



Farewell *Inner City News* – a short but meaningful chapter

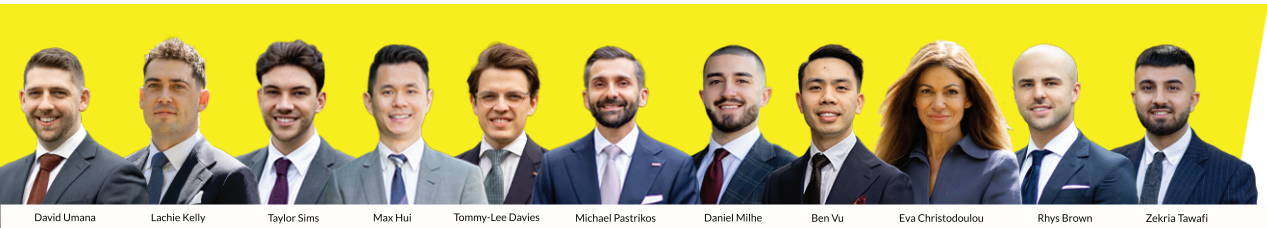
“After 62 editions serving East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville, *Inner City News* is signing off – but the stories, relationships and local voices it has helped bring together will continue through *The Melburnian*.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR

Compared with some of our longer-running mastheads, *Inner City News* is still relatively young. But 62 editions is no small achievement in the current media landscape, particularly for a publication established quietly, without fanfare, during one of the most disruptive periods Melbourne has experienced. *Inner City News* was launched during COVID alongside its sibling publication, *North West City News*, at a time when connection felt more important than ever.

”Melbourne’s inner-city communities were navigating lockdowns, isolation, closed businesses, empty streets and enormous uncertainty. At the same time, many neighbourhoods had been without a dedicated local newspaper for years following the collapse of the *Leader*. We believed East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville deserved a consistent source of local news again – one that understood the difference between the three communities while also recognising the many interests, institutions and challenges they share. The journey has not always been straightforward. Starting a newspaper rarely is, particularly during a pandemic. But from the beginning, locals embraced *Inner City News* and helped it quickly establish itself as a trusted source of information across some of Melbourne’s oldest and most distinctive neighbourhoods. That support is something we will always be grateful for. The greatest privilege has been getting to know the people and organisations that quietly hold these communities together. East Melbourne Group, the Carlton Residents’ Association and the Parkville Association are among the strongest and most capable local residents’ organisations anywhere in Melbourne. Each has demonstrated the value of informed, persistent and constructive community advocacy. We have also enjoyed working with Carlton Inc., including partnering to produce the annual *Carlton Directory* – a celebration of local business and community life centred on one of Melbourne’s most recognisable precincts, Lygon St.

Continued on page 2.



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The deadline for edition 1 of
The Melburnian is September 4

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Farewell Inner City News – a short but meaningful chapter

Continued from page 1.

Along the way, we have built strong connections with the Church of All Nations, Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Friends of Royal Park, East Melbourne Neighbour Network, public housing advocates, local history groups in East Melbourne and Carlton, and many others who have generously shared their time, knowledge and stories with us.

Those relationships, and the friendships that have grown from them, are among the things I will cherish most from this chapter.

There are too many memorable stories and campaigns to list properly.

We have reported on trade, history, identity and repeated calls for renewal along Lygon St, telling the story of Melbourne's Little Italy while examining what its next chapter might look like.

We have supported East Melbourne residents in their efforts to preserve the suburb's remarkable heritage and reported on planning decisions that continue to test the balance between growth and conservation.

In Parkville, we have followed master planning proposals for Royal Park – without doubt one of Melbourne's greatest natural assets – as well as debates about transport, parking, heritage and community infrastructure.

We have documented the continuing expansion of the university sector in Carlton, the significance of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens' World Heritage status, and the constant work required to protect these places for future generations.

And, of course, we have continued calling for action on the former Cancer Council building in Rathdowne St – arguably Melbourne's most prominent eyesore and an issue that, frustratingly, remains unresolved.



We remain optimistic.

Our "Lygon Local" and "Inner City Local" series have also taken us inside businesses, homes and community spaces to meet people contributing to their neighbourhoods in thoughtful and inspiring ways.

These are often not the stories that make metropolitan headlines, but they are precisely the stories local newspapers exist to tell.

Inner City News may have had a shorter life than some of its siblings, but its purpose has never been measured only in years or edition numbers.

It has been measured in the trust of its readers, the strength of its local relationships and its ability to give these communities a dedicated platform.

From September, that work will continue through *The Melburnian*.

We hope the new publication will not dilute the voices of East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville, but elevate them – connecting their stories with the wider city while retaining the local detail that made *Inner City News* matter.

There are too many people to thank properly, but I will try.

Thank you to our readers, who picked us up, wrote to us, corrected us, encouraged us and occasionally gave us a very direct piece of their mind.

Thank you to our advertisers, whose support made this work possible.

Thank you to the City of Melbourne, community groups, traders, residents, artists, advocates and contributors who trusted us with their stories.

And thank you to my team, past and present – Lauren, Kate, Jenny, Chris, Hanna, and our amazing distributors who have canvassed every corner of this city to make sure the paper gets where it needs to go.

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know these communities, championing their achievements and advocating for their needs.

Thank you for embracing us.

We look forward to continuing the journey. ●

Sean Car
PUBLISHER & EDITOR
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Naughtons to toast 10 years under its current custodians

Naughtons Hotel will mark 10 years under the stewardship of Ryan Moses and his family with a community celebration on Saturday, August 15, inviting Parkville locals, students, hospital workers and regulars to raise a glass to one of the suburb's most important meeting places.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The anniversary event will run from 3pm until late at the historic Royal Parade pub, with live music, outdoor marquees, fire pits, a barbecue, family activities and a series of \$10 specials to mark the milestone.

For Mr Moses, who took over the venue with his wife, and business partners Ryan and Laura Berry in August 2016, the occasion is about more than the survival of a hospitality business. It is a celebration of the community that has embraced the pub for the past decade.

"Ten years is, I think, a huge achievement in hospitality," Mr Moses told *Inner City News*.

"It's certainly flown by, but when you consider what we've endured and survived over the last decade ... there are constant challenges. But I think for us, we're here for the long haul."

"We would like to think that we're going to be here for at least another 10 years, if not longer."

The pub will offer \$10 specials including six oysters, Tasmanian sparkling, mulled wine and beer, while families can enjoy free face painting and fire pits along Royal



Parade, where children will be able to toast marshmallows. Live acoustic music will run outside from 3pm to 8pm before the celebrations move indoors later in the evening with a band and festivities continuing inside.

There will also be a meat tray raffle, with proceeds donated to a local charity.

"It'll just be a great chance to bring people together and celebrate the community and the friendships that we've formed over the last decade," Mr Moses said.

Naughtons has been serving Parkville since 1873, making it one of Melbourne's oldest continuously trading pubs. Originally established as the Port Phillip Agricultural Hotel, it has long served the surrounding residential streets, the University of Melbourne, nearby colleges and the medical precinct.

Mr Moses said the importance of the pub as a community hub had been clear from the moment the new operators were "thrown the keys" on a Monday night in August 2016.

"That first Monday night we had about 120 people walk through the door, all locals," he said.

"I felt even from that first night that everyone was very supportive. They came to meet us, but also to let us know they were going to support us, which they have very much so over the last decade."

In a suburb with relatively few businesses or public gathering places, Mr Moses said Naughtons played an important role as a meeting point for residents.

"It's a beautiful residential suburb, but there's kind of us, the post office and the

cafe," he said. "I think it is a really important meeting and joining point for everyone."

That role extends well beyond drinks and meals. Naughtons regularly hosts local gatherings, including Parkville Association events, Christmas in July functions and other community catch-ups.

"In hospitality, it's got to be a two-way street," Mr Moses said.

"The community support us and help us keep the lights on and the beers pouring. But we've also got to return that favour and provide a space and a function that they need for their own community."

The past decade has also seen Mr Moses and his team work to reconnect the pub with nearby students, particularly through renewed relationships with Trinity College across the road.

He said the previous operators had moved away from students, but the current team had made a conscious effort to welcome them back, sponsoring college football, soccer, theatre and other activities.

Mr Moses said the pub's identity now rested on three pillars: South Parkville locals, students and university academics, and staff from the surrounding hospitals and medical research precinct.

While the venue has been modernised, including through a major renovation, Mr Moses, who has also led the revival of the Court House Hotel in neighbouring North Melbourne in recent years, said its success remained rooted in the old-fashioned idea of connection.

"At both of our pubs, one thing the community comments on a lot is when they come in, they see the same faces," he said.

"To us, that's super important because we want our regulars to know the team and feel connected to the team."

The Naughtons 10-year celebration begins at 3pm and runs until late on Saturday, August 15. ●

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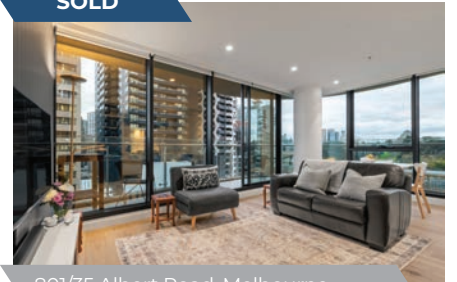
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Why Melbourne Matters

Ahead of November's state election, Melbourne is back in the political spotlight – and we want to make the most of it.

We've launched a new advocacy campaign: Melbourne Matters. Because when Melbourne does well, Victoria does too.

Many of the decisions that will shape Melbourne's future sit outside Town Hall – including housing, schools, transport and other essential infrastructure needed to support growing communities.

Our campaign focuses on 3 priorities: supporting Victoria's growth, creating safe and healthy communities, and protecting Melbourne's place as Australia's cultural capital.

MELBOURNE MATTERS FOR VICTORIA'S GROWTH

Melbourne is one of Victoria's fastest-growing areas and generates 22% of the state's economic output, but we need the right investment and policy support to help that growth succeed.

- We're calling on the Victorian Government to give Melbourne the same level of support and policy attention as other major growth areas as our population continues to grow.
- We also want to work with the Victorian Government to unlock public land and create more green space for our growing community. The Moonee Ponds Creek corridor is one example: 1.3 hectares of locked-up land unable to be accessed by 60,000 nearby residents.

MELBOURNE MATTERS FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We know that people in our community are currently under pressure to make ends meet, and we're seeing crime and antisocial behaviour escalating in our public places.

Melbourne must remain a city that feels safe, welcoming and accessible for everyone, including the most vulnerable members of our community.

- We need continued support from the Victorian Government

to help keep Melbourne's streets safe, including a more visible and consistent safety presence in busy areas and known hotspots.

- Many people experiencing homelessness are also living with complex mental health challenges. Too often, when someone reaches crisis point, there are only 2 places for them to go: hospital or jail. We're calling for greater investment in crisis accommodation and proven programs like Street to Home that help break the cycle.

MELBOURNE MATTERS AS AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL CAPITAL

Melbourne's arts, music and events scene is a huge part of what makes this city special – and with the creative economy contributing more than \$41 billion to Victoria each year, it's also a major economic driver.

- Major events like our New Year's Eve celebrations play a huge role in bringing the city to life and attracting visitors from around Australia and beyond. An extra \$1 million in state funding

would support the expansion of programming and offerings.

- We're calling on the Victorian Government to restore funding to organisations like Creative Victoria and Visit Victoria. Creative Victoria's funding has fallen by almost one third since 2022, with cuts starting to take a real toll on Melbourne's creative sector.

As we approach the state election, Melburnians should expect ambition from all sides of politics – and politicians should expect to hear directly from the people they represent.

Call your local MP. Visit their office. Ask them what their vision is for Melbourne and whether they are prepared to fight for it.

That matters, because Melbourne matters.



Events like Moomba Festival are major economic drivers for Victoria



Melbourne at dawn, courtesy of Visit Victoria



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Pro-Palestine protesters challenge council on free speech amid Carlton meeting room cancellation

Pro-Palestine activists have staged a concerted confrontation over the City of Melbourne's handling of their activities, asking questions at two recent meetings suggesting anti-Zionism had been wrongly conflated with antisemitism and free speech suppressed by the cancellation of a meeting room booking in Carlton.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



At a Future Melbourne Committee meeting on July 7 three questioners sought justification for the Friday night cancellation of a paid and confirmed Kathleen Syme meeting room booking for Sunday, June 21 made by "diverse anti-Zionist collective" Anti-Zionism Australia.

The event had been part of a series of seminars, five of which had already taken place at the venue without incident, Stefano Perfili and David Watson told the FMC meeting, demanding to know what had since changed.

In answer, CEO Alison Leighton's chief of staff Kirsty Pearce said the cancellation had been "an operational decision based on heightened community concerns and potential protest activity".

Management had received "a significant escalation in representations and community concern in the days immediately before



the final seminar, including concerns raised through councillors and senior officers about the potential for protest activity and the impact of heightened community tensions on the safe and orderly operation of the facility," she said.

Ms Pearce acknowledged that Victoria Police had no information regarding a specific threat but said management had considered the broader operating context and

"exercised ... discretion" on the issue.

She told the activists the City of Melbourne had "a demonstrable record of supporting free speech across its range of public services, including at its libraries".

A third questioner, Veronica Sherman, who was the planned speaker at the Carlton meeting, argued that her seminar on Christian Zionism had been educational and based on lived experience.

"There are people in our community who want to silence me because I'm a Jewish Israeli who publicly opposes the genocide being committed by the country I'm a citizen of," she said.

"They've been harassing and attacking me online.

"And now, thanks to this council, they've been able to silence me in person."

The seminar, however, went ahead at Coburg Library with an "unprecedented" 60 attendees.

At the following Future Melbourne Committee meeting on July 21, activists Mr Perfili, Mr Watson and Amin Abbas again asked about the abrupt cancellation of the booking, which Mr Watson described as a "suppression of free speech".

They also asked questions about the City of Melbourne's categorisation of pro-Palestine graffiti as "offensive" in its submission to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion.

In the submission, the council described removing "4500 square metres of antisemitic graffiti and materials" since the start of 2023.

The council had previously confirmed that 49 "Free Gaza" references were counted as part of the statistic, and in response to the activists' questions, infrastructure and amenity executive Karen Miller agreed that instances of the Palestinian flag and the words "Palestine", "Gaza" and "genocide" had also been counted in the category although watermelon imagery had not.

"All of these were amongst phrases that met the criteria of the [council's graffiti] policy as the words formed part of phrases that could be construed as offensive or in locations that caused offence or misinterpretation," she said. ●

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Women artists’ society brings 117th annual exhibition to East Melbourne

Australia’s oldest surviving women’s art society will celebrate more than 120 years of creativity, friendship and professional support when it presents its 117th annual exhibition in East Melbourne this October.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors was founded in March 1902 by eight former students of the National Gallery School of Melbourne, who resolved to establish a club based on “mutual help and empathy” and the continuation of old friendships.

Society president Denise Keele-Bedford told *Inner City News* that spirit of connection remained central to the organisation’s purpose.

“They decided to come together and form a group really so that they could have camaraderie and be able to meet, talk, trial things and generally build friendships and support for each other,” she said.

At a time when women artists were often dismissed as hobbyists or expected to prioritise domestic responsibilities, the Society offered an important professional and social network.

Ms Keele-Bedford said those pressures had changed over time, but the need for support had not disappeared.



Portrait of Gulsen Ozer by Sue Jarvis.

“Still today, women artists do need that support from each other,” she said.

That sense of community is reflected in the Society’s social gatherings, workshops, life-drawing sessions and annual exhibition program. Ms Keele-Bedford recently attended an outing to Heide Museum of Modern Art where a new member told the group she had joined specifically to meet other artists, discuss work and build friendships.

The Society has also maintained a strong connection to East Melbourne through the former home and studio of celebrated sculptor Ola Cohn at 43 Gipps St.

Cohn, a former Society president who studied in England under Henry Moore, is best known locally for creating the Fairies Tree in Fitzroy Gardens. She converted former stables in East Melbourne into her home and studio before leaving the

property to the Centre for Adult Education on the condition that the Society could continue using it.

Now managed by Box Hill Institute, the building remains a base for monthly meetings, life drawing, workshops, open studio days and access to the Society’s small lending library.

Ms Keele-Bedford said the organisation’s continuing use of the building had also helped secure maintenance and improvements to its interior.

The Society’s long history includes former members such as Violet Teague, A.M.E. Bale, Ethel Carrick Fox, Sybil Craig and Valda Cumming OAM. Its contribution to Australian art from 1902 to 1993 is documented in Dr Juliet Peers’ book, *More Than Just Gumtrees*.

That legacy will continue through *Changing Perspectives 2026*, running from

October 7 to 18 at the Victorian Artists Society Galleries in Albert St in East Melbourne.

The exhibition will feature new works created by members over the past two years, spanning painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, digital art, assemblage and small installations. Around 100 works are generally included, with each member able to submit up to two pieces.

Ms Keele-Bedford said the exhibition was not selected, allowing members at different stages of their careers to take part.

“For some artists, they’re not all that often putting their work out into the public realm, and so it’s an opportunity for them to learn just by having an exhibition and being in an exhibition,” she said.

Members also gain experience in hanging and presenting a show, while receiving feedback from established practitioners.

This year’s judges are artist, academic and curator Dr Catherine Bell and The Art Room founder Erika Gofton. Live demonstrations will also be presented by Dina Goebel on October 14 and Steph Wallace on October 17.

Ms Keele-Bedford said visitors could expect a broad mix of traditional and contemporary work, as well as opportunities to meet participating artists, who will staff the exhibition throughout its run.

“The public are seeing what is coming out today from women artists,” she said.

The official opening and awards presentation will be held on October 10 at 2pm across the Frater, McCubbin and Hammond galleries. Admission is free.

mswps.com.au ●

Carlton’s Dan O’Connell hits the market

As *Inner City News* foreshadowed last month, Carlton’s iconic Dan O’Connell Hotel is back on the market – for sale or for rent – with real estate agents listing the landmark building on Friday, July 31.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



Agents Harrington Earl said a review of assets by owner Fitzroy Community School (FCS) had resulted in the decision to “test the market” with regard to the building via “a combined sale-or-lease Expression of Interest campaign”.

The FCS board decision reflected “prudent governance”

and a commitment to making sure the school’s resources were deployed to educational ends, Harrington Earl said, and would ensure the asset had “every opportunity to realise its full potential”.

As *Inner City News* has reported, the long-running

alternative school bought the former pub for more than \$3.2 million in 2020 after it was shut down as a result of COVID. The school planned to turn the distinctive Edwardian building into a new primary campus for around 100 students, and it received a permit to do so from the City of Melbourne in January 2022.

The permit has since been extended twice and is due to lapse in January if the renovation hasn’t begun, with the project seemingly thwarted by the emergence, or re-emergence, of a series of allegations of physical and sexual abuse at the school, which have been reported by the ABC.

Comments from two legal firms dealing with claims of abuse from former FCS students suggest these allegations are extensive.

Margalit Injury Lawyers told the ABC they had been contacted by “numerous individuals”, while

a lawyer from Grazia Legal told *Inner City News* the firm was dealing with alleged events ranging from the 1970s up until 2014 that included historical sexual assault as well as physical assault.

Victoria Police have said they are investigating allegations of sexual and physical assaults at the school’s North Fitzroy campus between 2009 and 2012.

A Victorian government spokesperson said that regulatory authorities had completed a recent “thorough investigation” into allegations, which resulted in strict conditions being placed on the school.

FCS’s founding family – Faye Berryman AO, her partner Philip O’Carroll and Faye’s sons Nick and Tim Berryman – have denied allegations of abuse made against them.

Harrington Earl Estate Agents director Steve Earl said that in

the few days since the real estate board had gone up on the Princes St building, he had received several informal inquiries.

“We appreciate this is a property that carries significant history and evokes considerable community interest,” he said.

“Our responsibility is to conduct a transparent and equitable process that allows the market to determine the property’s value and whether its highest and best future lies in a commercial, residential or mixed-use outcome.”

“An Expression of Interest campaign provides the flexibility to explore opportunities that neither the [school’s] board nor ourselves may have previously contemplated.”

The pub’s location was one of its best attributes, he suggested.

Fitzroy Community School was contacted for comment but did not respond by deadline. ●

ELLEN SANDELL

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THE
GREENS

Carlton clinic goes fully bulk-billed

Carlton's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has become 100 per cent bulk-billed, with local patients already responding strongly to the change.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Federal MP for Melbourne Sarah Witty visited the Carlton Medical and Urgent Care Clinic at 221 Drummond St on July 7 to mark the milestone, touring the facility with staff before cutting a special Medicare card-themed cake.

The clinic, which opened in December 2023 as the Inner Melbourne Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, provides walk-in care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions and is designed to help take pressure off nearby hospital emergency departments, including the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Ms Witty said the move to full bulk billing would make it easier for local residents to access healthcare without being deterred by cost.



"When you're sick, you shouldn't have to struggle to find a doctor," Ms Witty said.

"That's why the Albanese government is making the biggest ever boost to Medicare so that you can see a doctor for free."

She said the clinic had already seen a clear increase in demand since moving to 100 per cent bulk billing.

"In their first week of bulk billing they got an extra 150 patients," Ms Witty said.

"That is 150 people who may not have been going to the doctor beforehand."

The Drummond St clinic is open for extended hours, seven days a week, and treats patients who need urgent care but do not require an emergency department. ●

Alleged machete attack driver headed to County Court

An accused in the brutal 2025 New Year's Eve attack on two young men in Lygon St has been committed to the County Court.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



Yahye Abas, 22, of Fitzroy, faces charges over the incident, in which a group of 10 males, some wielding machetes, allegedly attacked two men aged 20 and 18 shortly before midnight. One victim suffered a collapsed lung and later fled interstate in fear.

At a bail hearing for co-accused Kon Gob in February, a magistrate described the incident as "like a version of events from a horror movie". At a July 28 hearing, police said Mr Abas had not directly participated in the violence but drove one of two cars that transported the group to and from Lygon St and was therefore complicit.

He faces charges including violent disorder, intentionally causing serious injury to two people in circumstances of gross violence, and helping the offenders escape.

Police allege Mr Abas exchanged phone messages about "opps in the street" – gang terminology for opponents or enemies – before driving his mother's silver Toyota hatchback to Lygon St with several alleged co-offenders. He then allegedly stood on a corner and acted as a lookout during the attack. CCTV shown to the court depicted a driver and other men leaving a silver vehicle. The attack, outside a business near Argyle Place about 10 metres away, took less than 20 seconds before the group returned to the car. A bystander recorded the vehicle's registration and photographed a second vehicle, a red sedan.

Police alleged Mr Abas could be identified as the silver car's driver through his black puffer jacket, satchel and white sneakers. Similar clothing appeared in other footage and an image from the lift of his Fitzroy building after he returned home.

During a January 13 search of the flat he shared with his mother and siblings, police did not find the jacket but located a Louis Vuitton satchel containing his driver's licence. Telecommunications data also allegedly supported their account of his movements. Mr Abas' lawyer argued the footage did not identify her client and that his phone would naturally register in the area because he lived nearby.

The court heard forensic analysis of the hatchback found no evidence linking any co-accused to it. However, Mr Gob was linked by DNA to a machete sheath used during the attack.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Tim Bourke found sufficient evidence to commit Mr Abas to the County Court, where he is due to appear on August 25. ●

La Mama's new festival puts hope at the heart of climate action

La Mama Theatre will place artists at the centre of the climate conversation this September with the launch of a new three-week festival in Carlton.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



"HOPE is a radical concept these days," Abraham said.

"In HOPE we find action. Without it, apathy drives the collective, and despair shuts down the dialogue. We need to stoke the fires of these important conversations, and artists are well-placed to shape them in fascinating, engaging ways."

The program centres on nine feature productions, including DOPPELGÄNGSTER's *Cold War 2.0*, Susan Bamford Caleo and Elissa Goodrich's *Pulse*, Nelipot Collective's *Our Last Tree* and Megan Herbert's *Soapboxed*.

A series of one-off events will broaden the festival beyond its main performance program, with new play readings and La Mama's SCRATCH development platform among the offerings designed to encourage conversation and experimentation.

The festival will also include a substantial program of free events and activations. These range from a large opening-night celebration and the final performance of *La Mama EMERGE* to site-responsive work *La Mamica*, Performance + Ecology Research Lab panels and activities throughout La Mama HQ's forecourt.

The event reflects La Mama's long-standing role as an incubator for independent performance while inviting artists and audiences to consider how creativity can shape public responses to the climate crisis.

Tickets for paid events range from \$10 to \$35, while numerous parts of the program will be free.

The *La Mama HOPE PUNK Climate Festival* is supported by the Greater Melbourne Foundation, Community Bank Clifton Hill-North Fitzroy and the City of Melbourne, in partnership with the Performance + Ecology Research Lab at Griffith University.

The festival runs from Tuesday, September 1 to Sunday, September 20 at La Mama, 205 Faraday St, Carlton. ●



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qvm.com.au

Vale Barry Dickins: Carlton farewells a prolific man of words and art

“

Barry Leonard Dickins, who died in Parkville on July 13 aged 76, was “a renaissance man of the people” and “a real Carlton character”, according to Readings co-owner Mark Rubbo.

”

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



“Carlton’s changed so much that there’s not that many of them left,” Mr Rubbo said.

Barry had given many readings at the Lygon St bookshop and bought countless books there over the years. His creative life, however, began nearby in the experimental theatre world of 1970s Carlton.

The son of a printer, Barry grew up in Reservoir and worked in factories for several years after leaving school before gravitating towards Carlton, where a radical new theatre movement was taking shape.

His first play, a translation of Henrik Ibsen’s *Ghosts*, was staged at La Mama in 1974.

It was followed by more than 50 works for the stage, many performed at La Mama or the Pram Factory, before Barry’s plays were taken up by Playbox Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company and Theatre Works.

Producer Greg Carroll, who worked with Barry on around 12 productions, recalled the scene during the 1970s as “absolutely wide open and wild”.

“It was a mighty time,” he said.

Mr Carroll said Barry’s plays “almost defied genre”.

“It was riotous, uproarious comedy, but often undercut with true sadness,” he said.

“I suppose, if anything, I would say it was in a Melbourne underground fantastical genre.”

Those plays included *The Rotten Teeth Show*, which offered free entry to anyone without teeth; *Mag and Bag*, featuring two elderly women “virtually sitting on a perch in a budgerigar cage”; and *Bedlam Autos*, about two former priests running a dubious used-car yard in Yass.

Former Pram Factory administrator and close friend John Timlin, who staged some of Barry’s early work, remains haunted by a scene from *The Fool’s Shoe Hotel*.

The “comic riot” imagined a group of ageing actors living together at the Rushall Crescent retirement community in North Fitzroy. In one scene, the lead actor opened a refrigerator, ostensibly to make tea, only for a green crocodile to spring out, prompting

“shock, feigned horror and uproar from the audience”.

La Mama veteran Maureen Hartley remembered Barry laughing loudest whenever he attended his own plays, “sometimes before the funniest line was said”.

His final known performance came at a 2016 event at Collected Works bookshop, where he read from *Remember Ronald Ryan*, which won the Victorian Premier’s Literary Award in 1995.

Musician Dave Graney, who wrote about the event, described Barry’s portrayal of the condemned man, performed under bare lights from barely a metre away, as “pretty raw theatre”.

Barry also spoke about the research behind the work, which had led to him being beaten up at Pentridge.

It demonstrated “how much real blood, guts and bone a writer has to get arm deep into to get a story”, Graney wrote. “It takes its toll.”

Playwriting was only one part of Barry’s immense creative output.

Ms Hartley described him as a “journalist, author, illustrator, painter, teacher, poet, actor and mentor”, who left behind “a huge legacy of plays and artworks full of wit, warmth and humanity”.

“He must have written 20,000 poems and done 70,000 drawings, cartoons and paintings,” Mr Carroll estimated.

“Because he never stopped, and he was prolific.”

Barry’s many acting appearances included Paul Cox’s film *Man of Flowers*, in which he

played an eccentric and philosophical postman.

His publications ranged from the hard-drinking and darkly comic novel *The Crookes of Epping* to non-fiction works about his father, beer, Brett Whiteley and life in the police force.

They included *The Gift of the Gab: Stories from the Life of Barry Dickins* in 1981, *Love to Live: The Fabulous Life of Barry Dickins* in 1991 and *Unparalleled Sorrow: Finding My Way Back from Depression* in 2009.

Lessons in Humility: 40 Years of Teaching, published in 2013, drew on Barry’s experiences in writing classes, artist residencies and drawing programs, where he was remembered for generously sharing his knowledge and encouragement.

These included affluent schools such as Melbourne Grammar, which Barry once said had hired him “to put some curry in the curriculum”.

For many readers, however, he was best known for the colourful columns he wrote for *The Melbourne Times*, particularly about his beloved former Fitzroy Football Club, the Royboys.

He contributed to the free newspaper for more than 25 years and later claimed he had been given so much freedom for satire that he ended up in court several times facing defamation allegations.

“He was a great one for spinning a yarn. He was all about entertaining,” said his friend Bridget McDonnell, whose Faraday

St gallery holds many of his artworks.

The last time Mr Rubbo saw Barry was when he provided a character reference after the writer was charged over a claim that he had been strip-searched by police.

“I think he exaggerated it, and he wrote about it too,” Mr Rubbo said.

“I told them he was a good bloke. Maybe a bit silly sometimes, as we all can be.”

Barry received a good behaviour bond and later gave Mr Rubbo a painting as thanks – something he often did for friends.

Following his death, he was remembered on social media as “one of our great observers”, “a beautiful writer” and a “wonderful iconoclast”.

Friends, acquaintances and admirers mourned “a man of the people” and “a big-hearted eccentric with a poetic heart”.

“Vale Barry Dickins – a rascal, a genius, a laugh, a huge talent,” one tribute read.

Around 300 people attended Barry’s funeral at St Carthage’s Catholic Church in Royal Parade on July 27.

Speakers included Mr Timlin, who read a contribution from Sydney-based writer Barry Oakley, and Playbox Theatre founding director Carrillo Gantner.

The service was followed by a wake at The Clyde Hotel, where mourners gathered to share memories of a roguish, chaotic, brilliant, generous and gentle artist, driven above all by a deep love for his family, friends and people generally.

Barry is survived by his former wife, Sarah Mogridge, and his son, Louis Dickins. ●

Sarah Witty

Member for Melbourne

Your voice in Canberra

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Hidden Carlton café blends automation with the art of coffee

Tucked away in a tiny lane behind the busy corner of Lygon and Elgin streets is a surprising new hospitality venture – a specialty coffee shop with fully automatic machines alongside traditional ones and the aim of providing a relaxing escape.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



When she first came to Australia Alicia Feng didn't even drink coffee.

But as a fresh arrival she found the drink was a way of connecting with people.

"So, I started to adapt into this culture and start to explore," she says.

Around a decade on, after training at pioneering specialty roasters ST. ALi, she is a highly regarded figure in the industry who is now at the forefront of "a very new exploration" for it.

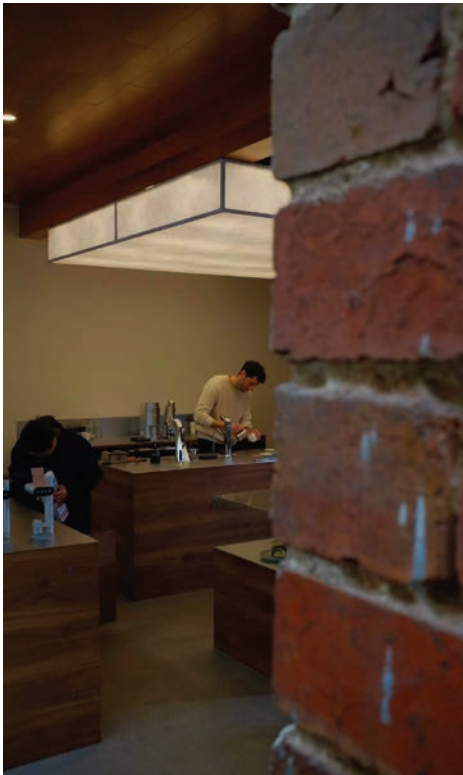
Her third café, Atelier Enso, located in Raffa Place, Carlton and opened in July, is seemingly the first in Australia to incorporate fully automatic machines in a serious coffee context.

While people are generally very sceptical and assume she is "cutting corners", Alicia argues her approach is not about cutting jobs but changing them.

"Baristas used to be knocking out the shots, doing the shots, with a lot of repetition," she says. "But now their role is a little bit more like a coffee sommelier."

Staff are thus freed up to have more interaction with customers, who are these days more curious about the products.

Alicia thinks it is a matter of time before



most cafés choose to go largely automatic, with the handmade element enduring but focused on finer detail.

It has been "fun" to put traditional and automatic machines together for this business, she says – a move that reflects its philosophy.

The name Atelier Enso refers to a work-in-progress – and also Buddhist – attitude.

"We are like a studio – an atelier – and enso means living in the moment and accepting whatever is around you.

"So, we are not perfect, it's imperfect, but it's perfectly imperfect."

"The brand is [also] focused on simplicity,



slowing down, and just enjoying the moment in the present."

Classical music plays in the white-painted warehouse space, which has been fitted out with timber ceilings, wood veneer shelving and counters and a large Japanese-style boxed paper light fitting.

It is spacious and bright with bouquets of dried flowers and coffee- and design-themed magazines on display.

Adjoining areas house the business' glassed-in roaster and a large kitchen, which Alicia plans to make available to chefs for pop-up events or seasons.

In between interacting with customers a

couple of staff tinker with a range of shiny gadgets in what looks like a big, spread-out kitchen.

Cards laid out along the bench describe the different types of coffee on offer.

You can have a house blend espresso from a fully automated Swiss-made Eversys machine, something commonly seen in service stations but put to work here with high expectations. According to Alicia, it has an "amazing, beautiful extraction" process that "makes the coffee much sweeter and more consistent.

The café's default coffee, made with house blend Jiku – a "comfortable daily cup" combining Ethiopian, Brazilian and Chinese beans – is produced by the Eversys – not that you would know.

It tastes pretty good.

Then you can order a single-origin or seasonal beverage made manually with "the most commonly seen machine in any coffee shop" – a La Marzocco Modbar with steamer.

For filter coffee, there is a "daily batch brew" machine and two fully automated, programmable ones.

When it comes to long blacks – known here as "flow blacks" – a complicated series of steps further filter and aerate espresso and dispense it via a Linkbar machine to deliver "a really sleek and creamy mouth-feel" from "your first sip".

Also on offer are drinking chocolates, tea and house-made cakes, including Oolong tea roll and Basque burnt cheesecake.

Visiting around midday in the café's second week of operation, there is an unrelaxing 5 to 10-minute wait to get in and be seated.

"We didn't expect that!" Alicia laughs when she hears. "I didn't do any promotion.

"And our staff are trained not to rush people, to let them enjoy their coffee." ●



The Melburnian

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Carlton Food Map

The Carlton Food Map is a guide to places where you can access food in Carlton. It includes free and low-cost food services, community meals, food relief, community gardens and other local food resources.



Food services

1. Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
2. Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
3. Church of All Nations Community Support Centre
4. Cohealth Melbourne
5. FareShare
6. FareShare Library Feeds
7. Open Table and City of Melbourne
8. OurPlace Carlton Food Pantry
9. Pentecost Care
10. Public Housing Community Gardens Program
11. Public Housing Community Gardens Program
12. RMIT University Student Union – Free Breakfast
13. RMIT University Student Union – Free Veggie Market
14. The Community Grocer Carlton
15. The Heart of Carlton
16. Vinnies Mobile Pantry Van

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Carlton welcomes first international hotel brand

Carlton has welcomed its first internationally-branded hotel, with Crowne Plaza Melbourne Carlton officially opened on July 13 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Tourism Minister Natalie Suleyman.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The Minister was joined by Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Member for Melbourne Sarah Witty, IHG Hotels & Resorts managing director Australasia and Pacific Matt Tripolone, and Pelligra Group founder and director Ross Pelligra to mark the opening of the new hotel.

The 107-room Crowne Plaza Melbourne Carlton is a partnership between IHG Hotels & Resorts and Pelligra Group and represents a significant new addition to Carlton's accommodation and visitor economy.

The hotel, which first opened its doors in late April, is positioned on the edge of the CBD and within close reach of Melbourne's major universities, medical institutions, cultural attractions and sporting precincts.

Mr Tripolone said Melbourne remained one of Australia's most important business and leisure destinations, and that the opening reflected IHG's confidence in the city's future.

"Together with Pelligra Group, we are proud to bring an internationally recognised hotel brand to Carlton for the first time, in a location that is well placed to



serve corporate travellers, academics, families, sporting fans and weekend visitors," he said.

"What makes this hotel so special is its genuine connection to the neighbourhood. Carlton has such a strong identity, from its food culture and universities to its proximity to the CBD, hospitals and major events."

He said the hotel offered guests a new way to experience Carlton's energy, while providing the comfort, service and reliability associated with the Crowne Plaza brand.

Mr Pelligra said Carlton's character and continuing evolution made it the ideal location for the new hotel.

"Carlton has always had a special

character," he said. "It's one of Melbourne's most diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods, with a rich European heritage, incredible food culture and a real buzz thanks to the universities and students who come here from all over the world."

"As the suburb continues its exciting urban renewal, we're seeing it evolve into one of Melbourne's premier lifestyle destinations, combining a vibrant food scene with world-class education and an internationally renowned medical and research hub."

Mr Pelligra said the vision was to create more than just a hotel, but a place where locals and visitors could gather to eat, drink



and spend time. At street level, the hotel's signature restaurant Fico Carlton draws on the suburb's Italian heritage, offering a contemporary take on the classic trattoria experience.

The hotel also features more than 270 square metres of flexible meeting and event space, including four function rooms and a dedicated pre-function area, positioning it to attract business events, private functions and social gatherings.

Plans are also under way for a rooftop bar, which is expected to further strengthen the hotel's appeal as a hospitality destination within Carlton.

The opening comes as Melbourne's visitor economy continues to recover and grow, with inner-city precincts such as Carlton increasingly playing a role in attracting business, education, medical, cultural and leisure travellers.

For more information: crowneplaza.com ●

QVM review process only raising further questions

The City of Melbourne's terms of reference for its independent review into Queen Victoria Market Pty Ltd have landed, but they may only deepen the governance question that has surrounded this process from the beginning.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The review will examine the management and governance arrangements of QVM Pty Ltd – the City of Melbourne's independent, wholly owned subsidiary responsible for operating the market.

This was not a process initiated by council officers as might ordinarily be the case. It was moved by Cr Rafael Camillo and seconded by finance chair Cr Owen Guest at the March 31 council meeting, before being supported by a majority of councillors.

The City of Melbourne has now confirmed KordaMentha has been appointed to conduct the review in what is likely to be a costly exercise for ratepayers.

"The independent review of Queen Victoria Market will help protect the future of one of Melbourne's most significant cultural, heritage and community assets," a City of Melbourne spokesperson said.

"The review will focus on market management, including engagement with traders and customers, operational and financial performance, and the visitor experience."

According to the terms of reference, the review will assess whether current arrangements deliver the best outcomes for the City of Melbourne, considering governance practice, accountability, effectiveness and alignment with the council's strategic objectives.

It will consider board composition, capability, performance and accountability; financial governance; operational delivery; trader and customer experience; heritage and placemaking, and benchmarking against comparable municipal and public markets.

On paper, that is a broad scope. In practice, the most significant exclusion may be what it does not expressly examine: the City of Melbourne's own performance as owner, shareholder and steward of the market.

That omission is not simply an administrative oversight. The administration has prepared terms of reference based on what councillors resolved to do. If the review now risks leaving key questions unanswered, responsibility rests with the elected councillors who pushed for it without first resolving its scope, cost or purpose in sufficient detail.

That matters because QVM Pty Ltd does not operate in a vacuum. The market's trading environment, financial outlook and public experience are shaped by council decisions, from the long-running renewal program to Gurrova Place, Market Square, parking, access, construction staging, heritage and the wider precinct strategy.

The council said QVM Pty Ltd operated independently in its day-to-day management and governance, while the City of Melbourne, as owner, was responsible for the strategic and financial oversight of the precinct, with decisions made through normal council processes.

It said the terms of reference had been established based on the March 31 resolution, covering the market's governance model, management and board performance, operational effectiveness, financial performance, trader and customer engagement, and heritage and placemaking outcomes.

That response underlines the dilemma. If councillors wanted a review that properly examined the relationship between the market company and its shareholder, they needed to say so when commissioning it.

Instead, the current terms risk setting up a review that looks closely at the subsidiary while leaving the shareholder largely outside the frame.

That concern is not new. When councillors voted 10-1 in favour of the review, Cr Dr Olivia Ball was the only councillor to oppose it. Her objection was not to review as a concept, but to its fairness and timing while the market remained in the middle of a council-led renewal program.

At the time, she warned that the "elephant in the room" was the renewal program itself. The terms of reference, and the council's response, suggest that elephant remains largely outside the frame because councillors allowed it to stay there.

The City of Melbourne said the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program would continue to progress in line with the project masterplan.

The final report is due to council by March 31, 2027, and is expected

to include analysis of governance and management performance, recommendations to improve management, governance and accountability, and a high-level implementation plan.

The terms also promise stakeholder engagement, including surveys, workshops, written submissions and one-on-one interviews where appropriate. Stakeholders include the QVM board and management, City of Melbourne management, traders, customers, residents, local businesses, and heritage and community advocacy groups.

But another unresolved question, which CBD News put to the council, is whether stakeholders will be able to make submissions about council conduct and precinct decisions, or only about QVM Pty Ltd's performance. If the latter, engagement risks gathering evidence about symptoms while excluding some causes.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market, which has strongly supported an independent review, has also expressed concern that QVM Pty Ltd could be unfairly judged if the council's role is not properly considered.

The market continues as one of Melbourne's most important civic assets. Few dispute the need for transparency, accountability and a stronger long-term footing.

But if councillors have commissioned a review that examines the subsidiary without fully examining the shareholder, they may have limited its usefulness before it has even begun. ●

The International Club of Victoria

The relatively modest house at 68 Powlett St, East Melbourne once went by the rather grand name of the International Club of Victoria.

The club was founded in 1933 by Mrs Herbert "Ivy" Brookes, the eldest daughter of Alfred Deakin. Her husband was a brother of the tennis player Sir Norman Brookes. Mrs Brookes remained the club's president throughout its existence.

The club's purpose was: "to provide a meeting place where residents of Melbourne may meet members of national groups who may be either living in, or visiting, Melbourne, where members of individual groups can meet one another, and where distinguished visitors to Victoria may be entertained. It is hoped by this means to promote that friendship and understanding which is vitally necessary to the peace of the world."

By the end of 1952, the club had more than 400 members, "half British and half representing nationals of 39 different countries". It had outgrown its city premises and was forced to search for something larger, which resulted in the move to Powlett St.

The new rooms were opened on July 7, 1952, by Sir Dallas Brooks. Thirty national flags decorated the verandah, each representing the different nationalities among the 250 guests.



▲ 68 Powlett St in 1976. Photo: Winston Burchett.

The rooms were simply but comfortably furnished and included a card room and a large lounge. The main reception room led to a glassed-in back verandah set aside for dancing. Future plans included turning the walled yard into a Continental garden, with

rustic tables and chairs.

The club hosted a variety of events showcasing the culture of countries near and far, including fetes, exhibitions, talks, concerts and cooking demonstrations.

In 1956, Indonesian Mrs Derry Salim

spoke on her country's cooking. Mr P. Miskin, head of catering for the upcoming Olympic Games, was among the audience of 60, picking up some hints.

At the club's Christmas party that year, members of national groups sang carols among the illuminated Christmas trees. The annual ball, held elsewhere, was always a highlight.

In 1954, the club opened a café, which operated from 10am to 8pm each day, providing tea and biscuits until 7.30pm. Members were required to produce their membership cards and sign for their guests.

Despite its apparent success, the club closed in 1958. It is possible the Olympic Games were, at least in part, responsible for its demise. In a few short weeks they had done more to promote international goodwill than the club had ever done, or could do, and in their aftermath the club's work may have seemed less important.

The property was sold and £5000 of the proceeds was given towards the establishment of International House at the University of Melbourne. ●

Sylvia Black

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After 30 years, Dave Sweeney steps away from ACF

In 1996, Dave Sweeney took a six-month job at the Australian Conservation Foundation to campaign against uranium mining. Thirty years later, he is finally stepping away from the Carlton-based organisation – with a Nobel Peace Prize and a Member of the Order of Australia under his belt.

WORDS BY
JENNY DENTON



Dave wasn't going to travel to Oslo for the 2017 award ceremony, but his son Mungo helped change his mind.

"Hey Dad, how many Nobel prizes are you going to win?" the 11-year-old asked, prompting Dave to reassess and pack his bags.

The nuclear-free campaigner was a founding member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which in 2017 saw its work rewarded with the United Nations' adoption of a weapons treaty and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Initiated in Melbourne in 2007 – and launched at State Parliament by Malcolm Fraser – ICAN has grown into a network of grassroots non-government organisations across more than 100 countries.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has now been signed by more than half the nations of the world – though not Australia.

The idea had been "to do something" in the face of the nine declared nuclear weapons states.

That something was to "make absolutely crystal clear that these weapons are vile".

The treaty, as much a "cultural and ethical instrument" as a legal one, has the practical

effect of delegitimising institutional investment in nuclear weapons corporations, Dave said.

In Oslo, an extraordinary gathering of "ICAN people from around the world" had assembled.

Formal proceedings in the Norwegian capital included a dinner and a "ceremony with the Norwegian king and royal family, and trumpets blaring".

Then came days of community celebrations involving a torchlight street parade, parties, dancing and "rolling from one bar to another".

A global media blitz focused on the significance of the issue.

"That surprised me because it hadn't been such a big deal here at home," Dave said.

Among those present were "a lot of Japanese hibakusha – old people who'd survived Hiroshima or Nagasaki – who were

crying and thanking us for putting the issue on the map".

Returning home heartened, the ICAN Australia team brought with them a gold medal that has since "spent a lot of time around Carlton".

As well as being displayed at ACF and Victorian Trades Hall, where ICAN is based, the medal has been shown in libraries and schools, travelled the country in backpacks and "been passed around bush meetings in regional Australia".

"ICAN Australia has very much got a view that this is the people's medal," Dave said.

"It was ordinary folks getting together collectively to try and pull off something pretty extraordinary, and we are actually, you know, on the way."

A cheque for \$US1 million, also part of the prize, was divided among the groups, with larger shares going to those most in need.

The medal is now housed at Melbourne Town Hall as a symbol of the City of Melbourne's commitment to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Melbourne is one of 50 councils around Australia calling for the federal government to sign the Treaty, Dave said.

This is urgent, according to the campaigner, in light of AUKUS arrangements which, following the recent expiry of the US-Russian nuclear arms reduction treaty, look set to see Australia host six B-52 bombers and four US nuclear submarines retrofitted to be nuclear weapons-capable.

AUKUS is one of several issues he intends to pursue in the next phase of his life, while he has still "got a bit of run in the legs".

It was in 1996, in the wake of John Howard's election, that Dave took on a six-month job at ACF to work on uranium issues in the Top End.

One of the new government's key policies was to remove constraints on mining the metal, and "the first cab off the rank" was the proposed Jabiluka mine inside the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National

Park.

The successful campaign against the project would last years and draw thousands of protesters to Mirrar country.

Dave's job, meanwhile, "very rapidly expanded to all things nuclear".

Over the decades, it has involved opposing uranium mining, campaigning against "the failure to responsibly manage radioactive waste" and countering "consistent attempts" to establish a national radioactive waste dump on remote Aboriginal land.

He has worked on the rehabilitation of sites affected by mining and weapons testing, as well as alternative energy options and promoting "how preferable a renewable future is to a radioactive one".

In 2025, the fight against Peter Dutton's "referendum on nuclear power", which resulted in a landslide Coalition election defeat, was "almost the swan song" of his ACF career, he said.

It was also the year he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia "for significant contribution to nuclear-free campaigning and First Nations advocacy".

Stepping away from his job at ACF after 30 years, it is not the medals by which the campaigner judges himself.

"We've made a difference in this, it's been positive," he said.

"I've made deep connections and friendships and I think contributed to this country being a bit more respectful, a bit more thoughtful and a bit safer and cleaner than it might otherwise have been."

At a farewell event at Brunswick's Quad Club in July, where Peter Garrett was in the crowd and ACF boss Adam Bandt was on the decks, the packed room heard speech after speech expressing awe and appreciation for the veteran campaigner.

Tributes celebrated his "bush to boardroom and campfire to Canberra" skill set, his many achievements and adventures, and his unfailing generosity towards colleagues, allies, friends and even foes. ●

Thank you, *Inner City News*

As *Inner City News* publishes its final edition before becoming part of *The Melburnian*, the East Melbourne Group extends its sincere gratitude to editor Sean Car and his dedicated team for their outstanding service to our community.

WORDS BY
GREG BISENLLA – PRESIDENT

At a time when genuine local journalism is becoming increasingly rare, *Inner City News* has stood as a trusted, independent voice for the people of Melbourne’s inner suburbs. It has consistently championed the stories, issues and aspirations of local communities, ensuring that residents, businesses and community organisations have had a platform to be heard.

For the East Melbourne Group, the newspaper has been far more than a source of news. It has been an invaluable partner in helping us engage with our community. Whether reporting on significant planning proposals, heritage protection, transport issues, public open space, or neighbourhood events, *Inner City News* has enabled us to communicate directly with residents, encourage informed public debate and foster greater community participation.

Many of the issues that shape our neighbourhood are complex and often overlooked by mainstream media. Yet *Inner City News* has recognised that local stories matter. By giving communities a voice and holding decision-makers to account, it has strengthened our local democracy and helped preserve the unique character and heritage of East Melbourne and the wider inner city.

Sean Car and his team have built more than a newspaper – they have built connections. They have informed, challenged, celebrated and united our communities, creating an enduring record of the

people, places and issues that define life in Melbourne’s inner suburbs. Their professionalism, integrity and unwavering commitment to independent local journalism have earned the respect and gratitude of countless readers.

While we are naturally saddened to see the final edition of *Inner City News*, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead with *The Melburnian*.

We hope its pages will continue the proud tradition of providing thoughtful, independent local journalism and giving community organisations like ours the opportunity to inform, connect and advocate on behalf of the people we represent.

On behalf of the East Melbourne Group and our more than 525 members, thank you, Sean, and everyone who has contributed to *Inner City News* over the years.

Your work has made a lasting difference to our community, and your legacy will continue long after the final edition has been printed.

We wish you every success in this exciting new chapter. ●



LETTERS

Disappointed in secretive Flower and Garden Show renewal

As a Carlton resident residing adjacent to Carlton Gardens, it was disappointing to read Sean Car’s article informing us that the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show has been granted a licence extension until 2029 without any community consultation.

I totally concur with Dr Stan Capp’s concerns regarding the lack of transparency. As ratepayers it would be of interest to know just what economic benefit the council receives.

Apart from the inconvenience factors during the set up and duration of the Flower Show such as the gardens being fenced off to locals, parking and huge traffic issues, the damage to the gardens takes months & months to recover. Just when they are at their absolute best in autumn the destruction begins again.

And from what we can see with attendees leaving the show with armfuls of plants, flowers and gardening paraphernalia it would seem to be a huge commercial enterprise rather than an exhibition per se.

Let’s hope the organisations vying for the Show to be relocated can have their say with the council in the future.

Gabrielle Harper

Thank you, *Inner City News*

We have loved being part of the *Inner City News* community. Many of the residents of the public housing towers have been employed to deliver the paper and many of them are participants in our programs here at CAN Community Support.

We have been an obvious choice as a holding point for newspapers each month for the Carlton area where the delivery people can come and load up to deliver to local letterboxes.

They are passionate and committed to their work getting you this wonderful publication and we love getting to know them better in this way.

Inner City News edition has always been a great read, and we have counted it a privilege to contribute in this way. It holds a special place in our hearts, and we look forward to seeing how it evolves in this new chapter. All the best!

Church of All Nations ●

FEDERAL MP



Affordable healthcare matters to all of us

One of the best parts of my job is sharing good news that makes a real difference to people’s everyday lives.

WORDS BY
SARAH WITTY – FEDERAL MP

This month, I’m delighted to welcome the news that the Carlton Medical & Urgent Care Clinic is now offering 100 per cent bulk-billed GP appointments for all Medicare card holders.

For so many people across East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville, this is more than just a welcome announcement. It’s one less financial worry when you or someone you love needs to see a doctor.

Our community is incredibly diverse. We’re home to students juggling study

and part-time work, young families, older Australians, people living in public housing, and many who are managing long-term health conditions. We also have world-leading hospitals and research institutions right here in our neighbourhood, so we know just how important accessible healthcare is.

No-one should put off seeing a GP because they’re worried about the cost. Catching a health issue early is almost always better for the individual and for our health system. Whether it’s a check-up, managing a chronic condition, getting a child’s cough looked at or seeking mental health support, affordable primary care helps keep our whole community healthy.

The clinic is also home to the Inner Melbourne Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, which gives people access to treatment for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions without needing to head to a busy emergency department. That means faster care for patients and less pressure on our hospitals.

As someone who has spent much of my career working in the community sector, I’ve seen firsthand how much difference affordable healthcare can make. When people can access the care they need, they are healthier, families are under less stress, and our community is stronger.

Strengthening Medicare has always been one of Labor’s proudest achievements, and it’s something I will always stand up for. Investing in bulk billing means more people can get the care they need, when they need it, without worrying about the bill.

I’ll continue working to make sure people in Melbourne have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare close to home. Because good healthcare isn’t a luxury. It’s something every Australian deserves. ●



CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE



New Food Map points the way to a more food-secure Carlton

Carlton has a new tool in the fight against food insecurity, and it launched the same day the community sat down together to celebrate it.

WORDS BY
TONY R MILNE – EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Lord Mayor of Melbourne Nick Reece officially launched the Carlton Food Map on Sunday, July 12 – a practical guide listing every place in the suburb where people can access free cooked meals or pantry items.

It's a small, useful thing with a big backstory: the map is one of the first tangible outputs of Carlton's new Food Security Action Plan, a five-year strategy from the Carlton Collaboration Partnership, bringing together the City of Melbourne, the University of Melbourne, RMIT, the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre and local community groups to build a more food-secure neighbourhood.

The plan was shaped by a 2024 survey which found 48 per cent of local respondents had experienced food insecurity, a number too large to ignore. The map is just

the start; more coordinated work is planned over the next five years.

To mark the occasion, the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre coordinated the Coming Together Gathering alongside community members and local organisations, with funding from the University of Melbourne, and Church of All Nations (CAN) opening its doors as venue for the day.

This was very much the community's day: the menu was shaped by local cooks and residents, and volunteers from The Community Grocer plated up fresh, seasonal food. The entertainment was local talent through and through, with an oud player, singers, and an MC keeping the room warm and lively.

It clearly landed. In post-event feedback, 100 per cent of respondents said they felt a greater sense of belonging from attending, and 100 per cent felt safe and supported.

Long tables filled the hall, with more than 230 people fed on the day. Traditional weaving was shared, popcorn popped for the kids, and strangers left as something closer to neighbours. It wasn't an event about the community; it was by and for the Carlton community.

Organisers hope it's the first of four such gatherings a year: food, music and connection, on repeat.

To view the Food Map, go to page 9. ●

CARLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Carlton is not new to news!

It is Sunday night and the tabletop has been put on the billiard table. The cutting boards and scalpels are out, and the lay-out sheets are in place.

WORDS BY
MARTIN BRENNAN – VICE PRESIDENT



The galleys for the typesetter are waiting to be cut up, and the photo bromides are ready to be cropped. The production team volunteers are arriving to layout the first edition of *City Alternative News* (CAN).

The team was at work to edit, publish and distribute the first edition of CAN on September 4, 1980. The front-page article on the community's takeover of the North Carlton Railway Station for a neighbourhood house had been written and the team was editing other articles born of the local community.

Unlike *The Melbourne Times*, which had become timid over time, CAN was prepared to take on the rich and powerful in council and in government and backed a local voice for Carlton. In October 1997 CAN ended its local independent news reign as a result of the Kennett Government annexation of North Carlton to the City of Fitzroy and then to the City of Yarra. For almost two decades CAN had reported and reflected on local and city-wide issues and initiatives and sought to make those responsible accountable and inform the local community.

Now CAN is back. The CAN archive (1980 - 1997) has been digitised and can be sourced through the City of Yarra website. CAN is a treasure trove of memories, histories, stories, struggles and successes and reminds us that local democracy needs us to be informed and be involved. CAN provided a tool and a voice and remains worthy of a read.

The launch of *CAN Digital* will take place on September 4, 2026 in the Carlton Library, Rathdowne St from 6.30pm to 8pm in celebration of its role in the community. Margaret Simons, freelance journalist, author and academic at the University of Melbourne, will launch *CAN Digital* at

6.45pm. For those interested in attending please email candigital80@gmail.com

But Carlton is not new to local news! In the 1870s the *Carlton Advertiser and Trade Advocate* was published followed by the *Carlton Gazette* and *The Advertiser* through to 1900. In 1970 the Carlton Business and Property Owners' Association published the *Carlton News* and in 1971 it morphed into *The Melbourne Times*, which was distributed throughout Carlton and surrounding suburbs. The paper focused on the threats to Carlton including the Housing Commission Victoria, University of Melbourne, Country Roads Board, Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, the Melbourne City Council and the Anglican Church. In 2001 *The Melbourne Times* was taken over by the *Melbourne Leader*, a News Corp paper, thus losing its independence.

But the independence and local legacy returned with the publication of *Docklands News* in 2003 by independent publisher, Hyperlocal News. This was followed by their publication of *Southbank News*, *CBD News*, *North West City News* and *Inner City News*, the latter covering East Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville.

The Melburnian, to be published in September this year, will replace all of the five existing local newspapers including the *Inner City News*. The Carlton community will continue to be provided with local news along with news from across the City of Melbourne.

The Melburnian will hit the letterboxes and mailboxes of homes and businesses across the city and is by design a move to deliver local news and local democracy. Carlton will never be without news!

Martin Brennan is the co-founder of *City Alternative News*. ●

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Importance of community facilities in Parkville

On Monday, July 27 members of the Parkville Association gathered at Naughtons Hotel for its annual Christmas in July celebration attended by just under 60 members. It was a timely reminder of the important community role that the revitalised Naughtons plays in the Parkville community.

WORDS BY
RAY OSBORNE – PRESIDENT

Established in 1873 as the Port Philip Agricultural Hotel, but known for some years as Molseed's Hotel, after the name of its owner, it has continuously served the Parkville community as a hotel for 153

years. The 10-year anniversary of the reopening is being celebrated at Naughton's on August 15.

An aspect of its history that is less well-known, is its role as a venue for political meetings, with Mr Story addressing electors in the North Melbourne Election on April 30, 1877. While during the Fitzroy Parliamentary Election in 1889 it was the meeting place for James Holden's electoral committee.

Of particular interest to Parkville residents is that it was the venue for regular meetings of the Parkville residents to lobby on a range of issues, one of which is still current. Newspapers reported that in May 1880 a large meeting of residents of Parkville and the "Royal-park" was held to consider improvements required locally, focused on roads and footpaths, but also the nuisance from the pig-market.

In May 1882 there was a public meeting, attended by 50 residents of Parkville, to protest the sale of a portion of Royal Park,

under the heading "Spoilation of the Parks". The nuisance of the pig-market was the focus of a meeting in June 1884, although interestingly it resolved "that the residents of Parkville are opposed to having another hotel in the district". Clearly this was successful.

Another vital long-standing part of the Parkville community is its Post Office. First established in 1884 by leasing an existing premises on the corner of Wimble and Park Rd (later Drive) in 1889 a purpose-designed Post Office was opened on the corner of Fitzgerald and Bayles streets.

This second Post Office was operated by Australia Post until March 1994, when it advised that it intended to seek expressions of interest for private enterprise to operate the Parkville Post Office under licence, and sell the premises.

A petition, and other submission resulted in its retention and use as a Post Office under licence. This continued until 2020, when the premises were put on the market.

An alternative site was secured, via a lease of premises on Royal Parade.

While in its third location a Post Office has continuously provided vital services to the Parkville community for 142 years. A more detailed history of the Parkville Post Office can be found on the Parkville Association website.

The future of Licensed Post Offices in Australia is currently the subject of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Senate Inquiry. One of the focuses is on the "crucial role that licensed post offices play in delivering services to support local communities". Written submissions are being made to highlight the critical role of the Post Office to the Parkville community.

Other current issues for Parkville include a proposed direct consultation on the Traffic Study proposals presented at the AGM, while on August 7 the final Royal Park Master Plan is going online, before being considered by the City of Melbourne on August 18. ●

Quiz



- 1. *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* was a 1989 hit single for which band?
- 2. Jason Statham (pictured) plays which character in the Fast & Furious franchise?
- 3. Which Carlton building has become the new home of the Local and Independent News Association (LINA)?
- 4. Does a stalactite or stalagmite grow from the ground?
- 5. What is the name of the draft greening strategy being developed for Parkville over the next 10 years?
- 6. What common solution is predominantly made of acetic acid?
- 7. *The Boy and the Heron* is an animated film from which famous studio?
- 8. Which historic residential college is the subject of a campaign to secure its future in Carlton?
- 9. Carlton chef Hyoju Park recently won an international pastry award. Where in Carlton does she work?
- 10. The Spanish Civil War occurred in which century?
- 11. Which former Carlton pub is proposed to be converted into a primary school?
- 12. Which Carlton restaurant recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a major renovation?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Queen 2. Deckard Shaw 3. Australian Conservation Foundation building 4. Stalagmite 5. Parkville Urban Forest Precinct Plan 6. Vinegar 7. Studio Ghibli 8. Graduate House 9. Madeleine de Proust 10. 20th century 11. Dan O'Connell Hotel 12. Da Guido La Pasta

5x5

No. 326

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

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H		E		S

SOLUTIONS

BESTS, RECAP, AROMA, SIREN, HEEDS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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August, 2026

Sudoku

No. 061

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

EASY

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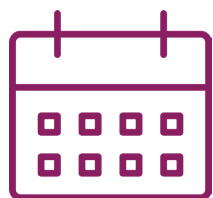
HARD

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SOLUTIONS

EASY									HARD								
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2	5	6	9	7	4												

WHAT'S ON August



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



AMONG THE GUMS

Enjoy a free sensory afternoon celebrating gum tree art with scents, creative activities, artist talks and exhibition experiences at the Potter Museum of Art.

Potter Museum of Art, Parkville

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST, 12PM – 4PM



UBU ROI

Written by a mischievous schoolchild in the 1800s, *Ubu Roi* became a landmark influence on Absurdism, Dadaism and Surrealism, delivering chaotic satire in the NetherWorld Festival.

The Motley Bauhaus, Carlton

10 – 16 AUGUST, 8.30PM – 9.30PM



BOÎTE SCHOOLS CHORUS 2026: AKOMA – SONGS AND STORIES FROM GHANA

Boîte Schools Chorus presents Akoma at Melbourne Town Hall, celebrating Ghanaian songs, stories and culture through vibrant performances.

Melbourne Town Hall

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST, 1PM & 7PM

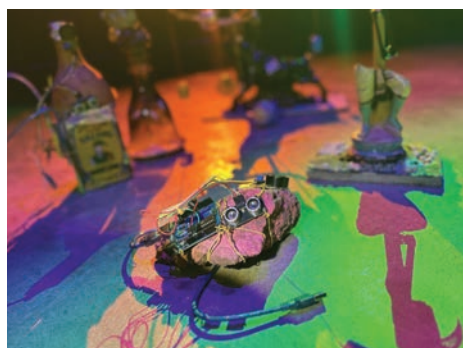


EAST MELBOURNE LIBRARY 20TH BIRTHDAY

East Melbourne Library celebrates 20 years with jazz, BBQ, kids' activities, workshops, tours and a community birthday celebration.

East Melbourne Library

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST, 10AM – 2PM



FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL: WILD CIRCUITS

EMERGENCE[Y] transforms into a vibrant night of interactive sound sculptures, live music, robotics, performance and creative play celebrating innovation from discarded materials.

Science Gallery Melbourne, Parkville

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST, 6PM – 9PM



LA MAMA EXPLORATIONS

La Mama Explorations 2026 showcases 52 bold new works-in-progress, offering audiences an early look at innovative future theatre productions.

La Mama HQ, 205 Faraday St, Carlton

UNTIL 30 AUGUST, 7.30PM – 9PM



MELBOURNE SUNRISE HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT

Experience Melbourne from above with a sunrise hot air balloon flight, soaring over iconic landmarks before enjoying breakfast and extras.

Pullman Melbourne On The Park

UNTIL 31 AUGUST, 4.30AM – 9AM



COLD WAR 2.0

Doppelgangster's Cold War 2.0 blends anarcho-punk, illusion and dark comedy to explore alienation, misinformation and social collapse at La Mama Hope Punk Climate Festival.

La Mama Courthouse, Carlton

2 – 6 SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM – 8.30PM



FITZROY GARDENS HERITAGE TOUR

Fitzroy Gardens tour showcases historic landmarks, wildlife, and formal gardens in an accessible Melbourne experience blending nature, history, and beauty.

Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne

UNTIL 31 DECEMBER, 2PM – 3PM



SONGBIRDS

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

East Melbourne Library

UNTIL 10 DECEMBER, 10.30AM – 11AM



SWINGING 60s

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

Old Treasury Building, East Melbourne

UNTIL DECEMBER, 10AM – 4PM

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MAINTENANCE

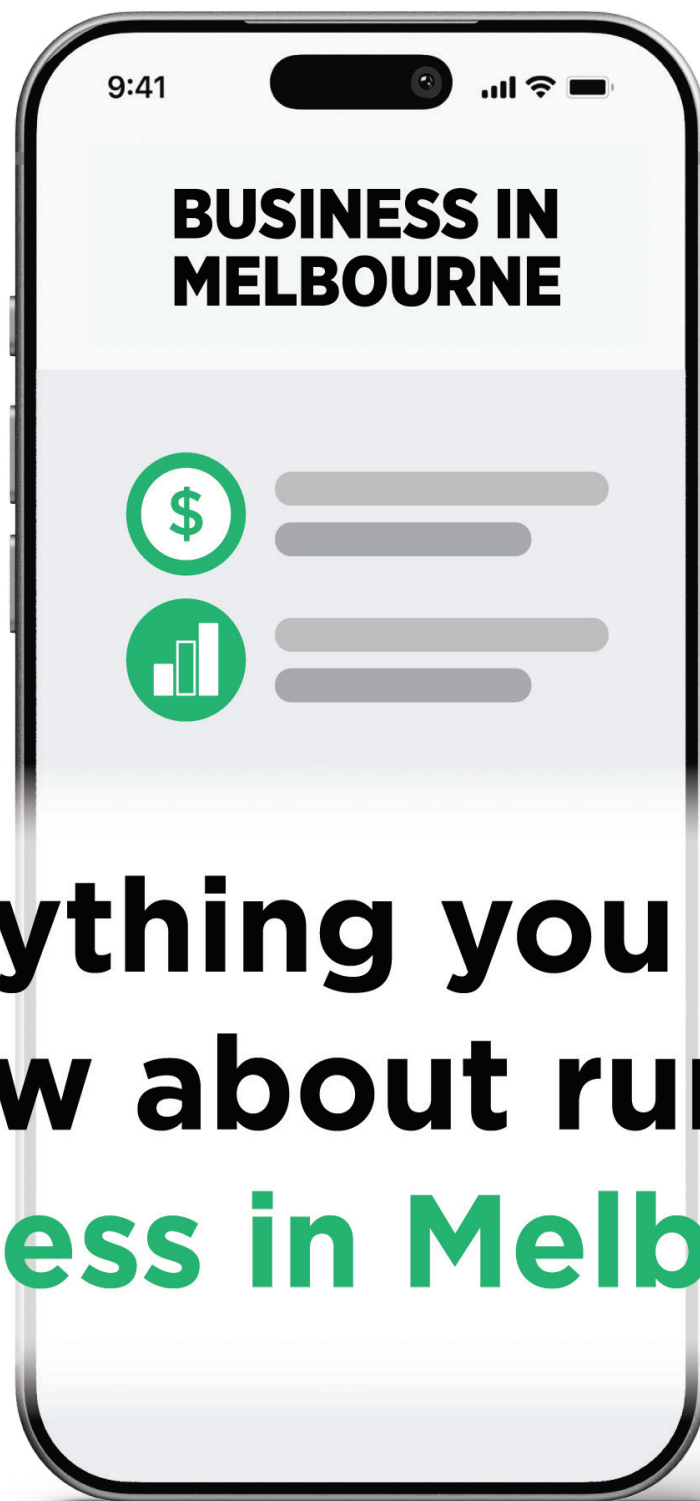
handyman

✓ police checked ✓ NDIS registered

-fix anything -install furniture
-reconfigure wardrobes -minor repairs
-pre-sale + end-of-lease repairs
-painting jobs -declutter



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