

Puzzles & Trivia P22



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All quiet on the Arden front but major issues to be determined by independent committee

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
PLANNING

There have been no updates since last year from the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) or the Department of Transport (DoT) on major issues plaguing the Arden Renewal Precinct.

North West City News posed six questions about Arden to the VPA which have remained unanswered since the City of Melbourne (CoM) released a scathing submission on the plan in October last year.

But the VPA provided the same response it gave last year, leaving the public in the dark over key issues including affordable housing, built form controls and a new school.

Despite confirmation last year from the DoT - one of the major stakeholders for Arden - that the percentage of affordable housing would exceed 10 per cent, a VPA spokesperson relayed the same response it gave to this publication last year.

"The Arden Structure Plan commits state and local government to:

- Support and encourage the provision of 6% affordable housing in new developments to be delivered at 50% discount to a registered housing association.
- Encourage additional affordable and social housing provision on all types of land to achieve goals.
- Require that at least 5% of all private housing be universally accessible, to encourage assisted living and help residents age in place.
- Government is exploring opportunities for delivering key worker housing in Arden."

Asked whether the DoT would cover a whopping \$47 million shortfall identified in the Arden Development Contributions Plan, a DoT spokesperson said:

Structure Plan - which will support the urban renewal of the area around the new Arden Station when it opens in 2025, as part of the



Metro Tunnel project," the spokesperson said.

As background, the DoT said the Minister for Planning had asked an independent Standing Advisory Committee to review the Structure Plan with a public hearing currently underway.

"Following the conclusion of the hearing, the Victorian Government will consider the Committee's recommendations, and funding requirements for the precinct will be considered," the DoT said.

Asked how the Arden Structure Plan will be refined in light of community concern about excessive density and scale flowing from the VPA's built form controls, the VPA spokesperson said the Standing Advisory Committee process would determine this.

Asked where a secondary school for Arden would be located, the spokesperson gave the same response as last year.

"The Department of Education is currently considering a Government High School for the Arden-Macaulay area which is immediately adjacent to the Arden precinct," they said. Asked whether the VPA had finalised the details of developments along the Moonee Ponds Creek, the spokesperson said the VPA was finalising a draft within government, including working with the key agencies which will be responsible for delivering components of the structure plan that interact with the creek corridor •



North Melbourne, Kensington youth win in grant funding

Continued from page 1.

"Young and older community members have been particularly hard hit by the COVID pandemic with youth unemployment rising significantly and many older community members now more isolated than they were before," she said.

"This funding will enable us to make a real difference for both of these groups - offering meaningful employment to young jobseekers, who will help older people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds learn how to use technology to connect, communicate and stay engaged with their interests and community."

Believing in the power of connecting community members of diverse ages and backgrounds, Ms Donaldson said her latest Lively project would "build special connections and friendships across the generations" that would prove to enrich and strengthen the area.

The City of Melbourne's latest grants program was worth \$543,322, with a total of 77 grants issued to projects across the municipality.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the program would help ensure "residents feel engaged and supported".

"These grants will support not-for-profits, community groups and schools, giving people the opportunity to connect with their neighbours and contribute to our wonderful city," Cr Capp said.

"These projects and organisations are an essential part of our community, and we are incredibly grateful for what they deliver." •

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Errol St businesses divided over pop-up greenery and seats

Continued from page 1.

Mr Kaveh suggested that the council should instead bring festivals back to Errol St to re-invigorate the strip after being hit by the lack of international students, tourists, local office workers and backpackers.

“Errol St is like a ghost town,” he said.
“Close the street from top to bottom and bring festivals back. I remember almost every second month we had festivals full of people, music, food – I don’t think people are interested in coming out and looking at a tree.”

“It’s worse than lockdown and I don’t think the government knows about Errol St, they only talk about the CBD. No one knows that Errol St is here, so we need advertising for the whole street.”

Happy Hanger Dry Cleaning owner William Jia also questioned the initiative, saying a new public bench seat and concrete planter box outside his shop were “not that beautiful” and blocked access to his business.

“If the plant is in the ground rather than the big concrete pot, it’d be better,” he said.

“The pots are actually huge – it’s not that beautiful, it looks quite industrial along the shopping strip.”

“It does block some access to our shop. Make them [the planter boxes] a bit more beautiful, not plain concrete, and put a few separate smaller benches rather than one long bench that nobody can walk through. Now, they either have to walk around it or walk over it.”

Marcus, owner of Errol St’s 7-Eleven, said business had been “very quiet” despite North Melbourne being open again, and echoed calls for more events in Errol St.

The City of Melbourne said it expected that there would be minimal impacts to on-street parking, with seven car-parking spaces having already been repurposed as dining parklets.

However, Mr Kaveh said plants in a dining parklet next door to his shop had died because they had not been watered.

“They took out all the plants and now it’s just



▲ Hotham Juice & Gelati owner Sia Kaveh has described Errol St as a “ghost town”.

timber and fake grass and no one’s using it. It’s useless and it wastes the car park,” he said.

The council anticipates the greenery and seating will boost ambiance, wellbeing and visual interest for people walking and driving through.

Increased habitat for insects and birds, as well as more foot traffic to local businesses are also listed as expected benefits.

The council and the NWMPA also predict enhanced safety for pedestrians through the design of concrete planters as collision barriers.

Asked whether festivals would become a regular fixture for Errol St, NWMPA executive officer Rebekah Symons said the decision would be informed by community feedback.

She also refuted claims by some businesses that the planter boxes were obstructive.

“Most of the planter boxes are on Errol St footpaths, which are very wide, allowing for plenty of walking space and the greening does

not interfere with seating, outdoor dining or foot traffic,” Ms Symons said.

“It should be noted that when the trees were first introduced to Errol St, there were two trees mistakenly placed that did obstruct car parking, however they were removed immediately when the City of Melbourne was informed.”

Ms Symons also said marketing for Errol St was already part of its strategic plan for the precinct.

“The best way for local businesses to have their say in how the strategy is implemented is to join as a member and nominate for the committee or other working groups,” she said.

The trial is being funded by the Victorian Government’s Melbourne City Recovery Fund and has been identified within the NWMPA’s Strategic Plan 2021-26 as a priority activity.

For the duration of the trial, the council will absorb the costs of installation and permits and manage the irrigation and health of the trees.

“

Close the street from top to bottom and bring festivals back.

”

Current plans would utilise one additional car-parking space to create a public seating area.

While the trial will be focused on Errol St, four of the planter boxes in the initial trial will be placed in Queensberry St.

The CoM and NWMPA are interested to gauge interest from the broader North Melbourne retail precinct.

Feedback will be collected throughout the trial period, with an independent analyst engaged to evaluate how the temporary changes influenced local perspectives of the street.

These findings will be presented to the council and published online mid-2022.

Every person who has contributed their views towards this consultation between December 20, 2021, and June 3, 2022, and provided their contact details will be entered into a draw to win a \$100 North Melbourne Precinct voucher ●

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participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-errol

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TRAILBLAZER NAMED MELBURNIAN OF THE YEAR



Peggy O'Neal is a prominent business leader and women's advocate

Prominent businesswoman and Richmond Football Club President Peggy O'Neal AO has been crowned 2021 Melburnian of the Year for her work advocating for women in leadership roles.

Since moving to Melbourne from West Virginia in the United States of America more than 30 years ago, Peggy has forged a successful career as a lawyer, and in 2013 became the first-ever female president of an AFL club.

Peggy is also a board member of Women's Housing Ltd – helping disadvantaged and vulnerable women gain access to safe housing.

'When I came to Melbourne in 1989, I could never have imagined that an honour like this would come my way,' Peggy said.

'My deepest thanks to the City of Melbourne for this recognition. When I consider those who have previously been named Melburnian of the Year, I am surprised and truly humbled to find myself in such company.'

'I am particularly pleased that this award cites my lifetime commitment to equality for women and girls and the significant role that sport can play in making equality happen for all communities.'

Previous Melburnian of the Year winners include leading medical researcher Professor Doug Hilton AO and radiation oncologist and tobacco-free lobbyist Dr Bronwyn King AO.

The prestigious award forms part of the annual Melbourne Awards program, which this year recognised another eight organisations for their valued work across a range of industries.

Winners included The Torch, a program supporting Aboriginal art in prison and in the community; Farmer's Daughters, a food and dining experience that champions local sourcing and sustainability; and RMHive, an app developed to respond to the unique mental health needs of health-care workers.

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

In 2017, green-thumbed residents in Howlett Street, Kensington were successful in receiving a \$100,000 grant from the Urban Forest Fund to make over the common area of their apartment complex.

The project saw 1653 trees planted and 122 square metres of green vegetation planted, along with a green wall, a shaded garden, a biodiversity garden, vegetable patches, a bamboo forest at the apartment complex entrance, and a stormwater harvesting and irrigation system designed for re-use on the gardens.

The Urban Forest Fund grant provided an opportunity for residents to create a more inviting common area.

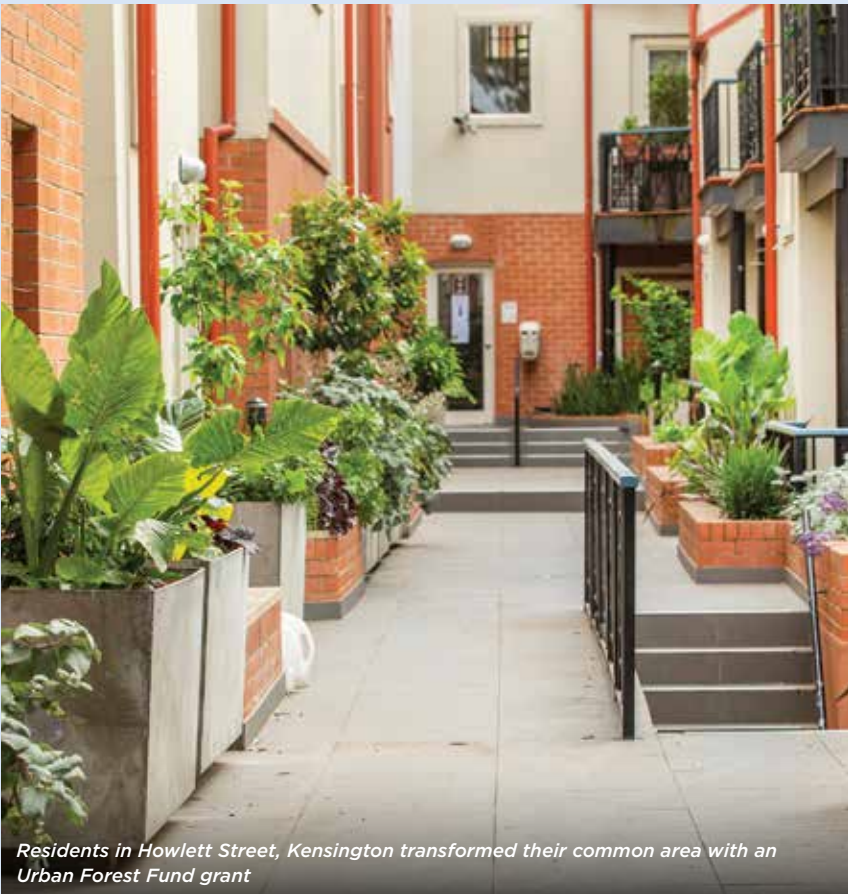
Resident Mila Mihailova said they had wanted to bring the community together and create an attractive and unique space that they could all benefit from.

'We had just started a community garden club which was really popular, and this grant seemed like the perfect opportunity to expand on the community benefits that we were seeing from that project,' she said.

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Residents in Howlett Street, Kensington transformed their common area with an Urban Forest Fund grant

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▲ Police at the intersection of Racecourse Rd and Holland Crt following a stabbing.



Police appeal for help following stabbing

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
CRIME

Police are appealing to the public for assistance after two men were stabbed at the front of a Flemington housing tower on January 31.

Police were called to reports of a brawl near the intersection of Racecourse Rd and Holland Court about 6.30pm.

“The people involved had left the scene prior to police arrival but blood was found on the ground,” a police spokesman said.

“Two men presented at a nearby hospital soon after with stab wounds believed to have been suffered during the brawl.”

Police cordoned off a section of the front of the tower with crime scene tape as they spoke to various people at the scene.

An officer could be seen placing an item, found on a patch of grass at the front of Racecourse Rd, into a brown paper bag.

Detectives from Moonee Valley Crime Investigation Unit are investigating and have urged anyone with information or dashcam vision to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The incident comes as residents in Kensington have expressed their fury on social media over the amount of crime occurring in the area, particularly instances of theft.

One resident of 25 years, who has been the victim of two attempted car thefts during the past three months – one in which her husband had caught a culprit trying to start his car – said she had seen crime “rise and fall over the years but nothing like it is now.”

“We are sick of all the horrible things happening and lack of police action,” the resident, who asked not to be named, said, adding she had called police more times in the past few months “than I ever thought I would”.

In the latest incident, the resident said she and her husband saw a woman was loitering around their home and calling them “horrendous things” before returning the next day and throwing a liquid, believed to be coffee, at their bedroom window as they slept.



▲ Flemington Towers: the scene of the stabbing.

In January, a resident caught a female on CCTV helping herself to a parcel on a Sunday afternoon.

“Even though mine was placed behind bushes on my front porch this person came onto my property and stole it!” the resident posted to social media.

“I guess there is no safe place!”

In other incidences, a parcel containing kitty litter and flea treatment was taken from a front door on Parsons St in January while another resident said their MacBook Pro laptop was taken from their garage about 5pm on February 9 – the same day a parcel was delivered but also went missing.

A resident’s front porch security camera also captured the bizarre moment a man entered a property on Westbourne Rd at 10.30pm on February 13 before cutting a hose reel and leaving empty-handed.

Flemington police have been contacted for comment ●

Residents give Hawke St linear park consultation “a gold star”

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Despite initial concerns with the design for a new linear park along Hawke St, locals are giving the City of Melbourne (CoM) “a gold star” for its consultation with the community so far.

The updated plan for the street’s entire length removes 50 car parks to cut down traffic to one lane in each direction with new separated bike lanes in a bid to reduce traffic, improve cycling connectivity and increase greenery.

While the old plan eliminated a roundabout at Adderley St, current plans maintain the roundabout as well as existing parklets at Adderley St and Curzon Pl.

Hawke St residents and businesses shared their out-standing concerns and ideas with representatives from the council in February, with some questioning whether the linear park should be built between Adderley St and Railway Pl.

Local resident Anthony McKee said there was no need for a linear park there because a park already existed at Adderley St, and that there was no advantage to having a Hawke St bike connection to Railway Pl.

“It would save the council some money, and seriously, how many bikes need to get to Railway Pl? They’d have to go against one way traffic if they were riding to the station,” he said.

Others voiced their concerns that the design did not provide enough greenery for houses on the north-east side of Hawke St.

Local resident Sue Scarfe, who lives on the north-east side of Hawke St, said the linear park design stripped her side of the street’s existing plane trees which provided vital shade for the terrace houses.

She said representatives from the council had been receptive to the idea of cutting a metre off the existing footpath on the north-east side of the street to plant greenery to replace the plane trees.

“I’d give the council a gold star so far,” she said.

“I’m impressed with how much thinking they’ve done.”

Locals also raised the possibility of creating an indigenous-linked story running from the beginning of the park to the end, weaving together native plants, artwork, and history with the European style of Hawke St.

Locals also welcomed renaming the existing parks with indigenous names.

Another Hawke St resident, Bill Cook, said he was dissatisfied with the removal of the plane trees in the middle of the street.

“While they may not be growing to their full

“

“I’d give the council a gold star so far. I’m impressed with how much thinking they’ve done.”

”

potential, they’re an asset to our street,” he said. “New ones would take 20 or 30 years to grow.”

Businesses on Hawke St have previously expressed their dissatisfaction with the reduction in car parking.

Tricycle Developments director and local resident, Andrew Crawford, said it was good to see the council consulting with the local community, but that it was clear there was “significant concern” about the impact of the project on reducing available parking in the area.

“As a local business owner, we are seriously concerned about the reduction in parking, particularly in the lower end of Hawke St,” he said.

Ms Scarfe also said the new energy-efficient lighting which had been installed in the street had created light pollution for residents that needed fixing.

“I said, ‘can you think of lighting the street and not our houses?’ They [the council] took that on board. The lamps need to have a narrower beam that doesn’t pour into houses,” she said.

While residents have previously expressed their desire for chicanes to slow traffic down in Hawke St, the council is not planning on implementing any chicanes or speed bumps.

The possibility of installing power lines underground in Hawke St, instead of overhead, was also raised at the meeting.

Locals were informed by the CoM that construction would likely start at the start of next year, but it remains unclear whether both sides of the street, or just one side at a time, will be closed during construction ●

For more information:
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/hawke-street-linear-park



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Why are they locked up? Refugee plea for freedom

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
COMMUNITY

Refugees and asylum seekers detained indefinitely by the federal government at the Park Hotel in Carlton have shared their harrowing experiences of extreme neglect and the denial of their basic human rights during the past nine years.

Since Medivac laws were passed in 2019 allowing the transfer of sick asylum seekers from offshore detention to Australia, more than 30 refugees and asylum seekers have been locked up at the Park Hotel for months – some for over a year.

Adnan – who fled Iran due to political persecution when he was just 15 – is an asylum seeker currently detained at the Park Hotel after being granted refugee status in 2014.

Now 24 years old, Adnan has spent his youth in detention, and suffers from severe post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) which contributed to him trying to take his own life last year.

But it did not come as a surprise to him that after being admitted to hospital, he was moved straight back into immigration detention.

In an interview with *North West City News*, Adnan said he had stopped seeking medical attention because it was “not helpful at all”.

“To be honest personally I stopped the medical stuff because they are not helping me at all,” he said.

“They are not independent; they’re working with the Immigration Department. So, I stopped seeing them a long time ago. My mental health is suffering. There are no services for us here.”

Arriving at the Park Hotel five months ago from another detention centre in Melbourne, Adnan said his feelings of uncertainty and powerlessness had been made worse by the fact detainees had been fed food infected with maggots and mould.

“It’s just disgusting. Windows here are blacked out. We have a small smoking area, but most of the time we are just sick in our bedrooms,” he said.

“They [other refugees at Park Hotel] are also suffering and we’re really getting mentally affected from this long-term detention, and we’ve all been recognised as genuine refugees, so it’s really unfair to keep us in detention.”

For Ismail, another refugee locked up at the Park Hotel since December 2020, the situation he fled from in war-torn Somalia in 2013 was better than after he was transferred to detention in Australia.

“The most important thing is our freedom, we’re tired here, and we struggle, and the situation we’re in now it seems like death is better than the torture they put us through,” he said.

“If they poisoned us, it would be better. I hope they do something before it’s too late, and it’ll only be a matter of time before someone takes their life.”

“Just let us go, we’ll look after ourselves. We have people who have offered us their homes and we can rebuild our lives and we can contribute to the country and pay tax. Just let us go.”

Ismail said he had also experienced maggots in his meals, adding that the food seemed to get worse when they complained, which was compounded by limited to no medical attention.

“If you have a mental disorder or depression, all they give you is sleeping tablets,” he said.

The plight of the Park Hotel detainees was brought back into focus last month after the world’s number one



▲ Police guard at the Park Hotel. Picture: The New York Times.

ranked tennis player Novak Djokovic was held there after the federal government cancelled his visa due to his unvaccinated status.

Mr Djokovic did not use his international platform to advocate for the release of the 30 or so men who have been locked up, who subsequently have fallen out of the public eye while their mental and physical health deteriorates.

What hope do the men at Park Hotel have of being freed?

Local activist Apsara Sabaratnam said most of the men who had been released so far had required hospitalisation because their medical conditions got “really severe”.

“That’s where the cases are won, when the lawyers can prove medical negligence on part of the government,” she said.

“It’s an incredibly arduous process and it’s slow.”

Ms Sabaratnam said the recent Djokovic saga highlighted those legal avenues for the men to be granted visas were extremely limited.

“There are test cases being won, but one refugee at a time.”

Other refugees and asylum seekers at the Park Hotel have been granted visas to live in the US, Ms Sabaratnam said, while others had been released by the federal government at random without explanation.

“Sometimes the government just decides to release a number of people without any rationale as to why they’ve chosen particular people over the other group of men,” she said.

She said real change would only come from legislative reform by ending mandatory detention, and by ensuring that the Minister for Home Affairs did not have sweeping powers to detain and release people arbitrarily.

The federal government has spent more than \$8.3 billion on offshore and onshore detention since 2014, according to the Refugee Council of Australia.

This does not include the tax revenue and the economic benefit of granting visas to asylum seekers entering Australia.

Meanwhile, the government is preparing to introduce austerity measures in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic ●



Spencer Fowler Steen
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JJ’s Community Support calling out to locals to back its community pantry

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

JJ’s Community Support has launched its latest Community Pantry in North Melbourne outside hostel Melbourne Metro YHA.

Situated at 78 Howard St and accessible since January 24, this is not the first pantry for the community group which has another 22 noted on its website.

But it is a vitally important one according to JJ’s Community Support president Jesse James Argent.

Currently working at Melbourne Metro YHA, Mr Argent said more support for the inner suburb and CBD locations was needed and the new pantry would “help address a missing resource” in the area.

“Melbourne Metro YHA’s ethos and operations are completely different to a backpacker business in the fact that they are a not-for-profit and accept children and families, all the while focusing on sustainability and the environment,” he said.

“I thought this would be the perfect collaboration to open another pantry here to help support those in need and struggling, while tying in with the focus for YHA.”

Creating the JJ’s Community Support group with a mission to grow the community spirit and support one another while maintaining family values, fun and excitement, the latest pantry has reached out to local volunteers to be a part of the project.

Connecting North Melbourne residents with other locals in need is



▲ The new community pantry.

what Mr Argent said was the “epitome of the project.”

“I feel that a community pantry is best run in collaboration with locals in the community who know the area, because we can cater to what is needed in the community,” he said.

While the first couple of weeks have been a bit “slow”, word has been getting around about the pantry, and Mr Argent said it had been getting busier.

But call outs for more donations and businesses to get involved has been a priority.

“At the moment we are looking for people to get involved in donating supplies, maintaining the pantry, helping with pick-ups of supplies if we get businesses on board and looking for someone to help with Facebook and sharing it around,” he said.

“We need to get the word out to those in need.”

Businesses and volunteers in North Melbourne wanting to get involved with the Community Pantry project can reach out to JJ’s Community Support through its dedicated Facebook page ●

Off-leash dogs cause headaches in Kensington

WORDS BY *Zak Wheeler*
COMMUNITY

A recent increase in off-leash dogs along the Kensington Stock Route has led to a number of locals reporting issues to the City of Melbourne.

The council told *North West City News* that it had received several reports of off-leash dogs in the area, with infringement notices being issued at the discretion of officers in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Members of the local community have taken to social media recently to discuss issues surrounding increased sightings of unfamiliar, unleashed dogs in the area, with many expressing frustration with a lack of compliance.

The Kensington Stock Route is not

designated as an off-leash area by the City of Melbourne. JJ Holland Park is the nearest designated area in the municipality for Kensington locals to let their dogs off the leash.

The council said its animal management and local laws teams were regularly undertaking educational and enforcement campaigns regarding leash requirements in the City of Melbourne.

A council spokesperson told *North West City News* that leash laws were “important to protect both dogs, their owners and the local community.”

To report an issue with dogs visit the council’s website or call ●

For more information:
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THE GREENS

The Huddle receives \$150k to help the community get vaccinated

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
COMMUNITY

Community organisation The Huddle has received \$150,000 to support the vaccination of people as young as five from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Established by the North Melbourne Football Club to improve inclusion for young people from diverse backgrounds, The Huddle will use the Victorian Government grant to support young people to get vaccinated.

The Huddle CEO Cameron McLeod told *North West City News* that the primary focus was to get children back into schools and administer booster shots.

"We're creating a range of online and in-person education forums in different languages," he said.

"It'll be a safe environment for women in particular to allow them to air concerns and questions and to get the facts."

This funding will allow staff to work directly with community members and leaders to provide vaccine information and help get community members vaccinated – whether through help booking an appointment, arranging childcare or transport to vaccination hubs.

Mr McLeod said The Huddle would also create videos in-language featuring cultural leaders, going some way to dispelling some of the myths around COVID which were prevalent online.

"We want to try to connect people to where they're comfortable with," he said.

"For example, in the last months we transformed the North Melbourne Football Club into a vaccination hub. We also work closely with Cohealth – they've been fantastic – to ensure there are culturally specific translators onsite."

Mr McLeod said The Huddle would use part of the \$150,000 to hire a new program manager and case manager who will be selected from the local community.

“

We're creating a range of online and in-person education forums in different languages.

”

Acting Minister for Health James Merlino said initiatives like this were crucial.

"Whether it's arranging childcare or transport for people needing to get to appointments, this will help overcome the practical barriers that some Victorians face to getting vaccinated," he said.

Mr McLeod said The Huddle had been selected for the grant because the organisation had worked closely with local communities during the past 11 years.

"The work we've been doing to support communities with vaccination has been going on for the past two years, and we've been working very hard to help people access computers and information around the most up-to-date health trends," he said.

"There's been a correlation between our work and hundreds of people going to local vaccination clinics." ●

For more information:
nmfc.com.au/huddle



West Melbourne, CBD COVID vaccine clinics open for kids

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
HEALTH

Cohealth opened its West Melbourne vaccination clinic to 5- to 11-year-olds on January 10, in addition to a new CBD vaccination clinic at the Drill Hall opposite Queen Victoria Market.

Both sites will welcome people aged 12-plus for COVID vaccinations, alongside 5- to 11-year-old children seeking their first dose of Pfizer.

Child-friendly, native animal-themed rooms have been created at Cohealth's West Melbourne site to cater for the thousands of children expected through the doors in the coming weeks.

Cohealth has been preparing for the vaccination rollout to 5- to 11-year-olds since late last year, with staff receiving special training to enable them to safely administer the vaccine to children.

As well as dosage requirements, the training supports staff to make the vaccination process low stress for kids, including avoiding the use of the words, "needle" and "jab".

Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz is urging parents and carers to book their children in for their COVID vaccination.

"By choosing to get your child vaccinated

against COVID, you are giving them the best possible protection against the virus, as well as protecting those around them," Ms Bartholomeusz said.

"When children are vaccinated, the risk that they will become infected and spread COVID-19 to family members, friends and others around them is reduced."

"It's much better to be preventing children from getting COVID than to be treating them when they become unwell."

"With the school year starting in less than a month, now is the time to book your child in for their COVID vaccination."

Ms Bartholomeusz said the new vaccination site at the Drill Hall opposite Victoria Market would provide an accessible CBD vaccination location.

"Demand for COVID vaccinations is at an all-time high, and we're working hard to find new and accessible spaces to set-up vaccination clinics," she said ●

To book an appointment:
1800 675 398 or
coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Haileybury preps for new tots

WORDS BY *Zak Wheeler*
EDUCATION

Haileybury welcomed in 21 new faces last month, as Preps filed into school for the first day in their 2022 year.

Fresh-faced Preps arrived at Haileybury's City campus to begin their journey through school on January 27, with the children immediately familiarising themselves with classmates, faculties, and the playground.

The new starters were welcomed by Head of Junior School at Haileybury City, Tim Naughton, who was excited to immerse students in the quality of learning that had been absent through prolonged periods of study-from-home conditions.



▲ Left: Eadie Prowse and James Bissland. Right: Isla Bennett and Penelope Digenakis.

"The first day of school for our Prep students is always exciting because it's the start of their education journey at Haileybury," Mr Naughton said. "I think the teachers are as excited as the students on the first day!"

"There are usually lots of smiles on our Preps' faces and, understandably, there are usually some nerves. There is also a lot of wondering about what the day will bring."

Students filled the hallways on their first day, arriving for the first bell promptly in most cases. Preps Grayson Paul and Kingsley Goodson were among the first to get in as they relished over their new uniforms.

James Duffil has set the standards high for what he hopes to achieve in the new academic year. With Clementine McCullagh displaying some prompt ambition as well ●

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▲ Tushar Bhatnagar and Amanda Pinto of The Premises café.



▲ Georgia Noble, a manager at Auction Rooms in North Melbourne.

Hospitality owners staying optimistic following Omicron wave

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
BUSINESS

After the Omicron surge sparked an unprecedented disruption to business, hospitality owners in the city’s north-west say they are hoping the worst is behind them.

It comes after restaurants, cafes, and eateries were forced to either reduce their opening hours or close temporarily over summer as they grappled with staff shortages and a fall in foot traffic after lockdown-like conditions kept consumers at home.

“The first three weeks [of the year] were new challenges because of staff, a lot of them were close contacts,” Tushar Bhatnagar, co-owner of The Premises café in Kensington, said.

“At very short notice we had a lot of staff cancelling their shift.”

But Mr Bhatnagar said things were now “looking better” with bookings also increasing and customers embracing the cafe’s newly extended dining space.

“Things have changed in the past five weeks, it’s looking better. Things are still unpredictable, sometimes as things change in the news, they change for us very quickly as well. We’re taking every week as it comes now,” he said.

Calvin Shi, owner of the Thyme Square Café in North Melbourne, also said business was looking “good at the moment.”

“We’re gradually getting busier every day,” he said. “We’re quite lucky compared to a lot of businesses in the CBD. We got a lot of support from the locals.”

Georgia Noble, a manager at Auction Rooms in North Melbourne, said they had been hit by staff shortages in January, but things were “pretty much back to normal now.”

“We had to close for a week because a third of our staff was infected,” she said. “The kitchen closed all together, and we just did takeaway coffee for about a week-and-a-half.”

Ms Noble said customers appeared to still be hesitant in visiting public places but their business in Errol St was getting back to “some kind of normality.”

“January’s normally a quiet month for us anyway but there’s definitely not as many people about. The weekends have still been quite solid but Monday to Friday, we’ve definitely seen a drop.”

However, for Sia Kaveh, owner of Hotham Juice and Gelati, also in Errol St, he said he was working “much harder just to survive.”

“It’s worse than lockdown,” he said, adding he owed \$20,000 in rent and a further \$9000 in electricity bills.

“I’m sick of it, I want to close the shop and go.”



▲ Willo&Co café in West Melbourne has been feeling the pinch of nearby employees working from home.

“Things have changed in the past five weeks, it’s looking better. Things are still unpredictable, sometimes as things change in the news, they change for us very quickly as well. We’re taking every week as it comes now.”



“But how can you close the gelato shop? I’ve got lots of kids around here from school, they love this gelato. There’s lots of families ... they have been supporting us for two years. How can I close the shop on those people?”

“I spent at least \$300,000, \$400,000 on this shop; I can’t just walk away.”

Tristian Mitchell, owner of Willo&Co café in West Melbourne, said while he had been fortunate enough not to have suffered a shortage in staff, the Omicron variant had kept away many workers who would otherwise be back in the office.

“Unfortunately, all the offices around here have gone to 25 per cent capacity so that’s hurting us,” he said, but added, “We’re getting a lot more locals and tradies, that’s one positive out of all of this.”

Ash Benson, owner of the Local Folk café in Kensington, said business was slowly building back up after having to temporarily close the Kensington Food Hall café which had “suffered bad.”

“We’ll just keep an eye on one and make sure that does well and that sort of pays the rent for the other for the time being,” he said.

“At the moment we’re at a pretty good level, and it will slowly build up in time.”

At the February 1 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors voted to call on the government to provide support for traders and provide a range of incentives including a third round of the Melbourne Money scheme after the Omicron wave triggered a drop in business confidence.

They also called for a review into the government’s work from home advice, which is not expected to change before March.

However, while the motion was passed, Cr Roshena Campbell spoke against an amendment which sought both levels of government to engage with workers’ representatives to facilitate a return to work “as soon as it is safe to do so,” saying “given the reluctance of public servants to return it is inconceivable that the involvement of unions is going to positively facilitate their speedy return while our city is on its knees”.

Cr Campbell said it “would make yet another delay in getting workers back” and one trader’s “cannot afford” after referencing that 53 per cent of businesses had told a council survey that they weren’t confident of lasting “three more months”.

But her viewpoint was roundly rejected by councillors who said supporting the engagement of workers’ representatives would “expedite the process” of bringing workers back ●



Iconic North Melbourne pub calls lasts drinks

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
BUSINESS

North Melbourne’s iconic Court House Hotel which dates back to the 19th century is up for sale, offering an “endless array of refurbishment and repositioning opportunities”.

The two-level building which occupies the prominent corner of Errol and Queensberry streets has been on the market since the end of January with the “campaign going quite well”, according to JLL’s Will Connolly.

The hotel, which is regarded as the “local landmark”, dates back to the 1860s but is understood to have been rebuilt in 1935.

While the pub no longer serves food due to the impacts of the pandemic, the dining room has been transformed into a theatre with shows being held every Friday and Saturday night by improvised theatre company Impro Melbourne, with the main bar used for drinks.

Mr Connolly said the hotel had been family-owned for many years and it had “just come time for their retirement and exit from the industry”.

He said interest from buyers included owner-occupiers, investors, and potential developers, with demand for hotel assets, especially within metro Melbourne, are as “high as they have ever been.”

The building features a main bar area which is used for theatre show nights, a separate dining room, a large commercial kitchen and back-of-house facilities, a basement cellar, a large balcony, and a rear courtyard.

Mr Connolly said while potential buyers had not expressed any plans for the hotel, it’s future could be an up-market hospitality venue, traditional retail, office or residential.

He said the triple fronted site also provided for a range of development opportunities which is walking distance to the CBD, Queen Victoria Market and the hospital and university precincts.

While the owners and tenants declined to be interviewed, the property is advertised as having “stood the test of time” with the “significant potential to reposition the building into a prime retail offering”.

The building is being sold with a general liquor licence with expressions of interest closing March 2.

According to the Hotham History Project, a community group with an interest in the history of North and West Melbourne, the Court House Hotel was originally owned by Samuel Lancashire, mayor of the municipality in 1869.

It has stood as one of North

“Old timber floors, a view of Errol St from the corner window, even the narrow stairway up, it all creates a sense of being hidden away in a garret somewhere, about to witness something special.”



Melbourne’s most recognisable pubs with the North Melbourne Library also holding an image of the building from 1870 – with the current building believed to have been constructed around 1935, according to the North and West Melbourne conservation study in 1983.

Artistic director of Impro Melbourne Katherine Weaver said the organisation had “loved being part of the North Melbourne community” as well as enjoying the support from the Court House Hotel during the past six years.

“It’s a blessing to be able to work with the Courthouse Hotel to put on our productions. As a not-for-profit theatre, our budgets are always tight so to find somewhere that we can collaborate and bring people in and have artistic creativity has been amazing,” she said.

“The last two months of being in the Court House, we have had shows every Friday and Saturday night and workshops on every other day.”

“For the month of March, we have the upstairs theatre coming alive, or should I say dead, with a zombie musical Zombsical directed by Tim Redmond.

“Impro Melbourne is hoping to be able to stay in North Melbourne and are currently talking to real estate agents about rentals in the area.”

Mr Redmond said the upstairs room was “a lovely, secluded space – perfect for creating intimate theatre”.

“Old timber floors, a view of Errol St from the corner window, even the narrow stairway up, it all creates a sense of being hidden away in a garret somewhere, about to witness something special.” ●

Kensington Junior Soccer Club kicking goals after scoring community grant

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
SPORT

Kensington Junior Soccer Club is set to launch an ambassador program to encourage more girls to play and coach soccer thanks to a \$4800 grant from the City of Melbourne.

Club president Andrew Hollow said it hoped to attract more young women from the culturally diverse communities where they could “come down, play a bit of music, learn how to kick a ball, and have a bit of fun.”

“We’re rapt the City of Melbourne can see real merit in what we’re trying to do and include all the local communities – it’s a very inclusive community,” he said.

The funding is part of the council’s Connected Communities Grants which recognises the importance of community-building projects and creating a sense of belonging.

Mr Hollow said he hoped the new program would run three to four times this year with the aim of young women going on to play in a team.

“We have 125 girls now and are hoping for as many as possible for the program from all communities within the City of Melbourne and beyond,” he said.

“The reality for most of them is they’ll be joining their school friends playing soccer which would be fantastic.”

He said its younger age teams were predominately male and made up of 30 to 40 per cent of kids from diverse communities which was “nowhere near the same representation for the girls”.

Mr Hollow said while the club, which was run by parents at JJ Holland Park, would use social media to promote its program, it also hoped to reach out to community leaders “to break down those barriers” with diverse communities.

He said the club would also work with Victoria University’s new “change makers” program which aims to empower newly arrived migrants and refugees in Melbourne’s west to participate in sport and physical activity.

According to Victoria University, Melbourne’s west has a very high portion of migrants and refugees who are under-represented in sport. This is due to a range of structural and cultural barriers including cost, transport, language issues, and lack of family support.

Meanwhile, the Kensington Stockyard Food Garden Inc was awarded \$2000 in funding through council’s grants program.

The garden’s chair Nan Austin said the grant would go towards its accident insurance costs to cover its 127 volunteers.

“We do run off the council grants as our primary source of income for doing any major purchases or changes to the gardens so it’s very important to us,” she said.

“Obviously the bulk of it goes towards our insurance, and any extras tend to go towards the fertilisers, seed raising mix, and that sort of thing.”

The group grows vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers while providing a vibrant meeting place and encouraging mindfulness.

“We started off with an initial 30 beds, and since then with council financial support we’ve extended to 90 raised garden beds. Plus, we put in a fruit forest last year so now we’ve got about over 100 sqm of growing space,” Ms Austin said.

The food garden also does a large pick every month, providing up to 10kg of food to the McCracken St Food Share Pantry, which is supported by Kensington Neighbourhood House.

Other community recipients to be awarded grants include the Kensington Neighbourhood House (\$20,000), the Kensington Association (\$1871), and the Kensington Chinese Friendship Association Inc (\$2000) ●

Greening North Melbourne’s streets

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*
ENVIRONMENT

A street in North Melbourne with no trees will soon have 36 square metres of greenery thanks to the City of Melbourne (CoM) following overwhelming support from the local community.

Lt Baillie St will soon have 13 new medium-sized street trees complete with biodiverse garden beds within the tree plots.

Three car spaces will be repurposed for the introduction of the 13 new *Nyssa sylvatica* – Black Tupelo – trees, with 20 on-street spaces retained.

The council’s environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said the trees had been carefully chosen following consultation with the residents.

“City greening projects like this are essential to support a diverse urban forest, increase canopy cover and keep our city cool in a warming climate,” Cr Leppert said.

“The project adheres to the best water sensitive urban design principles, and 36 square metres of permeable area will replace bitumen, allowing for natural absorption of rainwater.”

In June 2021, the CoM shared an initial street greening concept with the community to introduce canopy cover, street greening and garden beds.

According to the council, various forms of communications were sent to all residents, businesses, and property owners in and surrounding Lt Baillie St, with at least 6650 people reached.

Overall, 81 per cent of participants in the survey were “very” or “somewhat” supportive of the proposal, while 19 per cent were “very” or “somewhat” unsupportive.

In a selection of community feedback featured on the Participate Melbourne’s website, one local said, “North Melbourne really needs



▲ Excited: Cr Rohan Leppert at Lt Baillie St.

more trees and parks. Nature brings happiness and wellbeing.”

Another commented that Lt Baillie St had no trees at all.

“I think planting will enhance the streets liveability and attractiveness,” they said.

However, there was some concern that Lt Baillie St would not be able to handle car parking during peak hours with the reduction during peak hours.

“During peak hours Baillie St and Little Baillie St are at capacity for parking for residents and those who work in the street and neighbouring streets,” the local said.

Another suggested the City of Melbourne had to start using space better in the municipality.

“I want more green investment by Melbourne City Council. We have to start better using space and particularly unused space,” the local said.

The Black Tupelos provide striking seasonal colours and are known to perform well in a changing climate ●

Former government minister and social justice advocate honoured

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

Bronwyn Pike, a dedicated social justice advocate and a former Victorian Labor Government Minister, has been awarded an Australian Day honour.

The North Melbourne local was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for “significant service to social welfare and not-for-profit organisations, and to the Parliament of Victoria”.

“It’s a surprise, but a huge honour to be recognised in this way,” she said.

“There are many incredible people on this year’s list, people who have devoted their lives to others and to their communities, so it’s humbling to be named alongside them.”

In her career spanning more than 40 years, Ms Pike was a Member of Parliament from



1999 to 2012 which saw her appointed as the state’s minister for health, education, housing, and community services.

One of her more notable achievements was spearheading a \$1.9 billion Victorian Schools Plan to rebuild or upgrade all public and primary schools by 2016.

Before entering parliament at the age of 43, Ms Pike worked as a secondary humanities teacher in Adelaide and Darwin, as well as a community services manager, and a lecturer in social science at RMIT University.

She was also the director of justice and social responsibility at the Synod of Victoria, an entity of the Unity Church in Australia, a welfare organisation which provides children, youth, family, and aged care services as well as social justice advocacy.

In her recent roles, Ms Pike, a member of the North Melbourne Football Club, has been the CEO of Uniting Vic.Tas – one of Australia’s

largest not-for-profit community services organisations – since 2019 following three years as the chair.

She previously chaired Western Health, the Victorian Council of Social Services, and the South Australian Urban Renewal Authority.

Through her role at Uniting Vic.Tas, Ms Pike said she hoped her organisation would continue “maximising our impact on the lives of individuals and their communities in a positive way.”

Ms Pike said in accepting the Australia Day honour, she also recognised January 26 was not a day of celebration for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Uniting Vic.Tas stands in solidarity in recognising the injustices, dispossession and trauma that began on this date,” Ms Pike said.

“We also affirm our commitment to find a date for our National Day which unites all Australians.” ●

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A festival with a “bounce back” mission

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
SUSTAINABILITY

Before the streets of Melbourne’s CBD were filled with mass anti-lockdown and anti-vax protests, they were lined with climate change protesters.

And while the city is still navigating through the current pandemic crisis, the National Sustainable Living Festival is determined to help rebuild the city with a refocus back onto sustainability.

“We are trying to get the message out about sustainability and help people to connect into the vast array of lifestyle practises that they can adopt,” director of the Sustainable Living Foundation Luke Taylor said.

“And at the same time, we are trying to help Melbourne to bounce back from what has been an incredibly tough period.”

At the forefront of organising the “Bounce Back with Sustainability” program, Mr Taylor stressed the importance of climate action being a “priority”.

“When you look at the state of the planet and the climate emergency that we are facing, it is always time to be thinking about sustainability and climate action, despite the fact that we have another crisis to deal with,” Mr Taylor said.

“The festival is a critical event in the Melbourne events platform.”

Reiterating the significance of a “zero waste lifestyle”, Kensington Stockyard Food Garden will be home to events centring around this concept.

Following the first composting workshop which took place on February 6, a mushroom growing workshop will take place at the garden on February 20.

Led by former environmental campaigner Emma Wasson and humanitarian Stuart Muir Wilson, the mushroom growing practitioners



will not only educate attendees but also aid in helping people with creating take-home kits.

In hoping the various events will attract existing audiences of the Sustainable Living Festival as well as new audiences, the festival is concentrating on “targeting cafes and restaurants” around the city to bring awareness to smaller businesses that have been struggling.

“We are using the power of sustainability and the themes of sustainability to attract audiences to a whole variety of different types of events – from mending, repair workshops, bike maintenance, tours, composting workshops, films, forums and a zero waste cocktail event,” Mr Taylor said.

“There is something for everybody and it really is about teaming up with venue partners who have been doing it tough over the past two years and getting an audience and visitor base back into some critical spaces in Melbourne.”

Running throughout the city from February 1 to 28, there is plenty for the community to get involved in.

And according to Mr Taylor, “there is no time like the present to engage in sustainability events right across the city.” ●

For more information:
slf.org.au

Iconic Kensington mansion up for sale

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
REAL ESTATE



▲ A 130-year-old iconic mansion in Kensington is for sale.

A 130-year-old iconic mansion in Kensington which was once home to the mayor of Flemington is up for sale.

The Victorian-era abode, which has stood along the tree-lined Bellair St since circa 1891, hit the market earlier this year with a forthcoming auction listed by Nelson Alexander.

The grand building was a former Kensington Property Exchange office with an adjoining shop and a residence with rear brick stables known as “Islington”, according to the Heritage Council of Victoria.

“The building complex is of architectural, historical and social significance to the State of Victoria,” the council states.

“The heavily ornamented facade has pedimented Corinthian pavilions on each elevation, one of which forms an arcaded loggia at first floor level.”

Other features include antique fireplaces, original hardwood floors, and a central timber staircase.

The property has five bedrooms and two bathrooms and was last sold in 2017 for \$2,530,000.

It was designed by architect E Owen Hughes, a local practitioner who designed many homes and shops during the height of Melbourne’s boom.

Visitors stop by the building in awe as they admire the stained-glass windows and chequered-floor front shop, which also reveals a room with a sign saying “Manager” displayed above the door.

The building, which is listed under the Victorian Heritage Register, was designed for James Wales, a councillor of Kensington and Flemington, who, in 1899 was elected mayor of Flemington.

Mr Wales originally established his real estate business in 1885 in a humble shop two doors down from the building.

“The towered building which stands prominently on the corner of Bellair and Wight streets reflected James Wales’ success as well as the rise in Kensington land sales,” the council states.

Nelson Alexander Essendon partner and auctioneer said while no date had been set for an auction, “Nelson Alexander are excited about the prospect of taking this iconic building to market again”.

Simon Harvey, chair of the Kensington Association, said the building was “certainly iconic”, but added he couldn’t foresee any strong rejection from the association if the building was to become a commercial premises.

“If it was done sensitively and maintaining the heritage features of the building, I can’t think there would be any strong rejection from us,” he said.

City of Melbourne councillor and heritage lead Rohan Leppert said, “It’s a striking and well-loved part of the local strip, contributing so much to Kensington’s unique character, let’s hope there’s some new life behind those windows.” ●

Royal Park Golf Club driving its way to 120 years

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
SPORT

For golf-enthusiasts in Parkville, the Royal Park Golf Course is a place to come together and bond over a shared love of the sport.

And for many members of the Royal Park Golf Club, it is a place to celebrate and remember the rich history that comes along with the course; a history many visitors are unaware of.

Hoping to continuously honour the course and the club is Parkville resident Denise. As a local who has lived in the area for 24 years, she dedicated her time to research, compiling and producing the booklet *A Centenary in the Park: The History of the Royal Park Golf Club*.

Published in 2003, Denise wrote the booklet knowing “she could and no one else was going to”.

As the only female committee member of the Royal Park Golf Club at the time, Denise believes in the importance of the golf course and its founding club.

“My late husband introduced me to the love of golf in 1999. I live 177 metres from the first tee and play three times a week when I can,” she said.

Situated on the northern boundary of Royal Park, between Carlton and Brunswick, the golf course came about in 1903 when a group gathered together at Parkville Hotel to form a golf club.

Seeing the potential of Royal Park, the club leased the land from the Royal Park Trustees, before it fell under the control of the City of Melbourne, and built an 18-hole course.



One year later its application to be a registered club was accepted by the Victorian Golf Association.

And as shared in Denise’s booklet on the club, the first Club Championship was held in 1906, and the Club Champion the following year was a left-handed golfer by the name of W.R. Opie whose “favourite explanation for an indifferent round” was his handicap of “his heart frequently [getting] in the way”; an issue right-handers did not seem to have.

The number of holes on the Royal Park Golf Course soon lessened to nine within the following years due to a lack of attendance.

And despite a rising attendance of 440 club members 60-years after its opening, the number of holes on the course has remained the same to this day.

Accompanying the alterations of the holes, the course was also impacted when the No 58 tram line was built in 1923, making Royal Park Golf Course the only course to now have both a tram line and a train running through it.

Permission was also given by the City of Melbourne for the Royal Park Golf Club to make immediate improvements on the green using funding from their members.

Thirty years later, an additional 5000 pounds was spent to improve the clubhouse, an amenity benefitting not only the members of the club but also the green fee players.

But at the start of 1970, ashes from the briquette dust heap at the rear of the clubhouse started a fire that not only destroyed part of the building but also the club records, trophies and club members property.

This resulted in a disagreement with the council over the new conditions to make the course public, something that would result in the club losing its membership with the Victorian Golf Association.

With this in mind, a decision to leave Royal Park behind was made.

Members of the Royal Park Golf Club merged with Keilor Golf Club and formed Tullamarine Country Club. A decision that only lasted a couple years as the club reformed with Royal Park Ladies Golf Club in 1972 and Royal Park Men’s Golf Club in 1974.

And as the club and course at Royal Park nearly reaches 120 years old, many members are left reflecting on what the grounds mean to them, including five-time British Open winner, and past junior member of the Royal Park Golf Club in 1942, Peter Thomson.

“It didn’t exactly prosper, but it did the next best thing – it endured,” Mr Thomson said.

And it is this endurance that makes the Royal Park Golf Course unlike any other course in Victoria.

“The Royal Park Golf Course is much loved by local and non-local residents who love to walk around a lovely part of Royal Park, listening to lions roaring and siamang gibbons barking from the zoo,” Denise said.

“And they find it therapeutic to hit a golf ball really hard.” ●

For more information:
royalparkgolf.com.au



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▲ Left: Art opening at One Star. Centre: Katy Beale and Mick Harvey line up the drinks. Right: Marita Smith in front of an experiential painting of Cape Naturaliste by Christopher Pease.

Smaller crowds at art openings

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

Katy Beale is checking the ice and lining up the glasses for an opening at One Star Lounge and Gallery at Victoria St, West Melbourne.

It's always nerve-wracking before an opening, waiting for people to arrive, and this is the first since October.

"I feel that people are a bit more reluctant this year," Katy said.

But Katy and her partner, well-known musician Mick Harvey, are ready. "We're allowed a capacity of 50 so we're going ahead."

The opening starts at 6pm. There's complementary prosecco on arrival and some bowls of snacks to get the atmosphere working.

The turn-out is small but One Star is lucky. It is a window gallery that has maintained an artistic presence on the street during lockdown and kept up interest among local art lovers.

Just off Victoria St further down into North Melbourne, Gallerysmith is a more traditional "white box" and they've had to think about things they hadn't thought about before.

The Abbotsford St location was ideal before the lockdown with maximum wall space for hanging work in a large warehouse.

"I wish I had a window," said director, Marita Smith, reflecting on the kind of creative adaptations she had made during the past two years.

She's kept in touch with clients by increasing her communication and doing more work online plus she runs exhibitions a little longer. "We'll survive," she said.

The current artist on show, Christopher Pease, couldn't come to the show because he's from Western Australia and would have to isolate for a week on return.

"He was devastated," Marita said. "This is his third solo show. He's not a prolific artist."

An exhibition is the book end to a body of work, she said. "It's a really important part of the practice. It allows an artist to view the body of work and engage with an audience then move onto the next series."

Exhibitions are the mainstay of commercial galleries and are the best way for art lovers to get a feel for what is happening in the culture and to view recent work.

Commercial galleries such as Gallerysmith represent artists and engage with the art discourse. More casual art spaces such as One Star

offer venue hire and the current exhibitor Abe Dunovits responded to an Instagram call-out.

Abe has drawn lovely little portraits of music industry figures on aluminium while Christopher has painted illustrations of colonial scenes and overlaid them with geometric commentaries about colonisation.

Marita makes a distinction between those who love art and those who love openings, but really, the two go together.

Gallerysmith's next opening is on March 19 and Marita is keeping the number of visitors to a maximum of 20 by asking people to book into a time slot.

"It's necessary for us to do that," Marita said. "People are less comfortable in crowds." ●



▲ Dressed to kill: Josh, Sam and Matt. Right: A moment of fame at Flemington for Yoseph Singh.

Summer fun at Flemington

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
HUMOUR

Most of life is disappointment but one of the best places for coming to terms with it is Flemington Racecourse.

Here, on the well-kept lawns you can lose \$100 and laugh about it.

At the Summer Fun Race Day on January 15 the sun was shining.

COVID was even working towards the return to normality of the city's foremost racetrack.

Friends Josh, Sam and Matt, from the western suburbs, bought identical shirts for a holiday at the Gold Coast.

Sam got COVID and they had to cancel their travel plans so they wore their horsey shirts to the races instead.

"It's nice and relaxing," Sam said.

Everyone agreed that although the crowds were small the atmosphere was picking up.

One memorable winner was seven-year-old Blazejewski in the fifth race and syndicate members were there at the finishing line to celebrate and pose for the camera.

Yoseph Singh said he would be sharing a percentage of the \$71,000 prize money.

"I always try and make a profit," he said, but that can be easier said than done.

Yoseph bet \$200 on the race but after the prize was divvied up, seven per cent between 10 wouldn't amount to much.

This was Blazejewski's 10th win. He was stuck on nine for quite a while. "He might be retired soon," Yoseph said.

Even if you pick the right horse in a race, it's difficult to get the bet right. You might make a place bet on a horse that wins or do a win and place on a horse that comes third.

"I still haven't managed it," said a bookie at Awesome Bet Second Part.

There's nothing as tragic as a payout of \$100 on a betting slip that is never going to be collected.

There's no chance for any more repartee with the bookie just dumb acceptance of a loss.

There are other rituals that are less costly such as the habit jockeys have of throwing their goggles into the crowd.

Yoseph Singh was a lucky recipient. Others were more demanding, forcing jockeys to answer back.

Yoseph felt like a king for the day, owner of a winning horse and wearing goggles from the Summer Fun Race Day ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
R.DREDGE@HOTMAIL.COM

Police crackdown on scooters

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
TRANSPORT

There's a right and a wrong way to ride an e-scooter and Highway Patrol at North Melbourne Police Station is being forced to police it.

The wrong way involves setting off on a joy ride along the footpath without a helmet, as witnessed on Queensberry St.

The right way is demonstrated by Lois of West Melbourne as she tootles off to do her shopping.

Lois is wearing a helmet and is riding in the bicycle lane on Chetwynd St. She stops at the lights and obeys the road rules.

She hasn't stumbled out of her apartment, noticed an e-scooter on the footpath and shown off to her flat mates by heading off towards Errol St.

It was week two in a trial release of 1500 e-scooters across inner Melbourne and they were still such a novelty that riders were seen hooning down the tram lines on Victoria St and dodging pedestrians on the footpath on Errol St.

Sergeant Alix Watson of North Melbourne Highway Patrol is worried about the safety of these "vulnerable road users", particularly those not wearing helmets.

"The helmet is attached. Put it on your head," she said. "We're having to police it."

She's seen people end up in hospital after being hit standing outside a pub and landing on the ground.

"Why not put on a helmet if you're travelling at 20 kilometres an hour," she suggested.

She said that because the scooters were electric, riders stand with "both feet in front of the other" and "people jump on them who have never ridden a scooter."

She said the scooter could wobble and the "weird sensation" of riding a scooter for the first time could lead to ignoring road rules.

A police blitz on the first Friday of the roll-out resulted in more than three dozen fines in the CBD.

The publicity also prompted action by council employees. An attendant in front of the North Melbourne Library on Errol Street told off two scooter riders.

"They'll get fined for riding on the footpath,"



▲ The right way to ride an e-scooter.



▲ The wrong way to ride an e-scooter.

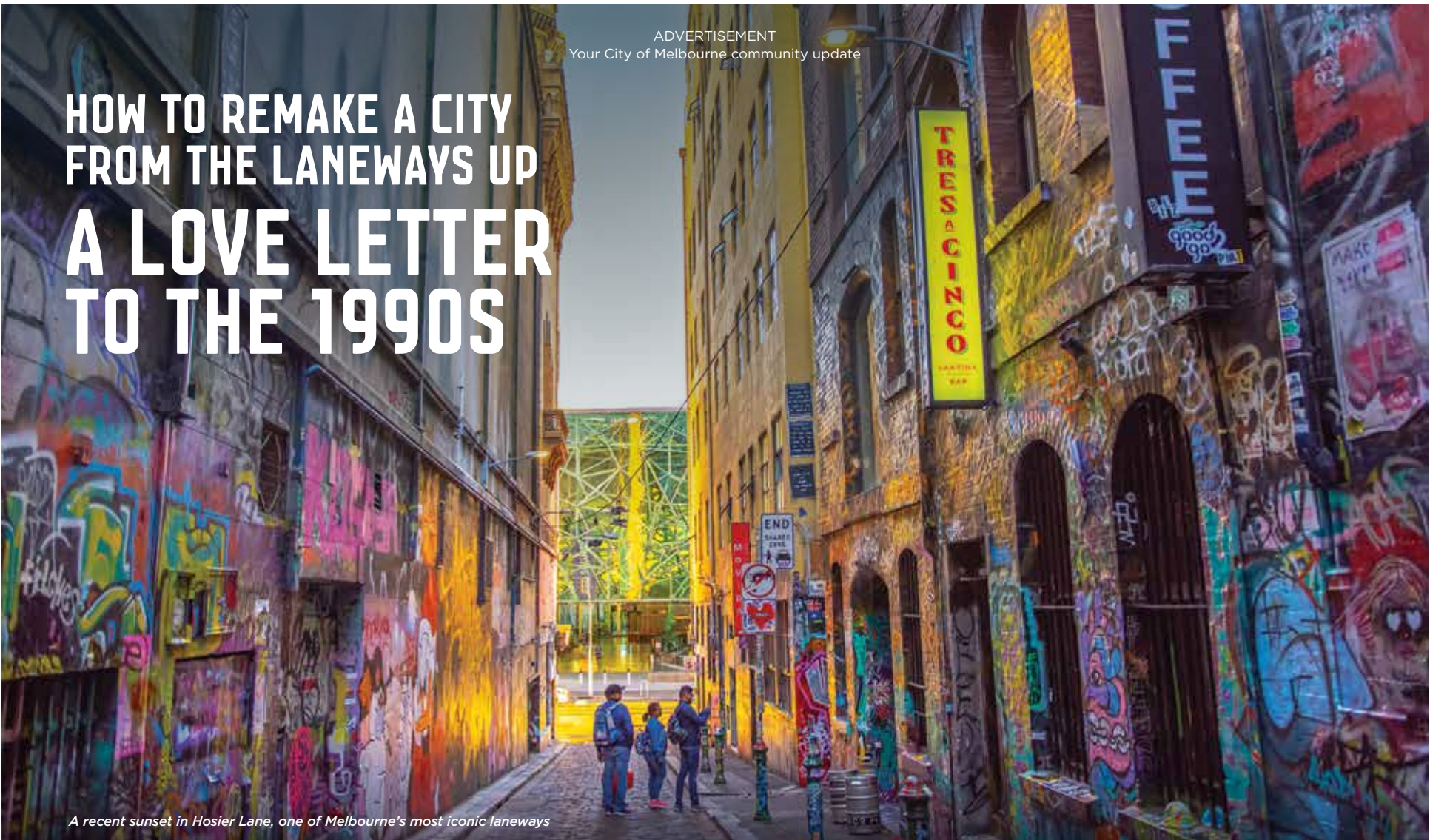
he said. "The police are cracking down. Even cyclists can be fined."

He said that people coming out of the library could be knocked down. Police confirmed that pedestrian accidents had already occurred.

Privately-owned electric scooters are also being targeted. It is illegal to ride them on the road, Sergeant Watson said, except those with a speed limit of 10 kph.

A mother wrote an opinion piece in *The Age* in favour of scooters. She rides her child four kilometres to school on one.

This is also illegal. "It's not legal to have a second person on them," Sergeant Watson said. "We can't have kids on scooters. They must be over 18." ●



What can the genesis of Melbourne's much-loved laneway culture teach us about remaking the city?

As the sheen came off our '90s obsession with sundried tomato focaccias, a quiet revolution was underway in the city's abandoned buildings and underground arcades.

'On a Sunday we'd cook a barbie on the roof of our building on Hosier Lane, and it felt like the only other living creature in the city was the bird of prey circling overhead,' said Mark Healy, a founding director of Six Degrees Architects.

Mark and 10 friends had taken over the top floor of an old building made vacant by the recent recession. It felt like they had the city to themselves but when the sun went down their entertainment options were limited to musty pubs and noisy nightclubs.

'We wanted somewhere in the city to stay up late and drink and talk with friends, and one of us had the idea of starting a bar,' said Mark. They pooled their slender resources and converted a stripped-out hair salon into the city's first laneway bar.

'There were no grand plans beyond that. Meyers Place was open from 4pm to 4am and all drinks were \$4,' said Mark. It was 1994.

The bar was quickly crammed full of curious artists, designers, makers and city dwellers, many of whom had set up homes and studios in hidden warehouses and faded neo-Romanesque beauties.

Tiny bars were soon scattered like secrets across the city's laneways: Rue Bebelons, Misty, Hairy Canary, St Jeromes, Troika, Hell's Kitchen, Robot, Gin Palace.

'Melbourne discovered its mojo during the 1990s recession,' said Craig Allchin, another co-founder of both Meyers Place and Six Degrees Architects. 'It built a brand out of empty spaces.'

'It was an interesting place. It was cheap to rent those old spaces. That's what enables new things to happen in cities. And that's currently up for grabs again.'

Although the crew from Meyers Place has moved on to different projects, some of these bars are still serving drinks more than 20 years later, and our foodie scene now graces our footpaths and parklets through our outdoor dining initiative.

.....

'There's value in curating free or very inexpensive spaces for creative people. There's a lot you can do with empty spaces created in the city by the pandemic.'

.....

Cheap rent attracts artists

A sweeping view of the city convinced jeweller Ali Limb to take a seventh-floor studio in the Nicholas Building in 1994. That and the cheap rent. She joined a matrix of creatives tucked away in draughty city studios.

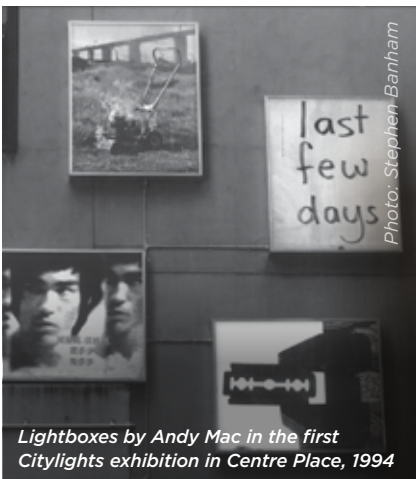
'Jewellers in the city were doing really great and edgy stuff. Like an exhibition of rings formed from ice that would gradually melt over the day,' said Ali. 'Beautiful, spontaneous, experimental.'

In 1998 Ali teamed up with friend Emma Goodsir to create a laneway retail space and gallery for local jewellers. A startup grant from City of Melbourne helped them take the leap and e.g.etal is still running today in the central city under Emma's direction.

'e.g.etal fuelled the craft and made it a financially viable career for many artists,' said Emma. 'This contributed to the city's growth into an internationally recognised hub for contemporary jewellery.'

Momentary beauty was also fostered by indie fashion house Alice Euphemia, which opened in a 'dark and spooky' underground arcade in Flinders Way in 1997 and eventually moved into an empty police station in Cathedral Arcade.

'The rent was so cheap we could afford to be creative,' said owner Karen Rieschieck, who ran Alice Euphemia for 17 years. Alice nurtured nascent local labels including Gorman and Kuwail.



The launch of each new collection was an excuse for a party that spilled out into the laneways and attracted all types of creatives. Collaborations abounded.

'You can't fake that. There's value in curating free or very inexpensive spaces for creative people. There's a lot you can do with empty spaces created in the city by the pandemic. How landlords use their empty space is going to be very beneficial to the city,' said Karen.

The City of Melbourne is now connecting landlords with prospective tenants like artisans and entrepreneurs to convert empty shopfronts into pop-ups through its Shopfront Activation Program.

Putting the fun back into art

Look up while walking down Centre Place and you'll still see two of the four light boxes that the City Lights crew stuck to a wall on the side of a bank in the early '90s. Vessels for a new type of exhibition space.

'It was 50 per cent permission and 50 per cent punk anarchy,' said Citylights co-founder Richard Butler Bowdon. 'The punk anarchy sucked people in. It was unexpected. People were used to seeing advertising in light boxes but instead they got art.'



Citylights 2 launch party in a pre-graffiti Hosier Lane, circa 2000

Citylights soon expanded to eight smaller light boxes in Hosier Lane. On the surrounding walls, young artists began to put up stencils, stickers and paste-ups.

Street art culture began its stealthy spread. The laneway launch parties got rowdier.

‘The stencil thing really blew up at that Hosier Lane site. It was from the ground up. We were part of a current that put fun back into art,’ said Richard.

When the city turned its attention to buffing the streets until each surface sparkled, it also created empty canvases for street artists, according to curator Dr Lachlan MacDowell.

‘You wouldn’t spend six hours painting a wall that would be cleaned regularly. So stencilling began to make sense – you could create multiples and not worry too much. They were at the human scale,’ said Lachlan.

From punk roots sprang the City of Melbourne’s Laneway Commissions program which saw new temporary artworks commissioned, like love letters to the local terrain. A giant safe lodged perilously overhead. A confession chamber. Unreachable phone boxes.

Having seen the city as a playground in the 1990s, Lachlan has teamed up with artists to bring light and colour to our laneways through the Flash Forward program, which commissioned artists to add their distinctive mark to 40 city laneways.

.....
‘The punk anarchy sucked people in. It was unexpected. People were used to seeing advertising in light boxes but instead they got art.’
.....



Urban choreography

It may have seemed spontaneous, but the slow dance of ‘urban choreography’ – as Council’s City Architect Rob Adams describes his 38-year relationship with Melbourne – began in 1985.

‘We made incremental changes to reinforce the city’s own character,’ said Rob. Footpaths were widened. Lighting was added and traffic calmed. Disused roads were reclaimed as green space. Melbourne began to play to its strengths: iconic bluestone pavers, laneways.

‘Gradually, we even returned our attention to the long-forgotten river.

‘When the property market crashed, rents in old buildings dropped and everyone moved to high-class accommodation. These old buildings were left empty.’

While adventurers had made a community in some empty spaces, Rob and his team approached landowners and encouraged them to convert their buildings into residential spaces.

The idea was controversial at first and required fancy footwork with the fire department and other regulators, but Postcode 3000 evolved quickly and Melbourne’s residential population swelled from 685 city dwellings in 1982 to more than 40,000 dwellings today across the CBD, Southbank and Docklands.

Through a new residential campaign, ‘This is your local’, we’re once again encouraging people to embrace city living and make the most of current stamp duty concessions on new apartment purchases.

There were unexpected side-effects of the success of Postcode 3000. As more professionals moved into the city, studio spaces were converted into apartments and rents went up. Many artists were forced to withdraw, but they left a powerful legacy.

‘The creative people who got pushed out by Postcode 3000 are the people we can bring back into the central city post-COVID,’ said Rob.

‘If we can get those empty spaces and put creatives into those spaces, what a great combination.’

.....
Footpaths were widened. Lighting was added and traffic calmed. Disused roads were reclaimed as green space. Melbourne began to play to its strengths: iconic bluestone pavers, laneways.
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For more information visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au/reignite-melbourne

WAYS TO LOVE MELBOURNE

Laneway street art

Look at our laneways afresh. Flash Forward has revitalised 40 central city laneways with art, sound and lighting. Or book a free street art walking tour. Read more at magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au



Melbourne moments

Get discounts through the Melbourne Attractions Keypass. Look for \$20 tickets at Arts House. Catch a gig. Connect with Aboriginal Melbourne. Cruise around our friendly bike lane network. Find out more at www.klook.com/en-AU/promo/city-of-melbourne/



Shopfront activation

Look for entrepreneurs and artisans-in-residence at street level. We’re transforming empty shopfronts into creative spaces and temporary shops under a \$2.6 million program with the Victorian Government.

Local businesses

Enjoy an outdoor table at your favourite eatery. We’re making it easier for businesses to trade outdoors with permit fee waivers, new infrastructure and a boost for the Business Concierge.

Parks and gardens

Pack a picnic basket full of goodies from an indie city grocer and explore our stunning city gardens. Find the secret waterfall, do some forest bathing and breathe.



Creative spaces

Find a space so you can create. Creative Spaces fosters art in the City of Melbourne by connecting artists with affordable studios. We manage several studios and two public art galleries, as well as the national website creativespaces.net.au

CRYSTAL BALL: WHAT’S NEXT FOR MELBOURNE

Here’s what five 1990s laneway legends imagine might come next for inner-city Melbourne.

The long lunch

‘For all the talk of different styles of work, the social nature of one-to-one time is what we’re craving. Maybe it means the return of the business lunch? That chance to say, “Hey, let’s have lunch and go shopping”, or meet after work for a drink. The human stuff.’

Mark Healy, co-founder of Meyers Place and Six Degrees Architects

Old-fashioned ‘hospitality’

‘It will all be about the word “hospitality”. People will want to be cared for, made welcome. It’s not all about the dollar, or how many bums you can fit on seats. It’s about creating a wonderful space that people want to enjoy.’

Andre Bishop, founder of Robot Bar in Bligh Place

Artist-led recovery

‘An artist-led recovery will only work in the long-term if artists are seen as central to the functioning of a city, no matter how gentrified it gets.’

Stephen Banham, designer and lecturer at RMIT

Business innovation

‘Allowing inspired small business people freedom to create is what sets Melbourne apart, so we should continue to invest in them.’

Ben Luzz, owner Gin Palace and Bijou Bar and Bottle Store

Bring the energy back

‘I’d like to see some pop-up places – independent fashion stores, shopfront artist’s studios, small music events, artist-run galleries in vacant shops, street markets. It would be great to bring back the vibe of the 90s.’

Concettina Inserra, artist and photographer



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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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

Connect with us

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FEDERAL MP

A Greens balance of power

As your local MP who has lived in North Melbourne, West Melbourne and Parkville, I am thrilled to be able to contribute to North West City News.

The pandemic has impacted us all, and fundamentally changed our city, but it doesn't all have to be for the worse.

We need to rebuild our community, not just our economy. Recovering from the pandemic gives us the opportunity to tackle the long-term problems our country faces, if we're prepared to invest in nation-building, planet-saving projects.

Locally, I'll keep helping organisations that enrich our community, like the funding we secured for North Melbourne Language and Learning to carry out an energy audit of their energy practices, and to secure funding for the Royal Park Tennis Club for more energy efficient air-conditioning equipment.

We need to protect what we love about Melbourne. That's why the Greens also have a plan to revitalise our city, with rent reductions for innovative and creative businesses and steps to protect the things which make living in Melbourne so special.

Keeping Melbourne one of the world's greatest places to live is a challenge we all face as a community.

During the past few weeks, the kids have gone back to school and the politicians have gone back to Parliament.

While the peak of the latest wave of COVID has passed, there's still significant challenges battling the outbreak for many within our community.

Unfortunately, the government has been trying to do everything it can to change the subject.

But it can't get away from the fact that people who have helped build this country, and the workers who care for them, are being treated very poorly in under-staffed aged care facilities.

The Morrison government has messed this up. They have abandoned the people in aged care, and their families are rightly very worried.

They haven't abandoned their mates, their donors, or the big corporations and billionaires. They get special treatment. But they abandoned us.

Despite some of the toughest years we've ever lived through, with Melbourne's small businesses struggling, wage growth flatlining, and the cost of living going up, many big



▲ Adam Bandt. Photo: Murray Enders.

corporations are now making record profits, often off the back of public handouts.

Thankfully, there's an election coming up soon. And this time, I think Scott Morrison is in trouble.

This election, we are going to kick Scott Morrison out, and, with any luck, the Greens will hold the balance of power.

When I was first elected in Melbourne, we made history by putting the Greens in the balance of power, securing world-leading

legislation to tackle climate change, getting dental into Medicare for 3.4 million kids and securing massive investments in the Melbourne community.

This time, if we find ourselves in the balance of power, we want to make the billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax, so we can invest in the things that ensure everyone can live a good life.

We'll tackle the housing unaffordability crisis, by building and offering renters, first home buyers and people locked out of the housing market new, good-quality homes, in the areas they want to live in, for \$300,000. This is part of our plan to build a million new public housing homes over 20 years to end homelessness, while also strengthening renters' rights.

We'll finish what we started and push to get dental and mental health into Medicare for everyone. And we'll create thousands of jobs rolling out renewables to fight the climate crisis and end coal and gas.

Melbourne's values of compassion and equality have helped lead the country before, and this election they're set to do it again.

Please stay safe, look after each other and, if you need any assistance, contact me ●

Contact Adam Bandt:
adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au or
phone 9417 0772

STATE MP



New bike lanes for Royal Parade and Flemington Rd

For several years, I've been advocating loudly to the state government to fix the bike lanes on Royal Parade and Flemington Rd. They're some of the most unsafe bike routes in the inner city, with bikes squished between moving vehicles and parked cars, and a high rate of awful injuries and accidents.

These are important routes for people getting to and from the CBD from Kensington, Flemington, North Melbourne, Parkville, Carlton, and further afield. We know that safer bike lanes mean less congestion on our roads so it's easier for both cars and cyclists to get around, and cycling is good for our health and environment too.

In my past few meetings with the Treasurer and Transport Minister I have given them fully costed plans for proper separated bike lanes on these roads and asked that they be funded in the budget. Therefore, I was so pleased to see that the state government recently announced these roads have been earmarked for pop-up bike lanes.

What does this mean, exactly? Here are the details: the state government has released a proposed map of where they plan to build "pop-up" bike lanes (which will hopefully become permanent). Royal Parade (south-bound only) and all of Flemington Rd are on this map! However, the map is not final, and is open for community consultation before an ultimate decision is made. The government also hasn't yet

decided what "treatments" they will use – that is, whether the lanes will just be painted green, or whether they'll be proper safe separated bike lanes.

Credit also goes to the City of Melbourne, especially our Greens councillors Rohan Leppert and Olivia Ball (and previously Cr Cathy Oke) who have worked hard to advocate for this. The City of Melbourne will actually be part or fully funding many of these bike lanes, with a decent chunk of money hopefully provided by the state government.

To make these bike lanes a reality, we need your help! Please go to vicroads.vic.gov.au/pop-up-bike-lanes and take part in the community consultation and tell the state government we urgently need proper safe separated bike lanes on Royal Parade and Flemington Rd.

Well done to everyone who has helped us get to this point! We're hopefully on the final stretch now.

As always, if there's anything I can help you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch: office@ellensandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

METRO TUNNEL

Building the Metro Tunnel with Aboriginal Talent Pool

First Nations-identifying Victorians can now kickstart or further develop their careers in rail construction through a new program at Rail Projects Victoria.

RPV – the government agency building the Metro Tunnel and Melbourne Airport Rail – has launched an Aboriginal Talent Pool to provide pathways to employment on some of the state's biggest transport infrastructure projects.

RPV assistant director, industry engagement, Aboriginal workforce and enterprises Craig Taylor said now was the perfect time for people to put their hand up for future roles in areas as diverse as HR, payroll, training, health and safety, and on-the-ground construction.

"We will have positions in general labouring, scaffolding, concreting," Taylor, a Wiradjuri descendant, said. "If there are Aboriginal men or women who are engineers, there would be opportunities in engineering too."

Industry engagement officer Ash Woods was the first person to join the Aboriginal Talent Pool and the first in the pool to land a full-time role with RPV.

"I came to RPV as a VET graduate, joined up with the Aboriginal Talent Pool as soon as I started, and found my way into this great new role," she said.

"As an Aboriginal person myself, working within the state requirements team and working on data for the Aboriginal employment targets makes me feel like I'm giving something back."

More than 400 indigenous people have been employed on the Metro Tunnel Project to date, with more across other RPV projects. And with a pipeline of construction that will keep people employed for decades, the organisation wants that number to grow.

"People will be surprised that with a lot of the jobs you don't need qualifications, and if you do need them for construction work, RPV can help you with that," Woods said.



Taylor said the initiative was a game-changer for young indigenous people.

"You can't be what you can't see," he said. "One of the main priorities of the Aboriginal Talent Pool is to show Aboriginal Australians that it's possible and that you don't need to be qualified to get in."

"What we're hoping to get, above and beyond career opportunities for indigenous women and men, is role models as well."

Taylor and Woods also have positive things to say about the workplace culture.

"One of the first things I noticed was that RPV has more cultural awareness training than any other job I've been in," Woods said, while Taylor described the workplace as a "fantastic" and "professional" environment.

"I can tell you that RPV is one of the best places I've worked," he said.

To join the Aboriginal Talent Pool, simply contact the team at railprojects.vic.gov.au/aboriginaltalentpool and someone will be in touch ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



News from Parkville Gardens

December in Parkville Gardens was busy!

The Parkville Gardens Residents' Association (PGRA) held two big events in the lead-up to Christmas – an open-air jazz concert and the AGM, both of which were very successful.

After a quiet January, the working year is now underway. Schools are open and routines are returning as much as COVID allows. Of course, for the staff and volunteers at retirement and aged care facilities such as our local Mercy Place, the demands of caring for their residents through this pandemic have never stopped and they remain daunting. Construction work on the new social housing tower on Galada Avenue has resumed.

The good news for Parkville Gardens is that our application to the City of Melbourne for funding 2022 activities was successful. One grant covers the cost of our annual public liability insurance, the other enables us to organise events that engage and strengthen the local community. We have a series of functions in mind, including our annual children's Easter

egg hunt. We'll keep you posted as plans take shape.

It's back to business for the PGRA committee. At our first meeting in early February, we were pleased to welcome two guests from the City of Melbourne. First up was arborist Tyler Williams who spoke to us about the city's tree policies. Here are just a few points he made ...

The council's Urban Forest Strategy aims to increase canopy cover to provide shade and reduce heat; this will entail replacing some smaller trees with larger equivalents. There is an ongoing tree maintenance program to detect and deal with safety issues, but it is impossible to prevent damage from severe storms such as the one on October 29, 2021. His presentation sparked animated discussion which had to be cut short because of time constraints.

Our second visitor was Nas Mohamud, Parkville's new City of Melbourne Neighbourhood Partner. In a sense she replaces Fiona Darling, our previous council liaison person, but her role is somewhat different because of a change of approach on the part of the council.

They wish to engage more proactively with the designated neighbourhoods of the

municipality. This has led to a significant reorganisation of the council's staff and a new strategy. We welcomed her announcement that the council's Future Melbourne Committee will meet with the neighbourhood on April 12. It was a pleasure to meet Nas in person.

Another initiative of the council is a new Parkville Heritage Review, the last one being held in 1979. The stated aim of the review is "to better understand Parkville's built and cultural heritage and to find out what makes it different to other neighbourhoods." Team members Tanya Wolkenberg, Roslyn Rymer and Suellen Holland are keen to hear from Parkville residents about the history and value of the area's heritage places. The community consultation has begun and will run until March 7. To find out more and get involved, go to participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parkville-heritage-review.

This year will see a realignment of state electoral boundaries. Parkville Gardens has been excised from the Brunswick electorate and reassigned to Melbourne. Ellen Sandell will replace Tim Read as our local member. We look forward to having the same positive and active relationship with Ellen as we have had with Tim. In view of the upcoming change,

Tim has brought us up-to-date on initiatives he has taken on our behalf. He has written to the Minister of Education James Merlino on the issue of school zoning, is following up on his success in securing funding for a more frequent bus service and has written to Cr Rohan Leppert about charging stations for electric vehicles. Thank you, Tim!

In brief, Parkville Gardens has much to look forward to in 2022 ●

Residents can find us:
facebook.com/groups/pgrass or
[email secretary@pgra.org.au](mailto:secretary@pgra.org.au).



Tom Knowles
TOM KNOWLES IS THE PRESIDENT
OF PARKVILLE GARDENS
ASSOCIATION.
PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU

NATURE

Morphing in the old-fashioned way

WORDS BY *Howard Birnstihl*

If you're like me you'll have difficulty remembering the term for the way insects change from their young larval stage into adulthood.

Computer terminology has helped with the idea of morphing and that is exactly what these clever little devils have been doing for millions of years.

"Incomplete metamorphosis" applies to the lazier insects which, when born, simply become larger versions of themselves, a bit like you and me in fact, but strictly speaking, more like the praying mantis illustrated here. The more imaginative types, like butterflies and dragonflies employ a more complete make-over which is aptly termed "complete metamorphosis".

In both cases, the growth of insects from hatching to adulthood is usually achieved by a series of moults. Unlike us, insects don't have an inner skeleton, relying instead on an external or "exoskeleton" in which they develop and so are forced to jettison this hard cuticle each time they outgrow it. After huffing and puffing they burst out of the old skin and usually hide away in some safe place while the new outer protective layer hardens. Naturally during this period, without their protective armour, they are most vulnerable to predators and keeping out of sight is imperative for their survival.

The praying mantis is a great example to study. You'll find plenty of them in your garden as they sit patiently waiting to rid your backyard of its flies and other pests. They'll spring out of their little whitish grey egg sac (delightfully called an "ootheca") on your back fence on the first hot morning in November, each only a few millimetres long. If you happen to find one in your garden today, he or she will have grown to about as long as your little finger. Developing



through half a dozen moults, their wings won't appear until the last when they'll unfurl and are pumped full of liquid and air to form their final functional shape.

Nature is jam-packed with examples of metamorphosis. Dragonflies, for example, actually spend their early months (and even years in some cases) as aquatic insects entirely underwater. Fishermen use them as bait and call them "mud eyes".

Normally, in metamorphosis, if the caterpillar



is an attractive, colourful critter then the adult butterfly will be too. One exception is the emperor gum moth. The caterpillars are exotically beautiful (although superbly camouflaged in the gum leaves they inhabit, and rarely seen) but the adult moth is just another humdrum brown furry flutterer ... the ugly duckling syndrome in reverse.

Most caterpillars, once in their cocoon or chrysalis, give up all activity, put their feet up and either watch the telly or have a long snooze.

Bagworms, like the Saunders Casemoth, do so eventually but for a while, work like trojans. Starting life as tiny grubs, they cover themselves with bits of debris as a disguise. Then as they grow, they weave a tough silk cocoon reinforced with sticks which they drag along behind them as they forage. Every now and then they pop their heads out through a hole carefully slit in the side and chew off slightly bigger sticks which they glue to the case. They continue to add silk and timber until the bag is about 12 to 15cm long and they become a plump juicy morsel upon which any bird would love to dine. But hanging on your back fence, they are as safe as houses, the silk so tough it is impossible for a human to tear or for any beak to penetrate.

By the way, if you want to impress your friends you can tell them you can identify whether the hidden caterpillar is male or female without even seeing it. The trick is to look at the twigs at the bottom of the sack. If there is a long one looking a bit untidy, the occupant is probably female. This is because she has built this into the overall design as a landing pad for the male. As a moth, he alights and passes his "calling card" in through a small opening at the base of the cocoon. Cute, eh?

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



Aboriginal man wins top prize for artwork depicting identity and sexuality

As a proud gay Aboriginal man, Ronald Pepper didn't hold back in putting his all into a recent piece of artwork which took home the top prize in the Koorie Art Show.

WORDS BY *Spencer Fowler Steen*

A swirling, brightly coloured collection of images and paintings on canvas, Mr Pepper's artwork *Coming Out 2* tells the story of his identity growing up as a First Nations man, a story he is "proud and honoured" to tell.

"It's exhilarating," he told *Inner City News*.
"It's nice to put my stories out there and to win an amazing award and to have all the elements of my art practice and to tell a story in a nice way."

Part of Mr Pepper's painting exhibits trips he took to Japan and China in 2010 under his local government's Sister City program.

Since then, his love for art has only grown having graduated from Federation University with a Bachelor of Visual and Media Arts in 2017.

He has since had multiple commissions and been involved in exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

Asked what inspired him to create *Coming Out 2*, which earned him the Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT) \$10,000 top prize, Mr Pepper said he wanted to put everything into one painting.

"What inspired me was I wanted to create something that tells the story of my identity



and growing up as an Aboriginal man," he said.
"I'm gay in two worlds, in a positive cultural way, and I wanted to let people know that coming out in the 21st century; you can be who you are and be proud of what you do in your culture and where you're from – to be a role model for your people."

Mr Pepper's esteemed piece of artwork is also about passing on the lore of the land to the next generation, which he experienced with stories told to him by his late mother.

"Last year and the year before were sad and very dark for me," he said of this experience in



an interview with Andrew Stephens for KHT Voices.

"Doing the bright colours and having support around me brought me to where I am. They [my

parents] would be very proud of me now."
"Moving on in healing, in art – that has helped me a lot to process what has happened and to move forward."

Mr Pepper said the spirals signifying the intergenerational passing on of knowledge "will get bigger and bigger and grow more."

Mr Pepper also wished to congratulate his fellow artists in the Koorie Art Show and the artists who exhibited their work in KHT's Blak Jewellery exhibition.

"I see all the amazing artists making their art and it's bringing back what we've learnt through our time, and I'd like to say congratulations and to keep doing what we're doing to shape who we are as Aboriginal people," he said.

"I'd also like to thank the Koorie Heritage Trust for the opportunity they've provided me."

Mr Pepper is currently using an array of new art equipment he purchased using the prize money to produce new, "very different" artwork which will be exhibited at the KHT soon ●

For more information:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au

NORTH WEST CITY LOCAL

Ambition and results

WORDS BY *Zak Wheeler*

Kensington local Alexandra Copeland has been creating art since she was four.

Coming from a community of potters in Warrandyte, Alexandra learnt from a very young age that she had a knack for the arts. With the help of her parents' friends and the next-door neighbour, a career of experimentation had begun by the time a local group of artists invited her to join their club.

When Alex wasn't out drawing houses or structures with her new art group, she'd make her way next door with her brother to their neighbour's art room for helpful tips.

Looking to others for help is how Alexandra gained her skills as an artist. This sourcing for help started early when she was in high school, where she met her partner Leigh. Decades later and the couple is still together, collaborating on pieces and helping each other out around the house.

"He did Year 12 physics and chemistry, which you really need to be able to work with the glazes on the pots," Alex said.

"So, I do it intuitively. I think to myself that if I mix a bit of this with that and maybe I'll get that colour. So, I ask him if it'll work and he says, 'no you've got to do such and such'. He's got quite a good knowledge of chemistry, so we do a lot of experimenting and he's been a huge help to me with his knowledge."

She said creating ceramics was a trying process, even after years of practice.

"It can be tedious because if you want to cover the whole surface of big pots with oil paints, you'd just paint it like that. But with the glazes it's 'dab, dab, dab, dab, dab'. So, all the colours that have been put on those have been dabbed with a little, small paint brush. The whole trick is to make it look easier than it really is."

Looking around Alexandra's home in Kensington, she excels at making the tricky look easy. Lines of ceramics sat along every ledge,



paintings hung from all walls, and drawings littered the table as if someone had just been to a large sale.

"Don't mind the pots everywhere," Alexandra told *North West City News* upon entering her home. "I've got some buyers calling around so I'm just preparing for their visit."

Alexandra's price tags fall anywhere from \$450 for a *Cherry Basket Bowl*, to \$1500 for a *Plum Blossom Haiku Pot*.

One of the many outlets that has featured Alexandra's pieces is QDOS Fine Arts in Lorne, where she still actively sells collaborative



handwoven carpets that she makes with Afghan craftspeople.

"I've got a connection in Afghanistan where I've got Afghan weavers weaving my designs," she said. "I'm employing some Afghan weavers because since the Taliban have taken over last year the economy has collapsed, so it's very hard for people to find jobs over there."

"I'm very lucky because I'd organised it before that happened, I've had it going for about 20 years where they weave rugs to my designs. I take them to proper galleries, and they sell them for me."

"Leigh and I ran our own little gallery where I sold my own work and that of others. But even working in the gallery, I'd just be thinking of my art and thinking about what my next painting was going to be."

When starting out in the potting world, Alexandra had to seek out exhibits to show off her works. Unlike upcoming artists today who can post their material on social media sites like Instagram, she found herself marching into exhibits and art centres, pots in hand, asking for her shot in the spotlight.

"My attitude was to start at the top and not at the bottom and if they rejected me, I'd go to the next one, and then the next one, and the next one," she said.

"I went to a gallery at that stage, and I decided that that was the most desirable one, it was the one I wanted to show with."

"I took some pots to them, and I remember that I drove there, and I was incredibly tense because it was mucked up because I hadn't calculated how long it would take me to find a parking spot. So instead of walking in there all relaxed with my pots under my arms, I sort of came stumbling in and feeling really tense and everything. I showed them the pots and I wasn't expecting them to say 'yes', but when I showed them, they said 'when can you do an exhibition? We love it.'"

"So, I started off on the right foot with them. The most amazing thing that I still can't believe, the National Gallery of Victoria bought a piece, which usually takes you your whole life to do that. I didn't believe them at first, I thought they were pulling my leg."

The beauty of ceramics, as Alexandra notes, is in their durability.

"Ceramics will last forever; they'll last for thousands of years. Even if they get smashed, the shards will still be there. People will go through the tips in 1000 years and still see the shards."

So, to whoever is reading this in 300 years, take the time to hunt down a ceramic. It might just be one of Alexandra's.

If you would like to see Alexandra's artwork for yourself, check out her socials.

Instagram:[alexandra_e_copeland](https://www.instagram.com/alexandra_e_copeland).

Facebook: [alexandracopelandceramics](https://www.facebook.com/alexandracopelandceramics) ●

SATELLITE FOUNDATION

Music for better mental health

Music and all forms of creativity can have a very real benefit to young people’s mental health. “Where words fail, music speaks,” world-renowned Danish author Hans Christian Anderson said. This is especially true when exploring the intersection between music as a form of therapy and mental health.

According to the Australian Music Therapy Association, music therapy is research-based allied health profession that can support people of any age who might be experiencing mental, intellectual, physical, emotional or social challenges, and/or are wishing to improve their wellbeing.

Sierra Verity-Beasley is a registered music therapist who has an interest in mental health and music to support people to feel better, share, connect and creatively express their authentic self. Sierra recently facilitated Satellite Foundation’s Songwriting Workshop, as part of the “At Home with Satellite” program and brought her extensive knowledge and expertise to the organisation and its participants.

“The great thing about using music as a tool is that it is just so diverse and so applicable to so many different problems, challenges, people and situations that you might encounter,” Sierra told the Brainwaves program on Radio 3CR in a recent interview. “In that way, it also bridges social or emotional or physical challenges that people are having, that other therapies might not.”

“Everyone seems to understand that music helps them feel better. And they generally get a sense that they want music in their lives. But they might not necessarily know exactly how, or why, or how to do that more intentionally for themselves,” Sierra said. At Satellite, music is used as a medium to empower young people to

feel better, make friendships, and express their unique creativity. In fact, Satellite celebrates all forms of creativity, and has the strong belief that being “creative” is simply being given permission to see, feel, share and communicate our experiences in this world in lots of different ways. When we are being “creative”, our brains release dopamine, which is a natural anti-depressant. Dopamine plays a role in how we feel pleasure. It’s a big part of our unique human ability to think and plan. It helps us strive, focus, and find things interesting.

Five musical self-care tips from Sierra

We can use music in our everyday lives as a tool to feel good, feel relaxed, find focus and feel joy.

1. Sing out loud
2. Play an instrument
3. Wake up to your favourite song
4. Mindful listening
5. Make a playlist

If you would like to find out more about the power of music to improve health and wellbeing, listen to Satellite’s full interview on the Brainwaves program: 3cr.org.au/brainwaves

Satellite’s upcoming program, Satellite Connect, starts on Monday, February 21, and registrations are still open. Satellite Connect is a primarily online, free program for young people aged 18 to 25 years old (approx.). This six-week program provides opportunities for young people to be heard and the power of their experiences to be shared through a supported and positive platform. Participants meet, interact and collaborate, practicing personal development skills to help build confidence and peer connection. Satellite Connect ends with a free, in-person overnight retreat at the beautiful Coastal Forest Lodge in Bellbrae, Victoria!

Monday, February 21 to Monday, March 28, 6.30pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. Total time commitment is 12 hours.

Satellite Foundation is not-for-profit that connects and empowers children and young people where a parent or family member experiences mental health challenges. Through delivering a range of in-person and online programs, activities and messaging, Satellite aims to foster a strong connection between young people, their family and the wider community. All programs are FREE. Find out more information and register your interest in a program at satellitefoundation.org.au.

You can find out more about Sierra at her website: resoundmusictherapy.com.au ●



▲ *Fragments* (album covered pictured here) is a song co-created by the participants in Satellite’s Songwriting workshop with Sierra in 2021. You can listen to the song at Satellite’s website.

For more information: satellitefoundation.org.au

ARTS HOUSE

Arts House and Footscray Community Arts breaking down barriers through dance

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Shows and events at North Melbourne’s Arts House are well and truly underway in 2022 with a collection of colour, music and movement being at the forefront of its enthusiastic comeback.

Arts House Artistic Director Emily Sexton believes there is no time like the present for artists to finally have their moment and voice given back to them.

“We’ve heard a lot in the past two years from certain parts of the community about what we have been going through – from politicians, the media and a range of experts – that is all valid, but personally I’m so ready to hear from artists who are thinking through this crisis with a different lens,” she said.

Not exempt from the hassles of rescheduling, after creating the show during last year’s lockdown, is North Melbourne local Lucy Guerin Inc’s *Flux Job*.

Hitting the stage from March 16 to 20 with an Auslan interpreted performance scheduled for March 17, the performance will centre around four dancers walking the line between individual and shared experiences.

And after seeing an early run of the show, Ms Sexton said, “it’s a work that will remind people just how vital live performance can be.”

“There is a special thread of power and vulnerability in this show; the performances are exceptional, with lots of super interesting choreography and quite dramatic, gothic, romantic moments,” she said.

“Then there is a central section of storytelling that is very touching. I can see the meeting of creative minds in this show very clearly.”

As Arts House continues to develop its “blockbuster” programming for the year, Ms Sexton is “excited” for audiences to see other stories around topics that don’t involve the pandemic. A topic that has become all-consuming and “overwhelming”.

“You can expect to come into the North Melbourne Town Hall and feel really connected to your community, to new ideas, and to something bigger and more sublime that what you’ll be able to find in your own house.”

Also following suit with bringing live performance back to audiences and leaning on dance to encourage the community to celebrate artistic performances, is Footscray Community Arts.

Kicking off the year with an event that extends outside of its building, the Footscray Community Arts lawns will play host to L2R Dance who are presenting a Block Party on Saturday, March 12.



Filling the grounds with electric hip-hop culture, L2R Dance founder, CEO and artistic director Jacinda Richards believes in the potential dance and their Block Party can have on the community.

“Dance is an empowering exchange – it breaks down social barriers, embraces meaningful connections and brings us all together,” Richards said.

“We want to show how dance plays an important role in the lives of our young dancers, including our current ‘Igniting Legends’ who are passionate leaders committed within their cultural communities.”

The Igniting Legends program is a 12-month paid internship that was given to “emerging artists” to aid in building their artistic skills and strengthen their pathway into their prospective careers.

Among the interns is Ugandan actor, model, dancer and singer Urlik Mageza, whom audiences will be able to support at the Block Party when he performs a collection of songs that will feature on his soon-to-be-released music EP.

L2R Dance Block Party will run from midday to 7pm and bookings can be made through the L2R website.

A barbecue lunch and food trucks will be on-site for audiences to enjoy while being entertained by hip-hop jams and battles, DJs and live music.

Bookings for L2R Dance Block Party: l2r.org.au/block-party ●

For more information: Artshouse.com.au

KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Embracing community: it’s a recipe for happiness

People need people. In fact, one of the world’s longest running scientific studies confirms that forming relationships helps us to live longer and be happier.

The 80-year-long Harvard Study of Adult Development shows that taking care of your body is important, but tending to your relationships is a form of self-care too.

Relationships don’t need to be romantic or familial to give joy. Think about how good you feel when you are able to share a laugh with a classmate, or cry with your mothers’ group buddies, or help someone in a small way. All of these incidental connections help create a sense of contentment.

Here at Kensington Neighbourhood House, we’re all about creating connections. That’s why we are so happy to have our doors (and windows) open to the community again. There are dozens of ways we help people to meet others. Here are just a few:

The Kensinger’s Community Choir meets

every Wednesday evening. This is a double whammy of feel-good endorphins – singing and companionship. No prior experience is necessary and you can join at any time.

Cooking workshops are an easy way to meet new people and share delicious food. We have weekend workshops on vegetarian Mediterranean cooking, fermented foods and Bulgarian brunches coming up over the next few months.

For those seeking a regular creative outlet, we have fantastic daytime art classes where you can hone your skills while sharing conversation with other students. A new four-session workshop is also available – as the name suggests, “Creating Calm” uses simple, intuitive art practices to help you feel grounded and calm.

If craft is more your thing, why not join



stitching time? Bring your latest sewing, knitting, crochet or other craft project and work in the company of other crafters every Thursday afternoon.

For those wanting something a little more active, our gentle movement class runs on Mondays and gentle exercise on Fridays. Join in to move, laugh and chat each week.

These are just a few of the things on offer at our house. You can also add books groups, social groups, children’s programs and many, many volunteer opportunities to the list.

So what are you waiting for? Have a look at our website (kensingtonneighbourhoodhouse.com) or give us a call on 9376 6366 to find something that suits you. We are always happy to chat ●

For more information: kensingtonneighbourhoodhouse.com.au or call 9376 6366



Rebecca Smith
MANAGER KENSINGTON
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LIAM, 23
Since I’ve lived here, I’ve honestly fallen in love with it. I kind of feel more at home here because I think the people that surround these suburbs, they feel right to me.



MICHAEL, 28
I’ve been here three-and-a-half years, and I love North Melbourne because it feels like a country town but it’s five minutes from the city.

Faces of North West City

What do you love about North Melbourne?



MIGUEL, 28
After lockdown, I realised how important community was, and I’ve been able to form some strong bonds with people in the community.



SEAN, 25
I love this suburb because it’s very pretty, quiet and lovely while still being so close to the city.

THE KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

I wish I had green fingers

I wish I could ... I wish ... yes, I know ... it’s not too healthy to wish for skills you feel you lack ... “work with and appreciate what you’ve got”, they say. But I protest! My Dad had very green fingers and at least three of my siblings have! Why not me?

If I’m more kind to myself though, I tell myself I’ve prioritised other skills, but nevertheless I admire those who have horticultural knowledge and skills and apply their abilities creatively and productively. I guess I’m not alone, there must be many who admire luscious and colourful garden growth but lack the magic touch of a green thumb!

These thoughts came to me having recently walked quite extensively around the Kensington neighbourhood. I can’t help admiring some of the front gardens, and also some of the innovation where neighbours have taken shared control over a nature strip to plant flowers, herbs or small bushes. Beautification – and sometimes “productification” (new word) – of planters, nature strips, centre strips, and fertile tree-bases add immeasurably to the feeling of a street.

Recently I ate at La Tortilleria – a wonderful Mexican restaurant in Stubb’s St – and noticed that the City of Melbourne has also got in on the act! The adjacent Scarborough Place is having deep planter boxes installed all along the street, on both sides. If the horticulturalists have done their homework, I’m sure the effect will be magnificent. It’s worth noting, of course, that all the residents in Scarborough Place have off-street parking. Seeing this has prompted me to look



more keenly for opportunities to do something similar; width of street and parking availability are certainly the key issues to consider.

I like to think that some readers of this might take up the idea! I have always found the Urban Forest people, or those in charge of these things at the council, to be keen to assist if they can. If you think that the Kensington Association might be able to add some lobbying power to your cause, please make contact. Care and beautification of our environment is clearly within



our remit.

If I am accused of having a “roving eye”, it’s true. I often find myself looking at odd blocks of land and thinking what could be done with them. The land alongside the Craigieburn rail line is a good example. The fences often seem to be unnecessarily far from the railway. Surely, I think, if they were moved back, wonderful things could be done with the newly accessible land. Ohh ... “but the land is owned by VicTrack” ... “Oh, really? So what, VicTrack is

a state government organisation, so what’s the problem?” “Good luck,” I’m told ... that’s as far as it’s gone. I haven’t followed it up but writing this makes me think I will. I think I know where it would go, but it would be interesting – no harm in trying. Watch this space!

The banks of Moonee Ponds Creek are another example. Those who walk the Creek may have noticed thin metal rods poking out of the ground at fairly regular intervals on the banks between the bike path and railway retaining wall. They are not random protrusions, they are part of a sprinkler system installed more than 20 years ago during the construction of CityLink. Being the dilettante that I am I can’t imagine how the system could effectively irrigate any plantings along the bank without flooding the bike path. However, as we all know, the banks of Moonee Ponds Creek, being our premium public open space, are obviously crying out for someone with the knowledge and skills that I lack and the necessary funding to maintain whatever is established.

Given my lamentations in this article I want to conclude with a “shout-out” to a couple of Kensington horticultural stalwarts and leaders. Firstly, someone who is no stranger to *North West City News* readers, Jacqui van Heerden of “Transition Town Kensington”. Her knowledge and leadership in terms of growing, producing and recycling is wonderful. Don’t miss her column. Secondly, Nina Ceddia who is the driving force behind the Stockyard Garden. She’s a “horti-legend”. The Stockyard Garden is accessible to the community through membership. Under Nina’s guiding hand the Garden has gone from strength to strength and provided fresh food for many during COVID.

If you’re a horti-dilettante – like me – tune into the green-finger magic of these two community maestros ●



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HISTORY

At home on Hotham Hill

The Hotham History Project holds regular talks and walks on topics of local interest. Our next presentation will be given by Guy Murphy who has 20 years' experience as a heritage consultant.

WORDS BY Felicity Jack

His book, describing the grand house built by Robert Langford on the corner of Dryburgh and Curran streets, is called *At Home on Hotham Hill*, published by the Hotham History Project in 2004.

Subtitled "A portrait of a nineteenth century entrepreneur", the book does much more than just tell Langford's story, but sets it in the context of the development of the municipality of Hotham that in 1887 was to become North Melbourne, and the wider social history of Victoria.

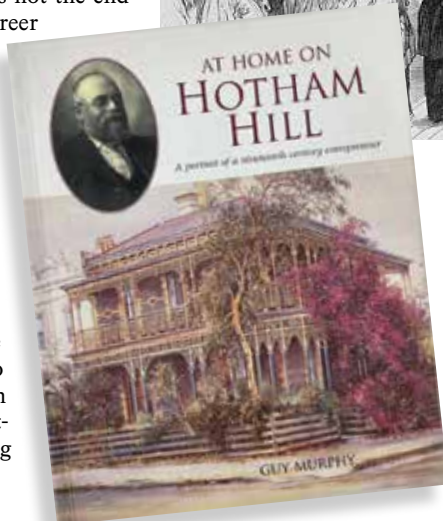
Langford was aged six when he arrived in Melbourne with his family in 1857. His father, John, worked as a fruiterer in Melbourne's Eastern Market, where Robert was able to gain skills in the marketing business prior to setting himself up as a seller of fish in the market where Flinders Street Station now stands. His business became highly successful, and he was able to consolidate his financial success by involving himself in real estate and property development.

In 1880 Robert built his home, Milton Hall, on the corner of Dryburgh and Curran streets. It was a two-storey brick house of 10 rooms.

He was elected to the Hotham Council in 1883, serving one term as Mayor in 1883-84. His wife, Elizabeth, excelled at hosting both private and public functions at the Town Hall, and the first that is recorded was a housewarming party celebrating their new home, Milton Hall. The Town Hall was the chosen venue because they had invited 180 guests. The year of his mayoralty was a social whirl, culminating in the ball to celebrate the end of his term which was attended by more than 300 guests.

He resigned as a councillor in 1887. This was the year in which he sold Milton Hall and he moved to Hawthorn. But this was not the end of Robert's business or political career as Guy Murphy describes in his book, including his attempt to enter state politics and his losses as a result of the Great Depression of the early 1890s. He died from peritonitis in 1915.

Guy is also going to talk about new information that has come to hand in the 18 years since publication, information that has become more readily available with online newspapers that make searching for historical details so much easier. He will also reflect on what he has learnt about the writing of history in the intervening years.



▲ The magnificent Hotham Town Hall was the venue for some of Robert and Elizabeth's grandest parties, including the housewarming for Milton Hall (attended by 180) and the Mayor's Ball (attended by more than 300). Source: State Library of Victoria.

Details of the talk will be available through the Hotham History Project website: hotham-history.org.au. Books can also be purchased online at a cost of \$25 ●

ROTARY CLUB -
FLEMINGTON & KENSINGTON

Shark Tank for community members

WORDS BY Lesley McCarthy

Post COVID, people are keen to get back into community, re-engage and renew social connections. But what about renewing our contributions to society and doing good in the world?

Flemington Kensington Rotary members are keen to engage with members of the community and find out what you think is important – and needs doing.

Thus, we are ready to commit money, members' time, skills and energy into a project which community-minded people believe is needed. We have a funding source for projects up to \$10,000 and are willing to work with community partners.

What are your passions, desires, community needs? How could we work with you or your community group to deliver a project which impacts on the lives of many and makes a difference?

Is it environment, mental health, literacy, peace and conflict resolution, community building, sporting facilities or something else?

Submit your idea and project plan to us by March 25 including location, funding, your organisation and who will benefit. A panel of community and Rotary representatives will go through them and then our members will vote on the one which we believe is best.

president@rotaryflemington.org.au ●

For more information:

rotaryflemington.org.au or email info@rotaryflemington.org.au



MELBOURNE ZOO



Melbourne Zoo announces 2022 Summer Cinema program

For a unique and exotic location to watch a movie you can't go past the Melbourne Zoo.

Throughout February and March, the Zoo Summer Cinema program will be screening a program of new release films from critically acclaimed cult directors, including Paul Thomas Anderson's *Licorice Pizza* and Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch*, alternating with classic movies such as *10 Things I Hate About You* and *Jurassic Park*.

The Zoo's popular twilight calendar of events has been on hold in recent summers due to the COVID restrictions.

Melbourne Zoo director, Michelle Bruggeman, said the program is a great chance for people to socialise and see the Zoo in a new light while supporting the important work of its Marine Response Unit.

"Our Summer Cinema program is the perfect reason to visit the Zoo with friends and loved ones, see some animals and see a great movie," Ms Bruggeman said.

Friends and families are encouraged to arrive early, grab a place on the lawns and bring their own picnic or snack and drinks.

For those who prefer the option of someone else taking care of the food the movie

sessions are being catered by Melbourne artisans Baketico and renowned Melbourne chef Raymond Capaldi. Food hampers can be pre-ordered or head to the food precinct to choose a meal from the food truck. The bar will be open for a chilled wine or a beer.

While waiting for the movie to start audiences can relax and be entertained by DJs spinning tracks and listen to talks delivered by some of the Zoo's keepers.

The Zoo grounds open at 5.30pm and the movies screen at 8.00pm.

The program will run every Thursday to Saturday from February 3 to March 12.

Ticket sales will go towards supporting the work of Melbourne Zoo's Marine Response Unit with its work to rescue injured marine wildlife, including seals and seabirds in Victoria. Last year, the MRU recorded its biggest ever year, responding to 918 cases over 12 months.

All ticketholders 18 years and over are required to provide proof of full vaccination and follow current Victorian Government directions at coronavirus.vic.gov.au ●

For the full program and to purchase tickets go to zoo.org.au/zoo-summer-cinema

ROTARY CLUB - NORTH MELBOURNE

Adding to our diversity

For quite a while now, the North Melbourne Rotary Club has been known as the most diverse Rotary Club in Melbourne and probably in Australia, but it is now even more so.

We recently increased our membership numbers from 15 to 18 by inducting three new members being Fatuma Ali, Abdullahi Osman and Ibrahim Abdi.

Fatuma arrived in Australia as a refugee from Ethiopia and Ibrahim and Abdullahi as refugees from Somalia (pictured).

Another new member, Herbson Singo, who is from Malawi, just had the exciting experience of being re-united with his wife and young twin boys who he had been apart from for some years.

Late last year our club was represented by members Neville and Judy Page, as well as Fatuma Ali and Sainab Sheikh, although Sainab was really present as the host of a special information and presentation function at the Kensington Town Hall. At that function both Neville and the Club as a whole were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for the assistance they had provided to the Somalian Women's Development Association (SWDA).

New members are very welcome. Please contact Neville Page on 0414 673 611 or page@ghp.biz ●



▲ Neville Page received certificates from both Mohamed Mohideen, president of the Islamic Council of Victoria, and Vivienne Nguyen, chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission and president, as Sainab Sheikh looks on.

Pet's Corner

The Moodle pup proving good things come in small packages

“

Feeling like something was missing from her life, Helen Yiannopoulos never imagined how much her 18-month-old Moodle puppy Ella would help her in getting involved in the community.

”



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

“Having a dog has increased my neighbourhood social connections substantially. I have met new people who have been walking their dogs, that I likely wouldn’t have met if I didn’t have Ella,” she said.

Finding Ella on the *Trading Post*, Helen bought her when she was three months old from a lady based in Mt Warrigal in New South Wales.

“I have wanted a dog for a long time and with the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the timing felt right,” she said.

“She was a little ball of fluff as a pup, and she could sit in the palm of one hand. It was love at first sight.”

Managing to put “a smile to [Helen’s] face every day”,

Ella is all about spreading joy in the community.

“Ella loves a meet and greet with people because she loves people and other dogs,” Helen said.

“She loves trips to Bunnings, and she will often score pats from customers and staff.”

Seen strolling around the many parks and “ample play areas” found in North Melbourne, Ella is what some may call a little socialite puppy.

“Her favourite places to go are Bunnings, to coffee shops so she can mingle and to Grandma’s house because she has a big yard that we play ball in,” Helen said.

“Ella has a friendly, playful and outgoing personality. She is really funny too and her mannerisms are really cute.” ●

ENVIRONMENT

The commons

“

The commons are the cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable Earth. These resources are held in common, not owned privately.

”

Commons can also be defined as a social practice of governing a resource not by state or market but by a community of users that self-governs the resource through institutions that it creates for individual and collective benefit.

The use of “commons” for natural resources has its roots in European history.

In the Middle Ages, rural districts of Europe were often characterised by an “open field” system of agriculture, where each village would be self-sufficient. This land would be farmed or grazed by the nearby villagers. Starting in the 12th century and continuing to the end of the 19th century, England saw a process of enclosure where people were evicted from common land as it was seized by larger landholders and fenced, claimed as private property for private use. You could think of this as the first “land grabs” before colonisation.

In Switzerland and parts of Germany, well-functioning grazing commons are still retained. Many commons use has expanded beyond grazing and farming to public recreation and environmental protection.

The right to roam

Access to the countryside is a variation on the theme of the commons. In the UK, an extensive network of public footpaths crossing private land exists where people have a “right to roam”. Under these laws people can walk across and camp on private land with few guidelines. Norway, Sweden, Finland, European countries and Iceland have right to roam laws that allow reasonable unrestricted access to nature.

In the US and Australia, private property owners would consider this illegal trespassing. A “commons” concept has never been embraced here, with some citizens even claiming beaches as part of their private property, unlike the indigenous cultures that preceded them.

There was a popularised theory written by biologist Garrett Harding that when people have access to a common resource they tend to overuse it. However, this was based on speculation rather than actual observation and misunderstanding of commons versus open access, and he later radically modified his views (Book: *The Tragedy of the Unmanaged Commons*).

Forests

A research project undertaken in 1992 to 1995 showed where shepherds were permitted to move collectively between seasonal grazing pastures. In Mongolia, degradation remained relatively low at approximately 9 per cent. Comparatively, Russia and China, which mandated state-owned pastures involving immobile settlements and in some cases privatisation by household, had much higher degradation, at around 75 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively. Community managed forests exist in Nepal,

Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Korea with the aim to protect forests and relieve poverty among nearby communities. These programs work by giving a financial stake to local areas increasing the incentive to protect them from overuse. The harvesting and selling of timber and land is regulated by local organisations, and profits must be used in preservation of the forests and community development.

Nepal adopted a community forestry management program in the 1990s and in 20 years, locals have noticed a visible increase in the number of trees.

Water

In New Mexico, a community-run organisation, Acequia Associations, supervises water in terms of diversion, distribution, utilisation, and recycling, in order to reinforce agricultural traditions and preserve water as a common resource for future generations.

Inevitably the commons are at odds with the private realm – in modern capitalist societies, existing commons are under threat never mind trying to establish more “commons”. We see this today with land being seized from peasants or indigenous people for profit making purposes for private companies.

In Australia, one long standing example is the Murray-Darling Basin which is subject to ongoing demands from large farming concerns growing crops such as cotton, almonds, and the need of the river’s ecological health, downstream towns and smaller farmers.

Today, the commons are also understood within a cultural sphere, that includes literature, music, arts, design, film, video, television, radio, information, software and sites of heritage.

Libraries

Public libraries and the content within them are an important part of the commons. The establishment of tool libraries extends the

“commons” and encourages sharing of resources rather than ownership.

Technology

You could consider open source as a form of commons, where people share their source code freely for possible modification and redistribution.

Management of the commons

The governance of natural resources used by many individuals in common is an issue of increasing concern to policy analysts. Both state control and privatisation of resources have been advocated yet it seems degradation; pollution, politics and greed are products of this management system rather than sustainability for future generations, fair share and enhancement.

Elinor Ostrom conducted field studies on how people in small, local communities manage shared natural resources, such as pastures, fishing waters and forests. She showed that when natural resources are jointly used by their users, in time, rules are established for how these are to be cared for and used in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.

Ostrom wrote a book *Governing the commons* and won the Nobel Prize in 2009 for this work.

Is there a future where local communities manage and use their local resources? ●



Jacqui van Heerden

CO-CONVENER OF TRANSITION TOWN KENSINGTON

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BUSINESS

New site to bring new life to local school

For years, students, staff and parents at Simonds Catholic College (SCC) have ferried between its Fitzroy North and West Melbourne campuses.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

The school's recent \$9.5 million acquisition of 52-58 Chetwynd St, West Melbourne, will see an end to over a decade of logistical challenges with the amalgamation of both campuses in one inner-city location.

According to SCC principal, Peter Riordan, it had long been his vision to bring the two campuses together and plans for a new vertical school would see it become reality, but after a chance meeting with the former tenants of the acquired site, the school put those plans on ice to pursue an "invaluable" chance to increase its footprint.

"Four or five years ago, the same property was on the market, but we were outbid," Mr Riordan said. "Since then, it has been our vision to bring the two campuses together and we were able to work with architects on plans in building a vertical school in the vicinity of \$14 million."

"We walked around the corner and spoke to one of the directors to ask if they were interested in leasing out the building for 12 to 18 months to house the boys while the building



▲ SCC principal Peter Riordan outside 52-58 Chetwynd St, West Melbourne.

was to be built. Three minutes later we had a call from a real estate agent."

Mr Riordan, who has had a long career in Melbourne's Catholic education system, said that although it was an incredibly tough decision to abandon plans for the vertical renovations, having the extra land and space was in the

best long-term interests of the school, staff and students.

The new building, which will be used as a specialised Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) centre, adjoins the rear of the existing campus, allowing the school to create an internal connection between the

two sites.

With 407 students across the two campuses, SCC expects its cohort to increase over the next 10 years.

"This acquisition has been a real vote of confidence from head office (Melbourne Archdioceses Catholic Schools) that they support what we are doing. We are one of only a few truly inner-city schools, we are experts in educating boys, we are wholly multicultural and multifaith in everything we do, and take students from all over Melbourne," Mr Riordan said.

"We know how to teach boys, and to get the best out of them. Our facilities now, and into the future, will reflect that."

According to SCC business manager, Halyer Rayner, the low-fee Catholic school continued to punch well above its weight when it came to VCE results.

"We support our students with everything they need. It is incredibly satisfying to see the progress and achievements of our students from year seven through to their graduation," Mr Rayner said.

"The *Herald Sun* did a results comparison last year which saw us match some of the best performing schools in the state, in terms of value for money."

"The bigger picture for us will be the stage two development of the original plans, for which we already have Heritage Victoria approval and hope to soon have town planning approval. The plans involve demolishing existing buildings on site to make way for an underground car park and gymnasium, extra classrooms, all the while keeping the new building within the height restrictions."

SCC will receive the keys to 52-58 Chetwynd St at the beginning of March, with renovations expected to be complete at the end of 2022.

Enrolments for all year levels are now open ●

For more information:
sccmelb.catholic.edu.au

Responsible design shaping Hotham Hill

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

In a suburb like North Melbourne, spread with countless period homes and an undeniable commitment to heritage, it's not often you'll find a new development received well by locals.

It's even less common to find residents, so enamoured by the design of a new development, they are willing to move homes within their own street.

With responsibility and sustainability at the forefront of design, it seems a new three-storey development at 5 Curran St, North Melbourne is ticking all the right boxes.

Under the stewardship of family-owned and operated developers, Mainstone, a planning permit has been approved for 12 owner-occupier apartments.

Comprising a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom homes with generous living spaces, the brother duo behind Mainstone Property Development, David and Michael Beaconsfield, have borne witness to unprecedented levels of local interest.

"MGS architects have created a design that complements the heritage streetscape and transitions between the single level heritage building to the left of the site to the larger form on the right-hand side. We've had really positive feedback from people within the street, including people interested in buying in," David said.

"There is a basement car park where nearly all of the apartments have two spaces, with a total of 22 car parks for the 12 apartments."

The Hotham Hill residences will feature SolShare solar technology to deliver eco-friendly solar electricity to each apartment, reducing resident's electricity costs and environmental impact.

"A lot of new buildings have solar, but most of them only use it for common property lighting and power. SolShare takes it a step further and sends the solar power into your apartment," David Beaconsfield said.

Since leaving their own professional careers

to join the family business, the Beaconsfield brothers have followed a design philosophy framed by one simple question, "what kind of home would I like to live in?"

"As a research tool we use a score produced by On The House (owned by CoreLogic). Curran St has a Liveability score of 9.9 out of 10 on their metrics," Michael Beaconsfield said. "That is based across different amenities like walkability, schools, parklands, health, shopping and transport – all the things you look for are within walking distance."

"We also put a rule in the plan of subdivision and owners' corporation which prohibits short-term leases of less than three months, so the people moving in know they are going to be surrounded by owner-occupiers or long-term tenants, and they aren't going to have that disruption of short-stays or AirBnB."

"We've been brought up as kids around the dinner table talking about property. We both left professional careers to pursue this full time, which is another point of difference between us and some other developers. We make time for our purchasers, it is a labour of love."

The pair are the third generation of Beaconsfield property developers, with their grandfather establishing his own business more than 60 years ago, and now with their mother and father still involved, it truly is a family-run business.

Their latest project at 5 Curran St will see a continuation of family driven values, with the adoption of The Big Issue's Homes for Homes initiative.

Homes for Homes encourages homeowners to make a voluntary donation of 0.1 per cent of their property's sale price when they eventually move on and sell.

Donations are pooled and used to create more social and affordable housing for people who are experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.

"We will be supporting Homes for Homes by making a donation ourselves from the project



▲ Mainstone's brothers in business, Michael (left) and David (right) in Curran Street.

proceeds, and we hope our buyers will make a similar voluntary donation in due course. Homes For Homes reminds us: when it's time to sell our home, we must also think about those in need," Michael said.

Mainstone has joined forces with speciality new development selling agent and Next Chapter Project's director Tom Hirini in selling the Hotham Hill development.

As a North Melbourne local, Mr Hirini has developed an intimate knowledge into the demands of the local market.

"I'm very excited to be working on this project. There is passive design built into the architecture that enhances the energy efficiency," Mr

Hirini said. "The development has coveted dual aspects, great cross flow ventilation and garden apartments with more than 100 sqm of outdoor space – that is so rare in apartment design."

For more information, visit mainstone.com.au or thenextchapter.com.au ●

For more information:
mainstone.com.au or
thenextchapter.com.au

Quiz



- 1. In which US state was award-winning pop star Britney Spears (pictured) born?
- 2. Name the two train stations in West Melbourne.
- 3. The North Melbourne Football Club is represented by which animal?
- 4. Which 2021 film features real-life married couple Jesse Plemons and Kirsten Dunst as husband and wife?
- 5. In 1966, students and a teacher at Westall High School, Victoria, claimed to see what in the sky?
- 6. What is the main recreation area in Kensington called?
- 7. Which species of monkey is the largest?
- 8. Which building is home to North Melbourne's Arts House?
- 9. Where was poet Mahmoud Darwish born?
- 10. Who was the first transgender artist to be nominated for a Grammy?
- 11. A West Melbourne school community was recently successful in opposing controversial plans to build what?
- 12. Name the new whisky distillery opening on Macaulay Rd.

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Mississippi 2. North Melbourne and South Kensington 3. A kangaroo 4. The Power of the Dog 5. A UFO 6. JJ Holland Park 7. Mandrills 8. The North Melbourne Town Hall 9. Palestine 10. Sophie Xeon 11. A phone tower 12. Bakery Hill

5x5

No. 008

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

S		A		S
	A		O	
O		E		A
	E		U	
Y		K		L

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: SCARS, TALON, OMEGA, RECUR, YOKEL, DOWN: STORY, CAMBO, ALECK, ROGUE, SNARL.

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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Feb, 2022

Sudoku

No. 008

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Breakfast

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

O	R	A	N	G	E	J	U	I	C	E
M	A	T	E	G	D	I	R	R	O	P
U	N	T	E	N	A	R	B	E	R	T
E	I	W	M	A	E	A	T	E	N	E
S	F	Y	K	E	G	G	S	F	F	F
L	F	N	O	C	A	B	O	F	L	F
I	U	A	K	G	A	L	U	O	A	U
E	M	H	A	M	H	N	P	C	K	B
W	A	F	F	L	E	U	S	U	E	L
K	L	I	M	E	P	E	R	C	S	O
C	R	O	I	S	S	A	N	T	P	X

BACON
BRAN
BUFFET
COFFEE
CORNFLAKES
CREPE
CROISSANT
EAT
EGGS
HAM
LOX

MILK
MUESLI
MUFFIN
OATMEAL
ORANGE JUICE
PORRIDGE
SNACK
SOUP
TEA
WAFFLE
YOGHURT

Secret message: Wake up.

Crossword

No. 008

ACROSS

- 1 Japanese warrior (7)
- 5 German city (7)
- 9 Last (5)
- 10 Related to government (9)
- 11 Away from the centre (8)
- 12 Covered (6)
- 15 Concur (5)
- 16 Government department leaders (9)
- 18 Laziness (9)
- 20 Outdoor area adjoining a house (5)
- 21 Sweet liquid (6)
- 23 Sleeplessness (8)
- 25 Key maker (9)
- 26 Famous Swiss children's book (5)
- 27 Baked chocolate treat (7)
- 28 Repetitive design (7)

DOWN

- 1 Asphyxiation (11)
- 2 Observed (9)
- 3 Let go (7)
- 4 Obstacle (10)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11								12						13
								14						
15						16						17		
18				19						20				
21		22				23								
						24								
25										26				
27								28						

- 5 High ground (4)
- 6 Ways (7)
- 7 Not edited (5)
- 8 Hair product (3)
- 13 Common joint injury (11)
- 14 Traineeship (10)
- 17 Vast (9)
- 19 Middleman (7)
- 20 Speaker of the word of God (7)
- 22 Chocolate bean tree (5)
- 24 Citrus fruit (4)
- 25 Science room (3)

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 008

23	7	23		1	24	22	6	19	22	1	11	23
14		5		24		24		22		14		11
3	19	18	11	15	24	18	12	23		T	19	11
3		19				15		19		23		12
18	11	14	18	23		14	21	21	18	11	23	23
24				2		5		19		5		
22	19	7	17	16	23		20	24	23	11	9	H
		11		19		9		16				24
11	22	21	24	18	23	11		23	19	8	11	23
10		19			T		21			11		T
T	19	1		19	18	14	23	1	19	17	4	11
18		14		22		22		14		18		4
14	4	4	19	13	14	T	24	18		14	21	23

SOLUTIONS

J	H	O	S	O		A	W	U	B	R	I	J	D	N	S		14
9C	33	32	13	33	12	33	16	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
G	C	O	F	F	L	E	U	S	U	E	L						
13	12	11	11	11	11	11	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

9-Letter

No. 008

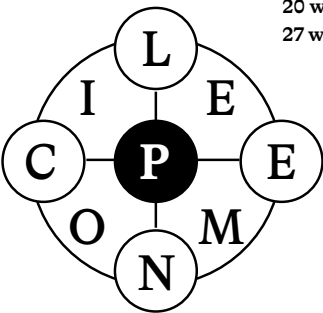
Today's Focus:

13 words: Good

20 words: Very good

27 words: Excellent

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".



SOLUTIONS

Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

clip, clomp, clop, compel, compile, cope, elope, epic, impel, limp, lode, mope, open, opine, peel, peen, pence, penile, peon, piece, pile, pine, poem, pole, polemic, police, POLICEMEN

What's On: February & March

MOOMBA

Set on the banks of Melbourne's Yarra River, Moomba is an annual free festival held over the Labour Day long weekend 11th to 14th March.

Moomba is Australia's largest community festival and usually features a carnival, fireworks, water sports, live shows and a range of family-friendly events.



SUMMER NIGHT MARKET

Queen Victoria Market, Queen St Melbourne

Free every Wednesday in March from 5.00pm to 10.00 pm

The Queen Vic Market will come alive with all the things we love and have missed, including delicious street food,



BARK LADIES

NGV 180 St Kilda Rd. Melbourne.

March to April

Bark Ladies is an exhibition that celebrates the NGV's extraordinary collection of work by Yolngu women artists from the Buku Larrngay Mulka Mulka Centre (Buku), in Northeast Arnhem Land.



SEEING EYE DOGS CARER INFORMATION SESSION

Seeing Eye Dogs Australia, 17 Barrett St Kensington.

Monday 21 March 12.00pm to 1.00pm

Seeing Eye Dogs is on the lookout for more breeder and training dog carers. If you're interested in being a future carer, contact 0428 010 843

ZERO LATENCY VR

22-32 Steel St, North Melbourne

Tuesday – Sunday, tickets \$59

Zero Latency is a warehouse-scale, free-roam, multiplayer reality gaming arena. Free-roam virtual reality lets players explore virtual worlds – they are taken inside a game, where the body is the

FUTURE U

RMIT Gallery
344 Swanston St
Open until February 26, 2022
Free

Future U explores what it means to be human during a time of rapid technological acceleration.



FREE THE PARK HOTEL REFUGEES

Online meetings available.

Every night, 6pm.

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

SANTA SHOP

Hardimans Hotel, 521 Macaulay Rd

December 20-22, 10am to 1pm. FREE

Santa is visiting Kensington this Christmas! Pop in to meet and greet the man of the moment, Santa! Let him know what's on your list and get a free photo as a memento.

TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE WRITING GROUP

Fortnightly on Tuesdays 5-6pm

Online writing group via Zoom for trans and gender diverse young people. The workshop will also be for any other queer-identified people between the ages of 13 to 25 to connect and get writing. FREE



PARKVILLE TENNIS CLUB

Parkville Tennis Club
151 Royal Parade
Parkville 3052
Monday - Sunday, 6am - 11pm

Parkville Tennis Club on the edge of the central city is small and friendly, with three synthetic clay courts.

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Interest

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