close the front bar."

While smaller music venues have been able to open with a seating formula, the Curtin is waiting until they can have 150 standing patrons.

"We're waiting until then," Aaron said. "We hope it will be next week." But like many in the

industry, he's not holding his breath.

The only way to make it work with the current regulations would be for bands to play two shows, he said, but it's not easy creating a rock vibe with seated shows so they decided to refund tickets instead.

Leroy Macqueen was due to launch his new EP on June 26 at the Curtin. Instead he ended up cancelling the entire tour.

"They couldn't get together because of the regulations," Aaron said, and they're not alone.

Some bands have members stuck in New South Wales while others have found it difficult to rehearse.

Locals are the losers, missing out on the pleasure of Macqueen's vintage twang and country ballads at one of the few live music venues remaining in Carlton.

"It's been really tough," Aaron admitted. "It's a very community-oriented music scene."

Other suburbs such as Richmond are better endowed. The Jazz Party was due to play at the Curtin and they shifted the gig to the Corner Hotel instead.

The pub has been serving fried chicken and burgers at an outdoor area set up as part of the safe dining push by the City of Melbourne but even it is due to close.

When *Inner City News* visited, staff were busily carrying out tables for the last weekend of outdoor trading.

"It will be gone after next week," Aaron said. "We're trying to get it extended."

He wasn't that hopeful. Other ideas such as putting on shows from the back of a truck have also fallen on deaf ears ●



▲ Aaron Fisher trying to make a go of it at the Curtin.



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Carlton COVID vaccine clinic opens for public housing residents 16 and over

WORDS BY *Rachael Fleury*
HEALTH

To encourage vulnerable residents to be immunised, pop-up COVID-19 vaccine clinics have opened up at six public housing towers around Melbourne, and anyone from the towers aged 16 and over is eligible.

The clinics are a joint initiative between the state government and community health service, Cohealth, and the newest clinic opened at 483 Drummond St in Carlton during mid-June.

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said it was vital the vaccine reached public housing residents as people living in high-density housing were more at risk of contracting COVID-19.

“People living in high-density accommodation are more at risk of COVID transmission due to shared spaces such as entries and exits and other common areas. On top of that, people living in public housing are more likely to have chronic health conditions or disabilities which make them more vulnerable to COVID-19,” Ms Bartholomeusz said.

Ms Bartholomeusz also said that taking the vaccination to where people had the highest needs was important in achieving equitable access to vaccinations.

“Language barriers, low health literacy or lack of access to the internet means that not everyone can navigate the health system equally,” she said.

Following the recent surge in cases of the highly contagious Delta strain of COVID-19 across Australia, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt urged eligible Australians to come forward and get immunised.

“The simple message is do not wait. If you catch COVID-19, you could die,” Mr Hunt said.

To assist with the uptake of the vaccinations, the Department of Health has funded a “health concierge” program where almost 100 public housing residents have been trained by Cohealth to work in the high-rise towers where they live.

Cohealth health concierge Hodon Noor is based at the Carlton housing towers and said her job was to help dispel myths and misconceptions about COVID-19 vaccines by talking to residents in a way they understood, including in their native languages.

Ms Noor speaks three languages, and collectively, the health concierges at all the sites speak 10.

“They [the residents] trust us because they know us,” Ms Noor said.

“People have lots of questions about the vaccine ... I’m not here to persuade them to take the vaccine. I’m here to answer questions and give them accurate information, so they can make the decision that’s right for them.”

The Carlton pop-up clinic is a six-day service, operating Monday to Saturday, 10.30am to 4.30pm, and no appointment is needed to receive the vaccination.

Although anyone from the public housing towers over the age of 16 is eligible for a vaccine, residents are still governed by the same rules as other Australians, and those under 60 will receive Pfizer while those over 60 will



▲ Cohealth concierge Hodon Noor.

COVID-19 testing & vaccine available here for all residents

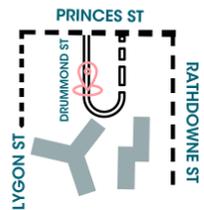
COVID-19 新冠疫苗接种点在此开放-无需预约, 所有居民均可接种。

Văn phòng chích ngừa COVID-19 đã có tại đây, không cần làm cuộc hẹn trước, tất cả cư dân đều hợp lệ để được tiêm phòng nơi này.

المتاحة هنا COVID-19 عيادة التلقيح لا حاجة إلى الحجز. أصبح جميع المقيمين مؤهلين الآن

Kilinkinni Talaalli COVID-19 asitii banamee jira. Beellama qabsisun isin hinbarbaachisu. Jiraatan hundi argachuu ni dandaya.

Xarunta Talaalka COVID-19 ayaa ka furan halkan. Uma Baahnid in aad balan dhigatid. Dhammaan daaka degan guryaha dhaadheer ee dowlada xaq ayay uleeyihiin in ay qaataan talaalka.



- Vaccine Clinic
- 483 Drummond St
- Testing Available
- 510 Lygon St
- Book 0409 620 759
- 1pm to 3pm

10:30am - 4:30pm
Monday - Saturday

walk-in appointments

cohealth care for all

receive the Astra Zeneca vaccine.

Cohealth community health nurse Xi Chen said that the take-up rate of the vaccine had so far been good as many residents had come from countries where vaccines had successfully eliminated other fatal viruses.

“People here understand how valuable vaccines are,” Ms Chen said.

“The lines are never too long, so people don’t have to wait. And they get a lollipop at the end.” ●

Heavy investment in new CBD North urban renewal precinct

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
ECONOMY

The Victorian Government has announced \$44.6 million to fund a new “green spine” linking the CBD, Carlton, Parkville and the Queen Victoria Market through a series of RMIT University-led capital works projects.

The funding will cover a raft of individual research, capital works and urban improvement projects creating a social innovation precinct bordered by Lygon, Victoria, Swanston and Queensberry streets which aims to facilitate a boom in visitors.

A Multi-faith and Wellbeing Centre to better serve the needs of RMIT’s diverse community, an Asia Trade and Innovation Hub designed to support local businesses operating in the Asia-Pacific, and a Social Innovation Hub to foster research into economic and social challenges are some of the projects earmarked for development.

There will even be a Space Industry Hub to connect Victorian businesses with global space technology opportunities.

RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Martin Bean CBE said the facilities and activities funded by the government would help RMIT contribute to Victoria’s social and economic response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and create jobs, enterprises and opportunities for the future.

“Activating this unique precinct and strengthening its connections with other parts of this great city will create long-lasting benefit for the Victorian economy and community,” Professor Bean said.

It is understood the new capital works projects will be RMIT-owned but operated largely together with the community much like RMIT’s existing Old Melbourne Gaol courtyard and public spaces in Cardigan St and O’Grady Place.

Most capital works projects are expected to be completed by mid-2022 and will collectively support around 130 new construction and teaching jobs, according to the government.

It is understood existing green spaces such as Lincoln Square, Carlton Gardens, University Square

The new social innovation precinct will be bordered by Lygon, Victoria, Swanston and Queensberry streets.



and the Royal Exhibition gardens will be linked in order to attract visitors through pop ups and other forms of activation.

The Victorian Government’s two-year investment will extend programs in sectors ranging from engineering, computing and advanced manufacturing to healthcare, social services and justice innovation. RMIT will also be working to create publicly accessible shared spaces to encourage community production, studio spaces for artists and galleries within the precinct.

This project is one of many proposals from universities to the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund, which was developed in response to the significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the sector.

The \$350 million fund is supporting universities with capital works, research infrastructure projects and applied research focused on boosting Victoria’s productivity and economy as the state recovers from the pandemic. Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney, who announced the funding in June, said the project would “change the fabric” of inner-city Melbourne. “We have made an unprecedented investment in the university sector to support it through the pandemic, provide great opportunities for Victorians and to strengthen the state’s economy – and this project does just that.” ●

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Businesses count their losses after lockdown

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Businesses in Melbourne's inner city are still reeling nearly a month after the state's fourth COVID-19 lockdown ended, with industry leaders warning the ongoing cost of restrictions will be "enormous".

Many traders in Carlton, East Melbourne, and Parkville told *Inner City News* that the state's harsh lockdown from May 27 to June 10 had taken a big toll on their livelihoods and were struggling to recoup their losses.

Some reported cash flow was still very tight, and without the federal government's JobKeeper wages scheme they had resorted to paying staff using their personal money.

One Carlton restaurant owner said he was disappointed he had not received "one cent of help" from the state government's circuit-breaker business support package.

However, most traders praised the City of Melbourne's Melbourne Money dining scheme which had been a "major boost" to attracting new customers who can claim a 20 per cent rebate on their bill if they spend between \$50 and \$500 at restaurants, cafes, and bars.

Italian restaurant owner Fab Sussi, who runs Tiamo on Lygon St, Carlton, said business was "slowly creeping back up" after taking a "major hit".

"It's just the unknown – that's the hardest thing for businesses," he said.

"It's very stressful; one day you could be free, one day you could be locked down."

"Besides the financial stress, I think most business people are genuinely fatigued and just tired of this roller coaster."

"It's hard work but we've got a lot of beautiful customers and that's what really makes you want to get out there and enjoy what you do."

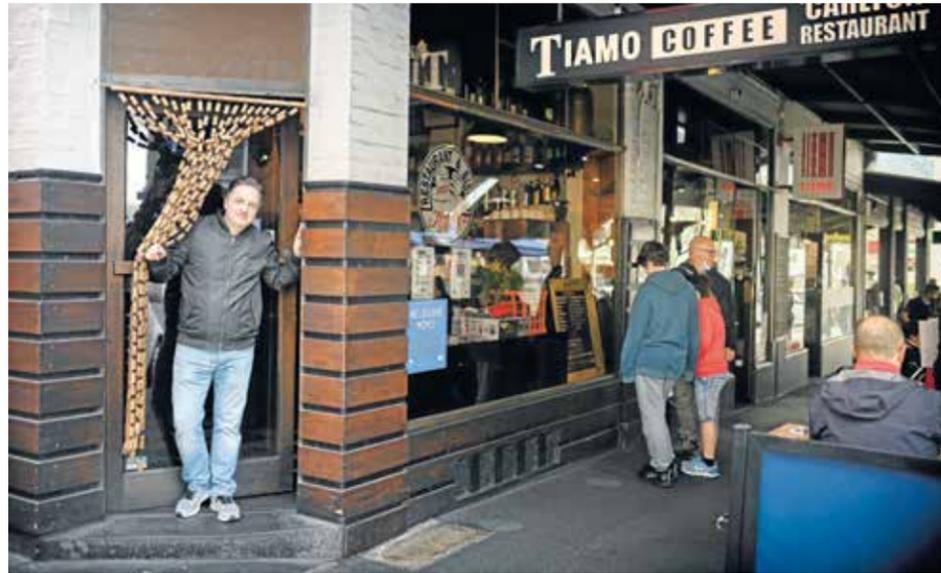
Also left picking up the pieces was Gary Lu, manager of Georgian Court Bed and Breakfast Guest House in East Melbourne, who said bookings had plunged despite being able to reopen.

Since June, they were making \$200 to \$300 a day during weekdays, which Mr Lu largely attributed to a drop in tourists and fewer people visiting the city because of restrictions limiting crowds at venues.

The state government offered cash support during the fourth lockdown with payments up to \$7000, which Mr Lu said would hardly make a dent in expensive rent and overhead costs.

He said business was slowly picking up with just seven bookings made on the weekend of June 26 to 27 when crowds were allowed to return to the footy.

"It's terrible. Even though the government relaxed the restrictions, still the business is not



▲ Fab Sussi outside his restaurant Tiamo on Lygon Street.

Photos: John Tadigiri.



▲ Yoga Collective Studio owner Nicky Davidson felt like she was starting from scratch after the fourth lockdown.

back to normal, nobody comes," he said.

Business partners Lianne Metcalf and Nicky Davidson, who opened their beloved Yoga Collective studio in March, said they had worked incredibly hard to get their business in Carlton up and running when the fourth lockdown took away their gains.

The pair said they felt like they were starting from scratch after all their groundwork had "literally been broken".

"The harm that caused us most of all was that we were just getting the word out," Ms Metcalf said after they were forced to close their doors for three weeks.

"Once that momentum is broken you've got to start again."

They said it was particularly hard as they had just begun attracting new clients after offering two-week passes at a discounted rate when the lockdown was announced.

"I had been talking to businesses and offering special packages and rates to bring their staff in as a group or individually," Ms Metcalf said.

"I was getting good responses but of course people aren't back at work yet."

"The energy we were putting in has hurt us most."

They have also lost bookings as reoccurring lockdowns had changed people's routines, particularly as winter set in.

Charlotte Keane, who runs City Haven Massage Therapy in Parkville, said it was also

difficult to close her doors during the fourth lockdown.

"Generally, people are crying out for our type of work because mental health has taken a big toll across the community and so I think our services, especially when it's professional, have been really welcomed," she said.

Phillip Mansour, executive officer of the Carlton Traders' Association, said it was great to see the "buzz" returning to Lygon St which he described as a "flagship location for people to meet friends and family, and it continues to be so".

"In particular with the outdoor dining, the parklets have improved the capacity of restaurants and hospitality venues," he said.

"We're also offering \$500 cash giveaways each month and that goes back to our members' tills. It's a really good initiative for us to help support the businesses in Carlton and get people coming back and visiting."

The scheme called #CarltonCash is available for people who follow @carlton_inc on Instagram where they like the post and tag two friends.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the city looked forward to having more workers return to the city now that restrictions had eased and employers could welcome up to 75 per cent of their staff to city workplaces.

"Average pedestrian activity is up by 90 per cent compared to during the most recent lockdown, which is a sign that the city is bouncing back," she said.

"We're proud that Victorians have claimed more than \$2 million in cashback in the first week of the Melbourne Money dining scheme, as people return to the city's restaurants, cafes and bars."

"People are also taking advantage of our FOMO Freebies campaign, which provides free giveaways to Melbourne experiences such as shopping vouchers for the Queen Victoria Market and tickets to attractions such as the Sealife Aquarium."

"We want Melbourne to become the most vaccinated city in Australia so we can move beyond lockdowns and restrictions, stay open, bring back the buzz, and build confidence for local businesses, residents, and tourists."

Patrick Coghlan, CEO of credit reporting agency CreditorWatch, warned that with no "clear path" to mass vaccination, and issues still emanating from hotel quarantine "we expect substantial increases in external administrations above the norm in the state".

The Victorian Head of the Australian Industry Group, Tim Piper, said the "ongoing cost of these restrictions, both directly and indirectly, are enormous and the ramifications into the future will be serious for the state's economy and the community's sense of wellbeing" ●



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Outstanding citizens honoured in Queen's Birthday awards

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

From academics to those working in healthcare, outstanding members of Melbourne's inner city have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List for their significant contributions to the community.

This year's recipients represent what Governor-General David Hurley described as the "countless examples of selflessness, commitment, and dedication".

One of the top awards, those appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), went to Erika Feller, a former Assistant High Commissioner of the United Nations Refugee Agency, and *Sky News* host Peta Credlin who was chief of staff to former Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

When Ms Feller received the news of the award, she said it was a "great honour".

But she added, "it was more satisfying to me because it showed that the award system can actually accommodate international work and particularly international work in the human rights and refugee area which is what I've been working on for a decade."

Ms Feller was recognised for her "distinguished service to the international community, to the recognition and protection of human rights, and to refugee law".

She is currently working hard on promoting the creation of a centre at the University of Melbourne to assist people who have been categorised as "status people", "who don't have any proper nationality or they don't have a country that accepts them as its nationals", which she described as a "serious problem".

Ms Feller, also a lawyer and diplomat and currently the Professorial Fellow at the Melbourne School of Government at the University of Melbourne, said she would also "love to see Australia re-engage in a very positive way with multilateralism".

"I think Australia is a bit selective in its engagement with multilateralism, certainly in the trade area ... but in the human rights and refugee area I think it needs to make up for lost ground," she said.



▲ East Melbourne residents Jennifer and John Leaper who were both awarded an OAM for their services to aged care.

Ms Credlin's citation listed a "distinguished service to parliament and politics, to policy development, and to the executive function of government".

Also awarded an AO was Professor Ken Smith, the Dean, and CEO of Australian and New Zealand School of Government, with the headquarters based in Carlton.

Professor Smith, who was recognised for his 40 years of "distinguished service to public administration, and to public sector leadership and education", said it was an honour and privilege to receive the prestigious award.

"What we have done through our programs such as the Executive Master of Public Administration, Executive Fellows Program and other leadership programs, as well as our work we've done with specific jurisdictions and agencies is to ensure really positive impact and influence and lifted the quality of public services in Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand," Professor Smith said.

The honours list also saw Dr Elizabeth Rushen, the director of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network, appointed a



▲ Professor Ute Roessner OAM of the University of Melbourne was recognised for her contribution to bioscience.

Member (AM) of the Order of Australia for her "significant service to community history and heritage preservation".

World-leading scientist Professor Ute Roessner, who heads the School of BioSciences at the University of Melbourne, was also awarded an AM.

Professor Roessner said the news of the honour had come as a "total surprise", to the point that she thought it may have been spam in her mail inbox, but added it was "very humbling".

Professor Roessner, a plant scientist and a world leader in the field of metabolomics, came to Australia from Germany in 2003 with her husband after being "headhunted" for her talent.

"At the time I didn't really know anything about Australia," she said.

"My husband at the time thought why not go out in the world and learn new cultures and explore new ways of working and living, so we did the big step and haven't looked back."

Professor Roessner, who was recognised for her "significant service to tertiary education, particularly to the biosciences," said

her proudest achievement had been teaching students and watching them "stepping up into the working world and taking up roles and growing".

Others receiving AMs were Professor James Barber, the CEO of Polytechnic Institute of Australia for his service to tertiary education administration, and to youth, as well as Jaynie Anderson, an Emeritus Professor at the University of Melbourne for her "significant service to tertiary education, particularly to art history in Australia".

Among those receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) was Dr Igor Konstantinov for his service to medicine as a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Other recipients included Dr Susie Allanson for her service to community health as a psychologist; Jillian Prior, the founder and principal legal officer at the Law and Advocacy Centre for Women, for her service to law; and Richard Owen of East Melbourne, who retired from ExxonMobil in 2020 after 37 years of service, for his service to business.

Beverly Noon, a former president of the Parkville Auxiliary at the Royal Children's Hospital also received an OAM for her devoted service to the community through charitable organisations.

It was a family affair for Jennifer Leaper and her husband John Leaper of East Melbourne who was each awarded an OAM for their services to aged care.

Both are the founders of TLC Healthcare which is the first residential aged care provider of its size to complete the vaccination of their 1500 residents, and 2000 staff and contractors against COVID-19 in March.

Ms Leaper told *Inner City News* the achievement had "given great solace and confidence to our residents, and to our staff".

"We've had GPs on site which has made a huge difference to making sure that our residents get the best care as quickly as possible," she said.

Upon receiving the news of the Queen's Birthday honour, Ms Leaper said, "It did come as a surprise and we were very delighted and very humbled to each receive one." ●

Thresherman's Bakehouse site to finally become new restaurant

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
BUSINESS

A new restaurant is rising from the ashes in Carlton after the pandemic forced the closure of many businesses in the suburb.

The historic Thresherman's Bakehouse building which has been empty since 2018 has been snapped up by the owners of Ms Frankie – a popular Italian restaurant in Cremorne.

Ms Frankie co-owner Melinda Aloisio got the news her team had secured the iconic Thresherman's site after another tenant's offer fell through during lockdown.

"Carlton always felt like the natural place for the new business as we're a traditional Italian restaurant in a contemporary setting," Ms Aloisio said.

"We're big thinkers who don't want to sit still so we're really excited to expand."

Of Italian heritage herself, Ms Aloisio said she and her business partner Wani Sakellaropoulos wanted to be part of the "resurgence of Carlton" as an Italian precinct.

"We want the Italian community to come back and start to see shops filling up again," Ms Aloisio said.

"We want to be proactive in the movement and work with the residents and other businesses to make sure Carlton has a bright future."

Ms Frankie Carlton will have similar menu to the Cremorne restaurant that has been designed by executive chef Giorgio Di Stefano who trained in Sicily.

"We'll keep that traditional focus with a slightly bigger menu," Ms Aloisio said.

"Pasta is our main focus but we will also have a Secondi menu of meat and fish dishes."

Aside from the restaurant with a capacity of 350 people, Ms Frankie will also offer a cocktail bar.



▲ Ms Frankie owners Melinda Aloisio and Wani Sakellaropoulos with executive chef Giorgio Di Stefano outside the old Thresherman's building.

The City of Melbourne unanimously voted to approve the permit to allow Ms Frankie to sell liquor until 1am at a meeting on June 1.

This was despite 24 objections from residents on Faraday Place and Dorrit St who argued the liquor permit would create amenity issues for locals.

Dorrit St resident Glenys Wilson said that although the residents were used to being surrounded by commercial businesses they were concerned about the proposal.

"The bar would be very close to the residential properties, four metres across the laneway,

and across the street is all of the Women's Hospital flats as well," Ms Wilson said.

"There's five windows and two old wooden doors and all of the noise echoes down the laneway as there's many acoustic issues in the old building."

"We have concerns about patrons coming into the residential area."

Faraday Lane resident Cathy McGregor raised concerns about waste management and noise issues which already occur with the surrounding businesses.

"We continually have experiences where large volumes of bottles being emptied late night and early morning and being dropped in those bins, which can be quite alarming in the middle of the night," Ms McGregor said.

"Faraday Lane is my driveway so my concern is that coming home late at night there will be patrons who may have had alcohol and the issue of managing that scenario."

In response to residents' concerns, the City of Melbourne has commissioned an acoustic report to ensure the restaurant would not cause excessive disturbance.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that while he took residents' concerns into consideration he was confident that Ms Frankie would abide by its obligations as a tenant.

"I know Dorrit St very, very well and I agree that it is one of the most charming streets in all of Carlton," Cr Reece said.

"The developer is Ms Frankie Group, and Ms Frankie is a well-known venue in Cremorne which has very good reputation and has a very high-quality offering."

"I think residents can take some comfort that your worst expectations are certainly not going to be materialised."

"Seventy-five per cent of people at the venue must be seated and food must be served at all times of operation, so I believe that will also



▲ The Thresherman's site has been vacant since 2018.

shape the character of this venue."

Ms Aloisio said the Ms Frankie team took residents' concerns into consideration and wanted to work with them.

"We want to have a strong relationship with our neighbours and plan to work with the community instead of against them," Ms Aloisio said.

"We really want to co-exist peacefully in the same space as residents and bring something to the area."

Ms Frankie is set to open in spring 2021 ●

Carlton's Olive Jar reopens after rent dispute

WORDS BY *Sophie Raynor*
BUSINESS

The longstanding Rathdowne St restaurant closed temporarily over a rent dispute during Melbourne's most recent lockdown has reopened, despite ongoing tension between its owner and the building's landlord after the end of coronavirus relief payments.

The Olive Jar paused trading unexpectedly for a week in early June, with the words "for lease" and "pay rent and live happy" appearing in white paint on the building's exterior.

But restaurateur Giovanni Mico said his rent was paid despite not receiving rent relief, and that confusion had come after the end of the state government's coronavirus relief scheme for commercial landlords.

"There was an issue, which a lot of restaurants are facing at the moment, with the landlords and whatever the case may be, where they don't grant the COVID relief rent," he said.

"The landlords did not want to support – this is across the board – the rent relief."

Mr Mico's landlord was contacted for comment through the building's property manager.

The state government's support package for commercial landlords offered rebates of up to \$3000 on rent waivers and reductions to landlords who would otherwise not have the means to relieve tenants, and up to 50 per cent discounts on land tax payments.

With the scheme having ended on March 28, tenant advocacy groups feared a wave of landlords applying to VCAT to have tenants removed after the expiration of eviction moratoriums.

In March *The Age* reported a 43 per cent increase in eviction applications between November 2020 and February 2021.

The Victorian Small Business Council responded to a record 13,206 enquiries in the 2019-20 financial year, with many coming from small business owners and landlords seeking advice about rent relief during COVID-19.

Mr Mico said the pandemic had caused a "hell of a lot of problems" to the restaurant industry.

"We've been hit hard, and a lot of people are going out of business," he said. "Some that have been in business for 15, 20 years have had to shut doors completely."

The Olive Jar is one of Melbourne's oldest Italian restaurants – established in the 1960s with "just gravel on the floor" to serve familiar food to the city's Italian migrants, it still offers traditional fresh pasta, pizza, and homemade olive oil today.

Mr Mico said the pandemic had caused the "strongest damage" his business had seen in 60 years.

He praised the City of Melbourne's initiatives to revitalise the council's hospitality sector, including the Melbourne Money rebate scheme the council said handed out \$1 million in cash back on meals in its first week.

"Everybody's trying to help out, which is good, and I think people should be helped out to come out and enjoy life again," he said.

Carlton resident and Olive Jar patron Anna Kosovac, who first noticed the "for lease" notice on the restaurant on June 2, said its permanent closure would be like history being lost.

"It's just so sad to see businesses like this struggling, because I feel like there is so much of Carlton's identity wrapped up in them," she said.

The for-lease notice – now gone – was accompanied by the landline phone number of real estate agent Nelson Alexander, which told *Inner City News* the property had a lease to December 2021 and was not being advertised.

Mr Mico told *Inner City News* he believed the notice had been painted by his landlord, against whom he said he had sought an intervention order and engaged a lawyer – but said he was trying to move on from the disagreement.

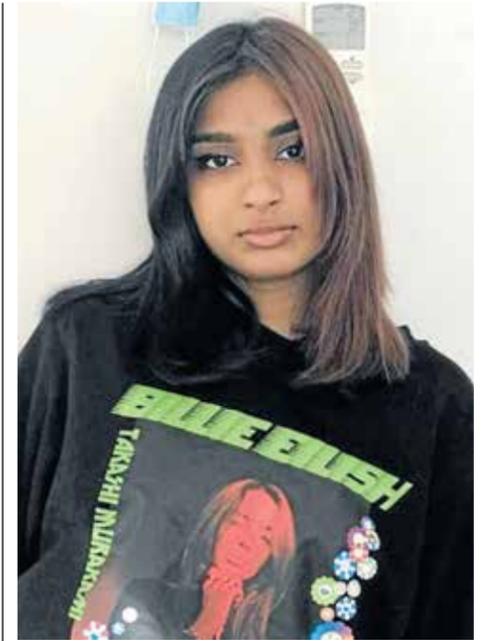
"We've been around for a long time, and we really don't want to have any problems with anyone," he said.

"We just want everyone to understand, whether it's the landlord or anyone else, is that



▲ Graffiti out the front of Carlton's oldest Italian restaurant Olive Jar.

the industry's been hit so hard. It's the strength from our regulars and neighbours and so forth to keep going. Certain things are not made easy at all. So, you've got to keep pushing." ●



▲ 16-year-old Imansi was last seen on 16 June.

Missing teenager last seen in Parkville

CRIME

Police are appealing for help to find a Point Cook teenager missing since June 11.

Sixteen-year-old Imansi was last seen at 3.30pm in Parkville.

Imansi is 158cm tall and is described as being of a slim build with braces and dyed pink and blue hair.

Victoria Police have released an image of Imansi in the hope someone who may have seen her comes forward with information on her whereabouts.

Anyone with information on Imansi is urged to contact Melbourne North Police Station on 8379 0800 ●

Demand for food parcels has trebled since start of pandemic

WORDS BY *Rachael Fleury*
COMMUNITY

Carlton's Church of All Nations has provided emergency relief food packages to the community for more than a decade, but demand from the local community for food basics has trebled since the start of the pandemic.

Church of All Nations (CAN) executive officer, Cheryl Lawrie, said before the pandemic, around 20 to 30 people attended the market, but now between 60 and 80 people were attending each week.

"People are even more reliant on our service to meet their basic needs now," Ms Lawrie said.

Ms Lawrie said the cuts to JobKeeper payments on March 28 this year had made a big impact.

"Our stats say we barely got any people who were on JobKeeper coming to us for support during COVID because they were getting enough money to live, but now that JobKeeper has been removed, people don't have money for their basic needs," she said.

Nickolay Traykov, 52, was the head chef at one of Australia's largest food service companies but was made redundant last year and said he had been forced to access the church's emergency food packages since.

"People are really struggling since the COVID supplement stopped and I see people all around me who are surviving in very poor conditions, but with the help of Church of All Nations we are getting products, like fresh fruit and vegetables, or sometimes meat, that we couldn't



▲ Church of All Nations community development worker Samy Ibrahim.



otherwise afford," Mr Traykov said.

Church of All Nations community development worker Samy Ibrahim said the program offered the food relief packages on a "no questions asked" basis, and there were a number

of short-term clients accessing the service for the first time.

"There are the clients here that always need us, but there are others who are so embarrassed to come because they've never accessed a service

like this before," Mr Ibrahim said.

"You never know what can happen in your life, and we're here to help everyone. There's one person who accesses the service because he was bashed in the head on the way home from a work Christmas party and received a brain injury."

The Church of All Nations market runs every Thursday at 10.30am, and queues start forming from 8am.

"We used to start the market at 8am but we found that people were queuing from 5am in the dark ... people were very anxious the food would run out and there might not be enough for them," Ms Lawrie said.

"People who aren't eligible for emergency relief anywhere else will come to the market. We've got single people but also families with seven kids. It's pretty expensive feeding a family with seven kids."

Ms Lawrie said it costed the Church of All Nations between \$80,000 and \$100,000 to provide its emergency relief food programs. It received \$28,000 from The City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne combined – the rest came from community donations.

The Church of All Nations Winter Appeal is on now ●



Heritage trees to be replaced at Carlton Gardens

HERITAGE

Three English Elm trees have been removed from heritage-listed Carlton Gardens after a review found the trees posed a risk to public safety.

Residents were informed that the trees would be cut down last month due to the large cavities in their stems and bases.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said replacement trees would be planted later this year.

"The trees will be replaced during the 2021 planting season with species consistent with Heritage Victoria requirements," the spokesperson said ●

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INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2021-22

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with a range of diverse neighbourhoods. Our Budget 2021-22 sets out how we plan to invest in the Carlton, East Melbourne and Parkville neighbourhoods to support local services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will bring the buzz back into our city.



	Residential population	Number of businesses	Main occupation Professionals	Residents born overseas
PARKVILLE	7,400	410	49%	38%
CARLTON	18,702	1,107	46%	63%
EAST MELBOURNE	4,941	636	52%	26%

INVESTING IN CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne will deliver its biggest ever infrastructure program by investing \$244.7 million in projects across the municipality in 2021-22 to create jobs and build a better community for the future.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp sees a strong link between delivering city-shaping infrastructure projects and support for local businesses.

“We know how critically important it is to invest in our city right now and that’s why we’re delivering more capital projects than ever before, with our record infrastructure investment,” the Lord Mayor said.

“These projects provide opportunities for work on job sites right across the city and workers on those sites provide opportunities for our local traders, whether it’s a coffee and a sandwich, a trip to the physio, or a new pair of shoes.”

New investments and upgrades in the inner city in 2021-22 include:

- \$850,000 – Melbourne Innovation District (MID) (Carlton)
- More than \$700,000 - Public art
- \$60,000 – Reduce Speed Limits (Carlton)
- \$50,000 – Cycle Infrastructure (Carlton)

- \$1 million – Greenline (East Melbourne)
- \$70,000 – New Drainage Infrastructure (East Melbourne)
- \$350,000 – Reduce Speed Limits (East Melbourne)
- \$10,000 – Wayfinding signage (East Melbourne)
- \$10,000 – Powlett Reserve outdoor exercise equipment (East Melbourne)
- \$1.8 million – Community Sports Pavillion upgrade (Parkville)
- \$150,000 – Melbourne Innovation District (MID) (Parkville)
- \$100,000 – Cycle Infrastructure (Parkville)



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

INVESTING IN LOCAL SERVICES

Childcare and family services

We deliver Family Services at Carlton Baths and Carlton Learning Precinct. A 98-place education and care centre with integrated and sessional kindergarten also operates at the Carlton Learning Precinct. In East Melbourne the Powlett Reserve Children’s Centre provides 51 places.

Libraries, cultural and community spaces

The Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre has approximately 2500 members and will purchase about 4000 new books in 2021-22. There are 10 bookable community spaces, plus a makerspace and recording studio. We make the Chapel on Cardigan Street available for the Melbourne Toy Library and fund Drum Youth services in Carlton. The East Melbourne Library has approximately 1700 members, bookable spaces, and programs for children, teenagers and adults. We also manage Cooks’ Cottage and the Visitor Information Centre and The Pavilion in Fitzroy Gardens.

Parks and open spaces

In Carlton we manage and maintain 17 parks, gardens, squares and

reserves, including Argyle Square, Lincoln Square and MacArthur Square. In East Melbourne our open spaces include Fitzroy and Treasury Gardens, Gosch’s Paddock, St Andrews Place Reserve and 12 others. In Parkville we manage and maintain 14 reserves, walks and parks including Barring Walk, Clunies Ross Reserve, Royal Park and Trin Warren Tam-Boore.

Sporting and recreational venues

Our Carlton sporting and recreational venues include the Carlton Baths facility, equipped with gym, seasonal pool, meeting rooms and children’s sports programs. The Princes Park sports fields cater to 12 community sports organisations. Princes Park is also home to the Princes Park tennis facility and the Carlton Recreation Ground, leased to the Carlton Football Club. East Melbourne is home to the Powlett Reserve Tennis Centre. At Royal Park in Parkville we provide nine sports fields and ovals, which cater to 26 community sports organisations. Parkville is also home to the nine-hole Royal Park golf course and two tennis facilities.

To find out more about what’s happening in your neighbourhood over the next 12 months, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget



Investing in community facilities in your local neighbourhood, like the East Melbourne Library

ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update



Missy LaMinx, Sasha Starr and Bae L'amour at Midsumma Festival Live at the Bowl

Photo: Suzanne Balding

MIGHTY MELBURNIANS PROMOTE CARE AND COMPASSION

For nearly 20 years, the Melbourne Awards have been our city's highest accolade, celebrating inspirational people who dedicate their time and energy to make Melbourne a world-leader.

We recently caught up with past winners, who work in diverse fields, to see how their organisations are evolving in response to COVID-19.

Midsumma

Karen Bryant is the CEO of Midsumma, Australia's premier LGBTQIA+ cultural festival and the winner of a Melbourne Award in 2019. The first lockdown began just after one of the team's best-ever festivals in 2020.

'Many people in our communities have experienced isolation - from families, workplaces and social spaces - so having safe venues and support networks taken away during COVID was a trigger for re-experiencing past trauma for many,' Karen said.

'We initially set to work to create a safe, meaningful online space on our website where people could access information in one place, connect and share stories and art.

'Even though, after many iterations of plans, we were able to present another great in-person festival in 2021 amid glorious weather, we are still in a pandemic and need to reactivate and adapt within this environment.

'Looking to the future, I hope we can learn to get along better with each other, understand and champion differences, and fight injustice and discrimination

with respect and graciousness for people with different perspectives or lived experience to our own.'

Youth Projects

Melanie Raymond OAM is the Chair of homelessness support agency Youth Projects, which won a Melbourne Award in 2010.

Since its win, Youth Projects has continued its mission in earnest, including launching a night-outreach nursing program, to deliver health-care on the pavement to people experiencing homelessness, and significantly expanding its employment services.

'We see the "giving" side of Melbourne all the time. There is a high-level of concern and care for people on the margins and immense curiosity about what solutions can be found,' Melanie said.

'The initiatives to house people sleeping rough during the pandemic showed that we can move quickly on this issue in an emergency and this creative and collaborative work continues today.

'For many people in Melbourne, their isolation and marginalisation existed pre-COVID. Let's hope post-COVID we see more effort to connect people in meaningful ways.

'This is vital to improving mental health, and community-based answers are there for us to implement.'

In Harmony With Health, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Dr Emma O'Brien leads the music therapy program at Royal Melbourne

Hospital, which won a Melbourne Award in 2018. During COVID-19, the program became more important than ever for staff and patients.

'Melbourne is this incredible city that really understands the powerful, vital role that the arts plays in people's wellbeing,' Emma said.

'Royal Melbourne Hospital had a tough time during 2020 - we were at the front line of COVID-19 and, while many people recovered, sadly many older adults passed away.

'I am so proud of my exceptional team members, who never give up finding ways to connect with people through music.

'Even in the worst of times we were there, singing to people in full PPE, from behind glass. That's the kind of tenacity that Melbourne has. No one was giving up and everyone was trying to have a moment of happiness.'

MELBOURNE AWARDS 2021

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's Melbourne Awards finalists in October. In November, there will be an awards ceremony and a televised event on Channel 9 to announce the winners.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards

IN-BRIEF

BOOK YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE NOW

If you are eligible, now is the time to book in for your COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more and find a vaccination centre near you, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

SHOP LOCAL

We're helping local businesses bounce back with \$100,000 Precinct Activation grants as part of the \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a partnership with the Victorian Government. Want to support local traders? Subscribe to the What's On Melbourne newsletter for top tips on shopping, retail, dining and events. whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

WELLBEING SUPPORT

Our Community Support Directory is a resource for anyone whose health and wellbeing has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides information and contact details for mental health support, financial services, food relief, housing assistance, medical services and more. melbourne.vic.gov.au/communitysupportdirectory

SELF-GUIDED WALKS

Explore the city at your own pace with our new suite of self-guided walks. The new maps are a great way to explore gardens, laneways, street arts and hidden gems in the city and inner suburbs. whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/walks

NEW PLAYGROUND OPENS

The new play space at JJ Holland Park is now open, featuring three new play spaces, a new play bridge, space-net, monkey bars and a flying fox. The space also includes new BBQ, seating and picnic facilities.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Watch meetings live from wherever you are thanks to our live-streaming capability. Tune in live or catch up later. Find all the details about Council and committee meetings at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

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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CITY OF MELBOURNE

COUNCILLOR PROFILE

The community councillor

An educator, publican, family man and proud member of the Flemington-Kensington Bowls Club – you'd struggle to find a more community-minded councillor than Davydd Griffiths.

WORDS BY *Sean Car*

Originally from Bendigo, the Flemington resident has lived and worked in the City of Melbourne for much of his life since first moving to the city as a uni student in the 1990s.

Since then he has worked as a secondary school teacher having previously taught at Mac.Robertson Girls High School. And in more recent years, he has earned his living in hospitality.

Now operating two venues in Kensington and West Melbourne, the renowned local publican said he first entered the world of hospitality through an unlikely source ...

"I basically got into hospo by becoming voluntary president of the Flemington-Kensington Bowls Club back when the coffers there were empty. I love having a roll. I still bowl down there," he said.

"I had to learn how hospo works just to keep the doors open. Yes, the beers are cheap but we also went down the craft beer road very early which was controversial back in the day, don't you worry about that ... it's probably still controversial now!"

"As a publican, people speak to you very directly. It just means you're encountering everyone in society, regardless of the issues. It's not just people who naturally tend to come to council and pitch their needs. You hear everyone's needs."

But while he's passionate about his local community, he said education was the driving force which first drove him into politics and joining the Labor Party.

The first-time councillor was elected to the City of Melbourne at last year's elections on Labor's endorsed council ticket, and he has been



able to apply his passion as chair of the council's education and innovation portfolio.

"In one sense, to come full circle and have that [education] as my portfolio at the City of Melbourne sort of returns back to the issues I started my public policy career around," Cr Griffiths said.

With the city on its knees after a fourth COVID lockdown and key issues such as drawing international students back to Melbourne high on the agenda, Cr Griffiths's experience in education and business provides a valuable mix on this council.

In addition to attracting international students back to the city, he said he was particularly

keen to use the council's auspices to continue advocating for big changes that would see more education, training and employment opportunities provided in the municipality.

"The latest most liveable city in the world-type rankings [show] Melbourne was still getting 100 out of 100 in the education area. When I talk to locals around here with the new school opening in Docklands, the new school in North Melbourne, it just re-emphasises the fact that people expect high-quality education from preschool right through to U3A."

"It seems foolish to me to have jobs at the hospitals or the universities going out to places such as Werribee, where people from Werribee

are coming into the city to do a job that a resident in the city could take on."

"It's that type of reimagining of the roles of what local education can be about. It's that notion of worker housing, which is an important component when you think about how expensive some housing in the city is and how that precludes people of certain jobs including nurses, young doctors and others who can't live in the city."

The husband of former state Member for Melbourne Jennifer Kanis and father to nine-year-old son Blake, Cr Griffiths said he loved getting out and experiencing the city with his family at every opportunity.

And as one of six new councillors on the City of Melbourne, he said one of the silver linings to come out of the pandemic was how it had forced the council to come together and work positively for the community right from the outset.

"It doesn't matter whose good idea it is, everyone is supporting all of those initiatives that help local residents recover and local workers to get jobs and local businesses to keep the doors open," he said.

"It has to be about ensuring that various areas within Melbourne still have a sense of community about them that's meaningful at a time of rapid change, even before COVID came along. I think that's a really positive thing." ●



Sean Car

PUBLISHER

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METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel Project creates a wealth of opportunity

"The Metro Tunnel Project isn't just building a city-defining train line – it's also creating jobs and opportunities across the board."

With International Women in Engineering Day recently taking place, two of our trailblazers joined counterparts from other projects across the Big Build infrastructure program to mark the event.

Sarah Jane Malcolm and Livon Joseph both work for the Metro Tunnel's Rail Systems Alliance (RSA). RSA is responsible for the cutting-edge high-capacity signalling system that will be rolled out on the Metro Tunnel, as well as train and power control systems.

Women are traditionally under-represented in engineering, with just under 13 per cent of qualified engineers in Australia women – but Victoria's Big Build is giving more opportunities than ever before for women to be part of Victoria's mega infrastructure boom.

With more than 30 years' experience in industry and government across Europe and Australia, Sarah Jane has delivered projects for London Underground, Transport for London, BHP and Siemens.



Livon, who was passionate about maths and aircraft from an early age, studied mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Queensland, before entering the construction industry through the Thiess Graduate Program in 2012.

Victoria's Big Build is currently in the middle of an unprecedented construction boom. There are more than 165 major road and rail projects that require a diverse workforce that includes more women.

To help more women succeed in the construction industry, the Victorian Government has developed the Women in Transport Program,

with \$2.4 million to support women working in construction.

Victoria's Big Build is actively recruiting women into graduate programs and supporting experienced women to develop through further education and other programs.

Also enabling this pathway into the workforce is the Major Projects Skills Guarantee (MPSG), which Victorian apprentices, trainees, and cadets to make up 10 per cent of the workforce work on high value government construction projects. This policy is about growing the next generation of skilled workers in Victoria.

Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta

Allan said, "We are celebrating the hard-working female engineers who work across Victoria's Big Build."

"They're crucial to our success over the past six years – and we've created the Women in Transport Program because we want to see many more join our ranks as we get on with building the projects Victorians need." ●

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

Reducing homelessness in the City of Melbourne



Welcome to the second last article 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 centred 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 Melbourne's Lord Mayor Sally Capp to share her thoughts around why the objective around housing all Australians is important, especially within the City of Melbourne ...

Surviving a Melbourne winter without safe and warm accommodation is a brutal challenge that too many Melburnians are forced to endure each year.

Reducing homelessness remains one of my top priorities. Melbourne is a caring city but we need to do more to help and support those experiencing homelessness – particularly those sleeping rough on our streets each night.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed what was possible when different levels of government, service providers and the local community agreed on mutual goals and cooperated to deliver a stellar outcome. Everyone sleeping rough on our city streets was offered accommodation in inner-city hotels.

This was not a perfect solution but it showed what was possible when we focused on what could be achieved rather than the reasons why something couldn't be done. That same spirit of cooperation remains but it is true that more people have returned to sleep rough on our city streets.

We have already shown how quickly and effectively we can reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness when critical circumstances, such as a pandemic, demand action. We cannot lose this momentum and I am committed to continuing my campaign of advocacy and delivery on this issue.

Unlike some neighbouring councils, the City of Melbourne wants to secure as much of the Victorian Government's \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build investment into social and affordable housing as we can.

We want more of the investment in public housing by the government delivered within our municipality and we want more investment in affordable rentals from the private-sector and community housing providers.

The City of Melbourne has commissioned research on the current level of affordable housing within the municipality and longer-term consequences if we don't act now. In 2019, it was estimated that we had a shortfall of

5500 affordable homes in the City of Melbourne. By 2036, this shortfall will grow to 23,200 affordable homes.

These are more than just numbers and statistics. Every time that number increases it means a Melburnian or a local family misses out on the accommodation they need to have a secure future in our city.

There is a wide range of people who experience homelessness. People experiencing financial hardship, domestic violence, mental health and other acute health issues are forced to sleep on our streets, live in their cars or are constantly on the move between friends and acquaintances never really knowing how long they are welcome.

Secure and affordable housing options for everyone in need is the right thing to do and is also the best investment we can make. Every dollar invested into housing saves multiple dollars needed to deliver services over the long term. Homelessness is often cited as a complex issue with complex solutions but it's really quite simple: people deserve a safe place to sleep every night and cannot address their problems, and ultimately flourish, without appropriate accommodation.

The City of Melbourne is continuing to work on a project to deliver an increase in the number of beds available for those sleeping rough, with appropriate support services. We are hoping to be able to announce the details of this soon.

Our city has been through a devastating 18 months. We started 2020 with thick choking smoke from the national bushfire crisis and then Melbourne was hit harder than any other city in Australia by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The challenges to overcome can sometimes seem insurmountable but I am always buoyed by the courage, resilience and spirit of Melburnians.

During the most difficult period that we have faced as a city for generations, there have been so many stories of individuals that have gone out of their way to care for family, friends,

neighbours, colleagues and even total strangers.

We are a city that is distinctive because we believe in, and invest in, the connections we make with other Melburnians.

I want to encourage everyone to consider how best each of us can help a fellow Melburnian experiencing homelessness this winter.

Starting with a genuine conversation that can literally be life-changing for someone who is experiencing homelessness.

Not just "we can do this", but "we must do this" Melbourne.

I hope you found the above perspective by Melbourne's Lord Mayor 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.

We have been working with the Lord Mayor and her Team on "the project" she referred to, and we have a group of amazing organisations that have offered their skills and expertise and skills, which would normally equate to around \$3.5 million in costs, on a pro bono basis to help vulnerable Melburnians.

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: info@housingallaustralians.com.au

●



Rob Pradolín

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

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CARLTON INC. TRADER PROFILE

Strong community the key to Lygon St future

Simon Rahme's family has run a business on Lygon St since the mid '80s. These days he runs Italian-inspired Mediterranean restaurant Copperwood as part of his business portfolio which includes St Charly, Dimattina, and Carmine's bistro.

WORDS BY Matt Harvey

If you've enjoyed some Italian food on Lygon St you just may have Mr Rahme to thank.

Lygon St has a history that reaches far back into Melbourne's past, the shared story of the community hub unites generations of Australians.

"I love being part of something with such a long history. It's very satisfying building long term relationships with clients. We now have regular clients that were brought to the restaurant as children now bringing in their children," he said.

Building a strong relationship with any local community can be difficult, particularly a community with a strong sense of self like Lygon St.

In the running of Copperwood Simon Rahme is trying to be innovative while trying to respect the history of the street.

"We don't consider ourselves a strictly Italian restaurant but more of a Mediterranean restaurant with strong Italian influences," he said.

"We have become known for our variety of

tapas dishes and our generous servings of pasta. Our chicken parmigiana, however, is what lots of our regular younger clients come for."

Lygon St is one of the most popular food strips in Melbourne. During pre-COVID times, the street would be full of a mix of tourists, and families enjoying a lunch or dinner.

Simon Rahme is keen to maintain his family's position as part of the community, forming bonding experiences with locals who have become mainstays in his restaurant.

"Our aim has always been to build and maintain a local clientele. The majority of our customers visit us at least once a week and that's how we like it," he said.

"Overseas or interstate regulars are the cherry on top."

The future of the street has weighed heavily on the business owners and staff who work on Lygon St, and COVID numbers and restrictions yo-yo, causing a state of instability for businesses that are reliant on foot traffic and the experience of a night out.

Community connections are key to the



survival of businesses like Copperwood and previously thriving cultural hubs like Lygon St.

"We don't like to rely on tourism as this can be easily affected as we saw during COVID," Mr Rahme said.

"Lygon St is strong and will always come back." ●

For more information:
copperwood.com.au



▲ ICI House. Postcard. Victorian Places website.

Reach for the sky

Ask those who live in East Melbourne about the different styles of local architecture and they will identify the rare houses still existing from the 1850s and '60s, the beautiful long lines of terraces in Powlett St and the iron lace-trimmed free-standing mansions which are the pride of the neighbourhood. But East Melbourne has another claim to fame; the 1955 ICI now Orica, building, the first skyscraper in Australia.

At the time, it was heralded as the visible sign of a modern city, and applauded for its towering glass walls, a triumph of modernity.

The key to building high-rise buildings is the lift. Until the early 1800s the only "lifts" were on the outside of buildings and consisted of a pulley and ropes which used manual labour to lift goods from ground level to the second or, at the most, third floor. During the mid-19th century, steam-driven goods lifts came into use. Stevenson & Sons in Flinders Lane had two of the first hydraulic goods lifts installed in 1865.

However, it was not until the 1880s that the introduction of the electric passenger lift allowed buildings of a greater height to be built in Melbourne's CBD. In 1887, the Lombard Building, seven floors and 29 metres in height, had two electric lifts to take people, not goods, to the higher storeys. The architects were the firm of Reed, Henderson and Smart, later Bates, Smart, McCutcheon. Situated at 15-17 Queen St, it is still standing today.

In 1889, the APA building, at 49 Elizabeth St, on the corner of Flinders Lane was built.

Standing 53 metres tall, with 12 storeys, it remained the tallest commercial building in Melbourne for more than 40 years and was only surpassed by Sydney's Culwulla Chambers in 1912. Unfortunately, it was demolished in 1981, in the post-World War II rush to "modernise" Melbourne.

Melbourne had been the first Australian city to introduce building height limits. Set in 1916, the regulations permitted 100 per cent site coverage to a height of 40.3 metres or 11 to 12 stories. The architects of ICI House made application to increase the height limit to 70 metres, and 20 storeys. Along with this was the incorporation in the design of on-site parking and a landscaped garden.

ICI House at 1 Nicholson St, East Melbourne came in on the wave of the post-war building boom in Melbourne. It was built from 1955-58, by the same architectural firm that had designed the Lombard building 70 years earlier, Bates, Smart McCutcheon. ICI House set a new standard for office buildings. It was to be 21 storeys tall and fully glazed with a discrete service tower. At the forefront of modern design at the time, it was the tallest free-standing building in Australia and was quickly followed by 21 other modern office skyscrapers.

Giorgio Marfella, lecturer in the Melbourne School of Design, the University of Melbourne, has written that "... its construction marked the moment when prescriptive building heights limits dissolved and a culture of discretionary assessment for high rise projects began."

In 1961, Melbourne's first high-rise apartment block was built, Edgewater Towers, 13 storeys high and across from St Kilda beach. Designed by architect Mordechai Benshemesh for property developer Bruce Small, of Malvern Star bicycle fame, it marked the beginning of a new trend in high-rise buildings and was rapidly followed by the Domain Park apartments, completed in 1962.

In today's East Melbourne, we are cognisant of Melbourne's ever-growing demand for new apartment buildings to house our growing population, but we value highly the 19th century and early 20th century buildings which formed the heart of "Marvellous Melbourne". European cities have managed to balance the two by setting aside an "old town", an area protected by legislation from destruction and high-rise buildings. We have no such protection and, sadly, every multi-storey apartment block marks the diminution of the suburb's heritage value to future generations ●

For more information:
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Jill Fenwick

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STATE MP

These 33 men are in indefinite lockdown

Right now, 33 men are being held in indefinite detention in the middle of Melbourne at the Park Hotel in Carlton. They have committed no crime. They have fled war, persecution, violence and torture, and tried to seek a safer life.



▲ Ellen Sandell standing in solidarity with local refugee activists before our most recent snap lockdown earlier in May after speaking at the Park Hotel refugee rally in Carlton.

Yet instead of welcoming them, our federal government has locked them up in tiny hotel rooms, without charge, and with no idea of when (or if) they will ever be released.

Just before lockdown, I spoke at a rally outside the Park Hotel on Swanston St, Carlton, where these men are being held. Even though the government has tinted the windows so we couldn't see the men's faces, they held up their phone torches so we knew they could see us. As the local MP for the inner city, I wanted the men inside the hotel-prison to know that we welcomed them to our community and we would keep fighting until they were free.

Though we've all experienced being confined in our homes during COVID lockdowns, I couldn't help thinking that this doesn't even compare to what these men have endured.

This goes against common decency, and against our Melbourne and Australian values. Even our national anthem proclaims "for those who've come across the seas, we've boundless plains to share", yet I was reminded that both major political parties support indefinite detention of asylum seekers.

As a few hundred people gathered in the park to show solidarity with these men, dozens of police, including on horses, surrounded the hotel. The police initially tried to prevent the public from getting close to the hotel, so the imprisoned men couldn't see the protestors from their windows. Eventually, the police relented and let people gather in the park adjacent to the

hotel-prison. I couldn't help but wonder whether this huge, disproportionate police presence was a good use of state government resources.

Melbourne is a caring and compassionate place where we welcome difference and diversity with open arms, not with prison and police. Even though detention of refugees and asylum seekers is a federal issue, I feel that all of us, at all levels of government, have a responsibility to speak up against such a cruel abuse of power and contravention of human rights.

Thank you to all the members of our community who have been fighting for freedom for refugees and asylum seekers for so long. We need to hold the major parties accountable for their support for this abhorrent situation.

If you're interested in staying up to date on this local community campaigns like this, or want to see more local news from me, you can sign up for my online newsletter at ellensandell.com/localnews or get in touch with my office by emailing office@ellensandell.com or calling us on 9328 4637.

My office is here for you, so please get in touch anytime ●



Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

East Melbourne's voice: The East Melbourne Group

A striking feature of East Melbourne is the frequency and enthusiasm with which conversations spring up with walkers-by in the street.

We are not a suburb of big front yards, high fences and vehicular comings and goings. We walk, we smile and wave. We bump into people and we talk. Communication within a community can be a challenge, but the East Melbourne Group (EMG) keeps up the conversation.

Traditionally, Australian society's cohesion is aided by a range of communication touch points, such as at the school gate, the sporting or social club, the local pub, market or high street shops; but East Melbourne has none of these. COVID further dampened opportunities for East Melbourne and Jolimont residents to share conversations as access to the library, churches and cafes were locked down. For decades the East Melbourne Group has attempted to provide a communication conduit for residents. We maintain a monthly members' update, Facebook page and a quarterly magazine, in an effort to keep our community informed and connected.

The 3002 *East Melbourne and Jolimont Magazine* has been in circulation since 1980 with past editions held at the State Library archives. Editors keep residents updated on the EMG's efforts with heritage and planning developments, amenity initiatives, social anecdotes and relevant feature articles. For more than 40 years local volunteer writers and photographers have delighted readers, with 4500 copies of each edition circulated locally.

Our latest edition, Autumn 2021, included a fascinating feature by local resident, Rupert Myer, discussing *Our community's shared cultural inheritance*. The piece took an insightful look into East Melbourne's cultural evolution, reflecting on its architectural history and notable residents. Our sub-editor Harrison Colwell investigated the *Divine suburb of East Melbourne*, bringing together local religious leaders for conversations on the role of faith in modern day secular society. His article shone light on the anomaly that our geographically small suburb is home to 10 active places of worship, representing eight faiths and the archdiocese of both

the Catholic church at St Patricks Cathedral and Anglican church at Bishops Court.

A key role of EMG is to also be the communication device linking our residents and small business owners with the council, utility providers and other stakeholders. Our president and sub-committee convenors meet regularly with the Lord Mayor and relevant councillors to discuss their portfolios in tackling community concerns. We also represent objecting residents at VCAT hearings and with advice. The City of Melbourne is committed to community participation and the group acts as the mouthpiece for members and the broader community. In order to ensure that we remain in-step with the whole suburb's priorities, we are eager to engage all stakeholders in the conversation. We invite all residents to contact us with issues we can investigate at a local, state or even federal level. We also pursue matters with VicRoads, Yarra Trams, NBN, DHHS, etc. following the conversations through to implementation.

Our monthly member update keeps members informed on the progress of our endeavours. It is also the platform for locals to share information of upcoming community events, support participation in the arts, and bring people together with news which affects them.

Past editions of the magazine can be viewed at emg.org.au/emg-magazine. To volunteer, submit content or advertise in the quarterly magazine, or to communicate with members via our update, please email secretary@emg.org.au ●

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



Lisette Malatesta

SECRETARY & COMMUNICATIONS
CONVENOR
EAST MELBOURNE GROUP INC.

Public housing – the best way to solve our housing crisis

When the Victorian parliamentary Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program (PHRP) handed down its report on June 5, 2018, it advised there were 36,742 applicant households on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR) made up of 57,077 adults and 24,622 children – a total of 81,699 at the end of March 2018.

The latest information from the VHR at the end of March this year advises there are 50,839 households – a 35 per cent increase over three years! The Save Public Housing Collective has estimated the number of adults and children to now be around 77,000 adults and 32,900 children.

It is now very clear that the PHRP is not delivering even one replacement publicly owned and managed dwelling and it won't assist with reducing the waiting list.

The Save Public Housing Collective is now tracking what is happening through the PHRP using its Public Housing Watch Victoria tool: map.savepublichousing.com

The PHRP project at Abbotsford St, North Melbourne, for example, has seen 112 public

housing units in good structural condition demolished.

There has been no advice on when construction will start on housing that will be managed by the developer's community housing partner when completed.

The Protect Abbotsford Street Estate group has reported that all residents on the estate were relocated during 2018 and have been accommodated in leased private housing.

The full cost of temporary accommodation was stated as being \$16,800 per day by one of DHHS' PHRP consultants in response to a Supreme Court action by a community neighbour over asbestos found on the estate.

This will amount to tens of millions of dollars for the years it will take to complete construction. This money would have been better spent on progressively refurbishing the 112 demolished public housing units.

Public housing residents in other estates in the City of Melbourne live in overcrowded conditions in buildings that are not safe and need urgent maintenance work.

Many residents fear demolition of their homes is next, as decided by the government for Flemington estates.

The Public Housing Renewal Program turned out to be a falsehood, it is not about the renewal of public housing.

Its objectives are really the exiting of publicly owned and managed housing with the handing over of public housing land to developers (on peppercorn leases, e.g., \$1 per year) to build private housing and have community housing providers take over what should be the government's responsibilities.

Support for public housing

Dr David Hayward (RMIT) in his recent opinion piece made it clear that publicly owned and managed housing is the most effective way to end the housing crisis in Australia.

smh.com.au/business/the-economy/private-landlords-are-losing-billions-should-we-keep-picking-up-the-tab-20210615-p58154.html

I agree with Dr Hayward: governments – both state and federal – need to stop subsidising private investor housing even when they are proposed as build-to-rent (BtR) projects.

None of the recent BtR in Melbourne provide any hope of affordable accommodation for those on the state's waiting list ●

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



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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE



Delivering on the services Stolen Generations people say they need most

WORDS BY Emma Hartley

The state government dedicated \$300,000 to cover the funeral costs of Stolen Generations people thanks to advice from the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee.

Ian Hamm is a Yorta Yorta man who is chairperson of the Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee, as well as chairperson of the Koorie Heritage Trust and has sat on many other boards.

"Stolen Generations people usually have worse life outcomes than the broader Aboriginal community which means that when they die, their families often don't have enough money for a decent burial," Mr Hamm said.

This initiative has only been the start of the Steering Committee's work which has been preparing a report for the state government proposing initiatives for Stolen Generations people.

Consultations with stolen generations people across Victoria has shown the Steering Committee that priority issues not only include financial compensation but also program support and the intergenerational effects of the Stolen Generations.

"This kind of trauma inflicted on a community can actually reverberate seven generations until it ripples out," Mr Hamm said. "But we're still basically in the first, second and third generations of when people were taken."

"We're not so much at the ripple-end effect of

it. We're at the tsunami end."

Mr Hamm has been on the Koorie Heritage Trust board since 2013 and was with the Trust at its former location on Kings St.

Now the Trust is in the Yarra building in Federation Square – a good move in Mr Hamm's eyes because it positions them in the front and centre of Melbourne.

"If Federation Square is supposed to be the social and cultural hub of Melbourne, then it couldn't have any legitimacy unless it had a strong Aboriginal presence there," Mr Hamm said.

Mr Hamm is also chairperson of Connecting Home which has helped stolen generations people actually connect with the services they need.

"Because agencies weren't talking to each other, they couldn't even get access to services let alone their core issues dealt with," Mr Hamm said.

Connecting Home has started to expand that support into the disability sector as a next step.

"A lot of the stolen generations cohort are now ageing and also qualifying for the NDIS because they've got disability issues," he said. "So, we're working in that space as well." ●

For more information:
korieheritagetrust.com.au

CARLTON ROTARY CLUB



The time has come for RIMERN ... what is it?

Carlton Rotary is proud to be a Member of the Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN).

The keys to a large warehouse in Brunswick East were handed over on June 16 to co-chair and Prahran Rotary president Susie Cole (pictured) and now the warehouse is being prepared to start receiving goods for distribution. Based on similar Emergency Relief Networks in the East (EERN) and the West (WERN), RIMERN will provide donated furniture, appliances and household needs to people introduced by member support agencies across Melbourne.

Carlton Rotary Club president-elect Keith Ryall and honorary member Alan Pettitt (pictured wearing the Rotary caps) were there when the doors were opened to assist with the all-important initial space planning. A number of other Rotary Clubs have assisted so far including Albert Park, North Melbourne, Camberwell, Canterbury, Balwyn, Central Melbourne and North Balwyn. There will be considerable opportunities for other volunteers when we start to receive and distribute goods including donated goods procurement, support agency recruitment and liaison, grant writing and fundraising, administration including stock records, financial management and warehouse management.

Already there has been interest shown by the Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes group – an online special interest group – as there seems to be so much reasonable quality furniture and household goods becoming available as people downsize or simply wish to declutter. We are sharing the space with Canard Solutions who

specialise in managing decluttering, downsizing and estates, and for the past five years have been a significant donor of furniture and household goods to EERN, WERN and other charities.

By way of background, EERN was established 26 years ago by Rotary, Lions and the City of Whitehorse to provide donated furniture, appliances and household essentials to people coming out of homelessness, domestic violence, jail, natural disaster and other situations of need. WERN was set up five years ago to provide the same service in the western suburbs. In the next issue of *Inner City News*, we will update you on progress as it is still very much early days ... and a work in progress.

Changeover Dinner at Carlton Rotary for 2021

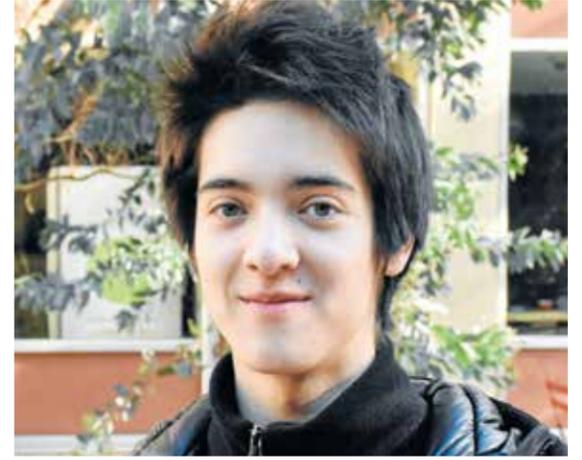
On June 29, president Michael Elligate will hand over the leadership role to president-elect Keith Ryall to take effect from July 1, 2021, the start of a new Rotary Year. The Rotary International Theme for 2021-22 is "serve to change lives". Carlton Rotary's own theme will continue to be "caring for Carlton". Meetings will be in person at Graduate House at 220 Leicester St, Carlton at 1pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The third Tuesday will be an online meeting by Zoom also beginning at 1pm. Enquiries may be directed to keithryall@gmail.com ●



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



ALEKSANDRA
It's okay. It's decent. It took some time to get used to but it's okay now.



JACKSON
Not good. It's quite personal and it's hard to learn on Zoom.

Faces of Inner City

How have University of Melbourne students found online learning?



DEVIKA
To be honest it has its pro and cons. Online platforms allow questions to be asked more freely. But it's important to have face-to-face contact, especially for mental health.



LILI
I don't really like it. I don't concentrate much. There are too many distractions.

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Traffic in Parkville

While there have been mentions of traffic issues in my previous columns there are now issues that need urgent addressing.

Not only the usual "rat runners" who selfishly speed through Parkville but now there's also a new group that has emerged due to the closure of the service lane on Royal Parade from the Elizabeth St roundabout in the direction of Story St.

To the former, a local dog was hit recently by a speeding car on Degraves St, luckily it is alright but this happened in the early hours of the morning, the driver not being observant and driving too quickly. During a rainy week in late June, I saw at least five cars driving up Park Drive and into Degraves St at around 60/70 kph. While Park Drive has a large central reservation and roundabouts to attempt to slow traffic the side streets of Bayles and Degraves have central parking and single lanes meaning a speeding car has pedestrians, drivers exiting cars, babies being unloaded and kids to target!

I totally understand the frustration of being stuck in traffic however, terrorising local streets is not the answer. At times I have indicated to drivers to slow down only to cop verbal abuse and a couple of physical threats. Our locals are not being "NIMBY" people but genuinely care for the great mix of young families and many elderly people in our suburb.

I mentioned the closure of the service lane from the Elizabeth St roundabout, past the hospitals and reopening just prior to Story St. When this was proposed as part of the Melbourne Metro development it did not appear to be an issue as most of our residents use public transport or walk to the city. The issue has arisen that cars driving along Flemington Rd bank up from the roundabout until past Gatehouse St so some tend to escape at Park Drive, right hand turn at speed up Story St and right again on to Royal Parade. Two things

– firstly they speed past Uni High during school drop of time and secondly force their way out into Royal Parade during peak hours. This is not a safe practice and causes some tram delays. Urgent attention is needed to resolve this issue before a serious accident occurs.

Summarising, a full traffic plan is necessary to ensure the safety of both residents, pedestrians and casual parkers. On a positive note, the City of Melbourne will be trialling speed humps (flat not noisy) in Degraves St from late July. This is a start but restricting the "rat runners" and addressing traffic volumes on Gatehouse St have to be the long term solutions.

In last month's column the bicycles using the pedestrian crossing on Royal Parade were highlighted. There has been several emails asking for the creation of a bike crossing to alleviate the problem. This is a matter that also needs an urgent review and will be followed up by the Parkville Association.

As things return to normal after the recent lockdown it is great to see Naughtons Hotel back in full swing. We are so lucky to have such a great local institution. The hotel first opened in 1873 and has hosted most of the Carlton Football Club's 16 flags. Does my bias show through there!

Finally, it has been great to meet Fr. Joe Caddy who is the new Priest at St Carthage's. Joe is also the Vicar General and will take up residence in Bayles St shortly ●



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Nature Therapy



MELBOURNE ZOO



Marine rescuers making a difference

WORDS BY *Mark*,
MELBOURNE ZOO'S MARINE RESPONSE UNIT COORDINATOR

If you're at the beach and see an injured seal, what do you do? If you're at a pier or jetty and see a bird tangled up in plastic or fishing line, who can help it? If a turtle, dolphin or stingray looks like it's in trouble, who do you call? The answer is Melbourne's Zoo's Marine Response Unit.

We live in a beautiful city, in a beautiful state with access to some of Australia's most beautiful coastlines. I grew up on the coast, and have always loved snorkelling and diving. Victoria's marine ecosystems are home to an extraordinary array of animals and as someone passionate about that wildlife, I feel lucky to be on the front line of caring for these marine creatures.

Every day in the Marine Response Unit – we call it the MRU for short – is different. We might be off to the beach on the south-west coast one day, at a lake in a housing estate the next, and

down at the Yarra River in the CBD after that. We care for everything from seals to sea birds, dolphins, sharks, rays, fish, turtles, you name it!

The MRU was set up in 2013, although Melbourne Zoo already had a long history of working with marine wildlife. But every year we received more calls, and had to help more animals. So, the MRU was formed. There's now two of us working full time as part of the unit, and we work alongside Melbourne Zoo's amazing veterinary team to treat and rehabilitate injured animals. We've recorded more than 900 cases during the past year, and there's more coming in every day.

When people visiting a beach or a lake or a river call us to report what they believe is an animal in distress, our job is to investigate and establish if we need to intervene. Sometimes we can treat the animal at the scene, other times we need to bring it back to the Zoo for our vet team to assess and treat, hopefully with the prospect of it being re-released to the wild as soon as possible. But unfortunately, not every

animal we see can be treated, rehabilitated and released. Sometimes injuries are so severe that the most humane welfare decision is compassionate euthanasia to relieve an animal's suffering. These situations are never easy, but I take comfort from knowing that we have brought some dignity, respect and compassion to the final hours of an animal's life.

Working this job, I see clearly that our waterways are home to so many amazing creatures. Of course, sometimes animals get sick or die from natural events in the wild. But unfortunately, I also see how much damage we humans are doing to these special places and the animals that live in them. The MRU sees the impact of plastic and other rubbish in marine ecosystems first-hand every day.

I've had to rescue sea birds that have swallowed fishing hooks. We see seals entangled in ropes and nets. I've rescued a duck that was being strangled by a plastic milk bottle cap ring. One bird the MRU treated had a baby's sock wrapped around its beak and hadn't been

able to feed for days. It can be confronting to see how such seemingly innocuous objects can have such a dramatic impact on the life of a sea bird or other marine creature. So, I've become passionate about encouraging all of us to take steps in our own lives to keep oceans and rivers and lakes clean and healthy and safe for the animals that live in them.

It's the stories that end happily that keep us going, and knowing we have made a difference. Sometimes we get very attached to the animals we are caring for, but absolutely the best part of my job is the moment when you see an animal swim or fly back into its natural environment. After the rescue, the treatment and sometimes the weeks of rehabilitation, that moment keeps me going. This job has shown me how precious our marine ecosystems are, and how we all have a part to play in protecting the amazing animals that live in them.

Anyone who sees a marine animal in distress can call Melbourne Zoo's Marine Response Unit on 1300 245 678 ●

INNER CITY LOCAL

Without family who are you?

Your childhood home has a special place in your heart even if it's a Victorian mansion now reputed to be worth around \$20 million.

Peter Kurg used to live in Halloween at 99 Hotham St in the late '70s and still thinks of it as home.

His mum Jenny died during the lockdown, aged 84, and he's been back to the suburb to reminisce.

"The suburb was rough and tumble," he said, of growing up in the '60s with his mates Mark, Stevie and Marco.

"It was wild. The cops used to pull us over. There were heaps of kids. It was as rough as Richmond and Collingwood. There were a lot of boarding houses."

Peter was due to meet up with his old mates at Darling Square to spark childhood memories but the latest lockdown stopped that like many things in the city.

"We used to play football there," Peter said. "The 'No Ball Games' sign was one goal post and a lamppost the other. The police would come while we were playing. The mums would come out and give the cops an earful."

He said that "each of us is a child of our generation" and luckily his mental map of childhood in East Melbourne is still recognisable even though the houses have been tarted up.

Peter's first home was at 50 and 52 Gipps St. His mum bought two small cottages and joined them together. They're still standing albeit with the addition of a "Victorian" verandah.

Mark Schaller, well-known Roar artist, was a mate and his childhood house is still standing in Simpson St, as is the cottage of another mate Stuart Stevens.

"We used to cut through the lane beside the block of flats and go on our bikes to the river," Peter said. "We used the lanes as highways. Bikes were more rugged then."



▲ Peter Kurg revisits his family home Halloween.

“Peter remembers the auction. His mum was dressed like a hippy and a family friend made the winning bid for her. It was still a lot for the time.”

They caught yabbies in the Fitzroy Gardens and got jobs selling footy records at the MCG for the local newsagent.

Peter is emotional about his childhood adventures and his mum's eye for an opportunity. She bought Halloween in 1979 for \$250,000 when no one else was interested.

Peter remembers the auction. His mum was dressed like a hippy and a family friend made the winning bid for her. "It was still a lot for the time."

There were illustrious neighbours, including Sir Robert Helpmann across the road in Gipps St and Joe Dolce of *Shaddap Your Face* fame in Hotham St.

But it was the "foul-mouthed cockatoo" at Carlton House in Simpson St that really stuck in his mind and the fire that burnt down the Hotham St church in the '80s.

"I know the person who burnt it down. Dominic Ryan, an artist. He was living there. I think it was an electrical mishap," he said.

Peter is the great grandson of John Wren, the Collingwood entrepreneur immortalised in Frank Hardy's brilliant novel *Power Without Glory*, and he is open about the family's troubles, including the suicide of his grandfather and uncle, but believes these made his mum strong in the face of adversity.

"Her father committed suicide when she was 12 and her brother when she was 17. She had a tragic life, the burden she carried."

Yet she carried on, had three children, two partners and two homes in East Melbourne. Jenny Kurg was known for supporting the arts, asylum seekers and homeless people.

"She had a good idea about how things worked. She had a kind and generous disposition. She loved the people here. Without family who are you?" ●



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Pet's Corner

Alan the Carlton legend

“

Four-and-a-half-year-old border collie Alan has been coming to Carlton Gardens all his life.

”



WORDS BY *John Tadigiri*

Leon, his grandad, takes him for a walk around the gardens three times a day.

“Alan is my daughter Angela’s dog, and, of course, granddads always look after pets and kids,” Leon said.

“He’s very much a park dog and knows all the ways around the garden and the streets of Carlton and Fitzroy.”

“He has a lot of friends at the park. Except for pups – he doesn’t like those.”

As a lover of football and water polo, Leon loves

taking Alan for a walk up to Melbourne University where sport is often on.

Every week Alan and Leon also walk down to Alan’s favourite place – the beach.

“He smells the beach from two miles away, he absolutely loves it,” Leon said.

Alan came into the family after his daughter received him as a gift from country Victoria.

Although he was the smallest in the litter, Leon said he had the biggest heart of all the pups.

“I’m so glad my daughter chose him, he has the most beautiful personality and colours,” he said ●

EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK

Neighbourhood power at work in East Melbourne

“

Companionship is an asset when it comes to health.

”



Our ability to live, work, and cooperate in groups is important to our health. Conversely, isolation can be harmful.

Our East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) was established in 2017 by a group of residents in response to the idea that we could influence our own social wellbeing. We decided that everyone has something to offer so we banded together to support, engage, and connect residents in our local community.

Fast forward four years to 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic. We now appreciate even more the importance of community and that “the health of our nation begins in our street”. Our health and wellbeing were impacted as people retreated to apartments, home offices and local parks. It has highlighted the importance of having our local network to help connect community members and assist with social isolation and mental health.

As lockdown restrictions ease, it has spurred the group to expand our thriving and inclusive range of community activities.

These activities (health qigong, tai chi, gentle exercise, pilates, ukulele, meditation) have all been embraced by the community. The demand continues to grow as the group tries to reach out to families, younger and single residents in the area and tap into their needs, interests and creative desires.

The success of the current EMNN Health and Wellbeing Program and the community demand for extra activities and programs further highlights the need for a reliable and suitable space for these activities. The Term 2 program had to drop two classes on Wednesdays because space was not available. There was unmet demand for more classes in Terms 1 and 2 and now there is an even longer waiting list for those who have expressed interest in participating in new classes and activities.

EMNN is currently preparing Term 3 and 4 calendars of activities. It aims to include new classes and activities such as walking groups, an assisted walkers’ group (for those who feel more confident with companions for a steady-hand), a mature movers’ class, a yoga class, a foodie group, table tennis, music in the park and more.

New ideas are sought from the community as we seek to provide additional meaningful, fun, and engaging activities for all age groups. Any resident of any age who would like to get involved; the EMNN would love to hear from you.

Your ideas and involvement will help strengthen our community and enhance the health and wellbeing of your neighbours.

Contact the East Melbourne Neighbour Network by emailing Susan Henderson (sjhenderson52@icloud) or Ann-Maree Eckersley (eckersley.am@gmail.com) ●

Caine Real Estate

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

There are few names more synonymous with luxury property in East Melbourne than Caine Real Estate.

Founded in 1997 by current director, Paul Caine, the brand has grown and evolved to become the pre-eminent agency in East Melbourne and surrounding suburbs for purchasing, leasing and selling property.

This prominence, however, was not always the case.

According to Caine Real Estate CEO, Jacob Caine, the brand had long been considered apartment experts, unable to break through to the luxury home market.

"When I took over in 2012, I was keen to change those perceptions, to modernise, but also add a new dimension of professionalism," Mr Caine said. "It was always there and present among the people that work within the company, but when you look at the other agencies we compete with, they are some of the best agencies in Australia."

"In order to compete, we had to radically shift how we were perceived in the community. With these larger luxury brands playing a predominant role in the area, we were entrusted with apartments and some of the smaller houses, but not necessarily a three-, four-, five- or even ten-million dollar property."

According to Mr Caine, square metre rates in East Melbourne are among the most expensive in the country, with some properties selling for north of \$20,000 per square metre.

Breaking into a market boasting some of the most distinguished property in the nation sits as one of the most daunting, yet privileged, prospects any agency is likely to face; a magnitude not lost on Mr Caine and his team.

"We worked incrementally breaking into those higher value properties by establishing our connection with clients," Mr Caine said.

"Repositioning ourselves with an emphasis on technology and marketing know-how has been crucial to leveraging our way into that market, along with developing partnerships with the community."

Mr Caine's pursuit in breaking perceptions does not stop within the confines of his own business.

As an advocate lifting public perception of the industry, he was voted on the board of the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) by running on a platform of reform to raise the bar for entry into the industry.

Mr Caine is determined to shatter the image of the "Costa del Sol tan, the pin stripe suits, the flashy cars and the used car salesperson" approach to real estate.

During a period during between 2013 and 2014, the company started advertising auction reserve prices, well before the new legislation came in during 2016, which mandated a statement of information, otherwise known as an agent estimated range.

"We tried to remain as transparent as humanly possible. That campaign garnered a fair amount of attention other news outlets which pinned me up against the former head of the REIV who was still advocating this opaque approach to pricing in property," Mr Caine said.

"There was an attitude that the only way to preserve competition is through a cloak and dagger approach to pricing where people who may not necessarily be able to afford the property are encouraged along to stimulate competition at auction, which is a total fallacy."

"There is competition regardless. Properties will go over reserve when the reserve is advertised. We saw that happen for over a year and a half. We had total transparency and everything we sold at auction, sold over reserve."

According to Mr Caine, it was still common to find agencies advertising reserves, for example, ranging between \$800,000 to \$900,000



giving hope to prospective buyers, but in reality, the reserve price was closer to \$1 million.

"These are massive assets that we deal with, and you can be an agent's representative after a five-day course at the real estate institute and you are dealing with millions and millions of dollars in assets on a weekly basis," Mr Caine said.

"The most expensive thing a person will deal with in their life, and you have someone with a qualification pulled out of a corn flake packet. That's not good enough."

"The reason why some people are cynical or sceptical of the operations and practices of the real estate industry is partly because of those

credentials."

Currently, the qualification level needed to enter the industry is a Certificate III in Real Estate Practice. Mr Caine would like to see that entry level raised to a diploma level minimum.

Along with a revised entry level, his push for reform would see continuing professional development mandated, particularly with ever changing nature of legislative changes in property.

Mr Caine said by creating a higher level of entry, professional standards and commitment would follow suit, mitigating the prevalence of people prone to short cuts.

Now, with the relocation of their office to Cambridge St, Collingwood, marking a move outside East Melbourne, albeit by only 300 metres, for the first time in more than 20 years, Mr Caine and his team are eager to revitalise their connection with the surrounding suburbs like Carlton, Collingwood and Fitzroy.

"Funnily enough, we are actually closer to the majority of our clients in East Melbourne than when we were in Jolimont," Mr Caine said.

"We feel very privileged to work where we do. The communities and types of properties we deal with are among some of the finest and most unique in Australia."

"So much diversity, so much history, so much style, so much beauty and idiosyncrasies. There are so many places that surprise us to this day, to be awestruck when first stepping into a property is something we are greeted with each and every day."

"Our team are many things, but if nothing else, enamoured completely with property." ●

For more information, visit caine.com.au

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP

▼ *Squizzy Taylor in October 1922, five years before the deadly shoot-out in Carlton, arriving in court on crutches after being shot in the leg in an earlier incident (Photo: HWT library).*



"In the 1920s and '30s Carlton was one of Melbourne's poorest suburbs, and noted as an area rife with crime."

"Squizzy" Taylor shot in Carlton

One of the more notorious incidents that happened in Carlton at that time was a shoot-out in which two crime figures, "Snowy" Cutmore and "Squizzy" Taylor, ended up dead.

Cutmore was a violent man with a string of convictions for assault, stealing and resisting arrest. He was originally from Melbourne, but in the early 1920s had moved to Sydney, where he enhanced his criminal reputation as a member of a notorious "razor gang". In October 1927 he decided to return to Melbourne with his wife, and holed up at his mother's house at 50 Barkly St, Carlton. A few days after he arrived, he found himself confined to bed with a bad case of influenza.

Joseph Theodore Leslie Taylor, known as "Squizzy" was a notorious and colourful underworld figure in Melbourne in the 1920s. A dapper little man, he earned his income from armed robbery, prostitution, the sale of illegal liquor and drugs, and from race-fixing and protection rackets.

Snowy and Squizzy were old foes. Snowy had been linked to the murder of one of Squizzy's allies, who had been gunned down in an alleyway in Sydney, and the police believed Squizzy had vowed revenge against the men who killed him. When he heard that Snowy was back in town, he set out to find him. On October 27, 1927 Squizzy and two associates met at the Bookmakers Club on Lonsdale St. They hired a car and had the driver take them to a succession of pubs in Carlton in search of Cutmore. Unable to find him, they then went to the house in Barkly St.

Letting themselves into the house they found Snowy in his bedroom. But he had a gun. A series of shots were fired by both sides in quick succession. Snowy, still lying in bed, was shot

dead. His mother, hearing the shots, ran into the room and was wounded in the shoulder. Squizzy was shot in his right side and badly wounded. Staggering outside, he was helped into the waiting hire car, which sped off towards Saint Vincent's Hospital. On the way, his associates jumped out and fled. By the time the car arrived at the hospital, Squizzy was unconscious. Within half an hour he had succumbed to his wounds.

His death and funeral attracted a lot of public attention. He was buried a few days later in the Brighton cemetery. On the morning of the funeral, the police had to be called to control a large crowd that had gathered at his house and swarmed around the hearse. A newspaper described it as "a disgraceful exhibition of morbid curiosity, coupled with a callous disregard for the feelings of the bereaved."

At the inquest into the shooting, the Coroner was unable to determine who shot who and delivered an open verdict. It has been suggested that the police were so glad to see the end of Squizzy Taylor that they were not particularly interested in pursuing the matter further.

The house in Barkly St where the shooting took place was in a row of rather sombre blue-stone houses known as Barkly Terrace, originally built in 1862. It survived for just over 100 years until 1965 when it was demolished under a Housing Commission order and replaced by a block of flats ●



Jeff Atkinson
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墨尔本大学裁员却大建校楼

Katie Johnson

据悉墨尔本大学因疫情而裁员数百人，由于投资“建楼而没有扶持员工”，受到教育工会的抨击。

预计裁员450名员工，以弥补国际学生收入的损失，并计划在未来几个月内裁员十多人。

全国高等教育工会(NTEU)墨尔本分会主席Annette Herrera表示，尽管墨大宣称其经济困难，但仍在继续投资于空置的建筑物。

Herrera女士说：“我们认为这所大学将建楼置于员工之上，加剧了他们财务上混乱。”

“与其在空置的建筑物上花费更多，大学应该投资于作为这所大学灵魂的教职员

工。”
在过去十年中，墨尔本大学仅在建造新楼上就花费了超过20亿澳元，其中包括最近在卡尔顿(Carlton)区完工的创新区域“墨尔本连接(Melbourne Connect)”。

该大学还在为预计于2024年开放的渔人湾(Fisherman's Bend)校区和将于今年年底完成的Parkville学生区域进行概念设计。

2019年，前墨尔本大学副校长Glyn Davis告诉时代报，大学正在投资建楼，因为“对未来很重要”。

Davis先生说：“不要给大学机构配备昂贵的固定工作人员，因为你们知道以后这将是一个很大的问题。”

Herrera女士说，这种态度在该大学由来已久，其结果是大学员工“受这次疫情影响最大”。



Herrera女士说：“此时应限制可自由支配的财务支出，作为雇主，疫情不是裁员的借口，也不是逃避责任的借口。”

“大学的机构信任度，以及员工对大学决策的信任度明显下降。”



皇家公园种植数百种本土植物

Katie Johnson

由于COVID疫情的限制，墨尔本市的公民护林员项目在搁置了一年后又实施了。

来自全市各地的志愿者六月底在皇家公园的三次种植活动中，种植了数百种本土植物。

市政环境部门主管Rohan Leppert 议员

表示，该项目是“社区参与创建更绿色墨尔本的绝佳方式”。

Leppert议员说：“公民护林员借此机会更多地了解如何管理我们的城市森林，同时结识新朋友并为社区做出贡献。”

“这个月，我们的志愿者将种植本土原生草和灌木，增加地下栖息地，以支持城市的生物多样性。”

“通过这个项目，我们已经有了数百名志愿者，我鼓励任何对我们的城市森林感兴趣的人来尝试一下。这个项目对所有人开放，您无需任何先前的知识就可参加。”

在这些植物中，有当地的原生草和植被，它们在欧洲人定居之前就已经存在于公园里了。

皇家公园主管Chris Nicholson说，种类繁多的植物旨在增加生物多样性，吸引当地的植物和动物。

Nicholson先生说：“我们种植的植物品种繁多，包括球茎百合、黑花药百合(一种很好的吸引蜜蜂的植物)、两种不同种类的柏菊、黄纽扣雏菊、一种叫做蓝魔鬼的地被植物，以及包括丝蓝草和红腿草在内的原生草。”

餐馆火灾后的社区筹款

因火灾而无限期关闭的卡尔顿(Carlton)比萨餐馆的员工在停工期间将获得工资支持，这要归功于社区的筹款活动，在短短的10天内筹集了1.5万澳元。

Sophie Raynor

Leonardo's Pizza Palace餐馆在疫情解封后刚开张了三天，6月13日星期日晚上8点发生了火灾，烧坏了厨房的电线并断开了供电电源。

餐馆经理Laura Street告诉本报，服务员在餐厅预订满座的餐桌上放蜡烛，起初对停电感到惊讶，因为餐厅的音乐还在播放。

她说：“20分钟后，烟开始从披萨厨房里冒出来，这时候我们的厨师长说疏散离开餐馆。”

维多利亚消防救援中心表示，火灾在晚上8点12分宣布控制住了，也就是在报警呼叫后的20分钟。

疏散的顾客在餐厅外等候，工作人员拿着手机手电筒四处走动，以完成结账付款。

没有人员受伤记录，但Street女士表示，火灾在被发现之前就已经造成了重大损失，在保险评估员可以得出评估损失报告之前，这家餐馆的老板不知道什么时候能够重新开业。

她说：“感觉有点茫然。我们刚刚重新尝到了正常的滋味，当人们从封闭中出来，第一天晚上回来，看到熟悉的面孔时，这种感觉真好，但是现在不能确定这要持续多久，挺难过的。”

但是，随着GoFundMe活动的发起，停工的痛苦得到了缓解，该活动旨在为餐馆员工停工的班次支付工资。

这次活动已经筹集了1.5万澳元，目标是2万澳元。所有筹款将直接捐给Leonardo餐馆的21名员工，他们大多是临时工。

Beaconsfield的O.MY餐馆在2020年11月解除封锁仅一天后也遭受火灾损失，当时也为此筹集了资金。该餐馆向Leonardo的捐款活动捐赠了1081 澳元。

Street女士说，在墨尔本最近的封锁期间，她的员工团队没有资格从联邦政府那里获得紧急现金补助，因为有些是学生，另一些是由于餐馆减少员工而临时上班的人员。



居民呼吁增加保安制止暴力

Katie Johnson

卡尔顿(Carlton)住宅区的居民呼吁24小时的保安和安装纱门，以结束暴力和非法占居。

卡尔顿住宅区居民 Cory Memery 表示，大楼内不断发生犯罪活动，“需要对此采取行动”。

Memery先生说：“我们只有从早上7点到凌晨3点有保安，因为孩子们知道他们什么时候离开，这就是问题发生的时候。”

“保安需要7天24小时在场。”

自去年以来，卡尔顿住宅区居民，和Drummond街服务机构以及万国教堂(Church of All Nations)一直在给住房部长Richard Wynne写信，但无济于事。

居民David Biskupsi说，由于公寓楼没有安装纱门，他在家中几乎被刺伤。

Biskupsi先生说：“我从Woolies超市回到家，用一把椅子把门撑开，在厨房里安放食品杂物，突然椅子飞了起来，门口有一个拿着刀的女人。”

“她是这栋楼的住户，大家都知道她有精神问题。”

Biskupsi先生说，这些建于2009年的公寓楼对居民来说缺乏安全保障。

Biskupsi先生说：“有人敲门时，你根本不知道谁在外面，因为敲门人可以躲在窥视孔旁边。”

“在COVID疫情期间，人们希望把门开着，让楼房通风，因此缺少安全纱门是一个很大问题。”

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What's On: July 2021

Community Calendar



Art and drawing classes

Free.
The Mercy Hub Carlton North
Wednesdays 2-4pm. Now until 21 July.
Learn skills in pencil and watercolour painting. All materials provided.

NAIDOC Week Learning Circle

Mercy Hub Carlton North
Wednesday, July 7th. 5:30-7pm.
Guests will be joined by Wurundjeri elder, Uncle Norm, to engage in discussion and contemplation surrounding the theme of 'Heal Country'. A light afternoon tea will be provided.

Alice Skye + Elizabeth East Coast

The Curtin, Carlton
Friday July 2, 6pm.
Tickets :25\$
The dreamiest of dream teams Elizabeth and Alice Skye join forces to announce an Australian East-Coast Co-Headline Tour throughout June and July.

Asylum Seeker Art Show

The Mercy Hub Carlton North
Opening Night: August 23 5:30-8:30pm
Experience the work of Afghani refugee Naser Moradi. A self taught artist finding hope in the darkest of places. Naser is currently detained in MITA.

Unforgettable Italian Songs

Reggio Calabria Club, Parkville.
Sunday July 4. 2:30pm-5:30pm.
Creative Director John St. Peeters OAM, dedicates this heartfelt tribute to the Italian immigrants all over the world. Sing your heart out to the classics.

Cactus

La Mama, Carlton.
June 25-July 5. 5:30pm.
Cactus is a brutally funny and heart-breaking honest coming of age story for anyone who is or ever has been... a teenager.



Childbirth education from the Royal Women's Hospital

Online
Wednesday nights. 6pm-9pm
Childbirth education via online livestreaming.



The best of the Magic Fest

488 Swanston St, Carlton.
July 6. 9:30pm.
Join four of the best acts from the Melbourne Magic Festival as they share their favourite tricks in this intimate late night show.

Free street performance

La Mama HQ, Carlton
Wednesday July 7. 5pm.
Free street performances by Bonkel Theatre & Melissa Boag performed on the front Veranda of La Mama Courthouse.

Lantern Magic: Ages 5-8

629 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North.
Saturday 10 July, 12.00-2am.
Use a plastic jar, tissue paper and cut outs to make a glorious lantern to catch the light!

Carlton Farmers Market

Carlton North Primary School.
First Saturday of every month. 8am-1pm.
Fresh fruits and veggies from local producers.



Free the Park Hotel Refugees

Park Hotel, Carlton
Every night, 6pm.
Support the remaining refugees indefinitely detained in the Park Hotel through peaceful protest.

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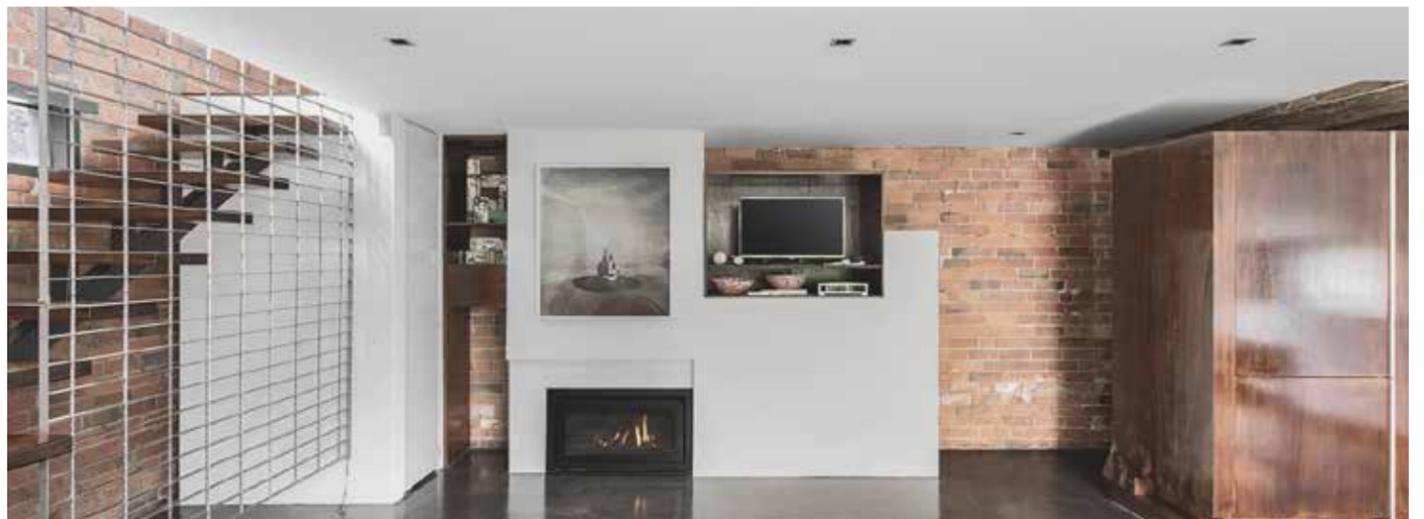
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