

# NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

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Puzzles & Trivia P22



Iconic theatre hits the market, but it may not spell the end.  
*Photo by Murray Enders*

West Melbourne's iconic Witches In Britches theatre restaurant building is up for sale after three spooktacular decades of entertaining audiences. However, the shocking news may not mark an end of an era for the the business's owner Maurizio Termin. *Full story on page 5.*

## Arden vision "at risk" as council takes urgent steps to resolve issues

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has vowed to hold the state government to account after the final details of North Melbourne's Arden precinct plan had "fallen well short" of expectations. The state government has approved the Arden Structure Plan, which sets out an ambitious blueprint for the suburb over the next three decades. The new precinct, which will be built around a new underground railway station as part of the Metro Tunnel, will include 12 hectares of open space, active transport links, community facilities, and a new school as it prepares to accommodate about 34,000 jobs and 15,000 residents.

After years of consultation, the state government gazetted planning controls in July that would guide the Arden Structure Plan.

However, a report, which was launched in response to the final decisions made and considered by councillors at their Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on September 20, found the Arden vision was "at risk" if "a number of key issues" went unresolved.

This included mandates for affordable housing, achieving zero net emissions by 2040, consolidated parking, overshadowing of public open space, land use controls, and third-party notice and appeal rights of planning applications.

Cr Rohan Leppert, who called for the report after being blindsided by the structure plan's outcome, said he was "pretty furious" by the government's "blatant dismissal" of key recommendations, adding it was the

"worst partnership" the council had engaged in with the state government during in his 10-year tenure with the City of Melbourne.

"Where we've ended up is a planning package that will not meet the aspirations in the Arden vision and structure plan and in some instances won't come anywhere close," he said.

"The final version of the structure plan still says that the planning controls will get us there, but it's a lie."

"The state ignored every key recommendation of the [Victorian Planning Authority Projects] standing advisory committee that the city worked so hard to fight for and the committee agreed with us on."

Cr Leppert said there was "not so much as a phone call to the city saying the decision is imminent [and] not so much as a phone call to the city saying, 'here's why we haven't gone with some of the recommendations from the committee'."

"At the moment, there is no guarantee of any affordable housing in the precinct. That's outrageous."

According to the plan, it would "support and encourage" the delivery of only six per cent affordable housing rather than it being required.

Deputy Lord Mayor and planning portfolio lead Nicolas Reece said while the structure plan "falls short in some very important areas", he noted it had "important bright spots", including infrastructure charging arrangements and the government's commitment to cover the funding gap in the development contributions plan. He also welcomed the "first-rate" open spaces and the government's agreement to cover the cost of land acquisitions for drainage projects

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## Kensington Community Recreation Centre redevelopment delayed after asbestos discovered

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The redevelopment of the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre (KCRC) will be delayed by about six months after crews found asbestos in the ground.

The City of Melbourne confirmed on-site contractors had discovered a small amount of asbestos-containing material while undertaking routine soil testing in late July, which must be removed before work on the project can continue.

"While the asbestos poses no health risk, the affected soil must be removed by a licenced asbestos removalist before work recommences. This work is expected to take around six months," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"We're disappointed by this setback, but this is important work which must be done right to protect our community."

Demolition of the old KCRC building was finished in May to make way for a \$42 million revamped version, which was set for completion in late 2023.

The brand-new recreation centre will feature a 25-metre pool, gym facilities, children's waterplay, indoor multi-sports courts, and community spaces.

The council said it had worked closely with its consultants and project contractor to determine a safe and efficient method to remove the contaminated soil.

"This will involve removing the contaminated soil and installing a separation layer between the existing soil and the new foundations," a council statement said.

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The deadline for the November edition is November 10.

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## Kensington Community Rec Centre redevelopment delayed after asbestos discovered

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“The asbestos-containing material is bound within a cement matrix, which reduces the potential for airborne asbestos fibre release. As such, this non-friable material presents a significantly lower health risk.”

Costs for the works are yet to be determined but will be paid by the City of Melbourne.

An updated timeline for completion of the new centre would be provided at the end of soil remediation works, the council said.

However, with the challenges currently facing the construction industry such as building material and labour shortages, the council conceded “the timeline of the project will be significantly impacted”.

The City of Melbourne identified a dire need to upgrade the KCRC to meet the community’s diverse needs with the previous facility having served the community since 1976.

The council’s latest 2022/23 budget included \$25 million for the project, which will create around 170 jobs.

After closing its doors to the public in August last year, the centre was emptied, and the pool drained in preparation for works to begin.

Gym equipment was moved to the North Melbourne Community Centre for members to



*We’re disappointed by this setback, but this is important work which must be done right to protect our community.*



access, while other items had been donated to community groups and local charities.

Fitness classes are being run at the North Melbourne Community Centre and Kensington Town Hall to help the community stay active while the new KCRC is redeveloped.

For more information on the project: ●



## West End developer launches grant program to “kick-start” retail

BUSINESS

The developer of West Melbourne’s West End precinct is offering businesses grants of up to \$150,000 to take up tenancies along Melbourne’s newest retail precinct and laneway, Wominjeka Walk.

Developer Trennery Property launched the “West End Kickstarter Grant” and Wominjeka Walk on October 10 alongside Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp, with the new precinct offering up to seven leasable spaces to emerging businesses.

The grants are being offered under an innovative expression of interest (EOI) campaign by Trennery Property, which is seeking to attract Melburnians with “great ideas and an entrepreneurial spirit” to take up tenancies within its precinct.

The initiative has been led by Propella.ai research, with grants between \$15,000 and \$150,000 available to businesses able to provide a convincing business plan for activating the new precinct and the growing and “culturally diverse” West Melbourne community.

Trennery Property said the research identified that West End “was ripe for budding businesses across the fields of health, wellness, IT, barbers, hairdressers, creatives, culinary services, and convenience services”.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was great to see the private sector investing in such initiatives that complemented the council’s ongoing commitment to revitalising the CBD.

For more information: [westend.melbourne](http://westend.melbourne) ●

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# Key council reports to be made public far earlier

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Locals could be given an extra week to consider important council reports after the City of Melbourne pledged to amend its governance rules.

Community groups and ratepayers currently have less than five days to read and respond to council policy and strategy papers, and many have argued this was insufficient time given the often detail-heavy documents.

However, from next year, important documents regarding suburb-shaping projects or initiatives could land in the hands of locals far earlier.

After “an increasing number of requests for longer notice periods”, City of Melbourne councillors endorsed a proposal to allow an extra week’s notice for significant reports. Currently, the council publicly released documents for a Tuesday evening meeting at 2pm the previous Thursday. An additional seven days would more than double the time available for locals to read and consider the contents of significant reports prior to a decision being taken.

“This has been a while coming, and we’re keen to get the balance here,” Cr Rohan Leppert, who put forward the motion, said at a September 27 council meeting.

The council has previously pledged to release significant and complicated reports early, to allow members of the public time to read and consider their contents. However, it admitted that “this practice was not codified and has been inconsistent”.

Cr Leppert said it was time for a clearer system.

“There’s a school of thought that the best way to manage a notice period for significant reports is to voluntarily apply a practice or a convention that we choose the reports in advance and make sure there’s extra notice,” he said.

“But we have seen that members of the community would like to see, quite clearly and transparently, which reports will be given extra notice and why. So, this proposal does seek to put something in the governance rules that’s never been put there before.”

In a submission to the council, president of CBD residents’ group EastEnders Stan Capp commended the move.

“By recognising that short notice does not align with council’s stated value of openness and transparency, this motion will ameliorate the issues raised and ensure better and more informed inputs from interested parties, including residents.”

Residents 3000 president Rafael Camillo echoed these thoughts.

“We value the rights and fairness of our community, and we support that consultation time of two-and-a-half days should be changed to at least 10 working days. We believe that a lot of people are frustrated and excluded from best local government decision making because of this constraint. It will be a balanced, inclusive and democratic decision if the council goes in favour of this decision.”

Some community members pushed for an extension of notice in terms of “business days” (rather than normal days), however this was seen as unlikely.

The proposal will now be open to public feedback before being considered before the end of this year, with a view to implementing the changes for 2023.

## Neighbourhood meetings to continue in 2023

The City of Melbourne has also announced that it will continue hosting one meeting per month away from Melbourne Town Hall in 2023 after a “successful pilot year” of neighbourhood meetings, as Kensington prepares to host councillors on October 18. The council will convene for one of two Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings (which oversees the implementation of key council strategies) per month at venues across the municipality in a bid to bolster democratic involvement. The second FMC meeting of each month will be held in 10 different community locations, including, Carlton, West Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, South Yarra, North Melbourne, East Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, Kensington and Southbank.

“Community is at the heart of everything we do. Local meetings make it so much easier for our residents and businesses to get involved with Council and connect with those representing their unique neighbourhood,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

“We are proud of our democratic processes at the City of Melbourne, and after a hugely successful pilot year of neighbourhood FMC meetings we’re looking forward to continuing these important conversations outside Town Hall.”

The first FMC meeting per month, plus a standard council meeting held on the last Tuesday of the month, will remain at the 1870-built Town Hall on Swanston St.

Neighbourhood locations have been determined based on availability of a suitable venue, with a later start time of 6pm to enable greater attendance.

Kensington will host the next FMC meeting at Kensington Town Hall (30-34 Bellair St) on October 18 at 6pm. ●



# Arden vision “at risk” as council takes urgent steps to resolve issues

*Continued from page 1.*

given the precinct’s susceptibility to flooding.

However, Cr Reece said the council “would not be giving up” to resolve many key issues and would continue to “make this precinct the best it could possibly be”.

The FMC meeting determined that Lord Mayor Cr Sally Capp would write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan to “identify delivery pathways and mechanisms” to ensure Arden realised its vision.

It also resolved for the council to “prepare robust agreements” with the state government, including a memorandum of understanding to secure the delivery and funding of key infrastructure projects.

Chair of the North and West Melbourne Association Kevin Chamberlin said it was “clear that government has let the community down on the social and public affordable housing component of the development”, which he labelled as “a golden opportunity lost”.

However, he said the council and the state government had been

“long-time supporters” of intense and high-rise residential development in the Arden precinct, and “they are the ones supporting the Docklands concept in North Melbourne”.

“They still haven’t got the message that the proposal is really an over-development of the site, and completely out of scale with the surrounding suburbs,” he said.

“Given migration levels have been substantially restricted, and media reports state around 35 per cent of apartments in the City of Melbourne recently sold at a loss, the council and the state government need to get the message that high rise and intensive residential developments in locations like Arden are not goers in the immediate future.”

“The only development we’re going to see in the foreseeable future will be on the government-owned land around the underground railway station and that will be part of the Arden medical precinct. Developers will pick out a few sites in the study area if they stack up commercially.”

Mr Chamberlin added hydrology works would be carried out first and “they will be extremely expensive and very disruptive”. ●



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# Fury over parking fine after the council temporarily changed the rules on Kensington Rd

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A Kensington resident is fighting an “unfair” parking fine after the City of Melbourne temporarily changed its parking restrictions on Kensington Rd while conducting footpath works.

Grant Edgcombe was dumbfounded when he found a ticket on his car just before midday on August 27 despite having a residential parking permit clearly visible on his dashboard.

“I parked my car on the northern side of Kensington Rd, which I do every Saturday morning”, he said. “An hour or two later I went out to the car to find a parking fine for \$189 and the parking officer standing there.”

After making enquiries, Mr Edgcombe was told the signed parking rules had been changed the night before and that residential parking permits no longer applied at the time. However, the measure was only in place for a period of about 72 hours while the council carried out footpath works before reverting the parking restrictions to normal, he said.

Mr Edgcombe, a vicar at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in East Melbourne said he felt extremely angry about the whole situation, which he labelled as “sneaky and dishonest” conduct by the council.

“There was no notification of this change given,” he said. “The thing that stings me and the other residents who were fined is whenever we phone to complain about the cars parked without obvious permits displayed, no-one is ever available.”

“What an amazing coincidence that only hours after the signs being changed, we have a parking officer on the spot enthusiastically fining several of us.”

Mr Edgcombe has objected to the parking fine, which the City of Melbourne told him it was reviewing.



▲ Kensington resident Grant Edgcombe is fuming over his “unfair” parking fine.

Photo: Murray Enders.

The council confirmed that temporary no-stopping restrictions had recently been installed on Kensington Rd between Epsom Rd and Derby St while kerb and footpath works were carried out.

“The contractor was given a reserved parking permit to assist them in managing the site and carrying out the essential works,” the council said. “The conditions of use for residential parking permits explain that resident permits are not valid for use in no-stopping areas.”

“Drivers who receive an infringement notice can request an infringement review via the City of Melbourne website.”

Kensington Association chair Simon Harvey said between the amount of parking and speeding fines being issued to motorists along Kensington Rd, he was becoming “a bit fed up” with what appeared to be “blatant revenue raising”.

He said while he wasn’t privy to the details

of Mr Edgcombe’s experience, he believed the concerns of residents must be heard.

“If somebody makes a legitimate complaint and doesn’t hear anything or is fobbed off or pushed down the line, it’s doing nothing for the trust that residents have with the processes that exist in the community,” he said.

His comments follow residents voicing their fury over an “unfair” mobile speed camera along Kensington Rd, which has caught out thousands of unsuspecting drivers due to the poor 50km/h speed limit signage, a concern Mr Harvey also shared.

While the camera is operated by the state government, the City of Melbourne owns Kensington Rd with the responsibility of installing and maintaining speed signs.

Meanwhile, many of the almost 2500 parking fines issued from July 2017, after motorists confused the number 0 with the letter O to pay for a parking space in the CBD, have either

“The thing that stings me and the other residents who were fined is whenever we phone to complain about the cars parked without obvious permits displayed, no-one is ever available.”

been refunded or withdrawn by the City of Melbourne.

Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass investigated the matter in which she “found the City of Melbourne acted unfairly in upholding fines against drivers who had paid the correct fee and parked legally but made a simple mistake” after motorists entered their registration in the PayStay app.

However, in a report released in September, Ms Glass said the council had since “responded commendably during and after my investigation”.

“It agreed with our recommendations to reverse the fines issued to the individual motorists, and to implement systemic changes,” Ms Glass said in her report, which was expected to total almost \$209,000 in refunds and court costs.

“Many have now been withdrawn and refunded. The remaining affected motorists have until May 2023 to arrange their refund from the council before the money is transferred to the State Revenue Office’s Unclaimed Monies Register.” ●

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# Popular theatre restaurant Witches in Britches hits the market, but it may not spell the end of the business

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PROPERTY

West Melbourne's iconic Witches in Britches theatre restaurant building is up for sale after three spooktacular decades of entertaining audiences.

But the shock news may not mark the end of an era for the popular venue, which is located at the corner of Dudley and King streets, with the business's owner Maurizio Termine conceding he wouldn't rule out the possibility of buying the building.

"You never know, I might end up buying it. My kids are saying go for it. I'm 60 years old now but I've still got the energy, I've got the right people around me. But look I don't know, I can't say yes or no," he said.

The two-storey venue, which is known for its castle-like spires, opened as a family-run business in 1990 before previously running as a pub and later a rock 'n' roll style café.

Mr Termine joined his "very creative" uncle in 2000 in running the unique business after leaving his job as a security officer at Crown Casino and has stayed ever since.

The venue has also stood the test of time, including surviving COVID-19 lockdowns, and a \$600,000 fire in 2006, which luckily resulted in no-one being injured.

However, the property hit the market at the end of September, which, ironically is just weeks out from Halloween – the theme of the venue's restaurant and theatre which seat 350 and 260 people, respectively.

JLL agent Tim Carr said expressions of interest had been "pretty strong" from prospective buyers – with the the building's price guide currently posed at more than \$7 million.

"It's certainly been a healthy start to the campaign. There's definitely scope for landbank investors as well as developers," he said.



▲ *Witches In Britches owner Maurizio Termine.*

"I think everyone knows what the Witches in Britches property is and have been there with their family and friends for quite some time."

Mr Carr said the owners had had the building for three decades and "now they're looking to move their capital into other developments".

He said it was likely the new owners would want to redevelop the property with its location next to Flagstaff Gardens being "pretty special".

"The property has a lot of attributes and having three street frontages is obviously a huge bonus as well for any future project to take

place there."

But he added, "The business will be ongoing for as long as they would like to so I would imagine the current management would stay as is for now."

The current lease is in place until the end of 2023, but it can be extended for a further five years – which Mr Termine confirmed he would be re-signing "100 per cent".

"I would take the option for another five [years]. I'm not interested in selling the business just yet," he said.

*The venue has also stood the test of time, including surviving COVID-19 lockdowns, and a \$600,000 fire in 2006, which luckily resulted in no one being injured.*



"Business is fantastic. We've got the right recipe, the right formula. From the moment you walk through the doors, you are entertained to the moment you leave – people love that. The best advertisement for us is word-of-mouth."

Mr Termine said the business was "in my blood" and he would consider his options of buying the building but made no guarantees.

"If I had the power I would buy it tomorrow, but it depends how much the building is going for," he said.

But if that plan fell through, Mr Termine said he "would perhaps find another venue and take Witches in Britches somewhere else" which would be "bigger and better, and with the technology we've got today, I will make the best theatre restaurant in Australia".

"I would always be looking at Port Melbourne with a nice, beautiful warehouse, and convert it into a mini-Disneyland. That's my dream." ●



# Dance This Way



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# CELEBRATING OUR LITTLE ONES

**This Children's Week we're celebrating the 16,406 children who live in the City of Melbourne.**

From 22 to 30 October, Children's Week celebrates the delightful inquisitiveness and joy that youngsters bring to our city.

Council is hosting a number of fun events across the municipality to celebrate the week and bring together children and families in the

community to promote the health and wellbeing of children. Become the next world-famous trapeze artist or discover the natural world through art and creativity - whatever you imagine, you can achieve this Children's Week in the city. Choose your own adventure with an exciting range of events and activities specially designed for kids and their adults.



*There's fun for youngsters and the young at heart in the city this Children's Week*

**I AM NATURE**

Join us at ArtPlay to celebrate Children's Week in an interactive play-space inspired by the natural environment.

I Am Nature invites children and their adults to explore the world of native animals through music, movement, and natural materials.

In each 45-minute session, artists Gaby Georges, Pepe Inostroza Aqueveque and Ashlee Hughes will guide you on a narrated journey of discovery through an interactive installation.

Dressed up as animals, Gaby will play original songs, Pepe will show you how to move, and Ashlee will create with you and invite you to add to a growing installation.

Through storytelling and play, I Am Nature will stimulate creativity and imagination, and develop respect and care for the natural environment.

This is a New Ideas Lab project which supports artists and children to work together to develop new arts experiences.

This work was co-created with children online in 2021 and at ArtPlay throughout 2022 in collaboration with City of Melbourne Family Services and 16 children aged two to five years.

Suitable for children aged two to six. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Where:** ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr, Melbourne

**When:** From Saturday 22 October to Sunday 30 October.

**Session times:** 10.30am-11.15am and 2-2.45pm.

**Cost:** Free, bookings essential

**To book:** Visit [artplay.com.au/whatson](http://artplay.com.au/whatson) Bookings will open at 10am on the day before the event.

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**Fridays:** 4-7pm at North Melbourne Community Centre, Bunclie Street, North Melbourne

**Cost:** Free

**To book:** Contact Lizzie Doyle on 0412 006 424 or visit [circusnexus.com.au](http://circusnexus.com.au)

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For the full program of Children's Week events happening in the City of Melbourne, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/children](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/children)



*What you see on the runways at M/FW you can find in-store in the city*

**FASHION SET TO TAKE OVER THE CITY**

Iconic city venues will be transformed into spectacular runways and experiences as Melbourne Fashion Week (M/FW) spills onto the streets this month.

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Ten premium runways and fashion experiences at eight unique city locations are among the highlights of M/FW from 10 to 16 October.

The City of Melbourne will again partner with Vogue Australia to deliver event favourite, Vogue American Express Fashion's Night Out.

Four pop up runways will bring colour and style to city streets throughout the week, as well as seven Fashion Capsule exhibits presented by Creative Victoria..

For the full program and to purchase tickets, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/mfw](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/mfw)

**IN BRIEF**

**KENSINGTON COUNCIL MEETING**

We're holding the second Future Melbourne Committee meeting of each month in community locations across the municipality.

This month, join us in Kensington on Tuesday 18 October at 6pm at 30-34 Bellair Street.

We want to make it easier for people to engage with councillors and staff and shine a light on the unique needs of each neighbourhood.

For more information, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil)

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The majority of the blitz will happen from now until December, with smaller scale works being conducted into 2023.

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# Ombudsman says “never too late” to apologise to public housing residents over lockdown

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
HOUSING

Deepa Gupta’s eyes become moist when she recalls the moment her North Melbourne public housing tower was shut down to contain a possible COVID-19 outbreak, sparking “chaos and confusion”.

She remembers being among 3000 residents detained in their homes “like criminals so no-one can escape” after her high-rise building was one of nine to be locked down in July 2020.

“I relive that moment as if it happened yesterday. I vividly recall, I went to the balcony and the police shouted back at me ‘go inside or we will arrest you,’” she said, as officers “surrounded us, forming a chain”.

“What was my fault? Just because I was a resident living here; it was predetermined I was lawless and a law-breaking criminal.”

Ms Gupta, who has 30 years of experience in public service and is a chartered accountant, spoke of her “horrendous experience” after the Victorian Ombudsman Debra Glass renewed her call for the state government to apologise to the public housing residents over the “unjust” measure.

“It still matters. We have been told residents felt disheartened and let down by the lack of an apology, and that it remains a barrier to rebuilding trust with the government,” Ms Glass said of her September report, which reviewed her recommendations made to the state government in response



▲ *Deepa Gupta.*

to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“While saying sorry may be difficult, if done well, the results are worth all the effort – and more. The act of recognition, accompanied by responsibility and regret, can provide comfort and release.”

“It is never too late to do so.”

For Ms Gupta, the act of an apology was important for residents to heal and regain their trust with authorities.

“The North Melbourne and Flemington public housing towers’ residents are still waiting for an apology from the government. Given its unwillingness to accept my recommendation, it seems unlikely one will ever be offered,” she said.

“In reprieve of the huge hurt and damage we underwent, all we wanted was a small apology from the government, an acceptance of a mistake made.”

Another public housing resident, Emebet, an Australian resident of Ethiopian background, said she felt traumatised after being trapped in her home and prevented from shopping for fresh food.

The mother of two, who asked for her surname not to be used, said she had experienced two panic attacks since the ordeal, both of which resulted in attending hospital.

“I have never had a panic attack. I was walking, I was running, my heart was as strong as a horse,” she said.

“Now I’m scared, I can’t do anything, I’m afraid it’s going to happen to me again. What happened was a human right breach, 100 per cent.”

While she hopes the government will apologise, she has “lost hope” and is “not going to expect anything”.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) also supported the Victorian Ombudsman’s renewed call for the government to apologise, which “recognises what occurred was wrong and a breach of human rights”.

“All the Victorian Government’s positive actions since the lockdown have been overshadowed because they have not acknowledged that what happened was wrong and should never happen again,” an IMCL spokesperson said.

The state government has made no apology for saving people’s lives, however, Ms Glass said she did not investigate or criticise the six state-wide lockdowns despite receiving multiple complaints.

But she noted, the public housing towers “remain the only lockdown, before or since, that took place on no notice whatsoever to affected people”.

The IMCL praised the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for the investment into the public housing estates affected by the hard lockdown, particularly the Paving the Way Forward Program – a measure Ms Glass also supported.

“We support the efforts of the program in strengthening and building community-led responses. But that will need long-term ongoing investment and support,” the IMCL spokesperson said. ●

# Fire engulfs shop in North Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A fire that broke out in a North Melbourne shop is being investigated after it caused extensive damage.

Firefighters were called to a business in Abbotsford St following multiple call to Triple-0 about 4am on October 11.

“Crews arrived on scene within four minutes, to find the building in flames and threatening neighbouring properties,” a Fire Rescue Victoria spokesperson said.

“Firefighters worked to contain the fire, gaining the upper hand by 4.46am.”

The spokesperson said no one was inside the building at the time of the fire, and that residents from an adjoining apartment complex were evacuated as a precaution.

The name and type of shop that was affected could not be confirmed, however, there was mechanical equipment stored within the building.

A community advice alert was issued due to smoke in the area.

Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria also attended. ●



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# Digital divide exposed as Greens launch plan for free wi-fi in public housing

WORDS BY *Sean Car HOUSING*

Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell has launched a plan to provide free wi-fi for the city's public housing residents amid the release of a University of Melbourne report exposing digital inequality in the public housing sector.

The plan would provide free wi-fi to each high-rise apartment in Kensington, North Melbourne and Carlton, with each wireless network to have a minimum bandwidth of 50 megabits per second.

Ms Sandell said the initiative, which would administer connection to individual households via a modem in each unit, had been costed by the Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office at \$2.3 million over the next four years.

The Greens said it would also lobby the state government to fund a 12-month digital access program providing three dedicated part-time staff at Kensington, North Melbourne and Carlton to support residents improve their digital literacy – costed at \$200,000 over the next four years.

Ms Sandell said having called on the state government to provide free wi-fi in public housing for many years, she was “disappointed” it hadn't yet acted on this “important issue”.

“During COVID, too many people didn't have access to the internet at home and with the cost of living rising, many public housing residents cannot afford wi-fi. My plan would ensure that residents don't have to miss out on this essential service that they need for study and work,” she said.

It comes amid the release of a study into digital inequality at the Carlton Housing Estate by the University of Melbourne last month, which exposed a setting marred by over-priced internet, low-quality connection and opaque, substandard service.

The report, titled *Understanding Digital Inequality – An Analysis of Unequal Connectivity in Carlton Housing Estate*, was funded by the Melbourne Social Equity Institute and the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) and was carried out in partnership with the Carlton Community Network and the Combined Agencies for Digital Inclusion (CADI) network.

The study responded to anecdotal reports during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns that households at the estate were finding it challenging to engage in home-schooling and work from home due to the cost to maintain sufficient bandwidth and purchasing devices for all members of the household.

The study showed that access to reliable and sufficiently fast internet were “not a mere matter of affordability, but also of inconsistent accessibility, as public housing residents are offered a substandard service”.

Data collected from participants through surveys, focus groups and interviews revealed that residents were routinely forced to resort to “hotspotting” off mobile phones for work and home-schooling due to poor connection and that this came at an additional cost of data charges. Residents also reported that the customer service of internet providers was often “inaccessible and unresponsive” throughout the process, from installation to troubleshooting.

Dr Ellen van Holstein, one of the report's lead researchers, told *North West City News* that residents were too often being “kept in the dark” by internet providers about issues that were “general knowledge” among IT and housing staff. The insight that the internet signal is

obstructed by the old concrete walls of the housing towers, for instance, was not shared with residents.

She said that as a result of not knowing what caused their internet to lag, residents were spending additional money on equipment such as modems and were opting to upgrade to more expensive data plans in an effort to improve speeds.

With 30 per cent of the estate's approximately 3500 residents reportedly living on less than \$300 per week and a pre-COVID unemployment rate of 48 per cent, she said such additional household costs “exacerbate existing inequalities”.

“In the end what we found is that, at the moment, there's very little accountability because it's a poorly regulated private market,” Dr van Holstein said.

“Internet providers can get away with offering incredibly low-quality connections with no sense of accountability in terms of whether that's actually the quality people could expect for what they're paying or not.”

According to Dr van Holstein, with Carlton Housing Estate reported to have a “slightly higher uptake of the NBN than other similar inner-city Melbourne public housing estates” such as those in North Melbourne and Kensington, the findings of the report only represent the tip of the iceberg of what's a “systemic issue” in the public housing sector.

In a suite of recommendations, the report urges governments to set minimum quality standards and price settings which reflect that “many people are forced to use mobile data when the NBN fails”. The report also recommends the development of “not-for-profit alternatives” that would enable reliable and more affordable internet connections.

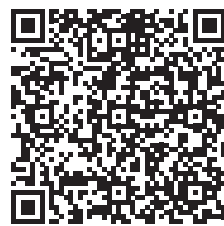
Researchers also recommend a stronger dialogue between residents and providers: “Governments, internet companies and social housing providers should speak to people who find it hard to access the internet because the involvement of housing providers can help make sure that the internet works better inside social housing estates,” the report stated.

Because the study was conducted in collaboration with the Combined Agencies for Digital Inclusion (CADI) network, that is made up of various local community groups and the Cities of Yarra and Melbourne, the study had been able to inform advocacy for more equitable internet provision, Dr van Holstein said.

“Because of the connection between research and advocacy that's been done by that group [CADI], the topic ended up being tabled and discussed in parliament and has really become part of the agenda of a few parliamentarians. It's exciting to see the wheels starting to turn a little bit on this.”

“There's really some structural change that's needed that's not going to happen without some action from politicians and some minimum standards for what people should get for what they pay.”

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## West Melbourne residents “very concerned” as no commitments are made to West Gate Tunnel Project noise barrier

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees PLANNING*

A community campaign to have noise walls built as part of the Wurundjeri Way extension has not given residents “any certainty” after the state government maintained the project could be achieved without such a facility.

With a state election looming, the West Melbourne community has waited anxiously for the news that could ultimately affect their future neighbourhood amenity and quality of life.

Under the plans, the extended Wurundjeri Way would be an elevated road around 100 metres away from Railway Place between Dynon Rd and Dynon St where it will join the current Wurundjeri Way.

It would be extended north through the proposed E-Gate development, a 20-hectare state-owned site that is earmarked to become a new suburb with green space to accommodate a projected 10,000 residents.

But residents, who currently contend with heavy train freight, are concerned about the future traffic noise on their doorstep, which would also see vehicle pollutants increased.

As reported by the *North West City News* in June, the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) said a 63-decibel noise limit would apply to the new Wurundjeri Way extension and that detailed noise modelling showed “this can be achieved without requiring noise walls” – a statement the WGTP's acting chief executive Peter Lellyett stood by in October.

“The extension of Wurundjeri Way over Dudley St will create a city bypass, reducing the amount of traffic using Spencer and King Streets, making it quieter and easier to get

around,” he said.

“The West Gate Tunnel Project is required to meet strict noise limits in the design and construction of the Wurundjeri Way extension and noise modelling shows these limits can be met without noise walls.”

The Department of Transport (DoT) said it had met with the community to discuss their concerns around the existing rail noise impacts and potential changes from the WGTP.

“The Department is reviewing the concerns that have been raised and will keep the community informed,” it said.

Once the Wurundjeri Way extension opens, which is expected to be in 2025, the DoT said a noise assessment would be carried out to ensure the 63-decibel noise level was met.

In a statement repeated earlier this year, the DoT said, “In the unlikely event that the noise levels are not achieved, mitigation measures will be implemented.”

But the North and West Melbourne Association's chair Kevin Chamberlin said the community continued to be “very concerned about the failure of the government to support noise barriers on the Wurundjeri Way extension”.

“The answers from the government are still very vague, and do not provide the community with any certainty that their amenity will not be adversely impacted by the failure of the government to construct the noise barriers,” he said.

“The North and West Melbourne Association has, from the outset, supported the campaign by the community to have the noise barriers constructed.”

The new road will have three lanes in each direction and is predicted to be used by more than 9500 vehicles per day. ●

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# Two new hospitals to sit next to future Arden railway station

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
HEALTH

New campuses of the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's Hospitals will sit next to the future Arden Metro Tunnel station from 2031 in a state government plan that could transform the local precinct.

Billed as the "biggest hospital project in Australia's history", Premier Daniel Andrews announced that while trauma and emergency care would remain at the hospitals' current location in Parkville — which would also be upgraded in stage two of the \$6 billion project — less urgent care would be moved to the new Arden medical precinct.

The government projects that the new Arden hospitals will have 1800 beds and treatment spaces, and be able to deliver an extra 10,500 elective surgeries per year.

Construction on the project could begin once the new Metro Tunnel station was opened, currently slated for 2025, and would take around six years to complete.

Mr Andrews said the existing and proposed hospitals would be connected by the tunnel, which would allow a "two-minute trip" between the Parkville and Arden campuses.

The Premier said the new Arden hospitals would accommodate less critical care, while emergencies would remain in Parkville.

"Planned care; outpatients, rehabilitation, elective surgery — less urgent but no less important care — will be provided here at Arden," he told reporters.

The government expressed it in even simpler terms: "Put simply, if you're seeing a heart



▲ An artist's impression of the new Arden medical precinct.

specialist, you'll visit your doctor at RMH Arden — and if you're having a heart attack, you'll be taken to the RMH Parkville", it said in the October 4 announcement.

Healthcare has emerged as a key battleground for the upcoming November state election and voters have been inundated with various announcements in recent weeks, but this one was by far the largest.

"These hospitals belong to us all — they care for some of the sickest and most seriously hurt patients and Victorians are rightly proud of them — but they're outgrowing their current sites," Mr Andrews said.

"We're starting the biggest health infrastructure project in our nation's history, growing our healthcare workforce and giving workers more training and research opportunities than ever before."

Chair of the North and West Melbourne Association Kevin Chamberlin said he was delighted with what the announcement meant for the local area.

"This is a fantastic outcome for the Arden precinct and the surrounding communities,

and ticks far more boxes than more residential high-rise overdevelopment," he told *North West City News*.

"The employment and other opportunities are endless for people in the surrounding suburbs. It also takes pressure off the established parts of North Melbourne along Flemington Rd where we believe various research and hospital institutions over the years have cast their eye for redevelopment of property with significant built form and heritage controls."

Mr Chamberlin said the move ensured a balanced future for the growing area.

"The new medical precinct really gives some meaning and substance to the Arden structure plan. It was previously too reliant on unsustainable residential over-development — it's a far more sustainable outcome in the longer term."

The Royal Women's Hospital Women's CEO Professor Sue Matthews welcomed the announcement and said co-location with the Royal Melbourne Hospital at Arden meant women and babies would significantly benefit.

"With a second campus at Arden, the Women's will be able to provide world-class contemporary models of care for more women and babies that are appropriate and responsive to their needs," Professor Matthews said.

"A second campus will also provide additional research and development opportunities, as well as an expansion of training and education for midwives, nurses, doctors and allied health professionals."

RMH chief executive Professor Christine Kilpatrick similarly welcomed the news.

"This is a very exciting announcement, and we couldn't be happier to hear we will be able to rebuild our hospital," she said.



▲ The upgraded Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's Hospitals in Parkville will link with the new Arden campuses via the Metro Tunnel.

"This is part of more than 18-months of careful planning and we look forward to working alongside the Women's as we grow our hospitals."

The government has committed to an initial investment of over \$2 billion to fund the first hospital within the Arden precinct, however more detailed costings were expected in the pre-election budget update.

Mr Andrews was adamant the project was a government announcement rather than an election promise.

"It'll be complex and yes, it takes time. But it is absolutely the investment that we need to make now to set our state up for the future," he said.

The opposition has said it would keep the already-allocated funds within the health system but stopped short of committing to the project. ●

# Safety summit addresses community concerns including e-scooter use

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
SAFETY & SECURITY

A safety summit has been staged bringing together the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police, residents' groups and stakeholders, to address various issues facing the municipality.

More than 50 people attended the August 19 summit at Town Hall, including the Kensington Association, where issues of safety infrastructure, safety at night, community policing, and the Connect Respect program were among the topics discussed.

The Connect Respect program, which is delivered by the Council to Homeless Persons and the City of Melbourne, helps businesses build their understanding of and support their response to homelessness in the city.

Victoria Police and members of the City of Melbourne City Safety team also gave presentations.

"Community safety is a priority for us at the City of Melbourne," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said, adding the summit aimed to "facilitate safer neighbourhoods for everyone and agree on actions to be taken".

"We heard from Victoria Police and our own City Safety team, as well as broader questions

and feedback from our presidents of residents' community groups," she said.

"We're looking forward to continuing these discussions and working together towards agreed outcomes."

The Lord Mayor said the council would investigate increasing lighting outside commercial buildings, as well as making it easier for building owners to install external CCTV cameras.

Cr Capp said the council would also find ways of better communicating safety programs it had in place.

The Kensington Association's chair Simon Harvey said the summit was a "very good initiative" with proactive community members in attendance.

While the meeting focussed on CBD-related issues, Mr Harvey said one point of discussion, which was relevant to Kensington, was the policing of e-scooters.

He said privately-owned e-scooters have "got more power and they are the problem", however the e-scooters that are part of a 12-month City of Melbourne trial "seem to be okay".

"Lots of people are using them and it's great that they have got that trial," he said, but added ways of policing the riders of privately-owned



▲ Illegal use of e-scooters will be targeted by police.

e-scooters was the bigger issue.

His concerns come as Victoria Police have recently launched a crackdown on e-scooter riders in a bid to improve road safety ahead of the warmer months.

Victoria Police Road Policing Command Superintendent Justin Goldsmith said there was still confusion around the rules with the

trial e-scooters and privately-owned e-scooters, but warned the onus was on riders to ensure they understood the rules.

"Victoria Police will be increasing its focus on e-scooter riders coming into spring and summer — if you're using an e-scooter, you should expect to be intercepted and spoken to by police," he said.

"Education is always our preference, but we won't hesitate to issue infringements for non-compliance and blatant disregard for the rules — particularly if it involves putting other road users' safety at risk."

In addition to enforcing rules around the e-scooter trial, police will target privately-owned e-scooters, which, under current laws, are illegal if they travel more than 10km/h or have a power output greater than 200 watts, and therefore cannot be used on public roads, bike lanes or footpaths in Victoria.

On-the-spot fines of \$185 or more can be issued for non-compliance with trial e-scooter rules.

Privately-owned high-powered e-scooters, which can only be legally ridden on private property, are considered a motor vehicle and riders can receive a \$925 fine for using an un-registered vehicle. ●



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# Queensberry Cup: the race that stops North and West Melbourne

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*  
EVENTS

This October, the streets of North Melbourne will transform into a sea of festivity with the running of the inaugural Queensberry Cup.

Presented by local not-for-profit organisation, The Centre, the Queensberry Cup will feature a jam-packed day of billy cart racing, food performances and stalls, the famous Village Dog Show, live music and much more.

In what will be the first major community event in the area since COVID-19, the Queensberry Cup will mark an evolution of the widely popular Spring Fling street festival into a whole new event filled with fun and excitement.

From 1pm to 10pm Saturday, October 22 the corner of Errol and Queensberry streets will form the centrepiece of the event, with surrounding streets to be barricaded off creating a carnival-like atmosphere all centred around the running of the Queensberry Cup; an all ages billy cart race that runs down Queensberry St and around the Leveson St roundabout.

Director of The Centre Ariel Valent said his team was encouraging locals to design, build and race their own billy cart, and with four age categories across the event, any entrant aged seven or older can participate.

"We thought, after two years with no Spring Fling, it was the opportune time to retire the event," Mr Valent said. "We wanted to capture some of the great energy Spring Fling has created around it but produce something completely new."

"The Queensberry Cup is our first community celebration of any scale since COVID-19, and North and West Melbourne have done it hard during that period in a lot of different ways; so, let's all get together and celebrate our fantastic community."

"There will be a variety of different groups and individuals making or procuring billy carts. Men's Shed at Peter Mac have opened up their space for people to create their own billy cart and so too has Melbourne North Service Centre."

While attention will be centred around the Queensberry Cup, Mr Valent told *North West City News* there would be plenty more on offer with a live music stage running all day until 10pm, along with a food performance stage, a Fashions on the Footpath competition, a games alleyway, and of course, local food and beverage stalls showcasing everything the area has to offer.

"Having the race outside the old Town Hall provides an iconic backdrop and a celebration of this space, not just for those on Erroll St, but the whole of North and West Melbourne, and hopefully, beyond," Mr Valent said.

"The focus on the main stage is cultural diversity. We have a young band playing called the Mudcakes, and Makepisi, a South African a cappella group will be performing, as well as hip hop crew doing L To R Dance and Black Jesus Experience with their Ethiopian Jazz Funk."



"Come along and not only see what happens on the racetrack but get involved. The festival is structured in a way that you can sit back and take it all in, but you will get most out of it if you join in on the fun."

One of the many local traders joining in on the celebrations is Liz Beech, founder and owner of Errol St distillery, Here's Looking at You, Kid.

She will have a "Gin Bar" marquee set up at the front of her store with gin and vodka cocktails on the menu to keep attendees hydrated.

"At the Queensberry Cup we will be launching our new gin called Errol St Blues, which is a beautiful blue gin that turns a violet colour when you add tonic to it," Ms Beech said.

"Along with gin and vodka cocktails, you will be able purchase bottles from our usual range and see our billy cart made out of a blue imported bourbon barrel with the help of the Peter Mac Men's Shed team."

"We can't wait to see the area come alive; it's going to be such a fun time, not just for us traders but locals and visitors in general."

While Ms Beech will have drinks sorted for the adults, president of the Vietnamese Women's Association and member of the Vietnamese Community Association Victoria Trang Tran will call upon her team and community for traditional food and dance performances.

"This is the first time we have been a part of a major community event in North Melbourne. It's a fantastic opportunity to promote our culture in terms of food and our traditional dance in beautiful traditional dress," Ms Tran said.

"We are going to do a bit of dancing, cook a bit of food and there will be plenty of giggling. I will be coordinating the dance performances in partnership with the Kew Senior Association,

and we will also have three women demonstrating how to make rice paper rolls."

Alongside a swathe of food and drinks, games and live performances, there will be range of organisations promoting diversity and inclusivity.

One of those organisations will be the International Women's Peace Group (IWPG); a not-for-profit founded to "realise happiness, cease war, and achieve world peace with a motherly heart."

"On the day we will have both a booth and also participate in the billy cart race," IWPG public relations officer Jacinda Mart said.

"Our billy cart is designed as a 'Peace Bus' in collaboration with International Youth Peace Group. On one side it will have IWPG design and on the other it will have the IYPG design."

"Our booth is aimed towards kids and in line with our International Loving Arts Peace Competition, which is to teach children the culture of peace, helping them understand what peace is and getting them to draw out what they believe it looks like."

These are just a smattering of the traders, performers and organisations that will bring the Queensberry Cup alive.

The Queensberry Cup is presented by The Centre in partnership with the City of Melbourne, Victoria Government, Alex Karbon Real Estate, Arts House, North and West Melbourne Precinct Association, B-Friend, Greater Western Water, The Village Festival and Melbourne North Service Centre. ●

For more information:  
[queensberrycup.org.au](http://queensberrycup.org.au)

# Community Food Map tackles food insecurity

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY

A new interactive digital map allowing residents to access the locations of food programs, services, and resources has been launched as part of a City of Melbourne initiative to help tackle food insecurity.

The Community Food Map is the first of its kind to be created online, providing information about community meal programs, food banks, affordable fresh food and groceries, community gardens, and food education within the City of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

The council's latest data shows 28 per cent of residents had experienced food insecurity from 2021-22.

"Everyone in our community has the right to access food that is nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate to support their health and wellbeing, yet we know that over one in four Melburnians experienced food insecurity last year," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"While the number of community members reporting food insecurity has decreased in the past 12 months, increasing the availability of food for everyone, especially the most vulnerable, remains our priority."

"Our Community Food Guide is an important resource for Melburnians who are experiencing food insecurity. It provides the locations of free and low-cost community meals and other resources and services such as food banks, pantries, community gardens and fresh food markets."

Among the services and programs that the food map points to in North Melbourne and Kensington include the Hotham Mission, St Vincent de Paul Society's soup van, Kensington Neighbourhood House - McCracken St food share garden, and the Kensington Food Garden.

The Community Food Guide was first developed in 2018 and was updated in 2019 and 2020.

However, the interactive digital map is a new feature of City of Melbourne's effort to eliminate food insecurity. The map features location tracking and filters so people can find exactly what they're after.

Hard copies of the food guide are available at community facilities including libraries and neighbourhood house and food relief organisations. ●

For more information:



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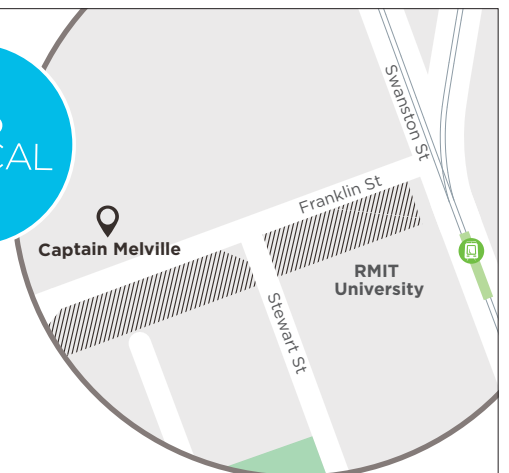
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# Community rejoices over hard-fought bus service increase

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

The Parkville Gardens community is celebrating after its campaign to increase bus services to its neighbourhood was finally a success.

For years, residents have felt short-changed with the lack of public transport servicing the booming residential area.

But in a long-awaited announcement, the state government said it would provide additional weekday services along the 505 bus route, connecting Moonee Ponds to the University of Melbourne via Parkville Gardens.

More than 10 new services in total will be added, including increased services at peak hours – both in the morning and evening, as well as in between peak periods.

This is set to make a huge difference for people accessing a wide range of retail and medical services, as well as the University of Melbourne and University High School.

The Melbourne Zoo, Royal Park and Princes Park are also connected to the 505 bus route, which was initially introduced to provide public transport access to the former 2006 Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village, now known as Parkville Gardens.

Since then, demand has grown as the Parkville Gardens residential development has continued to expand.

"Public transport across the inner city is an essential service, whether it is getting students to school or university, or ensuring residents get to their work or appointments – this investment in additional services is so important," the Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said.

The state government said timetable information for the 505 bus route was still being finalised, with the upgraded services set to begin in early 2023 and then be reviewed after 12 months.

Parkville Gardens Residents' Association (PGRA) president Tom Knowles said the announcement was a great outcome for the community.

"The association has long been keen to



▲ Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll, Member for Northern Metropolitan Sheena Watt and Labor candidate for Brunswick Mike Williams.

improve on the inadequate once-an-hour service. The 505 bus is the only public transport that's readily accessible for the 2000 and more residents of Parkville Gardens," he said.

"We look forward to the inauguration of the improved service – it's a step in the right direction."

It comes as local Greens MPs have long advocated on behalf of the growing community to increase the bus services with Brunswick MP Dr Tim Read launching a community petition last year, which resulted in the state government committing to funding in the 2021-22 state budget for improved services.

But when more than a year had passed and "nothing had happened", residents were left frustrated, prompting the Greens' leader and Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region Samantha Ratnam to address parliament in May to seek answers.

Mr Carroll, who took the question on notice, announced in September that the government was "finalising details" for additional bus services to Parkville Gardens.

Victorian Member for Melbourne Ellen

Sandell, whose seat will cover Parkville Gardens when it is transferred from Dr Read's electorate ahead of the state election in November, said she was delighted the state government had listened to the community's needs.

"We were able to get a commitment to more 505 bus services in the state budget, and I'm pleased that the government is finally delivering them," she said.

Meanwhile, Mr Knowles said the additional bus services would create an opportunity "to look closer" at the public transport needs of the Parkville Gardens community.

"There is no service, for example, that connects the neighbourhood with the Flemington Rd trams or with local schools," he said.

"With a new 151-unit apartment tower due to be completed and occupied next year, it's time for a thorough review of residents' public transport needs."

"Is the current 505 route the most useful? Does it need to be revised or supplemented? These are questions we need to pursue in the new year, once we see what difference the improved 505 service will make." ●

# New trams to hit the tracks by 2025

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
TRANSPORT

Melbourne's next generation trams (NGTs) are coming to Melbourne's west, the state government has announced.

The modern, more reliable fleet will be rolled out from 2025 for routes 57, 59 and 82, replacing the long-serving high-floor trams.

Commuters in Melbourne's west will be the first to benefit from the new trams which will service suburbs such as North Melbourne and Kensington.

They will also provide better access for people with mobility needs and those travelling with prams, as well as improved capacity with space for up to 150 passengers.

Chair of the North and West Melbourne Association Kevin Chamberlin said the upgrade of the 57 tram route was "long overdue and welcomed" and the "upgraded rolling stock will clearly attract more patronage and be more accessible to the wider community".

The new fleet is part of a \$1.85 billion state government investment to build 100 new trams as well as a new tram maintenance and stabling facility in Maidstone to house the NGTs, with construction scheduled to start in 2023.

The project will create 280 jobs during construction, and for ongoing maintenance and the supply chain, with local suppliers providing materials and services.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said the NGTs would see a significant improvement to services in the area.

"These new trams feature the latest accessibility technology, coupled with a low-floor design and additional doors, greatly improving accessibility on the network," he said.

Pre-construction activities will take place at Dandenong with construction of the first tram due to start from late 2023. The first vehicles are anticipated to be in service from 2025. ●

## NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

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# OUR SUSTAINABLE CITY

HOW MELBOURNE WILL BE POWERED BY 100 PER CENT RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030 AND ACHIEVE ZERO NET EMISSIONS BY 2040

Melbourne has bold goals to be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030

## Cities consume about 75% of the world's energy. So it makes sense that cities are where the climate crisis can be averted.

Like all cities around the world, Melbourne is facing a host of challenges that call for innovative solutions to ensure we retain our famed liveability.

Chief among those challenges is arguably the greatest challenge of our time - climate change and its impacts on communities.

By 2030, the CSIRO predicts Melbourne will be significantly affected by warmer temperatures and heatwaves, lower rainfall, intense storm events and flash flooding.

By 2070, we are predicted to be experiencing more than double the number of heat waves, an 11 per cent reduction in rainfall and a significant increase in storm events. These climate

changes will have a huge impact on businesses and the community.

The City of Melbourne strives to be a leader in responding to climate change, reducing our carbon footprint, building resilience and increasing urban biodiversity.

Melbourne's eco-city credentials are strong. We are proud to be a member of the C40 Leadership Group and the 100 Resilient Cities Network.

Being recognised internationally for our efforts addressing climate change means we also have the great privilege of setting an example for other cities.

This month, Lord Mayor Sally Capp will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina for the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) World Mayors Summit 2022.

It is the first major climate convention of city leaders since COVID-19, and

precedes COP 27 in Egypt in November.

At this summit, the Lord Mayor will share the City of Melbourne's biggest and boldest goals to fight climate change.

## 'The City of Melbourne will be a city powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and reach zero net emissions by 2040,' the Lord Mayor said.

"Since declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency in 2019, we've worked tirelessly to transition our city to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place.

'We are committed to being a global leader on climate action and are delivering emission reduction initiatives that are commensurate with that declaration,' she said.

Our organisation directly contributes less than 1 per cent of the municipality's emissions and has limited control to regulate the remaining 99 per cent.

That's why we're using our position to influence the community to take action too.

We're setting the standard in climate action and sustainability in many ways.

Our operations have been certified carbon neutral every year since 2012.

Our major events such as Moomba, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Music Week and Melbourne Knowledge Week are certified carbon neutral too.

## GREEN POWERED

In 2017, the City of Melbourne led the transition away from coal through a 10-year, \$200 million renewable energy group purchase agreement.

In an Australian-first, the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project saw a group of local governments, universities and corporations collectively purchase renewable energy.

We've now delivered two energy purchasing agreements, reducing the equivalent of 5 per cent of the city's emissions - leading Melbourne to be the first capital city council in Australia powered by 100 per cent renewable energy.

Energy is flowing into the power grid from the wind turbines at the Pacific Hydro wind farm at Crowlands, near Ararat.

Every light on our streets, every treadmill in our gyms and every barbecue in our parks is now powered by renewable energy.

This model has been replicated across Australia and enabled production of 8GW of renewable energy.

## POWER MELBOURNE

Power Melbourne will establish a network of coordinated neighbourhood-scale batteries to deliver more affordable energy into the grid.

Environment portfolio lead Councillor Rohan Leppert said 'we're going big with Power Melbourne'.

'Delivering at a scale that is large enough to support the grid, participate in energy markets and provide a meaningful benefit to our community,' Cr Leppert said.

'Neighbourhood battery technology is in its infancy in Australia, and we're proud to be leading the way in creating cleaner energy solutions in Australia with Power Melbourne.'

Many residents and businesses in our municipality are locked out of the renewable energy market. Those who rent or live in an apartment are often unable to install solar panels, and we know from market research that selecting an affordable green power option can be difficult.

Through Power Melbourne, we'll install a network of batteries around the city to create a virtual energy grid.

Local rooftop solar will charge the batteries, allowing renewable energy to be stored, then released back into the electricity grid when it's needed most.

## 'Not only will Power Melbourne provide access to affordable green energy for tens of thousands of local residents and small businesses, it will also reduce emissions and contribute to a more sustainable future,' Cr Leppert said.

We're exploring suitable locations for Power Melbourne batteries on council-owned buildings, including Queen Victoria Market, Library at the Dock, Kensington Recreation Centre and Council House 2 in the CBD.

We'd like to know what you think about neighbourhood batteries and how we can make it easy to switch your energy bills to a Power Melbourne plan.

From 26 September to 31 October, have your say at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne)



We're exploring suitable locations for Power Melbourne batteries on council-owned buildings



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**ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS**

More than 60 per cent of emissions in Melbourne come from commercial buildings.

We've recently formed a partnership with universities and private businesses to reduce emissions from these buildings.

We're taking a lead role pursuing more sustainable planning requirements to ensure our neighbourhoods and buildings are built to the highest quality and environmental standards, and aligned to best practice in the Australian industry.

We've introduced planning scheme amendments to ensure new development contributes to achieving our sustainability and green infrastructure goals, and ultimately helps to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency.

Now we're committed to supporting and refurbishing older buildings to improve their energy efficiency.

BREATH is an innovative new retrofit project which aims to improve air quality and ventilation within commercial buildings and move the city closer to its goal of zero carbon buildings.

The project pilot tested and evaluated three types of ventilation systems over three months.

It found simple changes to ventilation systems can significantly decrease the transmission of COVID-19 and reduce energy consumption in office buildings. It's given us the knowledge to predict the best type of retrofit to achieve these aims.

We're set to begin consultation with the building industry so we can work together to ensure buildings in our municipality are zero carbon ready by 2040.

The initial phase will focus on commercial buildings, including high rise residential apartments which contain commercial space.

From 4 October, share your thoughts with us at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



*We're consulting with the building industry to ensure city buildings are zero carbon ready by 2040*

**ZERO WASTE CITY**

We are committed to reducing food waste and diverting it from landfill by implementing food and garden organic waste solutions tailored to different buildings within the municipality.

We are aiming to increase overall waste diverted from landfill by 50 per cent by 2025. More than 22,000 City of Melbourne households use our Food and Garden Organic (FOGO) Service.

As part of our mission to be a Zero Waste City, we have already diverted more than 1200 tonnes of organic material from landfill – that is the equivalent weight of 46 trams.

Our waste trucks then pick up the garden waste for processing.

Here, it is turned into nutrient-rich compost to be used on Victorian farms and City of Melbourne parks and gardens.



*Our FOGO program is aimed at moving towards a more circular economy*

We continue to roll out Food and Garden Organic service across the municipality – with the service being extended to high-rises next.

Our FOGO program is aimed at moving towards a more circular economy, where we design out waste wherever possible, and reuse and repair items as a priority.

From 3 October to 27 November, have your say on how we can incentivise waste reduction and encourage recycling, at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-charge](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-charge)

**COOLING OUR CITY**

Our goal is to cool summertime temperatures in our city by 4C by 2040.

We'll achieve this by doubling our tree canopy to 40 per cent and increasing the permeability of our city's surfaces.

We plant 3000 trees every year to reduce the heat island effect in the city.

And we continue to work with developers to incorporate more green roofs in the CBD and to advocate for more greening in the city.

Our Urban Forest Fund provides financial support to new greening projects that otherwise would not be funded.

We'll soon announce the latest Urban Forest Fund grant recipients to create a greener, more sustainable city.



*Our goal is to cool summertime temperatures in our city by 4C*

'City greening projects like these are essential to adapting our city to a changing climate, supporting its continual transformation into a thriving urban forest,' Cr Leppert said.

'Together, these projects will increase our climate resilience by improving biodiversity and canopy cover, reducing air pollution and mitigating impacts of the urban heat island effect.'

**GREENLINE TO BE A COOL ROUTE**

While we work to cool the city, we're also exploring new ways people can keep cool when moving about the city.

We've developed our Cool Routes website to enable users to plot thermally comfortable journeys walking and cycling journeys across the municipality.

Cool Routes takes into account the time of day, the city architecture and surrounds to give users not necessarily the fastest route, but the route best protected from the sun and heat.

The Greenline Project will transform the northern bank of our city's waterway, delivering a continuous four-kilometre promenade of parks and public space. It will become a designated cool route.

The project will return areas of harsh concrete to its natural riverbank state, improving the flora and fauna of our river and increasing canopy cover by 40 per cent along the northbank.

Not only will it deliver a \$60 million benefit from protecting and enhancing the environment but it will also decrease discharge to improve water quality, improve soil quality and enhance greening, and establish ecological corridor for habitats.



*The Greenline Project will create a dedicated cool route through the city*



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# Storytelling project celebrates 40 years of challenging the legal system

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

A storytelling project based on Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre (FKCLC) has been shortlisted for the 2022 Victorian Community History Awards.

The annual awards are an opportunity for Victoria's rich history to be showcased, with a wide selection of 21 publications and eight projects nominated for 10 cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$2000.

All nominations are also in the running for the \$5000 Victorian Premier's History Award.

Among the list are online and physical exhibitions, podcasts, websites, walks and tours, books and articles, with the storytelling project on FKCLC taking the form of visual and written material.

The in-depth *40 Years Challenging The System* project came together through the collaboration of social history filmmaker Malcolm McKinnon and History at Work founder Emma Russell.

While proud of the work produced and "very happy" to be shortlisted, Ms Russell said that she hoped the project helped FKCLC get "recognised for the marvellous work it's done".

"I want people to feel like their eyes have been opened and they have had access into a community that is different from their own and can learn to recognise and appreciate it in all its colour and variation," Ms Russell said.

"For me, community history is about being able to understand communities and to be more appreciative, embracing and supporting."

Established in 1981, FKCLC has continued to be an avenue of support for people who have often dealt with legal injustice, and it has been a centre with a mission to make legal services more accessible.

Included within the centre's caseload, which has been documented in the storytelling project, are stories of victims who needed legal support when dealing with racial profiling, family violence and with their interactions with police.

These circumstances have led to the centre specifically creating a Safe From Harm family violence and family law project, and a Police Accountability project.

"Through working on this project what became more fascinating was the way Flem-Ken operated, systematically and generally," Ms Russell said.

"I became fascinated with the way the community had to function and operate, and try to function well, within this relentless system – a statement many people we spoke to used – that made their lives difficult."

Serving as a legal centre for the community means FKCLC has had to work hard to become deeply embedded into their community.

The centre has continued to create these strong



▲ History at Work founder Emma Russell. Credit Catherine Forge

networks through working with many other services, such as housing and tenants' unions, and health services.

As someone who has done a lot of community history work in the past, Ms Russell said that understanding how the centre and community was able to function despite all the hardships, was very interesting to discover.

"A fascinating part of this project in particular was to see that when people work together things can happen and it's magic," she said.

The video package created and the booklet that make up the *40 Years Challenging The System* storytelling project can be found on the FKCLC website.

The announcement of the winners for the Victorian Community History Awards cash prizes will be announced at the Melbourne Arts Centre on October 21.

The awards are presented by Public Record Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, with funding from the Victorian government. ●

**For more information:**  
[flemkenlegal.org/storytelling-project](http://flemkenlegal.org/storytelling-project)



## Kensington Neighbourhood House celebrated for creating community connections

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

The Melbourne Awards are a time to celebrate all the inspiring people and groups that have come together for the benefit of the community, and Kensington Neighbourhood House has been recognised as a finalist.

Selected within the community category in the City of Melbourne's 20th year running the awards, a spokesperson for the neighbourhood house said they were "thrilled to be finalists".

"Our tiny neighbourhood house makes a huge contribution to the Melbourne community and it's been great to see our work acknowledged in this way," they said.

"Kensington Neighbourhood House has been educating, connecting and supporting Melburnians for 47 years, and 80 per cent of our participants, 75 per cent of our volunteers, and more than half our staff are City of Melbourne residents."

Running alongside the Kensington Neighbourhood House as finalists within the community category is Channel 31 for telling Melbourne's stories, Meals With Impact, and Travellers Aid Australia.

Other categories making up the awards are Aboriginal Melbourne – ganbu guljin, Arts and Events, Hospitality, Knowledge and Innovation, LGBTIQ+, Sustainability and Urban Design.

The Melbourne Awards will also recognise a Melburnian of the Year to celebrate a role model who has made an outstanding contribution to the city and within their field of work.

As well as the award ceremony taking place in person on Saturday, November 12 at Melbourne Town Hall, it will be televised on Channel Nine the following day.

While it's a night to recognise the selected winners, it is also a time to acknowledge and celebrate all the incredible hard work being done by all the 27 finalists making up the eight categories.

"We're looking forward to celebrating the outstanding and inspirational achievements of each and every finalist in what will be a night to remember," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

"People make our city the great place that it is – and the Melbourne Awards provide an incredible opportunity to showcase the efforts of ordinary Melburnians doing extraordinary things." ●

# The healing power of LEGO

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

Mini figures are in big demand with some so rare they're selling for more than \$350 in a new shop dedicated to the childhood fantasies of LEGO.

Sean McConville has lived and breathed LEGO since opening Brickfield in Macauley Rd in April.

He has 4000 mini figures and he seems to know all of them personally.

His venture as a second-hand LEGO dealer and "escape artist" has attracted more publicity than some celebrities.

The media loves his story, the tragic tale of his life that he has transformed like a *Harry Potter* movie into a brave, new, exciting realm.

There are LEGO wizards in the back room of the shop sorting through pieces to make sure every second-hand set is complete.

And there are understudies making up heritage sets and getting ready to launch their own fantasies at Brickvention, the signature event for LEGO fans.

"I'm reliving the nostalgia of childhood," Sean admitted as he took *North West City News* through the shop. "My parents couldn't afford LEGO. It was out of their reach."

Sean's transformation occurred after the tragic death of his wife four years ago. He quit his job in the corporate sector and used the life insurance money to start a business that would



▲ Sean McConville and his LEGO mini figures.

help him recover.

"What can I do that I enjoy?" he asked himself. Before he knew it, he was up to his ears in LEGO, buying up second-hand pieces from deceased estates, getting deliveries and learning all about the sets, some so rare they retail for a mint.

A *Star Wars* set made 20 years ago for nine-year-olds and over is valued at \$110,000. It is so precious Sean takes it home every night.

"Rarity is the important factor in price," he said, with some sealed sets selling for a lot more than second-hand compilations, for example.

He also sells individual parts, labelled out the back, (he has 400 kilograms) and has pieces sorted according to colour.

One of his volunteers is Bean Furletto who's making a Harry Potter Diagon Alley, a cobblestoned wizard alley, for Brickvention, beginning with the set then expanding the village further



▲ Volunteer Bean Furletto getting ready for Brickvention.

with his own imaginings.

"I'm making double the buildings in sets," Bean said. "The original had 6500 pieces. Mine will be about 10,000."

For the shop, Bean has built Jable's Palace, an old 2014 *Star Wars* set, which is on display, like many other unearthed heritage sets.

"This it totally different from reality," Sean said. "You get to build and play. It's very relaxing." ●



# Huge increase to greening of old buildings needed to hit 2040 net zero target

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
SUSTAINABILITY

The current rate of local buildings being decarbonised per year was nowhere near that required for the City of Melbourne to reach its commitment of net zero emissions by 2040, a report has revealed.

A discussion paper tabled by the council in October stated that, for the council to reach its net zero goal by 2040, approximately 77 buildings would need to undergo a “deep energy retrofit” per annum.

This required rate was “significantly higher” than the current level.

The council has said it would rely heavily on building owners, tenants, industry associates, facility managers and government to reach the target in 18 years’ time.

Commercial buildings (defined as “office buildings, or buildings with some office functionality”) within the municipality were responsible for the majority (60 per cent) of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions. Transforming them into zero carbon spaces was seen as the biggest hurdle to achieving net zero.

“This is the biggest chunk of the conundrum and challenge that we face as we move towards our target,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said at an October 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

“I’m conscious that as developers deliver new buildings, they are meeting very high standards around sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation. But our biggest focus needs to be on existing buildings.”

It is predicted that more than 90 per cent of the buildings within the City of Melbourne that will be operating in 2040 have already been built today, underlining the need for a heavy focus on existing buildings rather than new developments.

According to the paper, while the market had begun the shift towards sustainable buildings as a result of changing attitudes and shareholder pressure, there was a “momentum lag” due to current regulations and motivation for change.

“The challenges result from how the building industry works, its fragmentation, and its relationship with the market and regulations,” it read.

“Unfortunately, these challenges lead to inertia ... we have not yet achieved the momentum needed.”

To address this, the paper proposed seven initiatives — drawn up through engagement with more than 60 industry, academic and government representatives — to help reach the 2040 target.

These include:

- Zero carbon leases (a step up from current “green leases”)
- An emissions cap (similar to that in New

York) which penalises poor performing buildings

- A rate reduction for buildings undertaking greening upgrades
- A retrofitting team that works with building owners and tenants

Cr Capp said these were “practical, achievable, impactful steps that we can take as a city”.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council could not reach the ambitious target by itself and would need significant buy-in from all sectors.

“The truth is, the City of Melbourne cannot do this alone,” Cr Reece said.

“We don’t have all the levers that are needed; we can’t make all the interventions that are required to achieve the zero carbon building future that Australia has to get to.”

Underlining just how much the City of Melbourne was reliant on the market to reach its 2040 target, the paper reported that “none of” the council’s efforts to support buildings towards reducing their carbon footprints during the past 25 years “have created the required momentum to get all buildings to zero carbon effectively and at pace”.

Cr Rohan Leppert said a joint approach was required.

“We do know that the property sector in particular doesn’t necessarily always like being told what’s about to happen to them, [but] this can be as collaborative a process as they’d like it

to be,” he said. “We do want to test a whole lot of ideas, so that we know that when we choose which ideas to pursue, there’s as much ownership over why we’re pursuing that particular solution as there possibly can be.”

The City of Melbourne defines Zero Carbon Buildings as “no additional carbon emitted into the environment through the construction, operations and whole-of-life of the building.”

A “zero carbon” commercial building is one which is 100 per cent run on electricity, has a zero-carbon action plan and regular reporting on energy use.

The council has pledged to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 through its “Power Melbourne” initiative, which will install a network of coordinated mid-scale batteries across the city. However, the discussion paper conceded that decarbonising the grid with 100 per cent renewables would “will only get us part of the way” to net zero.

The council has now welcomed community input on both its Power Melbourne and Zero Carbon Buildings initiatives, and locals can have their say until October 31 and November 16 respectively. ●

**For more information:**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## Democracy and elections – noble compromise in an imperfect world

WORDS BY *Simon Harvey*  
KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION - CHAIR

The Kensington Association and the North and West Melbourne Association invite you to meet the candidates in the Victorian State Election for the seat of Melbourne (Assembly) and the Northern Metropolitan Region (Council) on Thursday, October 27.

By the way ... enrolments for the election close at 8pm on Tuesday, November 8!

Yes, we have an election soon; in my view, not something to be taken likely!

Before long we will walk into a private booth with a list of names of people we know very little about. Our task is to choose which of these people will have the responsibility to represent us on the floor of the Victorian Parliament.

You’d have to say, not an ideal situation; but then, what would an ideal democracy look like? That adage ... “don’t let the perfect (ideal) be the enemy of the good” ... comes to mind. Are democratic governments “good”, despite being built on compromises?

Some would agree with that of

well-known old cynic Winston Churchill, who is quoted as saying “democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others that have been tried.”

We find it so easy to find fault with politics and politicians, so we don’t always appreciate the positives in our system of government. Those who have lived in a non-democratic system are better able to make comparisons and more likely to appreciate the freedoms and privileges we enjoy, but too often take for granted.

So, as a salute to our democracy, as imperfect as it is, we invite members of our communities, in the lead-up to the Victorian Election to meet, listen, communicate and question ...

### Meet the Candidates

The event will take place on October 27 from 7pm to 9pm at Kensington Town Hall.

For those who can’t make it, or who still find “in-person” meetings too risky, you will be able to send in questions and have them answered by listening to a recording of the meeting. Send questions to [KAincChair@gmail.com](mailto:KAincChair@gmail.com) by October 26. ●

## Small wins at the Spring Carnival

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
EVENTS

Headbands are an indispensable accessory for this year’s Spring Racing Carnival and a small boutique in Macaulay Rd is getting in early with its fashion promotions.

Mary wasn’t in the market for a new outfit when she dropped by on her lunch break and tried one on.

“I follow a few celebrities on Insta and a couple of emerging stylists,” she told *North West City News*.

“Headbands have made a big comeback, the more sparkly the better, and gold jewellery, the more the better.”

Luckily for those on a budget, the headbands retail at Coco Charlie for \$69 and gold chains begin at a little over \$20.

Business owner Ross Surace has ordered a box of headbands to be on the safe side. He doesn’t want a repeat of last year when the fascinators arrived too late.

“Last year was a disaster,” Ross said. It was touch and go whether the carnival would even be staged because of COVID restrictions.

Then when it did go ahead, numbers were capped. Sales moved slowly and the memory still hurts.



▲ Ross Surace setting up his Spring Carnival window display.



▲ Mary modelling a headband on her lunch break.

“We’d been closed for so long and we were paying back COVID rent. This year could change all that,” Ross said.

He’s catering for a range of tastes including knock-off green handbags, flowing dresses and new stock is still arriving.

He was getting ready early this year, setting up his window display in the first week of October, even beating Fashion Week.

“The colours are really important. They have to blend,” he said as he arranged the outfits.

A silk dress in brilliant jockey’s colours was pride of place but other more subtle tans were included to match up while keeping a sense of aesthetics.

Ross said that Kensington women didn’t dress up much and that most of his customers came from further afield.

Over-sized straw hats might appeal to locals, and suits, which will be arriving soon.

“A big thing this year is a boy look, a nice, tailored suit with an oversized jacket.”

Coco Charlie is the closest women’s fashion shop in Kensington to the racecourse.

With pundits predicting a downturn in the economy, punters at the Spring Racing Carnival might have to make do with small wins this year.

Not everyone wants a complete outfit but many like to keep up with fashions on the field. ●

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BUSINESS

# Celebrating more than two decades of property management success in the city

*A lot has happened in the Melbourne since the turn of the millennium.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

We've seen an initially frosty reception to the design of Fed Square (2002), we've seen the Commonwealth Games come and go (2006), we've seen the sad demise of iconic venues like the Palace (2014), we've even said goodbye to Metcards and welcomed the Myki (2012).

Throughout this time, there has been one constant in Melbourne's property management game: Jill Anderson.

As founder of local property management agency, Leasing Melbourne, it's not the moments in local history which have shaped Ms Anderson's career but the people she has met and the relationships she has developed along the way.

"It is relationship-building that I really enjoy – I call myself the CBD concierge," she said. "The highlight of my career has been all the people I have met and the places I have seen; I've walked into so many beautiful apartments."

"Sometimes you walk up to a door and wonder what's going to be behind it, but I'm constantly surprised by what people can do with their interiors."

Ms Anderson is a traditionalist. She likes things done the old way, with a personal touch, face to face or at the very least over the phone.

It's how she has built and grown her agency organically from the ground, since opening her own agency in 2000 to surviving the global financial crisis, and now, a global pandemic.

In a world where a growing number of real estate agencies outsource property management admin work offshore, Leasing Melbourne



▲ Left to right: Leasing Melbourne's Anna Krilis, Kerri Hotton, founder Jill Anderson, Donna McGrath, Helena Krilis and Emma Powis.

provide a truly tailored and boutique service offering.

"Because we have grown the business organically, I feel we are much more hands on and personalised in our service, I feel that is our point of difference; being able to provide answers

straight away and talk through problems and find solutions," Ms Anderson said.

"Fletcher Anderson joined the business in 2005 and his genuine interest in IT and photography was a huge benefit for the growth of the business and keeping us current; as the industry

has become so digitised. I am so grateful for my team – they are so loyal."

According to Ms Anderson, partly due to the pandemic and partly due to the rental reforms from early 2021 causing a huge increase in workloads, the industry has lost 30 per cent of its property managers.

With a portfolio of more than 500 properties, 90 per cent of Leasing Melbourne's business has been generated through referrals; a true nod to its leadership in personalised, efficient, high-end property management.

"I've had clients with me who have been with me from the start and built up their property portfolios," she said. "Now I'm seeing the next generation of their children coming to live in those apartments to study."

"For those landlords who stuck through the tough times from the last two years, we are starting to see pre-COVID rental yields."

"We are not being ridiculous and putting massive increases in place, a lot of people are still getting back on their feet and finding jobs, and just because there is a bit more stability, we aren't going to take advantage of that."

Ms Anderson said in another 12 months to two years, landlords would likely increase rental prices at a greater rate due to the cost of their mortgages to cover interest rates and owners corporation fees.

Whether it's the relationships she has formed during her journey, from finding apartments for the many theatrical superstars, to working with Melbourne's culinary elite along Flinders Lane, Ms Anderson hasn't just left her mark on the city's property management market, but the CBD as a whole. ●

**For more information:**  
[jill@lmrealestate.com.au](mailto:jill@lmrealestate.com.au)

## KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

# Screens off, gumboots on, nature to the rescue!

*Ever heard of "nature deficit disorder"? By the end of our sixth lockdown, I can bet you were feeling it, even without knowing the buzzword.*

Nature deficit disorder is a phrase used to describe the impact of spending way too much time indoors, without time in the natural world.

It is thought that children are particularly vulnerable to nature deficit. Prolonged time indoors makes them feel alienated from nature and perhaps more vulnerable to negative moods or reduced attention spans.

To help address this, Kensington Neighbourhood House has been running a program called "Green Time Not Screen Time" (GTNST) – specifically designed for children and families living in our public housing estates.

Essentially, GTNST is a series of excursions aimed at getting kids and their parents connected with the natural environment.

We've just completed our second major adventure. It was HUGE. We ended up with three buses, four cars, 20kg of chicken suqaar (a Somali dish), 200 bread rolls and 170 very excited participants all heading to Pound Bend Reserve.

Pound Bend is located in the beautiful Warrandyte National Park. Although only an hour out of Melbourne, it may as well have been another country for many of our participants, who are used to the high density environment of the inner city.

We were met by Uncle Bill and Thane from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. They very generously shared their stories and knowledge throughout the day.



The children participated in a smoking ceremony, went on bush walks and joined in dance, storytelling and games. Many of the stories were about Bunjil the eagle, who plays a part in the origin story of the Warrandyte gorge.

Of course, lots of time was spent in unstructured, empowered play. The kids loved having so much space to explore and there were opportunities for running, climbing and lots of splashing about in the creek.

Mothers and fathers enjoyed having time out in nature and connecting with their families and friends in a completely new environment. It was a very special day.

We have plenty more excursions planned for the rest of the year, including a trip to Altona beach. We'll also be adventuring closer to home with excursions to Newell's Paddock in Kensington and Royal Park in Parkville.

Big thanks to the City of Melbourne for funding this project and to the amazing staff of The Venny for partnering with us to deliver it. ●



**Rebecca Smith**  
MANAGER KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
[INFO@KENHOUSE.ORG.AU](mailto:INFO@KENHOUSE.ORG.AU)



# A story about the origins of the Kensington Community Bike Workshop

*This is a story that began in 2019.*

Saturday, October 8 saw the launch of the first Kensington Community Bike Workshop. The workshop is a community-run not-for-profit supervised workshop space where local residents can come to fix their bikes and use the tools and materials of the facility. At the time of writing this article the first workshop had not been run.

It is a pilot project that received a Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund small grant to the value of \$4990.91 exc. GST from the City of Melbourne in November 2019. Due to COVID and trying to find a suitable location for it has taken some time to get it up and running.

### A bit of history

The bike workshop facility was originally going to be set up in a container at the Kensington Estate, however with the change of CEO at Unison Housing they cancelled their agreement with the bike workshop due to concerns about vandalism. Kensington Neighbourhood House then stepped in as our auspice party and the bike workshop then sought to set up the container at the Kensington Town Hall.

With the help of our local Neighbourhood Partner from City of Melbourne, Melanie Del Monaco, who negotiated with the six different departments within the council, we were able to get a licence for the container to be set up behind the Kensington Town Hall. However, with the extension of COVID and various lockdowns across the globe this impacted on the availability of small containers and hence the price became too much for our grant funds.

We then sought to utilise some space in one of the Venny containers that we could open up onto JJ Holland Park. However, due to existing storage concerns the Venny Inc. already had, this was not an option.

We did not give up – through gentle prompting and support of the City of Melbourne we continued our search. It was important that the space was easily accessible to all and was a place

of high traffic, as we did not have a budget for promotion. A number of potential venues were considered, we even sought to try and bring a small trailer into JJ Holland Park.

Finally, we sought the help of our community, and the Flemington Colts Cricket Club came to our rescue allowing us to share the space with them during the time they were allocated the use of the Bill Vanina Pavilion. They have also provided some storage space for our tools, materials and signage during this time. The workshop will be run outside under the awning of the Pavilion, however, if it rains, we will move inside as we do not require much space and have floor protection tarps.

The one consistent supporter has been our resident bike repairer, Rod; no matter what disappointments we faced, his commitment was unwavering. Rod has been working on bikes

since he was a young boy, but more intensively for the past eight years.

Rod is passionate about bike repair as he believes cycling gets cars off the road and is a good activity for families and general fitness.

When asked how many bikes he has repaired he replied, “it would have to be at least a thousand. I have also built at least 3000 Kmart/BigW bikes of all sizes.”

Rod has also been a repairer at the Kensington Repair Hub for the past four years and sees the most common problems as poor maintenance, especially of the chain, gears and brakes.

We are aiming through the workshop to teach and share skills on bike maintenance as Rod believes that bikes will last almost indefinitely provided they are maintained properly.

Not only that but with a little bit of maintenance it will make riding easier and more pleasurable.



If the pilot is successful and our community wants this facility to continue, we will seek a small membership fee of \$5 to \$10 per year to help us maintain a stock of tools and materials for users to access. We will also look at how to continue using the Bill Vanina Pavilion.

We are hoping that it is successful that more repairers join us, and we keep bikes safe and affordable for all in our community. ●



**Jacqui van Heerden**  
CO-CONVENER OF TRANSITION  
TOWN KENSINGTON  
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COM

## Delicate monster

*The delicate looking creature in the accompanying pic is aptly named a lacewing. But don't be fooled by her demure feminine charm, this lady is a cold calculating killer. And she was, even as a child.*

WORDS BY *Howard Birnstihl*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Howard Birnstihl*

However, in her case, I know you gardeners of North Melbourne tend to turn a blind eye, as the immature versions are great for ridding your garden of many of its more harmful bugs.

Not hard to see why these delicate but voracious insects are commonly known as Golden Eyes, lacewings start life as aggressive little bulldozer types [known as antlions] which are tiny roaming killing machines, skewering the remains of their prey, and other garden debris, onto the small spines on their back in order to camouflage themselves, becoming virtually invisible amongst the garden's leaf litter.

Considered the gardener's friend, there are 5000 known species, 600 of which are endemic to Australia, and if you are inclined to do so, you can actually purchase specimens of this tiny killer from your favourite garden supply shop to help keep your garden bug-free.

Lacewings, which have a short life span of only three to four weeks, have the spider-like habit of injecting their victims, mainly aphids,



caterpillars, mealy bugs and scale, with a digestive fluid which allows them to suck their victims dry. Acting as the gardener's friend, this they can do at an astonishing rate of up to 60 aphids per hour. Perhaps you can shame your kids by mentioning this next time they balk at eating their broccoli.

Not just a pretty face, the female lacewing understands the law of the jungle as well as anyone and so when laying her 600 or so eggs (usually in batches of about a dozen) she places them up on tiny, almost invisible stalks which keep the potential offspring up out of sight and hopefully for them, out of mind of any potential predator wandering by.

Like moths, lacewings are attracted to light

and so will often be found indoors, particularly on warm summer nights, but remember, keep that spray can away, they are completely harmless to you and me, and quite beautiful to watch.

All insects (except the mayfly), develop wings at their final moult before adulthood when they unfurl these new appendages slowly to harden like the cuticle which makes up their body casing or exoskeleton. Both pairs of wings of the lacewing, known as the fore wings and hind wings, like those of the dragonfly, are extremely complex in their construction.

The intricate interweaving of veins is quite unique to each species and entomologists often use this as a way of determining one species from another. And by the way, it is thought

that when their aquatic predecessors decided to move from a watery environment and take to the air, the sneaky little devils simply developed their gills into wings. Clever, eh?

The hard netting which holds the wings of the lacewing together and gives them strength, are actually nerve veins and justifies their scientific name of neuroptera, derived from two Greek words: neuron and pteron meaning nerve-winged. Variety in wing design results in a diverse range of flying insects, some, like Christmas beetles, bumbling along like heavy laden bombers flown by inebriated pilots, others like the more skilful dragon flies flitting darting and hovering like demented radio controlled toys. Lacewings would be classed as reasonably competent in the air, however from what I've seen, they are unlikely to ever win any speed trials.

And just a reminder of the nature of our friend the lacewing: that theory as to why the eggs are laid up on stalks being to protect them from being eaten by predators actually includes their own brethren, the voracious emerging young brothers and sisters eager for their first breakfast. Reminds me a bit of the family next door.

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





NORTH WEST CITY LOCAL

# The North Melbourne local inspiring the area through design



*Growing up in a small town, country girl Tennille Joy Burnup has been taking on city life for the past eight years in North Melbourne where she is also sharing her passion for interior design.*



WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Drawn to the area because of the country and community feel it gives her, Ms Burnup decided to make North Melbourne not only where she lives, but also where she works through creating her very own design business, Tennille Joy Interiors.

“I have always had an interest in interior design and decorating because my mother had an interior decorating shop, and I pretty much grew up in the shop, and my dad still has a furniture shop,” Ms Burnup said.

Reflecting on the moments she would spend as a child at her mother’s shop, counting the curtain hooks and building a cubby house out of the empty cardboard boxes, Ms Burnup felt it was only right to use a store name inspired by her mother.

“Joy is my middle name, but I decided to use it as it was also my mother’s middle name. She is the one that inspired me to do this as a career, so I decided to use it in the title of my business,”

Ms Burnup said.

“When I originally finished school I studied fashion design out of rebellion, because it was always expected that I would be an interior designer. Then I came back to it and 25 years later I am still loving what I do.”

Hoping to inspire young people to indulge in creativity and design like herself, Ms Burnup regularly donates discontinued materials, finishes and fabric cardboard rolls and boxes to the local kindergarten and children.

“The children love seeing lots of colour fabrics being brought in and I enjoy being able to contribute in that way,” she said.

“I have been donating for the last five years and it’s been so good for everything to be used by the children for arts and crafts, and to not have it all go into landfill.”

Since opening her business in North Melbourne in 2015, Ms Burnup has been able to continue to expand her work as she delves into both interior design and interior decorating, telling *North West City News* that “every day is different”.

While interior design focuses on taking on a more interior architectural role and involves the designing of interior spaces and planning, the decorating part handles the selection of everything that goes into the home after construction.

This wide scope of work means she is always kept on her toes as she works closely with clients and suppliers.

She is also looking forward to sharing her love of design with everybody in the community through her new service of Strategy Interior Design Sessions.

“It is for anyone who might have architectural plans in process, but they are stuck and don’t know where to move on to next, so we will have a meeting to discuss a list of items they need resolved and I will go through the process of helping them pull it all together,” Ms Burnup said.

“It will give clients peace of mind with the

*Hoping to inspire young people to indulge in creativity and design like herself, Ms Burnup regularly donates discontinued materials, finishes and fabric cardboard rolls and boxes to the local kindergarten and children.*



▲ *Tennille Joy Burnup in the studio with her straight-haired Cavoodle Ringo.*

found making the most of the fresh air outside with her straight-haired Cavoodle Ringo, making friends with the local community through the parks available for dog lovers alike. ●

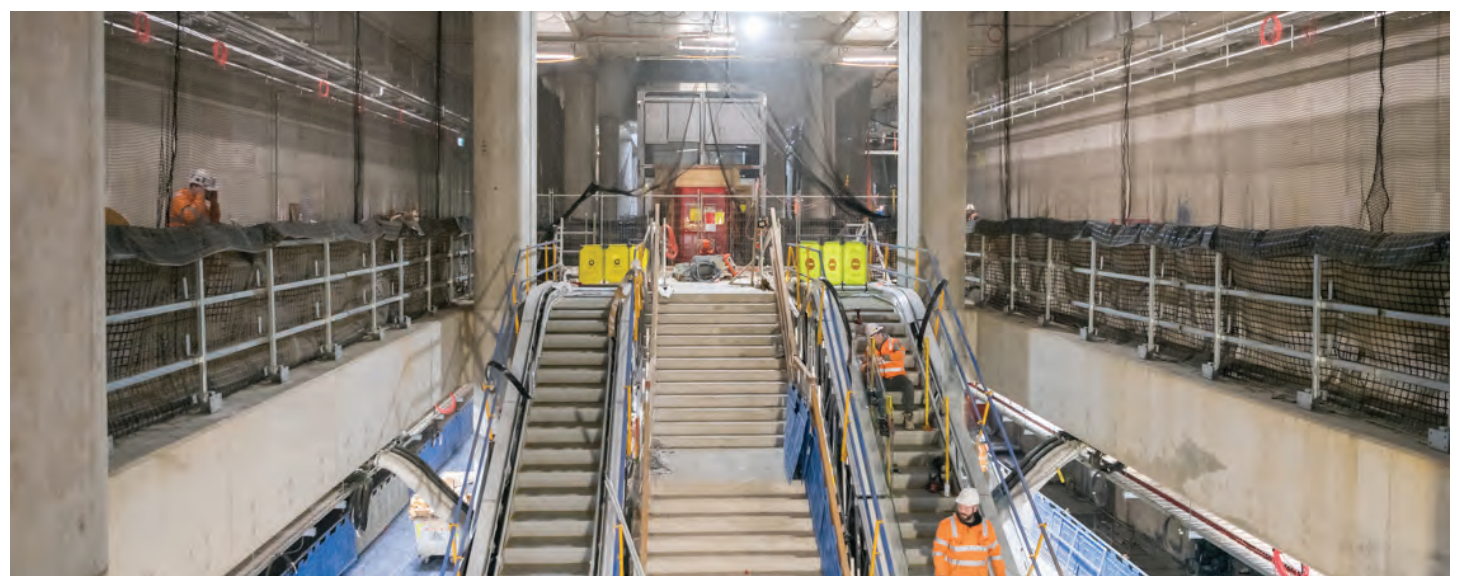
**For more information:**  
[tennillejoyinteriors.com.au](http://tennillejoyinteriors.com.au)

METRO TUNNEL

# Work forging ahead at Arden Station



*Installing escalators and adding solar panels are just some of the works taking place recently at the Metro Tunnel’s Arden Station as crews work to ready the station for train testing in the tunnels in the second half of 2023.*



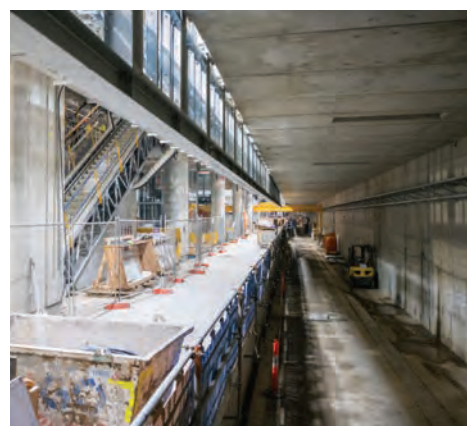
Arden is the most advanced of the Metro Tunnel’s five new underground stations, with the building’s major structural elements mostly finished and work starting on architectural features.

Work on the station’s massive arched entrance is finished, with concrete panels installed on the facade. Escalators and lifts to the station concourse are now in place and being tested.

At ground level, 16-metre by three-metre skylights have been built and glazing installed. These skylights will allow natural light to flow down to the station concourse.

Inside the station, crews are building internal structures and installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

When it opens in 2025, Arden Station will be the focal point of a massive urban renewal area, which will accommodate thousands of jobs and



housing.

North Melbourne Recreation Centre, Arden Street Oval and the route 57 tram will all be within walking distance, creating a sustainable transport hub. The station will link directly to Melbourne Airport in 2029 via Melbourne Airport Rail.

The station entrance will open up onto a major new public square at the heart of the new precinct.

Massive brick arches are a key architectural feature of the Arden Station entrance, reflecting North Melbourne’s rich industrial history and character.

At nearby Parkville Station, work is finished on the crucial underground passenger walkway

that stretches 44 metres under Royal Parade, linking the station to major hospitals.

The steel frames for the station’s main Grattan St entrance have been built and will be installed soon above escalators leading down into the station.

Across the 18km of tunnels workers will install almost 50,000 brackets, 15km of elevated steel walkway for emergency and maintenance access, almost 500km of electrical and fibre cables, 16km of pipework to carry fire retardant, and more than 3000 lights.

Next-generation high-capacity signalling equipment will be installed along the tunnel, enabling more trains more often when the Metro Tunnel opens in 2025. ●



# Calling all Parkville Gardens primary schoolkids, parents and guardians!

Take up the challenge of our Amazing (not really a) Race event. It's a fun activity for kids aged 5-12. All are welcome but you **MUST** register and get your free ticket from Eventbrite to take part. You can do that via the QR code below. Places are limited.



We're keen to see you for a 10am start on Sunday, October 23 – meet at the start of the path between the wetlands and sports-field. Enter from the Oak St car park opposite the end of Galada Ave. Cross over safely using the pedestrian lights!

**There's more!**

We're going to finish the year on a high. Parkville Gardens residents, put Sunday, November 20 in your diary. We're going to have a Spring Fling. There'll be kids' games, food and much more. We're teaming up with Frasers Property to have a trial run of a Garage Sale Trail. This will pave the way for a full-scale event in November next year. For more information about the Garage Sale Trail email [CommunityDevelopmentVic@FrasersProperty.com.au](mailto:CommunityDevelopmentVic@FrasersProperty.com.au). There'll be more detail about the PGRA Spring Fling in next month's bulletin.

In the meantime, you can make good use of your time by participating in a number of consultations.

The first is about plans to upgrade the Royal Park Station precinct on Poplar Rd. The Department of Transport is conducting an online workshop on the project on Monday, October 24 from 1pm to 4pm. The department says this will bring "together experts, agency representatives, and key community stakeholders. The aim is to get everyone working together, listening to each other to identify possible options to inform the design of the precinct and future works." Here's the link to register:



The next three are being run or partnered by the City of Melbourne.

The first is about neighbourhood batteries. Power Melbourne says it's "committed to powering Melbourne with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030". To help achieve this, it "will install

a network of neighbourhood batteries around the city. The batteries will be linked to a retail electricity plan to help renters, people living in apartments, and those running small businesses access more affordable renewable electricity."

You have until the end of the month – October 31 – to complete the survey. You'll find it at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne). There's a video too:



The second is a project to watch for the Superb Fairy Wren.

This is "a partnership between the City of Melbourne, BirdLife Australia, The University of Melbourne and RMIT University." The aim of the exercise "is to improve inner-city habitats for fairy-wrens and other small birds. We're tracking superb fairy-wrens in Royal Park to see

how they respond to habitat restoration works." For more information: [superbcitywrens.com](https://superbcitywrens.com)

The third is about nature journaling. Become a citizen forester! Go to [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citizenforester](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citizenforester) and you'll be told you can help "collect data about trees, plants and ecology to grow a greener Melbourne. The Citizen Forester Program holds events that allow you to meet new people, learn new skills and build knowledge about green space in our city. The program has a variety of activities that allow you to participate in meaningful, fun and rewarding environmental work".

That should keep everyone very usefully occupied until we hold our *Amazing (not really a) Race* event at 10am on Sunday, October 23.

Don't forget to register and get your free ticket – remember, numbers are limited! ●



*Tom Knowles*

TOM KNOWLES IS THE PRESIDENT OF PARKVILLE GARDENS ASSOCIATION.  
[PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU](mailto:PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU)

STATE MP

## Melbourne community toy libraries at risk of closing their doors

*As a mum of three young kids, I know how important it is to have access to community services like the Melbourne Community Toy Library (MCTL).*

During the past 21 years, this volunteer-run organisation has provided a wonderful toy library service at different sites across Melbourne. They currently have hubs in Carlton, North Melbourne, and Docklands.

Toy libraries are a great place to borrow free toys and for families to connect, learn and play together. They are accessible for all members of our community and are great for the environment.

But our Melbourne community toy libraries can't continue to provide this wonderful service without support for much longer.

MCTL relies on dedicated volunteers to keep their doors open and services running, but they need funding to support their day-to-day operations. Without council funding, they are at risk of closing.

We have unfortunately already seen this happen in Kensington due to the redevelopment of the Rec Centre and the toy library has been told that it won't be able to return, even when the new centre opens. Other sites are on short-term leases or and its future is uncertain.

MCTL tells me that they have to apply every year to the council for small grants but that they are at a disadvantage because you can't apply for funding for the same project more than once. This means they are forced to constantly innovate and spend hours writing new project proposals, while the value of their core programs

*MCTL relies on dedicated volunteers to keep their doors open and services running, but they need funding to support their day-to-day operations. Without council funding, they are at risk of closing.*



▲ State Member for Melbourne Ellen Sandell at the North Melbourne toy library with library staff/volunteers.

should speak for itself.

Last year the City of Melbourne hired an external consultant to look at all the possibilities for how the toy library might be funded into the future. There are a few options on the table including the possibility that the toy library could be taken over and run as a council service or be annexed by The Venny. They are happy to look at all these options, but what MCTL really needs is for the council to make a decision, and soon, so they can have a permanent home.

I've been calling on the City of Melbourne to support our toy libraries and while I'm glad that the council is carefully considering how best to support this valuable service, MCTL has already been waiting months for an outcome.

Our toy libraries need certainty on their funding before it is too late.

You can also read more about my plans to save our toy libraries at [ellensandell.com/saveourtoylibraries](https://ellensandell.com/saveourtoylibraries)

As always, if there's anything I can help you with, please get in touch: [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com) ●



*Ellen Sandell*

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
[OFFICE@ELLESANDELL.COM](mailto:OFFICE@ELLESANDELL.COM)







## North Melbourne’s personable and homely accountant

*When walking into an accountant’s office one may expect a more formal and business-orientated atmosphere, but for North Melbourne’s Kount Consulting creating personal relationships with their clients is priority.*

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

This welcoming approach is what sets Kount Consulting apart from bigger firms and was a no-brainer decision for Sarah Gibbins when she started the business.

As an accountant for 20 years, Ms Gibbins started at a smaller accounting firm before transitioning to a bigger firm, and it was through noticing the shift away from the client-focus she was used to that led her back to her roots.

“A lot of the clients I had known for the past 10 to 15 years were keen to move on as was I, and so it works out really well that I had a really good client base to get started,” Ms Gibbins said.

“Having relationships with clients over a long period of time is very personal and you get to know them well, as well as their families and circumstances. Having these close relationships makes the business what it is.”

Equipped with a small, highly experienced team of four, Kount Consulting has managed to create a space within Queensberry St that is not your typical accounting office.

“We have tried to make it quite personable and homely, because sometimes when you walk into these offices, they can feel quite sterile and



▲ Kount Consulting.

Photo: Anna Encio.

we didn’t want that atmosphere,” Ms Gibbins said.

“We want to encourage people to be open with us and encourage them to come in and talk to us. We have created a positive environment and are all very committed to our jobs and getting good outcomes for people.”

Since opening in North Melbourne in 2016,

the team at Kount Consulting has continued to be there for a wide client base – from businesses large and small, to family groups, and individuals.

While helping their clients comes first and foremost, a unique process the business involves within their service is educating their clients.

“We educate people on what they wouldn’t

“

*Having relationships with clients over a long period of time is very personal and you get to know them well, as well as their families and circumstances. Having these close relationships makes the business what it is.*

”

know, because sometimes if people go and get their tax returns done, they give over their documents and then just leave, but I don’t think that is the best outcome because they don’t know what is going on and why,” Ms Gibbins said.

“It is very important to have a basic understanding of what’s involved, what we are doing and why we are doing what we are doing.”

“We try to do it in a very easy and friendly way, and in a way that everyone can understand.”

Kount Consulting is located at 629 Queensberry St, North Melbourne and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. ●

**For more information:**  
[kountconsulting.com](http://kountconsulting.com)

## Dance This Way

*North Melbourne will soon be awash with music, colour and dance as the Errol St Precinct comes alive with its very own street festival Dance This Way.*

WORDS BY *Sylvia Black - President*

Happening on every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday across the first three weeks of November, Dance This Way will be a must visit attraction for the family, showcasing exciting and interactive music and visual elements for all ages.

An initiative of the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association, funded through the City of Melbourne’s City Activation Grant, Dance This Way is designed to attract visitors to the area and promote the precinct.

The festival will feature a creative lighting installation, roving performers, retailer competitions and much more. Errol St will become a fun dance zone with Middle Eastern belly dancers, cheer leaders, Brazilian samba plus vibey beats, awesome lighting, colourful hanging installations and photo opportunities galore. There will be no option but for you and your friends to dance, smile and simply “Blame It On The Boogie”.

The traders in the area are also joining the party through retailer competitions and in house entertainment. During Dance This Way, customers who spend \$25 or more in participating retailers may enter a fun competition called “Spin-To-Win”.

Get spending to be in the draw for daily prizes worth up to \$100 and a major prize of a \$500 Precinct Gift Card.

- What: Errol Street Festival – Dance This Way
- Where: Errol St, North Melbourne
- When: Fridays November 4, 11 and 18 from 5pm; Saturdays, November 5, 12 and 19 from 5pm and Sundays, November 6, 13, and 20 from 3pm. ●









# What's On: October 2022

## Community Calendar



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



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

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



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



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




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



**Kensington Community Bike Shop**  
 The Kensington Community Bike Workshop is a community-run not-for-profit bicycle workshop that runs a supervised space with tools, parts and expertise for bike repairs.  
 Bill Vanina Pavilion, JJ Holand Park  
 October 22, 10am - 1pm

**Connect Cafe - Tech help for older people**  
 Do you need help learning how to use your mobile, tablet or laptop? Connect Cafe is offering FREE one-on-one 30 minute or 60 minute sessions with a trained and skilled 'Lively Tech Helper'. Advise on preferred language and team will do their best to accommodate. Fridays in September and October (excl Sep 23), 9am to 12pm.  
 Kensington Neighbourhood Centre - 18 Anthony St, Kensington  
**Bookings essential: [healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au)**



# Business Directory

## Health & Fitness

**STRIDE**  
 HEALTH COLLECTIVE  
 CHIROPRACTIC | REMEDIAL MASSAGE | NUTRITION  
 Helping people from all walks of life live pain-free & reach their health goals.  
 Scan QR code to book online.



## Politician

**ELLEN SANDELL**  
 STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
 (03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

## Real Estate

**Biggin & Scott**  
 KENSINGTON  
 For a clear path to success  
 Kylie 0417 960 492  
 Simone 0447 022 266  
 Trevor 0456 377 780

## School

**SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
 CONTACT US  
 Phone: +61 3 9321 9200  
 Email: [contactus@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:contactus@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au)  
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8.00am - 4.00pm  
 CAMPUSES  
 St Mary's 7-9 | 273 Victoria St, West Melbourne VIC 3003  
 St Brigid's 10-12 | 20 York St, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

## Precinct

**NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION**  
  


**JOIN WITH A MATE**  
 AND SPLIT THE JOINING FEE\*  
\*Terms & Conditions Apply.  
**ANYTIME FITNESS**  
 CARLTON DOCKLANDS WEST MELBOURNE

## Shopping

**QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET**  
 For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.  
 Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday  
 with plenty of affordable parking.  
[QVM.COM.AU](http://QVM.COM.AU)

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 ANYTHING WITH OUR NAME ON IT SELLS®  
 519 MACAULAY RD, KENSINGTON 3031 | 9381 6500  
[RENDINA.COM.AU](http://RENDINA.COM.AU)



# Rendina

SELLING HOMES IN ASCOT VALE | ESSENDON | FLEMINGTON | KENSINGTON | MARIBYRNONG | MOONEE PONDS | NORTH MELBOURNE | STRATHMORE | WEST MELBOURNE

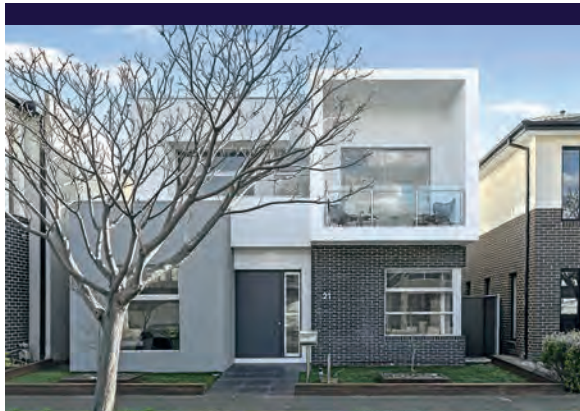


## 15 LORRAINE STREET, ESSENDON



- Prime Essendon catchment area
- Land approx. 619sqm
- Ducted heating & evaporative cooling

**AUCTION** Saturday 15th October at 11am  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950

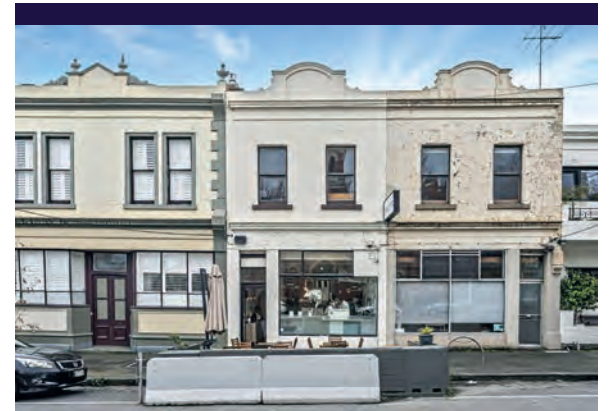


## 21 LAKESIDE CRESCENT, MARIBYRNONG



- Vast living areas both downstairs and upstairs
- Kitchen with island bench - a chef's delight
- Home office

**AUCTION** Saturday 15th October at 1pm  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



## 610 QUEENSBERRY ST, NORTH MELBOURNE

- Two-level brick building with rear access
- Land area 121sqm; Building 240sqm
- Currently tenanted \$42,000p.a.

**FREEHOLD AUCTION** Friday 21st October at 1pm  
 Robin Sahl 0428 675 538  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415

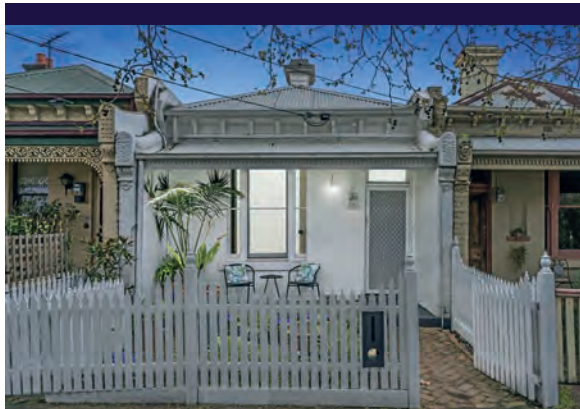


## 129 WESTBOURNE RD, KENSINGTON



- Expansive open plan design
- Bosch stainless steel appliances
- Home office & balcony

**AUCTION** Saturday 22nd October at 11am  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



## 30 ORMOND STREET, KENSINGTON



- Beautifully updated, retaining its charm
- Includes a study nook
- Courtyard & lawn area

**AUCTION** Saturday 22nd October at 12pm  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



## 29 ST LEONARDS ROAD, ASCOT VALE



- Formal living & dining
- Exquisite light fixtures
- New kitchen & butler's kitchen

**PRIVATE SALE**  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Simon Gray 0415 034 855

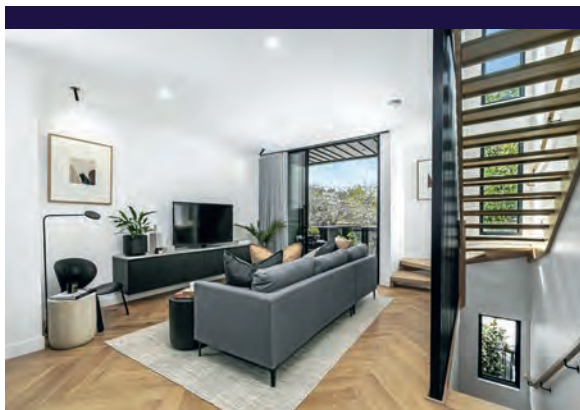


## 27 ORMOND STREET, KENSINGTON



- Soaring decorative ceilings
- Hardwood floors
- Mantled ornate open fireplaces

**AUCTION** Saturday 22nd October at 12:30pm  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415



## 24A PARSONS STREET, KENSINGTON



- Architectural 4-BR/2-Bath brand new town residence
- Luxe marble kitchen with integrated appliances
- Long list of premium finishes in a prime location

**AUCTION** Saturday 29th October at 10am  
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415  
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271



## 129 WALTER STREET, ASCOT VALE



- Master with WIR and flawless new en-suite
- Immaculate kitchen with S/S European appliances
- New custom blinds & window furnishings throughout

**AUCTION** Sat 29th Oct at 11:30am  
 Simon Gray 0415 034 855

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