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Puzzles & Trivia P21



Feathery fright!
Photo by Rodger Scott

A red wattlebird in Royal Park found itself stuck between a tree and a hard place before local birdwatcher Phillip Gao came to the rescue. *Full story on page 6.*

Inner city facing unprecedented mental health crisis

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HEALTH

Psychologists in Carlton, Parkville and East Melbourne are overwhelmed with demand as locals grapple with the mental health impacts of sustained lockdowns.

Many clinics are having to turn new clients away as waiting lists have grown out of control.

Centre for Clinical Psychology (CCP) director Dr Emma Symes said that during her 20 years as a psychologist and her three years at the Carlton clinic, she had never seen such high levels of demand.

"We're turning people away all the time, we had a waiting list for a time but it was just so clogged up," Dr Symes said.

"No psychologist wants to turn patients away – it's quite heartbreaking – but sometimes we simply can't meet the demand."

For many, the isolation and anxiety of the six lock-

downs has exacerbated existing mental health issues.

Dr Symes said that many people were feeling "constrained, shut off and controlled", which puts pressure on their mental health and their relationships.

"People are feeling really weary, and the normal issues people might be coming to see a psychologist for are intensified," Dr Symes said.

"You might have been feeling anxious for a long time, or there's extra pressure on your relationship, but at the core of this is loss and an intense sense of not being in control."

As a specialist in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and perinatal issues, Dr Symes said many of her patients were new parents who were experiencing "profound isolation".

"There's no new mothers' groups, there's no way to interact with other families, play grounds have been shut, and kids haven't been able to interact with each other at school," Dr Symes said.

Continued on page 3.

Protections for Carlton's UNESCO listed sites expanded

The heritage area surrounding the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens has been extended to protect the site from over-development.

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HERITAGE

Height controls for developments in the buffer zone, or World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA), will be implemented to ensure the views from the site aren't overshadowed by tall buildings.

City of Melbourne councillors voted unanimously to extend the WHEA boundary to the west and south of the building and introduce height controls for sections of Rathdowne St.

Carlton Residents' Association member Peter Sanders said that locals were largely supportive of Heritage Victoria's (HV) recommendations.

"The strategy plan is good in principle – extending the WHEA to the western side of Drummond St is a very big plus," Mr Sanders said.

"Another big plus is the proposal removes the distinction within the WHEA for areas of greater and lesser significance and makes everything equal."

Mr Sanders said that incorporating areas of Carlton such as the site of the old Children's Hospital on Rathdowne and Pelham streets into the WHEA was a positive development.

"There's an emphasis on the ensuring the views to and from the Royal Exhibition Building are maintained and an intent to control height limits for buildings within the WHEA boundary which we support," Mr Sanders said.

The new controls would see large properties along Rathdowne St south of Pelham St subject to the same built

form controls as the surrounding area.

In its submission to HV, the City of Melbourne pushed for mandatory height controls in this area as "large sites such as 1 Rathdowne St (former Cancer Council site) experience continued pressure for much higher development".

The council also recommended the Royal Society site on La Trobe St have mandatory height controls, as it sits directly across the road from the UNESCO-listed site.

Despite accepting the majority of Heritage Victoria's recommendations, Cr Rohan Leppert said they had made some amendments to account for the "economic impact" and ensure the controls weren't excessive.

"We should not be pursuing unnecessary controls – residential zones to the north of Carlton Gardens already have mandatory height limits in them," Cr Leppert said.

"It is quite excessive for us to agree that all of those hundreds of properties that are shielded in view from the Royal Exhibition Building by properties on Carlton St, must forever more be at a particular height even though that has no bearing whatsoever on the world heritage values of the site."

Canning St resident Katie Roberts was not in favour of the "ever-tightening heritage policy" in the area.

In her submission to the council, she said the new controls would make it difficult to afford a home in Carlton and would "prioritise buildings over people".

"The 26-hectare surrounding park already provides a large 'buffer zone' *Continued on page 2.*

COMMUNITY, PAGE 05

A Earthquake rocks the inner city

HERITAGE, PAGE 07

B St Peter's receives \$144,000 upgrade

FEATURE, PAGE 10

C Afghan refugees start new life in Carlton

SPORT, PAGE 11

D Best on the ground at the 'G

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Protections for Carlton's UNESCO listed sites expanded

Continued from page 1.

for the Royal Exhibition Building and expanding this zone will not have any positive value," Ms Roberts wrote.

"We own a property on Barkly St which will be in the revised controls to the north – we have tried and failed to renovate our house earlier this year to accommodate our growing family."

"Part of the failure was that we were advised that our plans were acceptable by a City of Melbourne planner, but later a heritage advisor objected and derailed the process."

Ms Roberts said that she believed the buffer zone should be limited to Carlton Gardens and not include residential homes.

"You cannot even see the Gardens or the Exhibition Building from Barkly St [and] properties in Carlton, like ours, are tiny," Ms Roberts said.

“To add even one additional bedroom to a two-bed house is very expensive and challenging to design—more heritage restrictions make this more costly and continue to erode affordability.”

Cr Leppert said it was important that the height controls to the north were only in reference to land that is visible to and from the Exhibition Building and “not land that cannot possibly have a material impact on the world heritage values”.

"It would create significant cost and burden landowners who want to make modest changes to properties," Cr Leppert said.

"It's all well and good to try and protect views from the forecourt of the Melbourne Museum over the Royal Exhibition Building to the city, but there is an entire city there



▲ *The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens became Melbourne's only UNESCO listed site in 2004.*



▲ *One of the new changes will likely be new height controls for Rathdowne Street.*

and we cannot act on heritage-based recommendations alone from one camera shot ... to decide the basis of building heights for an entire city block.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that as Melbourne's only world-heritage listed site it was "impossible" to overstate the importance of the building and the gardens to the people of Melbourne.

"A lot has changed in Melbourne since the original world heritage and related planning controls were put in place, so this review is timely," the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

"Melbourne is a growing city and is a city under development application pressure."

Cr Reece also said that Melburnians would soon be able to enjoy a \$20 million upgrade of the dome at the Royal Exhibition Building which was completed during the lockdown.

“When we get our freedom back one of the many new things that will exist for Melburnians to enjoy is visiting the dome and viewing the magnificent views that are offered from the new renovated viewing platform of Carlton and the surrounding areas.” Cr Reece said.

"So that is something for Melburnians to look forward to and a reminder of how important the site is." ●

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Inner city facing unprecedented mental health crisis

Continued from page 1.

"The babies and children are also anxious."

Although psychology and therapy sessions are usually face-to-face, lockdown has forced tele-health appointments to become the norm.

CCP was able to adapt quite quickly to delivering their services online, but still offers in-person services for vulnerable patients.

"Online is good for the majority of patients, but for children and those who are more vulnerable, it's more complicated," Dr Symes said.

"Not everybody has a computer and not everybody is comfortable taking through that medium."

With many psychologists taking on higher caseloads while dealing with the lockdowns themselves, Dr Symes said her priority was to look out for her staff.

"They're never under pressure to take on more and it's about recognising the limitations of what you can and can't do," Dr Symes said.

"The issue for many psychologists is that we're going through the same things our patients are going through, so while it's helpful to know where people are coming from, we have to be aware of our reactions."

"For me, taking regular breaks, exercising, meditating and connecting with the people I can connect with is very important."

For Dynamic Psychotherapy director Julie Cochrane, long waiting lists have forced her psychologists to prioritise patients who have a significant risk to their emotional wellbeing.

Dr Cochrane said that the seemingly never-ending nature of the lockdowns had pushed many people to the brink.

"In addition to the uncertainty, not having a time frame of how long they need to cope with this is creating significant stress," Dr Cochrane said.

"People can't go to the gym, can't catch up with family, and are suffering because they don't have access to their usual coping mechanisms."



▲ Dr Emma Symes and Dr Jon Finch haven't seen demand this high since they opened their Carlton clinic three years ago.

Dr Cochrane said that for her patients and for her staff, she was always encouraging them not to "leave themselves alone" with their suffering.

"The biggest issue with emotional suffering is whether you see yourself as being able to reach out and get help, socially or professionally," Dr Cochrane said.

"Some people see a stigma around the fact they are emotionally suffering and are concerned that they'll be judged and that it devalues them, but it's the human condition."

To deal with the overwhelming demand, the state government has invested millions into mental health services.

The latest \$13.3 million investment was to create 20 pop-up COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing services to be delivered by Cohealth and other community organisations.

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said that one of the clinics would be based at 53 Victoria St and would help to fast-track specialist care.

"These pop-up services will have a tremendous impact on people who are struggling with mental health issues during the pandemic. A pandemic is not just a physical health phenomenon; it affects individuals and the broader community creating anxiety, stress, stigma, and fear," she said.

"Loss of income, isolation from friends and family and disrupted education can exacerbate pre-existing mental health conditions, and trigger episodes in people with no history of mental ill-health."

Since the pandemic began, the federal government has also allocated more than \$500 million to deliver 10 additional Medicare subsidised psychological therapy sessions for those with a Mental Health Treatment Plan.

But despite the added funding, demand is still outweighing supply.

Life Resolutions CEO Jodie Brenton said that there were only around 40,000 registered psychologists in Australia while nearly five million Australians were experiencing high levels of psychological distress.

"In the financial year 2017-2018, GPs wrote 2.5 million healthcare plan referrals to see a psychologist, but in March to October 2020, they wrote 11.5 million of them," Ms Brenton said.

"This demand is extraordinary, overwhelming and really unprecedented in our industry."

Ms Brenton said that despite the government's generous funding, many people were still falling through the gaps.

"People are feeling very frustrated and very angry because they can be waiting up to six months to see someone," Ms Brenton said.

"Many psychologists have tripled their usual clients, and a lot of them will be high-risk clients which makes a real impact."

The psychological trauma caused by almost a year of lockdowns has been profound and far reaching.

However, when it comes to society's attitudes around mental health, Ms Brenton said there was a clear silver lining.

"I believe COVID has broken down the stigma of accessing therapy and psychologist by 10 years within 10 months," Ms Brenton said.

"Never in our society have you been able to walk out the front, ask someone in the street 'Are you okay?' and get a genuine answer." ●



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Earthquake rocks the inner city

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COMMUNITY

Rattled inner city locals poured out onto the streets after a 5.9 magnitude earthquake hit Melbourne at 9.15am on September 22.

In Carlton, office workers and business owners came out of their buildings in flocks to share their confusion and assess the damage.

Briscola Espresso owner Michael Awad said he had just sat down with breakfast after opening the café when the building started shaking.

“The chairs started moving on the floor and it went on for about 10 seconds – I’m so thankful everything is okay,” Mr Awad said.

“Everyone came out onto the street, and we were all confused so we went straight to the news and found out it was an earthquake.”

Carlton resident Emma Jackson said she felt the earth shake for “five or six seconds” on Pelham St.

“I was sitting in my parked car with the engine on and I thought my engine was going to blow up for a second – I couldn’t work out what is was,” Ms Jackson said.

“Then I realised the whole car was shaking from the earthquake.”

Parkville resident Stuart Riley said that when the earthquake started, he thought it was “hail hitting the roof”.

“I was having a quiet moment with my two kittens who are only three months old but have an incredible sense of hearing,” Mr Riley said.

“As soon as the house started shaking, I wasn’t bothered by it, but the cats scampered away and started cowering in the corner. The reaction on social media has been really funny.”

East Melbourne General Store owner Lisette Malatesta said that no stock fell off her shelves during the quake, but her customers felt it and went out onto the street.

“Everyone came out onto Hotham St, and it was quite a nice atmosphere of everyone commenting and laughing about it,” Ms Malatesta said.



▲ Carlton locals bonding together after the quake hit.



▲ Briscola Espresso owner Michael Awad.



▲ Emma Jackson was in her car when the earthquake hit.

“We get quite a lot of wind here because it’s a low-lying area so initially I just thought it was a strong gale.”

“We also have a lot of bird life here and afterwards all the birds went totally nuts and started

squawking and flying away.”

Ms Malatesta said that she was grateful that no serious damage had been reported in the suburb.

“There’s been no notifications of any damage

“Everyone came out onto Hotham St, and it was quite a nice atmosphere of everyone commenting and laughing about it.”



which is good because we have quite a few heritage, and old, buildings but they are all very well maintained,” Ms Malatesta said.

“The issue in Chapel St was likely because the building had cracks and structural damage already.”

The earthquake centred south of Mansfield in regional Victoria and was felt all across the CBD, South Australia and parts of New South Wales.

Geosciences Australia reported that the quake’s epicentre was located at a shallow depth of 10 km which prevented more serious damage.

Curtin University’s structural geologist Professor Chris Elders said the likely cause of the quake was Australia moving seven centimetres away from Antarctica each year and toward Asia Pacific nations.

“The Indian Ocean is getting bigger and we’re colliding with Indonesia, Timor and New Guinea to the north,” he told NCA NewsWire.

“So, all those boundaries produce stresses that get transmitted through the crust and then when they hit a weak fault, the fault moves and causes the earthquake.” ●



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Spring nesting in full swing at Royal Park

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
ENVIRONMENT

With spring nesting season in full swing, inner city locals are enjoying the array of native birds on display at Royal Park.

Local birdwatchers have found everything from Boobook Owls to Red Wattlebirds and are keeping a keen eye out for chicks as they begin to hatch in the new season.

Local birdwatcher Scott Baker spotted eight Tawny Frogmouth nests and a chick during September and said it was “exciting” to monitor them.

“They nest in some very public spots and come back to the same place the following year – last year we found six breeding pairs in Royal Park, so we’ve been keen to monitor them and plot where they’ve been living,” Mr Baker said.

“It’s become like a little project for the people down there.”

Mr Baker said that although frogmouths were extremely adept at camouflage, they tolerated a lot of attention and had become somewhat of a “minor celebrity” at the park.

“Most people don’t notice them but when you do actually see them it’s quite exciting,” Mr Baker said.

“I only started looking for them at Royal Park during last year’s lockdown and it took me ages to spot one, you’ve got to look very carefully and get to know the types of trees and branches that they would like.”

In non-COVID times, Mr Baker would usually be running bird watching tours and venturing out into the bush to find night birds, but lockdown has forced him to explore his local area more.

“It’s become my local patch since lockdown last year and it’s become quite the scene as there’s a lot of other people who have taken up birdwatching during this period,” Mr Baker said.

“In the past 18 months alone, we’ve recorded close to 130 species in Royal Park.”

Among those species is the Red Wattlebird, one of which ran into some trouble at the end of September.

After getting its head stuck in the fork of a tree the bird was rescued by inner city local Phillip Gao who climbed up and freed him.

Mr Gao said that it was “fortuitous” that he and fellow birdwatcher Rodger Scott were there to save the bird from a grim fate.

“While Rodger and I were walking, all of a sudden we heard all of this commotion and saw about 15 Noisy Miner birds – which are quite territorial – going mad,” Mr Gao said.

“When I took a close-up photo, I could see this Red Wattlebird with his head stuck in the fork of the branch and that the miners were attacking him.”

“The overarching theme is the pandemic has brought us closer to our local communities and we’ve discovered our local area because of the five-kilometre restriction.”



“I decided to climb the tree, which was fairly tall, and tried to dislodge him with a stick but eventually was able to grab him and gently lift his head out before he flew away.”

Although he sprained his foot on the way down, Mr Gao said rescuing the bird was worth it.

“The whole backstory is that I’m a wedding photographer out of work and I recently became interested in bird watching after seeing the council’s Superb Fairy-wren research project,” Mr Gao said.

“The crazy thing is I never knew about the Trim Warren Wetlands even though I’ve been in Melbourne my whole life – so I met with some birdwatchers including Rodger and they introduced me to the Friends of Royal Park Facebook page.”



▲ Love is in the air! A Rainbow Lorikeet couple (top) and a mating pair of Sparrowhawks. Photos by Stuart Riley.



▲ Boobook Owl. Photo by Stuart Riley.



▲ Red Wattlebird in strife. Photo: Phillip Gao.



▲ A sleepy Tawny Frogmouth. Photo by Scott Baker.



▲ Tawny Frogmouth and her newly hatched chick. Photo by Ken Tay.



▲ Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Photo by Stuart Riley.

“Birdwatchers are so friendly and welcoming, and I’ve been going to Royal Park every day since then.”

Long-time birdwatcher Rodger Scott, who snapped the image of Phil, said that it was only their second time meeting when the bird rescue occurred.

“We had met only a couple of days beforehand as Phil had wanted to learn more about Royal Park and what birds were there,” Mr Scott said.

“We were walking in the upper area of the park near the railway line when we heard the commotion and found the wattlebird and chased the miners away.”

“Another couple had come along with a stick and had tried to lift it out but as the tallest of the four of us Phil decided to climb up and was able to reach it.”

Mr Gao said that after having all of his work cancelled or rescheduled after being a wedding photographer for 15 years, “it was great to be amongst nature” in Royal Park.

“The crazy thing is I only started taking bird photos a few weeks ago,” Mr Gao said.

“In an hour you can see 40 to 50 birds, I’ve already seen plenty of the Superb Fairy-wren, which is the little bird that opened this up for me and is my favourite.”

Parkville local and birdwatcher Stuart Riley has also been getting in on the action.

Recently he’d seen a Boobook Owl, dozens of Rainbow Lorikeets, and a mating pair of Sparrowhawks, which he was careful not to spook.

“Sparrowhawks are quite shy birds and right now they’re trying to build a nest to mate in which has been difficult because it’s been so windy,” Mr Riley said.

“I’ve been trying to keep it quiet to make sure a million long lens cameras don’t show up to Royal Park.”

“It’s a difficult moral dilemma because you want people to enjoy the birds, but you don’t want too many people there to frighten them off until they’ve established a nest.”

For Rainbow Lorikeet lovers, Mr Riley said that virtually half of the elm trees at Melbourne Cemetery and the north end of Princes Park were full of them.

He also said that the Reed-Warbler bird was also starting to come out at the Trin Warren Wetlands, and he currently was on the lookout for the rare Spotted Crake.

“It’s frustrating because I have heard them but haven’t seen them yet,” Mr Riley said.

“I’ve also been watching the Fan-tailed Cuckoos, which are beautiful birds that wait until spring to go into the nest of other birds when they’re not there, flick out their eggs, and then put their own eggs there so that other birds raise the Cuckoos as their own.”

For Phillip Gao, the experience photographing wildlife at Royal Park has brought him closer to his local community.

And as a Kensington local, he was inspired to share the joy with his neighbours.

“The overarching theme is the pandemic has brought us closer to our local communities and we’ve discovered our local area because of the five-kilometre restriction,” Mr Gao said.

“In Kensington we have the Newells Paddock where I recently saw an owl, so I created a Facebook page for locals passionate about conservation.”

“Sometimes we don’t know what’s beautiful in our backyard.” ●

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East Melbourne’s St Peter’s Church to receive \$144,000 upgrade

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HERITAGE

The iconic heritage-listed St Peter’s Eastern Hill Church in East Melbourne has received \$144,000 from the state government to conduct urgent conservation works.

The 175-year-old church will use the money to rebuild part of the roof to prevent water leakage as part of the government’s \$2.3 million Living Heritage Program.

Vicar’s Warden Stephen Duckett said he was “elated” to receive the grant after applying for the second time.

“I’m very happy as the leaking has worsened over time and every time there is a big thunderstorm it gets under the eaves,” Mr Duckett said.

“The church congregation is small and ageing and we don’t have an enormous amount of money to upkeep a historic site, so we couldn’t afford to do this project without the grant.”

The grant will cover half the cost of the project, which includes replacing roof tiles, battens and rainwater goods, rebuilding some of the roof structures and installing a new downpipe and rainwater head.

Mr Duckett said the works would ensure the ongoing community use of the hall which was originally part of a school connected to the church.

“The whole of our site is heritage-listed, including the hall, which leaks badly during the rain,” Mr Duckett said.

“The rain runs into all parts of the building, damaging the beams and the floor of the hall as well.”

The repair of the hall is particularly important as it is used by the church to run a number of programs for homeless people and international students.

“A lot of students lost income, and some couldn’t afford to eat so we run a lunch takeaway program for them we usually get about 100 students a day.”



▲ St Peter’s Vicar Dr Hugh Kempster and Vicar’s Warden Stephen Duckett inside the historic church.



▲ St Peter’s has a long-running meal program for the homeless and for international students during the pandemic.

“
I’m very happy as the leaking has worsened over time and every time there is a big thunderstorm it gets under the eaves.
”

Every morning the church serves a breakfast for 50 to 100 homeless in the hall, which has turned to takeaway during COVID.

Mr Duckett also said the church had been running a meals program for international students out of the hall, a service which began during COVID.

“A lot of students lost income, and some couldn’t afford to eat so we run a lunch takeaway program for them,” Mr Duckett said.

“We usually get about 100 students a day, so the hall is really used a lot by the community.”

St Peter’s is one of 19 restoration projects that will receive funding under round six of the Living Heritage Program.

Other sites include Melbourne Athenaeum Theatre, Puffing Billy Locomotives and Rolling Stock in Belgrave and Horsham Town Hall.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the program was about protecting significant sites across Victoria for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

“These are the sites that tell stories about our history and play a major role in rural and regional Victoria’s tourism industry – we’re proud to protect these treasured community assets,” Mr Wynne said.

As Mr Duckett will soon be retiring after acting as the Vicar’s Warden and Chair of Parish Council for six years, he was happy to get the grant approved.

“As my time is coming to an end it was really pleasing to get this finalised, for the church and for the community,” he said.

“It’s an historic site and in regular times we would have many people come to enjoy the church and the hall because they’re very beautiful.” ●



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Road map out of lockdown offers “glimmer of hope”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp says Victoria’s road map out of lockdown offers “a glimmer of hope for traders” as pandemic restrictions are due to be eased by late October.

Pubs, restaurants, and cafes as well as entertainment venues would be able to open outdoors with a limit of 50 fully vaccinated people under the state government’s “cautious” road map. Hairdressing would also return for the fully vaccinated with a maximum of five people in a salon at one time.

It comes as the city’s lockdown is forecast to end around October 26 and the curfew scrapped when 70 per cent of the Victorians aged 16 and over are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Cr Capp welcomed the news saying it “outlined the first few important steps towards reopening”, but added the council was “doing everything we can to get Victorians vaccinated as soon as possible so we can bring forward the steps in the road map”.

“The City of Melbourne is working tirelessly with businesses so that we’re ready to bring back the buzz as soon as we reopen,” she said.

“We are determined to turn the city inside out by bringing indoor hospitality and trading outside onto our beautiful streets so that traders can welcome back more patrons and customers sooner.”

Sandra Nardo, manager of women’s clothing store, Husk Carlton, said her team was “looking forward to a bigger and brighter future” under the road map.

“Before it was the unknown ... now at least we have an idea,” she said after hearing the news that retail could reopen when the state reached 80 per cent vaccination, presumed to be around November 5.

“Definitely determined to get through this. We have a date in mind and we’re just working towards that.”

Ms Nardo said her shop had currently been operating three days a week with a concierge service for click and collect while “doing whatever we can to the best of our ability” to boost their sales.

“It’s hard as a business, I’ve got to be innovative constantly every week, she said, adding clients couldn’t wait “to be free to have a look and just a nice friendly chat” and had her “fingers crossed” retail could reopen just in time for Christmas and “to have that buzz back”.

Il Gusto owner Ali Elbatt said his Italian



▲ Il Gusto owner Ali Elbatt said he looked forward to welcoming back diners to his Italian restaurant on Lygon St.



▲ Sandra Nardo, manager of women's clothing store, Husk Carlton, has her fingers crossed retail can reopen in November.

restaurant on Lygon St had been hit “really hard” and “we wish that lockdown finishes and it comes back to normal”.

“I’m here for 40 years and I’ve never seen something like that,” he said of the many shops closing around him.

Paul Tasca, who owns Bottega Tasca, a family-run wine shop also in Lygon St, said while he was fortunate his shop had remained open, he believed it was still “a long road ahead” for restaurants and eateries.

“It’s definitely encouraging [the road map]

but until you can get people back into the restaurants and the cafes that is when it will really take off,” he said.

“It’s very quiet. We need the shops open, and we need the retail back so people can get back into the street – that’s what we’re looking forward to.”

Gianni Marchesani, manager at Bedggood & Co café in East Melbourne, said his business was “happy to accept whatever is in front of us” in relation to the road map out of lockdown “and we’ll go with the flow”.

“No point jumping up and down ... these are not ideal situations, but you’ve got to make the best out of it, and we’re pretty positive,” he said.

“We’re fortunate in the area we’re in and we’ve got some really good customers that support us really well.”

Meanwhile, the Lord Mayor said the council would “look forward to more information regarding the reopening steps beyond December”.

“This will be integral for businesses going forward so they can look forward to operating more normally,” Cr Capp said.

“We are also seeking clarity for the arts sector, such as theatres, museums and galleries.”

Once Victoria reaches its 80 per cent double-dose target, retail and beauty services can reopen for the fully vaccinated and hospitality can resume indoors for up to 150 people.

At their September 21 meeting, City of Melbourne councillors voted unanimously in support of introducing of a “health pass” system to safely reopen hospitality, arts and entertainment venues sooner.

Small business portfolio lead Cr Jason Chang, who runs a Japanese grocery store and restaurant in the CBD, described the lockdown as “absolutely horrible” and believed the road-map out of lockdown “doesn’t go far enough”.

“We are left with small steps forward with many businesses not being able to withstand another six weeks of closures,” he said.

Restaurant and Catering Australia CEO Wes Lambert said “businesses genuinely risk closure” if patron caps under the road map remained “impossibly low” for venues that did not have outdoor dining.

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive Paul Guerra also said “many businesses will not make it through” if they remained closed until November when Victoria hit the 80 per cent double vaccination target.

“Victorian businesses wanted a pathway to prosperity, but instead we got a roadmap with roadblocks,” he said. ●

What’s happening at the ‘G?

WORDS BY *Jake Pike*
FEATURE

While the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) sat dormant for another AFL Grand Final last month, the Victorian Government has made agreements with the AFL to see that East Melbourne will still be the home of football in the future.

After losing the AFL Grand Final for the second year in a row due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the government has organised for the MCG’s Grand Final lease to be extended for a further year until 2059.

The ‘G has also been promised another eight AFL games over the next five seasons in addition to the venue’s ongoing guarantee of a minimum 43 AFL premiership matches per year.

Victorian Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula has said that the decision was made in the best interests of both the Victorian public and football.

“This is a decision made in the best interests of the health and safety of Victorians as we continue to drive down the current outbreak. It’s also in the best interests of football – if the Grand Final can be played in front of supporters, then it should be,” Mr Pakula said.

“We look forward to the Grand Final returning to its traditional home at the MCG in 2022 and for decades beyond.”

However, unvaccinated fans may not get

to experience games firsthand as Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has stated that the fully vaccinated would be given priority at major sporting events in the future to reduce the risk of transmission.

“Travel within our country, international travel, going to the pub, going to the footy, going to the cricket, all of those things, there’s going to be preferential treatment – as it should be – for double vaccinated people,” Mr Andrews said in a press conference on September 23.

Eastern Melbourne Group President Ian Mitchell has said that it was disappointing for locals that the area had again missed out on the Grand Final.

“Many in our East Melbourne community are keen football fans who miss the excitement and colours of their favourite teams. Maybe there are fewer adorned properties this year, but they have been enthusiastically decorated.”

“Each year we see residents and businesses adorning their properties with ribbons, scarves and colours of their favourite teams. Maybe there are fewer adorned properties this year, but they have been enthusiastically decorated.”

“Local businesses who might otherwise have increased customers at this time are hurting with the lockdown.”

But while missing out on the Grand Final was disappointing, Mr Mitchell said a silver lining was that anyone who lived within a 10-kilometre radius was able to enjoy Yarra Park in

pristine condition as the grass hadn’t been spoiled by car parking.

The East Melbourne Group would like to see alternatives to Yarra Park being used as a car park in the years to come.

“We continue to work with authorities to have Yarra Park retained as a parkland for all rather than a car park for some,” Mr Mitchell said.

“Maybe the proposed federal funding of car parks near stations, and our proposal for MCG tickets to include a tiny levy for free public transport, can reduce the need for car parking in Yarra Park. It was very effective for the Commonwealth Games.”

The East Melbourne Group believes that while the additional AFL games promised to the MCG may have some economic benefit to local businesses, it won’t support the move unless Yarra Park is no longer used for parking during matches.

“There might be some benefit to businesses who are able to open pre and post games. We would not support these extra games if car parking continued in Yarra Park,” Mr Mitchell said.

Jab at the ‘G

With the MCG vacant, *The Herald Sun* recently proposed another use for the iconic stadium on Grand Final Day and the Grand Final Day Eve public holiday.

The newspaper launched a campaign to see the ‘G used as a mass vaccination hub on

September 24 and 25 in a bid to improve the inner city’s low vaccination rates.

Despite receiving the support of a range of prominent figures including AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt, it ultimately didn’t go ahead.

At the time of publishing, the City of Melbourne local government area had a full vaccination rate of just 30.5 per cent and partial vaccination rate of 59.5 per cent, making it the lowest vaccinated LGA in the state.

The “Jab at the ‘G” vaccine campaign aimed to provide a fun and light-hearted environment to encourage unvaccinated Melbourne residents to get the jab.

Potential attendees were encouraged to wear their teams’ colours to score points for their side with one point per vaccination.

The drive had bipartisan support to use up Victoria’s existing stores of the less popular AstraZeneca vaccine which, despite its widespread availability, currently only accounted for around 25 per cent of vaccinations in Victoria by the end of September. ●

Get vaccinated to bring footy back to East Melbourne:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/community

Get students back in early 2022: Council

WORDS BY *David Schout*
EDUCATION

The City of Melbourne has called for a “substantial return” of international students in time for the 2022 academic year and urged upper levels of government to show leadership on the issue. The council said state and federal governments had adopted “a generally conservative approach” to planning for international student arrivals and argued planning for next year should “commence immediately”. Prior to COVID-19, almost four in 10 CBD and Carlton residents were international students. However, Australia’s strict border policy throughout the pandemic has seen that figure decline. A report presented to councillors at a September 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting concluded that overseas students’ return would prove crucial not only for tertiary insinuations, but the many businesses that rely on their presence within the Hoddle Grid. “The return of international students is critical for the city’s recovery in the short to medium term,” the report stated. “Melbourne’s economy will benefit from international students returning: not just directly in the higher education sector, which has had massive job losses since Australia closed its borders, but also from the flow-on economic benefits of student spending in areas such as housing, food and services.” After unanimous support from councillors, the City of Melbourne will work with key figures in the international education sector. Its task will be to push state and federal

governments for a “strong return of international students to Melbourne in time for the 2022 academic year”. Lord Mayor Sally Capp will also work with other capital city Lord Mayors in a joint advocacy effort aimed at securing a national plan. Other states had already raised the possibility of international students returning before the end of the year. A NSW plan to allow entry to 250 students per fortnight was paused in June at the onset of the state’s prolonged lockdown period. However Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said they could return to the plan in November. Similarly, the South Australian government has flagged international students would soon become part of a home quarantine trial. Yet at the time of publishing, the Andrews government was yet to release plans to the tertiary sector in Victoria. The council’s education and innovation chair Davydd Griffiths said it was important to advocate for a specific return date — in this case early next year. “That obviously isn’t far away, and we need to ensure that it is a meaningful and realistic target that we can achieve,” he said. “It’s important to have some timeframes and clear goals to aim at.” Cr Griffiths said that the importance of international students should not only be expressed in economic terms. “[They are] important for a whole range of reasons; for institutions ... for the life of the city, [but] also for individual students themselves. And that, at the heart of everything we’re talking about, when it comes to international students is the most important thing, because we’re talking about human beings. And we need



▲ *Melbourne Univeristy has been a ghost town for the better part of two years.*

to ensure that our city does all it can to make it the very best place for them to study.” His deputy in the education portfolio, Cr Phillip Le Liu, acknowledged that the council’s influence on the this issue was limited. “There’s not many levers the City of Melbourne can pull,” he said. “The federal government control visas, the state government control the education part. But we really are the closest government to the

people ... for us, the advocacy is really important and that’s why we’re doing everything we can.” In July, Melbourne was ranked the sixth-best student city in the world by university ranking group QS, down from third in the previous rankings of 2019. The University of Melbourne 2020 Annual Report found that last year there were 21,243 international students enrolled, marking a decline of 10.5 per cent. The loss of international students, mainly from China, Malaysia and India, cost the university \$200m in revenue in 2020. A University of Melbourne spokesperson said they were making every effort to work with governments to help facilitate travel when it is deemed safe for students to come to Australia. “We recognise that the last 18 months have been challenging and students based overseas face difficult circumstances with ongoing uncertainty regarding border restrictions and travel,” the spokesperson said. “The university have also actively planned initiatives to support this cohort, including a new one-off \$4000 grant and a special welcome pack to help ease the burden of travel costs and support our international students in getting settled and connected in our local community.” ●



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▲ *Site closed at the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.*

Building industry at a flashpoint

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ECONOMY

Everyone complains about construction sites, the way workers act as if they own the roads and the noise they make putting up towers to overshadow back yards. But when it comes to the crunch, they were at least a visible reminder of the economy at work. The closure of the industry in September is an awful reminder of the power of the coronavirus to disrupt. Even small projects in the inner city have been put on hold with building contractors busy going off for jobs and applying for government relief. The CBD has been most affected, with CFMEU workers protesting and others leading the police on a merry dance. Helicopters were visible in the sky from East Melbourne in the days following the announcement that the industry would be closed. Live TV coverage of the protests in the city was preoccupying some who were sympathetic to their cause. One woman told *Inner City News* that she had joined the guys in the march through the streets. She said the issue for her was about vaccination.

But in East Melbourne, building workers were following correct procedures. “I’ve got an appointment now,” a carpenter told *Inner City News* the day after sites were closed. He said he was making a Hotham St renovation site safe, then driving off for a job. “I’ve got until September 23 to get vaccinated,” he said, but he’d already made the appointment before the government ultimatum. While many construction workers are smarting at being laid off work for the first time in their careers, he was confident about getting government support of \$1500 for the fortnight. Even important medical projects have been put on hold, such as the \$306 million tower at the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Victoria St. The nearby ICON Victoria Place office tower complex was also closed. A spokeswoman for the Hotham Street Milk Bar said that building workers made up most of their lunch trade. “They came to say goodbye on Monday,” she said. No-one really wanted to buy into the issue by the time *Inner City News* went to press and the date for mandatory vaccination had passed. “I’m fully vaxxed,” one site manager said. “All our guys have had our jab. We’ll just have to wait. It’s a bit of a flashpoint.” ●

“Deplorable situation”: Carlton asylum seekers granted library access

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Asylum seekers being held in detention at the Park Hotel in Carlton will be able to access library services in the City of Melbourne thanks to a council motion which was passed unanimously in September. There are around 45 men currently in detention at the Park Hotel in Swanston St. Before that, many if not all of them were detained on either Manus Island or Nauru and transferred to Australia under the medivac legislation for urgent medical care. The motion, proposed by the council’s health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead Cr Olivia Ball, plans to deliver services to residents of the Melbourne municipality who, through no fault of their own, cannot attend libraries in person and are especially vulnerable. Cr Ball said it was well-known that library services contributed to the health and wellbeing of people in closed environments such as prisons and immigration detention. “So many locals feel deeply for the innocent men detained in the Park Hotel with no knowledge of what their future holds nor means to access justice. This is one small thing local government can do for this small cohort of residents in a deplorable situation,” she said. Speaking at the meeting, librarian academic Jane Garner from Charles Sturt University, who has a PhD in the role of prison libraries, said that a United Nations General Assembly rule required that all people living in detention must be able to access a library. “Reading for people living in detention takes on a much greater value than it does for those of us with free access to books, libraries and information,” Dr Garner said. “People living in detention have vast amounts of unstructured and empty time to fill in, often for years at a time and with very few ways to fill that time.” “This has been shown to have enormously detrimental effects on mental health and wellbeing, leading to destructive behaviours and depression. Books, libraries and reading supports



▲ *The men inside the Park Hotel (top) and a protest outside the building on Grand Final Day. Photo: RAC.*

the wellbeing and mental health of prisoners.” All councillors voted to pass the motion after Dr Garner asked the City of Melbourne to offer the same library services to people detained at the Park Hotel, as every inmate in Victorian prisons already have access to ●

First Afghan refugees start new life in Carlton

WORDS BY *Matt Harvey*
FEATURE

Afghan refugees fleeing rising hostilities in their home country began arriving in Melbourne during September.

The country’s radical Islamist group the Taliban seized control of the capital Kabul in August resulting in an attempted mass exodus of many of its citizens, some of whom were evacuated through the help of American and allied forces, including Australia.

Many of those who fled were escaping persecution from the Taliban for their role in assisting the United States and its allies during the 20-year war in Afghanistan. They included interpreters and assistants who had worked with the military forces.

Many other vulnerable citizens, including women and those from minority communities, also desperately sought a way out, with some lucky enough to end up in Melbourne this month.

Inner City News captured the moments on September 13 when the first busload of refugees arrived at accommodation at Queensberry St in Carlton.

Laurie Nowell, public affairs manager at AMES Australia – the humanitarian settlement service provider in Victoria – said the organisation had been busy finding temporary accommodation for the unexpected new refugees.

He said the biggest problem ahead for some would be the sudden nature of their refugee status, given they had been provided with no time, and for some no real desire, to rebuild their lives overseas.

“A lot of refugees spend 10 years in a refugee camp trying to get here so they’re mostly quite prepared, they know a little about life in Australia and they’re sort of prepared for it and eager to start new lives here,” Mr Nowell said.

“These people have been catapulted out of the life they’ve known fairly quickly so it’s a little bit different.”

The war in Afghanistan began in 2001 when the United States and allied NATO countries invaded the country following the 9/11 terrorist



▲ First busload of Afghan refugees arriving in Carlton (top) and Afghan kids exploring the area. Photos: John Tadigiri.

attacks. The war was initiated on the belief that the Taliban government in Afghanistan was harbouring al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden, who claimed responsibility for 9/11.

It was the longest war in the history of the United States, surpassing the Vietnam War (1955–1975) by roughly five months. On September 7, 2021, an interim government

headed by Mohammad Hassan Akhund as Prime Minister was declared by the Taliban.

As of 2021, Brown University estimated that the war in Afghanistan had already cost \$2.261 trillion, out of which \$530 billion had been spent on interest payments and \$296 billion on veterans’ care.

Mr Nowell said Melbourne was a city uniquely equipped not only to take in, but support refugees.

“It’s very welcoming, there’s a lot of stuff set up to help people who are newly arrived from other parts of the world. Even people who don’t have connections might come here because it’s an easier place to navigate life if you don’t speak English,” he said.

“We will meet them at the airport, we’ll support them with short-term accommodation, give them an orientation as to what it’s like to live in Australia, and that’s everything from how to get a medical appointment to how to use PT [public transport]. Then we will work with them to find out what it is they want to do.”

Mr Nowell said that Melbourne and Dandenong were “kind of famous” in the Afghan community due to their large Afghan populations.

“Something like 60 to 70 per cent of this cohort who are coming at the moment will probably end up in Melbourne, because there are already communities here,” Mr Nowell said.

AMES works closely with the incoming refugee communities to support them until they are self-sufficient or have appropriate community links to help them thrive.

“Some people are much quicker to get set up and independent,” Mr Nowell said.

“What is termed to be participating economically and socially in our society. That’s the extreme end of it.”

“We like to see people settled much sooner than that.”

No matter how challenging and traumatic their escape from Afghanistan had been, he was confident they would all make new life here in Australia.

“If you’ve been through something like this you have an innate resilience so you can survive other things,” Mr Nowell said ●

New bus services for Parkville

TRANSPORT

Travelling to and from work and education in Parkville will be quicker thanks to a new limited-stop bus connecting Victoria Park Station to the University of Melbourne.

From September 20, the new Route 202 bus service will run every 10 minutes between Yarra Bend to Melbourne University and Parkville’s medical and research precinct, allowing people to board from Victoria Park Station.

Parkville Association president Rob Moore said that the new service would be great for those working and studying in the area and for residents connecting with RMIT Bundoora and the north-east suburbs.

“Finally, a cross suburb link which will assist the university and scientific sector move across from Victoria Park Station avoiding [bringing more] vehicle traffic into the Parkville area,” Mr Moore said.

“Having a bus to Fitzroy and on to Yarra Bend will also be great for our area and when the Melbourne Metro is complete give Parkville incredible access to all suburbs.”

The high-frequency shuttle bus will also pick up passengers from stops connecting with the 11, 86 and 96 tram routes, providing a more efficient way for students and workers to reach the precinct.

It will also eliminate the need for people commuting from Melbourne’s northern and north-eastern suburbs to travel into the CBD to get to the university or Parkville-bound services.

The upgraded services will connect passengers to education and healthcare facilities including the Box Hill Hospital, employment, and local shopping precincts including Highpoint Shopping Centre, Queen Victoria Market, Doncaster Shopping Centre, and Melbourne’s CBD.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said the new bus services would make it easier for people to get around.

“Whether it’s travelling to the shops, work, school, or university – we’re making it more convenient for people to get to where they need to go,” Mr Carroll said ●

Free period products for Carlton council facilities

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Period products will soon be made available for free at six City of Melbourne community facilities.

The Kathleen Syme Community Centre and Carlton Baths will be among the locations where vulnerable women will be able to access products for at least 12 months.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said vending machines stocked with period care products would be installed as part of a pilot program aimed at tackling period poverty.

“Around 15 per cent of people who menstruate in Victoria have been unable to afford period products at some stage in their lives,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Everybody should be able to access pads and tampons, regardless of their personal circumstances, which is why we are taking the important step of offering these products for free, as soon as it’s safe to reopen our community facilities.”

When restrictions allow, free period products will also be available at Library at the Dock, City Library, Melbourne Town Hall public toilets and the North Melbourne Community Centre.

The council’s health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead Cr Olivia Ball said access to period care products should not be a luxury.

“Periods are a normal part of life and access to products to manage them is a basic necessity,” Cr Ball said.



▲ Kathleen Syme and Carlton Baths now have free period products.

“Some members of our community cannot regularly afford sanitary products, or may be unable to access them in an emergency, or in cases of domestic and family violence.”

“This program will deliver vending machines stocked with supplies to locations across the CBD, Carlton, Docklands and North Melbourne.”

Cr Jamal Hakim, who put the motion to council to introduce the program, said it aimed to improve the health, comfort and inclusion of people who menstruate.

“Easy access to period products means that people who menstruate are able to fully participate in their communities in every way possible – whether that’s for work, leisure or other community participation,” Cr Hakim said.

“This pilot program gives us an opportunity to directly reach Melburnians in places they already visit for work, sport, study and other community activities.”

“We’d welcome feedback from Melburnians as the pilot takes place, and will work with community organisations to see how we can expand the roll out of free period products in the municipality.” ●

Have your say at:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Best on the ground

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
SPORT

Demons supporters moved stealthily to the MCG with their picnic blankets on Grand Final Day to reclaim it as their spiritual home. They arrived in small groups carrying red and blue cupcakes, streamers and eskies. There was a friendly rivalry between families as they staked out their positions. While one family took control of the Members stand by blocking off the doors with their blanket, the Morgans were playing it cool. They chose a spot a fair distance from the stadium, preferring the wide-open spaces and green grass of the car park. “It’s part of our tradition to have a barbecue in the car park,” Sam Morgan told *Inner City News*. “We’ve done it twice, first in ’88 then in 2000.” Sam and his brother Tim both married Georginas from Tassie and they are proud of their lineage, with Sam, wearing number 20, keen to assert his historical connections with the game. Sam was just four weeks old when the Demons won their last grand final in 1964 yet he remembers it well. “I have a fairly strong memory of listening to it on the radio,” Sam said. “I was drunk on milk at the time.” No-one could really argue with his pronouncement, particularly his younger brother Tim, wearing number 6, who was forced to award the point. Some were expecting a groundswell of emotion for a team that has missed out for so long but after 238 days in lockdown the spirit can grow weary.



▲ Tim and Sam Morgan celebrate at the ‘G’



▲ Laura and Callum with Demons cupcakes.



▲ The Jennings and Raker families at the door of the Members.

Sam suggested that the earthquake might have put a few off attending. “The groundswell was on Wednesday,” his mate Russell concurred, taking the ball and playing on. With the team absent, the grand final played in Perth and the training ground out at Cranbourne, local barrackers could have been depressed. But no-one was really smarting at jibes from the opposition, even ones about cheese platters. “Melbourne supporters are meant to be affluent,” Sam said, yet “you have no choice” which team you follow. “The folks didn’t give a stuff about football,” brother Tim countered with a shoulder. Both agreed they inherited the team from their older brother. “With politics and religion, you can do what you like. Football is different.” ●

Council gives green light for \$62 million student tower

WORDS BY Brendan Rees
PLANNING

A proposal to build a \$62m student tower at the site of the last petrol station in the CBD has won the backing of the City of Melbourne. Developers were recently given the green light to construct a 24-storey building plus a basement at 23-29 Victoria St in the city’s north precinct and close to Carlton Gardens and Lygon St. The application from Tract Consultants, which acted on behalf of Scape Australia, a major student accommodation provider, proposes to feature a cinema and deck within the tower along with a café, gym, convenience store, lobby, and 533 single bed/studio apartments. The site, which also fronts Mackenzie St, is currently home to a 7-Eleven petrol station that will be demolished to make way for the building near RMIT and Melbourne University. Designed by Woods Bagot architects, the plans promise to “provide high quality student accommodation and retail” offerings as well as feature a large communal dining room with a fully catered and staffed kitchen, serving meals all day. “This is supplemented by communal kitchenettes provided throughout the tower for student use to allow for individual cooking and hosting of resident dinner parties,” the submission said. Under the plans, students would be housed across 19 floors and have access to a roof terrace and outdoor kitchen/barbecue area while amenity facilities would include social spaces, quiet study areas, shared laundry spaces, and “high-tech IT throughout”. It would also have “village” spaces” accommodating up to 75 people – with direct access to their own interconnected three-level communal space, and each with a north-facing wintergarden. “The rooftop terraces will provide a multi-functional outdoor space for dining, events and functions for residents and their guests, taking advantage of surrounding views,” the application said. “Landscape features will provide a peaceful green setting for residents” and “outdoor spaces will facilitate a range of activities from communal functions and events to quiet spaces for relaxation.” Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the tower would “play a key role” in attracting domestic and international students once the city



▲ An artist's impression of the student tower in the city's north precinct.

reopened from lockdowns. “It’s encouraging to see that developers are keen to continue investing in the future of our city,” he said. “This site is the last of Melbourne’s CBD petrol stations, making this an historic redevelopment.” “Having high-quality student accommodation will play a key role in attracting students from across Australia and overseas as we look to reopen Melbourne and plan for post-COVID life.” The submission does not include on-site car parking, however, the basement would accommodate 85 bicycles. Scape Australia has joined a growing chorus of calls to boost existing COVID-19 quarantine facilities and return more than 135,000 international students to the country ●

INNER CITY LOCAL

The value of staying put

Bar owner and writer Emily Bitto is a bit of a towering presence in the vivacious culture of Lygon St.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Her second novel *Wild Abandon* has just been released and people are rushing up to congratulate her. Emily has changed her hair style, cut short and bleached, and she’s nervous about her new look. But everyone recognises her anyway, including former hospo workers, who want to know about her latest ventures. Emily grew up in a small Queensland town and her dad is from Slovakia, so she knows firsthand the struggles to be urbane. This is one of the themes of her new novel, as Will, her country boy protagonist, pits himself against the excesses of America. “I wanted to write about contemporary things, the relationship between Australia and America,” she said, and she has not been afraid to go against the Aussie realism grain with extravagant use of adjectives and metaphors. “It’s all about excess,” she said of her new

book. “Style is really important to me.” She calls her sentences baroque. Emily and her boyfriend own Heartattack and Vine in Lygon St and her experience behind the bar, 90 hours a week in the early years, alerted her to a certain kind of young male who works in the industry. “I was working with young 20-year-olds, day in and day out,” she said. Will, her protagonist, is based on her observations. He isn’t exactly entitled but he goes on an overseas trip as a kind of hero’s journey. “I was really interested in the archetypal form of quest. It is one of the oldest sorts of forms in fairy tales such as *The Odyssey* I read and loved when young.” “It’s the ability to go out in the world and see it as a backdrop for your personal story. I wanted to do a version of that.” There are no easy epiphanies for Will in *Wild Abandon*. “I think one of the ways of thinking about that journey in books such as *On the Road*, is



▲ Emily Bitto greets a fan in Lygon St.

that the protagonists neglect the fact of the lives they touch, the trail of destruction as they go on an interior hero’s journey,” Emily said. “His reactions are uppermost. He won’t think about the impact he has.” Her first novel *Strays* won the inaugural Stella Prize for women’s writing and her theme

is similar: how do minor players deal with larger-than-life males? The answer seems to be that there are some truths about the warmth of the human spirit to be found in these characters that you only discover by staying put ●

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Your City of Melbourne community update

TURNING GREY TO GREEN AS URBAN FORESTS BLOOM ACROSS THE CITY

With spring in full bloom, the City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Fund projects are transforming grey spaces to green with leafy laneways, curated courtyards and rooftop urban farms.

The Urban Forest Fund provides matched financial support to new private greening projects in the city, not just for residents, but in many cases for all Melburnians keen for a stroll in publicly-accessible green spaces.

Here are four new greening projects that are transforming grey spaces across the city.

Tribeca Apartments, East Melbourne

At Tribeca Apartments, building manager Garrad Flint said 'we've had nothing but great feedback from our residents' about the new greening project.

The City of Melbourne contributed \$100,000 towards the project which has seen lush mature trees, including lemon myrtle and small-leafed fig, now line a narrow paved laneway, and the plaza area adorned with curving garden beds planted with a range of subtropical plants. Succulents and ground covers thrive.

'It's a publicly accessible plaza with cafes, restaurants and a supermarket, as well as a crossing point between Victoria Parade's greenery and Albert Street's parks,' Garrad said. 'We also get a lot of foot traffic from people visiting the nearby hospitals or staying in the local short-stay apartments.'

Once lockdown restrictions lift, social life will be encouraged by the garden beds nestling next to the dining areas.

'Before lockdown the plaza cafes, restaurants and bars were open to a nice but dated area. Now customers, visitors and residents get to walk out

into and enjoy a lush green area. It's a real upgrade to their living area.'

The cool green oasis adds to the character of the area, with a historical red brick and bluestone brewery lending atmosphere to this pleasant precinct.



Tribeca Apartments, East Melbourne

HAINES STREET APARTMENTS, NORTH MELBOURNE

In Haines Street, North Melbourne plants and garden beds are now well established, softening the hard edges of an apartment complex car park.

'They're doing well and we will do a lot more planting after winter,' said Ying-Lan Dann, a resident and one of the keen gardeners behind the project.

The City of Melbourne contributed \$66,000 to the project which has transformed the car park area of a medium-density housing complex, which is publicly-accessible, into a safe, active communal space for both residents and the public to enjoy.

Now residents look out onto fruiting trees and herb beds, native flowering ground covers and vertical gardens complemented by rainwater tanks, compost bins and seating areas for relaxation.



MELBOURNE SKYFARM, DOCKLANDS

Melbourne Skyfarm is set to become a sustainable city oasis in the Seafarer's precinct overlooking the Yarra River to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

While not open to the public until early next year, Melbourne Skyfarm has marked the completion of the first stage of works including the urban greening and urban farming component.

The City of Melbourne committed \$300,000 in matched funding through the Urban Forest Fund to support the delivery of the urban farm.

When fully complete, Melbourne Skyfarm will be open to the public to tour the working farm, visit the rooftop orchard and herb gardens, or purchase plants from the nursery.

There are also plans for a sustainable café and an environmental education area.



PRINTMAKERS LANE, SOUTHBANK

The hot dry Mediterranean climate was the inspiration for cooling vines in a laneway on the University of Melbourne's Southbank campus.

'Historically it is quite a harsh laneway,' project manager Sebastian Di Girolamo said.

'It has metal cladding so we did some testing and over summer it's a hot area.'

'So we came up with the idea of a design from Italy, Greece and Spain, hotter climates, where they use vines to create shade and make laneways cooler. The idea is once the plants are blooming and leafy they'll create a shade canopy over the laneway.'

The City of Melbourne contributed \$100,000 to the greening project which will transform the Printmakers Laneway into a shady green space that can be enjoyed by students and members of the public.



WHAT IS THE URBAN FOREST FUND?

The Urban Forest Fund supports a wide range of projects, including gardens, tree planting, biodiversity projects, green roofs and vertical greening in the city.

Grant applications are assessed by a panel of greening experts and community members who prioritise projects that will provide the most benefit to the community and environment.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/greening-the-city/urban-forest-fund

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Your City of Melbourne community update

TAKING FUN TO NEW HEIGHTS

Treetop fun has taken over the oldest playground in town with the City of Melbourne’s newest place space officially open to children of all ages.

The Lincoln Square playground in Carlton features rope bridges, play towers, slides, swings and timber play structures high up in the trees, as well as a new barbecue and picnic area.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the park’s 150-year-old Moreton Bay Fig trees were incorporated into the design of the playground creating exciting new spaces to explore up high.

“We know ongoing restrictions have been incredibly hard on our community, so the completion of the Lincoln Square playground is perfectly timed to get restless kids out of the house and into the fresh air,” the Lord Mayor said.

“We hope this new state-of-the-art play space will bring some much-needed joy and excitement, and become one of our city’s most loved playgrounds,” she said.

The playground upgrade is part of the City of Melbourne’s Lincoln Square Concept Plan, and also included the delivery of new lawn and garden beds,

more trees, and improved footpaths, lighting and irrigation.

Health and Wellbeing portfolio lead Councillor Dr Olivia Ball said Carlton is one of the fastest-growing areas in the municipality and playgrounds like this are vital for the young families who call Carlton home.

“I used to live near Lincoln Square myself and it’s been a joy to see the City of Melbourne expand the park and now build this magnificent new playground,” Cr Dr Ball said.

“By expanding and improving our green open spaces, we’re helping to

ensure Melbourne remains a highly desirable place to live, work and visit.”

Lincoln Square has been home to the city’s first playground since it opened to the public in 1907.



Lincoln Square Treetop Playground

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW GREEN WASTE COLLECTION TO WIN

Melburnians are embracing a new food and garden organics collection service with almost 150 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill in its first two months.

Residents who have used the food and organic waste service are encouraged to provide feedback on the pilot program.

Those who complete the survey, or share their tips and tricks, via Participate Melbourne before 1 November will go in the draw to win one of three \$100 Queen Victoria Market vouchers.

The service provided by the City of Melbourne began in June with waste collections from 9,000 homes across the municipality.

Residents in stand-alone houses and single-storey apartment blocks were

given a 120-litre lime-green wheelie bin, a kitchen caddy for food scraps and 52 compostable bin liners as part of the program.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the early success of the program showed the community is keen to embrace a more environmentally-friendly way to dispose of their waste.

“In one month alone, our team collected food and garden waste from more than 16,200 bins and processed 115 tonnes of organic waste – preventing hundreds of kilograms of Co2 emissions from being generated in landfill.

“The organic waste we’ve collected has been converted into about 42 tonnes of valuable compost.

“We’re now exploring how best to use this compost, this will support the creation of a circular economy and help maintain our beautiful parks, gardens and trees.”

The new food and organics service is part of the City of Melbourne’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, which aims to reduce landfill and improve waste and recycling services across the municipality.

The City of Melbourne invested \$1 million to establish the service at no additional cost to residents.

Environment portfolio lead Councillor Rohan Leppert said community feedback would help Council roll out the service across the municipality.

“If you’ve been using our food and organic waste service we want to hear from you. Tell us what’s worked and what hasn’t so we can continue to improve and expand the service,” Cr Leppert said.

To provide feedback on the food and organic waste service, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/food-garden-waste to have your say.



FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE CITY

The City of Melbourne is offering free period products in some of its public facilities to help ensure everyone can manage the normal process of menstruation without embarrassment or stigma.

When people aren’t able to access these products, this can be a significant obstacle to emotional and physical health, comfort, and engagement with school and community activities.

‘Period poverty’ is experienced in Australia and all over the world by people who menstruate.

Council has unanimously endorsed a 12-month pilot of free menstrual care products, an initiative that addresses a number of priorities in our Council Plan.

When lockdown restrictions ease, free pads and tampons will be available at:

- Library at the Dock
- City Library
- Carlton Baths
- Melbourne Town Hall public toilets on Collins Street
- North Melbourne Community Centre
- Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre.



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

Giving a voice to our international students

While Cr Philip Le Liu has brought many passions to the City of Melbourne, his greatest ambition continues to be making Melbourne the number one student city in the world.

WORDS BY Sean Car

Having first been elected to the City of Melbourne in 2016 on former councillor Ken Ong's ticket, Cr Le Liu is now one of the more experienced members on council after being re-elected for a second term last year.

And at just 38 years of age, he also represents an emerging younger voice at the City of Melbourne, and during his time as a councillor, the plight of the city's growing international student population has been at the top of his agenda.

Having previously chaired the council's international engagement portfolio during his first term, Cr Le Liu told CBD News he had made it his priority to ensure the council better served what was "pretty much our biggest community now".

Making up around 40 per cent of the residential population in the CBD prior to the pandemic, it's a community that represents one of the hardest hit by COVID and the impacts of its absence continue to be felt right throughout the municipality.

While he now chairs the council's finance, governance and risk portfolio, he said he was happy to continue playing a driving role in supporting international students as deputy portfolio lead for education and innovation.

Together with that portfolio's chair Cr Davydd Griffiths – a former teacher and education policy advisor himself – Cr Le Liu he was determined to reinstate Melbourne's title as one of the world's best cities for students.

"When I first came into council, international students were right down at the very bottom, no-one had done anything with it, yet they are one of our biggest communities," he said.

"We'd never had any funding or initiatives or anything, so when I got in I said, 'I really want to put it up here [at the top]'. We were the third best student city in the world, I want to make us number one."

"I hope that by the time I leave here [council] we're number one, and I think we can."

Amid one of the most difficult economic periods in the City of Melbourne's history, as chair of finance, Cr Le Liu has already been central to recovery efforts in helping to deliver the council's biggest budget in its history this year.

While admittedly "less about the numbers", he said he had been able to call on his background in auditing to "put a different lens" through the council's finances and make a "real mark" during a crucial time.

And despite the often "black and white" nature of council treasury, he said the role had been able to "reconnect" him with his more than 10 years of experience working across a variety of sectors, including finance, government, telecommunications and not-for-profit.

But as the city braces for a long-awaited re-opening, he said the council needed to continue advocating to both upper levels of government to ensure the city's economy "roared back to life".

"I come from a different side of politics but I have to say that the state government has done pretty well in supporting the City of Melbourne with the Melbourne Recovery Fund," he said.

"It is a good partnership, but you know what? Just because they support us on one thing it doesn't mean we should stay silent on everything. The best relationship is when you test each other."

"It's about looking after our ratepayers, from residents to business owners. There is so much that we need to do for the small business owners, who have been absolutely smashed to bits."

"My family comes from a small business



background. We ran our own shop in Balaclava for 15 years so I know what it means to run a small business. I ran a milk bar when I was 16. It's the migrant story – they can't get ahead, so what do they do? They run a small business."

"I know a lot of small business owners can't really speak English, some have no idea about the bureaucracy so I think we can play a real role in the advocacy and untangling all of the red tape."

As one of four current councillors of Asian descent, Cr Le Liu said that representation of the city's Asian community had never been better at the City of Melbourne.

A prominent member of that community, in 2019 he was recognised as one of 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and the winner of the public sector/government category. He also previously served as the general manager of the Australia-China Youth Association in Beijing, looking after Australian international students studying in China.

In reflecting on how much his community had "really suffered" during the pandemic, he said a key motivation for running again had been a desire to provide support and help it engage differently with the city.

"When COVID first hit, the Asian community was the first to get slammed," he said. "The racism is real."

"We're mainly business people, we want a good education and the right opportunities and that's essentially it for many. For me, I want to

get more of the Asian community into philanthropy and just giving back."

"They're very humble and I think the amount of work the Asian community has done during COVID hasn't really been reflected well but it's been really powerful."

Having been re-elected last year on an "unofficial" Liberal Party ticket led by prominent night club owner Nick Russian, Cr Le Liu's conservative stance on a range of issues are occasionally at odds with a number of his fellow councillors.

There are few issues he is more diametrically opposed to than the state government's current proposal for a medically supervised safe injecting room on Flinders St, which he said he was "saving all his energy" for to continue fighting.

But despite the differing political persuasions inherent at times, he described the current team of councillors as "really energetic", adding that they were each dedicated to achieving good outcomes for the community.

And as a resident of the CBD himself, Cr Le Liu said no community was more important than the city's local residents and stressed the importance of giving them a "real voice" in decision-making through "better engagement".

"The role of councillor is to represent the people. So, back to basics," he said.

"I think we've really got to give residents a voice and ensuring that they're in the thinking in of our decision-making. There are too many times we're they're an afterthought."

"When the night-time economy was raised, I was one of the few people who said we needed to ensure residents' views were across it because they're going to be most affected from it."

"As a resident myself living in the Hoddle Grid, I know exactly when the cleaning trucks come into the laneways at different times of the morning. I know that when we approved the extension of construction permits in the city, I couldn't get any work done [in my apartment]."

"We need to engage with them [residents] more. There is no much knowledge and energy that we don't tap into." ●

CARLTON ROTARY CLUB

Rotary walks and talks health

In focus: the Rotary Walk With Us to end polio program.

The Rotary Walk With Us campaign during October is a fun way to raise awareness and funds to end polio now. Using Rotary's friendly website (rotarywalkwithus.org), you can register to walk, set your distance and fundraising goals. Alternatively, you can donate to someone who is walking. World Polio Day is October 24, 2021.

Rotary, the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988. However, prior to that, the late Sir Clem Renouf, an Australian born in Ingham, Queensland in 1921 and president of Rotary International in 1978, first lit the candle of curiosity that led to the formation of the GPEI. After being inspired by the eradication of smallpox, Renouf urged Rotary's then 850,000 global members to work for the same mission for the first time.

That mission? To achieve a world where every child can receive the life-saving polio vaccine.

Because non-health professionals can administer the oral polio vaccine, Rotarians raised millions and delivered the vaccinations themselves to children in the Philippines. Today more than 18 million individuals are walking instead of being paralysed by polio because of the GPEI.

In 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined Rotary in its commitment to ending polio. Since 2013, the Gates Foundation has matched every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication two-to-one, up to \$35 million per year. Rotary with matching funds from the Gates Foundation has contributed more than \$1.6 billion to end polio.

Since the fight was started against polio, the number of polio cases has been reduced by 99.9 per cent and reached more than 2.5 billion children with the vaccine. There are fewer polio cases today than ever before, but the job will not be finished until zero cases are reported. At the moment, the wild polio virus is only endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. If eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 20,000 children each year. So, the battle continues.

Join us (endpolio.org/donate) in the fight to end this insidious virus.



Mental health first aid

Mental health has been a lot in the news lately, particularly as Victorians are feeling the effects of lockdowns.

One way that we all can contribute to support people with mental health problems is to do a mental health first aid training course. More than 900,000 Australians have now done one of these courses, which build skills in how to assist someone who is developing a mental health crisis, such as feeling suicidal.

Mental health first aid training was developed in Australia 21 years ago by Betty Kitchener AM and Prof Tony Jorm, and it has now become a global program, with more than four million people trained.

What is not commonly known is the important role that Rotary played in the development of mental health first aid. Rotarians have set up an organisation - Australian Rotary Health - which funds much-needed research, particularly in the area of mental health. Australian Rotary Health has funded a number of research projects on mental health first aid, which have

been important to its global spread. These include the development of international guidelines on how to offer the best mental health first aid, and research on mental health first aid training for teenagers to help their friends.

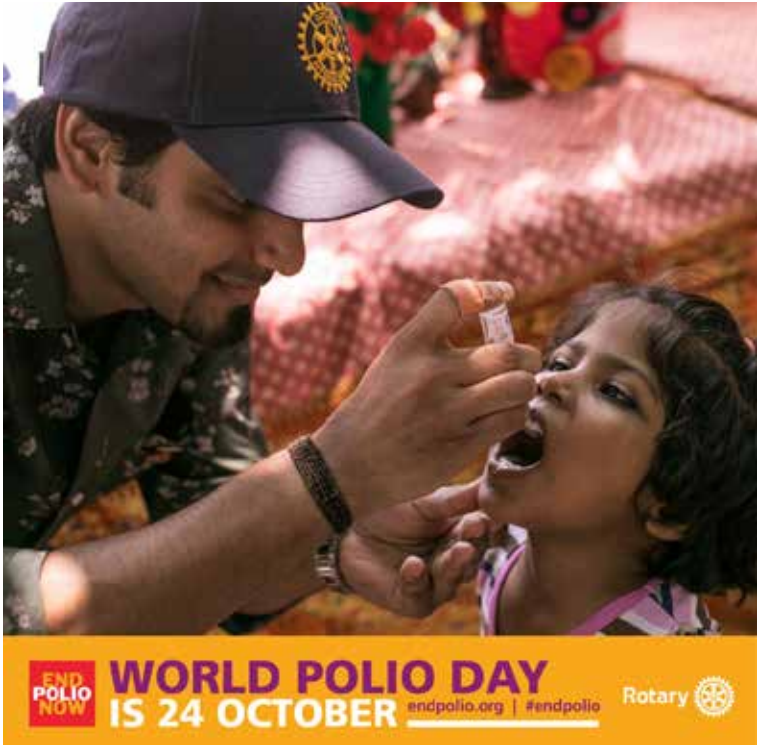
The founders of mental health first aid, Betty and Tony, were so impressed with the work that Australian Rotary Health was doing that they became Rotarians themselves. Betty is a member of the Rotary Club of Flemington-Kensington, and Tony

is a member of the Rotary Club of Carlton.

If you are interested in doing a mental health first aid course, including online, information can be found at mhfa.com.au ●



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Harnessing the healing power of the sea

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*

In her art and in her life, Wirangu artist Aunty Beverly Meldrum has always stayed close to the sea.

Inspired by her upbringing on the South Australian coast and her current home on the Mornington Peninsula, she wanted to showcase the healing properties of the ocean through her work.

So, when she was accepted into the Koorie Heritage Trust's Blak Jewellery Program, Ms Meldrum knew what to do.

"The design for all of my pieces come from kelp which I love working with because it's like a healing for me," Ms Meldrum said.

"I love the smell of it, the texture of it, sometimes it's thick and durable and other times it's thin almost like ribbons – it's always a surprise to work with and it's always different."

Using kelp, fishing net, metals and gold, Ms Meldrum created her *Found Treasures* jewellery collection which includes a necklace and a breastplate.

All of the materials were personally collected from Mushroom Reef in Flinders, with the intention to bring their beauty back to life through art. Ms Meldrum said that working with kelp meant that the final product was dictated by the sea.

"When I collect kelp I just walk until something catches my eye, almost like the kelp is



saying 'pick me!' and then I put it in a shopping bag and bring it home," Ms Meldrum said.

"When you're working with metal, you can plan how it's going to come out, but with kelp each piece is different and has a life of its own."

"I don't force my jewellery pieces into something the kelp doesn't want to be."

Ms Meldrum said that the jewellery, which will be showcased until February 27 at the Koorie Heritage Trust building, was inspired by the grounding and mediative power of the sea.

"I love the texture of the water, the sound of the waves, breathing in the sea air – it's all healing from within," Ms Meldrum said.



"Even when you sit on the beach, watching the force of the waves go in and out is like Mother Nature is breathing."

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 Meldrum, 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.

The works are currently on display in a virtual exhibition on the KHT website, with hopes

in-person visitors will be able to attend after lockdown.

Ms Meldrum said the Blak Design program had been "mind-blowing" and she was keen to learn more skills.

"Never in a million years would I have thought that at my age, I would be doing anything of that calibre, and to think it has led me here," Ms Meldrum said.

"It was an intense year of learning and re-thinking, and using the tools of the trade in the RMIT silver smithing department where I learnt about metals and the tools associated with them."

"I would love to learn even more."

As for her future plans, Ms Meldrum said she was brimming with new jewellery concept ideas.

"Do you know when you go to the pokies and the machine goes off, that's my head at the moment with all these jewellery ideas," Ms Meldrum said. "It's crazy, it's very exciting."

To view the virtual exhibit, visit koorieheritagetrust.com.au or Aunty Meldrum's Instagram [@bevonline56](https://www.instagram.com/bevonline56) ●

For more information:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au

HOUSING TOWERS

Horn of Africa refugees and migrants

I am privileged to have had the opportunity to meet and become friends with many Horn of Africa residents of public housing in Melbourne.

WORDS BY *Cory Memery*

They have made Melbourne their home and a recently published book titled, *A Home for the Diaspora From the Horn of Africa to Melbourne's Public Housing*, tells their stories in their own words. Written by Sandra Carrasco, Neeraj Dangol and Majdi Faleh, it can be downloaded here for free by scanning the QR code:



A human right to affordable housing in Victoria

I believe access to adequate housing should be a human right for all adults and children in Victoria and everywhere else around the world.

The right to affordable, safe housing has been recognised as a fundamental human right under the UN's International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). This UN Covenant has never been voted into law by any governments in Australia as they have all held the view that somehow the private market will deliver.

Despite decades of federal government subsidies through tax concessions and Commonwealth Rent Assistance, though, the private rental market has proven unable to deliver what is needed. Tax concessions have instead driven the price of housing up dramatically during the past two decades. As the subsidies flowed to private investors, investment in public housing was wound back to next to nothing.

Castan Centre for human rights law

The Castan Centre at Monash University wants to change our state's position on this basic human right to have the Victorian Parliament vote the UN Covenant into law and to have a plan to end homelessness in our state.

I met recently (along with other members of the Save Public Housing Collective) with Professor Kevin Bell and Professor Jean Allain from the Castan Centre to hear about their work on making both changes in how we should all see and support the provision of affordable housing for very low- to low-income earners in our state.

During our meeting we agreed that there had been an abrogation of a duty of care by successive state governments for those who are homeless and desperate for affordable, secure housing. I have accepted an invitation by Professor Bell to help the Castan Centre gain support for their work and I will update readers on its progress in my future columns.

COVID and public housing residents

The management of recent COVID-19 Delta outbreaks in public housing has been managed very differently to last year's detention lockdowns.

No police control over residents and there is a sense of support rather than repression, despite Premier Andrews boasting he would do it all again if he had to.

I want to give a big shout out to Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass for her fearless criticism of the state government's actions last year and my own city councillors call for an apology – an apology we have yet to hear. It was her report that made this outbreak's management different.

Public housing maintenance

Despite funds being made available for maintenance many high-rise buildings have lifts in disrepair and other urgent jobs needing to be done. The Carlton Tenants Committee met with Minister Richard Wynne recently via Zoom and he has promised to act. I hope I can give you a positive update in my next column ●

METRO TUNNEL



Latest plans released for Parkville Station

The latest plans for Parkville Station and surrounds have been revealed, showing increased open space and better disabled access within the historically significant precinct.

The Parkville community can see the latest draft Parkville Station Precinct Development Plan and provide their comments online until October 13 at engage.vic.gov.au.

Updates to the plan incorporate stakeholder feedback and include retaining 19 more trees than indicated in the station's original Environmental Effects Statement as well as adding extra accessible parking spaces and separated bike lanes on Grattan St.

Changes to bike parking locations and the layout of bike hoops are in line with the City of Melbourne's University Square Masterplan. The entry to the Faculty of Medicine on Barry St has been redesigned with a spacious plaza entry complemented by tree planting and street furniture.

The northbound tram platform on Royal Parade has been shifted to the south of the Grattan St intersection to Elizabeth St in response to feedback from Ambulance Victoria for enhanced emergency vehicle access.

Parkville Station is located on the doorstep of Victoria's world-renowned education, health and research precinct, providing rail access to the area for the first time and taking pressure off the busy tram network.

Designs for the area surrounding the station will transform Grattan St into a "grand

promenade" with a dense tree canopy, sitting among some of Victoria's most prominent institutions.

The main station entry, on the northern side of Grattan St outside the University of Melbourne, features a 50-metre-long glass and steel canopy to draw natural light into the station concourse. The entrance has been designed to sit within the tree canopy to blend in with the surrounding environment.

The new station precinct will create 3500 square metres of new public space through the reconfiguration of road space, with priority for pedestrians and cyclists.

It will include a pedestrian walkway under Royal Parade, to link the station to the Parkville hospital precinct.

The Royal Parade underpass will be accessible and free for all pedestrians, allowing people to safely and easily walk between the station, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Peter McCallum Cancer Centre and University of Melbourne without waiting for traffic signals.

Once complete in 2025, the Metro Tunnel will create capacity for more than half a million extra passengers a week during peak times across Melbourne's train network ●

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

Melbourne’s original trams

Before electric trams were introduced in Melbourne in the early 20th century, the city had an extensive system of cable trams.

Operating from 1885 until 1940, Melbourne’s cable tram system was the fourth largest in the world, with about 75 kilometres of track, 17 inner-suburban routes, and 600 cable car and trailer sets.

By 1916, these trams were carrying more than 100 million passengers a year to and from the inner and middle suburbs, at speeds averaging 15 kilometres an hour, including stops.

Cable trams depended for their motive power on a cable in a slot between the rails that was kept moving by a steam engine in an engine house along the route. In the first car (the dummy) the driver (the gripman) stood in the middle working the levers that gripped the cable in the slot to make the tram move. To stop the tram, he simply let go of the cable and applied the brake. Passengers could ride in the dummy, which apart from the roof was quite open. The second car, which was enclosed, was only a trailer pulled along by the dummy.

At some corners the cable ran around a big pulley, and at others one cable had to be dropped and another picked up once the tram was around the corner. In either case the cable

had to be let go. Once the tram was released from the cable, it had to rely on its momentum to keep going around the corner until it could pick up the cable again. This was all very well as long as a pedestrian, horse or car did not wander across the tracks causing the gripman to use the brakes. Then there was only one way to get the tram around the corner – the passengers had to get out and push.

To avoid this, the gripman might get up as much speed and momentum as possible and hurtle around the bend. To avoid people being thrown off, he would call out, “Mind the curve”. It did not always work.

In July 1924 *The Age* reported that Mr Charles Jonah, 76, of Union Place, Carlton, failed to heed the gripman’s warning and as the tram turned the corner from Rathdowne St into Elgin St, he fell off. He was admitted to hospital but was not seriously hurt and after treatment was discharged.

By 1901 Melbourne had cable trams running to all the inner northern suburbs – North Melbourne, Brunswick, Carlton, Fitzroy, Clifton Hill, Northcote – as well as to Richmond,



▲ A cable tram in Lygon St, Carlton, in the 1930s.

Toorak, Prahran and St Kilda. At various points along these routes there were engine houses with large steam engines that powered the moving cables. Two engine house buildings are still in existence and can be seen on the corner of Nicholson and Gertrude streets in Fitzroy, and at the northern end of Rathdowne St in North Carlton.

By the 1920s, Melbourne’s expanding suburbs meant that the tram network needed to be extended. But building new cable tram routes

would be expensive, and electric trams provided a cheaper option. The last cable tram in Melbourne made its final run in October 1940, from Bourke St via Nicholson St to Northcote ●



Jeff Atkinson
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STATE MP



Thank you to our community healthcare heroes and everyone getting vaccinated

On my way to Parliament recently, I popped in to say hello and thank you to the amazing nurses and staff from Cohealth and the City of Melbourne who are running a pop-up vaccination clinic at Melbourne Town Hall.

This clinic welcomes all, especially providing vaccinations to those experiencing homelessness, international students and other people without Medicare, and anyone else who has had difficulty accessing the vaccination program so far.

The nurses told me that people lined up from 3am on the first day it opened.

Thanks to the City of Melbourne, Co-Ground is also providing free coffee and snacks, as well as a friendly face and time to chat, to people who are sleeping rough while they’re waiting. These people are prioritised in the queue to ensure they don’t face any additional barriers to getting their jab.

Staff from Cohealth have also done an amazing job setting up pop-up vaccination clinics at public housing towers in Melbourne’s inner-city suburbs, and providing health advice in local languages, something we’re very proud to support.

Every vaccination helps protect our community, and with the recent “re-opening road-map” it’s our ticket to opening up again. The government has announced that for the next

few months, many of the things we want to do (like going to a cafe or pub or event) will only be available to those who are vaccinated, so now is the time to book an appointment if you haven’t already.

Thank you to all those who have already had your jab. Young people especially have been coming out in droves over the last few weeks and months, since many have only recently become eligible for the vaccine. Thank you.

I’ve recently been double-jabbed, as soon as I was eligible, and I’m also feeling very grateful for science and scientists! We’re incredibly lucky to have a vaccine, and even luckier to have access to it when so many countries still don’t.

If you’d like to make an appointment at the Melbourne Town Hall vaccination clinic, or any other clinic near you, you can do so at coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

If there’s ever anything I can do for you, please get in touch ●



Ellen Sandell
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EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK



Connecting creatively

Face-to-face meetings are not likely before Christmas for the East Melbourne Neighbour Network (EMNN). With this in mind, we have become more creative in the ways we stay in touch.

We are connecting via a regular EMNN newsletter-notice board as well as through our already established local walks and coffee encounters.

We have been sharing updates from members who lost touch because they are interstate, caring for relatives, or living at other properties. So good to hear the different ways friends are managing these different circumstances.

Hidden talents have been given free rein and we are sharing them via our newsletter. Who knew we had so many talented neighbours in our midst? Emotional paintings by Marion Bishop, beautiful woodwork dragsters by Alan Seale, botanical art, and delicious cooking, to name a few.

We have also begun our own swap and share stand on Friday mornings on the Powlett Reserve Community Room porch. Plant cuttings, seedlings, cut herbs, lemons, garlic, magazines, and good books for lockdown reading are all being offered free of charge. Anyone can drop something off and take anything they can use.

More and more members are getting the hang of Zoom thanks to our wonderful, patient instructors. Classes include Qigong, yoga, chair yoga, pilates and general exercises. It is not too late to join; we will still have to wait a while yet before we can meet normally.

Anyone looking to join a local walking group can meet us at 10.30am at the Fitzroy Gardens pond at the top of Grey St. We will pair up and enjoy a wander and chat in the gardens, possibly followed by a visit to the garden’s cafe Kere Kere to pick up a coffee. Be sure to let us know so that we wait for you. Ring Sue on 0402 356 533.

Kids holiday hunt event

School holiday excitement has been limited for too long and some local kids have teamed up to add a bit of fun and excitement on the last Friday of these holidays. The EMNN is joining with East Melbourne Group to help put on a school holiday scavenger hunt for five- to 15-year-olds.

Led by 13-year-old Gabrielle Sofra and 14-year-old Fiona Gillies, a scavenger hunt will end with a drink and lollies for each participant. There will be prizes for the winners and novelty prizes for pure fun.

When: Friday, October 1, starting at 3pm.
Where: Meet in Fitzroy Gardens, near the pond opposite Grey St and Roccella Restaurant.
Cost: \$5 per person, can be single or teams of two or three ●



Susan Henderson
EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK
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CARLTON INC. TRADER PROFILE

The new age of promo items

Whether it's a cheap pen, a cap, or a fidget spinner, most of us have received a promotional item at some point in our lives.

Usually, they get thrown out immediately after the event, never to be seen or worn again.

But since 2011, New Age Promotions has been changing the game and creating quality items customers actually want to use.

Director Peter Demetriou said that he saw a gap in the market to create promotional products and branded merchandise that left a real impression on consumers.

"We wanted to create something that lifted the bar for the entire industry and provided something higher quality in terms of the products and the service offering," Mr Demetriou said.

"The items which are throw-aways are a result of not putting any thought into the strategy behind it, particularly who the recipients are and what will be useful and appeal to them."

New Age offers more than 12,000 different products including bags, clothing, stress items, umbrellas and pens which can be customised to fit any business.

The products can then be distributed at in-person or virtual events of any size.

Mr Demetriou said that he was inspired to remove the stigma around promotional products being "cheap and nasty" and instead bring the brand to life through everyday items.

"We took every day, useful items and turned them into promo tools that allows people to interact on a brand on a physical level," Mr Demetriou said.

"We're able to conceptualise something really unique with the client and bring it to life with them."

Since they began, New Age has created a number of innovative campaigns, including

a branded terrarium which won them the 2020 APPA Award for Promotional Product Innovation and Design.

Mr Demetriou said that the custom builds were his favourite as you could tailor the impression the brand wanted to make.

"We created a terrarium which had a live plant inside with rocks, gravel and moss for Pronto, and they sat on the tables at a national conference where there were 1100 attendees," Mr Demetriou said.

"We've also done a cap for the Grand Prix, a tote bag for Fashion Week, and many others, and it's always great to see people enjoying those items out in the real world."

Although New Age works with supply partners all over the globe, they have always had a strong push towards using Australian made products.

Mr Demetriou said that he has seen the industry evolve over time, and counter to the globalisation trend, more Australian products have come onto the scene in recent years.

"When I entered the business, it was all off-shore and the transition had already occurred," he said.

"But I've seen now that there's a lot more Australian-made products coming on the scene which is a really positive trend, and we will always try and push them first."

Mr Demitrou said that a number of items, including umbrellas and pens, were hard to manufacture in Australia as they were usually one-off pieces which couldn't be produced in bulk.

For these items New Age relies on their global partners, which they have carefully selected



to ensure the supply chain is ethical.

"We've undergone many hours of training in regard to recognising the risk that are associated with sourcing and modern slavery," Mr Demetriou said.

"We as a business have developed an extensive modern slavery policy and make sure that our supply partners that we work with are externally audited and committed to the making sure the products are supplied in an ethical manner to minimise risk of child labour."

Although COVID has taken out many of the events which New Age would usually be promoting, Mr Demetriou said the key was to be proactive and adaptable.

"It's challenging but there's also been new doors of opportunity open up and new trends," Mr Demetriou said.

"Whether it's distributing working from

home kits or sending employee wellness kits direct to doors, you have to adapt to support your clients and promote them in more creative ways." ●

Visit New Age Promotions:
newagepromotions.com.au or at
18/135 Cardigan St, Carlton.



Katie Johnson
EDITOR
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EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

East Melbourne at work

“East Melbourne in the past was generally regarded as a purely residential suburb with little commercial or industrial activity except for the large and very visible enterprises of the Bedggood shoe factory in Jolimont and the Victoria Brewery in Victoria Parade.”

But there were a number of smaller highly successful businesses, many tucked away down lanes and behind houses. The firm of Murray & Hill, building contractors and joiners, was one of these.

At the Crown land sales on July 7, 1864, Thomas Murray had bought two blocks of land that backed on to one another. One is now numbered 478-482 Victoria Parade, and the other is numbered 110 Albert St. Later the same year Murray, with business partner Peter Hill, erected a wooden workshop at the back of the Victoria Parade block. During the following years they built houses on the street frontages. Murray & Hill built many houses in the East Melbourne area, some for clients, some for themselves as investments, and others as their own homes. But their main line of work remained joinery and a large variety of timber

fittings were constructed in the workshop ready for delivery and installation all over Melbourne and occasionally beyond.

The two partners retired in 1889 and John Murray, a nephew of Thomas, and James Francis Crow, who had married Peter Hill's daughter, carried on the business as Murray & Crow. The new partnership continued the work of the old, adding considerably to the local streetscapes.

In the early hours of October 24, 1891, the workshop mysteriously caught fire. This was a spectacular event and was described in detail by the daily newspapers. We learn that the building was two storeys high and built of brick and iron, so it must have been rebuilt, or perhaps added to, since its early days. Both floors were stacked with timber meaning fuel was abundant. The workshop was surrounded by mainly single-storey houses and once alight it could be seen from afar. The only access was down a narrow lane allowing the firemen very little space to work. The neighbouring houses were in danger and the inhabitants were evacuated with what possessions they could carry. Two hours later it was all over. The workshop and all its contents were completely destroyed, including a great deal of machinery, but the neighbouring houses were all untouched. The place was well insured, and Murray & Crow rebuilt and resumed a successful business.

Very little of the firm's work has been identified but one beautiful example is to be found at Purumbete, the magnificent home built for the Manifold family in the Western District. In 1901 Guyon Purchas designed alterations to the house, and according to the Heritage Victoria database "the most significant changes were made to the main rooms along the north front, which were rebuilt with outstanding Art Nouveau interiors". In the photo shown here of



▲ Murray and Crow's workshop. State Library of Victoria, accession no: H37116.


the interior of Murray & Crow's workshop the carpenters pose in front of the work in progress. Above and behind them hangs the intricate carving that now forms the balustrade of the minstrels' gallery above the hall at Purumbete. James Francis Crow is distinguished by his bowler hat.

John Murray died in 1911 and James Crow made the decision to retire. All the plant and equipment was sold but the premises remained industrial with a variety of business carrying on work there until the building was demolished and the site incorporated into the block of flats now there.

Next door to Murray & Crow was a similar complex of workshop and houses owned by Thomas Wright, also a building contractor. A

lane ran through Wright's land which has now been named Contractors Lane in recognition of these two businesses which created so much of the East Melbourne we know today ●

For more information visit:
emhs.org.au



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Faces of Inner City

Who do you love the most and why?



REUBEN
“I love my wife the most, just because she’s an amazing woman who I enjoy spending my life with.”



KARL
“I love my nephew Max the most. He’s four months old and I love him because every time I look at him I can see the entire world and so much potential for his future.”



HENRY
“I would have to give a shout out to the people that I love the most in a group which includes my parents, my family, my siblings and, of course, my girlfriend.”



AIYANA AND TASHY
“We love each other the most because we’ve supported each other through lockdown and we’ve been best friends for a few years now, and I wouldn’t have been able to get through lockdown without her.”

INNER CITY CREATIVE

Are you a budding writer, artist or photographer in the inner city? We want to hear from you!
Whether it’s a haiku about Carlton Gardens or a drawing of one of Royal Park’s native birds, send your work to katie@hyperlocalnews.com.au and you could be featured as the Inner City Creative in our next edition.
This month, we’re featuring a piece by local playwright and author Angela Buckingham ...

My barista is a cavoodle

We can’t say that we didn’t know what we were doing. We might have stopped the tide of irresistibleness that inundated our locked-down lives.

WORDS BY *Angela Buckingham*

I blame the later adopters, the ones who saw that everyone had a cavoodle, who said as much in wry tones to friends who’d just bought one. But they succumbed nevertheless, rang Mephisto (the Daylesford breeder), shelling out sums that had risen from thousands of dollars at the start of this madness, to just whatever it takes. These are the people who finally surrendered the natural order that existed only under a rational ratio of human to good boy.

First, they claimed our homes, winking past our defences with tiny wet noses, bright button eyes and soft scruffy paws. We surrendered our favourite socks, our expensive shoes, the unspoiled pile of our living-room rugs, and all the others. Our sleep, they stole. We learnt to sniff the air and tread carefully. Then they took the parks ... which actually was fine. I mean, who doesn’t like getting tonnes of attention for owning the cutest moppet that ever sniffed butt?



But then they took the streets. Eating anything that obeyed the laws of gravity and happened within their reach. We were distracted, our eyes sweeping the ground for morsels that could conceivably end up in their intestines, forcing us to the brink of financial ruin in search of a puppy stomach pump at midnight.

It was inevitable that the cafes would fall. Yesterday I spotted Biscuits slinging lattes in Brunetti’s (henceforth to be known as The Gagging Labrador, according to the poorly-typed note with the pawprint on the door). They’re terrible, of course, a dog’s breakfast.

Who knows where it will end, but already we have paid the ultimate price ●

CRITIC

Cool hero rides an American storm

America is the place of ultimate cool – placing high value on the valueless – and of ultimate shame – placing no value on the invaluable.

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*

Emily Bitto, in her second novel *Wild Abandon*, sends her hero there on a lesson to learn the difference between the two.

Will is 22 and well-educated but finds his own small town roots excruciating. Bitto sets him up in New York with all of the coke, art, girls and frippery that any cynic would gladly turn into self-referential prose. Shame, however, is the dark drug of Will’s soul and it gradually reaches biblical proportions in this strange, ambitious tale of American excess.

Will chases up an old school friend who is about to have a baby in Ohio and gets a job at Wayne’s Wild Kingdom, a private zoo specialising in large predators.

His rapid transformation from pretty boy hedonist to shoveller of chicken guts and lion cub carer is the manna upon which this *Bildungsroman* feeds.

Bitto has quite a bit of fun in the early pages with her delightful affectations, particularly her adjectives which set up the hero’s “thrilling incognito course” through the plenitude of America.

Her aim, as expressed in the acknowledgements, was to make sense of a tragic event that occurred in 2011 to an exotic animal owner in Ohio.

Wisely, this event is only mentioned in the credits for the power of this novel rests in its syntax and sophisticated narration, rather than its plot.

The segue from urban sophisticate to back block yokel has an “on the road” logic that is disrupted by the loyalty of Wayne to his animals. The heavy-handedness of this devotion demolishes Will’s own, more tentative negotiations with the world which are focalised internally and externally in the narration in subtle shifts.

The reader, forced to endure an apocalyptic law enforcement finale, might wish to have remained a negotiator like Will.

There is something gratuitous about this over-the-top zoo and its connections to a real-life event that fiction might have refined.

Horror and spectacle lord it over attachment in the bizarre world Wayne has created, which is a pity.

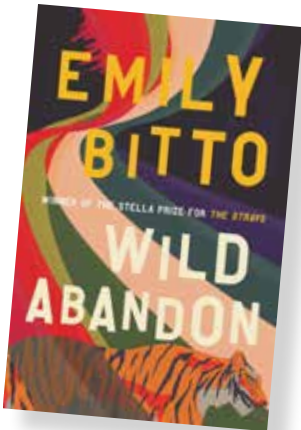
The most poignant scenes are those close to Will and his thwarted relationship with a girlfriend back in Melbourne.

Will constantly needs to be rescued, but of course this is his charm.

Bitto has created a sensitive, amusing hero with cultural baggage that could have been more applauded by the rest of the cast.

His reticence in the face of messy emotional indulgence is just fine ●

▼ *Wild Abandon, Emily Bitto, Allen & Unwin, 2021.*



Encouraging enterprising minds

“
From a focus on social justice and community service, to entrepreneurship and academic excellence, a typical day for students at Haileybury’s City campus offers a diverse and interesting experience.



Located on King St in Melbourne’s busy CBD, the 12-storey building is home to around 700 students from Early Learning and Care (ELC) to senior school. They are all part of a tight-knit community that makes the most of the remarkable learning opportunities that come with being close to Melbourne’s best cultural, historic, and sporting precincts.

“Recently there was live footage of a falcon nesting high up on a building near us in the CBD,” Haileybury’s director of ELC Dr Rachel Pollitt said.

“Our ELC students could watch the bird feeding, see the eggs hatch and see the baby birds. This sparked the children’s curiosity

in learning about life cycles, collecting data about the birds in their local environment and looking at how they could expand their rooftop garden in school to attract more wildlife.”

The city campus includes 1500 sqm of outdoor recreation space over three terraces, 1000 sqm of indoor sporting facilities and an expansive music, art and drama space. There are also state-of-the-art science facilities — but it is what happens within these kinds of spaces that has most impact on students, according to Melissa Allen, Head of Teaching and Learning (middle school).

At any school, student wellbeing and quality teaching are paramount and are based on

providing students with opportunities and building respectful relationships between students and teachers.

“Relationships are the foundation of quality teaching. Once you have a solid relationship built on trust and on honest and critical feedback, then students can engage in their learning and get the most from the teachers who are experts in their field,” Ms Allen said.

She added that quality teaching also provided students with challenges that were relevant, practical and related to real life.

For example, Year 8 students take part in the Haileybury Startup program to develop entrepreneurial flair and skills like digital literacy,

critical thinking, design thinking and teamwork. At the end of the program, students pitch their business ideas to parents and community members at a live event.

Fostering a strong social justice outlook is also important in 21st century classrooms with a focus on generosity, reconciliation, forgiveness, gratitude, and inclusion.

“Our school is strongly committed to principles of fairness, equity and human rights. We believe we have a shared responsibility to contribute to positive social change locally and globally,” Haileybury CEO and principal Derek Scott said.

Most recently, students volunteered with The Smith Family student2student reading program, meeting online twice a week to help a “buddy” from another school who needs support to improve their reading ability.

Year 10 student, Dhimanya Dissanayake, has been helping a Year 4 student discover the pleasure of reading.

“The joy that comes with helping someone who wants help is beyond words,” she said.

“This program is one which seems so simple, yet the reward that comes with it is immense.”

For more information:
haileybury.com.au



INSIGHT

Forgotten purposes

“
As time passes it is easy to forget the reason why we did something... this is a mistake.

WORDS BY *Jacob Caine* -
CAINE REAL ESTATE

The United Nations (UN) has many critics littered throughout its 193-nation-state membership. Toothless, ineffectual, moral-relativist, “appeasist” and anti-Semitic are but a few of the labels often sewn onto the fabric of condemnation for this much-maligned international body. Depending on one’s perspective and interpretation these criticisms may be valid.

Perhaps a more relevant question to ask, however, isn’t whether these assessments are accurate, but whether they judge the efficacy of the organisation’s foundational purpose?

The UN was created in 1945 following the almost unfathomable devastation of consecutive world wars. Today it states its central mission is “the maintenance of international peace and security”, but at the time, the purpose of its establishment was far more explicit: to prevent another world war. This purpose remains built-in to its organisational structure.

Then-U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), crucial in the conception of the UN,

envisaged “four policemen” (the U.S., China, Soviet Union, and Great Britain) ensuring, even enforcing, security and peace across the globe. FDR’s dream of a “four-power alliance” was never realised, his intended structural power-base, however, remains intact.

The Security Council is the core decision-making entity within the UN, and to this day comprises those same world powers (plus France) both as permanent members (P5) and those with the most influence. In some respects, the P5 represents the UN’s greatest strength and its greatest weakness — both can be simultaneously true. While the “veto” rights of the P5 members have been used often and cynically to quash constructive resolutions put before the Security Council, the fact that all five nations continue to participate despite see-sawing levels of hostility during the intervening 75 years, must be considered a success. That the UN endures in a world that has, so far, avoided the catastrophic consequences of a third world war for more than three-quarters of a century seems to make unarguable the claim that it has served its purpose. Posterity may even come to refer to this period as *Pax Unitis Gentibus*.

The U.S. mission in Afghanistan was initiated with the purpose of hunting down and bringing to justice those that had planned, supported and facilitated the September 2001 attacks on American soil. By some measures, those strategic objectives were effectively met in the initial military campaign, and perhaps, were it not for the unfortunate escape of Osama Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda leadership from Tora Bora, the war might have ended as early as December 2001. From there, however, mission objectives morphed, capitulating to “scope creep” they became simultaneously a war on terror (a methodology, not a nation or ideology) and an



▲ *Jacob Caine is in his final semester of a Masters in International Relations at Harvard University (DCE) majoring in International Security, and is Chief Executive Officer of Caine Real Estate.*

exercise in nation-building. As Henry Kissinger recently observed in a piece for *The Economist*, referring to U.S. ambition in Afghanistan, “the military objectives have been too absolute and unattainable and the political ones too abstract and elusive”. Twenty years, hundreds of thousands of lives, and trillions of dollars later, the Afghan people, those personnel who served in Afghanistan, and people around the world are entitled to ask again — what was the purpose of that war?

In March 2020, as it became clear to political leaders in Australia, and around the world, that COVID-19 was a very real and very present danger, decisions were made to enact extraordinary powers, though only temporarily, to provide our governments, state and federal, with a window of opportunity to prepare for the coming storm. Even then, in those unnerving and eerie early stages of the global pandemic there was an understanding, at least at the policymaker level, that managing this disease rather than defeating it would likely be a reality our world would need to accept. Closed international borders, stay-at-home orders, curfews, exercise limits, and industry restrictions would serve the purpose of giving our governments the chance to put in place the systems and infrastructure that could allow Australians to live with this virus. The Australian population valiantly complied, sacrificing much in an effort to support the strategy, and the nation. Those hard decisions were the right decisions. They stymied the spread of the virus, saving countless lives, and provided that essential window of opportunity to fulfil their original purpose — preparation. Eighteen months later as tens of millions of Australians continue to languish under desolate lockdowns, while state and federal politicians disagree on “COVID-zero” and “living with COVID”, and debate escalates about how and when this nation will “open up”, it would be very easy to forget just what the purpose of “locking down” actually was. Perhaps, a new purpose will be necessary for a weary people to persevere and see this through... but forgetting where and why we began this mission would be a mistake ●

For more information:
caine.com.au

Pet's Corner

From the Whoniverse to Carlton

“

After receiving her as an 18th birthday present, Amelia has been inseparable from her beloved terrier-cross Clara.

”



WORDS BY *John Tadigiri*

Amelia moved to Carlton from Newcastle at the beginning of the year and has been enjoying taking Clara for walks around Carlton Gardens.

“We love living in Carlton, it’s a great suburb – I’m Italian so it’s great to be so close to all the Italian restaurants on Lygon St,” Amelia said.

“We love walking around Carlton Gardens because it’s a big area where she can run around and also there’s dogs for her to interact with.”

As a *Dr Who* fan, Clara is named after the character Clara Oswald while her brother’s dog is named Melody after the character River Song.

“We both really liked the show, so we just named them from that – it’s a bit nerdy!” Amelia said.

She said that during lockdown it had been great to have Clara as it gave her an excuse to go out for walks.

And as for her temperament, Amelia said that Clara was the “perfect dog for her”.

“I love her so much – she’s very relaxed and loves cuddling but if we’re in bed and we try to move her she gets quite grumpy,” Amelia said.

“She thinks she’s in charge but she’s not.” ●

MELBOURNE ZOO

The wonder of wildlife

I’ve been thinking a lot about habitat lately. Maybe it’s because we’re all spending so much more time at home. A habitat is home, a home for wildlife.

WORDS BY *Finn*
MELBOURNE ZOO SENIOR MANAGER
OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

There’s habitat all around us: in the local park, along our street, in our backyard. Even a balcony or windowsill can be habitat for something!

I’m lucky enough to work in one of central Melbourne’s biggest and most diverse habitats – Melbourne Zoo. Most people know the zoo is home to lions, giraffes, zebras and meerkats, but you may not know the zoo is also home to a huge variety of wild animals during the year.

Our trees, ponds and gardens provide food, water and shelter – in short, habitat. In fact, the zoo grounds are a collection of different habitats, perfect for an array of local birds, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates.



I realised very soon after joining the zoo that it’s a real sanctuary in the city. It’s a refuge for so many animals, as well as people when they visit. The variety of wildlife that visits the zoo or makes a home here is amazing.

The zoo is brilliant for bird lovers. Rainbow Lorikeets, Wattlebirds, Bellbirds, Ducks and Wrens are all easily spotted, and there are also the more occasional winged visitors like Tawny Frogmouths, Pardalotes and the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos who drop in when some of our trees are producing their favourite seeds.

There are many local butterflies and all sorts of other invertebrates and some amazing water dragons and turtles who live at ponds and lakes in different parts of the zoo. And that’s just to name a few. I know that many of our Zoos Victoria Members and visitors love these wild residents and visitors as much as they do the more famous zoo animals.

We love and care for these wild animals also. My team of horticulturalists and sustainability experts thinks about them when we’re creating gardens, planting, pruning, mulching, and composting. We consider them when managing water quality and irrigation across the zoo and when we design and look after buildings and infrastructure. As nature enthusiasts we understand how important the zoo is as a refuge and

playground, not just for our zoo members and the people of Melbourne, but for the animals of Melbourne.

We love this wildlife but coexisting with it can be challenging at times. We need to discourage possums from exploring places where they could get injured. So, we have bin latches on our bins to stop possums getting into them at night. And we block off and regularly inspect our roof spaces to ensure possums can’t get into buildings. Birds nesting in high numbers can also damage some of our trees. In this area, as in everything at the zoo, animal welfare is at the core our decision making.

The opportunity we have to create habitat brings with it a responsibility to manage that habitat carefully in the best interests of the animals who visit or live in it. Wildlife-safe netting on backyard fruit trees is something that might be relevant to you in your backyard or your local community garden.

We can all help to create habitat where we live. There are little things you can do to attract wildlife into your own local environment, and to care for them when they arrive. Maybe it’s planting some flowers for the bees and butterflies, or trees or shrubs for birds, or making a small pond for frogs. Think about what sort of animals you want to attract or make a home for

and research what they love and need. It’s fun!

It’s so important from a mental health perspective to have that connection to nature in our everyday life, especially when we’re spending so much more time at home. If you just sit quietly somewhere outside at your home or in your local area, nature comes out from everywhere. When you just pause and listen and watch, the birds get closer, and the bees and butterflies appear. If you’re lucky a lizard might poke its head out. Just animals doing their thing – foraging, feeding, exploring. Nature is all around us, but sometimes we need to be still to discover it. Animals bring so much joy. I love to observe that hive of activity.

As an animal lover, I’m so aware that the space wild animals need to thrive is diminishing across the world. It’s partly what brought me to the zoo. I’m passionate about the zoo’s mission of fighting extinction and creating special places for wildlife and people who love wildlife. This is my chance to make a contribution to that bigger picture. It’s what keeps me optimistic.

I believe we all have a role to play in creating a beautiful global sanctuary for wildlife. For me it starts at my place and at Melbourne Zoo. And I am certain that you can make a big contribution where you live, also ●

心理健康危机前所未有

由于持续封锁对人们心理健康的影响，在卡尔顿(Carlton)、帕克维尔(Parkville)和东墨尔本区域的心理医生接诊应接不暇。

Katie Johnson

由于等候病人之多，无法控制，许多诊所不得不拒收新的病人。临床心理中心(CCP)主任Emma Symes博士说，在她作为心理医生20年的经历以及在卡尔顿诊所的3年时间里，她从未见过如此大的需求。

Symes博士说：“患者实在太多，我们无法接收，尽管我们在一个时间段有等候名单。”
“没有一个心理医生想拒绝病人，这非常令人心碎，但有时候我们根本无法满足这么大的需求。”
对许多人来说，六次封锁造成的孤独和焦虑加剧了现有的心理健康问题。
Symes博士表示，很多人感到“被约束、被封闭和被控制”，给他们的心理健康和人际关系带来了压力。
她说：“人们感到非常疲倦，很多人只因一些正常的问题也会去看心理医生。”
“可能你已经感到焦虑很长时间了，或者你们的关系有额外的压力，但其核心是感



觉失落和无法控制。”
她说，作为PTST和产科问题的专家，她的许多病人都是第一次做父母，他们感到“非常孤立无助”。
她说：“由于没有新妈妈小组，就无法与其他家庭互动，游乐场的关闭，孩子们也无法去学校交流互动。”
“宝宝和孩子们也很焦虑。”



圣彼得教堂获资金维修升级

Katie Johnson

位于东墨尔本的标志性遗产圣彼得东部(St Peter’s Eastern Hill)教堂获得州政府14.4万澳元的资助，进行紧急维护工程。
这座拥有175年历史的教堂将利用这笔资金重建其部分屋顶，以防止漏水，这是州政府230万澳元“现存遗产计划”的一部分。
教堂管理牧师Stephen Duckett说，他“非常高兴”在第二次申请后得到了这笔拨款。
他说：“我很高兴，因为教堂漏水情况已经越来越严重了，每次有大雷雨的时候，屋檐下就会漏水。”
“来教堂的教徒人数规模不大，但大都年事已高，我们没有大量的资金来维护这个历史遗址，如果没有这笔拨款，我们无法实施这个维修工程。”
这笔资金将支付该工程的一半费用，其

中更换屋顶瓦片、板条和防水材料，重建一些屋顶结构，安装新的排水管和雨水龙头。
Duckett先生表示，这些维修工作将确保当地社区能继续使用教堂的礼堂，因为这个礼堂原本是一所学校与教堂相连的一部分。
他说：“教堂的整个场地都被列为历史遗产，包括这个在下雨时严重漏水的礼堂。”
“雨水渗透了建筑的各个部分，也损坏了礼堂的横梁和地板。”
所以这个礼堂的修复尤为重要，因为教堂也为无家可归者和国际学生开展诸多的项目活动。
每天早上，在教堂的礼堂里为50-100名无家可归者提供早餐，在COVID期间，该礼堂转变为外卖场所。
Duckett先生还说，在COVID疫情开始期间，教会一直在为国际学生提供送餐的服务项目。

皇家公园鸟类春季筑巢盛况

随着春季鸟类筑巢高潮期的到来，内城区的居民正在皇家公园(Royal Park)欣赏各种本土鸟类。

Katie Johnson

当地的观鸟者发现了从鸢鸟(Boobook Owls)到红荆棘鸟Red (Wattlebirds)的各种鸟类，并密切关注在新的季节里开始孵化的雏鸟。
当地观鸟者Scott Baker在过去的几周里发现了八个黄褐色的蛙嘴鸟巢和一只雏鸟，并表示对鸟类的观察注视是“令人兴奋的”。
他说：“这些鸟在一些非常显眼的地方筑巢，第二年又会回到同一个地方。去年我们在皇家公园发现了六对准备繁殖的鸟，我们就一直倾心于观察它们，并对它们一直出入的地方注以标记。”
“对我们这些人来说，就像一个小的观察项目。”
Baker先生说，尽管蛙嘴鸟非常擅长伪装，但它们能忍受众多人的观察，在公园里已经“小有名气”了。
他说：“大多数人不会注意到它们，但当你真地看到它们时，会相当令人兴奋的。”
“去年疫情封锁期间，我才开始在皇家公园寻找它们，我花了很长时间才发现了一个，你必须非常仔细地寻找，并了解它们喜欢的树木和树枝的类型。”
在没有疫情的时候，Baker先生通常会进行观鸟旅行，并冒险进入丛林寻找夜间鸟类，但疫情的封锁迫使他更多地探索本地的鸟类。



他说：“自从去年疫情封锁以来，这里已经成为当地我必来的一块地方，现在已经成为一个非常壮观的景地，因为在此期间有很多人从事观鸟活动。”
“仅在过去的18个月里，我们就在皇家公园记录了近130个鸟类物种。”
在这些鸟类物种中，有一种鸟叫红荆棘鸟，其中一只有一种鸟叫红荆棘鸟在9月底遇到了一些麻烦。
这只鸟的头被卡在一棵树的分叉处，后来被内城居民Phillip Gao爬上树把它救了出来。
高先生说，他和他的观鸟伙伴Rodger Scott“碰巧”在那里拯救了这只鸟，使其免遭厄运。



市政批准建造学生楼

墨尔本市政批准了在中央商务区最后一个加油站的所在地，建造一座耗资6200万澳元的学生楼。

Brendan Rees

开发商最近获准在本市北部的Victoria街23-29号建造一栋带地下室的24层大楼，该拟建的大楼靠近Carlton 花园和Lygon 街。
项目申请来自Tract Consultants，该公司代表了学生住宿主要提供商Scape Australia，申请建议在拟建的大楼内设置电影院、露台、咖啡馆、健身房、便利店、大堂，以及533间单卧室/工作间公寓。
该项目场地面向Mackenzie街，目前是7-11加油站所在地，将被彻底拆除，为建造靠近皇家墨尔本理工大学(RMIT) 和墨尔本大学的新学生大楼。

该项目建筑由Woods Bagot建筑设计公司所设计，承诺“提供高质量的学生住宿和零售”设施，并设有一个大型公共餐厅，配有一个配备齐全的厨房，全天供应膳食。
提交的申请材料还指出，“除此之外，整个大楼还配有公用小厨房，供学生使用，并允许个人烹饪和举办居住者聚会。”
根据此项目计划，全部19个楼层将安排学生住宿，他们可以使用屋顶露台和户外厨房/烧烤设施，而大楼的便利设施将包括社交空间、安静的学习区、共享洗衣空间以及“贯穿的高科技IT”。
大楼还将拥有“区域”空间，最多可容纳75人，可直接进入互相联接的三层公共空间，每个空间都有一个朝北的冬季花园露台。
申请材料还指出：“屋顶露台将为大楼居民及其客人提供一个多功能的户外空间，可用于餐饮和各种活动，充分利用周围的景观。”

What's On: October 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/>

Dog Lovers Show

Royal Exhibition Building (Covid pending)

Fri, 22 Oct 9:30 am–5: pm

Australia's largest dog dedicated festival will return to Melbourne's historic Royal Exhibition Building.

Visit dogloversshow.com.au/melbourne/

Women's Forum

Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton.

20 October, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Join for a lively discussion about women's issues.

Farmers Market

Carlton North Primary School.

First and third Saturday each month.

Stalls selling fresh produce on primary school grounds.

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.

We, the Robots? Webinar

Online event by Melbourne Uni. Free.

7 October, 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Professor Chesterman, Senior Director for AI Governance at AI Singapore, will discuss areas from driverless cars and governance by algorithm, to the impact of AI on the legal profession.



Childbirth education from the Royal Women's Hospital

Online

Wednesday nights. 6pm–9pm

Childbirth education via online livestreaming.



Scienceworks at home.

Online.

Everyday.

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

Cancer and COVID-19 – the psychological impact webinar

Online event by Melbourne Uni. Free.

7 October, 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

A panel of cancer experts and patients will explore the key psychological challenges and opportunities for cancer patients and their families.

Business Directory

Library

KATHLEEN SYME LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

251 FARADAY STREET, CARLTON
TELEPHONE: 03 9658 7310
EMAIL: kathleensymecentre@melbourne.vic.gov.au

EAST MELBOURNE LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

122 GEORGE ST, EAST MELBOURNE
TELEPHONE: 03 9658 9600
EMAIL: library@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Real Estate

CAINE REAL ESTATE

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PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION LOCATED AT CARLTON

Telstra plans to upgrade an existing telecommunications facility located at 42-50 Barry Street, Carlton, VIC 3053 www.rfnsa.com.au/3053017

1. Telstra are currently upgrading existing mobile network facilities to allow for the introduction of 5G to Telstra's network. As part of this network upgrade, Telstra proposes the installation of NR850(5G), and NR/LTE2600 technologies at Carlton locality and surrounds.
2. The proposed upgrade comprises of the reconfiguration of one (1) existing panel antennas and the installation of three (3) panel antennas (each no more than 2.8m long), and the installation of associated ancillary equipment. All internal equipment will be housed within the existing equipment shelter located at the base of the facility.
3. Telstra regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the *Telecommunications Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* based on the above description.
4. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or written submissions should be directed to Brenda Perez-Torres, Aurecon Australasia via email to: Brenda.perez-torres@aurecongroup.com or via post to: Brenda Perez-Torres, Aurecon Australasia Aurecon Centre PO Box 23061 Docklands VIC 8012 by 5pm on 14/10/2021.

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