

NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

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▲ Local North Melbourne high-rise resident Emebet (right) with Ruth Eyakem (left).

High-rise public housing residents welcome new community health program

High-rise public housing residents in North Melbourne – who are still reeling from one of the harshest COVID-19 lockdown measures – are set to be supported by a new community health program.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*
HEALTH

The state government announced it would make available a program called Community Connectors that will see teams of residents employed to act as a “connector” to link people at their doorstep to preventative and early intervention health and social services while also providing access to vaccinations and testing.

The new program will build on the “lessons learnt and successes” of the state government’s High Risk Accommodation Responses (HRAR) program, which was delivered by community health services across the state during the pandemic.

The announcement comes as funding for a health con-

cierge program, which had proven vital in disseminating health information during the pandemic as well as monitoring the health and wellbeing of residents at high-rise towers, ended on June 30. The program was established by Cohealth in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services.

However, the threat of the program’s funding ceasing had prompted Victorian Greens leader and Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Dr Samantha Ratnam to call on the state government to urgently renew the HRAR funding as “community organisations will leave the estates and so many great local programs will end”.

Emebet, a North Melbourne high-rise resident who was employed as a health concierge until the end of June, said she was grateful the state government was

Continued on page 5.

Traders breathe sigh of relief after disruptive works come to an end

Kensington traders have expressed relief as streetscape works – which caused major disruption to business, finally wrap up in Bellair St.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

The City of Melbourne has upgraded the stormwater drainage and streetscape along the popular shopping and dining strip, with works starting on May 28, and finishing at the end of June.

But traders said it had led to disruption, inconvenience, and trading losses by as much as 50 per cent – just as they had begun to rebuild after two years of COVID lockdowns.

The council said public access to shops had been retained throughout the project with footpath works completed in sections to minimise disruption.

However, Tushar Bhatnagar, co-owner of The Premises café, was one of many traders glad to see the back of the works.

Mr Bhatnagar, who has recently undertaken renovations to expand his business, said he couldn’t set up his outdoor dining furniture while his front entrance also hindered throughout the construction period.

“We did lose 30 to 40 per cent of business when a lot of heavy work was going on,” he told *North West City News*.

“Customers didn’t have parking space, and no one wants to walk through a construction area.”

“We did try to reach the council a few times to see if they could compensate ... but we were told it was not possible.”



▲ The Premises café co-owner Tushar Bhatnagar. Photo: Murray Enders.

“We were denied a couple of times, and they said, ‘we’re not asking you to close your businesses down, we just leave enough room so the customers can walk in and out of entrances’”.

Mr Bhatnagar said while he wasn’t against the project, which he acknowledged had made a “visual impact” in the street – he felt disappointed that small businesses had been forgotten about, and he questioned why the works weren’t undertaken during the 200 days of world record breaking lockdowns.

Continued on page 6.

A

COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 02

Sale proposal draws mixed views

B

ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 05

Coming together for the Maribyrnong River

C

COMMUNITY, PAGE 09

Win for North Melbourne gym users

D

HEALTH, PAGE 10

Cohealth Kangas inspire on and off field

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Proposal to sell council-owned historic North Melbourne draws mixed-response

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A City of Melbourne proposal to sell an historic council-owned building in North Melbourne has drawn a mixed response from residents, with some believing it should be used as a community facility.

The council is considering offloading the single-storey heritage-listed building at 505-513 Abbotsford St as well as three other buildings in the municipality that are no longer being used for council services.

Until the end of June, the Abbotsford St premises had been leased to Cohealth which had provided child and family health services.

The council is now seeking the community’s input and feedback on the proposed sale of all four properties, two of which are “underutilised”.

“If we sell these properties, we will reinvest the proceeds into city-shaping infrastructure projects and the capital works program,” the council said.

“We have an opportunity to think about how we want to evolve as a city and be bold in creating a better future for Melbourne.”

North Melbourne resident Brendan Gleeson, who is a professor of urban policy at the University of Melbourne, said he believed the community had to trust the council’s “expert informed view that the site and facility is not well suited to adaptation for contemporary service provision”.

“There are certainly important heritage values associated with the building and hopefully the council will ensure these are respected in any future use. Its location at the edge of the residential fabric and close to Royal Park is not ideal from a human services perspective,” he said.

“The council has recently enlarged and greatly

improved the Lady Huntingfield Children’s and Family Services Centre in Haines St.”

Mr Gleeson said this was “a far better location” from a human services point of view, and in proximity to the municipal pool/gym, the new North Melbourne Primary School campus, and the Gardiner and North Melbourne Reserves.

“This area could be seen as a ‘service hub’ that will support the needs of the Hotham area as well as the new Arden Urban Renewal Precinct.”

However, some members of the community feel saddened that the historic building would be lost and key support services no longer available to families.

Margaret, a North Melbourne resident, said she would hate to think the 1920s-built red brick building would be replaced by multi-storey apartments.

“It would be a great community hub for a men’s shed ... a women’s group, ethnic-specific groups etc. I know the community choir used to rehearse there,” she said.

A Cohealth spokesperson said their organisation had always understood their lease agreement for the Abbotsford St site was short-term,

with the City of Melbourne having “been very transparent about their sale plans, and we appreciate their support and communication”.

“We’ve enjoyed offering a range of child and family health services from Abbotsford St and have begun scoping other potential locations from which we can continue to provide these essential services,” the spokesperson said.

“We don’t expect to be relocating until sometime in 2023 and can assure people that Cohealth will continue to offer accessible, community-based child and family health services for many years to come.”

According to Property Value online, the Abbotsford St property is valued between \$1.5-\$1.6 million.

Councillors voted unanimously at their May 31 meeting to authorise public notices of “council’s intention to sell the land to be placed on the council’s website”.

Other properties the council is proposing to sell are 47-49 Canning St, Carlton, 100-104 A’Beckett St, Melbourne, and 30-38 Gatehouse Drive, Kensington.

Public consultation will end on July 31. ●

To have your say, visit:

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/proposal-sell-four-council-properties

Brendan Rees

JOURNALIST

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Census shows North Melbourne, Kensington populations plateau

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COMMUNITY

Population growth has stalled in both North Melbourne and Kensington, the 2021 national census has revealed.

Data released in June, after more than 25 million Australians sat down in August last year to fill out the detailed country-wide survey, gave another interesting snapshot of local suburbs.

It showed that the number of people living in both North Melbourne and Kensington has largely remained the same since the previous census in 2016.

The 2021 figures showed that North Melbourne's population had increased by just 13 people (from 14,940 to 14,953), while Kensington's had in fact decreased by 67 (from 10,812 to 10,745).

Parkville, too, saw its population decrease between 2016 to 2021, from 7409 to 7297.

However, it was West Melbourne who bucked the trend, with the suburb's population booming by almost 50 per cent during the past five years, from 5515 in 2016 to 8025 in 2021.

The data, revealed by the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS), revealed that the cluster of suburbs north-west of the CBD continued to be a haven for young people.

Almost two-thirds of the West Melbourne population (64.8 per cent) are aged between 20 and 39, making it one of the biggest millennial strongholds, as a percentage of the population, in Australia.

North Melbourne and Parkville, too, had more than half of locals (51.4 and 50.5 per cent respectively) aged in their 20s or 30s.

The average Australian suburb has far fewer people in this age bracket (28 per cent).

The census, completed nationally every five years, showed that North and West Melbourne continued to be strong multicultural areas, with more than half of residents living in the suburbs born overseas.

This contrasted with the nationwide average, where two-thirds of people living in Australia were born here.

In North Melbourne, the top three countries of birth outside of Australia are China (7.7 per cent), Vietnam (2.8 per cent) and Malaysia (2.6 per cent), while in West Melbourne the top three are also Asian nations; China (10.6 per cent), India (6.9 per cent) and Malaysia (3.2 per cent).

Kensington, by contrast, sits alongside the nationwide average (around two-thirds of people were born in Australia), with England (3.2 per cent) the next-highest.

One of the headline revelations of the latest census was the nationwide further shift away from religion.

Across Australia, 39 per cent of people ticked the "no religion" box, which represented an increase from 30 per cent in 2016 and 22 per cent a decade ago.

But this was even higher in all four of Kensington (56.2 per cent), Parkville (53.4 per cent) West Melbourne (53 per cent) and North Melbourne (52.6 per cent), with the majority expressing no religious affiliation.

Given the age demographic in local areas, it was perhaps unsurprising that far fewer locals are married compared with the national average, which sits at 47 per cent (for those aged 15 and over).

In Parkville that figure was just 20 per cent, in North Melbourne 25 per cent, West Melbourne 27 per cent and in Kensington 32 per cent.

From an academic perspective, more than four in 10 people currently attending an educational institution in all four of Parkville, North Melbourne, Kensington and West Melbourne were undertaking tertiary study (defined as either university or higher education, or vocational education including TAFE and private training providers).

This was considerably higher than the national average of 23 per cent.

The suburbs have fewer school-going



▲ Local population numbers in both Kensington and North Melbourne has not grown in the last five years.

children (primary and secondary) than typical Australian suburbs.

Around half of students around the nation are primary or secondary pupils, but that figure is as low as 10 per cent in Parkville, and 15 and 22 per cent respectively in West Melbourne and North Melbourne.

Housing-wise, share houses were more than three times more prominent in Parkville, North and West Melbourne compared with the national average ("group households" make up just 3.9 per cent of houses around Australia), while they were two times more prominent in Kensington.

Both median monthly mortgage repayments and median weekly rent were most expensive in Kensington (\$2216 and \$416 respectively) followed by West Melbourne (\$2106 and \$388), North Melbourne (\$2035 and \$381).

Of the four local suburbs, Parkville had the lowest median monthly mortgage repayments (\$2000) but median weekly rent (\$396) was second-most expensive.

Similarly, median weekly income (for people aged 15 and over) was highest in Kensington (\$1246), followed by West Melbourne (\$1058) and North Melbourne (\$943).

Likely owing to the area's large student population, median weekly income in Parkville was \$588.

For the first time, the 2021 census allowed people to specify whether they had any long-term health conditions, with mental health (including depression or anxiety) the most prominent in all four suburbs.

More than six in 10 people in each suburb, however, noted no long-term health condition

2021 census snapshots:

- Population: North Melbourne 14,953, Kensington 10,745, West Melbourne 8,025, Parkville 7,297
- Born overseas: West Melbourne 58.4 per cent, North Melbourne 51 per cent, Parkville 42.8 per cent, Kensington 34.7 per cent
- Aged between 20 and 39: West Melbourne 64.8 per cent, North Melbourne 51.4 per cent, Parkville 50.5 per cent, Kensington 41.4 per cent
- Married: Kensington 32 per cent, West Melbourne 27 per cent, North Melbourne 25 per cent, Parkville 20 per cent
- Family households: Kensington 56.4 per cent, North Melbourne 47.7 per cent, Parkville 47.8 per cent, West Melbourne 47.7 per cent
- Median monthly mortgage repayments: Kensington \$2216, West Melbourne \$2106, North Melbourne \$2035, Parkville \$2000
- Median weekly rent: Kensington \$416, Parkville \$396, West Melbourne \$388, North Melbourne \$381
- Median weekly income (for people aged 15-plus): Kensington \$1246, West Melbourne \$1058, North Melbourne \$943, Parkville \$588 ●



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Coming together for the Maribyrnong River

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ENVIRONMENT

Those who love the Maribyrnong will be having a forum on July 20 to gather support for the appointment of a riverkeeper.

Dr Nicole Kowalczyk, who has a PhD in water ecology, is acting part-time in the job.

The Riverkeeper Association is hoping to get funding for a full-time position.

There are 11 riverkeepers in Australia and they are making an impact in terms of the poetics, politics and science of conservation.

“The Maribyrnong is the second-biggest river in Melbourne, but it has no peak body for the community,” Nicole told *North West City News*. “It’s difficult not to see us as the poor cousin of the Yarra.”

She said that while funding was not the only way of tackling river issues, it was necessary to staff projects.

The Maribyrnong River Conservation Forum will bring together around 30 interest groups from along the river and anyone is invited to attend.

Compared to its more flood-prone relative, the Maribyrnong is a low-lying tidal river and saline for 12 kilometres upstream up to Solomon’s Ford.

Standing on the bridge at Pipemakers Park, it appears to be still and peaceful as it meanders through the city’s north-west.

But it has many of the same issues as the Yarra, such as polystyrene and chemical pollution. Its planning restrictions are not as strict, and Nicole believes there has been less investment in it by government because of the safe Labor seats along its course.

“The Chain of Ponds got \$5 million from the Federal election because it was in a marginal seat,” she said.

Studies are advanced on the Yarra to the point



of liaising directly with industry and sources of plastic, Nicole said. “The Maribyrnong is lagging behind.”

Nicole works three days a week for the Riverkeeper Association, an independent body funded by benefactors such as Peter Isaacson, former boss of Kane Constructions.

“He’s partially funding this position as well,” she said, but the association is gearing up to apply to other funding bodies, a long and arduous task.

Nicole did her PhD on the penguin population at St Kilda and knows how the ecology of Port Phillip Bay is influenced by the rivers.

“Fresh water from the Yarra and the Maribyrnong plays a critical role in controlling pollution in the bay,” she said.

Melburnians tend to think of the bay as a recreational asset but in actual fact it is an estuary, a place of great natural diversity.

The challenge is for people to do a rethink about the city in terms of its geography and the way these waterways impact on our communities.

The forum will be held on July 20 from 9am to 12.30am at the Essendon Rowing Club. ●

For more information:
n.kowalczyk@yarrariver.org.au

High-rise public housing residents’ welcome new community health program

Continued from page 1.

“acknowledging our incredible work”, which included COVID testing, linking residents to support services, and providing health information for the culturally and linguistically diverse.

She and other health concierges described themselves as “frontline soldiers” after having worked tirelessly to help residents overcome their initial misperceptions and apprehensions about the pandemic.

“We all have managed to build a high-level of trust among community members living in the public housing estate, the vast majority of whom feel confident in seeking health information, advice from medical professionals and government agencies,” Emebet, who did not wish to use her surname, said.

“This is our opportunity to make a better community and beautiful environment.” But she added, “working as community healthcare workers, our role has not been finalised yet”, in reference to the rising COVID-19 cases and other viruses such as influenza swelling in winter.

Support services were also critical as cost-of-living pressures also pushed people to the brink, Emeret said, with many residents having sought her help including a disabled single mother seeking food relief, as she had become a trusted and familiar face in the high-rise towers.

“Everything is expensive, residents are finding it very hard, they can’t afford to buy groceries.”

Emebet, who came to Australia from Ethiopia in 1999 and has lived in the high-rise towers for 15 years, was among the thousands of residents who endured the state government’s hard lockdown of the public housing towers in Flemington and North Melbourne in July 2020, which they likened to a “hostile” environment.

In the wake of the lockdown, she said she and many residents were still healing from their traumatic experiences, including Emebet herself, who suffered two panic attacks and had to be taken to hospital on both occasions.

“Luckily a vaccination team was downstairs; they had to call an ambulance for me. Had they not been there [through the health concierge program] I would not have made it to the emergency department in time,” she said.

An investigation by the Victorian Ombudsman found the timing of the public housing lockdown “was not based on direct health advice and violated Victorian human rights laws” with some people having no access to food and medication while others waited a week for fresh air.

A Victorian Government spokesperson said the Community Connectors program would in many cases continue to employ residents who had been supported during the emergency.

“By leveraging existing community connections and embedding resident voice into the community health partnerships, the program will increase access to health services and improve well-being outcomes amongst communities,” the spokesperson said.

“It will also create sustainable employment pathways for residents and work together on localised health and wellbeing responses in partnership with residents and local communities.”

The program will also connect residents to social care services where relevant, such as family violence, child and family services, financial aid, and food relief. The state government will fund the \$8.5 million program, which will support public housing high-rise communities across the inner suburbs of Melbourne, including North Melbourne and Carlton.

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said the health concierge model had been a “gamechanger” and “we must not forget the lessons learned about the value of community empowerment in improving people’s own health and wellbeing”.

The Victorian Healthcare Association said while it welcomed the additional funding and continued focus on high-risk settings, it raised concerns about the impacts of short-term funding for programs like HRAR. ●



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▲ The Premises cafe.

Traders breathe sigh of relief after disruptive works come to an end

Continued from page 1.

According to Mr Bhatnagar, he spoke to one of the engineers on site who said the upgrade had “been planned many years ago and was getting pushed and pushed back”.

Another trader, who did not wish to be identified, said it was a “massive relief” the works had been completed.

“It definitely was disruptive and noisy. It was one of those things that had to get done. It wasn’t pleasant, but at least it’s done,” they said.

“We did the best we could because we can’t afford to close. We just came out of lockdown; we would’ve appreciated not having any disruption for a while.”

The council told *North West City News* in early July that work was expected to be completed soon on the final stage of the project to restore the historic mosaic artworks.

Twelve colourful circular mosaics, which are located in the pavement of Bellair St and represent the themes of local architecture and landmarks, have been carefully preserved and reinstated.

The artworks celebrate Kensington’s strong community identity, and was part of a public art and job skills project in 1996 led by artists Helen Bodycomb and Paul Robinson.

Local mosaic artist Libby McKinnon, who was one of the tutors involved in the original project and has helped maintain the mosaics over the years, said, “it is great that the mosaic artworks are valued so much by the community”.

“The mosaic artworks can all individually be fully appreciated for their brilliant designs, wonderful execution of mosaic cutting techniques and illustrates how artists, engineers, tradespeople, local government, and others, worked together to transform the Bellair St and Macaulay Rd shopping strip, giving it character and life.” ●



Iconic North Melbourne pub fails to sell, but new tenant could be on the horizon

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

North Melbourne’s historic Court House Hotel, which hit the market earlier this year, has not been sold with a new tenant possibly in the owners’ sights.

The Errol St pub, which dates to the 19th century, was listed for sale in January after having become a casualty of the COVID pandemic.

But according to real estate firm JLL, the local landmark watering hole has not been sold, with the owners now believed to be in negotiations with signing up a new tenant – raising the possibility that the venue’s charming bar and restaurant area could again be in operation.

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) is reviewing a recent application by the pub that seeks an “endorsed person” variation to its current liquor licence.

However, endorsement applications do not involve any changes to the licence conditions such as operating hours, area, patron capacity or nature of activities.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety said while it could not comment on individual businesses, “endorsement applications are lodged for an additional person or entity to be endorsed on the licence, allowing the endorsed person/s to continue the business under the same licence or permit”.

“An endorsement application most commonly occurs when an existing licensee departs or is legally evicted from the premises; the licensee becomes an externally administered body corporate; [or] the licensee dies or becomes a represented person,” it said.

But the application has drawn a mixed reaction from the community with one local member concerned the pub’s possible reopening could see a return of anti-social behaviour in the streets.

“We strongly object to this application due to the existing high density of housing and the resultant issues when operating with a liquor licence in the immediate area of this

“It would be great to see the Court House Hotel reopen ...”

establishment,” one wrote in their submission.

“When the previous tenant was operating with a liquor licence (even with limited opening hours) there was an increase of persons loitering which has resulted in increased noise, rubbish (smashed bottles) and urination in the adjacent streets and laneways.”

The community member also cited concerns that the council had not addressed the “ongoing problem” of adequate security and lighting in Lancashire Lane, which is located behind the pub. However, another said they would endorse the application as “it would be great to see the Court House Hotel reopen as it is in a mixed-use zone”.

“Management of this venue should consider existing residents and how to address concerns regarding noise, security, rubbish, etc. However, this should not be a deterrent as it is an opportunity to activate this area and improve the facilities/amenities in North Melbourne,” they said.

The resident said it would be reasonable for the venue to serve alcohol while also providing food during ordinary trading hours.

While the pub has been shut, improvised theatre company Impro Melbourne had earlier this year been using the dining area to host performances every Friday and Saturday night with the main bar serving drinks.

The building has stood as one of North Melbourne’s most recognisable pubs with the North Melbourne Library holding one of the few historic images of the pub from 1870.

The owners of the pub could not be reached for comment. ●

Community summit set to address local safety issues

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SAFETY & SECURITY

A community safety summit is set to be held later this year which would bring together a range of groups, stakeholders, and authorities to address neighbourhood safety concerns.

The City of Melbourne-convened summit, which is expected to be held in August, was initiated after a Presidents of the Residents’ Groups meeting with the council on June 24.

While details of the summit have yet to be formally announced, it is understood the council will join residents’ and business groups across the municipality as well as Victoria Police and community stakeholders to improve community safety.

The summit builds on the Neighbourhood Policing model, which was launched by Victoria Police in April.

The “back-to-basics” approach which aims to work closely with the community has so far proven successful in understanding community concerns and addressing local safety issues., according to Leading Senior Constable Nick Parissis, the Neighbourhood Policing coordinator at Melbourne North Police Station.

“We get a lot of information from our residents; it’s quite forthcoming. Obviously, they let us know about their concerns and from that information we know where to target our patrols,” he said.

“We’re trying to work closer with the community and the residents and business groups to alleviate any concerns they have.”

“The whole objective of Neighbourhood Policing is engaging with the community, making sure we feedback anything we’ve got to the community.”

“We’re only as good as the information we receive from the community.”

LSC Parissis, a community liaison officer of 20 years in the Carlton and North Melbourne police service area, said issues of concern from the community included theft from cars, suspect loiterers, residential parcel thefts, and drug activity, which local police units were doing their best to keep on top of including regular proactive patrols.

He said simple steps such as removing items from display and locking vehicles significantly reduced the likelihood of theft. This included removing chargers which may entice opportunistic thieves to believe a phone, or other electronic devices may be inside a car.

In terms of parcel theft, he said this could be reduced by opting for a secure parcel drop off or seeking the help of a trusted neighbour.

LSC also urged community members to call Triple Zero if they saw any suspicious behaviour in their neighbourhood.

“If they see something, we don’t mind if we turn up and it’s a false alarm. We would rather be called to something, and it turns out to be okay as opposed to not being called,” he said.

The City of Melbourne did not provide a response to *North West City News* on the safety summit by the July deadline. ●

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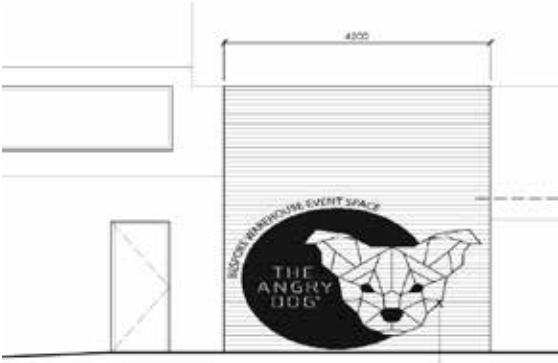
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Authorised by E. Sandell, 146 Peel St, North Melbourne.



▲ The warehouse (blue roller door) on Batman St, which could soon be home to a new bar



▲ The bar's logo, which it proposes to place on the roller door.



Detectives investigate North Melbourne carjacking

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

Detectives the Victoria Police Melbourne Embona Task Force are appealing for public assistance following a carjacking in North Melbourne in December last year.

Investigators have been told a 43-year-old man from Truganina picked up two men in Latrobe St in the CBD, following a brief interaction, on December 3 at around 4.30am.

The victim was directed by the men to park his red 2019 Audi Q2 along Munster Terrace in North Melbourne before a confrontation occurred in the car.

During the incident one of the men produced a knife and the victim suffered minor injuries as he was pushed from his car onto the road.

The pair drove off in the Audi headed towards Arden St.

The Audi was recovered in January, but the offenders are yet to be identified.

Investigators have released CCTV and two computer generated images of two men they believe may be able to assist with their enquires.

●

For more information:
crimestoppersvic.com.au

Council endorsement paves way for new bar in West Melbourne

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne is expected to give the green light to a new bar in a converted West Melbourne warehouse despite receiving 75 objections.

A permit application for the sale and consumption of liquor at a rear warehouse on the site of 405-417 Spencer St, West Melbourne was considered at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on July 12, shortly after *North West City News* published its July edition.

With the council's management having recommended supporting a permit, councillors were expected to give the all clear to applicant Pistillo Holdings Pty Ltd's plans for a 150-patron capacity bar in the existing warehouse facing Batman St.

The new venue, named The Angry Dog according to plans, has proposed to operate from 12pm to 5pm Monday to Wednesday and 12pm to 11pm Thursday to Sunday, with background music played within the bar and a solo musician.

Plans for the "bespoke warehouse event space" also include a big screen at the northern end of the site, a food truck and bike racks at the entrance. A mezzanine with a floor area of 15 square metres will also be constructed on the

“*These measures are considered to effectively mitigate potentially unreasonable noise impacts.*”

”

side of the warehouse, resulting in a total floor area of 398 square metres.

However, the council received 75 objections to the plans, which related to concerns regarding noise, anti-social behaviour, public health and safety, reduction in car parking, inconsistencies with the noise impact assessment and the intended land use.

Despite concerns raised surrounding the noise and overall impact on amenity, the council stated that noise would be regulated by the use of noise limiters, while a condition would be placed on the permit requiring the roller door of the premises be closed at 10pm.

“These measures are considered to effectively mitigate potentially unreasonable noise impacts,” the report from council's management

stated, while adding that anti-social behaviour and adverse impacts on public health and safety would be “limited by the scale of the proposal and a venue management plan”.

“The proposed buildings and works will be entirely contained within the existing building and are considered appropriate and proportionate to facilitate the proposed bar use,” the report stated.

The site, located next to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service building, is part of a larger parcel of land on the north-west corner of the intersection of Spencer and Batman streets and comprises two lots.

The single storey warehouse on the Site sits next to buildings associated with the former Dalston Bakery – a two-storey former bakery building at 405-407 Spencer St identified as having a “significant” heritage grading. ●



Sean Car
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✓ Fruit and vegetable scraps	✗ Recyclables and hard plastic
✓ Bread, rice and pasta	✗ Soft plastics (bags, cling wrap, chip packets)
✓ Leftover food scraps	✗ Tea bags
✓ Spoiled or rotten food	✗ Coffee pods, compostable cups and coffee cups (including items marked as biodegradable)
✓ Solid dairy products (butter, cheese)	✗ Liquids (including cooking oil)
✓ Meat, fish and bones	✗ Hard seafood shells (mussels, oysters, pipis and large crabs)
✓ Soft-shell seafood (prawns, shrimps, crayfish, lobsters, small crabs)	✗ String, twine, ties, rope and metal wire
✓ Loose coffee grounds and tea leaves	✗ Cotton wool balls and buds
✓ Eggshells	✗ Pet poo and litter
✓ Garden, grass cuttings and weeds	✗ Vacuum dust
✓ Cut flowers and leaves	✗ Fireplace ash
✓ Straw and hay	
✓ Wooden icy pole sticks, wooden chopsticks, toothpicks, skewers	
✓ Human hair and animal hair	
✓ Dryer lint	



DID YOU KNOW?

We are trialing the use of the processed organic compost on trees in Kensington with the view to using it more broadly across Melbourne.

MOVING INTO MUNRO

HOW AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHANGED THE LIFE OF A LOCAL CREATIVE



A cosy apartment at Munro Community Hub

By 2040 more than 20,000 new residents will live on Queen Victoria Market's doorstep.

The Munro development is the exciting new addition to the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

The site is currently home to the market's 500-space underground car park, and will soon be joined by a library and a line-up of hospitality businesses, building on the glorious offerings of the market. But did you know it's also home to 54 affordable housing dwellings?

Affordable housing seeks to meet the housing needs of those in low and moderate-income households.

In December 2021, the Munro development waved hello to residents from near and far, filling spots in 48 affordable apartments which are

owned and operated by Housing Choices Australia.

In May, the City of Melbourne also handed over the keys to an additional six apartments to the Transport Accident Commission for special needs clients.

These affordable apartments have provided many with a safe and secure place to call home - making strides in the City of Melbourne's Affordable Housing Strategy for 2020-30.

Local creative and art enthusiast Christientae Saint-Piaf is one of many who was delighted to make the move into the Munro building.

Since moving to her new home on the doorstep of the market, seconds from Flagstaff Gardens and a stone's throw away from the city and the clinic where she regularly donates blood,

Christientae said she has experienced a significant improvement to the quality of her life.

'It's an affordable, safe and secure home, built with dignity in mind - far better than anywhere I've lived before,' Christientae said.

As an active member of the local community and LGBTIQ+ groups, Christientae also admires the warm and welcoming environment among the building and staff.

'The festivity of the QVM area breathes life, fun times and community,' she said.

Feeding into her love for literature and creativity, Christientae is most looking forward to the Munro Library, set to open its doors in 2023.

The Munro site is expected to deliver an estimated \$70 million of economic and community benefit to the growing city north precinct.

In the coming months new hospitality venues, including Brick Lane Brewery, ST.ALI & The Queen, and sushi outlet Moonfishh will join the Munro development too, making it the ultimate hub to live, shop, dine and dwell.

DID YOU KNOW?

For every \$1 invested in affordable housing, the community benefits by \$3 due to worker retention, educational benefits, enhanced human capital, health cost savings, and reduced family violence and crime.



Christientae enjoys the community terrace

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/munro

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New public space on the cards for North Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new public space could open next to the North Melbourne Town Hall under a proposal to be considered by the City of Melbourne.

The council will assess the “benefits, opportunities and impacts” of a new forecourt or park which would be situated on Queensberry St.

The idea was discussed at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 14 after planning portfolio deputy lead Cr Rohan Leppert led a motion to assess a “variety of options” within the area of Queensberry St between Errol and Leveson streets.

“It’s something we know the community has been talking about for decades ... which is now particularly worthy of exploration given that there are clearer policy and funding imperatives to do this now,” Cr Leppert said.

That funding would include using a \$100 million North Melbourne, West Melbourne and Docklands Transport and Amenity Program (TAP), which is a suite of streetscape improvement projects “to help to alleviate and leverage some of the effects and benefits” of the West Gate Tunnel Project, particularly for local and arterial roads in the City of Melbourne.

TAP projects are a 50-50 funding arrangement between the Department of Transport and the council – with up to a maximum of \$100 million available over the next four years.

Under the TAP, the council would explore traffic calming measures in Queensberry St and open space opportunities as a project for future consideration, which would be subject to state government approval and funding decisions.

The proposal comes as the community has long called for the council to nominate a place within the City of Melbourne, preferably a public and civic space in North Melbourne, to honour the legacy of local activists in social and environmental planning, Ruth and Maurie Crow.



Cr Leppert said the public open space was a “beautiful opportunity” but maintained, “I’m not saying let’s do it here and now, I’m saying let’s explore it as a worthwhile opportunity”.

“A project like this is on the long list on TAP, but I thought I’d pull these threads together in a single motion and say this is something worth exploring.”

North Melbourne resident and professor of urban planning at the University of Melbourne Brendan Gleeson believed it was an “excellent and timely idea”.

“Given the expected future population growth in the area, there will be a strong need for new and enhanced public spaces as well as further traffic calming to ensure amenity and resident safety is protected,” he said.

“The rich history of the area should be recalled and celebrated in the new square. This is a terrific proposal that would help to honour [Ruth Crow’s] important contributions to the North Melbourne and wider Melbourne communities.”

Protectors of Public Lands deputy president Fiona Bell said her group was always in

favour of creating open spaces so long as heritage wasn’t compromised.

“Any additional parkland especially with increasing population and an increasing desire to use open space – mental health and other reasons – it’s always a good thing,” she said.

“Even if that opens as a little court area where people can just sit and have a cup of coffee under a tree would be very nice and good for people.”

This sentiment was echoed by Margaret O’Brien, a member of the Friends of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

“There is intense competition for our existing open space ... the way every public space is used, arguably, overused,” she said.

“And those spaces in parks and gardens, of course, are the very spaces that the majority of the population now seek and need because their homes are smaller and for most, any trees are now only in public places because developments don’t have either open space or trees and are relying on public areas.”

A report will come back to council in April 2023. ●



Dog ban to protect sensitive vegetation at Royal Park

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A sensitive native vegetation area at Royal Park will become a dog prohibited zone following calls from the community.

The City of Melbourne will install signs warning the public to keep their dogs off the site known as the Royal Park west native remnant vegetation area after the Friends of the Royal Park (FoRP) raised concerns the ecosystem had been vulnerable to damage.

The dog ban was endorsed by City of Melbourne councillors at their June 28 council meeting, which considered a review of dogs in open space across the municipality – in which an off-leash dog area was approved at Manningham Reserve to the west of Royal Park.

It is proposed to be an off leash use only outside of organised sporting activity with no additional fencing proposed.

The council’s planning portfolio deputy lead Cr Rohan Leppert said he was “delighted” with the dog prohibition decision, which he described as the “one of the most sensitive ecosystems in the municipality”.

The FoRP said it too was “very pleased” after it made many calls for the park’s significant vegetation to be protected.

“This site was recognised as a special native vegetation area in 1990 and since then, friends’ groups and the council have worked to protect its vegetation and enhance its biodiversity and habitat values,” FoRP secretary Kaye Oddie said.

“Its ecology was vulnerable to damage from dogs and people going through the site, so the declaration prohibiting dogs is very much welcomed and people are asked to stay on the main path.”

A second remnant native vegetation site is Brens remnant vegetation site, although this was not approved as a dog prohibited area by the council but will be considered during the forthcoming review of the Royal Park Master Plan. The FoRP also wishes to expand the “dogs prohibited” zone around the Australian Native Garden Pond.

In approving seven off-leash dog areas across the municipality, Cr Leppert said finding open spaces was very difficult but thanked the council’s management team who had undertaken a multi-stage public consultation process.

Parks approved as off-leash dog areas include Manningham Reserve in Parkville, Wellington Park in East Melbourne, Point Park and Ron Barassi Snr Park in Docklands, Eades Park in West Melbourne, Riverside Park in Kensington.

Murchison Square in Carlton was considered but removed from the list, with the council to consult further with the community. ●

Win for gym users

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
COMMUNITY

There is no way of beating around the bush when it comes to keeping fit, particularly when you’re working from home.

The people of Kensington came out of lockdown, only to see their recreation centre being demolished as part of its redevelopment.

One father and son weight-lifting duo got into the habit of travelling to North Melbourne.

“We’re coming here four times a week,” said dad, Andrew Roberts. “Aidan is in Year 12 so he we’ll drop back to three until he finishes.”

Imagine their shock when a sign went up at the North Melbourne Recreation Centre about a month ago that the gym would be closed from June 30.

“There was no consultation,” he said. “We came in one day and the signs were up. One of the staff got an email the day before.”

Andrew sent an email to the council to complain. It got referred back to the recreation centre, which was strange, he said, because they hadn’t made the decision to close the gym in the first place.



▲ Andrew and Aidan doing a work-out.

Gym facilities have become a hot issue over the past few months as people try and regain some agency over their lives.

Physical fitness is vital to mental health and not all councils have been sensitive to the benefits of communal exercise, taking the easy option of subscribing to online classes.

Last month *North West City News* reported on the City of Melbourne’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting held at the Meat Market Stables in North Melbourne, where the issue of the gym was raised by a number of locals.

Several people spoke publicly against the closure of the gym in a moving display of democratic protest made possible by the council’s

decision to take meetings to the people.

They were critical of the alternative – a cramped gym at the North Melbourne Football Club (NMFC).

The council’s head of neighbourhood planning spoke for five minutes about the issue, but it was still not clear what the outcome would be. The logic behind the move involved moving NMFC’s The Huddle to the recreation centre to run community outreach and employment programs.

In closing the discussion on the issue, deputy major Nick Reece said, “the community consultation process is ongoing. The gym services will be available while consultation takes place.”

When *North West City News* visited on July 9, closure notices had been removed, the staff member given notice was still working and Andrew and Aidan were doing a work-out.

Andrew said he sent two emails to the officers and they just “passed the buck”.

The visibility of both councillors and staff away from the trappings of Town Hall is a big step in the right direction of open government.

Andrew is hoping the gym will stay open at the recreation centre until the new one in Kensington is completed.

“We did exercise at home,” he said. “We went slower but didn’t have the weights. There’s more community here and you talk to people instead of being locked up in the garage by yourself.” ●

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Council seeks feedback on Albermarle St trees

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is calling on the community to have its say about “enhancing the tree population” along Albermarle St in Kensington by July 25.

The council has launched public consultation through its Participate Melbourne portal as it seeks to “ensure a healthy and resilient urban forest” at Albermarle St in line with its urban forest strategy.

The council says that the strategy has identified the Kensington street for priority renewal works following several falling tree branches and an independent assessment of all trees by an arborist. That assessment determined that nine trees require removal “in the short term”, while 18 trees would require removal at some point in the future as they were “poorly performing”. One tree was also recently removed and requires replacement.

With the tree replacements to provide a “gradual change to the landscape” the council said it now had an opportunity to consider a “significant” greening upgrade for the entire street that would improve amenity and tree canopy cover.

Consultation closes July 25.

To have your say:

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/albermarle-street-tree-renewal

Cohealth Kangas provides connection for people living with homelessness and disability

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HEALTH

A mixed football team made up of people experiencing homelessness, mental ill-health and disabilities, took part in an inspiring game of footy at Kensington’s JJ Holland Reserve last month.

The Cohealth Kangas, a team made up of clients of not-for-profit community health organisation Cohealth, took on the Wynbay Bulldogs – clients of youth support agency Latitude – in a home-game match on June 22. Players wore their Indigenous round jumpers, as well as black armbands after the death of a First Nations’ community member.

And following what was a close contest between the two sides, it was the Kangas who emerged the victor, defeating the Bulldogs 13.9 (87) to 10.5 (65). However, it’s the results the team is having for its players off the field that is most significant.

According to Cohealth, the Kangas have gone from strength to strength since COVID restrictions lifted, with the number of players increasing from eight to around 18, as people return to the field, or in many cases, join for the first time.

The Cohealth Kangas formed more than 20 years ago as part of the Reclink football league, a program that provides sport and recreation to people facing disadvantage and social isolation.

Cohealth says that football has provided a gateway to connecting people who face barriers to healthcare with the services they need.

Having started playing for the Cohealth Kangas 12 months ago, Yorta Yorta man Glen Scott said that being part of the team had been an important part of his recovery from drug and alcohol dependence, with his recovery having started three years ago after experiencing homelessness for several years.



“I had to learn to reconnect with the community. I had to relearn socialising. The drug world is a dark, dingy world and you’re cut off from the rest of the community,” he said. “Being part of the Kangas is a way for me to feel part of something. It has reminded me that there is better stuff than being in a dark dingy world.”

Cohealth uses the training days and matches to check-in on vulnerable clients, connect people with accommodation providers, provide health referrals to GPs and allied health and deliver, professional development days with guest speakers.

Each week throughout season, Kangas coaches Beau Branch and James Rose, drive around to pick up isolated players from their homes to transport them to the oval for training and games.

“It’s a cliché, but it really is more than just a game, or a weekly exercise activity. It’s a chance for people who live on the margins to socialise and to feel part of a community,” Beau Branch said.

“The program is a way for Cohealth to stay in touch with people that might be struggling



with their health – mental and physical – but be reluctant to engage with the mainstream health system.”

To improve inclusion for players with disabilities, the game applies special rules for those players who don special vests; any contact with the ball counts as a mark resulting in a free kick.

Cohealth’s Street Doctor van, a pop-up vaccination clinic, was also on the sidelines at JJ Holland Reserve on June 22 offering COVID jabs to players and gamegoers. ●

New toilet at Gardiner Reserve a “breakthrough” win for community

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

A new toilet at a popular park in North Melbourne will soon open to the public in what most residents say will greatly improve the amenity of the neighbourhood.

The City of Melbourne is installing a single cubicle toilet at Gardiner Reserve after the proposal received overwhelming support by the community.

The toilet will be situated on Haines St, near the corner of Macaulay Rd, with the council confirming it would open by the end of July.

A council survey conducted last year, which reached 8650 people, showed 92 per cent of people were supportive of the public toilet, with park users, particularly young families saying they would be able to enjoy Gardiner Reserve longer.

They said it would also make the reserve “more functional and practical” in the picnic and barbecue areas while not detracting from the park’s overall appeal.

“The park has become a more popular playground and hangout since the redevelopment was completed, which is great,” one resident submitted.

“It makes sense for people using the park to be able to use a bathroom if/when they need it. There are no other public toilet facilities particularly close by.”

However, just over six per cent of the survey’s respondents were against the facility after expressing concerns it may become “disruptive and unsafe”.

Objectors also argued it would be unappealing and had a lack of confidence the facility would be regularly maintained.

“It’s an eyesore. Also, as a resident of Haines St, I’m concerned it will attract illicit drug users and drug dealers,” one said.

Another said it would encourage loitering and “undesirables” to the children’s park.

Concerns were also raised in relation to accessing the reserve’s car parking which “might be exacerbated by increased visitation expected from additional public facilities.”



▲ North Melbourne resident Brendan Gleeson. Photo: Murray Enders.

The council has chosen an Exeloo “Galaxy” designed toilet, a modern and compact cubicle that features a touchless design, requiring minimal contact with toilet surfaces.

Local resident Brendan Gleeson, who is also a professor of urban planning at the University of Melbourne, believed the new toilet would be a “breakthrough” for families using the park’s playground and facilities.

While there was some concern expressed about the design of the facility, he said the “landscaping is attractive with minimal impact on the reserve’s natural features”.

“Importantly, the facility’s design makes it highly accessible for people with disabilities.”

Mr Gleeson said the toilet was also in a well-lit area and next to nearby apartment blocks, reducing the possibility it would attract anti-social behaviour.

“The City of Melbourne is to be commended for committing itself to the sustainable development goals which encourage social inclusion, and this is what that commitment looks like ‘on the ground’.”

The council said the toilet met “the growing popularity and accessibility requirements of this much-loved park and playground”.

Gardiner Reserve underwent an expansion and upgrade in 2018-19 which included new trees and shrubs being planted, improved pedestrian paths, a new picnic area, and an upgrade to the children’s playground. ●

Gumnut Trails forge new pathways into Melbourne’s north and west for young families

WORDS BY *Rebecca Broadhead*
COMMUNITY

Flemington local Christina Carter launched Gumnut Trails in September last year to provide adventure guides for kids at Melbourne’s local parks, beaches, and reserves.

Christina has always loved urban Melbourne but upon starting a family, memories of the green landscapes of her childhood made her want to give that experience to her daughter. During lockdowns the need for nature became even more vital, so with her husband and three-year-old daughter they stepped out to find some wilderness to explore.

“We spent our mornings exploring local parks and creating adventures. Afternoons were dedicated to creative writing and illustration. It was the perfect excuse to get out of the house, unplug and connect to something real as a family,” Ms Carter said.

This led to the creation of Gumnut Trails: outdoor adventure guides with beautiful hand-drawn illustrations and creative activities to keep kids engaged, learning, and playing in nature. There are five mystery trails, more than 15 adventures, photos of local wildlife and journal cards to sketch what you see!

“I have been told a few times that the kids just love the illustrations, and it helps get them excited about the day out. Older kids enjoy the journal cards, creating their own adventure comic story and leading the



adventures. One parent told me that her son thought the story was written about him and he took the adventure guide to bed with him,” Christina said.

For every guide sold, a donation is made to local conservation projects; an important step to protect natural spaces for children and future generations to experience as well.

To find Melbourne’s North and West Adventure guides locally, visit Stranger than Paradise on Errol St, NPJ Living in Flemington, Brunswick Bound on Sydney Rd, The Little Bookroom in North Fitzroy or Sedonia in Seddon. ●

For more information:
gumnuttrails.com.au



▲ Caption: Beatrix Bakes has announced the sad news it will shup up shop in August.

Cherished cake shop set to close after the pandemic’s “relentless stress” takes its toll

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

A popular cake shop in North Melbourne will close its doors after pandemic fatigue took its toll on the small business.

Beatrix Bakes, which is known for its delicious home-made treats, will close in early August after owner Natalie Paull cited the “relentless stress of crisis management” over the past two years.

“While I adore my shop and have always had a supportive and wonderful team around me, I run this cake house as a solo owner (no regretty) and I think I am a little puffed and need a hard break after 12 years,” Ms Paull announced on social media on July 6.

The news has devastated fans who have inundated the tiny Queensberry St shop with heartfelt messages.

“You will be so missed – but what a fabulous ride it has been. Best cake in the world,” one wrote.

“Devastating news, so sorry to hear this. Very hard decision and let us know where you pop up next, so we all support you,” another wrote.

But Ms Paul isn’t calling it a day entirely, adding Beatrix “will still be around in a way”.

“Doing some whole cake orders pop ups, and I am so excited to bring another bake book into your kitchens in 2024 (I promise the lemon tart and cocoa sour cream layer cake are in there),” she said.

“I’ll never be far away from an oven or a block of butter or an email if you get into baking trouble. More information to follow soon.”

Beatrix Bakes has a legion of devoted customers with the beautiful bakery attracting some 74,000 followers on Instagram.

It’s also known for its out-the-door queues with up to 50 people lining up for a slice of its heavenly sugar-coated, cream-filled treats.

Ms Paull opened the store in 2011 with the business name Beatrix meaning “bringer of joy” in Latin.

Her love for baking began when she made her first butter cake at age seven. By 18, she was an apprentice cook “where she couldn’t deny the fact that her heart just loved all things sweet”.

In announcing the sad news that she will be closing her beloved shop, Ms Paull said, “Endings usually happen like a wall being thrown on our road out of nowhere. And you have no choice but to swerve or collide.”

“But sometimes you get to drive your car to a nice look-out, turn the engine off (eat a chicken sandwich and sip a cup of tea from the thermos) and look so very proudly at where you are, how you got there and have a break from concentrating on the road.

“This is me doing just that. Just stopping for a moment.” ●



Fears apartment complex “could change nature” of Kensington

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

Kensington residents are concerned about a plan to turn an old Vision Australia building into an apartment complex, saying it would have a “negative contribution” to the neighbourhood.

Developers want to redevelop the building at 346-350 Macaulay Rd into apartments – a proposal the Kensington Association’s chairman Simon Harvey believes would be detrimental to the character of the neighbourhood.

The original planning permit approved six eight-storey buildings with a maximum height of 30.8 metres and a total gross floor area of 37,500 square metres – nearly twice the size of the MCG.

However, the application, which is currently being assessed by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), seeks to amend the mixed-use development to a build-to-rent scheme.

The main changes include increasing the number of apartments from 424 to 478 and reducing car parking spaces from 645 to 196 spaces.

Other changes include increasing the retail floorspace on Macaulay Rd and increasing the communal facilities from 346 square metres to 1090 square metres (about the size of two basketball courts).

A relocation of the east-west pedestrian link to north of the site is also being sought.

DELWP said the existing building

envelope and façade strategy is proposed to be mostly unchanged.

The City of Melbourne endorsed the original plan in May 2020 with conditions to reduce the visual bulk by increasing the setbacks of levels six and seven from Macaulay Rd and Stubbs St while also seeking further design work to the through block links to invite public through access.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp had declared an indirect conflict of interest after receiving an election campaign donation from the architect involved in the proposal.

According to Mr Harvey, the application was concerning because “you’re changing the nature of the Kensington village”.

“It looks like one enormous block; it certainly doesn’t look like independent buildings,” he said.

“It’s a lack of forward thinking in relation to all sorts of things from traffic to parking and population.”

Mr Harvey added a precinct plan was lacking for the area which meant “developers are just going to build the way they are, and Macaulay Rd is going to be untenable”.

The building was formerly owned by the Vision Australia Foundation; however, the building has since undergone a change of hands with the new owner unable to be confirmed by DELWP before publishing the July edition of *North West City News*.

Sources have said a company called Local, a build-to-rent developer, owned the building.

After the building’s closure, Vision Australia’s services were relocated to its sensory campus at 14 Barrett St, Kensington in early 2019. ●

Cult-favourite tofu shop moves to West Melbourne

WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*
BUSINESS

When Tofu Shoten first opened as a tiny pop-up counter in a Brunswick café last year, word quickly spread that some of the freshest tofu in Victoria was being handmade on site.

For three days a week, lines of people crowded the entrance and bought up the small batches of tofu, soy milk, and other Japanese snacks within a few hours.

Owner and tofu-maker Sava Goto had no idea her business was going to be so popular.

“I didn’t expect it at all,” Ms Goto told *North West City News*.

“My image of a tofu shop in Japan is more like a relaxed vibe. Queuing in front of the shop is not really a common situation.”

She put her shop’s success down to the prevalence of veganism in Melbourne, and the short supply of locally made tofu.

“I had many types of tofu, which people hadn’t seen before,” she said.

When Ms Goto came to Australia from Japan in 2015, she noticed a variety of tofu from China and South Asia in supermarkets, but none that tasted like home. Different climates call for different coagulants, which create distinct flavours and textures in tofu.

This inspired her to learn how to make soft Japanese tofu from scratch.

Growing up on her grandparents’ farm, she saw how they propagated soybeans. Ms Goto later worked in cafes in Japan and Melbourne but had no experience actually making tofu.

“Tofu is such a labour-intensive thing, so usually no one makes it at home unless you’re like really, really countryside,” she laughed.

Loyal, sometimes fanatic, customers in Melbourne appreciated her labour of love.

Then, just as quickly as it kicked off, Tofu Shoten disappeared.

“At the end of Hope St, I was pretty much burning out because of the long hours,” Ms Goto said. “Many people coming to the shop was a great thing, but maybe I took it as pressure, so I pushed myself too far.”

After no word for nearly a year, an Instagram post in May announced that Tofu Shoten was relocating to West Melbourne. Doors officially opened to the small, brightly-lit shopfront on Saturday, July 9 –and customers lined up once again.

Though the space is markedly bigger this time, Tofu Shoten’s trading style remains simple: a counter and a fridge full of takeaway soy milk and tofu of the silken, semi-firm and smoked variety.

Ms Goto and her shopkeeper Bill are bringing back their signature tofu balls, chilli oil, *kinako* (roasted soybean powder), sauces, spreads and *kuzu mochi*, a starchy summer dessert with dark sugar syrup and kinako on top.

They also plan to convert previous weekend specials into regular menu items, including biscuit sandwiches filled with roasted sweet potato, vanilla cream and red bean paste.

Now open four days a week, Ms Goto has new strategies in place to avoid another burnout as the sole tofu-maker in the business.

With no plans to expand, Ms Goto wants her small shop to be a place where she can share her tofu knowledge with the community.

Tofu Shoten is located at 185 Victoria St, West Melbourne and open Thursday to Sunday 11am to 4pm. ●

Veggie Tribe

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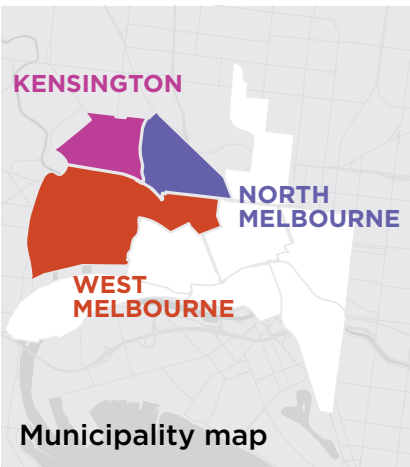
CREATING CONFIDENCE IN THE NORTH WEST

The City of Melbourne Budget 2022-23 and Annual Plan were endorsed by council on 28 June.

The budget is a record investment to build momentum, create confidence and deliver essential services for the community.

It sets out how we plan to invest in the city's north west to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities.

The Neighbourhood Statements in our Budget also outline the key initiatives we'll undertake in each suburb across the municipality.



OUR KEY PRIORITIES IN NORTH MELBOURNE

In 2022-23, city-shaping projects will focus on facilitating high-quality urban renewal in Arden through implementation of the Arden Structure Plan and the Macaulay Structure Plan, planning scheme amendments and Development Contributions Plans, working with the Victorian Government.

We will redevelop North Melbourne Community Centre, which includes finalising design of the building and facility area so we can go to tender for the build, and refine the recreation and open space requirements with community. We'll also undertake an inclusive space pilot at the North Melbourne Community Centre.

We will advocate for the implementation of the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan, progress the planning scheme

amendment for North Melbourne to protect and celebrate heritage places and neighbourhood character, and deliver the North and West Melbourne and Docklands Transport and Amenity Program in partnerships with the Victorian Government.

We want a greener and cleaner North Melbourne, so we will create a pocket park at Bedford Street and Capel Streets (subject to community consultation), seek new public open space opportunities, and deliver a new public toilet at Gardiner Reserve. We will also facilitate integrated water management solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay and Moonee Ponds Creek.

After a particularly tough trading period, we will continue to support North Melbourne traders

through our Business Precinct Program, and provide accessible creative opportunities to everyone through expanded arts and library programming.

Through our strategic work we will progress delivery of:

- City North Structure Plan
- Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan
- North and West Melbourne Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Macaulay Structure Plan
- Arden Structure Plan (with the Victorian Government)
- Neighbourhood planning
- Disaster preparedness and resilience planning
- Municipal Planning Strategy.



OUR KEY PRIORITIES IN KENSINGTON

City-shaping projects we will focus on in 2022-23 include construction of Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, we will continue to implement the Macaulay Structure Plan, including the planning scheme amendment, and progress delivery of the Development Contributions Plan, and we'll work with stakeholders to complete consultation on the Racecourse Road Strategic Opportunities Plan.

We know how important mitigating climate change is to our community, so as part of our work in this space in Kensington we will facilitate integrated water management solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay and Maribyrnong River, and we will advocate for the implementation of the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan. We'll also develop a pilot project to develop a deeper understanding of inequity in the local context and build capacity to deal with inequities, and

vulnerabilities to climate change. To support our Kensington businesses, we will deliver and manage our Business Precinct Program.

Through our strategic work we will progress delivery of:

- Maribyrnong Waterfront: A Way Forward planning work
- Kensington Urban Forest Plan
- Macaulay Structure Plan
- Neighbourhood planning
- Disaster preparedness and resilience planning
- Municipal Planning Strategy.



OUR KEY PRIORITIES IN WEST MELBOURNE

We'll continue to deliver essential services with a particular focus on optimising essential service delivery to enhance inner city liveability, we'll design a linear park, with associated traffic calming measures and new protected cycle lanes on Hawke Street, and we'll advocate to the Minister for Planning to approve Amendment C309, implementing new planning controls for West Melbourne referred for determination in May 2020.

We know how important mitigating climate change is to our community, so as part of our work in this space in West Melbourne, we will facilitate integrated water management solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay, Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek.

We will continue to support businesses in West Melbourne who have endured the most difficult trading times over the past two years through our Business Precinct Program.



Through our strategic work we will progress delivery of:

- Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan
- Maribyrnong Waterfront: A Way Forward
- West Melbourne Structure Plan
- Flagstaff Gardens Master Plan
- North and West Melbourne Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Neighbourhood planning
- Disaster preparedness and resilience planning
- Municipal Planning Strategy.

To find out more about our key projects in the north west this year, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/ourplans



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

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Some of our neighbourhood partners outside Melbourne Town Hall

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERS

From historic Carlton to the glistening harbour at Docklands, each City of Melbourne neighbourhood needs different services and support based on its unique demographics, strengths and challenges.

We're working to better understand and respond to community needs in a highly localised way through a new neighbourhood model.

Led by seven passionate neighbourhood partners, the model aims to "connect the dots" between council, residents and businesses to empower local people, build community capacity and guide city projects.

The neighbourhood partners recently completed in-depth community consultation and analysed the data to draft key priorities for each suburb.

This process is revealing opportunities for council to explore new projects, adjust upcoming work to respond to community needs, and better communicate our progress on existing work.

Neighbourhood partners will continue to engage with the community year-round, recording feedback into a central knowledge bank that will inform council projects with rich insights into the future.

New online portals will enable everyone to keep in touch with local news and share feedback more easily.

The interactive portals will deliver up-to-date information relevant to each neighbourhood, and connect community members with Council through the Neighbourhood Partners.

The portals feature:

- An acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung places of significance and a link to the new, interactive tool for Mapping Aboriginal Melbourne
- An overview of each neighbourhood, including facts and figures about the area
- A list of local priorities, community feedback and Council plans in action
- A range of good news stories from the community.

To explore the Kensington Neighbourhood Portal, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/kensington-neighbourhood-portal

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNER BUILDS CAPACITY IN KENSINGTON

Bumper crops and bags of community spirit typify the close-knit community of Kensington, where Melanie Del Monaco is the passionate neighbourhood partner.

Melanie developed a keen interest in how people can be empowered to shape decision-making that impacts their lives through her studies in politics, cultural studies and community development.

Her career has spanned the university, transport and local government sectors, where she has worked alongside communities to foster diverse participation, sustainable behaviour and community connectivity.

'I love working closely with community, which allows us to respond quickly and create changes that have a positive impact on people's lives,' Melanie said.

'Local governments have such a wide remit, so the day-to-day work is really varied, from climate action and waste to arts and road safety.



Melanie Del Monaco

'Above all, it's about helping to create more connected, vibrant and sustainable neighbourhoods.'

Melanie has spent more than three years working with the Kensington community, a highly diverse neighbourhood that includes small heritage cottages, public housing, newer townhouses in Kensington Banks, industry and commercial operations, and parts of the Macaulay urban renewal area.

'There's a great vibe in Kensington because – even though you're in the heart of the city – it has a unique village feel, and a highly active and connected community,' Melanie said.

'While it may be known for its iconic leafy streets, it was also home to the Newmarket Saleyards, which were one of world's biggest livestock markets until 1987.

'Kensington also has a fabulous range of cafes, unique shopping strips and restaurants offering some of Melbourne's best East African, Egyptian falafel and Mexican street food.'

An important part of the role of a neighbourhood partner is to build connections between local people, organisations and council to build community capacity and create positive change.

Melanie said COVID-19 saw fruitful connections begin to build in Kensington, and drove home the importance of community, responsiveness and resilience amid adversity.

'When lockdowns hit, there was a sharp drop in supplies of fresh food relied on for essential food support programs for vulnerable local people,' Melanie said.

'In response, more than 300 kilos of fresh food were grown locally in

Kensington and distributed to people experiencing disadvantage.

'The project was a collaboration between The Venny, Living Learning Australia, Kensington Stockyard Food Garden, Kensington Community Garden, Kensington YMCA, Unison Housing, and Kensington Neighbourhood House, with support from the City of Melbourne.

'There are also compost and repair hubs that have saved tonnes of food waste and broken items from landfill, and the Flyer of Hope that helped Kensington residents learn about more than 30 support services during lockdowns.

'These are all great example of how local people can work together quickly and collaboratively to support one another.'

With so many green thumbs in Kensington, and so many community gardens, it's no wonder the environment is a topic of particular interest to the community.

'We've been busy working through 700 pieces of feedback to develop a neighbourhood plan for Kensington with 26 priorities,' Melanie said.

'The areas of focus include open space, revitalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek and surrounds, creating safer spaces for walking and cycling, social inclusion and diversity, housing affordability, more opportunities for community connection, enhancing cultural understanding, and recognition of Traditional Owners.

'The neighbourhood partner model is great because it allows us to have dedicated people to look after each patch to develop better neighbourhood connections and insights and ensure we really understand and support these priorities.

PEOPLE-PERSON PARTNERS WITH NORTH AND WEST MELBOURNE

The North and West Melbourne communities have shared their vision for the future, and neighbourhood partner Tallia Gilarry is helping make it a reality .

Tallia began her career in a non-profit organisation that introduced her to concepts of social justice and the importance of connection to place.

'I'm utterly fascinated by people, where and how we live together, and how we make sense of our world,' Tallia said.

'Almost every job I've had over the last 15 years has had "neighbourhood" in the title, and I've loved getting to know different pockets of Melbourne.

'I'm drawn to the idea that neighbourhoods are these lived environments with their own distinct personalities, and we each have a relationships with these places, as well as with the people within them.

'Often that happens organically over time, but it's also something that can be nurtured.'

The City of Melbourne's new neighbourhood partner model will help better represent community priorities to council, to facilitate stronger service planning and decision-making.

'My gig is partly about knowing what's happening in the 'hood and who's who, so I can broker collaboration

opportunities between organisations or help neighbours lead their own local initiatives,' Tallia said.

Tallia represents West Melbourne, an expansive postcode that includes the residential area around Flagstaff Gardens and Queen Victoria Market, and – if you follow Dynon Road – the warehouse and port facilities that rest up against the Maribyrnong River, as well as parts of the Birrarung and Moonee Ponds Creek.

She also represents North Melbourne, which in her words "has it all" with its own football club, a village vibe around the Errol Street precinct, cult-inspiring eateries, and numerous arts and culture institutions.

'West Melbourne is so intriguing. Every day I discover some fascinating story about its history, and the role it plays in today's commercial and creative industries.

'In North Melbourne, I really like how people own their public green spaces. Take a stroll on a weekday and you'll see folks hanging out on the wide grassy median strips eating their lunch or reading book.'

Our neighbourhood partners have been working hard on a community consultation project to gather insights and create neighbourhood plans with priorities that reflect local views.

There are major urban renewal transformations underway, which will reshape the way these neighbourhoods look, function and feel.

'This is the nature of cities – they evolve, and I think our community is ready for the ride,' Tallia said.

'Overall, I look forward to building on the really strong foundations that already exist here, and perhaps make it easier for people to live more locally-based lifestyles.

'I'd love to shine a light on all these incredible neighbourhood assets for others to see: the characters, the stories, the landscapes, the spirit of this special spot.'



Tallia Gilarry

To find out more about neighbourhood planning, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

BUSINESS



Christmas in July at the Queen Victoria Market

This month Queen Victoria Market (QVM) transforms into a winter wonderland in readiness for the iconic Winter Night Market’s annual Christmas in July.

Every Wednesday night until July 27, the market will embrace the festive spirit with jolly line-up of street food, warming drinks, carollers and roving performers.

If Melbourne winter wasn’t cold enough, those wishing for a white Christmas can experience a snow machine under the heritage rooflines of the QVM sheds.

The market halls will be decked with Christmas trees, festively-themed entertainment and some of Melbourne’s best winter warming foods and drinks.

Some highlights to look out for are live ice sculpting, Christmas carols to spread the cheer and joy with all your Yuletide favourites, an illuminated mini forest of Christmas trees, everyone’s favourite Guru Dudu Silent Disco, hot drinks like spiked Milo, mulled wine and hot gin toddies, to get you through the cold, and handcrafted gingerbread.

Christmas in July Winter Night Market is on every Wednesday this July from 5pm to 10pm. ●



For more information:
winternightmarket.com.au

Striding for a healthier community

If you’re a regular to Macaulay Rd, you would have noticed the fresh new fit-out and distinctive orange branding of Kensington’s Stride Health Collective.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

The family-owned and -run business, which offers chiropractic, remedial massage and dietetic services, was founded by Dr Tom Black (Chiropractor) and Caitlyn Hack, with the sole purpose of creating a positive impact on their clients by creating an exciting space that focuses on patient outcomes first and foremost.

Both coming from small country towns, Dr Black spent the early part of his working career in the regions, while Ms Hack nursed in the city. The couple then decided to open up shop at 526 Macaulay Rd (directly across from Hardimans Hotel) in March this year.

While Kensington’s tight-knit village feel was a strong, alluring factor in the couple’s decision to move to the area, Dr Black told *North West City News* it was this friendly community vibe and proximity to the inner-city which vindicated the move into what he describes as the “perfect location”.

“It took about six months for us to get this space into a position where we were ready to welcome new patients,” Dr Black said.

“Now, with our purpose-built rehabilitation area, which features a Noraxon Motion Capture System, chiropractic, remedial massage and dietetic services, we can tailor a comprehensive treatment plan regardless of your age and level of health.”

The motion capture technology allows Dr Black, through the aid of sensors attached to his client’s lower body, to digitally project an individual’s skeleton on-screen and identify any problems that cannot be seen with the naked eye, and then target those areas for improvement.

According to Dr Black, performing a thorough movement evaluation is crucial in managing and preventing chronic pain. There are ideal motions that make us efficient, and anything outside of that can contribute to a host of issues, including lower back pain.

Along with state-of-the-art motion analysis,



▲ *Stride Health Collective owners and founders, Tom and Caitlyn Black.*

Dr Black’s specific chiropractic approach to healthcare primarily focuses on the musculoskeletal systems (bones, joints, muscles and ligaments) and the neurological system (brain, nerves and spinal cord). His treatment follows through manipulation of the spine, soft tissue therapies and rehabilitation exercises.

After two years of a work-from-home revolution, Dr Black said he often provided treatment and advice for clients to avoid poor working posture or as he referred to it as “tech neck.”

“Taking regular breaks is an obvious one. It’s okay to be in a certain position for short

periods, but when you are stuck in a certain position for eight or nine hours a day, that is when it becomes problematic,” Dr Black said.

“Make sure your screen is at the right height – eye height to the top of the screen – you need a chair with proper lumbar support or if it doesn’t have that, lumbar rolls are really good at providing support for the lumbar spine.”

“A big one is when people sit with their legs too close together. When you sit on a chair with your legs together, your pelvis wants to naturally round over and curl back; by getting your legs out of the way, you feel more comfortable keeping your pelvis upright, and the rest of the spine will follow.”

Dr Black said treating common issues with lower back pain, neck pain and headaches not only relieved associated pain levels but improved sleep habits, balance and coordination, helped treat and prevent injuries and enhance overall health and wellbeing.

Adding to their credentials as a holistic health service is Caitlyn, who is already a registered nurse and has now completed her Master of Dietetics and Bachelor of Nutrition Science.

“I’ll be able to provide clients with evidence-based and tailored nutrition and diet advice to help manage many health conditions including diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, heart disease, food intolerances, pregnancy and general wellbeing,” Ms Hack said. ●



For more information:
stridehealthco.com.au



Jack Hayes
BUSINESS EDITOR
JACK@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

QVM TRADER PROFILE

Farm to mug: healthy tea revolutionised

Since purchasing a Bunyip farm in 1999, husband and wife Deva and Lily Wijeyewardene have been making the most of the farm that was previously used to grow herbal teas.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Taking over and expanding the production of the herbal teas has been a worthwhile adventure for the couple, who now have their own business by the name of Australian Tea House.

Their products are sold at Queen Victoria Market among other locations.

“We actually got serious about our farm and started focusing on it around 2009 when we started selling at farmers markets and weekend markets,” Deva said.

“We have a permanent position in the St Kilda Esplanade Market and then one day we got a visit and were invited to have a stall at Queen Victoria Market which for us was a big invitation because I feel it is the pinnacle of all markets.”

Opening up their stall at QVM in April last year, while a slow start due to obvious reasons, has been a massive opportunity for the couple



▲ *Lily Wijeyewardene in front of the couple’s Australian Tea House stall at Queen Victoria Market.*

and one that has given them a presence to have “direct contact with [their] customers”.

“QVM is seriously a fantastic community. It’s a very vibrant ecosystem,” Deva said.

“People don’t just come in, run their stall and go home, there is a lot of interaction and the management is also very concerned about everyone being comfortable.”

This supportive environment combined with the success Australian Tea House has been having both online and at the markets has provided Deva and Lily to think in more depth about where they see themselves going with their teas.

This has led them to move their focus from traditional teas of spearmint and chamomile to a new range of functional herbs which are

known for helping people deal with health concerns.

The unique functional herb blends are continuously well-researched by Deva and come in the form of both teas and supplement powders, with various teas focused on aiding constipation and cold and flu symptoms.

The supplement powders on offer that have helped the line become their fastest moving yet are the full spectrum turmeric powder and the full spectrum moringa powder.

While the turmeric mix aims to help inflammation and “arthritic issues” the moringa mix is created to support the improvement of memory.

The growing success of the functional herbs have led Deva and Lily to start brainstorming what the future of their company looks like, as they consider converting their farm into a community farm for people to visit.

They are also in the process of setting up a dehydration plant with support from the state government and hope to produce more organic powdered products.

Happy with the progress their company has been making, both Lily and Deva are “impressed” with the Queen Victoria Market and are feeling “positive” about the big changes to come for their company. ●



For more information:
australianteahouse.com

Forgotten South African heroines made rightfully visible

Arts House’s latest exhibition is reshaping the way often-forgotten African women were portrayed by non-African people and men, with South African women at the forefront of telling the historical stories.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Curated by Roberta Joy Rich and Naomi Velaphi, *And she was wearing trousers: a call to our heroines* has been in the works since 2019 after many interruptions delayed the opening until June 30 this year.

Considering the exhibition has been a “long time coming”, Ms Velaphi said that both she and Rich were hopeful and determined to share the work of artists from South Africa and artists who identified as African-Australian.

“The seven artists we have brought together have come from different artistic backgrounds as we made a conscious decision to work with performers as well as musicians, which is a bit more unique,” Ms Velaphi said.

The artists, performers, photographers and creatives contributing to the exhibition are Kirsty Marillier, Rara Zulu, Tariro Mavondo, Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Jabu Nadia Newman, blk banaana and Sethembile Msezane.

From sound installations to video work, music video stills, press photographs, collages and typography, the artists are using their unique skills and talents to explore hope, loss, love and determination.

The works also serve to prove their selected heroine is an inspiration and powerful in her own right, despite sometimes being labelled as contentious.

“This project has really allowed us to get a sense of these women characters who, when you look at the archives, are often not written in the best light,” Ms Velaphi said.



“Brenda Fassie was really hounded by the media, and they clung on to all her flaws. She was one of the most famous singers and pop stars South Africa has ever seen and she was a mother, but instead she was known for drug and alcohol addiction.”

Alongside Brenda Fassie, some of the other chosen heroines of Southern Africa explored in the exhibition are Dorothy Masuka, Krotoa, Thenjiwe Lesabe and Queen Lozikeyi.

The inspiration for the exhibition came about when Velaphi, whose father is Zimbabwean, and Rich, who is of South African heritage, were at a library curiously seeing if they could learn more about the women before them and where they came from.

But the results of the search were “limited”. “Through this exhibition we were hoping to put some names out there of people [who] are

not heard of and for people to go on their own journey of discovery,” Ms Velaphi said.

“We were really trying to pick up the things that people often buried or turned on these women and to look at a new perspective from a black female position.”

Alongside the emotive pieces, the curators also ran a collaborative community workshop and brought together eight Melbourne-based Afro-diaspora women to create an additional element of the exhibit.

The result of the four-metre by nine-metre brightly coloured textile print, inspired by African wax prints, came about from the use of screen printing a range of images and objects that represented the strengths of African women.

Created by local women who are not necessarily considered artists, the work adds to

the exhibition’s purpose of identifying the strengths of the heroines and how they inspire the future.

And she was wearing trousers: a call to our heroines will run at the Arts House until August 6. ●

For more information:
artshouse.com.au



Kaylah-Joelle Baker
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PARKVILLE GARDENS RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Quiz night success

It may have been dark and chilly outside, but there was plenty of warmth, light and good cheer at the Parkville Gardens Residents’ Association’s (PGRA) Quiz Night and Community Dinner on June 23.

A great turnout of 55 participants thoroughly enjoyed the hearty meal and the fun of the contest. It was especially pleasing to see a number of fresh and young local faces in attendance, as well as to have the company of a handful of visitors. Everyone had a great time.

A huge thank you to the PGRA’s secretary, Faye Ryan, who did all the planning and organising. A big round of applause for QuizMaster Sparx who kept us all on our toes and well entertained, and for Carlo Pavia and staff at the Reggio Calabria Club who fed us so generously.

In the interests of full disclosure, I admit that my table team (Pot Luck) came last in the quiz. Finally, thank you to the City of Melbourne for the Connected Communities grants that make community events like this possible and affordable.

Applications for next year’s grants closed on Monday, July 11. Readers may like to know that the grants we apply for fall into two categories. One is Small Grants of up to \$2000. We rely on securing this grant to pay for the association’s



mandatory public liability insurance. The other is Impact Grants.

These are aimed at enabling the City of Melbourne to partner with local communities to support their needs and aspirations, empower them to deal with issues, and strengthen community connection, inclusion and capacity. These grants range in size from \$2000 to \$20,000.

Understandably these are in much demand and funds applied for are always in excess of

the budgeted allocation. It’s an anxious wait until December when the awarded grants are announced.

PGRA’s committee is always keen to hear from local residents. We want to be informed about issues affecting the neighbourhood and the community. We’d also love to know what ideas you have for events and activities that will draw the community together and help us grow strong. The very best ideas are those for which you can secure funding and provide leadership.

Get in touch with us please at either president@pgra.org.au or secretary@pgra.org.au.

There was a big burst of publicity when the initial results of the 2021 National Census were released earlier this month. They paint a revealing portrait of the nation in terms of age, ancestry, education, income, religious affiliation, language and many other indicators. It will take time for state and local authorities to extract the figures that pertain to their constituencies. I’m looking forward to what the Census has to tell us about Parkville, and in particular the Parkville Gardens neighbourhood, once the City of Melbourne has been able to process the information.

In the meantime, I’m pleased to report that work on upgrading the safety of the T-intersection of Galada Ave and Oak St has begun. ●

Residents can find us:
facebook.com/groups/pggrass or
email secretary@pgra.org.au.



Tom Knowles
TOM KNOWLES IS THE PRESIDENT OF
PARKVILLE GARDENS ASSOCIATION.
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WE LIVE HERE

Consumer watchdog sues Airbnb after thousands complain

The federal government’s consumer watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), has instituted proceedings in the Federal Court against Airbnb for allegedly misleading consumers.

In court documents, the ACCC alleges that from 2018 to 2021, Airbnb made false or misleading representations to thousands of Australian consumers by displaying prices on its website or mobile app for Australian accommodation using only a dollar sign (\$), without making it clear that those prices were in US dollars.

The ACCC website alleges that the behaviour went further: “When thousands of consumers complained to Airbnb about being charged more than the displayed price, the ACCC alleges that Airbnb engaged in further misleading or deceptive conduct by telling many of them that it had displayed prices in US dollars because the user had selected this currency, when this was often not the case.”

“We allege that Airbnb’s misleading conduct meant that consumers were deprived of the opportunity to make an informed choice about whether, and at what price, to book their holiday accommodation on the Airbnb platform,” ACCC chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb said.

“Despite thousands of consumers complaining to Airbnb about the way prices were displayed, Airbnb didn’t amend its booking platform until after the ACCC raised the issue.”

The watchdog is suing US-based Airbnb Inc. and Airbnb Ireland UC, seeking declarations, injunctions, pecuniary penalties, orders for the compensation for affected consumers.

The ACCC legal suit follows another year of bad press for Airbnb.

Last year Airbnb was forced to suspend a

Victorian host for banning guests who had received the COVID vaccine and for falsely claiming vaccinated people were infectious. The host refused to accept bookings from guests who had been vaccinated with “experimental C-19 gene therapy vaccines”.

In the Moorabbin Magistrates’ Court last month, the owner of an Airbnb property in Hepburn pleaded guilty to a charge of harassing a guest with a message saying she would “burn in hell”. The host was angered by the guest who left a review on a travel website saying his Airbnb rental was “just OK”.

Four years of the “damp squib”

In 2018 the Victorian Government passed the weakest regulatory restrictions for short-term letting ever seen in Australia, to the delight of Airbnb.

After the tragic stabbing death of a young woman at a party in a short-stay apartment in the Melbourne CBD at EQ Tower in July 2018, Premier Andrews stated that his government would look into tightening regulations for short-stay apartments.

Despite this promise, in August 2018 the government passed the same legislation word for word that had been rejected by the Upper House as inadequate more than 12 months earlier.

The government stated in its policy response that it would conduct a review in 2021 to see whether the new regulations were working and would seek feedback from stakeholders and resident groups at that time. However, this review was not inserted into the Bill and the Labor Government has not conducted the review.

The former Shadow Minister for Planning David Davis once addressed Parliament to slam the government for reintroducing the same legislation which he labelled “weak”, “pathetic” and a “damp squib.” The Liberal Party told Parliament that it would seek to have this legislation amended if it were to form government at the next election. Ultimately however, the Liberal Party did not block the passing of the Bill when it came time to vote on the legislation

and was absent from the chamber when it was put to the vote.

The outcome ranked as one of the worst cases of politicking and back-room deals seen in Parliament.

Tom Bacon, CEO of Strata Title Lawyers said at the time, “The legislation is not worth the paper it is written on. These regulations are the lightest feather of a touch, and do not provide owners’ corporations with any meaningful way of regulating the issues associated with short-term stays. I would not advise owners’ corporations to use these regulations; it would be a costly exercise and a waste of time.”

What do we want?

We Live Here calls on the Andrews government to announce a policy overhaul before the November state election:

1. AMEND the Owners’ Corporation Act 2006 to regulate the short-stay industry – far beyond the scope of the woefully inadequate pro-Airbnb “party” bill that was shamefully passed just before the election. The Airbnb “party” bill made it even harder for owners’ corporations to recoup costs of damage and it completely ignored issues of security, amenity and community development – these issues must be addressed.

2. INTRODUCE a registration system to manage the burgeoning short-stay industry.

3. RESTORE POWERS to owners’ corporations to make decisions about use of a lot, lost in Justice Riordan’s Supreme Court decision in July 2017.

4. ENGAGE with We Live Here. Talk to us – we represent more than 350 buildings in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and globally. More than 80 per cent of Melbourne’s resident population lives in strata buildings. We can help you understand how to look after strata communities.

Mr Andrews, you must be aware that governments around the nation and around the world are grappling with the issue of short-stays and the lack of affordable housing; and the various means of regulation being adopted

by NSW, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Canberra, New York, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Berlin, etc.

Local councils in Victoria, tired of waiting for meaningful action from the state government are starting to implement their own versions of the most basic regulations to protect the community: Councils in the Yarra Valley, Frankston, and the Mornington Peninsula have each developed regulations around issues such as registration, day limits and accountability.

COVID provided a brief respite from short-stays due to the significant drop in visitors. Disturbingly many commercial operators with swags of apartments, not just Airbnb, are now beginning to flood the market. Forget about the industry spin that it’s just “Mums and Dads wanting to a rent out a room in their own home” – we are witnessing a large-scale commercialisation of the residential market.


Right now, the government has an amazing opportunity to put Melbourne on the map by proactively implementing regulation before the whole short-stay issue gets totally out of hand once again.

You have seen what happens to a leader who does not listen to the electorate.

Please, Mr Andrews listen to your community. Talk to us. Hear us. Stand up for us.

Campaign donations


As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit **welivehere.net**. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests. ●



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ROTARY CLUB OF FLEMINGTON & KENSINGTON

Rotary wins thanks to support from North West City News

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington has been recognised with a “public image” award by its Rotary District Governor Dale Hoy following a successful nomination.

Thanks to *North West City News*, and the materials on our website, newsletter and social media, we won the category – thanks to the team at *North West City News* for its support.



▲ Rebecca Smith, Melanie Del Monaco (City of Melbourne) and Lesley McCarthy.

Neighbourhood House manager awarded for “outstanding leadership”

The highly respected manager of Kensington Neighbourhood House Rebecca Smith was recognised for her outstanding community leadership at the recent Rotary Flemington Kensington president’s dinner.

The Vance Hilton Community Leadership award is presented annually, recognising a member of the community who has gone beyond what could be expected of them. The award is in memory of one of the club’s founding members and a past Rotary District Governor who was passionate about community and developing leaders to help others.

In presenting the award, president Lesley McCarthy spoke of the significant strategies and programs implemented by Kensington Neighbourhood House during COVID, and the support given to local residents and their families.

From food parcels, to homework packs, technology and digital support and health and wellbeing, the breadth and depth of support provided to the community across these three priority areas was extraordinary.

The award comprises a certificate of recognition, membership of the club and a donation to the charity of the recipient’s choice. Rebecca chose to donate to Kensington’s The Venny – a free communal backyard and safe space for children aged 5 to 16 located in JJ Holland Park.

Let’s talk about mental health

After becoming aware of a need in the community, the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington held a mental health forum in May titled, “Let’s Talk About Mental Health”.

A large group attended including many from the culturally and linguistically diverse communities living in Flemington, Kensington and North Melbourne.

Featuring a keynote address by well-known local psychologist Maria Ruberto, who has worked in local schools for more than 20 years, the audience heard about the reasons behind some mental illnesses, the signs and symptoms, the “two-week rule” and how to support family and friends experiencing distress. Maria also spoke about mental health first aid (MHFA) and its importance in training community members to better understand and support people experience mental illness.

The club’s ARH PhD scholar Catherine Johnston focussed on mental health in primary school aged children and how teachers and school staff can recognise, understand and support children with mental health issues. Her presentation focussed on teachers having the skills to support children and work with parents.

Dr Parisa Shiran from the Centre for Multicultural Women’s Health spoke on the challenges facing women and their families in the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) setting. She challenged the audience to explore

how migrants are able to seek and find support when their visa/migrant status does not allow them to access Medicare; when unemployment or economic issues prevent private healthcare; how racism impacts on mental health; the waiting lists and time difficulties to access help; and the language challenges when there is no vocabulary for anxiety, depression, mental health in your ethnic language.

Finally, the audience heard an interview with a young woman from an Eritrean background who has “lived” experience of mental health in a CALD setting. Fatima was interviewed by Catherine from HeadSpace who asked Fatima to describe her early symptoms her response to the illness, where and how she was able to access support and how support from a counsellor helped her heal.

At the end of the presentations, audience members were encouraged to ask questions either in the main forum, or individually as our presenters offered their time and counsel.

One issue which arose during the evening, was the lack of support for teenagers and their parents in accessing assistance, and for the CALD communities, knowing where to go, how to ask for help and the dialogue between parents and their children. ●



For more information:
rotaryflemington.org.au or email
info@rotaryflemington.org.au



A win for Victorians and a plan to get one million homes off gas!

Hello! I'm Samantha, your Greens MP in the Victorian upper house representing the Northern Metropolitan region. I'm very happy to share that your local state MP for Melbourne, Ellen Sandell, has welcomed beautiful baby Luca into the family. Ellen is taking a short period of maternity leave but her staff, and mine, are here to help.

WORDS BY *Dr Samantha Ratnam*
MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE FOR THE NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION

While Ellen is enjoying this precious time with her new baby, I wanted to share with you a very exciting climate win for Victoria on an issue Ellen and the Greens have been working hard to tackle - getting our state off gas!

As we know, gas is a major contributor to the climate crisis. It actually makes up 17 per cent of Victoria's emissions, and it's getting more and more expensive. Research has also shown just how bad gas is for our respiratory health, causing around 12 per cent of childhood asthma.

Yet Victoria's current planning laws require all new homes to be connected to gas, something that really makes no sense. Back in March, Ellen asked the Minister for Planning to change these laws to make it easier for new homes to be all-electric and save home-owners from having to transition them down the track.

Unfortunately, the Planning Minister said no and denied this was a substantial issue.

In response to this disappointing response from the Government, the Victorian Greens brought a bill to parliament that would not only allow homes to be free from gas connections immediately, but also ban all new gas connections from 2025.

Within two weeks of us bringing this bill to parliament, the Victorian Labor Government announced that it would stop new homes from being required to connect to gas.

This is a small win, but it's an important one. And it goes to show the power your Greens MPs can have in Parliament in pushing the government further and faster to get off gas and tackle the climate crisis.

But we won't be stopping here! Victoria still has a lot of work to do to become gas-free and this will be a key issue for the Greens in the lead up to the November election.

I'm excited to share that in the last few days we've announced our detailed plan for a gas-free Victoria, which includes incentives to help one million homes get off gas, banning new gas connections from 2025, and stopping all new gas projects - including gas drilling near the



▲ Greens MPs Ellen Sandell (left) and Dr Samantha Ratnam (right) outside the Victorian Parliament.

Twelve Apostles.

You can find out more about our plan to get Victoria off gas here: greens.org.au/vic/gas-free

None of this would be possible without the dedication of your local MP, Ellen Sandell, who has been fighting for climate action since she

very first stepped into parliament (and long before!)

Ellen's office is open as normal. If there's anything you need help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or Ellen's wonderful team. ●

To contact Ellen's team:
office@ellensandell.com

Dr Samantha Ratnam:
samantha.ratnam@parliament.vic.gov.au

METRO TUNNEL



▼ Crews installing the floating slab track through the Metro Tunnel.

Track laying starts in the Metro Tunnel

The Metro Tunnel Project – a key investment in Victoria's infrastructure boom – has reached a major milestone with the first stage of track laying under way.

Crews have begun installing custom-made concrete panels into the twin nine-kilometre tunnels. Manufactured in Melbourne, the high-tech panels – known as floating slab track – reduce noise and vibration from trains running underground.

This initial layer of track has already been installed between the western Metro Tunnel entrance in Kensington and Arden Station in North Melbourne. Work is now underway to install the panels between State Library and Parkville stations.

The floating slab track is installed at points where the tunnel depth is shallow – for example at the tunnel entrances – or where there are buildings nearby. About five kilometres of FST in total will be installed in several sections of the tunnels, before a second layer of custom-made concrete panels is laid through the entire length of the tunnels.

The nearly 40km of Australian-made rail will then be installed, as workers progressively clip 165m lengths of steel to the concrete panels and weld them together to form a continuous line.

Crews will start laying rail at State Library Station in the heart of the CBD and work

through to Parkville and Arden stations before finishing at the western tunnel entrance in Kensington.

Once that section is completed, they will return to State Library Station and work towards the eastern tunnel entrance in South Yarra, laying rail through Town Hall and Anzac stations.

The production of floating slab track has generated a further 40 jobs at concrete manufacturer Westkon in Melbourne's west, while supporting many indirect roles such as fabricators and truck drivers.

Up to 100 people at the family-owned business are involved in the supply of the panels, which are produced at Westkon's factories in Cobblebank, near Melton, and Sunshine.

Track laying will take about 12 months to complete ahead of testing trains inside the Metro Tunnel in 2023.

When it opens in 2025 – a year ahead of schedule – the Metro Tunnel will create a new end-to-end line from Cranbourne/Pakenham in the south east to Sunbury in the north west and will eventually provide a future direct link to Melbourne Airport via Melbourne Airport Rail.

It will create capacity for more than half-a-million additional passengers per week during peak times across Melbourne's rail network. ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

SATELLITE FOUNDATION



Satellite Foundation exhibitions celebrate talent and diversity

The Satellite Foundation has celebrated its first-ever Satellite Slam, a true celebration of the voice, work, and people making up this small but growing organisation.

The June 15 event took place at our Community House in North Melbourne, which showcased the coming together of the core elements that make up Satellite Foundation and the unique aspects of Satellite's programs. These include peer connection, creativity, and the sharing of thoughts and experiences.

There were four interactive exhibition spaces where guests could get a glimpse into the programs and activities on offer at Satellite Foundation, and the work that has been created by the participants.

The *LOOK* exhibition included a selection of photographic works taken by young people during various Satellite workshops – both at home and in person. Photography is a powerful way to share our point of view and our stories; it is a way to create connections and to be seen.

The *LISTEN* exhibition showcased the various ways that music and sound are used in a range of Satellite workshops.

The *FEEL* exhibition showcased examples of Satellite's workshops and the materials used. It offered guests a chance to add their own creative voice to this wonderful conversation.

Satellite celebrates the diversity of individual creativity and the connections formed through making and sharing ourselves this way.

The *TELL YOUR STORY* exhibition was curated by members of Satellite's Youth Advisory Council and included a collection of six-word memoirs: small sentences that tell our stories, reflect on Satellite's impact, and reflect our values of connection, collaboration, and holding space. Guests added their own six-word memoirs to the space.

The performance program included spoken word poetry by Satellite participant Denna Healey, a panel discussion by the Youth Advisory Council, a talk on creative writing with writer and disability advocate Laura Pettenuzzo and author Henry von Doussa, and finally, a group music exercise by the wonderful music therapist Sierra Verity-Beasley. ●

For more information:
satellitefoundation.org.au

CRITIC



▲ Gosia Wlodarczak at her home in Richmond with Personal Space Safety Zone.



▲ A tablecloth in the show.

The cloth we share

For many, the ultimate form of entertainment is a dinner party that brings together a group of art world personalities and bon vivants.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Guest of honour at a dinner on Friday night at Gallerysmith is an artist with a passion for the moment.

She will move from place to place, drawing on the tablecloth as the dinner proceeds.

Gosia Wlodarczak is a follower of Derrida, the French philosopher of the free form, and she'll be a fun accompaniment to the main course.

The tablecloth she draws on will be part of a retrospective of tablecloths she has created over the past 10 years, not all of them at dinner parties.

"My husband is a diabetic," Gosia told *North West City News*, and she's worked on one over a month around his meals.

Gallerysmith is a serious gallery in Abbotsford St and Gosia is an international performance artist with an impressive record who, like many Europeans, sees life as a farce.

One of her most famous projects involved wrapping pieces of furniture in cloth and drawing over them with a pigment pen to simulate the settling of dust over time.

She called the project *Dust Covers* and it was exhibited at Western Washington University.

Her work has some similarities to that of Sol de Witt who sends out instructions so others can actually execute his ideas in distant places.

"I really want to do instructional drawings," she said, but that is a challenge, given that she creates quite exhausting algorithms for her work.

In *Personal Space Safety Zone* she sat for hours in various positions to simulate various stages of engagement and recorded her impressions in pen on canvas.

All of her linework represents what she registers in the moment, not in terms of perspective but in outline.

"I'm not trying to represent spatially but the shapes my eyes see," she said. "I try and draw quickly to show the situation. When you wake up and open your eyes you don't know what you're looking at. I think these are the real shapes."

Gosia was trained as a conceptual artist in Poznan in Poland and moved to Australia when she was 35.

She's a free spirit and an inspiration to plodders, in the way that Derrida livened up the structuralists with his poetic approach to the academic text.

This is her first exhibition since 2015 and represents a move away from her project work, which is ephemeral like life, towards pieces that can be collected.

Her Instagram posts are extensive, with 365 works created in one year, some set around a dinner plate, others around a fictional cat.

Prepare to be amused at *The Cloth We Share*, which is showing until August 20. ●

ENVIRONMENT

Part two: Moving to a low energy future – energy descent

To avoid further tipping points in our climate system, and to be serious about a sustainable future, we need to use significantly less fossil fuels in order to lower carbon emissions.

Fossil fuels will become significantly more expensive and energy shocks will occur, as supplies cannot cope with demand and there is not yet an alternative energy source that can provide energy as cheaply as fossil fuels have in the past. We must accept the inevitability of life with dramatically lower energy consumption.

To move from our current consumption-orientated behaviour that relies on cheap oil to a future less reliant on this type of energy requires society to find a new way of living.

Energy descent as a concept was first described by ecologists Odum and Odum in 2001. It is a term used by an emerging movement, which focuses on solutions to peak oil.

Operating in an energy descent culture is realising that we cannot continue as is or try to sustain our way of living by replacing our current energy sources and systems with other "clean" energy sources.

We have the opportunity and invitation to reconfigure our energy priorities by taking the knowledge we have learned through this "energy ascent" time and plan for the process of living with less net energy that is kinder to all humanity, other creatures, and the planet.

This planning will allow us to rethink and prioritise what the available energy should be used for, which might require restrictions on some activity. While government legislation and policies might start to address this, trying to work this out globally could be difficult.

However, as individuals we can already make low energy choices in our daily lives and plan for this descent. It will be helpful for us to start to live a life using less energy derived from fossil fuels.

The Transition Town Movement is a grassroots global movement that started to increase self-sufficiency and finds ways to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, transitioning to less energy use. Growing since 2005, transition is about communities coming together and stepping up to address the big challenges they face by starting local.

Energy Descent Action Plans (EDAP) are an emerging and dynamic ingredient of transition, EDAPs are guides that explore the different routes or pathways we can take to reduce our use and dependence on fossil fuels and prepare for the effects of global warming. It goes beyond energy consumption and looks at across-the-board creative adaptation in the realms of health, education, economy, and more.

An EDAP is a tool to think ahead, to plan in an integrated, multidisciplinary way, to provide direction to local government, decision-makers, groups, and individuals with an interest in making the place they live into a vibrant community in a post carbon era.

The first EDAP was written in 2005 in Kinsale, Ireland, however however *The Transition in Action: An Energy Descent Action Plan* produced by Totnes, England, in June 2010, is the most substantial so far.

Energy descent has also been described as referring to a future scenario in which humanity has successfully adapted to the declining net energy available and has become more localised and self-reliant. It is a term favoured by people looking at decreasing the use of energy as an opportunity for positive change rather than an inevitable disaster.

Without action all the best intentions and all the strongest rhetoric remains meaningless. Starting the work of transition means breaking

free of the illusion that we are all powerless within systems over which we have little control. Our energy use is our responsibility and is within our power to change it.

A starting point for any individual is awareness. What is your current energy use and where do you want to move to? What is your motivation to transition?

How reliant are you on the current energy systems? What is your vulnerability and/or exposure if you cannot access gas, petrol, water, food, etc.

One way to start to understand your current energy use is by doing an energy audit. Oil is in everything, if not contained in the actual product, it is part of its production, engineering, harvesting and/or transporting.

As a start you can ask yourself the following questions ...

- How do you heat and cool your home/s?
- Lighting and water use?
- How do you move around?
- How do you provide for your food needs?
- How do you clothe yourself? Materials, production?
- What and how much do you buy? And how is it packaged/produced??
- What do you do with your waste?
- How much meat do you eat?
- Where does your money go – in what and to whom does your bank invest?

Without a plan we will more than likely end up somewhere we do not want to be.

Some steps and guides for Individuals to move to a less energy intensive lifestyle will be continued in part three. ●



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ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

Still Sacred and Golden: A reminder of the true gold

An exhibition focused on celebrating plants and cultural practices is being presented at the Koorie Heritage Trust, but while not blatantly obvious from first glance, the work actually explores deeper themes.

WORDS BY Kaylah-Joelle Baker

Behind the *Still Sacred and Golden* work is award-winning multimedia visual artist and proud Wadawurrung woman Dr Deanne Gilson, who through her work hopes to share how the objectification of Aboriginal women has resulted in deep pain – a topic she closely examined in her PhD at Deakin University.

"I am looking at the objects of our daily lives and as a First Nations artist responding to the objectified and yet showing us as still here, and our culture is still sacred to us," Dr Gilson said.

"The flowers are all about honouring the beauty of Country and our women with the knowledge held in the baskets I will be painting."

The exhibition has 17 new paintings and each speaks about how Aboriginal women who were subjected to objectification by both the male



"My ancestors had no use of gold itself, it is just a metaphor. The true gold isn't the gold from the gold fields, it's us."



and female colonial gaze, particularly within Dr Gilson's ancestral line, lost their spiritual connection to place, Country and each other.

"I hope my artwork aids in some small way towards the awakening of my women's spirit once again. The bond for me is still sacred and it is not broken, but it has been just quietly resting until now," she said.

Dr Gilson grew up in Naarm – Melbourne – before relocating back to her Ancestral Country, which includes Ballarat and surrounding areas, with her family.

As an experienced artist, Dr Gilson's previous

work has surrounded deep themes of colonial disruption, loss of family, culture, language and traditional women's practices and the continuing impact of loss on Aboriginal women today.

Through the self-reflective aspect of her contemporary art she hopes people can take time to heal, and disrupt and challenge the gaze.

The concept of celebrating both the plants, cultural practices and contemporary women's business comes through within the exhibition's title of *Still Sacred and Golden*. A strong title with an even stronger meaning behind it, similar to Dr Gilson's work.

"The gold references two things for me, the gold fields in which I live and that our knowledge is golden and important and worth more than gold," she said.

"My ancestors had no use of gold itself, it is just a metaphor. The true gold isn't the gold from the gold fields, it's us."

Still Sacred and Golden opens Saturday, June 18 and continues at Koorie Heritage Trust in Federation Square until Sunday, September 18. ●

NATURE

Guggenheim Gumleaf

Either the owner-builder of this gum leaf structure has seen the Guggenheim Museum or influential American architect Frank Lloyd Wright paid a visit to North Melbourne before designing his famous art gallery - or so one would imagine.

WORDS BY *Howard Birnstihl*

Just look at the economy of effort and materials. The sheer audacity of it.

Any architect would salivate at the absolute simplicity and if this were an article on men and their buildings I'd be waxing eloquent here about our famous local architects like Robin Boyd or Roy Grounds. As it isn't, I won't. Let's instead discuss some of the lesser known, and somewhat smaller builders in our world.

I don't know which laval grub produced this structure as I didn't have the heart to make a destructive investigation but if I ever find another one which looks like this I'll be fairly certain it was made by the same species.

Human architects may be stylists but there is always a degree of variation in their work, whereas most insects and other small spiders, crustaceans and even larger birds and animals seem to have once found the best solution to



their design problem, stick to it no matter what. ((Nice, too, not to have a fernickety client standing over you, demanding inane changes ... perhaps another window here...?).

Just as a small child in the Philippines might use the leaf of a rainforest tree as an umbrella in a torrential downpour, the use of a simple leaf for shelter is quite common in nature.

Leaf curling spiders and some caterpillars will manipulate a leaf and secure it in place with the silk extruded from a special gland. The spiders hang their version upon more silk guy ropes at night, legs dangling out waiting for the tell-tale tug on one of their trip wires.

Caterpillars are less aggressive, merely using the curled leaf in which to pupate before emerging as a moth or butterfly (and perhaps becoming prey of that spider to keep the food chain trundling along).

Swallows and wasps are masters of mud manipulation, and their constructions rival the adobe buildings of Mexico or anything you'd find more locally out in Eltham.

Swallows tend to build their mud nests in



fairly secure places such as a corner of your garden shed or maybe under the Dynon Rd overpass, whereas the more precocious willie wagtails build their cup-shaped homes out in the open, say, in Royal Park.

Usually about three metres above the ground, propped up in the middle of a branch, they're plain to see [but only, of course, if you're looking]. If you've never seen one then you'll understand that even though they're out in the open this doesn't mean they are particularly vulnerable. If they were, there would be no wagtails around.

Caddisfly larvae, also relying on local materials, glue together twigs, tiny pebbles, or junk (such as minute cast-off shells of baby snails) into snug mobile homes and drag them around the bottom of creeks and ponds. These mobile homes are very secure and safe from most predators as they are brilliantly camouflaged.

Spiders, as we know, weave wonders with their various kinds of silk (some sticky to catch their prey, others not) in producing a wide variety of homes from spirals of all sizes to deep dense tunnels. Some burrowing spiders add tightly fitting bath plugs to their holes and

build special sliding panels and counter-weighted passage-blockers to keep the (other) nasties out. In fact, spider experts like Barbara Main find they can sometimes identify species more easily from these designer diggings than from body recognition.

Another tunneller to make this habit an art form is the platypus. Starting on the dry riverbank, the platypus digs a burrow with a section which dips down below the waterline thus creating a laterally thought-out moat.

In fact, this is a door made of water - ingenious - and few predators are likely to either twig to its function or have the courage to take the plunge.

Mallee hens and Lyrebirds are great mound builders while in the hotter climes of the Northern Territory, termites build their mounds much taller than a man, making sure to orient them strictly on a north/south alignment. Inside, the labyrinth of tunnels includes living space for incredible numbers and the co-operation required to achieve such a citadel is awe-inspiring.

Anyway, if you have a taste for good architecture, might I suggest once you've finished with the big smoke, a day in the bush wouldn't go astray.

If you would like to see more of my work, scan the QR code below, or check my Youtube channel under my name. ●



NORTH WEST CITY LOCAL

Providing musical opportunities one note at a time

For Brennan Smith, music has always been a passion since he left high school and he is now using it to help others realise their own potential.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Moving to Kensington in January, Mr Smith set up *21st Century Music Tuition* from his home studio shortly after the move and continues to shape future local musicians.

"I have taught a variety of music styles and people of different ages and backgrounds," he said.

"It's been great, and I feel like everybody has been quite fulfilled by either extending themselves to have a new hobby or to take it further and start recording their own music at home."

While specialising in teaching people guitar, keyboard, bass guitar, drums, ukulele and music theory, Mr Smith's lessons are also used to inspire people to use modern technology in the music process.

Teaching modern music technology came about after he noticed "there was a lack of access" to this kind of teaching in schools.

"I really wanted to give students the opportunity to interact with the newest things available in music which is really important in the 21st century," he said.

"In the lessons, along with the normal instrument process of learning how to read music, I supplement the classes with a lot of recording and mixing software."

As well as emphasising recording as an accessible tool for students to use at home, Mr Smith also teaches how to use virtual instruments using a computer that allows you to manipulate and produce the sounds you are after.

Inspired to continue making an impact in Kensington, a community he moved to because it is a "good location" and has "great community



vibes", Mr Smith is encouraging anyone with the slightest bit of interest in music to reach out.

"One of the best things about music is discovering your own confidence and identity as a person, and I have seen students over the years do this constantly," he said.

"[Music helps] you find your confidence in performance and come out of your shell, it also provides a bit of an escape and parallel to everyday life." ●

For more information:
21stcenturymusic.net.au

MELBOURNE ZOO

Mouse matchmakers bring native back from the brink

A tiny endangered native mouse has a big future thanks to a new conservation breeding program that's been launched at Melbourne Zoo.



The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced a new breeding program which pairs Pookila – coupling the native mice to regenerate the wild population.

The Victorian Pookila Captive Breeding and Reintroduction Program will see genetically diverse breeding pairs matched and housed at Melbourne Zoo and Moonlit Sanctuary with the eventual goal of releasing the offspring.

Derived from the Ngarigo word for "mouse" – bugila – Pookila was adopted by the federal government in 1995 as the Indigenous name for the species formerly known as the New Holland Mouse.

The small, burrowing rodents, native to south-eastern Australia, are endangered in Victoria. Similar in size to the introduced House Mouse, they can be distinguished by their large eyes, rounded ears, a bi-coloured pink and dusky brown tail, and the absence of "mousey" odour.

Seven of the known Victorian populations have become extinct in the last decades, with sites shrinking to just five across the Gippsland region, including at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The population decline is due to habitat loss including from drought and bushfire, feral predators, competition from non-native rodent species and loss of genetic diversity.

To combat this, a team of scientists has "paired" – specially matched based on where they were collected, their genetic diversity and behaviour – 22 of the 3000 mice that remain in Victoria.

The program aims to breed more genetically healthy and resilient mice that can be released into the wild, strengthening existing

populations and creating new ones.

"We're making record investments into biodiversity so our unique native species – big and small – can thrive in the wild for generations to come," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

"We're proud to use the Ngarigo name for this adorable native mouse and to be investing in its future."

Zoos Victoria Native Rodent Biologist Dr Phoebe Burns said wild populations of the Pookila had crashed in recent decades.

"Here in Victoria, we have probably only got a few thousand Pookila left in the wild, and that is quite a catastrophic decline," she said.

Working with our conservation partners we want to boost numbers in the wild back up to a sustainable level where they can be safe into the future.

"We are going to be pairing our animals based on how genetically different they are so that their babies are going to have the best, most diverse genetics and then we can reintroduce those animals back out into the wild to boost genetics in the wild populations."

"The mice will be housed here at Melbourne Zoo and at Moonlit Sanctuary down in Pearcedale. So, we will have two great facilities where we can breed the mice and build up our numbers so that we have animals to release back into the wild."

"It is really exciting to be able to make a difference in the long-term conservation of this gorgeous native species."

Moonlit Sanctuary founder and director Michael Johnson said his team was looking forward to working with the Pookila.

"Moonlit Sanctuary is thrilled to invest in the recovery of another threatened Victorian species," Mr Johnson said. ●

KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

Younghusband revisited

In 2018, together with Kensington Association treasurer Tony Ceddia, I attended a community gathering on the ground floor of the Younghusband building hosted by the Impact Investment Group (IIG). Wine and cheese were served, and as members of the Kensington Association executive, we were made to feel very welcome.

There was a feeling of optimism and some excitement about what was being planned for the site. IIG had purchased the Younghusband building in December 2016 with a commitment to the principles of sustainability, connection, collaboration and belonging.

Its plan was to rejuvenate the site over five years by creating spaces for a rich mix of businesses, creators, makers, and doers – what they called “a beautiful industrial village”.

That time, that optimism, that vision ... it all feels like a dream now. We all know that the world was invaded by the COVID pandemic; finances collapsed, developers cut their losses, and bold visions became dreams. The vision conceived by IIG was no exception; it managed to redesign and sell on to a new consortium. As reported by Brendan Rees in the April edition of *North West City News*, the consortium comprises the Irongate Group, together with Canadian real estate firm Ivanhoé Cambridge, and construction group Built. This consortium has recently applied for a permit to amend the redesign. They have issued an open invitation to “a community information session” to provide information on their plans, with the opportunity to ask questions: **Monday, July 18, 7pm to 8.30 PM – Main Room, Kensington Town Hall**

There is no doubt that Kensingtonians place a great value on heritage precincts; the

Younghusband building is a standout example. The question is (and has always been), how can such an iconic building be suitably repurposed? I would encourage any residents and business owners to attend this meeting. The new owners need to be interrogated on their plans; this is not any old “warehouse conversion”!

As evidenced from press releases by the consortium, there is no doubt the partners recognise the iconic nature of building. For example, the construction group Built has a very impressive record in repurposing heritage buildings. Built CEO Brett Mason said, “our capability as a development and construction group will allow us to ... give these heritage buildings new life respectful of their rich history”. A consortium press release in March stated that “Kensington is one of Melbourne’s last remaining ‘villages by the city’” and “with a new train station [Arden] and recent investment from some of the world’s leading private and public investors, the area will be home to the full “work, live, play” experience that characterises some of the world’s greatest neighbourhoods”.

Inspiring words. Clearly the consortium recognises the juxtaposition of the Younghusband building between the centre of the Arden Structure Plan and Kensington village. One consortium leader is quoted as saying, “We look forward to integrating this beautiful heritage asset into the wider Kensington community

Use	Approved Size	Proposed Size	Difference
Arts Studio (Art & Craft Centre)	2,242sqm	-	-2,242sqm
Education Centre	123sqm	-	-123sqm
Food & Drink Premises	546sqm	1,146sqm	+600sqm
Gallery (Place of Assembly)	310sqm	-	-310sqm
Industry	2,894sqm	-	-2,894sqm
Office	8,536sqm	14,965sqm	+6,429sqm
Restaurant	1,824sqm	1,498sqm	-1,824sqm
Restricted Retail Facility	310sqm	-	-310sqm
Warehouse	1,230sqm	-	-1,230sqm
Total	18,015sqm	17,609sqm	-406sqm

▲ Table 1 provides a comparison of the approved and proposed land uses for the stage 1 development.


and creating an amenity for all local residents.”

The question for the community is whether or not the development plans live up to this rhetoric. Do the plans have the potential to give the buildings “a new life respectful of their rich history?” How successful will the plans be in “creating an amenity for all local residents?” How will the plans enable the area to become “home to the full ‘work, live, play’ experience that characterises some of the world’s greatest neighbourhoods?”

On page 49 of the application to amend the proposal we find the following table pictured above ...

This is a snapshot of some of proposed

changes for the use of land for (what was) Stage 1 of the original proposal. My reading is that the proposal is for the Younghusband building to become another office block. If this is the case, the rhetoric from the consortium and the potential of their plans are poles apart. I hope I’m wrong! ●



Simon Harvey

PRESIDENT

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NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT TRADER PROFILE

Celebrating 10 years of award-winning design

“

For Anne Hindley, the road to opening her own West Melbourne-based architecture and industrial design firm, Hindley and Co, isn’t exactly your typical one.

”

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*



Alan Powell Architects, who I adored greatly, it was certainly the time, I felt, to open my own firm.”

The small local firm, which consists of a core team of four women, all qualified architects, and five permanent contractors, celebrates its 10th birthday this year.

According to Ms Hindley, her firm works on mid- to high-end residential projects, from new-builds like their Sand Dune Sanctuary, which kept only the previous building’s original floor slab turning it into a refined and textured modernist beach house, to renovations like their Albert Park House; a dramatic and moody renovation of an original 1900s heritage-listed Victorian terrace in Albert Park.

“We’re fans of maintaining the character of original houses, with their great high ceilings and details; if they have already lasted over 100 years, there is already something pretty special

Every time one space opens to another, there is a relationship between those two spaces.

about them,” she said.

“We don’t just leave a façade and gut everything behind it. As architects, we want to profit from all the space of the house. Every time one space opens to another, there is a relationship between those two spaces.”

“General heritage policy externally, and we believe internally as well, you don’t try to replicate the original. You respect and acknowledge the original, but you are wanting to say this a new intervention.”

Just like design fads and fashions change, so too does technology and the way people interact with sun or their gardens, Ms Hindley said her firm made a delineation between old and new buildings in their design process to acknowledge that.

With the benefit of experience and connection with Europe, she has the fortune to apply what she has learnt with relation to heritage issues in an Australia context.

“In terms of our approach, there is a lot of thought put into the relationships and emotions of a place,” Ms Hindley said. “Through decades of observation, we know how to increase the tranquillity of a space or the uplifting sunny

side to a space, therefore, we can amplify what people want to feel in a particular space.”

“That is where owners come into things. It’s a question about what lights them up? Are they high-energy people who love lots of pattern and colour everywhere, or are they more introverted and want to come home and chill and have a sanctuary? That is where our design responds to their needs.”

While her membership in the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) is a nod to her local roots, Ms Hindley can confess to being a truly local, local.

Not only is her studio based at the “mighty Apollo” on Hawke St, but she also attended Errol Street Primary, now North Melbourne Primary, and University High School after that.

It seems with a love for the area’s centrality and mix industrial and residential character, Ms Hindley won’t be taking her firm anywhere else soon, however, she has earmarked some significant additions to fabric of her firm.

“Our core value is about education in the firm and nurturing our people. One of our architects has just completed the ‘Passive House’ course, where she will become a certified Passive House designer,” she said.

“Passive House is a design standard that originated in Germany, that achieves thermal comfort with minimal heating and cooling by using insulation, airtightness, appropriate window and door design, ventilation systems with heat recovery, and elimination of thermal bridges.”

“Everything we do is considerate to the environment already, but for those looking to take things up a notch, we will have this service now.” ●

For more information:
hindleyandco.com.au

HISTORY

Hotels of North Melbourne

Standing at the corner of Arden and Abbotsford streets, the British Hotel was licensed on June 29, 1865. Four years later, in 1869, the Prince Charlie opened on the diagonal corner of the same streets.

WORDS BY *Felicity Jack*
HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT



Walking east along Arden St, there was the Sunnyside (corner of Curzon St, licensed in September 1868) and the Limerick Castle (on the corner of Errol St, licensed in 1863). The Loughmore Castle, the first on the street to receive a licence in 1858, and the Athletic Club, first licensed in 1873 under the name the Vale of Avoca, were both on the southern corners of Leveson St.

It is notable that all these hotels were situated on a corner, possibly to make them more visible to passing customers but also giving the public a good view of who was entering.

The Athletic Club, Loughmore Castle and the Sunnyside were all deprived of their licences as a result of the 1904 Local Option Poll that had been set up as a result of a strong temperance movement determined to restrict the sale of alcohol. The criteria for retaining a licence under the Local Option Court, set up to implement the results of the poll, included the condition of the building, facilities provided, and the standard of management.

Today the Limerick Arms is the only hotel that is still trading.

Another round of pub closures took place in 1925, and the Prince Charlie lost its licence in that year because of its proximity to other hotels. It's likely that the British Hotel took pains to spruce itself up. The following advertisement appeared in the May 25, 1925 edition of the *Geelong Advertiser*:

"This unrivalled establishment has been re-decorated and may fairly challenge comparison with any house in the southern hemisphere. Luncheons from 11am till 3. Suppers all hours. The bill of fare embraces all the delicacies of the season – joints, fish, fowl, game, soups and entrees. Charges strictly moderate." – H. R. Gosling.

The September 28, 1938, edition of the *Herald* called for tenders for the remodeling of the hotel, which entailed extensive alterations to the ground floor. It was to include two new bars, a bottle department, a new lounge, new entrance porch and public and staff conveniences. It was also to receive a new hot water service and the

whole of the building was to be redecorated.

There were a few incidents at the hotel that made it into the local and national newspapers. Two related to gas explosions. The first, on a Saturday evening in June 1891 occurred when a patron, John O'Keefe, of Canning Place, lit a match, causing damage valued at £10. The window fittings were damaged, and the ceiling was blackened. John had injuries to his face and hands but was discharged from the Melbourne Hospital on the same day. The fire was extinguished before the fire brigade arrived.

The second explosion occurred on the morning of September 23, 1950, when the cook lit one of the gas jets. There was an explosion in which Mavis Bohan was thrown violently against the wall and she was struck by flying metal.

An incident that received a lot of attention was the theft of 47 bales of wool valued at £11,457 that occurred on March 8, 1950. The driver, Frank Brady, stayed regularly at the hotel and would leave his truck outside. He checked

it before he went to bed at 9pm but he found it had gone when he checked again at 7am the next day. A trial was held of four people in October of that year, but it's not known if they were found guilty or if the wool was retrieved.

In the years just before and after the Second World War the British Hotel was a regular fielder of a football team that played against other hotels to raise money for charity. Another was the Laurel Hotel on the corner of Dryburgh and Wood streets. This provided excellent publicity for the hotels as well as benefitting charities.

The British Hotel closed sometime in the late twentieth century and was converted into rental apartments.

A study conducted by heritage consultants Lovell Chen for the Melbourne City Council has recommended that the area covered by the existing heritage overlay be extended to include the former British Hotel. The recommendation was based on the building being relatively intact and presenting as a 19th century hotel "despite some alterations, including additional level to the rear wing fronting Abbotsford St, and some changes to openings".

Blair Gardiner is a member of the Hotham History Project who has done a lot of research into the early hotels of North Melbourne and much of the material in this article has been provided by him. He will give a talk on the subject in September, date and venue to be arranged. ●



For more information:
hothamhistory.org.au

NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION



▲ *Mr Price's Food Store, Lambert Family Home 421 Queensberry St, Udom House on Victoria St, Elio Sarpi and his wife and editor Courtney Barrett outside the Duchess Hotel, Eskine St.*



The man behind the houses

In the next instalment of our "Precinct Ambassadors" series, we have Elio Sarpi, the man behind the insanely popular Houses of North and West Melbourne Instagram page.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

In what started as a release from his stressful job and an outlet during COVID-19 lockdown, Elio began taking photos of houses through his neighbourhood.

Little did he know this hobby would take on a mind of its own.

With a growing following both locally and internationally, Elio's Instagram bio puts his humble pursuit of great architecture and its stories simply; it reads: "not a photographer, architect or historian, I love the history and the houses of North and West Melbourne."

Since speaking with *North West City News* in February last year, Houses of North and West Melbourne has grown from 1400 followers to more than 10,200.

Like everyone else in lockdown, I needed an outlet, so I started taking photos of houses,"

Elio said. "It started with just the photos, then I started doing research into these buildings." "I could find information here and there, but even with heritage-listed buildings, the information I found was outdated."

Working for a large IT firm with clients across Asia Pacific, Elio quickly turned his research and technology skills into tools to find out anything and everything with regards to local heritage.

Using programs like Trove, Find A Grave, Wikitree and heritage databases, Elio has discovered a mountain of information with even the most miniscule of leads.

Take his nearby neighbours on Erskine St, for example.

They have lived in their home, formerly the Grand Duchess Hotel, North Melbourne for more than 40 years.

"I knocked on the door and said, 'hey, I'm your new neighbour and I wanted to post your

house on this page,' they couldn't believe it was me and said they followed me and let me into their house," Elio said.

"I talked with the owners, Sue and Michael, about the history of the building and how they had found a framed photo left from previous owners by renowned Australian portrait and fashion photographer Athol Shmith."

"The photo was of the Gulle family, who ran an Italian grocer from this home in the 1950s, which they found in an old cupboard."

According to Elio, his followers, of whom 80 per cent he said lived in Melbourne and the rest in countries like the US, UK or New Zealand, were predominantly aged between 20 to 45 years old; a demographic you wouldn't typically associate with a love for history.

In what started as an appreciation for local architecture and its history, has quickly turned into countless hours of research, enquiries from locals ask Elio to research their houses, propositions from local real estate agents and flood conversations with residents old and new, telling the stories behind the facades.

"It's a lot of fun for me. It's a stress release from my job, it's a great way to meet people throughout the neighbourhood and incredible

to find the stories behind these houses," Elio said.

"It can get exhausting posting every day. So, I try to do Wednesday to Sunday."

"There are a few photos that have gone insane. I posted Udom café in Victoria St; that photo got 80,000 views. Both the photo and the story behind it attracted a lot of interest."

"I don't know if it was related to my photo, but the next day after posting it, they were sold out of everything. If I can help local businesses, that's a great by-product."

While there is a finite number of houses to be photographed, Elio said he had barely scratched the surface when it came to houses in North and West Melbourne.

Whether it be stumbling across John Monash's old home on Dudley St, or the Museums taxidermist, who lost a house full of stuffed animals during a fire, there are still plenty more stories to come for Elio.

And to have all these stories, all this information, and all these houses archived in one centralised space, our neighbourhood is incredibly lucky and indebted to Elio Sarpi.

Thank you, Elio. ●



1. Who won the 2022 Victorian Prize for Literature?
2. Who plays Al Yankovic (pictured) in the 2022 film *Weird*?
3. The City of Melbourne has vowed to keep 'the city clean, safe and free from graffiti' with an investment of what figure in their latest budget?
4. J.K. Simmons starred as a drum teacher in which 2014 film?
5. In the 2022 Federal Election, Greens leader Adam Bandt received what percentage of the primary vote for the seat of Melbourne?
6. Which Scottish team lost the 2022 Europa League final?
7. On what date was the 2022 Australian Federal Election held?
8. What piece of public infrastructure are Parkville Gardens residents continuing to wait for?
9. According to hothamhistory.org.au, where will you find North Melbourne's oldest house?
10. For which agricultural process was Battir named a UNESCO World Heritage site?
11. The City of Melbourne held its first neighbourhood series Future Melbourne Committee meeting last month. Where was it held?
12. According to City of Melbourne data, West Melbourne's population is: A) 8,263 B) 6,897 or C) 7,538?

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

H		L		S
	C		A	
R		G		E
	N		D	
E		T		R

ACROSS: HILLS, OCEAN, ROGUE, SNIDE, ESTER
DOWN: HORSE, ICONS, LEGIT, LAUDE, SNEER

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

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

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

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

N	O	Z	A	M	A	R	H	I	N	E
R	I	L	O	I	R	E	N	I	E	S
O	S	L	E	T	S	M	A	V	O	N
S	E	V	E	R	N	U	T	O	L	E
E	M	T	I	B	E	R	Y	L	T	B
G	A	N	I	G	E	R	N	G	I	U
N	H	S	T	Y	X	A	E	A	G	N
A	T	R	E	N	T	Y	A	R	R	A
G	I	N	D	U	S	L	R	A	I	D
I	N	H	U	D	S	O	N	S	S	G
M	E	K	O	N	G	C	O	N	G	O

AMAZON	INDUS	STYX
AMSTEL	LOIRE	THAMES
ARAS	MEKONG	TIBER
ARNO	MURRAY	TIGRIS
AVON	NIGER	TRENT
CONGO	NILE	TYNE
DANUBE	RHINE	VOLGA
GANGES	SEINE	YARRA
HUDSON	SEVERN	

Secret message: Rolling

- 1 Acidic (4)
3 Picking up from where you left off (10)
10 Subvert (9)
11 Fierce weather (5)
12 Coagulate (4)
13 Spreading to wide area (9)
15 Ultimate (7)
16 Cleaning scoop (7)
18 Withstands (7)
20 Siblings (7)
22 Displace (bone) (9)
25 Cut (with axe) (4)
27 Lack of order (5)
28 Meddle (9)
29 Medium size naval vessels (10)
30 Throne platform (4)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Bullet (4) | 16 | Rebel (9) |
| 2 | Moves in waves (9) | 17 | Unexplained events (9) |
| 4 | Villains (9) | 19 | Fund an event (7) |
| 5 | Operators (5) | 21 | Locked and safe (6) |
| 6 | Own (7) | 23 | Suns (5) |
| 7 | Idols (5) | | |

[illegible]

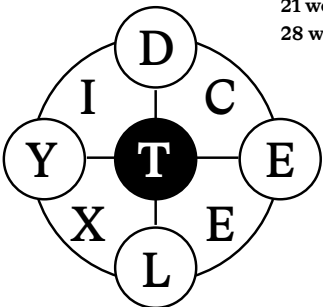
- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 8 | Dexterity (10) | 24 | Peace (5) |
| 9 | Squirm (6) | 26 | Stinging |
| 14 | Propagated (10) | | insects (4) |

[illegible]

7	19	14	10	23	16	23	11	13		3	17	8
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D	K	M	O	X	U	F	I	Z	E	S	P	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	W	B	Y	C	H	J	A	R	G	N	V	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

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



Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

Today's Focus: _____

14 words: Good _____

21 words: Very good _____

28 words: Excellent _____

celt, cite, cited, city, deceit, deny, delict, diet, edict, edit, elect, elite, excite, excited, excitedly, exit, exited, leet, lite, teed, telex, tide, tidy, tied, tile, tiled, yet!

What's On: July

Community Calendar



UNTIL DEC 18 - FREE
Kensington Market
Kensington Market is returning to Kensington Town Hall, highlighting the produce and artwork of this wonderful inner-city makers community. Be sure to come down as you'd be sure to find something you love, from designer fashion, homemade treats, coffee, homewares, jewellery, kids wear and art.
Kensington Town Hall
30-34 Bellair St, Kensington 3031



JUNE 30 - 6 AUG - FREE
And She Was Wearing Trousers: A Call to Our Heroines
And She Was Wearing Trousers: A Call to Our Heroines brings into focus some of the many women who defined, defied or described Southern African culture from the seventeenth century to today.
artshouse.com.au

Songbirds at North Melbourne Library
Songs, rhymes and stories will engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language. For babies and toddlers to 18 months old; no bookings necessary.
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol St, North Melbourne



UNTIL DEC 1 - FREE
Stompers at North Melbourne Library
Come along for an energetic 30 minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, music and most of all, fun. Ages 18 months to 3 years; no bookings necessary.
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol St, North Melbourne



UNTIL DEC 9 - FREE
French Club
Run fortnightly at North Melbourne Library, the French Club is an opportunity to explore French culture, improve your French language skills and make new friends.
North Melbourne Library
66 Errol St, North Melbourne



FORTNIGHTLY, TUESDAYS 5-6PM
Trans and gender diverse writing group
Online writing group via Zoom for trans and gender diverse young people and queer-identified people between the ages of 13 to 25 to connect and get writing.
youngadults@melbourne.vic.gov.au



The Centre
The Centre is a not-for-profit offering programs and activities that respond to the needs of the North & West Melbourne community, providing an accessible and inclusive agenda which fosters belonging and community spirit.
58 Errol St, North Melbourne
centre.org.au



Parkville Tennis Club
Parkville Tennis Club is a small friendly tennis club located just outside the CBD on Royal Parade. Individual, student, concession and family memberships are available.
151 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052
Monday - Sunday - 6am - 11pm
tennis.com.au/parkvilletc

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NWMA

N

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2/19 AFTON STREET, ABERFELDIE

Infused with high-class features near the Maribyrnong River, this four bedroom, three bathroom, three level townhouse is a compilation of enchanting interiors including two living/dining zones, Italian marble kitchen, north-facing courtyard, elegant bathrooms with sub-heated floors, WIRS/BIR, ensuite, two versatile basement rooms, zoned ducted heating/cooling and room for four car spaces.



4
EOI CONTACT Closing 2nd August 3pm
Lou 0418 525 415



5 VINCENT PLACE, KENSINGTON

Delightful and inspiring, this classic three bedroom, two bathroom townhouse faces a leafy park. Offers light-filled living, open plan kitchen/dining, gas/electric appliances, paved courtyard and a versatile studio/home office/gym. Master bedroom with balcony, ensuite, WIR. Complete with central bathroom, heating/cooling, solar panels, floating floors, laundry, third WC, and double garage.



3
FOR SALE CONTACT Nathan 0447 441 950



11 MCCRACKEN STREET, KENSINGTON

You'll love this character filled Hawthorn-brick Victorian showcasing many original period features and future 2nd storey city view potential (STCA). High ceilings, open kitchen/meals/living zone, large double bedrooms and rear bathroom. Highlights include rear ROW.



2
FOR SALE CONTACT Lou 0418 525 415



48 CROSS STREET, FOOTSCRAY

Blending sophisticated style with low-maintenance functionality, this three bedroom with option of fourth, two bathroom townhouse is just moments to West Footscray Station, Victoria University and Highpoint. It presents semi-vaulted ceilings, stone-enhanced Blanco kitchen/meals/family, upstairs retreat and r/c double garage. Complete with heating/cooling, master ensuite and alarm.



3
AUCTION CONTACT Sat 30th July 11am
Nathan 0418 312 271



103/30 RANKINS ROAD, KENSINGTON

This modern low maintenance apartment, in a small boutique complex of only 8, is beaming with natural light. Comprising of 2 bedrooms both with BIR's, light filled spacious living area with large north facing balcony great for entertaining, open plan kitchen and meals area including Caesar stone bench tops, stainless steel appliances and dishwasher, central designer bathroom & European style laundry.



2
FOR SALE CONTACT Nathan 0418 312 271



4/18-20 BRIGHTON STREET, FLEMINGTON

This appealing first floor apartment is ideally located and sits in a quiet tree lined street. Features two generously sized bedrooms with built in robes. A central bathroom with laundry facilities. The kitchen is fully equipped with gas cook top, oven and plenty of cupboard and bench space. The open plan living area completes this appealing accommodation. Extra features include heating and has car accommodation.



2
FOR SALE CONTACT Frank 0447 441 950