

INNER CITY NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P21



Lord Mayor’s a local!
Photo by John Tadigiri

Lord Mayor Sally Capp and husband Andrew Sutherland have recently moved to Carlton after a three-year-stint in Docklands. And she’s already planning ways to re-activate the suburb. *Full story on page 8.*

Rising from the ashes: La Mama rebuild nearly complete

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ARTS & CULTURE

For the past three years, the team at La Mama headquarters has been working day-in day-out to rebuild the iconic theatre that was ravaged by fire in 2018.

Now, the theatre is almost ready to re-open with only a few final touches left to be installed.

La Mama communications co-ordinator Sophia Constantine said that after the lift was installed and some carpet was laid, they would be “picking up the keys at the end of the week”.

“It’s really exciting because I think the community sees La Mama as the heart of independent theatre and of Carlton,” Ms Constantine said.

“It’s the mother – it’s nurturing, kind, and is a place where new and established artists come to take risks, gain experience and develop their practice.”

La Mama has documented every stage of its rebuild

through time lapses and updates, as it restores the existing theatre building and constructs a new building next to the original.

The old building has been restored to its original, intimate self but is now fitted out with 21st century facilities and technology.

Ms Constantine said a big focus of the rebuild had been about accessibility and creating more open spaces for artists to relax, practice and perform in.

“We really thought about the accessibility of the space, so there’s a lift right next to the stairs which will get everyone to the same level and a bridge link which connects the old building to the new building,” Ms Constantine said.

“Before the fire we had the dressing room and office upstairs and we were all in the same tiny room, but now we have a full office wing in the new building and a rehearsal hub which gives artists more space.”

“The theatre will also have rigging so artists can do

Continued on page 3.

VCAT knocks back tower at much-loved East Melbourne heritage site

A developer’s plan to build a nine-storey tower behind a heritage building in East Melbourne has been thwarted after opponents had a remarkable win at a state tribunal hearing.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
HERITAGE

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) handed down a decision on July 1 to uphold the City of Melbourne’s decision not to grant a permit at 204-208 Albert St.

Under the plans, Whitehaven Property Development Pty Ltd sought to partially demolish the building and construct a nine-storey addition to the rear of the retained heritage facade and front section of the building including side walls, roof and chimneys.

The original building dates back to 1859 and is recognised as a contributory place within a significant streetscape.

The property is also located to the rear of the National Trust-owned Clarendon Terrace at 208-212 Clarendon St, a row of three two-storey terraces built from 1856-57 and considered of “architecturally and aesthetically significant to the state of Victoria as one of Melbourne’s grandest terraces,” according to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

VCAT members Alison Glynn and Lorina Nervegna found the proposed development “out of step with the existing scale and character of adjoining buildings and the area”.

“We find the combined heritage and design directions for this site require a significantly lower building that can better respect the heritage streetscape of Albert St and its broader heritage and urban design context,” the VCAT members stated.

“Any new developments in this special part of the city should respect the area’s heritage.”

“In general, we consider the issues of overlooking and overshadowing to these sites are acceptable. It is a question of visual bulk and scale that we find unreasonable more as a question of character.”

At the hearing, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), the East Melbourne Group Inc and other groups argued the development “grossly exceeded” the recommended sight line in the planning scheme, and didn’t “respect the existing scale and character of the precinct”.

East Melbourne Group planning convener Greg Bisinella said impacted residents were “absolutely delighted” with the outcome after the community fundraised about \$45,000 over two years to cover legal costs “to ensure this inappropriate development did not proceed”.

“It caused a lot of grief of the immediate residents because they were really concerned about being confronted with a very high tower that would’ve overshadowed or blocked

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INNER CITY NEWS

Rising from the ashes: La Mama rebuild nearly complete

Continued from page 1.

aerial performances, and we've reinstated the fireplace which was originally used to heat the space as well as being incorporated into the production design."

Ms Constantine said that La Mama was hoping to open up with a bang, and had big plans for when lockdown ended.

"We're confident that we will re-open the doors by the end of the year and create a beautiful opportunity for the community and artists to connect in person," Ms Constantine said.

In the meantime, La Mama Courthouse on Drummond St is still in operation and will soon boast a new play centred around climate change and environmental collapse.

#NoExemptions, a production by the Shift Theatre, is expected to premiere on October 8 after two years of preparation.

Writer Angela Buckingham said the play wasn't about "melting ice caps or one-degree rises in temperature", but about intergenerational justice and the consequences for our personal lives and relationships.

"The play investigates the relationship between parents and children and how they are going to look back and see how we dealt with this," Ms Buckingham said.

"It looks at the experience of the mother and her responsibility to her child to provide safety, security and the conditions for life, and how as a generation we have failed as parents."

Ms Buckingham said that although she began writing the play when she lived in Berlin some years ago, the advent of COVID had made the ideas within it more relevant and tangible.

"When it comes to controlling movements of people, classifying people according to age and locking them up in apartment blocks, these ideas felt very foreign to our lives but COVID has made them feel present and possible," Ms Buckingham said. "COVID has been a wakeup call about the fragility of our systems, and even though our community is proving to be very resilient, we rely on systems that rely on a functioning environment."



▲ *#NoExemptions* author Angela Buckingham and actress Eva Seymour (front) on the steps of La Mama HQ.



▲ *La Mama HQ after the fire in 2018 and the almost complete building in August 2021. Photo supplied by La Mama.*



"When air quality, clean water and food provision are under threat, the ramifications will be deep and at the core elements of our lives with the relationship with our families."

Currently Ms Buckingham and her team are doing readthroughs, designing the set and planning via Zoom.

One of the challenges has been to find larger rehearsal spaces to allow artists to have the space to socially distance.

But Ms Buckingham said that her team had the backing of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre which had offered rehearsal space, as well as the City of Melbourne, which was looking into how the theatre could repurpose empty commercial space.

"It's been really hard for theatre practitioners for the past 18 months, and the community has recognised that and is helping us to find our work," Ms Buckingham said.

"Our community values how theatre contributes to other aspects of social life like going out for a drink or out to a restaurant after the theatre and how it's part of the Carlton identity."

In terms of the La Mama rebuild, Ms Buckingham said the reopening was "so important" for local artists and the Carlton community.

"I feel like La Mama is the creative heart of Carlton and I can't imagine Carlton without La Mama," Ms Buckingham said.

"I think the new building looks fabulous, but more than the building there's a core of people who are committed to new, Australian community theatre, pushing boundaries and doing things that are exciting and different."

"There's great work that's been bubbling away in isolation and we can promise audiences that there will be incredible, exhilarating, face-to-face artwork ready to go." ●

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Housing department accused of negligence as tower residents left exposed

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

Residents of Carlton's housing estate say they were left vulnerable to COVID-19 once again by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) with multiple elevators in the towers left out of service for months.

The towers at 480 and 510 Lygon St were declared Tier 2 exposure sites in mid-August after three residents at 480 Lygon tested positive to the virus and COVID fragments were found in the waste water, sending entire building floors into lockdown.

Resident and mother of two Shewit Kahsay was abruptly put into isolation after her entire building level was locked down on August 16.

"We just got a call today saying that we can't go outside for two weeks, I was shocked," Ms Kashay said.

"It's so difficult to be cramped in the space with two kids."

Since the outbreak, more than 400 residents have been tested which has kept the spread under control.

But despite the success of the contact tracing, residents and community leaders say the outbreak could have been prevented.

Resident Cory Memery said the DFFH had been "negligent" by forcing dozens of residents to cram into one lift after leaving multiple lifts out of order for months.

"In multiple buildings there has only been one lift working for months, and with so many floors residents weren't able to socially distance when they were in there," Mr Memery said.

"There's absolutely negligence involved and DFFH should have had the foresight that if an outbreak occurred this would get out of hand."

"Residents have had enough of being ignored."

Another resident Mahir Ibrahim said that not only were the lifts left "under maintenance" despite calls from residents, there was also a lack of QR codes in the buildings.

"There should have been measures to prevent this, there were seven to eight people in the lift at one time and they weren't being properly cleaned," Mr Ibrahim said.

"There's also no QR codes in some of the buildings despite multiple visitors including delivery drivers, nurses and maintenance staff who all move around the estate."

Drummond Street Services family services manager Amuna Abdella said that residents often felt like they had "no voice" when it came to health and safety issues like broken lifts.

"One of my clients who has a disability had to climb nine levels of stairs with shopping because of the broken lifts and the department hasn't been accountable," Ms Abdella said.

"Someone said to me that they felt like they were treated like animals."

To support residents through the outbreak, Amuna and her team have been working day and night to provide mental health services, food distribution and family violence support.

Collectively, the team speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, Urdu, Russian, Malay, and almost all



▲ Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre community development manager Elle Morell with resident Cory Memery.



▲ (Left to right) Drummond Street Services family services team Amuna Abdella, Nadia Hamid, Helen Rimington and Sara Nega have been working day and night to support residents.

of the languages of the Horn of Africa – allowing them to communicate with residents of all backgrounds.

Ms Abdella said that her team had been "working every weekend" to make sure that residents received the support they needed.

"We have a priority response team now to make sure people who need help aren't put on a waiting list and are allocated right away," Ms Abdella said.

"For people who aren't coping with the

pandemic or are struggling with family violence or mental illness they are given a single session right away so we can hold the space for them."

"Before 12pm today I had four clients come through the doors who were allocated right away – so we have been creative with the way we deliver our services."

Despite all of their efforts, Ms Abdella said that the continued lockdowns had a cumulative effect on the mental health of residents.

"As service providers and as community

members, we have been left with a sense of helplessness," Ms Abdella said.

"Women with multiple kids are having panic attacks, poverty is rising, the streets are empty and dead and people are really struggling."

For many residents, the memory of last year's hard lockdowns still looms over their heads.

In July 2020, 28 cases were detected across Carlton's five housing towers, sparking concerns they would face the same hard lockdown as North Melbourne and Flemington.

But Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre community development manager Elle Morrell said that compared to last year the outbreak response had been "much more organised".

"There's better engagement with residents and a meeting was held within a few days of the outbreak," Ms Morrell said.

"Having Cohealth there has been great and they've played a really important role in supporting residents and encouraging them to get vaccinated."

Ms Morrell also said that the learning centre was using the experience of last year to better support residents.

"It's a lot less stressful than last year, we're supporting residents with troubleshooting and helping people who are in isolation who didn't expect it," Ms Morrell said.

"For instance, maybe someone's fridge is broken and they have a large family and are worrying about keeping the milk fresh during two weeks of lockdown – we come in and assuage some of that anxiety."

A spokesperson for Cohealth – which manages the pop-up vaccination clinic at Carlton – said that tower residents had been "receptive" to the vaccination program since it opened in June.

"It's been heartening to see the care that the public housing residents have shown for each other, and the broader community, by following health advice and sharing vaccine information among themselves," the spokesperson said.

"Residents have been receptive to the vaccination program because they know they know that the high-density nature of their housing, with multiple shared areas makes them more vulnerable to contracting COVID."

A DFFH spokesperson said that lifts at 480 Lygon Street were now fully operational after a significant upgrade of the lift was completed ahead of schedule on Friday 27 August 2021.

We regularly undertake extensive maintenance work to ensure the lifts continue to be safe, the spokesperson said.

"The lift maintenance work at 480 Lygon Street started before the current lockdown and were accelerated to ensure it was safe and operational as soon as possible."

"Onsite teams are continuing to providing a wide range of pandemic related support, including access to culturally appropriate food, essential supplies and medicines."

The spokesperson also said that increased cleaning continues to be undertaken throughout the buildings, including regular cleaning of contact points in lifts and other shared spaces.

The Victorian Government has also invested more than \$155 million for coronavirus preparation and prevention measures in the housing towers, including food and community services

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Iconic Carlton eateries honoured in Lord Mayor’s Commendations

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
BUSINESS

Before he became the owner of Australia’s oldest vegetarian restaurant, Beh Kim Un was facing an ethical crisis.

Should he continue working as an industrial chemist, or leave his job in search of a more environmentally-friendly life?

Mr Un said that despite having spent years studying to land a job as a colour chemist in a textile firm, the choice was clear.

“At that time, we used drums and drums of chemicals without any idea of the environmental destruction of it, so I thought to myself ‘I can’t spend my life doing this,’” Mr Un said.

After taking a year off to spend time in Europe, Asia and America at the peak of the hippy movement, Mr Un came back to Melbourne inspired to live harmoniously with his surroundings.

“I came back to Melbourne and went to Shakahari Vegetarian in 1978, which at that time was run by Siddha Yoga who were people inspired by eastern philosophy,” Mr Un said.

“I walked in and there was a portrait which said ‘You destroy nature, you destroy the world’ and in that moment it touched me and I wanted to work there.”

He started out working as a dishwasher, before moving to the kitchen, and bought Shakahari later that year.

At that time, Mr Un had never heard of “cashew cream” or other vegan staples, but has since fallen in love with the philosophy and taste of all things vegetarian.

“Our formula for Shakahari is that every good vegetarian dish must have fibre, vitamins, carbs and protein,” Mr Un said.

“For the taste we are constantly changing with the times and introducing new cultures



▲ Beh Kim Un has operated Shakahari since 1978.

– we introduced Japanese in the ‘80s and then a bit of Mediterranean, south-east Asian and now it’s more global food and whatever interests us.”

Since buying Shakahari, Mr Un and his family have run the restaurant along with a manager who has been with them since 1977.

Although Mr Un said the restaurant was “hanging on by a thread” during COVID, he was flattered to receive the Lord Mayor’s Commendation for 40 years in business and relished the support from his customers.

“So many people deserve the award because

Melbourne is great for small business and eateries that are quirky, creative and cut throat,” Mr Un said.

“I believe in the Melbourne spirit and part of our philosophy and our service is to give back to the city and keep making it work.”

“Shakahari is my soul, and Carlton is my home, and while it changes around us hopefully we will be here to continue feeding our generations of customers.”

Another iconic Lygon St institution which opened up the year after Shakahari, is Papa Gino’s.

Owner Alex Brosca and his family were also flattered to receive the Lord Mayor’s Commendation for being in business since 1973.

“It was fantastic to be acknowledged for something like that after so many years on Lygon St,” Mr Brosca.

As one of the only pizza restaurants in Melbourne at the time, Papa Gino’s quickly became one of the most popular eating spots for locals and Melbourne academics.

Forty-eight years later, and the Brosca family continues to serve the same mix of loyal diners, with many multi-generational families coming through their doors.

Mr Brosca said since joining the restaurant in 1980 to work alongside his late father Gino, he’s been able to observe Carlton and its locals evolving over the decades.

“Our family got to Carlton in the ‘60s so we’ve seen huge changes – I went to school at Faraday Street Primary which shut down in ‘71,” Mr Brosca said.

“It was a quiet little suburb with fish and chip shops and milk bars everywhere and eventually grew into a fantastic Italian strip.”

Having been in Melbourne for nearly five decades, Mr Brosca said the restaurant had seen recessions come and go, but COVID was a different beast.

“We’re a university suburb and with all the



▲ Alex Brosca (right) with the Papa Gino’s family.

kids gone there’s nobody around, and with the five-kilometre rule people can’t come from the suburbs so there’s no one to give the food to,” Mr Brosca said.

“The bills keep coming left, right and centre and it does play on your mind that this virus could just take us out.”

Due to the lack of activity in the suburb, the Brosca family decided not to run takeaway during the sixth lockdown.

But Mr Brosca said that as soon as restrictions lifted, Papa Gino’s would be back in full force to offer the quality food and personal service that customers knew them for.

“People love when you greet them and know their first name, it makes them feel special and has kept people coming back since day one,” Mr Brosca said.

“Every time the lockdown ends, feedback from the customers has been ‘Oh, thank God you’re back’”

Visit Shakahari at 201-203 Faraday St and Papa Gino’s at 221 Lygon St (when they re-open)

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“Intolerable”: Aircraft noise to be addressed by overdue agreement

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Local residents have been disturbed by noise from helicopters and aircraft flying over the City of Melbourne for years, but an overdue agreement with flight operators could soon help keep the peace.

In 2016, the council agreed to develop a Fly Neighbourly Agreement (FNA) with helicopter companies in an effort to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on residents.

The FNA committed to a process whereby council would review the agreement each year with a range of residents and stakeholders, including aircraft operators, Airservice Australia, and Parks Victoria.

But these commitments were not fulfilled, and residents in the municipality continue to endure “intolerable health impacts” from non-essential flights.

At a Future Melbourne Committee (FMC)

meeting in February this year, it was found that the FNA had been quietly removed from the City of Melbourne website on the basis that it was an “expired document” following enquiries from the East Melbourne Group (EMG) in 2020.

In response to a public question to councillors in September 2020, a council officer-prepared statement notified the public that the FNA had become “largely dormant for two years”.

“Residents have continued to experience intolerable health impacts from non-essential flights since the abandonment of the Fly Neighbourly Agreement, with complaints to council and councillors continuing,” Cr Rohan Leppert wrote in his notice of motion.

“Helicopters hovering in place above a residence for extended periods, during a joy flight over the sporting precinct that takes in neighbouring residential areas, is the most common example of a flight pattern with harmful health effects for those on the ground.”

EMG president Ian Mitchell said that the East

Melbourne community “suffers from hundreds of uncontrolled small planes and helicopters” every day.

“On some days there are flights every two to three minutes. Many planes and helicopters do multiple circuits over our homes,” Mr Mitchell said.

“This is one of the most densely populated parts of Melbourne with hospitals and a population which has many sick and elderly people.”

“This has serious impacts on the health of people and their ability to enjoy using their homes and gardens.”

Sarah Wallace, a West Melbourne resident, recently voiced her concern regarding noise from helicopters on the Planning Alerts website.

“Residents have been enduring an increasing level of afterhours noise caused by the operation of police helicopters around the sky above 313 Spencer St, West Melbourne,” she said.

While pointing out that residents were not “anti-police”, Ms Wallace said they had an

“inalienable right” to rest, sleep, rest and rejuvenate after work, highlighting that the night-time noise from helicopters was impacting their mental and physical health.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the council was continuing to explore options for a Fly Neighbourly Agreement with local operators.

“While the council does not have regulatory control over aircraft flight within the municipality, we will continue to play a role to educate and seek voluntary commitments from flight operators,” the spokesperson said.

Inner City News understands the agreement would seek to ensure that helicopters do not excessively hover and fly below 100 metres.

The agreement would also not seek to influence flights by emergency and essential flight operators.

However, Inner City News understands ongoing lockdowns and restrictions have limited and impacted discussions between council and local operators ●

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Nature providing the best lockdown entertainment for inner-city residents

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ENVIRONMENT

As lockdown continues in the City of Melbourne, many inner-city residents are discovering a keen interest in the nature found outside their doorsteps.

One park receiving a lot of attention lately is Royal Park, due to the recent appearance of an Eastern Barn Owl on Tuesday, August 17.

Following conversations of an owl being spotted at the entrance of the Melbourne Zoo a couple of weeks ago, birdwatcher and double bass musician for the Orchestra of Victoria, Stuart Riley, was keen to see if he could find the unique bird at his local park.

“On Tuesday, my wife and I were in one location and saw a group of three young people looking up into a tree at a group of ravens or magpies making a big fuss. They were quite territorial and had found the owl resting for the day in their tree,” Mr Riley said.

“We saw this kerfuffle and then saw the direction in which the owl flew away but we didn’t think for a minute we would find it.”

Considering himself lucky for not only finding the bird again but for bringing his camera, Mr Riley was pleased he could brighten the day of many city residents when he uploaded the photograph to the Friends of Royal Park Parkville Facebook page.

“It’s Murphy’s law – the day you don’t take your camera is the day you see something rare. So, I always take my camera with me,” he said. “I’m quite pleased there is a lot of interest [in the photo].”

Believing nature is the biggest healer of all, Mr Riley is hopeful the recent sighting will also encourage the community to really embrace the time they are allowed to spend outside.

“I think a lot of people are really struggling and even the people who look like they’re not



▲ The majestic Eastern Barn Owl. Photo by Stuart Riley.

struggling probably are. From my perspective, I go out for mindfulness,” he said.

“Just get outside, whether there’s sunshine or clouds or whether you’re into birds or not. Look around and breathe in the fresh air.”

Impressed by the photographs surfacing online is Royal Park supervisor Chris Nicholson.

“All the birders out there have nowhere else to go and Royal Park is the place for them and they seem to be finding all these amazing birds,” Mr Nicholson said.

With everything from Tawny Frogmouths to White-naped Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardalotes, Rose Robins and Mistletoe birds being spotted, Royal Park proves nature really can unite community in many ways.

“There are more people at the moment walking than there normally is. It’s just like last year, as the actual usage of the park has increased by ten times. Residents obviously don’t have big

back yards in this part of the world and so royal park is their backyard,” Mr Nicholson said.

And it seems the normally nocturnal Eastern Barn Owl knew its white, heart-shaped face was exactly what the community needed to see during this time.

Council seeks bird watchers to track Superb Fairy-wren

The City of Melbourne is calling on bird watching enthusiasts to contribute to a new citizen science project to track the native Superb Fairy-wren.

The project will collect vital data on the health, habitat and movement of the birds around the Parkville area.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Parkville was blessed with some of Melbourne’s best parks and gardens, home to an abundance of local wildlife.

“What better way to beat the lockdown blues than by getting outside and using part of your two-hour exercise period to help us study the curious little fairy-wren,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We’re calling on local bird watchers, both budding and experienced, to help us gather information which will directly contribute to the ongoing health and wellbeing of our local birdlife.”

During permitted daily exercise, and in line with health restrictions, locals around Royal Park, Princes Park and Melbourne Cemetery are being encouraged to take note of fairy-wren sightings and locations, as well as movement patterns and behaviour.

Superb Fairy-wrens are small birds with a round body and long upright tail. Adult breeding males have bright blue and black plumage, while non-breeding adult males and females have greyish brown plumage.

The council’s environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert encouraged Parkville locals to keep their eyes open for fairy-wrens.

“The Superb Fairy-wren is a small but



▲ Council is calling on local bird watchers to observe the native Superb Fairy-wren.

colourful character which is easily identifiable, and a great species to study to gauge habitat quality. By better understanding the wren population around Parkville we will be able to better target our environmental projects in the area,” Cr Leppert said.

“If you live in the areas surrounding Royal Park and Princes Park, I would encourage you to hop online and take part in this project.”

The data collected will be used to locate the fairy-wrens so wildlife experts can safely capture and fit the birds with coloured leg bands. This will allow experts to identify individual birds and track their movements.

The project is the latest City of Melbourne’s biodiversity study, in partnership with BirdLife Australia, RMIT University and the University of Melbourne.

Interested participants can record their observations via the Birdata App between September and November 2021. For more information about the study, or to get involved, visit the City of Melbourne website ●

Old Corkman pub site transformed into community park

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

The site of the iconic, heritage-listed Corkman Hotel which was illegally demolished by developers in October 2016 has been turned into a park for locals to enjoy.

The developers, Raman Shaqiri and Stefce Kutlesovski, have been ordered to pay for the park which will remain until the site is redeveloped.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the new playground would provide a new green space for the inner-city community.

“A new park on the corner of Leicester and Pelham streets in Carlton is open for the community to enjoy, until redevelopment occurs on the former Corkman Hotel site,” the Lord Mayor said.

“It is pleasing to see the block transformed into a new inner city green open space with grass and seating for people to exercise, relax

and take their pets.”

Built in 1857, the Corkman Hotel was one of the oldest pubs in Carlton and was illegally demolished without a permit after a suspicious fire occurred the week before.

The developers bought the pub and its 456 sqm of land in 2014 for \$4.76m, with reported plans to convert it into an apartment building up to 12 storeys high.

They were fined almost a million dollars and have faced a four-year-long legal battle with the state government for demolishing the building which was protected by heritage rules.

The state government also passed new laws with five-year jail terms and increased fines for developers who demolish heritage buildings.

Almost 20,000 students have signed a petition calling for the pub to be restored by the developers.

Melbourne University law student Henry Lindsay said the nearby pub served as the local haunt for students.

“We loved that pub. It was our pub. The



▲ The new park sits on the site of the Corkman Pub which stood for 163 years before being illegally demolished.

cheap beer. The wedges. Its proximity to the law school. The glorious Irish folk band that coalesced on a Thursday evening,” Mr Lindsay wrote on the Change.org petition.

Carlton resident Emily Corcoran said that the temporary park would be a great addition for locals with children.

“While unfortunately this is only a very temporary addition of public open space, it’s a reminder of how valuable every little patch of green can be to families raising kids in the inner city,” Ms Corcoran said.

“With playgrounds currently closed, small spaces like this have the opportunity to provide play experiences in nature for that improve mental health outcomes for kids and adults alike.”

“Well-designed public open space can cater to the needs of all age groups, even without the excitement of large bits of playground equipment.”

Development plans for the site will be submitted by 2022 ●



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Lord Mayor Sally Capp now a Carlton local

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Carlton locals will now be rubbing shoulders with Lord Mayor Sally Capp who recently moved into the neighbourhood after a three-year-stint in Docklands.

After her landlord wanted the 30th-floor Victoria Harbour rental back, the Lord Mayor and husband Andrew Sutherland were looking for a “different experience” and decided Carlton was the move.

“In Carlton, we are back at ground level and feel that we are getting into the neighbourhood vibe,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We are already on our way to becoming regulars for takeaway at a number of local restaurants including Capitano and Sushi Ten and buying fresh produce and sourdough loaves at Masani on weekend mornings.”

Since the move, Cr Capp said she had been enjoying walking around the Princes Park track –which she called the “Carlton Tan” – as well as the cemetery.

“We’ve discovered amazing stories through our regular walks in the Melbourne Cemetery,” she said.

“There are both tragic and uplifting tales of the people buried there that make Melbourne’s history very personal.”

Having moved into Carlton during the lockdown, the Lord Mayor was looking forward to neighbourhood institutions like Carlton Baths, La Mama, Melbourne Museum and Imax to open.

She was also keen to sample the diverse range of food offerings the suburb has to offer. “Just down from us there are Japanese, Sri Lankan, Lebanese and Italian restaurants next door to each other; that’s Melbourne for you,” Cr Capp said.

“And of course, Carlton is a university precinct which means lots of young people challenging the status quo and on the quest for knowledge – and pubs when we open again.”



▲ The Lord Mayor said she had already identified issues such as the need to clean graffiti and preserve heritage.

For those looking to indulge in some Carlton vs Docklands rivalry, like any good parent the Lord Mayor didn’t pick favourites.

She said that she loved the “sky-high” experience at Docklands’ Victoria Harbour and would miss the library, water activities like kayaking and dragon-boating, as well as the gang at the local Docklands eatery Saluministi.

“Living in Carlton is not better, or worse, it’s different,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Where Docklands has water, Carlton has grass, lots of green open parks including Carlton Gardens, Princes Park, Argyle Square and Lincoln Square just to name a few.”

Carlton Inc president Phil Mansour said that it was a positive thing for the suburb to have the Lord Mayor as a local.

“Everyone is excited to see the Lord Mayor super local,” Mr Mansour said.

“I’m sure she’s looking forward to assisting within the precinct first hand.”

During the short time she’s been a local, the Lord Mayor said she’s already identifying with the issues often raised by residents and traders such as cleaning graffiti and preserving heritage.

She also said that Carlton would benefit from the council’s program to transform empty shopfronts into creative spaces and pop-up shops where entrepreneurs and artists could pilot their ideas and performances.

“I can see that council’s shopfront activation program will make a big impact on Carlton’s Lygon St,” the Lord Mayor said.

“It’s a project that is really going to bring the buzz back into our city streets.”

Overall, the Lord Mayor said she and her husband were looking forward to experiencing all that Carlton had to offer.

“My partner Andrew and I are enjoying immersing ourselves into this new neighbourhood and meeting the locals with more to be uncovered and appreciated as the city reopens,” she said.

“And we are regularly back in Docklands to get our water fix.” ●

Businesses on their knees after enduring another “devastating” lockdown

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Businesses have suffered yet another devastating blow due to the latest lockdown, prompting calls from Lord Mayor Sally Capp for people to get vaccinated so the city could “stay open”.

“The latest lockdown is having a devastating impact on city businesses,” Cr Capp said.

“Many business owners are making daily decisions as to whether they continue opening or close up for good.”

She said “even most resilient of small business owners are struggling to stay positive” and called for “every Melburnian to do the right thing and follow the health advice” and get vaccinated.

“We need all levels of government working together and our community supporting every local business that we can.”

Among business owners to reach breaking point was George Seoud who said he had been forced to temporarily close three of his stores in the inner city after being hammered by the loss of walk-in customers from neighbouring university campuses and offices.

He said he had managed to keep one store open called MOFO burgers in Carlton which was “keeping us afloat at the moment”.

“Savings have gone ... it’s ridiculous. The last couple of lockdowns have really destroyed us,” he said.

“University campuses are closed, everyone’s studying online and it’s just destroyed me.”

“People aren’t walking in, it’s all online orders. It’s just a ghost town.”

“The problem is if people don’t go back to work, if people don’t go back to the city, we’re doomed. We can’t be working from home for the rest of our lives.”

Mr Seoud said his popular Stovetop café in Leicester St, Carlton, had been temporarily closed – which used to be bustling with up to 100 diners before restrictions.

While he acknowledged the City of



▲ Restaurant owner Adriano, pictured with his father, Nino, who established Geppetto Trattoria in East Melbourne 40 years ago, says they are “barely keeping our heads above water”

Melbourne and the state government were being supportive, he said, “unfortunately it’s not enough”.

“We just need more help ... mentally, it’s not sustainable, and then it’s financially not sustainable because we need the economy to get going, we need people to spend money.”

“How do I pay my rent, how do I pay gas, electricity, water and rent and wages?”

Also reeling was Adriano of Geppetto Trattoria, a 40-year-old family-run restaurant at Wellington Pde in East Melbourne.

He said they had tried to open up for takeaway

lunch “but it just didn’t work”. However, they remained open for dinner.

“We’re barely keeping our heads above water but I suppose it’s more to give my staff some needed hours and just to keep things open in the hope when restrictions ease we can reopen,” Adriano said, who asked not to use his surname.

“Almost every day is a negative. It’s tempting to close the doors but not when the staff are like your family.”

He was also grateful for the “amazing support” from his customers who were “always there for you even if it’s a message”.

Adriano added he was also offering free meals to his staff and their families as well as offering them cash “even if they’re not working”.

Jessica, a worker at a motor inn and serviced apartment site in Parkville, said they had seen bookings plummet.

She said they were dependent on regional Victorian visitors as well as patients who made appointments at nearby hospitals – but because of travel restrictions and the risks posed by health workers who had been exposed to COVID-19 in August, many would-be guests had cancelled.

“It’s very quiet. All appointments have been cancelled unless it’s an emergency therefore we do not have patient people here,” Jessica said, who asked not to use her surname and requested anonymity for their business.

During the sixth lockdown, between 15 to 20 per cent of their 45 rooms had been occupied, she said.

In one day they had experienced \$6000 worth of cancellations for November – with the bulk related to people who had planned to visit the city for major events including the Melbourne Cup and the Royal Melbourne Show.

Meanwhile, Jessica said they had received some cash support which she acknowledged was a “little bit of help” but it didn’t go far enough in paying rent and other outgoing costs.

“We had less housekeeping, less reception hours, and also less trading hours,” she said.

The Commonwealth and state governments have offered a new round of support for small and medium businesses most affected by the extension restrictions in Melbourne.

This included grants increasing from \$10,000 to \$14,000 for the Small Business COVID Hardship Fund as well as payments of \$2800 per week through the Business Costs Assistance Program.

Under the COVID-19 Disaster Payment, workers who have lost between eight and 20 hours work or a full day of work (over seven days) will get \$450 and \$750 for 20 hours or more of work lost.

Payments of \$5000, \$10,000 and \$20,000 per week will be made to around 7000 licensed hospitality premises that have previously received grants under the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund 2021 or July extension programs ●



▲ George Seoud, owner of MOFO burgers in Carlton, said his store was helping him afloat after restrictions forced him to close three nearby cafes.

Inner city sex workers win decriminalisation fight

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
FEATURE

Sex workers in the inner city are celebrating after the Victorian Government announced sex work would be decriminalised across the state over a two-year period.

The reforms will ensure sex workers have access to the same rights as any other Victorian employee, regardless if they work for themselves, a small employer or a large company.

Vixen Collective advocacy co-ordinator Dylan O'Hara said decriminalisation was an "urgent and overdue change" which their organisation had been working towards for decades.

"There's been a huge amount of work over the years to get decriminalisation onto the Victorian Labor Party's policy platform so it was a really exciting and positive day," Mr O'Hara said.

"We welcome the government's acknowledgement of the harms the current laws have been causing for many years and the recognition that sex workers work and police should not be regulators of the sex industry."

Currently, Victoria has an outdated licensing system for sex work that is regulated by the police.

Brothels, escort agency providers and sex workers who operate independently must apply for a licence and register through the department of consumer affairs – making it illegal for sex workers to operate from their homes or the street.

Mr O'Hara said that the current regulations were "harmful and stigmatising" and forced many sex workers to operate outside of the law.

"These laws don't work, they're not evidence-based and they have failed us as sex workers," he said.

"Working within the laws means we are regulated by the police, and if you're forced to work outside the laws because they are dangerous and difficult to comply with, you're open to being targeted by the police."



▲ Vixen Collective is based out of Carlton's Trades Hall.

"We're forced to make choices based on hundreds of pages of discriminatory, arbitrary law, rather than our safety needs as working members of the community."

One of the issues with the current laws is that for sex workers who register with the business authority, their details are held on the register permanently.

This can pose threats to the privacy, safety and wellbeing of past and present sex workers.

For those without a licence or those practicing street-based sex-work, they also do not have access to basic rights and can be discouraged from engaging with healthcare providers, the justice system, or other government services because they fear being stigmatised or possibly receiving criminal penalties.

Mr O'Hara said that Vixen Collective – which operates out of Carlton's Trades Hall – would continue advocating during the next two years to ensure the decriminalisation was "genuine".

"The legislation is still being developed, so we will be working fiercely to make sure the government extends the benefits of decriminalisation to all sex workers as it has committed to do," O'Hara said.

"The current proposals fall short of that in some areas – it's crucial that no sex workers are left behind."

"Decriminalisation has to be for all of us."

Twenty-five-year-old Viola, who has worked in brothels in the inner city for the past five years, said the decriminalisation announcement was "incredibly emotional" for her as

it would have a huge impact on her working environment.

"Due to restrictions around independent work in Victoria I only work in brothels, and over the past few years I have flown to NSW to work privately there as it is safer and easier under their decriminalisation framework," Viola said.

"The removal of the *Sex Work Act* licence, as well as the licensing restrictions and planning controls on independent workers will allow me to continue to develop my business here in my home state."

"Decriminalisation will mean I will not have to rely on brothels and their managers' whims to work and I will be able to independently run my own business and make more money without giving a cut to managers."

Viola said she had always been "too scared" to get a sex work licence as she knew many people who had their personal information made accessible to stalkers, and had issues travelling internationally.

She also said that as the current laws had created a situation where a handful of brothels had all the power, it was a "careful balance" between standing up for her own rights while knowing she could be fired for any reason.

"I have been fired by a manager for deigning to travel interstate and work there and there was nothing I could do between a lack of anti-discrimination protections and access to Worksafe," Viola said.

"If I choose to take private bookings in Victoria I run the risk of police harassment and entrapment [and] I've had to deal with the anxiety of negotiating services with clients over the phone or text knowing that the restrictive advertising rules in Victoria on which words or phrases I use could get me into legal trouble."

Viola also said that the current public health regulations on sex workers including mandatory STI testing was "draconian" and "infantilising".

"Sex workers are experts in their own sexual health and being forced to submit to state sanctioned testing is dehumanising," Viola said.

"It's often unnecessary as I am extremely

stringent in my sexual health practices and know when I've been exposed and when I need to get tested."

"The current framework ... treats us as if we are vectors of disease and is a waste of time and money."

When decriminalisation comes into effect, it will bring Victoria into line with other jurisdictions – including NSW – where sex work was decriminalised in 1995.

MP Fiona Patten, who was a sex worker for two years – had been leading the review into decriminalisation since 2019 and said the announcement was a "red letter day for the red light industry".

"This is a case of making the world better by removing a discriminatory law, not imposing a new law," Ms Patten said.

"The collective view of all the sex worker groups was that decriminalising the industry was by far the best way to give them the best occupational health and safety outcomes."

The decriminalisation announcement was particularly welcome as sex workers are still struggling to make ends meet during the state's sixth lockdown.

Although she was one of the few sex workers to receive JobKeeper, Viola said the lockdowns had robbed her of the ability to earn enough money so she'd be able to pursue further study and had a major impact on her mental health.

"I'm sure many people experienced touch starvation over the course of lockdowns but it was particularly jarring for me going from 100 to zero in an instant," she said.

"Personally, my work has a healing aspect and I believe deeply in the healing impact of tenderness and touch, being unable to share those gifts with the beautiful people of Melbourne has been hard during this time." ●

To donate to sex workers in need visit: chuffed.org/project/sex-work-support

Fitzroy Gardens Pavilion brought to life with art

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ARTS & CULTURE

The Pavilion at Fitzroy Gardens will transform into a hub of creative workshops and arts events throughout September as part of CoLab Arts in the Park, an arts residency supported by the City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces program.

The team at CoLab – a collective of seven Melbourne artists – have taken over the space to offer a series of talks, workshops and an art exhibition in the gardens throughout September and the duration of the school holidays.

CoLab member and ceramic artist Vincenza said there will be a wide range of activities on offer including painting, sculpture, screen printing, ceramics, and floral artwork.

"We have a demonstration on making sculptures from junk collected from the streets, a workshop for children to sculpt critters with air dried clay, and a floral arrangement class using native plants," Vincenza said.

"We also have a range of programs geared towards families for the school holidays, including painting and drawing classes inspired by the floral displays in the Conservatory."

The Pavilion will also have a range of artworks on display from the group of artists, with some available for purchase.

The workshops planned for September will begin in person once lockdown ends, however if restrictions continue they will be delivered online.

In terms of the art exhibition, it's still possible to view the work.

"There is a looped video showcasing works by the artists and workshops held which runs continuously day and night in the window, so visitors and people walking by can get a glimpse of the artworks available inside the Pavilion," Vincenza said.

As Melbourne artists have been dealt continuous blows by the never-ending lockdowns, and have had a lack of government support,



Vincenza said the Creative Spaces program had been a "restorative" exercise.

"For months galleries, private teaching and community art hubs have been closed and we've been isolation, so it's been invigorating to take our work out into the public and engage with people," Vincenza said.

"We've had great support from the community and have had hundreds of people come through the doors, so it's really a great opportunity to come to the gardens, meet artists and talk about the work."

It gives people who don't necessarily see themselves as art-lovers the chance to experience something a bit different."

To find out more about the program, visit: trybooking.com/eventlist/colabartsintheparkfitzroygardens ●

New laws to protect winter sunlight

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Parks across East Melbourne and Carlton will be protected from unreasonable overshadowing by developments under new laws being considered by the City of Melbourne.

The amendment to the Parks Planning Scheme will introduce "no additional overshadowing" for parks in low- to mid-rise areas such as Powlett Reserve in East Melbourne, a limit on the amount of overshadowing of parks in urban renewal areas and increased winter sunlight protection.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said Melbourne's parks faced a significant threat from new developments keen to take advantage of the city's world-class open spaces.

"While there are existing planning controls to protect sunlight in the central city, no laws protect our suburbs, including the family-friendly havens of Kensington, North Melbourne and Carlton," he said.

"Protecting our parks against inappropriate development is a priority for the City of Melbourne as we build back better after COVID-19."

In the past year, the council has seen a three-fold increase in visitors to its parks which have served as a haven for locked-down locals to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

The C278 Sunlight to Parks planning scheme amendment seeks to provide for this by introducing winter sunlight access to all parks within the municipality based on the winter solstice instead of the spring equinox.

While the current laws prioritise the use of parks by city workers during lunch breaks between 11am and 2pm, the amendment will increase sunlight protection hours between 10am to 3pm during winter.

A panel report into the merits of the amendment found the proposal successfully balances city growth with the protection of parks.

Laws to protect sunlight in Melbourne's

"While there are existing planning controls to protect sunlight in the central city, no laws protect our suburbs."



parks were introduced in 1999, when there were far fewer high-rise buildings in the city.

Cr Reece said the sunlight to parks amendment would elevate the importance of parks as community assets and give the council a strong set of rules to follow when considering new development applications.

"Despite the COVID-19 pandemic we've continued to see a steady stream of development applications submitted to council," Cr Reece said.

"This is the perfect time to consider these planning scheme amendments to future proof Melbourne's parks."

However, due to seven councillors, including Lord Mayor Sally Capp, declaring a conflict of interest during the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 17, quorum for the meeting was lost.

As a result, a report will now be prepared for the August 31 council meeting so the remaining councillors who do not have conflict of interests can decide on the amendment.

If approved by the council, the planning scheme amendment will be presented to the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne for final approval ●

Carlton bookseller joins new chapter to entice readers amid lockdowns

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Like many booksellers, Mark Rubbo of Readings bookshop in Carlton has found it tough to attract new customers amid repeated lockdowns.

But through a new program called Melbourne City Reads he hoped readers of all kinds would be back through his doors in droves once the lockdown ended.

His shop, along with Hill of Content bookshop in Bourke St, Mary Martin Southbank and Queen Victoria Market, North Melbourne Books, The Paperback Bookshop, Readings Carlton, and Readings State Library (which is temporarily closed), will showcase a different book each month with a 25 per cent discount on the cover price.

The program began in August with bookshops promoting and selling *Joys of Real Life*, a first novel by Allee Richards. This month *In Moonland* by Melbourne author Miles Allinson will be on offer, followed by *Wild Abandon* by Emily Bitto, and in November Maxine Beneba Clarke’s collection of poems, *How Decent Folk Behave*.

Mr Rubbo welcomed Melbourne City Reads, saying his stores across inner-city Melbourne had so far sold 400 copies of *Small Joys of Real Life*.

“By banding together, the Melbourne City Reads bookshops hope to encourage our city’s passionate readers to revisit their local bookshop and purchase books by local writers, celebrating the literary culture that I firmly believe to be one of the richest in the world,” he said.

“The protracted lockdowns and the depopulation of city offices has had a terrible impact on bookshops in the City of Melbourne area.”

He added revenue at his Lygon St shop was 70 per cent down on normal trade with his State Library bookshop having “totally closed” until the lockdown ended.



▲ Mark Rubbo of Readings Carlton with Melbourne author Miles Allinson (right) promoting his new book, In Moonland.

“Click-and-collect and phone orders keep us occupied. It’s a weird place to be in at the moment.”

Miles Allinson told *Inner City News* he felt “pretty chuffed” that his novel had been chosen after his initial face-to-face launch was cancelled. “It’s a big honour,” he said, adding the promotion will “make some difference”.

“There’s never been a more important time to support bookshops ... they’re such precious places, a soul of a city in some ways.”

In describing his novel, *In Moonland*, which took him six years to complete, Mr Allinson said, “It’s a book that goes from the 1970s through to the new future so it looks at the relationship between generations and the way the memory works across time”.

“Sometimes we don’t get a choice about what we remember and sometimes memories

continue to reverberate across generations in terms of inherited trauma, for instance.”

His book also explores “the question of spiritual experience and how you integrate that into your ordinary life”.

Mr Allinson said while the lockdown had been “frustrating at the moment” it meant valuable time with his young daughter while also an opportunity to write a children’s book as well as “a plan for another novel”.

City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp encouraged everyone to “celebrate their inner bookworm” through the new program.

“Melbourne’s bookshops are just as much a part of our culture as our laneways and restaurants,” she said.

“They offer endless entertainment and knowledge while shining a light on Melburnian writers and stories set in our marvellous city.” ●

Carnage at Parkville car crash

SAFETY & SECURITY

A mother and two children were killed in a high-speed car crash outside the Royal Women’s Hospital in Parkville on August 20.

Koby Poole, 35, her eight-year-old daughter Chloe, and 20-month-old son Harrison died at the scene.

Police said the car was travelling southbound along Flemington Rd, towards Grattan St, before it struck a kerb outside the hospital and crashed into a pole.

It is understood the woman had left the Royal Children’s Hospital before driving erratically and at speed down Flemington Rd about 9.50am.

Senior Seargant Clanchy said a “minor incident” took place with another vehicle at the Gatehouse St intersection before the woman continued down Flemington Rd.

The car was engulfed in flames shortly after the crash.

Parkville resident William Evans said he woke up to the sound of an explosion.

“I was woken up by a bang that sounded like a huge explosion and ran out onto my balcony which is shortly up the road,” Mr Evans said.

“The fireball was huge.”

Ms Poole’s partner Craig issued a statement thanking the community for its support.

“I’d like to thank the community for their love and support at this difficult time following the loss of my partner Koby and my beautiful children Chloe (9) and Harrison (20 months),” he wrote.

“I have no words to describe how we’re all feeling. This tragedy will take some time to process and we ask for some privacy at this time.”

Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives are still investigating the circumstances leading up to the incident ●

Fierce competition at the ‘G

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

Saturday afternoon at the MCG might not be as crowded during lockdown but naked ambition won the day during the Hawks-Tigers match.

Five girls and one boy competed to circumnavigate the ground in the fastest time.

The most ambitious was Matilda Holmes of Richmond desperate for \$20 for a new Rainbocorn.

Matilda, known as Tilly to her friends, had to beat her friend Harriett and brother Ari to win the prize.

A timekeeper was appointed and the contestants set off from just outside Gate 5.

Soon after, more cyclists arrived ready to compete – Zoe, Laylah and Eden from the same neighbourhood.

That made five girls between the ages of seven and 11 vying for the title, plus a boy of five on the back of his dad’s bike.

The closure of playgrounds and netball court has forced locals to find new places for exercising and the ‘G has grabbed the popular imagination.

“This is the first time we’ve been here,” mum Alice McBroom said. “Some friends have discovered the MCG and told me about it.”

As the kids raced past, two Hawks fans Zoe Crawforth and Annie Worth were trying to watch the game through an obscure window.

They claimed to be the only barrackers at the ground, having sussed out “the best seats in the house” near the AFL members stand.

They’d walked to the ‘G to catch a glimpse of coach Alastair Clarkson on his last day after 17 years in the job.

“I can’t believe we can’t say good-bye to Clarko,” the girls said, listening to the commentary on their “trannie” while giving him their support.

It didn’t take long for the cyclists to pass the crowd of two and enter the home straight.

Tilly clocked in at a fast 2.42, beating her friend Harriet by 30 seconds.

Soon after, Laylah Ross knocked 32 seconds



▲ Matilda Holmes wins \$20 for circumnavigating the G in 2.42.



▲ Zoe Crawforth and Annie Worth with the best COVID seats in the house.



▲ Sponsors for the race: Alice McBroom and Bec Purdie.

off Tilly’s time, coming in at 2.10.

“It was good,” seven-year-old Tilly said. She won the \$20 for beating her brother Ari and friend Harriet in their heat.

But Laylah, the actual record holder, rejected a reward like a true sportswoman, opting instead for the thrill of the race ●

It is rocket science

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
EDUCATION

Engineering students aim high at the University of Melbourne but first they have to get experience working in a fabrication lab, which isn’t easy during lockdown.

Some lucky students had a gig at the Telstra Creator Space on Swanston St last month.

Someone was having difficulty cutting through metal with a hand saw.

She was holding it steady with a vice but not making much progress. Other low-tech items such as lumps of wood and electric drills were lying nearby.

These aren’t the kind of tools you’d expect in a space lab but the students were paying close attention to their use.

It’s no surprise that they’re taking their studies so seriously in this climate.

Engineers deal with how things are made and students have been hard hit by the pandemic because they haven’t been able to get hands-on experience.

The Aerospace and Rocket Engineering Society (ARES) has solved this problem with two student-led teams that are competing internationally.

“We’re building an induction engine for a rocket,” one proud student told *Inner City News*.

He had to get a work permit so he could complete the second year of the project.

Other engineering students haven’t been as lucky. They’ve designed products during their course but not been able to make them.

“I won’t be going in this semester,” said Bill Clayton, a Master of Mechatronics Engineering student who is working from home.

He volunteered for the ARES Rover team to help design a robotic arm for a space vehicle but he is still in the first year of the program.

His aim will be to “make the pieces talk to each other”. In other words, he’ll be programming microchips and micro-controllers to communicate with each other and run meters.

“It’s really important to show that you have



▲ Students doing a safety course prior to building a rocket.

the technical skills,” he explained.

Students do a safety course first with low-tech tools before beginning fabrication work in the lab.

Masters students also spend one subject per semester designing a product but many are worried they won’t actually get into uni to make it.

“This year it mightn’t happen because of issues with COVID,” Bill said. “With space restrictions, it has taken longer to get into university to build in the labs.” He said that the Masters had been a huge step up, particularly the quantity of work expected.

“There’s not much opportunity to physically build stuff. There’s a lot of theory, not a lot of design and building.” ●

Toy libraries risk closure after funding cut

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

Toy libraries in Carlton, Kensington and Docklands are facing closure after the City of Melbourne chose not to fund their Social Innovations Grant application.

As a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organisation which lend toys to families who need them, the libraries depend completely on short-term grants from the council.

Melbourne Communities Toy Library president Emily Corcoran said that with a lack of permanent funding this issue has been a long time coming.

“We’ve been funded through a series of short-term grants with the idea that we would eventually become self-sufficient which was never going to work for a toy library,” Ms Corcoran said.

“Libraries are not-for profit – we’re having to charge substantial member fees and are still not running at a profit.”

The 20-year-old Kensington branch has recently been forced to shut after the council was unable to find a new location while the new Kensington Recreation Centre is redeveloped.

Ms Corcoran said that this was not a matter of council being “malicious”, but showed that there was a lack of interest in ensuring the toy libraries survived.

“It’s like we operate as a silo and have been told that we need to sort ourselves out and operate independent from council,” Ms Corcoran said.

“There’s a lack of knowledge and care here, and a lack of understanding about the benefits of the library.”

Having served the community for the past 20 years, the libraries have been a crucial resource for inner city families who need access to toys.

The libraries operate as a source of connection for immigrant families, and also those concerned about the environmental waste of purchasing large, plastic toys.

Ms Corcoran said the popularity of the libraries showed how many families valued them.

“With our last round of funding we opened the Docklands branch, and despite COVID challenges and the space only being open four hours a week, we’ve had a flood of 50 families who regularly access it,” Ms Corcoran said.

“We’re all about bringing the community together through play so we want to provide a point of connection for parents where they can come together, meet other people and relax.”

“It’s a great resource to combat some of the mental health issues parents face.”

Ms Corcoran said that she has received many emails of support from people who used the



libraries including foster carers, maternal child health nurses, new immigrant families and workers in the CBD who saw the value in the service.

“Families in the inner city are time poor, have less space and are concerned about the environmental impact toy waste can cause so they have been lobbying council,” Ms Corcoran said.

As it stands, the toys from the now-closed Kensington Toy Library will now need to be “piled high” at the Carlton site which has a two-year licence.

But Ms Corcoran said there was a clear solution which the council hadn’t properly considered.

“With all of the recently closed businesses leaving empty shops in the CBD, council could easily make us part of the street level activation of shopping strips,” Ms Corcoran said.

“If we’re given a shop front, we’re a low-cost way to being families and the community back to the city and spending their money locally.”

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said they were working with the toy library to find a new location for the Kensington site.

“Melbourne Community Toy Libraries applied for funding under the Social Partnerships program for a project that would deliver a facilitated playgroup for local families,” the spokesperson said.

“The project was not recommended for funding as council offers a similar playgroup program that has vacancies available.”

“We recognise the important role toy libraries play in our community and are working with the organisation to help find a new location for the Kensington toy library.” ●

Royal Exhibition Building buzzing after Pfizer announcement

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HEALTH

The Royal Exhibition Building’s state-run vaccination hub was teaming with people after the state government’s announcement that the Pfizer vaccine would be available to people aged between 16 and 39 years from August 31.

Thirty-year-old Margaret was among the crowd who had just received the Pfizer vaccine when *Inner City News* approached her.

“I’m really glad I made a move to get the jab because I want to travel home to see my family in Germany so that’s a big incentive for me,” she said.

“I was so nervous for the needle, it took me six months to work up the courage.”

Cody had also just received her second Pfizer jab and was feeling good, but said the process was a lot slower in comparison to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

“There’s a shortage of Pfizer vaccines here so that seems to be why it’s slower, but I’m so happy to be fully vaxxed now.”

Aaron was also on his way out of the Royal Exhibition building after attempting to receive the vaccine, but hadn’t been so lucky.

“I came here to get Pfizer because it’s impossible to get a booking anywhere in Melbourne for six weeks so I attempted to walk in, and waited out the front for an hour to no avail, Aaron said.

“I really just want to get it done so we can all move on with our lives.”

As the state-run vaccination hubs struggle to keep up with demand, the City of Melbourne is offering \$100,000 worth of prizes to incentivise more Melburnians to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

The latest initiative to help keep Melbourne open comes amid the federal government 80 per cent vaccination rate target, which it has said will be required in order to ease restrictions, end lockdowns and open up overseas travel.

The council’s own vaccination push kicked off on radio on August 16 and was followed by the launch of a social media campaign offering the chance to win a prize-a-day with a total prize pool valued at \$100,000.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said now was perhaps the most dangerous time to be unvaccinated and urged Melburnians to come out in record numbers to get the jab.

“We want to thank and reward Melburnians who have already been vaccinated and provide those who haven’t with a bit of extra motivation so the city can re-open and stay open,” Cr Capp said.

“I want Melbourne to be the most vaccinated



▲ Margaret and Aaron had very different experiences at the Royal Exhibition Building.

city in Australia because it is the only pathway to confidence.”

The campaign is designed to motivate more people to get vaccinated with 10 \$5000 “Melbourne Experience” packages up for grabs through a two-week radio promotion.

Part two of the campaign asks people to share their vaccine hero stories and what they’re looking forward to when Melbourne opens again, with the chance to win a prize valued at \$1000 every day for six weeks.

The \$5000 Melbourne experience prize packages include a \$1250 Emporium voucher, \$1000 Melbourne Central voucher, \$250 Endota Spa voucher, \$1000 accommodation voucher, \$500 dining voucher, and four *Frozen the Musical* tickets valued at \$1000.

The campaign will run for eight weeks from August 16 ●

Former Park Hotel detainee sues federal government

WORDS BY *Matt Harvey*
COURTS

After over a year in hotel detention Kurdish asylum seeker and musician Mostafa “Moz” Azimitabar is suing the federal government for damages.

The case could carry consequences for other asylum seekers who have been held in the hotel detention system.

The case is being handled by the managing partner of Sydney-based law firm Marque Lawyers Michael Bradley, who has 25 years practising in litigation and regulatory affairs.

“The case revolves around interpretation of the *Migration Act [1958]*. We say that the Act doesn’t give the Minister the power to create or maintain these particular facilities as places of detention,” Mr Bradley said.

The case centres around the problem of whether the *Migration Act* gives powers to create detention in alternative places of detention (APOD). According to Mr Bradley, the Act doesn’t allow for this.

“It doesn’t give the minister any specific powers to create such places and detain people in them,” Mr Bradley said.

“It’s a bit of a technical legal argument whether that power exists at all, if it doesn’t, then the

detention is unlawful and anyone who’s been held in an APOD, has been held unlawfully.”

The way the migration act works is that unlawful non-citizens, a person who does not hold a valid visa is an unlawful non-citizen according to Border force, who are in Australia and on Australian territory have to be taken into detention wherever they’re found.

The Act requires they be held in immigration detention and defines what immigration detention is.

The definition section of the *Migration Act* lists a number of different types of places which can constitute immigration detention and they include;

- Detention centres which are formally established under the Act, e.g. Villawood, and Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA) in Broadmeadows.
 - Police station, watch house or temporary detention.
 - If asylum seekers are picked up at sea and held on a vessel that can also satisfy the definition and another place approved in writing by the Minister for Immigration.
- “And that’s the bit that they use to justify the creation of APODs, which are established with the minister’s approval,” Mr Bradley said.
- If the APOD system was declared unlawful

then the government would be required to release anyone who remains in a hotel, however, they would still be held in detention.

A spokesperson for The Department of Home Affairs said the department was aware of the ongoing matter, but declined to comment.

“As the matter is before the Court, it would be inappropriate to comment further,” the spokesperson said.

While Mr Azimitabar is currently out of detention and in the community on a bridging visa, department figures show 78 people are currently held in APODs across the country, 42 of whom are in Victoria.

Some refugees have been confined to hotels for nearly two years, others have been relocated under the Australia-United States Resettlement Arrangement.

Though there is a standing offer from the New Zealand Government to resettle refugees in New Zealand, however the Australian government is yet to take up on the offer.

Due to his status as a non-citizen and the federal government’s rule made in 2013 that anyone who came by boat after that point was prohibited from being given residency, Mr Azimitabar could have his VISA revoked.

While the situation is complicated and the legal arguments technical, there remains a simple desire for an outcome.

“It doesn’t give the minister any specific powers to create such places and detain people...”

“The ideal outcome would be a declaration that this particular form of detention is unlawful and force the government to ensure that where it is holding people in detention that it does it in a lawful way,” Mr Bradley said.

“If the government’s right about this, it could literally make anything, any place, a place of detention and hold people anywhere. And because there’s no regulatory or statutory structure for these APODs, they just exist in the ether.”

“They kind of sit outside the regulated system which is obviously concerning from a human rights perspective. It evokes thoughts of black sites, which is not where we should be.”

Mr Azimitabar will return to court on October 15 where he is expected to receive a hearing date ●

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LORD MAYOR’S COMMENDATIONS

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY



Alex Brosca’s family has been making pizza for almost half a century.

Nearing its half century on the popular strip, Papa Gino’s is a Lygon Street mainstay and its recipes and family spirit have been handed down through the generations.

The restaurant has been recognised in this year’s Lord Mayor’s Commendations, acknowledging the contribution the family has made to our city over the years.

When Gino and Silvana Brosca met working in a northern Italian bar, there was no way of telling that hospitality would be the genesis and heart of the family they would go on to create.

‘Food and serving people runs deep for the Broscas,’ Gino and Silvana’s son and Papa Gino’s owner, Alex Brosca said.

‘Mum and Dad met working in a bar and every generation of our family since has been involved in this business in some way, shape or form.’

‘All the kids and grandkids do a stint at Papa Gino’s as an after school or part-time uni job.

‘Some of them – like me and my siblings – stay on full-time, and some go on to other things.

‘Everyone always comes back for a good feed and to hang out with the family. There’s never a shortage of aunts or uncles here at Papa Gino’s.’

Gino and Silvana came to Australia in 1957 with just a couple of kids in tow at that stage.

‘At first they settled in regional towns, but a few of dad’s mates from his hometown started up Australia’s first pizza restaurant, Toto’s, and enticed him to the big smoke,’ Alex said.

This was in the late 1960s, when Lygon Street was far from the cultural zeitgeist it was to become.

‘There were about 10 milk bars and just as many fish and chip shops.

‘Us kids knocked around in the park playing footy and cricket with other locals, and that’s how we found out about 221 Lygon Street.

‘By then, Mum and Dad had moved on from Toto’s and started their own venture – Naples Bay – but were looking for a new location.

‘One of our footy mates mentioned his dad was selling a hamburger joint, and Papa Gino’s was born – I think they paid just \$5000.’

Alex, the younger of Gino and Silvana’s five kids, and just 10 when the family took it on, remembers fondly those early days of the restaurant.

‘We all pitched in. In those days you had to slice the olives, separate the anchovies by hand. That was my job,’ Alex said.

But don’t think it has quashed his love of salty delicacies.

‘My favourite dish is still the napoletana – simple but delicious – olives, anchovies and basil.’

After a steady apprenticeship in the family business, Alex was on his way to a degree in photography when Papa Gino had a quiet word.

‘It didn’t take long for dad to convince me, and I’ve been here ever since.

‘Mum worked right up to the age of 84 as our head chef. She’d stroll down from our family home on Drummond Street and get to work. She’s very happy to pass the baton to us kids these days.’

When asked what sets them apart, Alex says it’s the sense of family.

‘When we started, we were one of only a handful of pizza restaurants in the city, and we became a popular eating spot for neighbourhood locals and Melbourne University academics.

‘We’re still serving the locals, despite the demographics changing somewhat.

‘A lot of the faithfuls we still welcome by name, and we enjoy meeting new students as they make Carlton their home each year.

‘There have been so many changes since we opened in 1973. I’ve seen the CBD and Carlton go from a sleepy quiet suburb to a thriving bustling city.

‘COVID has of course had a huge impact on our business as well as surrounding businesses.

‘We are a university suburb and the fact that there is only a handful of local students and no international students here at the moment drain a lot of the lifeblood from the street.

‘But we’ve gone through recessions and downturns and sailed right through, and I hope we can do the same again this time.’

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

IN-BRIEF

WINDOW SHOPPING

More than 75 empty shopfronts will be transformed into makers’ spaces, art installations and pop-up shops to boost foot traffic and bring the buzz back to the city. Shopfronts in Lygon Street, Docklands and CBD east will be revitalised in the \$2.6 million program, part of the City of Melbourne and Victorian Government \$100m Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

MONEY WELL SPENT

Melburnians have claimed millions in cash back through the Melbourne Money dining discount program, with funds from the \$8.4 million scheme exhausted in less than five weeks. More than 270,000 meals were rebated, amounting to \$40 million flowing to more than 3000 city restaurants, cafes and bars.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Do you run a local business? For one-on-one advice, contact our Business Concierge team on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) or enquire online, and subscribe to our Business in Melbourne newsletter for regular updates, opportunities and activities for city businesses. Sign up at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

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

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ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR’S COMMENDATIONS

The business owners showcased on these pages are recipients of this year’s Lord Mayor’s Commendations. Each has operated in the City of Melbourne for 10 or more years.

The commendations, established in 2005, recognise how important small businesses are to the city’s prosperity and liveability.

Photographic exhibitions celebrating this year’s winners are on display in September at the Block Arcade and City Library on Flinders Lane.

To read our full profiles on these businesses and more, visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au

DOCKLANDS HEALTH

Head to Docklands Health to get expert care from a passionate team of allied health professionals.

Led by Dr Michael Edgley, Docklands Health has gone from strength to strength over a decade, helping patients access treatment that is as fast, holistic and cost-effective as possible.

‘At first it was just two of us in a tiny room. Ten years on, we have about 13 practitioners across all sorts of disciplines, including chiropractic care, physiotherapy, psychology, nutrition, podiatry and pilates,’ Mike said.

‘Over 10 years, I’ve seen families grow up and workers progress up the corporate ladder. We know couples who’ve got married and had children who now attend Docklands Primary School, which didn’t even exist a few years ago. I really appreciate this aspect of the job.

‘If the pandemic had occurred eight years ago, Docklands really would’ve struggled, but the community



groups – like those formed through Library at the Dock, Probus and Rotary – are now quite well established. This helps people feel more connected.’

CAMILLA GOUGH

If you’ve ever wandered through the gothic halls of Melbourne’s iconic Manchester Unity Building, you may have seen Camilla Gough at work - a master jeweller who turns stories into tiny, exquisite works of art.

For more than 25 years, Camilla has created uniquely personal, 100 per cent handcrafted jewellery for customers seeking a memento of love or loss, or simply a beautiful piece to treasure.

Camilla works with gold, diamonds and precious gems, with a particular focus on rare and coloured diamonds.

Her commissions evoke landscapes, flowers, architecture, ocean shorelines and even rockpools, designed in response to customer stories. It’s meticulous work and full of detail.

‘I love hearing people’s stories, which are sometimes deeply personal. After these conversations, I write and draw to develop a design,’ Camilla said.



‘To come and get a piece of jewellery commissioned takes a sense of courage. Sitting opposite a craftsperson having to express yourself isn’t for everyone. But there’s a magical vibe around it.’

DOMAIN DRY CLEANERS

John Athanasiou jokes about working in a small shop space, but vast, bejewelled worlds crowd into this dry cleaning business in South Yarra.

Precious costumes from Frozen, a gown from Kylie Minogue – all find their way to Domain Dry Cleaners.

Many of Australia’s leading performing arts companies such as Opera Australia and Melbourne Theatre Company trust John’s expertise in cleaning their elaborate costumes.

‘We did the Australian Ballet for 40 years. We’re doing Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and Frozen... and we’ve done many international bands too,’ John said.

A second-generation family-run business, Domain Dry Cleaners has been a South Yarra landmark for more than 40 years. John’s father George opened its doors in the 1970s.

While it’s hard work, John has a warm and amusing approach when looking back over his accomplishments.



‘I break out in a sweat with some costumes. Aladdin was full-on – covered in beads, velvets, silks, that was challenging,’ he said.

‘Kylie Minogue’s dress – they wanted it the same day. It was fully pleated and I just had to shut the shop and dedicate my day to that.’

VERTIGO HIGH ACCESS SPECIALISTS

North Melbourne may be home base for the team at Vertigo High Access Specialists, but its expert climbers soar high and roam far.

For 30 years, this rope access trades business has inspected, cleaned and installed safety systems at some of Victoria’s tallest and best-known structures.

‘We recently assisted with the replacement of all the speakers and lights at the Melbourne Cricket Ground,’ Vertigo Director and CEO John Dollisson said.

‘We’ve done most of the big signs around Melbourne. Probably our biggest claim to fame is designing access systems on the roof of buildings so people can get down the sides to clean and replace windows.’

Vertigo’s gallery of images is not for the faint-hearted. Expert team members appear as tiny figures dotting the vast roof of a sports stadium or against a wind turbine. Their ropes stretch across treacherous seas, to help maintain offshore rigs.



‘We’ve had four core guys who’ve been with us almost the whole time. The key thing is to find good people and hold on to them.’

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur. All photos taken in line with health and safety guidelines.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Quiet achiever is as passionate as ever

“While he may have been around Town Hall for more than 20 years, Cr Kevin Louey said that the pandemic had meant “throwing the rule book out” when it came to being on council.




Combined with eight years working as former Lord Mayor John So's chief of staff, the fourth term councillor has more experience at the City of Melbourne than just about anyone. But while the devastation that COVID-19 has caused on Melbourne continues to dampen many people's spirits, Cr Louey is as passionate as ever to put his experience to good use for the city's residents and businesses. Stemming from his days working for John So, he's earned a reputation as a councillor for his ability to network and get things done behind the scenes. In his words as part of a *Councillor Profile* in 2015, he told *CBD News* it was the “small things, the non-sexy stuff”. While Cr Louey's never one to grandstand and seldom will he speak at council meetings, he said he was “always available” to get his

“hands dirty” by working collaboratively to achieve good outcomes for locals. “I'm definitely not here for the sexy stuff! But since the pandemic, there is no manual that you can pick up to being on council, I think you can forget it,” he said. “I have been around for a while and I'm available.” “I always like to get my hands dirty, because keep in mind that's where I came from working behind the scenes with John So where we'd take notes, log things and take action. When you spent eight years on the outside, you collaborate and you work together. We tend to like doing things on the ground, not in the office.” “If people want to pick up the phone, if there is a bureaucracy issue with council, sometimes it's minor, but as long as you put it in the right basket someone will look after it.”

“Residents are our very cheap version of precinct managers on the ground and they're not scared and certainly not shy in raising issues with us. We all want to try and help.” Heading into last year's council elections, there was plenty of intrigue as to whether Cr Louey would go around again for a fourth term, and if so, which team he'd throw his support behind. Having negotiated the first spot on former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle's tickets at previous council elections, his experience and influence proved telling again when he ran first on Lord Mayor Sally Capp's winning team in 2020. He praised the current group of councillors and said it was Sally Capp's ability to bring people together and get things done for the city that were his prime motivations in opting to run with Team Capp. “She's [Sally Capp's] a great leader. She works very well with the government of the day and has been great as the spokesperson. It's about deliverables and she's able to deliver,” he said. “It is a great, workable council. It's non-controversial. The pandemic has helped to open people's eyes to look at the much bigger things rather than the small issues. Sally is certainly more than qualified. She's proven in terms of being able to work with residents or business.” With a strong background in business and the Chinese market, Cr Louey's expertise is being put to good use again as chair of the council's business and global opportunities portfolio, and deputy lead on small business. He is also the City of Melbourne's appointment to the advisory committees Enterprise Melbourne Pty Ltd and Business Partner City Network. His deep understanding of the cultural and business etiquette required to operate successfully in China has been central to the council's strong relationship with the Chinese community over many years. While the pandemic may have seen Australia's relationship with China impacted adversely, Cr

Louey said with the City of Melbourne's own office based in Tianjin, Melbourne was well-placed to pick up where it left off once borders were reopened. But while international students, tourists and workers continue to be sorely missed in Melbourne, he said the council was continuing to “look local” in its pursuit of rebuilding the city post-COVID. In praising the council's management led by its CEO Justin Hanney, Cr Louey said it was his firm belief that Melbourne had all of the dynamics to bounce back from the pandemic bigger and better than ever. “In local government we're very grassroots. We feel every bit of pain that our residents and businesses feel. The ‘three R's’ are almost I'd say out, and we need to look as a capital city government and be more creative. I don't have the answers by the way!” he said. “As a council, we're lucky that we've got a CEO with great relationships with the state government and he works with the state very, very well. They've got high regards for him – [Mr Hanney is] a man who is on a mission and he will complete his mission.” “We've got all the major drivers [to bounce back]. We've got the bones to grow from. It's a lifestyle here in Melbourne.” “The council is committed to the regrowth, we've positioned our budget to support our businesses but we need to get the traffic back. We have a council committed to supporting our businesses and residents through this pandemic.” ●



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CARLTON INC. TRADER PROFILE

Forza Italia: A melting pot of Italian culture

From humble beginnings as a small store in Perth, Forza Italia has blossomed into an iconic Lygon St institution and Australia's largest Italian megastore.



Since 2009, Forza has been offering everything from official sporting merchandise, novelty items from various Italian regions, clothing designed in-house and a wide range of souvenirs. Founder Joseph Gerace said that as a third-generation Italian he was inspired to start the store to “keep up tradition”. “There were always little stores that sold Italian souvenirs but nothing that consolidated every aspect of Italian culture,” Mr Gerace said. “In Australia we've got just over a million Italo-Australians and Lygon St is earmarked as Little Italy so it was the perfect spot for the store that runs alongside our online presence.” Gerace and his staff take great pride in hand-picking more than 5000 products, including merchandise from big brands like Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, and Puma – including hard-to-get limited-edition sporting jerseys which are usually only available overseas. Forza also designs and manufactures its own clothing in-house, using quality materials imported from Italy. Mr Gerace said that by manufacturing on site, Forza was able to ensure that all of the products

were of the high quality that their customers have come to expect. “Our team designs and custom prints everything on an order basis – everything from men's and women's clothing to babies garments,” Mr Gerace said. Forza's internally developed Merch Group division specialises in print-on-demand and e-commerce and boasts clients such as comedy sensation Sooshi Mango. They have also recently gained exclusive rights in Victoria for Italian sportswear brand Macron, which is now the technical sponsor of Melbourne Victory. With a huge online presence, the Lygon St store mainly acts as a showroom so customers can become familiar with the products. The website has more than 30,000 members, who receive loyalty points as well as news about new product ranges, updates about Italy, and events across Melbourne. “We have our retail store which is loved by tourists in Lygon St, including interstate visitors who had come with their family for school holidays,” Mr Gerace said.



“With COVID we aren't getting those in-store visitors, but we have a huge online presence which serves lots of our long-time customers who know we sell quality products.” In terms of favourite items, Mr Gerace said he couldn't go past the official licensed products from the iconic Italian brands. “It's exciting to see the innovative printing techniques and quality design and manufacturing of brands like Alfa Romeo and Puma Italy,” Mr Gerace said. Although Mr Gerace said that Lygon St and Carlton had changed over the years, it was important to evolve and innovate with the times. “You need to be innovative and you can't be stuck in one mindset – you have to be clear on who are customers are and what they want,” Mr Gerace said. “We've evolved over the years but our slogan

has always been tradition, passion and pride and we stay true to that.” Forza Italia is open Monday to Saturday at 265 Lygon St ●

For more information:
forzaitalia.com.au



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EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

East Melbourne’s game

There has been something strange about East Melbourne this footy season.

The silence at the ‘G has been unnerving. While the lights have shone bright and the siren is heard echoing, the procession of fans has been absent from our streets and we’ve missed the accompanying roar. As Melburnians are coming to terms with the likelihood of the Grand Final being played interstate for a second year, we reflect on the history of AFL and its strong connection to its East Melbourne birthplace.

In May 1859, a committee from the local Melbourne Cricket Club met at the Parade Hotel on Wellington Parade, East Melbourne to draft the 10 “Rules of the Melbourne Football Club”. These went on to be the first rules of the uniquely Australian sports code, crediting them with being the first people in history to codify a national kicking ball game.

Their rules were an amalgamation from various schools of rugby and new innovations influenced by the Australian hard turf conditions and societal structure. They were widely accepted, as they put an end to on-field disputes and excessive injuries to players “with day jobs”. In his seminal text *A Game of Our Own*, famed historian, and East Melbourne resident, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, has written, “In trying to understand the origins of the present game of Australian football we forget that it was moulded by many people and influences, decade after decade ... we all still hope to find an original landmark or great founder in the belief that the game was a once-only invention or derivation rather than a long chain of inventions and adaptations that still continue”.

Another local resident, Tom Hogg, shares his knowledge and passion for Australian Rules Football in the upcoming Winter Edition of the East Melbourne Group’s 3002 *East Melbourne & Jolimont Community Magazine*, in his articles exploring the evolution of the game’s rules and its place in society.

Yarra Park, East Melbourne, (then known as Richmond or Government Paddock), was the arena in which the first footy contests were waged in 1858. Tom Hogg discusses “The abundance of public parkland reserves, developed on Melbourne’s mostly flat terrain with few natural barriers, not only provided the space needed, but resulted in Australian football being played on the largest-sized grounds of any football code in the world”.

In the early days of the Victorian colony, up to 10,000 spectators would gather to watch the athletic spectacle at Yarra Park. From 1856, men and women could enjoy the new innovation of a “weekend” and would flock to East Melbourne to cheer the new sport. The East Melbourne Group (EMG) continues to uphold the foresight of our early town planners in reserving green

spaces for the enjoyment of the community. We work closely with The Melbourne Cricket Club who manages Yarra Park, via our delegates to the Yarra Park Advisory Committee, to maintain the right balance between using the park to service spectators to the MCG, while maintaining its original function as a historic public recreation reserve.

The East Melbourne Group Parks and Gardens sub-committee convener, Luke Martin, commented, “While the MCG and its brilliant sporting events are famous around the world, the surrounding Yarra Park is immensely popular with residents, visitors, (and dogs), as a peaceful and spacious green space for exercising and socialising. For this we thank the Victorian Governor of 1856, Charles La Trobe, for proclaiming the 81 hectares of parkland we know as Yarra Park. It is also important to remember that the area is rich with Aboriginal heritage and significance and home to the protected ‘Scar Tree’ that is estimated to be up to 800 years old and historically used by indigenous ancestors to make canoes and shields. A combination of decent rainfall and fewer AFL spectator matches, detracting cars from parking in the parkland, has resulted in Yarra Park looking a treat. Users young and older, with two legs and four are enjoying using the park on Friday evenings and the weekends without having to navigate a multitude of vehicles and the negative impact they leave on the park”.

We have another year to wait before we can share the excitement of footy finals through the streets of East Melbourne, until then we will enjoy not having to share our streets, parking bays and green parkland with spectator’s cars.

Our efforts to represent our residents to preserve our architectural history and urban amenity, are carried out by passionate EMG volunteers and funded by EMG membership and fundraising efforts. COVID restrictions have prevented the flow of funds usually generated from the social activities, hence we are extremely grateful for the recent generosity of our community donors and paid memberships ●



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



Lisette Malatesta
SECRETARY & COMMUNICATIONS
CONVENOR
EAST MELBOURNE GROUP INC.

CARLTON HISTORY GROUP



▲ Omnibuses outside the Elizabeth St entrance to Flinders Street Station in the 1880s. The one on the left has a sign along the top that says, “North Carlton. Rathdowne Street”. Photo: State Library of Victoria.

Melbourne’s first buses were horse-drawn

In the late 19th century, the only forms of public transport available to people living in the inner northern suburbs of Melbourne were horse-drawn cabs and omnibuses. Suburban rail lines and cable trams to those suburbs were not established until the late 1880s.

Horse-drawn cabs were uncomfortable to ride in, and only departed when the cab driver had enough passengers wanting to go to the same area for his trip to be worthwhile. However, a major step forward in terms of comfort and convenience occurred in 1869 when a trio of American businessmen formed the Melbourne Omnibus Company and introduced American-style coaches with superior suspension more suited to Melbourne’s rough roads, and ran services on set routes to a set timetable.

They used brightly decorated vehicles drawn by two horses, in which passengers sat facing one another in a spacious fully enclosed cabin with glass windows and a door at the rear. The coaches were at first imported from the United States but were later manufactured by the company at its stables in Brunswick St, Fitzroy. These horse-drawn omnibuses (or “buses” for short) ran on set routes from the city to the suburbs and back to a set timetable and for a fixed fare. The first route was established by the company in 1869 and ran from the city to Collingwood and back. Other routes were soon established from Flinders Street Station to Fitzroy, Richmond, Carlton and North Melbourne and later as far as Brunswick, Moonee Ponds, Clifton Hill and Prahran.

The omnibus was a popular form of public transport. The coaches were comfortable, the service regular and reliable, and the fares remarkably cheap. By 1881 the Melbourne Omnibus Company was operating 15 different routes into the suburbs using 178 omnibuses



▲ An omnibus rounds the corner from Gertrude St into Smith St in Fitzroy. Photo: Don Bennetts.

and 1600 horses, and carrying more than 10 million urban passengers a year. One writer commented at the time that, “Nowhere do omnibuses drive a more thriving trade than in Melbourne, and they deserve it, for they are fast, clean, roomy and well managed”. They made it possible and practical for people living in the suburbs to commute to the city for work each day at a reasonable cost.

It had always been the intention of the Melbourne Omnibus Company to eventually replace its horse-drawn omnibuses with a more modern form of public transport that it wished to introduce from America – the cable tram. In 1885 the company began to do just that, and by 1891 it had established cable tram routes to all of Melbourne’s inner ring of suburbs. The company (now called the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company) continued to operate its horse-drawn omnibuses, but as “feeders” to a cable tram terminus from districts not directly served by the trams. This enabled the horse-drawn vehicles to struggle on for a few more years. The last of the omnibus routes, which closed in 1916, was one that ran from the North Carlton terminus of the cable tram at the northern end of Rathdowne St into and through East Brunswick ●



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INNER CITY LOCAL



The local impact of the Afghanistan crisis

Carlton resident Fahima Iria was a long way from home when she heard the news of the Taliban’s take-over of her birthplace in Afghanistan.

The 52-year-old interpreter moved from Kabul in 1998 in search of a more secure life, and was alerted to the take over from a friend’s post on Facebook.

“I checked Facebook and found out the Taliban had taken over, I was shocked,” Ms Iria said.

For her 10 family members who still remain in Kabul, there has already been a host of changes to their everyday life.

And despite wanting to be with them, Ms Iria said the government made that near impossible.

“There’s already lots of changes, women are locked in and can’t go outside without a hijab, there is no working, lots of issues in Afghanistan,” Ms Iria said.

“It’s not easy to come to Australia, so at the moment they are staying there.”

To help with the crisis, the Australian Government has pledged to offer asylum to 3000 Afghan nationals by June next year.

This is in comparison to the 40,000 Canada and Britain will take in, and the 33,000 the US has committed to accommodate.

Ms Iria said that the Australian Government’s response wasn’t good enough.

“My feeling is not positive. There are about 35 million people in Afghanistan and they’ve chosen to evacuate only 3000 for humanitarian reasons. What about the rest?” Ms Iria said.

“For 40 years NATO and western governments were involved directly and indirectly in Afghanistan so they should be helping the Afghan people to create peace instead of withdrawing all help.”

Ms Iria said that some of Prime Minister

Scott Morrison’s statements showed he did not appreciate the nuance of the conflict.

“I heard the Australian Prime Minister say that Afghanistan is always fighting each other, and this statement hurt me and other Afghans a lot,” she said.

“The west created the conflict and made people fight each other, most people are peaceful.”

Although stability will be hard to attain, Ms Iria said that to help people in Afghanistan the best thing to do is to call on the government to consult with Afghans themselves.

“Right now, it’s hard to fundraise and transfer money to people, so people should put pressure on the Australian government to talk to people from Afghanistan and consult them in their decisions,” she said.

“That’s the best way to help.” ●

METRO TUNNEL

Creative Program explores Melbourne stories as part of the Writers Festival

Being creative is all about thinking outside the square, and that's exactly what the Metro Tunnel Creative Program has done to deliver some beautiful illustrations and stories as part of the Melbourne Writers Festival.

Working collaboratively, the Creative Program and the festival commissioned 11 original Melbourne-focused works of fiction and non-fiction, as well as an illustration to reflect each of those stories – all in different styles by artists using different mediums.

With lockdown lingering, a plan to install illustrations and story excerpts at the Metro Tunnel's City Square site has been delayed, but the impressive offerings are available online, via the Melbourne Writers Festival website at mwf.com.au/writing-melbourne.

Metro Tunnel Project creative engagement manager Sarah Robins said each of the works told an important story and showed the diversity of our city and the diversity of experiences within it.

"The illustrators were selected by the

Creative Program from our artist pool, and the writers were selected by the Writers Festival, from a combination of artist pool members and Writers Festival contacts," she said.

"There are 11 wonderful pieces of writing and 11 beautiful illustrations to go with them. If I had to single one out, it would be Marc Martin's image for Thuy On's piece *Melbourne Symphony*."

"It's one of my favourites in terms of imagery for a very evocative piece of writing about Melbourne."

The image features children in front of the National Gallery of Victoria's water wall and is one of four illustrations from Marc Martin.

"I have tried to respond to each piece of writing in a way that takes into account each story's unique voice and tone," the artist said.



▲ Image credit: Marc Martin.

"The illustrative style for each piece is loose and expressive, interpreting the text in a way that gives the viewer a starting point to build their own internal visualisation without being too prescriptive."

Artist Jackie Nguyen's creations, illustrating the work of writers Luke Horton, Melanie Cheng and Laura McPhee-Browne, show a passion for storytelling.

"I have always been fascinated by the relationship between colour, lighting and form," she said. "They have the power to combine and completely transform a space in the most magical way."

"Painting and sketching is a way for me to capture and document those fleeting moments which I can then revisit time and time again."

While the Melbourne Writers Festival has had to cancel live events, there is still plenty of activity online. A 10-event digital festival is taking place with a Pay What You Can model, or a \$90 pass for the entire online festival ●

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

GRADUATE HOUSE

Glorious Melbourne University Graduate House is 110 years old

At the corner of Grattan and Leicester streets is situated one of the oldest group of terrace houses in the Carlton/Parkville area.

The main entry is at 220 Leicester St which leads to only a small glimpse of what Graduate House offers its diverse membership and guests.

But first, some background on this superb Carlton icon ...

Graduate House has a long and proud history dating back to 1911 when Sir John Monash was the first chairman of the Melbourne University Graduate House. More recently, the current president of the association is the Hon Diana Bryant AO QC, formerly Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia and the first woman to be appointed to this auspicious leadership role. The other "first" saw the election in 2020 of senior legal consultant Mr Vincent J. Mirabelli to the position of chairman; he is the first Italian-born person to take on this prestigious role.

In 1957, the association purchased the beautiful old terrace houses located from 222 to 234 Leicester St. In 1962, postgraduate residential students were admitted to the college. During the past decade, the Council of the Graduate Union approved the purchase of additional student accommodation in nearby Barry St and Barkly Place to support the need for quality residential accommodation. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 180 people per night and 800 per year (mainly students) were accommodated.

Effective soon, Graduate House will be able to offer accommodation to undergraduate students as well as those enrolled in postgraduate courses. Non-residential membership of the association will continue to be open to graduates from any university within Australia or overseas. New members are always extremely welcome. Once the lockdowns are over, it will again be a great place for local and interstate/international residents and guests to have an



enjoyable lunch, dinner or just a quiet Friday evening cocktail in a very pleasant environment.

Located in the heart of the education precinct between The University of Melbourne and RMIT University, and only five minutes away from the campuses of other universities in Melbourne's CBD, Graduate House is the perfect place to stay, for short- or long-term accommodation. Facilities range from fully furnished and equipped apartments, bedsits with ensuite and kitchen, and double rooms. Breakfast and weekday dinners are included in the modest tariff.

Graduate House is ideal for students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate coursework or research, visiting academics, speakers, clinicians or researchers or simply someone needing temporary accommodation prior to finding more permanent accommodation. Full details of accommodation rates are available on the website – graduatehouse.com.au

To help celebrate the 110th anniversary since the founding of the association in 1911, a Jubilee Donors Gala Dinner is planned at the Park Hyatt Melbourne on December 10. Details are being finalised and will be available on the Graduate House website in due course.

The Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne and Graduate House will continue to be part of the Carlton/Parkville university precinct for many years to come – a wonderful example of "commemorating the past and making a commitment to the future", as our late Prime Minister Bob Hawke commented during Australia's Bicentenary Celebrations in 1988 ●



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EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK



Keeping positive

WORDS BY *Susan Henderson*

The need to stay flexible and responsive is the most basic requirement for any community group during the constantly changing restrictions we have all faced during COVID-19.

The East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN) has responded quickly to the need to move our activities back online during each lockdown and to encourage our members to participate. During the extended lockdown last year, we all worked together with enthusiasm and our community came out of lockdown stronger than ever. We now face an extended lockdown number six and our enthusiasm has been worn thin.

We need to find a way to boost our positive energy. Now is a good time to refocus on the basic things that bring us a sense of happiness and positivity.

Something to do
Someone to love
Something to look forward to

Finding something to do with the endless days at home is the first step to feeling happy. Our older members don't find Zoom a comfortable medium, but the habit of staying active is a habit that once lost is hard to re-establish, so I encourage everyone to make the effort.

EMNN has volunteers willing to help with technology gaps. One of our wonderful exercise teachers, Jeff Lowinger, has helped several of us to defeat the technology hurdle and get online for a bit of fun and exercise with neighbours.

Thinking of small things you can do for others is a great help. Maybe you have some unexpected flower or herb seedlings sprouting in your garden. We cannot buy our seedlings this year as the shops are shut. Maybe you can put some in a plastic bag or pot and offer them to neighbours.

Shelley Faubel, a local nurse, did the COVID-19 vaccination certificate course last year in case there was a shortage of trained nurses to administer the vaccine. She is now vaccinating locals at a pharmacy a couple of days a week and has even gone to homes to vaccinate vulnerable elderly residents who have still not been vaccinated.

Another local, Margaret Webster, wanted to help an elderly neighbour Prue Forster to stay mobile and involved during our endless lockdowns. She organised a roster of older residents to accompany her each day on a local wander and chat. New and deeper friendships have resulted, and everyone is more connected and happier. This is one example of a number of "walk buddies" that have developed in East Melbourne.

If we can reach out to help someone else through these isolating times, we all benefit from having something meaningful to do and are emotionally rewarded by the kindness we feel towards others. Just think of the many small acts of kindness we have all witnessed. Now more than ever, the old adage that you get back more than you give, is so true.

For all enquiries, email sjhenderson52@icloud.com ●



As part of the Koorie Heritage Trust's Blak Design initiative, 11 First Nations artists will present their handmade jewellery at a contemporary exhibition celebrating indigenous design.



Changing direction: Koorie artist turns road signs into jewellery

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

Blak Jewellery: Finding Past, Linking Present will run from September 4 to November 14 at the Koorie Heritage Trust Yarra building, if COVID restrictions allow.

First Nations artist Lisa Waup said the six-week Blak Design program leading up to the exhibition had been “life changing”.

“I was a student at RMIT back in the ‘90s and I always used to look longingly at the smithing department that used to be down in the basement,” Ms Waup said.

“It’s always been a dream of mine, so I jumped at the opportunity to work with masters in the field.”

“I feel incredibly fortunate, and the support has been mind-blowing.”

As the first of its kind in Australia, the Blak Design program was created to provide a platform for nurturing sustainable, indigenous-led design businesses.

Ms Waup, along with 10 other artists, took part in six-weeks of hands-on jewellery design and making workshops under the guidance of jewellers Blanche Tilden and Laura Deakin, as well as small business skills tutorials.

With a passion for gold and silver smithing, Ms Waup honed her skills over the course of the program to produce her final work, *Our Way*, using custom-made aluminium traffic signs.

“I was interested in using everyday objects to create a new meaning, and in this case *Our Way* explores the power and peril of traffic direction and warning signs and their ability to control and disorientate First Nations people on their own land,” Ms Waup said.

“Historically these signs are marks of

violence, control and racism, and for me it’s inspiring me to disrupt, undo and fracture their original ambition.”

As a woman of Italian, Gunditjmara and Torres Strait Islander descent, Ms Waup was inspired to alter the symbology of the signs after she found one lying on the side of the road.

Creating three pieces of jewellery, her intention was to take a “symbol of oppression and spin it to a positive direction of liberation”.

“I wanted to take a stagnant western sign and create an immersive experience for the viewer which moved backwards into family, culture and country and forward into the future,” Ms Waup said.

Our Way consists of three works – a bracelet, a neck piece and a pair of earrings – which are all cut out of one square of a direction sign.

Ms Waup said that by using every part of the square, the jewellery was sustainable and zero-waste.

“I hand-sawed a square bracelet, and inside that square I’ve cut the neck piece out, and within that neck piece I’ve cut a circle in the middle of it which I’ve divided into two to make the pair of earrings,” Ms Waup said.

“There was a lot of sawing and filing so it doesn’t fit perfectly but they come together as the idea of the text was to pull it apart and change its direction.”

Another artist, Kait James, said the program had been an incredible way to honour her love and connection to her ancestors and her country.

“What I love most about the program is how we’ve all learnt the same incredible skills using different materials, then used them to turn our stories into jewellery and wearable art that is so



different from each other,” Ms James said.

“My work has been based around my love of sheoaks or ngarri in Wadawurrung, and the connections to my ancestors. Using different material to look at form and movement but also combining my love of colour to create various different pendants and necklaces.”

Koorie Heritage Trust CEO Tom Mosby said Blak design was a celebration of First Nations innovation within the Victorian design space.

“Blak Design is the continuation of a series of projects and discourse the KHT has delivered since 2014, exploring Australian contemporary First Nations design,” Mr Mosby said.

“These projects aim to promote First Nations design principles and best practice methodologies and theories to the broader design community while supporting and mentoring First Nations designers.” ●

For more information:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au

EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr Samuel Peacock of Eastbourne House

Eastbourne House stands on the corner of Wellington Parade and Simpson St in East Melbourne. It is a two-storey building of 16 rooms, with a large balcony overhanging Simpson St, and is classified by the National Trust.

It was built for Dr Samuel Peacock in 1902. He used Eastbourne House as a residence, a surgery and a private hospital solely for female patients. In 1911 Dr Peacock was charged with the murder of one of his patients, Mary Davies. It was alleged that Dr Peacock performed an abortion upon Mary, that she died during or shortly after the operation, and that he disposed of her body.

Mary was 27 years old and five months pregnant when she entered Eastbourne House on August 9, 1911. She was there for between eight and 16 days, depending upon whose version of events you want to believe. After she left Eastbourne House, dead or alive, she was never seen again.

The main witness for the prosecution was Clifford Poke, 21 years old, whose surname gives a clue to his role in the case. On August 25, Mr Poke went to the police to report Mary as missing. Poke told police that both he and Mary



▲ Dr Samuel Peacock Photo: Cyclopedia of Victoria (1903).

made arrangements with Dr Peacock, and that he paid 25 pounds to Dr Peacock.

Mr Poke said he visited Mary at Eastbourne House on several occasions, when she told him that she had undergone an operation. When he came on August 21 he was not allowed to see Mary, but Dr Peacock planned to meet him in the Fitzroy Gardens the next evening. When they met in the Fitzroy Gardens, Dr Peacock told Mr Poke that Mary was dead. According to Mr Poke, they then discussed the disposal of her body. Dr Peacock said that he could have Mary secretly buried, and that he could burn Mary’s belongings at his farm at Carrum. He also told Mr Poke “to keep his mouth shut”.

A police search of Eastbourne House led to the discovery of jewellery and clothing subsequently identified as belonging to Mary. The police then started looking for Mary’s body. They took up floor boards and ripped out wall panelling. And they dug up the sewerage pipes



▲ Eastbourne House. Photo: Graham Shepherd.

because they had a theory that Mary’s body might have been dissolved in acid in a copper, and her bones powdered and disposed of through the sewer. The police found nothing.

The police also searched Dr Peacock’s property at Carrum. Items similar to items belonging to Mary were found in the remains of a fire. The property was close to the Patterson River, so the police dragged the river with grappling irons. No evidence of a body was found.

Murder usually involves an intention to kill, but death occurring during the commission of a serious crime can be murder even though there is no intention to kill. Abortion in 1911 was a serious crime, so Dr Peacock could have been guilty of murder even though he would not have intended to kill Mary.

It is obvious that the prosecution relied very heavily upon the evidence of Mr Poke. He was treated throughout the case as an accomplice of Dr Peacock, because he admitted that he

participated in the making of arrangements for an illegal operation.

Dr Peacock was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. His conviction was confirmed by the Full Court of the Supreme Court but set aside by the High Court. The jury failed to agree at a retrial, but at a second retrial the jury acquitted Dr Peacock. Clifford Poke was not charged ●

For more information:
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THADDEUS
I've been painting. It's been meditative and helps me to unwind.
I usually do portraits of friends, it's been my personal joy.



JULIETTE
Reading books. Mostly uni stuff like English literature, fiction and non-fiction. I'd recommend anything by Henry James. He writes intrepid novels based on real lives. I also enjoy bike riding.

Faces of Inner City

Question: What hobbies have been getting you through lockdown?



PERRY & JANICE
We enjoy walking around the neighbourhood, doing pilates, gardening, writing about sports, various committee work. Lots of Zoom calls and emails to attend to.



KAI
Carpentry work. Making custom-made furniture like shelves, beds. I also roller-skate to get around.

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS' NETWORK

COVID outbreaks

The government's response has not been police-led as with last year's lockdowns – a welcome change! They are meeting with communities in online sessions and there is organised support with food and other resident needs.

The deplorable state of lifts in towers has, though, added huge levels of anxiety. Despite a large allocation of funds last year in the government's first response to the pandemic, it has not been translated into fixing these problems in towers where outbreaks continue.

Residents and community groups from the Carlton housing estate are soon meeting with Minister for Housing Richard Wynne to discuss the safety, security and overcrowding issues, among other things. We are highly skilled residents, we will ask for some control of management, we have lived experience.

As per the Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass's recommendation to have fully-funded residents' committees on public housing estates, this will be high on the agenda.

Overcrowding reduction has been a botched program with households sent all over Melbourne, breaking connections with local networks and friends and now face uncertainty over long-term housing security.

Homelessness

In my August column I described the homelessness crisis in our state. This month the state government has to provide a formal response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness: parliament.vic.gov.au/lsic-lc/inquiries/inquiry/976 and there were a lot of organisations demanding it be addressed.

Grassroots campaigns like Geelong Homelessness Action Group (GHAG) have recently stated that the government is "lying" to the people of Victoria (their words not mine) ...

"Today at the COVID presser in response to questions about housing people experiencing homelessness the state government went into spin overdrive. [Martin] Foley stated people are being housed under the state's Big Build project, give us a break! There's currently over 110,000 people on the Housing Register, that's 52,000 household applications and we know there's many more people needing housing that are not even registered. The Big Build is proposing a meagre 12,000 properties over four years. We're not fooled by spin, this government is not doing enough and is lying to the people of Victoria" (GHAG Facebook page 19/8/21).

The Save Public Housing Collective (SPHC) is tracking what is happening on demolished and other public housing estates (map.save-publichousing.com) and it is clear that GHAG are not unfair in their assessment.

One of the Big Housing Build projects taking in three demolished public housing sites, including at Victoria St and Holland Court in Flemington, won't have any construction starting until 2024 at the earliest. Read more at infrastructurepipeline.org.

The Holland Court demolition and redevelopment will have ZERO public housing built; there is no clarity on accommodating people who are homeless; only promises of market rental housing (yes market rents on public land!), some affordable (less than local market) probably for "essential workers" – teachers, nurses, etc., and community housing which pushes tenants into housing cost stress with rents set at 30 per cent of household income and other charges for use of facilities on site.

The National Housing Finance Investment Corporation (NHFIC) created by Scott Morrison when he was the federal treasurer, which is not funding any new public housing, was able to quickly find \$400 million to help fund the three sites project soon after it was announced without any publicly available due diligence on why.

NSW already a disaster with this approach

The NSW Tenants Union recently exposed this approach by governments to how they fund new housing: tenants.org.au/blog/tale-alan-and-annie-living-affordable-housing-and-retiring-paid-work

Outcomes: nothing but insecurity!

The policy is all about a new class of Australian and overseas private investors, including superannuation funds, making profits out of destroying public housing. Essential workers are brought in to engage them in gentrification and forced displacements of the very people they care for and educate and should be in solidarity with.

Ethical, real experts in housing support public housing

Dr Tim Williams is one of these experts. Dr Williams in the past was the chief executive of the Committee for Sydney: thefifthestate.com.au/columns/spinifex/the-reasons-behind-our-housing-crisis-are-clear-if-we-care-to-look/

In my past columns I have drawn readers attention to Dr David Hayward's (Emeritus Professor at RMIT) opinion piece on the intrinsic value of public housing: smh.com.au/business/the-economy/private-landlords-are-losing-billions-should-we-keep-picking-up-the-tab-20210615-p58154.html

Housing should be a human right in Victoria

The Victorian Government has an opportunity to lead Australia in committing to a program of public housing build which will start the journey to delivering this human right. This can happen this month when it responds to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

The government has initiated a review of what it calls social housing regulations in Victoria. Social housing is now a very flexible term in our state. Affordable housing is included and the terms of reference talks about setting up regulations to enable "competitive neutral" bidding for state funds against public housing. The review has the very strong appearance of working to deliver the NSW nightmare.

I call on the state government to observe what I believe is its existing obligations to the UN Covenant on Housing and this should be the principal outcome of the Review.

COVID responses and housing insecurity have to be dealt with together in Victoria.

If there are remaining doubts on Victoria's obligations, it can be legislated and then backed with a massive build of public housing ●

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



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MELBOURNE ZOO

Creating connections to nature in the heart of Melbourne

What do gardens mean to you? Are they a place to relax, or to escape, or to explore, or to get dirty in?

WORDS BY Sarah
MELBOURNE ZOO HORTICULTURE SUPERVISOR

For me, gardens are all these things and more. And as a leader in Melbourne Zoo's horticulture team, I feel like one of the luckiest gardeners in the world, especially now it's spring!

When I reflect on the past year-and-a-half of this pandemic and what we have all been through together, I realise that gardens are more important now than ever – we're all craving our connections to nature and open spaces. In the Melbourne Zoo gardening team, our work is all about creating special places, places for people to connect with nature, to spend time with loved ones, to be alone, to think, relax, reflect, explore and enjoy. While animals will always be the stars of Melbourne Zoo, we know our gardens are just as special for many of our zoo members and visitors.

I've been working for Zoos Victoria as a gardener for about 15 years. This is how I make my contribution to conservation and the zoo's mission of inspiring a love of wildlife. It's an honour to be able to do this work in our inner-city location where open space, trees and gardens are so precious.

A lot of people don't realise, but we have around 3000 trees at Melbourne Zoo. There are many hundreds more shrubs and grasses. Our historic trees are amazing. We have remnant River Red Gums that have been here for hundreds of years. There is our iconic Moreton Bay Fig, perhaps as old as the zoo itself. When I tell people I'm a gardener at the zoo, they often have a special family memory to share with me. Many generations of one family may have sat underneath one of our historic trees, or perhaps someone you know got married in the gardens. The gardens are part of Melbourne's history and I am so excited about the part they will play in the future also. As Melbourne Zoo continues to be transformed, our gardens will be changing and evolving too.

Our team actively contributes to the zoo's mission of fighting wildlife extinction. Our nursery team grows plants for the critically endangered Lord Howe Island Stick Insect. We grow tropical plants for the zoo's glorious Butterfly House. We also grow food plants for some of the zoo's animal residents. And our green spaces are a source of food and refuge for all sorts of local birds, insects and other wild animals. The gardens are so much more than something to look at!

As zoo gardeners, we explore a range of microclimates to create a range of experiences matched to the animals that live in different parts of the zoo. Obviously, we can't perfectly recreate lowland African temperate rainforests here, and we aren't trying to, but we can come close to it and we can certainly create gardens



that immerse people in a landscape. We use a mixture of plants from the continent where the animals live in the wild, but then also experiment with Australian native plants to create a strong sense of place with a local flavour.

We try to make this immersion a gradual process. Our inspiration is always the natural world. You will start on the fringe of one of our animal precincts, perhaps at an estuary or a creek that leads into a rainforest. The plants get denser as you go deeper in. There might be a clearing in the middle where you can glimpse an elephant or an orang-utan. And as you gradually emerge from the landscape the plantings change again, just as they would if you were exploring a wild habitat. It's a creative challenge that as gardeners we love and thrive on.

Sustainability is central to what we do here. We're careful with water, smart with our plant selection and we're passionate about mulching and composting. We always consider Melbourne's temperate climate, our city's

sometimes harsh summers and wet winters as well as changing weather patterns.

We want people to interact with these gardens, to run their hands across a plant, feel the texture of a leaf, or smell a flower. We are trying to create places for people to immerse themselves in. And, of course, we know that so many children visit our zoo, so we have them in mind when designing our gardens, the need to make garden spaces welcoming, safe and inclusive for everyone who will use them.

It is such a privilege to be one of the custodians of these Melbourne Zoo gardens. I pinch myself every day. For me, the greatest moments are when I see a young child or a family or a couple in love connecting with our gardens. This connection to nature is so special and so important. If you're reading this, even if you can't visit the zoo, why not explore a local park or stand beneath a tree near your home? Find that connection to nature near you. We need this more than ever right now ●

CARLTON ROTARY CLUB

Klea benefits from the Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Klea Atallah is the youngest member of the Atallah family who migrated from Lebanon in 1992 after the Civil War had ended.

After completing her secondary schooling in Glen Iris at Sacre Coeur, Klea moved onto the University of Melbourne where she is at the tail end of her honours year which will finalise her Bachelor of Biomedicine degree. While her research takes up most of her time during the week, Klea has a passion for volunteering and is currently a mentor manager at CHASE (Community Advancement and Student Engagement). CHASE aims to improve the health literacy of Year 11 VCAL students from disadvantaged backgrounds and empower them to make a difference in their community using the health information that mentors provide to them.

Klea applied for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) online program at the end of 2020 because she thought it would be a great opportunity to develop her leadership skills, push herself out of her comfort zone and interact with like-minded individuals. Having spent most of 2020 working from home with a lack of opportunity to meet new people or have experiences that fostered personal growth, she felt as though participating in the RYLA program would be a great and refreshing way to start off 2021.

At that time, Klea had just completed her Bachelor's degree in biomedicine and decided to do an honours year to experience the world of research. RYLA took place just before she started her research so she thought the interpersonal and leadership skills developed through the program would be extremely useful in the dynamic environment of clinical research.

However, the pandemic did not go away and so virtual meetings were necessary. The nature of Zoom meetings can make it difficult to have meaningful conversations with new people; however, the RYLA coordinators did an amazing job at fostering an inclusive and fun atmosphere. Each week was focused on a



different topic relating to personal growth such as values, grit and leadership. Klea mentioned that she was able to have open discussions with the other RYLA participants and heard from incredible guest speakers who had fascinating insights on their topics. It was also inspiring to hear from past "RYLArians" and the ways in which they believed their RYLA experience helped them realise their passions and achieve their goals.

Klea's thesis during her Honours year is on the impact of Maternal Type One diabetes during pregnancy and the way the disease has been managed can influence pregnancy outcomes. She is passionate about improving health outcomes of others in the community and believes this can be done through increasing health literacy from a young age and improving public health policies.

RYLA is normally a week-long residential program conducted in December for 18- to 25-year-olds and is aimed at encouraging and developing leadership, personal development and social skills, so that awardees can more effectively contribute to their communities in a practical manner. Enquiries may be directed to Carlton Rotary's Youth Services chair Peter Crouch on peter.g.crouch@gmail.com or Keith Ryall at keithryall@gmail.com ●



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

STATE MP

Supporting our local schools in Carlton

While parents around the city have been tearing their hair out, working out how on earth to home-school children while also working and maintaining our own mental health in the middle of a pandemic, thousands of us are realising again just how valuable our local teachers and schools are.

We're so lucky to have some wonderful local schools in our area, which are often at the heart of our community. But right now, they're not without their challenges.

I wanted to give you an update on some of the issues I'm working on with two of our local Carlton schools.

Carlton Primary School, on Palmerston St, has recently undergone a huge new refurbishment. It is now home to some of the best facilities in the state, and an oval and outdoor play area that most inner-city schools can only dream of!

I recently met with its principal and assistant principal to hear about the great work they're doing and the extra programs they're offering students, and to hear more about the Carlton Learning Precinct, which it's part of. This includes an on-site kindergarten run by Gowrie Victoria as well as services from the City of Melbourne.

Carlton Primary has undergone some disruption recently due to the extensive building works, but now the renovation is finished, I'm excited to be working with them and the new opportunities this renovation provides. Carlton Primary is also at the forefront of thinking when it comes to what support students right across the city may need as they return to school following lockdowns, and I'll be taking some of their great ideas directly to the Minister.

Carlton North Primary School on Lee St, just one kilometre away, is also a wonderful local school but, given it's a heritage school that's more than 140 years old, it's in desperate need of repairs.

Earlier this year (before lockdown!) I toured the school with the principal to see the maintenance needs for myself. The school lacks a proper fire alarm system, one of the bathrooms is so old and smelly the kids will not use it, and tree roots are causing cracks and are tripping hazards. Old sewerage pipes need urgent



▲ Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell meeting with Carlton North Primary staff to discuss the repairs needed at the school.

relining, and the buildings have no cooling and get incredibly hot in warmer months.

In conjunction with local parents, I've recently started a petition calling on the state government to provide this urgently needed extra funding. You can sign the petition at [LINK](#)

I have presented this information to the Minister and Treasurer to consider in next year's Budget. Following this advocacy, we've already had some promising news, with the Victorian School Building Authority already promising to meet with the school to discuss its needs.

In the May State Budget, I was proud to have helped secure more than \$7 million to repair another heritage school, Kensington Primary School, and Carlton Gardens also secured more than \$10 million for new facilities in the 2020 Budget.

I love working with our local schools, and look forward to helping secure funding for Carlton North Primary, and working with Carlton Primary and their exciting new facilities.

If any parents or community members wish to discuss any ideas or issues relating to your local school, please don't hesitate to contact me: office@ellensandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

Pet's Corner

The great love story of Tofu and Bruno

“

When Tofu the Japanese Spitz and Bruno the Jack Russell cross locked eyes at Royal Park some years ago, they knew they were going to be friends.

”



Little did their owners Zech Loh and Christabelle know, they were also destined to be together.

“Both dogs became friends at a dog park and we eventually started seeing each other,” Christabelle said.

The couple and the two pups now live together and still frequent Royal Park, as well as their other favourite spots at the Queen Victoria Market and Lygon St.

“The dogs have played a significant role in grounding us into the lives that we have today,” Christabelle said.

“They are a part of our family and we include them wherever possible, bringing them bar hopping and on road trips.”

Bruno, though small in stature, makes up with his fearless and loving personality.

Tofu on the other hand, is incredibly loyal but also very talkative, barking at anything that looks suspicious or out of place.

Christabelle said that the two had become best friends since living together.

“The dogs swap food bowls after each meal and always clean up after each other’s crumbs and leftovers,” she said.

“They also love lazing around together.” ●

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PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

Latest from Parkville

Walking the streets of Parkville and Carlton during lockdown (while exercising!) I am amazed at the state of bicycle lanes constructed quickly and becoming accidents waiting to happen.

On Swanston St, at the corner of Monash Rd, the kerbstones hurriedly placed to create a cycle lane are constantly hit by cars. The picture today says it all!

This makes it difficult and dangerous for both cyclists and cars. There is no signage and, when in traffic, it is quite easy to come across them at the last minute. At the corner of Flemington Rd turning into Gatehouse St, the same issue arises and I have seen several incidents when new sunps will be required!

The well thought out management plans like William St work well so we can only hope Vic Roads look at this situation urgently before a serious accident happens.

In spite of lockdown since the last edition of *Inner City News*, the only major issue that has arisen in Parkville has been the planning permit being required for major renovations to “Tasma” at 34 Park Drive. Most residents know it as a boarding or half-way house but in the late 1800s and early 20th century it was high society in Parkville. There was a magnificent garden (now apartments) and a ballroom which still exists.

The rebuild plans are still in front of the council’s heritage experts which is important given the building’s importance to Parkville. We are so fortunate South and West Parkville are covered by a heritage overlay and very proud to live in such an historic area. Those new to Parkville may not realise we celebrate our sesquicentennial in 2023.

Sadly, there’s not a lot more news! For members of the Parkville Association, annual subscriptions are now due. We extended last year’s until June 30 this year so in future we run from July 1 until June 30. Newsletters are currently

being distributed during exercise time!

Lockdown is very difficult for those living alone and in conversation with some of our residents, it can be extremely lonely. In Parkville we have a great sense of community, however, if we all think of our neighbours we can make life a little more bearable for those without family or friends nearby.

In the meantime, I would love to share a poem by committee member Anne Phefley ...

*Well virtual hugs will have to do
We will comply this virus to subdue
How strange that hand washing and distancing
too Have reduced the impact of normal flu
It seems we did not wash our hands
We went to work with germs hanging around
Will we still be diligent when things calm down
Or will unsafe practices again abound
No hugging when sick, stay well away
I hope these things will stay in play
But now it is time to all pitch in
This is a war we have to win* ●

Rob Moore
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENTPARKVILLE
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公屋楼居民遭忽视

卡尔顿(Carlton)公屋居民抱怨，家庭、公平和公屋部(DFFH)的工作疏忽，公屋大楼中的多部电梯停止使用数月，让他们再次受到新冠疫情的危害。

Katie Johnson

8月中旬，Lygon 街480号和510号的公屋大楼被宣布为二级疫情暴露场所，此前，Lygon 街480号大楼的三名居民检测出病毒呈阳性，而且在废水中发现了COVID病毒的碎片，导致整栋大楼的楼层被封锁。

8月16日，大楼居民中一位有两个孩子的母亲Shewit Kahsay所在的整个楼层被突然封锁隔离。

她说：“我们今天刚接到电话，说两个星期不能出门，我很震惊。”

“和两个孩子挤在一起真是太难了。”

自这次疫情爆发以来，大楼中已有400多名居民接受了核酸检测，使得疫情传播得到了控制。

尽管成功地进行了接触者追踪，公屋楼居民和社区领导人说，这次疫情本来是可以预防的。

居民Cory Memery表示，DFFH工作失误，几个月来多部电梯失灵，迫使几十名居民挤进一部电梯里。

Memery先生说：“在数幢大楼里，只有一部电梯已经工作了几个月，由于楼层太多，居民在电梯里时无法保持社交距离。”

“这绝对是DFFH的工作疏忽，他们应该知道，如果爆发疫情，情况会失控。”

“居民已经受够了这种被忽视。”



另一名居民Mahir Ibrahim说，尽管也有居民打电话要求修理，但是电梯一直显示“正在维修中”，而且大楼内也没有二维码。

Ibrahim先生说：“应该采取措施防止这种情况发生，电梯里一次会有七到八个人

挤在里面，而且电梯也没有得到适当的清洁。”

“尽管许多人包括送货司机、护士和维修人员都在公屋小区内走动，但是有些大楼又没有二维码。”



剧场重建即将完工

在过去的三年里，La Mama剧场的工作团队日复一日地奋力工作，重建这座在2018年被大火摧毁的标志性剧院。

Katie Johnson

现在，剧院几乎已经准备好重新开放，只剩下最后几个需要安装的润色部分。

La Mama剧场的通讯协调员Sophia Constantine说，安装完电梯并铺好地毯后，可以“在本周末领取钥匙了”。

她说：“这真的很令人兴奋，因为我认为社区把这个剧场视为独立剧场和卡尔顿的核心。”

“这个剧场像似母亲，充满养育和友善，是新老艺术家创新尝试、获得经验和发展实践的地方。”

在重建La Mama剧场的每个阶段，包括时间流逝和更新都有所记载，因为恢复了其现有的剧院建筑，并在原来的建筑旁边建造了一座新楼。

这座古老的建筑已经恢复到原创的和熟悉的本来状态，但现在配备了21世纪的设施和技术。

Constantine女士表示，剧场重建的一大重点是无障碍环境，为艺术家创造更多放松、练习和表演的开放空间。

她说：“我们真的考虑到了其空间的无障碍性，所以在楼梯旁边安装一个电梯，可以让每个人都能到达同一层楼，还在新楼和旧楼之间安装了一个桥梁连接。”

“剧场还将安装索具，这样艺术家可以进行空中表演，我们还恢复了最初用于取暖的壁炉，并将其纳入了新的制作设计。”

Constantine女士说，我们已经制定了宏大的计划，希望在封锁结束后，呈现一个La Mama剧场惊人的开放。

遗产建筑改造项目遭否决

维多利亚州民事和行政仲裁庭(VCAT)于7月1日裁定，维持墨尔本市政的决定，不批准Albert街204-208号的建筑项目许可。

Brendan Rees

根据该项目计划，Whitehaven 开发公司计划部分拆除原建筑，保留原建筑的遗产立面、侧面墙壁、屋顶和烟囱，然后在此地建造一座九层高的附加大楼。

原建筑的历史可以追溯到1859年，是该街景中的一个重要建筑。

该建筑位于Clarendon街208-212号国家信托所属的Clarendon Terrace楼房的后面，那个楼房是一排建于1856-57年的三座联体两层楼房，据澳大利亚国家信托（维多利亚分部）称，那个楼房被誉为“维多利亚州建筑 and 美学史上具有重要意义”的建筑，也是墨尔本最宏伟的联排楼房之一。”

VCAT主审官Alison Glynn和Lorina Nervegna 指出拟议的开发项目“与相邻建筑物和该地区现有的规模和特征不符”。

VCAT主审官表示：“我们认为，该场地的项目设计，应考虑历史遗产和设计方向相结合，需要一座低得多的建筑，以更好地尊重Albert街的遗产街景以及更广泛的遗产和



城市设计背景。”

“总的来说，我们认为对周围的俯视和遮影问题是可以接受的。不合理的是视觉上的体积和规模，以及建筑特征的问题。”

在仲裁听证会上，澳大利亚国家信托(维多利亚分部)、东墨尔本团体以及其他团体辩称，该开发项目“严重超过”本地规划计

划所推荐的视线，没有“尊重本区域现有的规模和特征”。

东墨尔本团体规划召集人Greg Bisi-nella表示，两年内在社区筹集了约45000澳元以支付法律费用，受影响的当地居民对VCAT的裁决结果“非常高兴”，“确保这种不当的开发项目不会进行”。

重大车祸 三人死亡

8月20日，在Parkville区的皇家妇女医院外面，发生了一起高速行驶的重大车祸，一位母亲和两个孩子在车祸中丧生。

这位35岁的母亲Koby Poole、她8岁的女儿Chloe和20个月大的儿子Harrison在车祸中当场死亡。

警方表示，这辆车沿着 Flemington路向南行驶，驶至Grattan街时，撞到了医院外的人行道街沿边缘，并撞上了一根柱子杆子。

撞车不久，汽车着火并吞没在火焰之中。

Parkville居民William Evans说，他被爆炸声惊醒。

Evans先生说：“当时我被一声巨大的爆炸声惊醒，跑到了阳台上，我的阳台就在这条路的尽头。”

“看到火球巨大。”

Poole女士的伴侣Craig发表了声明感谢社区的支持。

他写道：“失去了我的伴侣Koby和两个美丽的孩子Chloe(9岁)和Harrison (20个月)后的这个艰难时刻，我要感谢社区的关爱和支持。”

“我无法用语言来形容我们所有人的感受。这场悲剧需要一些时间来处理，此时我们要求给我们一些隐私。”

重大车祸调查组的侦探仍在调查导致这起事故的原因。

What's On: September 2021

Community Calendar



Animals at Home

Online

Every day.

Check out the 24/7 live streams of some of your favourite animals at Melbourne Zoo.

<https://www.zoo.org.au/animals-at-home/>

Junk Sculpture Workshop

Fitzroy Gardens Pavillion or online.

Friday, September 24th, 11am-1pm.

Join La PasseggiARTa at CoLab Arts in the Park for hands-on fun with junk. Cut, tear, paint, tape and glue all sorts of stuff to make robots, animals, cars, or puppets.

No charge. Bookings essential (8 spaces)

Demonstration: Sculpting Crazy Critters in Clay

Fitzroy Gardens Pavillion or online.

Friday, September 24th, 1.30pm-3.00 pm

Want to create your own crazy critter? Come and watch how Vincenzo and John shape air drying clay by rolling, pressing and poking clay into sculpted critters so you can do this too. Bookings essential.

Drawing Inspiration

Fitzroy Gardens Pavillion or online.

Monday, September 13th. 11am-1pm

Join Vincenzo for a sensory walk through the Conservatory at the Fitzroy Gardens, take pics, sketch and then finish your drawing in the Pavillion. Bookings essential.

Melbourne Museum at Home.

Online

Everyday.

Can't make it to Melbourne Museum? Take a virtual tour of the exhibitions, hear from a museum expert, dive into learning resources or get inspired by a range of family-friendly activities.

Melbourne Writers Festival Digital

Online

September 3rd-15th.

The annual literary festival is headed entirely online, serving up a digital program of author chats, conversations, screenings and more.



Childbirth education from the Royal Women's Hospital

Online

Wednesday nights. 6pm-9pm

Childbirth education via online livestreaming.



Carlton Farmers Market

Carlton North Primary School.

First Saturday of every month. 8am-1pm.

Fresh fruits and veggies from local producers.

Scienceworks at home.

Online.

Everyday.

Take a tour of Scienceworks exhibitions and enjoy a range of family friendly activities.

Happiness and it's cost Webinar

Online event by Melbourne Uni. Free.

6th September, 11am.

Three presentations on the question of how much happiness does a dollar buy? Hear from economists, psychologists and urban planners.

From diagnosis to treatment: augmenting clinical decision making with Artificial Intelligence

Online event by Melbourne Uni. Free.

2nd September, 10am.

Webinar hosted by Associate Professor Jenna Wiens on AI's role in medicine.



Free the Park Hotel Refugees

Online meetings available.

Every night, 6pm.

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

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