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Puzzles & Trivia P18



▲ Awil Hassan Hussein (front left), Melbourne MP Ellen Sandell (front right) and locals with their petition to change school zoning in the area.

Council reacts to safety concerns about new tram separation kerbing

Resident concerns over the safety of new tram separation kerbing along Abbotsford St has prompted the City of Melbourne to make various proposed safety improvements.

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
TRANSPORT



The raised kerbs, which separate trams from vehicles, were installed earlier this year between Flemington Rd and Molesworth St as part of a Yarra Trams and Department of Transport (DoT) project to reduce collisions.

However, since the tram separators had been installed, the council had heard concerns from several residents regarding various road safety issues, particularly motorists finding the concrete-coloured kerbing difficult to see at night and during wet weather.

According to the council, it has been working with Yarra Trams and the DoT to address these matters and have proposed a variety of "post implementation safety improvements".

The proposed measures include painting the kerbing white, installing raised reflective pavement markers on top of the tram separation kerbs at 15 metre spacings, and installing "keep left" signs in front of the first section of kerbing.

In a letter to residents dated November 24, the council said the proposed measures have been approved and would soon be carried out in the Abbotsford St section.

However, the council said it had installed a design modification to provide a gap in the tram separator kerbing just south of the Flemington Rd tram stop, allowing northbound motorists to perform a U-turn.

"This will allow northbound motorists the opportunity to more easily access the nine on-street parking spaces on the east side of Abbotsford St, between Flemington Rd and Chapman St," the council said, which would be undertaken "as soon as practicable".

"Unfortunately, we are not able to modify the existing design to allow right turn vehicles access into the petrol station."

In other developments, the council has received approval to install 40km/h speed limits on all local roads in North and West Melbourne, which will be rolled out in coming months.

A design modification was also approved to remove one car parking space at the east side of Abbotsford St, to the north of Molesworth St, as well as realigning part of the separation kerbing to improve driver safety.

The council's engineers had determined there was a "squeeze point" along Abbotsford St where the road surface narrows to three metres between the parking bay and the kerb separator - less than the standard 3.3-metre-wide traffic lane width.

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Why can't our kids go to the local school?

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
EDUCATION

This year a new campus for North Melbourne Primary School will open on Molesworth St, just a 13 minute-walk from the local public housing towers.

But Fatima, who lives on the sixth floor of one of the towers, can't go to the new school.

Her dad has printed off a map that shows how the school zoning excludes her.

Instead, she will have to walk to Debney Meadows in Flemington, crossing busy roads and on and off ramps to Citylink.

School zoning has become a hot issue at the towers known as 12 Sutton St and 33 Alfred St, where parents are petitioning for access to the local primary school.

"We want our children to be given the opportunity to attend the local North Melbourne Primary School," community advocate for the estate Awil Hassan Hussein said.

The issue for Mr Hussein, whose daughter Fatima wants to be a teacher, and 500 other families, is access to good education. The local State MP Ellen Sandell supports their campaign.

"Many families living in our North Melbourne public housing towers were understandably surprised when they found out they are not zoned to the same local school as many of their neighbours," she said.

"The opening of the new Molesworth St campus at North Melbourne Primary presents an opportunity to re-look at the local school zones to make sure all kids - whether they live in public or private housing - get access to the same great local education."

The zoning for Debney Meadows includes the towers in Flemington and two of the towers in North Melbourne, creating a ghetto, Mr Hussein said.

"The high-rise buildings all send to the one school so there is no diversity. It's nearly 100 per cent from non-English speaking backgrounds."

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▲ Awil Hassan Hussein wants his daughter Fatima to go to the local school and (right) with local MP Ellen Sandell.

Why can't our kids go to the local school?

Continued from page 1.

"We want to be part of the mainstream society," he said. "You want your kids to grow up and still have pride in your culture."

"You want your kids to have good schooling and have everyone mixing with kids of different background. We don't want to be stigmatised in an enclave."

Ms Sandell has received a response from the Minister for Education, claiming that school zoning is governed by distance.

"The government has in both responses stated that 'usually the nearest government school in a straight line from the child's permanent address'."

Mr Hussein said the Ministry hasn't taken into account the opening of the new primary school. From 12 Sutton St, in a straight line, it is 825 metres to the new Molesworth campus and 870 metres to Debney Meadows Primary.

He said many parents at 12 Sutton St send their children to private schools rather than Debney Meadows.

"People don't want to send their kids to the school because of the stigma."

My niece travels to a private school in Dallas near Broadmeadows."

A petition with 400 signatures will be presented to the government.

According to the Department of Education (DET) a parent can apply to enrol their child at any government school that is not their designated neighbourhood government school.

"Every child is able to enrol at their designated neighbourhood government school or, if there is sufficient accommodation, at another government school," a DET spokesperson said.

A statement from the government said in accordance with the department's placement policy, schools should accept enrolments from outside their zone once all enrolment requests from children within that zone were confirmed.

The statement added a school should also accept a request for enrolment if it aligns with the school's enrolment management plan (if it has one). A school zone defines an area's designated neighbourhood government school (local school).

Families can look up their school zone online at: findmyschool.vic.gov.au.

The government said the website was updated this year to reflect the 13 new schools and campuses set to open in 2023, along with changes to existing school zones to reflect changes in school provision ●

Greens push shopfront vacancy tax to revitalise shopping strips

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 PLANNING

The Greens have outlined a plan to introduce a shopfront vacancy tax to try to revive the once popular shopping strips like Macaulay Rd and Errol St.

With more shops vacant, shut or for lease, The Greens have proposed to create a two per cent vacancy tax for commercial properties that stay empty for longer than six months in a calendar year.

"Empty shops affect the whole neighbourhood. Traders have had a hard couple of years, and we need to help them get back on track," Melbourne state MP Ellen Sandell said.

"Rent prices are skyrocketing and when traders can't make rent, too many landlords are choosing to leave shops empty rather than reducing rent."

Ms Sandell said all funds raised from the tax would be reinvested in revitalising shopping strips by supporting artists, traders, and pop-up shops while events and festivals would be created to encourage people back to shopping strips.

According to Ms Sandell, streetscapes would also be upgraded with improvements to footpaths and expanding outdoor dining areas "to make sure our high streets are great public spaces".

"The Greens plan will introduce a vacancy tax for shop fronts that are vacant for too long, and support businesses to open in empty premises. We will also encourage people back to our shopping strips by improving streets and footpaths and funding more events and festivals." ●

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Mixed-used building gets green light in West Melbourne

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has endorsed a five-storey mixed-use development at a prominent West Melbourne corner after knocking back an original proposal for eight storeys.

The \$40 million plans propose to feature food and drink shops, offices, recreation facilities, and a children's play space at the vacant corner of King and Rosslyn streets, which faces Eades Park.

Developers Holder East King Pty Ltd received the green light for the 21.25-metre-high development which it said would have activated commercial frontages to King St, Rosslyn St and Eades Park, ensuring a "high level of pedestrian amenity".

The Hayball Architects-designed plans were endorsed at the council's Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22 after the original application sought an eight-storey mixed use development, which attracted 36 objections.

"Following notice, the applicant amended the proposal in response to the approved West Melbourne Structure Plan and a review of the proposal at the Melbourne Design Review Panel," a council report said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the planning application was of a "really high standard" and delivered on the council's vision for West Melbourne.

"I think overall we've landed on a really outstanding design, and I think that's really important because this is a signature site in West Melbourne," he said at the council meeting.

"It's a gateway site to the city. It's probably the first big commercial application we've received since the conception of the West Melbourne Structure Plan."

"This is really setting a precedent and that's going to apply across the whole of West Melbourne, and I'm delighted to be able to say that it sets a really high standard."



▲ Council has endorsed a plan for a mixed-use development at the corner of King and Rosslyn streets, West Melbourne.

Cr Reece noted the original application for the site at 501-527 King St "did push the envelope of our preferred eight storey height limit and the applicant came back to us with a more well considered five storey proposal".

"This was then taken through the Melbourne Design Review Panel, which recommended several important changes to the exterior design and the internal layout of the building. I'm delighted that the applicant has accepted most of those recommendations."

Speaking on behalf of Hayball Architects at the council meeting, Alex Ray said from the beginning of the design process, "the product team had a unique vision for a new type of development that would support and complement the emerging character of the West Melbourne neighbourhood".

He said among their primary goals was creating a "landmark place for friends and family

to gather and support an emerging residential precinct and of course offer a new retail experience plus Melbourne".

"The arrangement was developed in response to a significant change of levels across the site and contributes to a rich interconnected sense of place."

Chair of the North and West Melbourne Association Kevin Chamberlin said the proposal was "indicative of a substantial change in the thinking at the council and the development community about the uses of these new buildings".

"The council and developers have relentlessly been producing apartment developments, many of which never got off the ground," he said.

"This is one of a number of sites in North and West Melbourne where other uses are being introduced."

Among their primary goals was creating a "landmark place for friends and family to gather and support an emerging residential precinct and of course offer a new retail experience plus Melbourne".



"A good example of the benefit is the number of employment opportunities that will be provided to the local people."

Mr Chamberlin said the previous "relentless approval of cookie cutter-style apartments" added to the already "excessive demand on the social and civic infrastructure in North and West Melbourne".

"Proposals like this are really helping to develop the concept of the mixed-use area planned by the council at least 15 years ago."

The West Melbourne Structure Plan identified Spencer St as the new local activity centre while respecting the area's unique character.

The council report noted while the approved development was not located on Spencer St, "the mix of uses is considered appropriate in this location noting the development will be located on a large site on a prominent corner adjacent to King St and a public park". ●



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Greens comfortably retain the seat of Melbourne as voter dial barely budges

WORDS BY *David Schout*
ELECTIONS

The Greens' Ellen Sandell has been re-elected as the Member for Melbourne, securing a third term at the November 26 Victorian Election.

Ms Sandell is set to pass more than a decade in office this term, after comfortably retaining the seat she first won in 2014, this time against Labor challenger Rebecca Thistleton.

When counting concludes at some stage in December, Melbourne was set to move from a "marginal" to "safe" Greens seat. It was an election where the voter dial barely budged in terms of first preference votes across the electorate, where locals attended 13 different voting centres.

Despite the city undergoing considerable change since the last election in 2018 and facing particularly tough periods as a result of COVID-19, voters largely stuck to their guns from four years ago.

At the time of publication when more than 80 per cent of votes had been counted, the Greens' primary (or "number one") vote dropped slightly, from 38.9 per cent to 37.3 per cent.

Labor suffered somewhat of a hit, dropping from 35.9 per cent first-preference votes in 2018 to 30.6 per cent, while the Liberal Party vote remained largely the same, with candidate George Palackalody receiving 17.7 per cent of the overall vote (up slightly from 17.1 per cent).

Colleen Bolger from the Victorian Socialists, which did not field a candidate in 2018, received the fourth-most first preference votes, at 5.5 per cent. These figures, of course, could shift slightly when all early, postal and absentee votes are counted for Melbourne.

Around 45 per cent of enrolled voters in Melbourne did not cast a vote on November 26, reflecting the wider shift to early voting.

Ms Sandell told *North West City News* she was "grateful" to serve another term in Melbourne.

"I'm heartened that the people of Melbourne have elected me with such a positive margin," she said.

"I hope it's a sign that our hard work standing up for our local community and their values is recognised, but it's not something I'll ever take for granted. I'm ready to keep doing the hard work to make a positive difference."

The Victorian Greens deputy leader said while she would continue to work on wider issues such as climate change, housing affordability and parliamentary integrity, there were a number of local issues she was looking to address.

"We also desperately need an upgrade to South Kensington Station. We need the government to fund the second stage of the Kensington Primary School master plan, and our public housing residents are still facing many issues the government is refusing to address, such as huge maintenance backlogs in their buildings (and a lack of new public housing)," she said.

"These are all things I'll be fighting for, among others. If anyone wants to raise any local issue with me they shouldn't hesitate to let me know at office@ellensandell.com."



▲ Ellen Sandell.

Photo: Julian Meehan.

Ms Thistleton, a Kensington resident and former journalist who, like Ms Sandell, is a mother of young children, sent her congratulations to the now three-term Melbourne MP.

"Wrapt and relieved that hope, positivity and action won over hate," the 37-year-old said on Twitter.

"I've loved campaigning, our little team put in a mighty couple of months. Well done and all the best to @ellensandell who has held Melbourne — hope you enjoyed spending today with your kidlets as much as I have."

Ms Sandell responded: "Thank you Rebecca, and well done to you and your hard-working team. It was a pleasure to campaign alongside other strong women! Thanks for putting up your hand, it takes courage, but our democracy relies on people being willing to do it, and democracy is a precious thing!"

While it was a resounding victory for the Victorian Greens in Melbourne, the statewide result was not quite as strong as was being pushed by those within the party.

On the ABC's election coverage, Ms Sandell referenced a "green wave moving out across the city", while leader Samantha Ratnam declared the result a "Greenslide".

But in raw terms, the party improved its primary vote across the state by just 0.2 per cent (at the time of publishing, when almost 70 per cent of state-wide votes had been counted), while gaining just one lower house seat (the Greens retained Melbourne, Prahran and Brunswick, and gained Richmond).

Earlier in the night the party was optimistic about landing one or several of nearby Albert Park, Footscray, Pascoe Vale and Preston, but all four were retained by Labor.

It reserved strong hopes for Northcote, too, but fell agonisingly short — by just 184 votes, or 0.22 per cent — in that seat, which Labor also retained.

However, Ms Sandell said the overall Greens performance could only be seen as positive.

"This is the Greens best result ever at a state election. We are on track to double the number of Greens MPs in the Victorian Parliament and hold balance of power in a progressive Upper House. But this isn't about us — it's actually about the local people we are elected to represent and their values," Ms Sandell said.

"The strong Greens vote means that people care deeply about the issues we were talking about." ●

Kensington midwifery clinic lives to fight another day as lease extended

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



▲ Photo: Murray Enders.

A Kensington family clinic will keep its doors open for at least another two years after the City of Melbourne resolved to extend its lease after the clinic came under threat of eviction.

The future of the Midwives and Mothers Australia (MAMA), which has operated out of 30-38 Gatehouse Drive since 2011, has remained uncertain after the council — which owns the building — proposed to sell the property, along with three others in the municipality, as they do not support "future needs, meet the standards for accessibility or align with the strategic objectives".

The news prompted the building's management to launch an online petition to save the clinic which is renowned for its "wonderful model of care".

MAMA became Victoria's first private midwifery clinic, with services including acupuncture, physiotherapy, chiropractic care, aromatherapy, baby massage, and breastfeeding support among others.

After hearing from the community's feedback through a formal consultation process, councillors voted at their Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22 to extend the lease of MAMA at Gatehouse Drive for two years while "rezoning is considered".

Gatehouse Drive is currently zoned as a local government zone with rezoning required before any divestment. If this was to occur, it is estimated that a rezoning planning scheme amendment would take 12 to 24 months.

However, the council confirmed if it was to proceed with a divestment of 30-38 Gatehouse Drive under the *Local Government Act 2020*, it would be required to undertake a new community engagement process.

MAMA's co-owners Jan Ireland and Kelly Langford addressed the council meeting in which they outlined how important their services were to the community.

"When we saw the property, we saw a shell of a building that was fit for purpose, somewhere that families could come which had plenty of

on-site parking, rooms that we could see women in for our midwifery clinic visits," Ms Langford said.

"As frontline workers during the COVID pandemic we were able to stay face to face with our visits in such a large space. And we also kept all our 32 part-time and full-time employees completely employed during that time."

Ms Langford added that while they had waited for the fate of their clinic, they had paused some major projects.

"We had some universities in consultation with us wanting to study our model. We've stopped the expansion of our lactation services and our postnatal support and mental health services. But we fight to stay in the building," she said.

"We urge Melbourne City Council to take its consultation process seriously and respond to what the community have asked for — that they keep 30-38 Gatehouse Drive in their portfolio, and they continue to expand services with us for the Melbourne community."

The council's finance, governance and risk portfolio lead Cr Philip Le Liu said any decision to sell or divest council properties was not taken lightly.

"It's always sad to see something leave our portfolio but at the same time it's something that we do need to do," he said, but noted any funds from divestment "goes directly back into community projects" which was "absolutely essential".

MAMA client and new mum Freya Haley Van Oosten said she was relieved to hear the news of the building's lease being extended.

"They're very supportive, they have a wonderful continuity of care and a really holistic approach to maternal health which is wonderful," she said. ●

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DEPUTY LORD MAYOR NICHOLAS REECE

Think big and act local

Now in his sixth year as a City of Melbourne councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said he was inspired to stand for election after being part of a citizens' panel.

"My first encounter with the City of Melbourne - apart from having been a resident and working in the city - was running a citizens' panel that helped develop a 10-year council plan back in about 2014. That experience really opened my eyes to all the important touchpoints local council has in people's lives.

"I have been very fortunate to have a career in public service working for a Prime Minister and premiers, not-for-profits like *The Big Issue* and Movember, as well as having been a lawyer and in business. Having got under the bonnet at Town Hall I was struck by a sense that I could bring all that experience together and make a real difference.

"The thing I love about the City of Melbourne is that you get to think big and act local.

"We tackle some of the toughest issues going around such as economic recovery after the pandemic, homelessness or climate change - but we do it in ways that make a real difference to people's daily lives.

"We also turn up every single day and deliver all those key services that make the city hum. There is a lot of pride to be found in keeping the city, clean, green, bustling, buzzing, healthy, smart and safe."

The Deputy Lord Mayor says sustainability and design excellence are two priority interests in his role as head of the City of Melbourne's planning portfolio.

"We have a big role to play in making Melbourne a truly sustainable city - we are leading the way in moving to zero emissions and zero waste.

"Two thirds of emissions in the City of Melbourne come from buildings - so having more environmentally-friendly buildings is a critical part of the pathway to us being a sustainable city."

The Deputy Lord Mayor said he was proud of the work being done at the City of Melbourne to lift standards of design and architectural excellence.

"Too much crap was being built. So we've introduced a design excellence program which for the first time includes a Design Review Panel and a Design Excellence Advisory Committee.

"We've put in place new standards so Melburnians will see more buildings that they can be proud of, that give back to the city more than they take.

"Buildings that have high quality materials that will stand the test of time, with green roofs and walls, energy efficient, sustainable transport enabled, and delivering high levels of amenity.

"I want Melbourne to be the Copenhagen of the south, a city that people from all over the world visit because we are an exemplar of architectural excellence, urban design and green buildings."

Having been part of council before and during the pandemic, he regards 'Melbourne in lockdown' as his biggest challenge.

"As a city councillor I was coming into Town Hall a lot during that period and it was an absolute tragedy to see those empty streets. Cities without people are sad and scary places.

"COVID-19 was a one-in-100-year disruption for Melbourne and we were the hardest hit municipality in the country economically.

"Melbourne was really tested during the lockdown and the mettle of the council was tested too. I think the city rose to the challenge and showed Melburnians, and the world, our character.

"For example, when nine public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington were put into hard lockdown without warning, there were issues getting food supplies in. The City of Melbourne stepped up and played a coordinating role through our community centre to get vitally needed supplies to people in need."

He's also proud of City of Melbourne's support for international students during this period.

"They were left high and dry without work and without any form of welfare support.

"So we stepped in with food vouchers for students which they could redeem at the Queen Victoria Market - we made a very clear statement about the students being part of Melbourne, part of our community, good young people who needed our care.

"Melbourne Town Hall was also set up as a community health vaccination hub that was open to everyone - it became a popular vaccination centre for homeless and marginalised people, international students, people on temporary permit visas, and anyone else who fell through the cracks of the health system.

"We were there at the coalface, as the level of government closest to the people. The City of Melbourne was there for them."

Now that the economic outlook is more promising, he says council's support for business, events and city activation are all bearing fruit.




"The city has gone through some really tough times, but now there is a real sense of excitement as the recovery takes off.

"Recent data shows a record number of new hospitality venues opening. The buzz is well and truly coming back to Melbourne and it's new and exciting, and different. Melbourne right now is a city of possibility."

In distilling his approach as a councillor, the Deputy Lord Mayor said: "No issue too small, no issue too big. I absolutely love helping people with day-to-day problems around the city, fixing things for them. I also love being part of something bigger than any of us. The survival, then the recovery, and now the reinstatement of Melbourne as the world's best city - bigger, better and brighter than ever before."

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Family's dismay over book detailing life of a West Melbourne legendary strongman

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COMMUNITY

The family of a man who ran a West Melbourne gym and performed legendary feats of strength, including pulling a fully loaded tram uphill with his teeth, has spoken out over a book they say is full of inaccuracies and tarnishes their father's legacy.

The book, published by Hardie Grant and written by former lawyer and ABC Radio Melbourne broadcaster Jon Faine, titled *Apollo & Thelma: A True Tall Tale*, details the lives of Paul Anderson, a strongman who rose to fame as "The Mighty Apollo", and of his sister Thelma who survived for decades running a pub in the outback Northern Territory during a culture of misogyny.

The three sons of The Mighty Apollo, who ran "The Mighty Apollo Gym & Martial Arts Centre in West Melbourne", the iconic 1926 Art Deco building now transformed in immortalising his legacy with The Mighty Apollo Lane, have criticised Mr Faine's "story creation", claiming they were blocked from fully fact-checking the book before publication, despite being given verbal and written assurances.

Asked about the process of fact-checking details with the family, Mr Faine maintained that he spent a day with Paul Anderson at his home, where he went through "every part of the book that relates to him, his brothers, their father and he made countless changes on his laptop".

"We went through those meticulously and he [Paul Anderson] requested countless changes," he said.

However, Paul Anderson and his brother Mark, who spoke to *North West City News* to "set the record straight", strongly refute Mr Faine's stance.

They said Mr Faine, on final draft completion, had sent an email informing it could be viewed, to "tell me where I f****d up and any serious issues we want dealt with".

According to a further email sent to the Anderson family, Mr Faine said, "I know it is hard to read one chapter out of context, but I am not allowed to send you the entire book. They are very protective of the material until it gets published."

The family said they only had the opportunity to view chapter nine, detailing their childhoods and the traumatic time their mother Rhonda cut all ties in 1971, abandoning them in front of their primary school.

Paul Anderson said only one chapter was "fully fact checked" and seen as a final draft before publication, and that this "did not happen with another seven pertaining to the family".

He said only due to his strong insistence, he was allowed to fact check chapter eight regarding his father. Paul Anderson said to his "surprise and disgust it made, degrading, untrue character references, labelling his father a narcissist, also citing, incorrect, ill-informed, close-minded opinions regarding Apollo's writings, performance mindset, press books and performances".

"He typed my corrections to chapter eight over several hours. I also explained he hardly knew my father to make such disrespectful, wrong assessments and these needed to be changed otherwise our family would justifiably condemn the book," he said.

"He said he would make the changes; a final draft was not seen and on inspection of the published book nothing was changed."

Mr Faine said the matters the sons were "complaining about are important to them emotionally but they're peripheral to the story of their father."

In writing the book he said he did not portray Apollo as a "bad person" but someone who was capable of "extraordinary, inexplicable feats of really, quite superhuman strength" which included an elephant standing on top of him with all four legs.

"And then it's really weird that there's this disconnect between his three sons who want him kind of lionised compared to everybody else who saw him quite differently," Mr Faine told *North West City News*.

"[It] causes great distress and pain to me, but I can't do anything."

Mark Anderson said it was "okay to have opinions" even if Mr Faine thought his father was a vain man as it "was never meant to be a



▲ Paul Anderson "The Mighty Apollo" reminiscing his illustrious career at his West Melbourne gym in 1992, aged 82.

Photo: Anderson family



▲ Paul Anderson with some of his father's memorabilia at his warehouse in Melbourne's inner west. Photo: Ajay Viswanath.



hero piece".

"But to continually call him an embellisher and malign his splendidly collected press books, which supported his career and proved his performance integrity is wrong," he said.

"My dad was proud of the feats he performed and there was no need to exaggerate, this would have destroyed his reputation. My father has numerous references from show businesspeople."

This included Bert Newton, who in 1988, wrote in a letter to Apollo, "For what it's worth, I pass on that I have never heard a bad word about you in show business - that in itself is a fine achievement!"

"This is a celebrity who intimately knew my father, unlike Mr Faine, who was lucky to meet him a handful of times in his late 20s," Mark Anderson said.

Paul Anderson said, "As a family we've been contacted by numerous people who intimately knew Apollo and are horrified by the contents of the book, particularly his character betrayal."

Mr Faine said he understood the family were "not entirely happy, but I think one of the things that Paul Anderson describes in the book is that when his father died, he threw everything out of the gym. And then years later, by sheer serendipity, I helped him find some of those objects back. I think personally, what's happening now is he's throwing this book away in an emotional reaction to some of the stories in it."

In response, Paul Anderson said he had a warehouse packed with his father's memorabilia on display, all kept since his death and seen by Mr Faine.

"It's totally untrue I threw everything out. A very few items disposed of many years ago during moving were only spotted by Mr Faine," he said.

"He acted like a gatekeeper, blocking contact. A friend also saw these items and immediately passed on the dealer's number. Both these individuals state in writing Mr Faine had nothing to do with any retrieval."

Mark Anderson said they trusted Mr Faine "up to a point" but about halfway "we knew it was becoming a train wreck and we were trying to steer him right".

The brothers said other mistakes in the book included the description of Apollo's gym and living conditions, portraying him living in "shabby conditions in a kitchen area".

This is in stark contrast to photos Paul Anderson said he had, which depicted a gym presented in the style of a "showman's theatre, gleaming, with comfortable dedicated partitioned living areas, which were all observed by Mr Faine."

The sons said the book even "falsely and disrespectfully" described Apollo and Thelma's funerals.

Mark Anderson said he was disappointed that conversations he claimed that he had with Mr Faine which were "off the record" appeared in the book anyway, including the sum of money they inherited from their aunt Thelma's estate.

"I was horrified that Thelma's death was written in such graphic detail in the book without the family's knowledge, which was bloody distasteful," he said.

Mr Faine said it was essential that the sons embraced the book, and it was "essential to me that they were happy with it" and that he was "doing something that they were proud of."

In response Paul Anderson said, "Don't you think if he was being accurate, we would be happy? We wouldn't be having this conversation."

"I would be holding up a copy of the book saying how proud I am of it, it's not the book he told us he would write."

Paul Anderson said he later challenged Mr Faine for one hour and 17 minutes over the phone a day before the book launch, in which Mr Faine is alleged to have said, "You are right you didn't see the final draft as the publishers were on schedule and I cannot keep changing."

"I didn't show you the whole book, I thought I showed you the bits that mattered, clearly other bits I should have shown you and am sorry."

The sons said Mr Faine should "admit publicly this is the reason for the story creation" reflected in the subtitle change from *An Incredible True Story*, to *A True Tall Tale* without their knowledge.

Mark Anderson said he and his brothers were "not toothless hillbillies ... none of us are under achievers here but we've been treated that way".

"The point is we're not making any claims that we can't back up with archival evidence, independent sources, emails, and phone conversations."

In summarising the book, Mark Anderson said, "It's what I call a tall, skewed tale, it's not a true tall tale." ●

To reach out to Paul Anderson about the book and their father's legacy:
paulalexanderanderson1@gmail.com

New pocket park for North Melbourne gets tick of approval

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Ajay Viswanath*
 COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new pocket park is coming to North Melbourne by transforming two existing reserves into a bigger park.

The City of Melbourne endorsed the final concept plan for the Bedford St pocket park at its Future Melbourne Committee meeting on November 22 after community engagement was held in September.

“We’re forging ahead with the transformation of the Bedford St and Courtney St reserves in North Melbourne – creating a bigger, better and more connected pocket park for the benefit of the local community,” the council’s environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said.

“The overwhelming majority of those who provided feedback on our draft concept plan for the park were supportive.”

“We’re excited to get things under way and deliver this project for North Melburnians and visitors to our city.”

The new park will create an additional 1500 sqms of open space and feature native plantings, trees, lawn areas, park furniture, a barbecue, and play equipment.

Construction of the park is expected to begin in mid-2023.



▲ The Bedford St and Courtney St reserves will be transformed into a new Bedford St pocket park, which councillor Rohan Leppert says will be “bigger and better” for the community. Photo: Ajay Viswanath.

The existing reserves at the site include the Bedford St Reserve, an elevated, grassy open space located between Courtney, Capel and Bedford streets, while across the road is Courtney Street Reserve, a smaller triangular grass space with young trees.

The council sought community feedback on the Bedford St pocket park draft concept plan

in September 2022 – the second round of formal community engagement.

More than 90 per cent of the 134 respondents to the Participate Melbourne online survey were supportive of the draft concept plan, according to the council.

Feedback included a new barbecue, which a council report said would be kept in the final

concept plan, “but it is proposed that its use is monitored for two years after installation, as community support for barbecue facilities does not always translate to on-site use”.

“Should it be determined that the barbecue is not providing value for the community, an allowance will be made for it to be removed or relocated to another site where it can be better utilised,” the report said.

According to the council, four respondents to the survey expressed concern about the reduction in car parking or previous parking changes made to create the Peel St bike lane project.

“Future parking provisions will prioritise resident parking and locate general parking in close proximity to businesses within the project area,” the council report said, adding about 28 car spaces had been proposed to create the new park.

Nineteen trees in stress or decline have been identified for removal as part of the project, but all existing mature Elm trees in the Bedford Street Reserve will be kept.

Seventy-nine new native and exotic tree species are proposed in the final concept design, the report said, increasing shade, canopy cover, and contribute to improving biodiversity and local area cooling in the warmer months.

A rain garden is proposed for the Courtney St reserve, which would capture and filter stormwater before it is discharged to the drainage network. ●

Kids’ respiratory clinic in North Melbourne can ease demand on Royal Children’s Hospital

HEALTH

Local community health service provider Cohealth is reminding parents that they can take their unwell children to a GP-led respiratory clinic (GPRC) for kids in North Melbourne instead of the overwhelmed Emergency Department at the Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH).

The clinic, opened in September this year at 505 Abbotsford St in North Melbourne, is operated by Cohealth and North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) and is geared to treating children (and parents or carers, if needed) with respiratory symptoms and illnesses, including COVID-19.

The service is free, and no Medicare Card is required.

“We know the RCH emergency room is under great pressure at the moment, and this clinic is a great way to connect kids with respiratory symptoms to doctors and nurses,” Cohealth chief executive Nicole Bartholomeusz said.

“By coming here, parents and children will be treated quickly – and we can help reduce the demand at the hospital.”

The clinic is open from 5pm to 10pm on weekdays, and 10am to 6pm on weekends, and Cohealth says the opening hours are designed to meet the need for after-hours treatment.

Funded by the Department of Health and NWMPHN, the clinic was established to provide a new tier for treatment for unwell children.

“The GPRC is an excellent alternative for prompt treatment for respiratory diseases and parents can take their children there instead of the Royal Children’s Hospital,” NWMPHN chief executive Christopher Carter said.

“The clinic and the hospital are in constant contact with each other, so parents can rest assured that their young ones will receive the best possible treatment.”

To access Cohealth’s paediatric GP respiratory clinic, phone 0486 008 315 to book an appointment, or book online via Hotdocs (scan QR code below). Walk-ins are also available if capacity allows. ●



New owners snap up iconic Witches in Britches theatre

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
 PROPERTY

The curtain will soon fall on West Melbourne’s iconic Witches in Britches theatre after a new owner snapped up the building for the first time in nearly three decades.

The two-storey venue, which is known for its castle-like spires at the corner of King and Dudley streets, attracted huge notice following an expressions of interest campaign which saw the venue sell for \$7.288 million.

“It was really pleasing to see the depth of the process, there were a number of occupiers, investors, both private, local, and offshore groups having a look at it, so it was met with pretty strong demand,” JLL agent Tim Carr said.

Mr Carr said the new purchaser was an international investor who was impressed with the prominent corner site.

“They really gravitated to that location being a true growth precinct within Melbourne’s fringe,” he said.

Mr Carr said he was not surprised by how much the building had fetched, adding “it was a pretty strong outcome, but it was the depth of bidding that really pushed it beyond expectations”.

He said while it was unknown what future plans the new owners had for the site, he confirmed “it will be a strategic landbank that they will hold for a period of time”.

The 1050 sqm site hit the market at the end of September, with the new owners reportedly being the Australian arm of China-backed developer Jinding.

Witches in Britches opened as a family-run business in 1990 before previously running as a pub and later a rock ‘n’ roll style café.

It has remained widely popular with the venue also surviving through COVID-19 lockdowns, and a \$600,000 fire in 2006, which luckily resulted in no-one being injured.

Witches in Britches’ owner Maurizio Termine said he would be meeting with the new building owners in January and “we’ll see what they’ve got to say”.

The current lease is in place until the end of 2023, with the option of being extended for a further five years – which Mr Termine confirmed he would be re-signing “100 per cent”.

Mr Termine said there were parts of the building he would like to revamp, which he thought could be done through a building inspection with the new owners, but he was told



“they’re not interested in the building, they’re interested in the land”.

Mr Termine said he put in an offer, but it fell short of the asking price. In October, he said “If I had the power, I would buy it tomorrow”.

“If you want to enjoy Witches, do it now but after five years we don’t know whether we say goodbye to Witches or take it somewhere else,” he said.

Mr Termine has remained adamant that if he was to walk away from his beloved restaurant, he would consider finding another venue in Port Melbourne and making it the “best theatre restaurant in Australia”.

“I’m more leaning to take it to a lovely warehouse and make it a mini little Disneyland, with a ghost train,” he said. ●



Brendan Rees
 JOURNALIST
 BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU



▲ Various safety improvements will be made to a section of Abbotsford St in response to concerns of new tram separation kerbing. Photo: Ajay Viswanath.

Council reacts to safety concerns about new tram separation kerbing

Continued from page 1.

To resolve concerns about collisions occurring between moving traffic and parked vehicles on Abbotsford St (such as wing mirrors being struck), the council has approved to install a “dashed buffer zone line marking” about half a metre from the parking bays.

“This aims to visually narrow the width of the traffic lane to encourage reduced vehicle travel speeds and encourage motorists to drive further away from parked vehicles,” the council said.

Community concerns were also raised about the existing horizontal deflection – a traffic calming measure made vehicles swerve slightly – on the northbound traffic lane of Abbotsford St, just north of Haines St.

To address this, the council has approved works to shift three parking spaces to the north by about 3.3 metres. No parking spaces will be removed.

Resident Brendan Gleeson said that overall, he applauded the council for listening to community feedback about safety issues relating to the new kerbing.

He also said the new 40km/h speed limit was a “huge step forward” in terms of safety, as was the pedestrian crossing planned for Abbotsford St to help connect the new North Melbourne Primary School campus.

“Speeding, however, is a huge and growing problem in the area, and many drivers ignore crossings with pedestrians constantly imperilled,” he said.

“Traffic calming and enforcement are both urgently needed before we have a terrible accident.” ●

Council to install pedestrian crossing for new North Melbourne Primary School campus

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new zebra pedestrian crossing is set to be installed to serve the new North Melbourne Primary School campus before classes start in the new year.

The City of Melbourne confirmed it was working on design options for a new crossing which would connect the school to Molesworth St's southern footpath.

The measure comes after the school community requested a new crossing be created to help parents, children, and residents to move safely across Abbotsford St at the intersection with Molesworth St, Canning St, and Abbotsford St.

"We hope to install this new zebra crossing before the school campus opens in late January 2023," the council said in a letter to residents, dated November 24.

The council stated it would notify residents once the design was finalised but added the new crossing would require a loss of about five to eight parking spaces.

North Melbourne Primary School principal Sarah Nightingale said the school community was appreciative of the council making the pedestrian crossing a priority before the opening of the new campus.

"We expect that pedestrian traffic between the two campuses will naturally increase therefore welcome the new zebra crossings at the corner of Molesworth St as a measure to keep our school community safe," she said.

"We believe this new crossing will also assist with managing traffic concerns around the campuses which I understand has been a community concern since the announcement of the second campus."

Meanwhile, works to install a new raised zebra crossing at the intersection of Errol, O'Shanassy and Harcourt streets is expected to be completed by Christmas following community concerns of pedestrian safety.

The new school is located 350 metres from North Melbourne Primary School and consist of six entrances.

It will feature a landscaped playground, an outdoor stage, tiered seating and flexi-space for events and performances as well as a competition-grade gym for basketball and netball.

A new kindergarten for three- and four-year-old children will on level five of the campus, including two rooms, and outdoor learning and play spaces.

The site is bordered by Molesworth St, Hardwicke St, and a proposed tree-lined laneway along the southern boundary. ●

Resident's shock and dismay over "unfair" parking fine in her own street

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A North Melbourne resident is contesting what she says is an unfair fine after parking in a street she believed was "excepted" for residential permit holders.

Jen, who asked for her surname not to be used, said she first thought the \$180 fine from the City of Melbourne, which she found on the windscreen of her car on Wednesday, November 23, was a mistake as she often parked in Chapman St, in which she had a permit to do so.

She said she had a residential parking permit clearly visible on her dashboard when the alleged infringement occurred at 11.19am.

Jen said the wording of the signs was "at best confusing" and misleading as it stated the street was allowed for parking permit holders for area five, with two arrows pointing in opposite directions.

Directly above the residential parking permit sign was another sign which stipulated the section of the street was a no standing zone, but it too stated "reserved parking permit holders excepted".

The City of Melbourne was contacted over the matter and asked whether the signs would be reviewed, however, it said if anyone believed they had incorrectly received a parking fine, they could apply for an infringement review online.

Jen said she was shocked and disappointed over her fine and hoped a review of the signs would be conducted "and update the wording so it's clearer".

"I thought the parking inspector must have missed seeing the parking permit on my windshield," she said.

"To me it's reasonable to think 'I have a permit, so the exception applies to me' and judging from the comments received [on social media] I'm not the only one who's been caught by this."

"Until this happens, they should issue warnings to permit holders in the first instance before giving them fines."

Jen's experience came after a Kensington resident expressed his fury after receiving a \$189 parking fine in August at a time the council had temporarily changed its parking restrictions on Kensington Rd while conducting footpath



▲ Kensington resident Grant Edgcombe has been cautioned over his "unfair" parking fine.



▲ A North Melbourne resident is fighting a parking fine over confusing signage in Chapman St.

works.

The resident, Reverend Grant Edgcombe of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in East Melbourne, contested the fine, which the council ultimately withdrew but gave him a "caution" instead of a penalty.

Rev Edgcombe said being given a caution felt like "threatening language and ... and it was not clear how long the probation lasts," which he found "extraordinary" and "odd language to use".

"I take it to mean if I get another ticket there will be no consideration given at all," he said.

"It seems to me once a parking officer has issued a ticket, it's like someone writing the Bible: you cannot question it."

"Even if it's patently wrong, it's now suddenly sacred law and you can't touch it. Well, that seems to be an odd way to be really."

"Every human being makes mistakes including parking officers and to hold them up as being beyond question, I think is rather dangerous frankly."

Rev Edgcombe said his neighbour was also caught out in the temporary parking changes and they too were fighting their fine.

He said his main gripe was that there was no notification given about the parking changes (which lasted about three days) and when residents do report cars illegally parked without permits, "no one is ever available".

Kensington Association chair Simon Harvey has previously said that parking and speeding fines along Kensington Rd appeared to be "blatant revenue raising". ●

Parking restrictions to change along Hawke St

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne is extending parking restriction operating times in a busy pocket of West Melbourne after residents found it increasingly difficult to get a parking space.

The council said it understood it was hard to find parking spaces on weekends and night-time periods in Hawke St, between Railway Place and Adderley St, particularly when events were staged at Marvel Stadium or Festival Hall.

The parking spaces are unrestricted at night-time and throughout most of the weekends, meaning visitors can park for free for long periods.

"To improve parking opportunities for local residents and legitimate short-term visitors of this local precinct it is proposed to extend the operating time of the "two-hour limit" Area 5 Resident Excepted spaces to 7.30am to 11pm seven days per week," the council said in a letter to residents.

"The centre-of-road 'four-hour limit' parking spaces and the unrestricted parking spaces adjacent to 119-211 Hawke St will remain unchanged to cater for longer term visitors to the area."

The changes come after a recent parking survey conducted by the council confirmed the "two-hour limit" parking spaces had high occupancies particularly in the evenings when the parking restriction ceases to operate at 6.30pm on weekdays and 12.30pm Saturdays.

Additionally, the council is undertaking an area-wide review of parking throughout the precinct which will consider a "thorough future rationalisation of parking restriction".

"All property occupiers will be consulted about these proposed changes in mid-2023."

Long-term West Melbourne resident Lawrence Angwin welcomed the parking restriction changes on Hawke St, but added the council needed to "look at the bigger picture", particularly with how the night market at Queen Victoria Market impacted on parking for residents.

"A few blocks away in Capel St there's two hours' free parking, it's very hard for residents to get parking," he said.

"You've got to get home at 6pm when the night market's on or you're not going to get a car park in the street, it's like a traffic circus with people driving around."

"Rather than do this piecemeal on the Hawke St area, I think they need to look at the effect of Queen Victoria Market and how to make it fairer for local residents to get parking, especially for people who live in the street."

Mr Angwin said residents have previously mooted a proposal to divide West Melbourne into separate parking restriction areas, like what had been created in Carlton.

He added QVM also needed to be promoted as the place to get to by public transport with three to four trams and two train stations. ●



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SIX WAYS TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Get set for Melbourne's New Year's Eve celebrations

Welcome 2023 in spectacular style with the city's biggest-ever New Year's Eve celebrations.

We know Melburnians have missed the chance to celebrate together, so we're marking the end of 2022 in style.

If you're planning to head into the city, the best place to see the fireworks is from one of our four Celebration Zones. But you can see them from anywhere you can see the city skyline, or even watch on TV.

Here are six ways to celebrate New Year's Eve in Melbourne:

1. Be dazzled by a fireworks display from 30 CBD rooftops. You can watch the fireworks from anywhere you can see the city skyline.
 2. Head to our Celebration Zones at Docklands, Flagstaff Gardens, Treasury Gardens and Kings Domain for family-friendly fun like live music, dance workshops, light installations, food trucks and extra fireworks at 9.30pm.
 3. Book a table at one of the dozens of hospitality venues offering special New Year's Eve feasts.
 4. See superstars Marina Prior and John Foreman host the Aussie Pops Orchestra's New Year's Eve Gala extravaganza at Arts Centre Melbourne.
 5. Settle in at Sidney Myer Music Bowl to watch some of the world's best live acts, brought to you by Falls Festival.
 6. Stay home and tune in to the official New Year's Eve live broadcast on Channel 9 from 11pm.
- Safety remains our number one priority and a detailed safety plan will be in place to ensure the wellbeing

of everyone celebrating in the city, in partnership with Victoria Police and other emergency services.

Revellers are encouraged to plan early, book into one of the city's world-class hospitality venues and act responsibly.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the city and the Christmas Festival are supported by the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund - a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

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

CHRISTMAS IN YOUR PRECINCT



Keen to keep it local this Christmas? Here's how to support your local business precinct, and share the love with nearby neighbourhoods across the City of Melbourne.

Christmas in the CBD: Explore the Christmas Festival across the city. Go old-school with a Christmas Film Photowalk from 4 to 8 December. Take a selfie with the Roving Drag Santa around Degraves Street on 3 and 4 December. Join the Look Draw Love Melbourne walking tour on 10 December.

Giveaways at the Carlton Roller Rink: Headed for the roller rink in Piazza Italia from 10 to 24 December? Enjoy roving performers and Italian Christmas biscuit giveaways and gift vouchers for iconic Carlton shops.

Gift-wrapping on Collins Street: Buy gifts from participating Collins Street stores, save the receipts and head to Howey Place for free gift-wrapping from 10am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas, starting 8 December.

Great Greek Quarter Christmas Feast: Join a laneway party with music, performers and food from local venues. All afternoon, Sunday 18 December. Waratah Place and Heffernan Lane.

Kensington Christmas Fair: Enjoy live music and entertainment on the main stage. Free activities, performers, magicians, face painting, giveaways and a visit from Santa. Saturday 3 December in Bellair Street from 10am to 4pm.

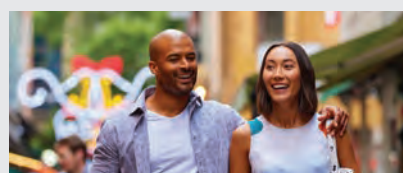
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Little Korea Christmas Festival: Experience Korean culture and street food, with market stalls, music and decorations. Sunday 18 December in Little Lonsdale Street and Healeys Lane from 11am to 5pm.

Christmas cheer North and West Melbourne: Choirs, buskers and roving Christmas characters will entertain shoppers. Look for Santa in a fire truck. Enter the Christmas raffle, go late-night shopping and enjoy free gift-wrapping and giveaways.

South Wharf Christmas Choir and Film: Join a family carols concert and screening of *The Grinch* on the Common Lawn on Dukes Walk in South Wharf. Sunday 18 December from 5pm to 8pm.

Twilight markets in Docklands: Stock up on stocking-fillers at the District Docklands Twilight Christmas Market on 10 December from 3pm to 8pm. And at the Docklands NewQuay Twilight Xmas Market on 17 December from midday to 8pm.



Keep your cool this summer

By 2050 Melbourne will experience an average 16 days over 35 degrees.

The City of Melbourne is committed to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal is to turn Melbourne into a refuge for workers, residents and visitors during extreme heat events.

We have already started acting to:

- Cool the city through urban greening
- Invest in projects like Greenline to provide a cool green corridor through the city
- Help keep cool, through our Cool Routes online maps, public drinking fountains, and by providing practical support during heatwaves.

All our efforts combined aim to cool Melbourne by four degrees, to improve liveability, resilience, and community health.

Keep an eye out for heat health alerts on City of Melbourne's social media channels and from the Department of Health, or be aware of upcoming weather.

For tips on how to stay safe during the heat visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwave

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HOW TO HAVE A TREE-MENDOUS CHRISTMAS IN MELBOURNE

Roller-skate in Carlton, swing on a giant bell and head to the iconic Myer Christmas windows to celebrate 100 years of Disney this festive season.

The Christmas Festival is well underway, with decorations bringing colour and joy to every corner of the city.

Fed Square has been transformed into Christmas Square with Santa's workshop, our stunning 17.3-metre LED Christmas tree and festive entertainment galore.

Our popular Christmas Projections have returned to Town Hall, plus a new showstopping projection on Flinders Street opposite Fed Square.

We've also welcomed back the String Bean Alley Christmas Night Markets at Queen Victoria Market, the giant Christmas Maze in Docklands and the Christmas Carnival at Birrarung Marr.

Pillars of Light, a Chanukah celebration for all Melburnians, and Koorie Krismas, a First Nations

celebration at Fed Square, are also bringing communities together in celebration.

Exciting additions to this year's festival program include:

- a roller-skating rink in Carlton
- a pop-up playground at Queensbridge Square with bell swings, a dance floor and an interactive orchestra
- the Christmas Eve Circus Spectacular, bringing festive cheer to Town Hall.

We're also supporting small events across the city, such as Christmas markets, workshops and laneway parties, through our Christmas Collective grants program. So there's plenty more to discover.

The Christmas Festival runs until 25 December.

Major partners include the Victorian Government, Fed Square and TAC.

PAY IT FORWARD THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Make a difference to Melburnians in need this Christmas by donating to our Good Giving program.

Homelessness is a complex and confronting issue that can affect anyone at any point in their lives.

We believe all Melburnians deserve access to safe and affordable housing. That's why Homes Melbourne, a special entity of the City of Melbourne, is committed to ending homelessness in the city through our housing project, Make Room.

By donating to our Good Giving campaign this festive season, you will support Make Room and help those who need it most.

About Make Room

We're stepping up to address homelessness by working in partnership with the Victorian Government, Unison, and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The \$20 million Make Room development will deliver 50 studio apartments, housing and homelessness services, and other support. Residents will stay for up to 12 months, or until they are connected with long-term housing. We are currently raising funds to complete a dedicated floor for women, who are the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness in our city.



An artist's impression of the Make Room development

How to help

By giving direct to Make Room, you are helping provide for people's immediate needs and deliver the crucial, long-term support they need to exit homelessness.

Donate at lmcf.org.au/makeroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au



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North Melbourne street to honour former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new street in North Melbourne will be named after Victoria's first and only female Premier Joan Kirner, after City of Melbourne councillors voted in favour of a proposal put forward by a developer.

Located within developer MAB Corporation's new "Academy" precinct, which includes the new North Melbourne Primary School campus, Kirner St will run between Molesworth and Hardwicke streets after councillors gave the nod to the new name at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on December 6.

Joan Kirner was the 42nd Premier of Victoria and remains the only woman to have served in the role in the state's history. She passed away in 2015 and is survived by her husband Ron and three children Michael, David and Kate, who have supported the naming proposal.

Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece described Ms Kirner as a "remarkable Melburnian, a remarkable Victorian and a remarkable Australian", who the City of Melbourne was proud to be memorialising.

"Since her death in 2015, we have seen a range of things named after her; a Victorian scholarship program, a maternity clinic at Sunshine Hospital and a tunnel boring machine for the Metro Tunnel project. And tonight, we can add a road in North Melbourne to that list," Cr Reece said.

Cr Rohan Leppert said was delighted to be recognising an "extraordinary Victorian" with the Kirner family's support, and that being located between a new public school and public housing was "wonderfully symbolic" for Joan Kirner.

However, the process to name the new street prompted Cr Leppert to move a motion later in the meeting calling on the council to draft a road naming policy which considered moving towards a more "proactive council approach to naming" led by the community.

Namely, the motion responded to a need to

consider the "formal role of Traditional Owners in proposing names for new streets" and prioritise Aboriginal language names, as well as the recognition of "historically significant women".

Cr Leppert said this would be particularly important with opportunities to name dozens of new streets as part of the Arden urban renewal project, as well as in Fishermans Bend and Macaulay.

Cr Dr Olivia Ball added that with developers having often led street naming processes, it was time for a naming policy which addressed current "shortcomings" to ensure the "public has a justifiable stake in the naming of public places".

"I think most people would be surprised to know that developers never name streets, being public places," Cr Dr Ball said.

"Box Hill has a cluster of streets named for British and Irish rivers ... Carlton has a cluster of streets named for British aristocracy like Drummond, Elgin and Cardigan [streets]."

The 30-day public notice period for the proposal, which heard feedback from the North and West Melbourne Association and Hotham History Project, saw a series of suggestions put forward to name the street after luminary figures with a greater connection to the North Melbourne area.

The council's draft naming policy will seek to:

- Codify public engagement standards, including methods of engagement that seek earlier ideas for and feedback on potential names prior to formally testing levels of community support;
- Determine when and how engagement with land owners in precincts should be initiated, ahead of subdivision and road naming processes; and
- Explore whether the policy should take in the naming of places beyond roads.

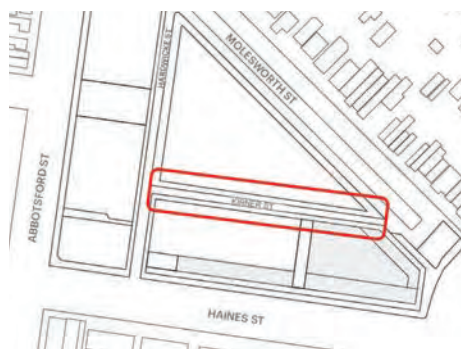
Discussions on the council's future road naming policy were followed by a separate motion on Melbourne's statues, with Cr Reece highlighting the underrepresentation of women among the city's monuments.

Of the 580 statues within the municipality, only nine currently depict women, of which five



▲ Joan Kirner.

Photo: John Lamb.



are on City of Melbourne land – something Cr Reece said required "action in both public and private spaces".

In unanimously supporting the motion, councillors have called on the council's public art advisory panel to prioritise and identify new opportunities to commemorate significant women, while requesting that management enable the short-term delivery of "at least three new statues depicting women". ●



▲ Haileybury early learners with Katherine McPherson, Rachel Pontikis, Caroline Merrick, and Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

Students get their hands dirty for wildlife

ENVIRONMENT

A group of early learners from Haileybury's City Campus in West Melbourne have learned more about local wildlife and increasing biodiversity within the school's terrace gardens as part of the City of Melbourne's Gardens for Wildlife program.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp visited the group of three- to four-year-old students on December 8 at the school's terrace, which is used throughout the year by students, as well as Gardens for Life volunteers, educators and families.

A partnership with Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare and community members, the free program sees trained volunteers visit private land to provide insights on improving spaces for wildlife.

With the support of volunteers and educators, Haileybury's terrace garden is maintained to provide a place for plantings of natives, edibles and further learning opportunities – including cooking with home-grown produce.

The program also places a big focus on Indigenous learning, with Haileybury's Early Learning Centre having engaged an Indigenous artist to create a gathering circle for the children on the terrace which has held cultural classes on topics such as story symbols.

With around three quarters of the land in the municipality under private ownership, the council said landowners played a big role in ensuring the city had healthy ecosystems and thriving biodiversity. ●

Local programs helping to connect the community together

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
COMMUNITY

North Melbourne Language and Learning (NMLL) and Kensington Neighbourhood House (KNH) are looking forward to continuing with life changing programs after being selected as 2023 Connected Community Grants recipients.

The City of Melbourne program awarded both not-for-profit organisations with funding, allowing them both to continue with the diverse "extraordinary work" they're doing for the local community.

"Not only do they provide safe spaces for people to learn, grow and upskill, but also the opportunity to create lifelong friendships and pathways to meaningful employment," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.

While KNH's "From the HeART" program is helping to rebuild social connections through an intergenerational community art project, NMLL's "Out & About" program is facilitating cultural exchange through connecting members with local services and city landmarks.

Upon receiving recognition from the council, NMLL community development worker Kymie Simpson said the centre was incredibly thankful and "excited to see what [it] can do in the coming year" with the funding.

"This program is something we couldn't have provided for the community without this support because we are still definitely in the COVID recovery period," she said.

Seeing the "serious impact" that lockdowns had on many of the residents of the public housing estates within the area, Ms Simpson said the Out & About program was a chance to create trust, connection, and independence.

"I work with these residents and community



members every day and the transformation in someone's confidence and independence is so important and pivotal for their wellbeing," she said.

"We can connect with people and explore new places not just for fun but to also help them with getting their bearings and understanding their new home while taking advantage of everything that is around."

Following the end of lockdowns, NMLL has been doing a series of events throughout this year with the program.

From visits to the zoo, to the aquarium, and cherry picking, the impact of the program has already been successful in making the participants feel more comfortable with life in Melbourne.

"It was beautiful to see people be able to step back onto trams and trains and go out and explore after being locked up for so long," Ms

Simpson said.

"We took residents to the Melbourne Aquarium, and it was particularly heart-warming when an elderly lady from the Somali community told me she had never caught public transport because she had always been too scared and had no-one to go with. But she felt so comfortable going with us."

"For people to have that independence is just incredible and so valuable."

Equally as understanding of the impacts the pandemic restrictions had on their community is KNH, which is using the grant to help participants of its program to explore and reflect on their sense of belonging post-COVID.

Partnering with the Kensington Community Children's Cooperative, the program will include a series of art workshops which are aimed at bringing young and older community members together.

“For people to have that independence is just incredible and so valuable.”

The need for more initiatives and programs involving people of all ages was highlighted as a key priority for residents in the council's Participate Kensington consultations, and so KNH made it a priority to respond to this apparent need.

"Creating things together is a great way to build community connections," KNH manager Rebecca Smith said.

"We're looking forward to getting local children together with senior residents to make something amazing, and to share stories along the way."

Within the sessions, participants will be working on an art installation that will be displayed on a section of the hoarding around the construction at Kensington Recreation Centre.

Including KNH and NMLL, the council is dedicated to supporting 74 not-for-profit community organisations to deliver programs and projects across the city in 2023, with awarded grants of up to \$20,000.

Of the 2023 Connected Community Grants program recipients, 38 per cent were first time applicants. ●

Experience a suburban-like Christmas with Blender Studios

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

City residents and visitors are invited to experience a suburban-like Christmas in an urban setting with Blender Studios, after it was selected to be part of the 2022 Christmas Collective program.

The initiative is run by the City of Melbourne and has seen a range of festive activations pop-up around the city throughout late November and December.

While Blender Studios is no stranger to hosting an end-of-year soiree for its West Melbourne locals and wider city residents, this year's grant means it's able to make it bigger and better.

"We have done an annual Christmas party since Blender Studios opened in 2001, and this year after running for 21 years, we got the Christmas grant which has allowed us to do more amazing stuff," renowned local artist and Blender Studios director Adrian Doyle said.

"As part of our exhibition we are able to have proper DJs, and support local artists and bands, which is something great."

After starting in late November, and to run up until Christmas Eve, Blender Studios' *Christmas Lights and Art Festival* invites attendees to wander down the Dudley St laneway and experience the mixing together of a winter wonderland and street art.

Decked out with fairy lights and festive decorations, each night starts at from 6pm and goes 'til just after 10pm and provides the perfect setting for "hipster Instagram husbands to photograph their wives", according to Doyle.

In addition to being the perfect landscape for some end of year snaps, Doyle said the festival was also a chance for kids who struggle to get out to the suburbs to experience a magical display of lights normally seen on suburban homes.

"We thought we would bring that experience to them in the city, so they can just walk down the street and see something that is uniquely urban and uniquely Melbourne, but still kind of suburban," he said.

As part of the Christmas Collective program grant, Blender Studios also held a multitude of workshops, including a Graffiti-Tea workshop, Christmas Stencil workshop, and a Sustainable Wallet Making workshop.

Held in late November and earlier this month, the workshops provided a great chance for the community to learn from Blender Studios artists, with the Graffiti-Tea workshop also allowing attendees to use pre-cut stencils so they could contribute to the work seen on the laneway.

While the workshops have wrapped up, and the main focus turns to Blender Studio's festival, Doyle is looking ahead even further to the



New Year, with a holiday program in the works for young people over the age of 10.

Detailed on the Blender Studios website will be a range of sessions, that people are advised to book for well in advance, where attendees will get to paint on their own board, then take the board home to continue to practice.

While the sessions are essentially about attendees using their own creativity, the lead artists will come around and help not only tighten up the work but offer any additional tips.

Educating locals about the technique and beauty of street art is something Blender Studios is very passionate about, and since moving to West Melbourne from Franklin St, Doyle said they were in a great location to not only still reach city locals but also those on the fringe of the city, too.

Blender Studios also offers tours for locals, interstate and international visitors wanting to view unique street artwork that they wouldn't otherwise have the chance to normally experience.

"We also run the famous Melbourne street art tours, so if kids can't get into the workshop or people can't get to the *Christmas Lights and Art Festival* they can take our famous Melbourne street art tours and become a stranger in their own city," Doyle said.

"As street artists we will take you to all these hidden spots that you would never otherwise get to see and tell you all these stories that you would never otherwise get to hear." ●

For more information:
theblenderstudios.com



Escape into nature with North Melbourne's latest mural

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*
ARTS & CULTURE

Christmas joy is spreading to a prominent corner of North Melbourne thanks to a new vibrant nature-focused mural.

The mural was designed and painted by local Blender Studio artists Adrian Doyle (Doyle) and Matt Hannah (Maha) over the past three weeks and can now be enjoyed in its entirety.

While part of the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association funding received from the City of Melbourne was intended to make the area more festive, the mural has been designed with longevity in mind.

"I wanted to design something Christmassy, but also wanted it to be timeless," Doyle told *North West City News*.

"The main feature is a Christmas beetle, which is cool because they have a rainbow of colours, and even though the mural has greens and reds in a few months when Christmas isn't relevant anymore, the mural will still be relevant."

Having the mural look like a close-up of a garden was always the intention of Doyle's design, and he said that having it on the corner of Errol and Queensberry streets was also the perfect location, due to it being a "kind of gateway to the city".

"Once you turn the corner you are in the city, and we were really thankful to be able to work with the City of Melbourne and 7-Eleven to lock that wall in and do something substantial there," he said.

"I feel it's like a zoomed-in section of a garden, and it's like you are almost lying down like a tiny insect yourself and being in these microscopic worlds that are within our backyards and

apartment balcony gardens."

After Doyle and Maha worked tirelessly on the mural to have it ready for December, Doyle said it felt great to have the support of the community and to see everyone walking by



The main feature is a Christmas beetle, which is cool because they have a rainbow of colours, and even though the mural has greens and reds in a few months when Christmas isn't relevant anymore, the mural will still be relevant.



"interested in it, and positive and supportive". To help with its long life of being a North Melbourne attraction, the mural has also been coated with an anti-graffiti coating, so that it can continue to allow visitors to escape into nature long after Christmas is over. ●



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A vignette of gallery life

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
ARTS & CULTURE

It took three days for the curators to hang their end-of-year exhibition in Victoria St this year and they spoke to *North West City News* about their process.

Usually there's a theme but this year they just wanted to get people into the gallery.

The opening was huge, 30 artists were happy and so were the curators.

"We wanted a lot of people to celebrate their work," said Katrina Beale, director of the gallery, and co-curator of *Stellar 2022* with Mariella DelConte.

Curators work behind the scenes and they usually talk about the artists rather than themselves so they're not used to answering questions about their profession.

"Speaking more broadly, it's about our special relationship, what we agree on," Katy said. "Curatorship is calculated decision-making."

When she first opened One Star, Katy wasn't as confident about her role and where the



▲ *Katrina Beale and Mariella DelConte at their end-of-year exhibition.*

gallery should draw the line in terms of accepting artists.

Bill, who lived in a homeless shelter, was one of her first customers. He slipped a photocopy of his work under her door then came in every day.

"I used to get sleepless nights," she said. "What was the right thing to do? Did I have to accept everyone? I wanted this to be an accessible place for local people. Do I only want a certain kind of local people?"

Katy said it was draining at first when the homeless artist came in but he was knowledgeable and art was a solace to him. She put a couple of his things up.

Mariella also began small, curating in whatever "shoebox" she could find, beginning in her doctor's surgery with a show called *Fluffy* to help out with drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Her practice has grown from then to the recent *St Kilda Large Sculpture Show* and she has collaborated with Katy on the group shows.

"Katy and I spent years together every Wednesday looking at work," Mariella said. "We knew every gallery. The city was rife."

That long period of working together has paid off for artists in terms of the placement of their work and sales.

"I think things sell themselves," Mariella said, "but you have to work the floor. I like to have something interesting to say that is not apparent. People don't look at stuff for long. I think explaining things is where a good gallerist or curator comes in."

She said you have to love the work. "You've got a much better chance of communicating

that love. Katy paints stills from movies. That's something you might not know."

"One of the first artists I worked with was Michelangelo. Most people wouldn't know what the encaustic painting method is. It's from the Egyptian. Or Anne. She lives on Bruny Island. Another artist's father was a psychologist, and he grew up in a mental asylum."

She said there were 70 works, all of them different, and how they were presented was a creative process. One way of hanging a show is to begin in black and white and slowly build up the colour. *Stellar* was hung in little vignettes.

Stellar 2022, One Star Gallery, until December 10. ●



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BUSINESS

Take a walk down EziStreat

An Australian first has landed in a 600-square-metre warehouse on Macaulay Rd in North Melbourne.

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

Its name is EziStreat, and it's a street-food hall unlike any before it, covering all colours of the culinary rainbow.

With 12 stalls (or partners), from Etto's ever popular Italian street food or Parco Ramen, to Sinjeon, a Korean hawker heavyweight with more than 750 locations around the world; EziStreat is re-writing the definition of "spoilt for choice".

Locals may be familiar with EziStreat's colourful muralled exterior near the corner of Macaulay and Boundary roads, but what they won't be accustomed to is the unique business model behind Melbourne's newest street-food Mecca.

Fifty per cent of all business through EziStreat and its various traders' tills is generated from walk-ins, the other half comes through food delivery services under their "dark kitchen" model.

This differs from traditional bricks and mortar hospitality businesses according to EziStreat founder Yun Kim, which generally sit food delivery at 30 per cent of their revenue.

"The logic behind it [EziStreat], is that we try to help our partners to focus on producing beautiful food and all of the remaining elements, like tech support and infrastructure, are handled by us," Mr Kim said.

"We did a bit of research and came across the hybrid food hall, dark kitchen concept, and it



▲ *Jymmanuel Taiwanese street food.*

was a shared economic model which was familiar to me. You have a property, you divide the space and offer it to businesses who are after affordable rent."

Mr Kim, who has a corporate background in property and student accommodation, told *North West City News* it was during the dark times of pandemic-induced lockdown, with his industry ground to a halt, the necessity of inspiration came to him after a lengthy research process, and the concept for EziStreat was born.

"During that time, my wife asked me 'why don't we open a fish and chips shop?' ... to make a bit of quick cash and wait until the market is back," he said.

"EziStreat was initially designed to be a completely dark kitchen, but we realised we needed to accommodate for a post-COVID world."

"We now provide a platform for small



▲ *EziStreat, 275 Macaulay Rd*

businesses to dip their toes into bricks and mortar trading by removing many of the barriers that they come across on a regular basis and minimise their risks."

"There is a lot of coworking space for start-ups, but it is mainly for tech or white colours, not for the food and beverage industry."

Separate to any of the vast, and delicious, array of food choices, EziStreat acts as a platform for businesses wanting to grow but can't afford a traditional shopfront, those wanting to extend their presence through delivery into new parts of Melbourne, or international franchises needing to expand into new countries.

As you would expect with a venue that boasts 12 different partners, a beer garden, a Japanese convenience store and an endless run of food delivery drivers coming in and out of your doors, "nothing is easy" according to Mr Kim, but hustle, and the reception from the community, has been worth the pain.

"There is a lot going on at any one time, and it is never easy because this model has never been tried before," Mr Kim said. "It looks like a trendy food hall on the surface, but it's not just that. We provide all the tech support for our partners; all they need to do is plug their equipment in and out and focus on creating

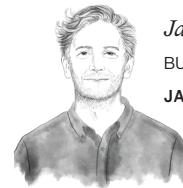


▲ *Yun Kim (right) and his Ezistreat team.*

great food."

To visit EziStreat, head to 275 Macaulay Rd, North Melbourne Monday to Tuesday from 5pm and Wednesday to Sunday from midday. ●

For more information:
ezistreat.co



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WE LIVE HERE

A legal labyrinth

Navigating the legislative changes affecting owners' corporations (OCs) over the past four years is quite a challenge. We offer this thread to help you through the maze:

The *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* has had two acts incorporated:

- *Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendment Act No 4 2021* – a range of welcome reforms with noticeable omissions.
- The unreviewed *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2018* – the so-called "Airbnb party bill". This Act was supposed to be reviewed in 2020 and the review is now scheduled "between 2023 and 2027". This Act has been treated as an amendment, despite its standalone name.

If you want to find the latest version of the *Owners Corporations Act 2006*, search for the "Authorised version 019", dated December 1, 2021. This version has annotations showing where the amendments have been made.

We Live Here has ongoing dialogue with Consumer Affairs Victoria, which is part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety. In our most recent meeting, we learned that the proposed review of the *Owners' Corporations Act 2006* during the term of the next government would cover both acts that were incorporated into the Act.

Short-stay accommodation was excluded from the 2014 review of the Act because of planning issues. Have these issues been resolved to allow a simultaneous review of both acts? We certainly hope so, because the current legislation is far from workable. The short-stay legislation has been tested twice recently – sadly the plaintiff residents struggled to prosecute the most fundamental types of claims against

commercial short-stay interests.

In both cases the VCAT member sided with the short-stay operators.

- In the first case, the OC recognised that the VCAT member's expressed sentiments did not bode well. The OC quietly negotiated a compromise settlement for the damage done to their building.
- In the second case, which was also lost, the OC was left frustrated and fuming because the law requiring three consecutive breaches was prohibitive.

After four years of so-called short-stay party laws, the number of VCAT orders we can find in favour of residents is still zero. If you know of any exceptions, please let us know.

Turning to the positives, the 2021 amendments introduced some long-overdue reforms to resolve unfair practices in the appointment of OC managers. The reforms limit the common practice of apartment developers awarding long-term OC managers contracts to associates. The legislation targets these ball-and-chain contracts, limiting terms and outlawing clauses that require a special resolution to remove a manager. We Live Here applauds the overall reforms – they are closely aligned with the recommendations we have made for several years. Regrettably, there was a huge oversight in these reforms; similar principles should apply to all contracts, particularly building or facilities management. There are some inner-city apartment buildings whose committees are burdened with one-sided, irrevocable facilities management contracts, for 20 years or more. The excessive tenure of these contracts can breed contempt and disrespect for committee members and owners. The government must regulate these contracts with the same type of reforms that apply now to OC manager contracts.

Builder's roadblock: residents turn to the council

Residents at a La Trobe St apartment building are furious over a neighbouring builder's

plan to create traffic chaos for at least four years.

The builder has reached stage 2 of a twin tower project. Rather than use the vicinity of its first tower for stage 2 construction traffic management, the builder plans to endanger and distress hundreds of neighbouring residents.

The affected OC has contacted We Live Here, hoping we can help.

The OC has already put its case to Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, and councillors Rohan Leppert and Davydd Griffiths:

The OC said, "To date, there has been zero community consultation and so we are contacting [the council] directly. We have already contacted the site services of the Melbourne City Council, which has repeatedly referred us to [the builder], and when we have contacted [the builder], they have refused to engage with us in any meaningful way or respond to our genuine questions and queries."

This case highlights problems at intersection of the state and municipal tiers of government:

- severe deficiencies in the building approval process, in this case overseen by the former Minister for Planning Richard Wynne.
- flawed traffic management processes – the responsibility of the City of Melbourne, although the council does not have an active role in the implementation.

We Live Here suggests that any residential building that could be affected by a new development must be consulted in the early planning stages so that proactive measures can be taken to ensure resident safety, minimise noise and preserve amenity.

The La Trobe St residents in this matter should not have been placed in this intolerable position.

An OC recovers

We have been following a long-running resident challenge to a developer-dominated OC. Nerida Pohl has this update:

"After amended laws enabled fresh new candidates to be elected, residents have complimented the obvious changes.

- The previous committee members (three of the committee of five) removed their real estate agency from our residential lounge, which can be enjoyed now by all residents.
- After the cleaning company of the members was replaced, we now can instruct our cleaners independently.
- We have sub-committees working on freshening the landscape, energy and waste reduction issues, pool and gym upgrades, management of short-stay visitors.
- A lawyer is representing the committee against the forces of the shopping plaza, which still tries to keep us out of our private undercover loading dock and goods lift.

We are optimistic going into the new year that we can put all this behind us."

We Live Here is delighted to hear there has been positive progress – a vindication of the stoic determination of Nerida and fellow residents to fight for a representative and productive committee.

Campaign donations

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



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LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



ENVIRONMENT

Managing pests using nature – part two

There are many causes for pests. Prevention, through planning and design, I recommend as the first step in managing pests naturally then observation and monitoring and then control.

Most insects are not harmful. They are an important part of the food chain and perform valuable work as pollinators, herbivores, carnivores and decomposers. Less than 0.1 percent of the resident insects in your garden can be considered pests, and most of the rest are at work.

When your garden is in balance, problems tend to self-correct. Pests are a species out of balance and a pest-build up is an indication that something is out of balance in your garden such as your soil is too dry or wet.

In your observation identify what is out of balance, recognise common insect pests and their lifecycles and determine if the pests are at an acceptable level where minimal harm is occurring. Through skilled observation and deduction looking at the plant, the soil and the amount of damage – you may decide to do nothing as you can live with a certain amount of damage.

If you are trying to solve a specific pest problem as it has got out of hand, use your observational skills to determine the conditions of the outbreak. Build up your knowledge so you become well prepared, and the damage will become minimal. If you already know the pest, then identify the stage in its lifecycle when it is most vulnerable and intervene then. You can identify the pest by if it chews? Or sucks? Caterpillars, snails and slugs chew – aphids, thrips, scale suck.

And remember once you have applied any technique monitor its effectiveness.

Pest and disease management is approached in permaculture through the integration of four main strategies, which focus on working with nature.

Cultural practices

In a home garden keep soil healthy through techniques such as cover crops, which are planted sacrificially to remove or deter pests before growing susceptible crop. Crop rotation and timing – rotate crops to stop any build-up of soil and diseases. Generally, don't follow up by planting members of the same family in the same bed. Grow early or late varieties to avoid

Some smaller beneficial predators

Lacewings	Feed on aphids, mealy bugs, moth eggs
Spiders	Feed on many insects
Ladybirds	Feed on aphids, mealy bugs and scale
<i>Note: The 28 spot one is a pest</i>	
All wasps <i>Small wasps like; Braconid Ichneumonid and trichogramma</i>	Feed on moth, beetle and fly larvae, moth eggs various insect pupae and adults
Hoverflies	Hoverfly larvae feed on aphids, mealy bugs and mites
Dragonfly	Feed on flies and mosquitoes
Praying mantis	Feed on many insects
Ground beetles and tiger beetles	Feed on slugs and insect eggs

plants maturing in the peak season where pests are often a problem. Winter turnover of soil can destroy overwintering larvae exposing them to predator birds.

Interplanting/mixed cropping – A single plant crop is known to have pests build up because their food is continuous. So, plant mixed rows of vegetables – go slow and choose the right varieties, which work together and monitor. Regulated and appropriate watering systems – soils have a water holding capacity and so do plants so water accordingly to avoid stressing plants and drowning soil life. Mornings and evenings are the best times to water. Keeping soils mulched moderates the temperature and moisture loss/gain.

Biological diversity is about creating gardens that encourage and provide habitat for predators so they can do their natural work of feeding on pests. This requires providing a home such as rocks, small logs, dense small leaved shrubs for small birds, food – sacrificial fruiting trees – and water.

Many plants such as Yarrow, Dill, Fennel, Queen Anne's lace, Tansy, white Cosmos, and Pennyroyal attract beneficial insects – it's a good idea to plant them among your vegetables or in your borders.

Mechanical methods

Reducing pests by creating barriers or removing them by hand does the least damage to your garden ecosystem. Place sawdust, sharp sand and/or ash around special plants or beds as a

barrier to slugs and snails.

Bands made from cardboard or old cloth wrapped around trees helps deter crawling insects and pests that overwinter in the soil from climbing up the tree.

Collars – placing collars made from recycling cardboard and pushed five cm into the soil over the seedlings keeps pests out particularly at their vulnerable time of early growth.

Traps – I have heard upturned citrus shells and stale beer in bottles are all good traps.

Lures and baits – Yeasts, sugars and proteins are baits for fruit fly. Decoy plants are used to attract pests.

Exclusions

Netting beds and bagging fruit keeps pests out. However, ensure you only net your veggie beds after your plants have been pollinated and make sure you get a net with holes small enough that keep the pests out.

Handpicking – if you don't have too much of an infestation you can handpick off grubs and eggs daily or pull off the leaves.

Natural pesticides

I refer you to Robin Stewart's book *Chemical free pest control*. ●



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Lost for words

This is the time of year one attempts to sum up the past 12 months ... but I'm lost for words.

It feels like the past 36 months (or thereabouts) has cast a "pandemic pall", blanketing something creative, so that putting words together seems somewhat inadequate ... even meaningless. No, not meaningless ... just inadequate.

On reflection, I think I know what it is. For anyone who (at their own risk) attempts to follow deeper trends in the global news cycle, there are such big and depressing existential issues in circulation, that writing about local issues seems to be of little consequence. But, "No, stop!" I tell myself ... "you're falling into that trap! Remember that adage 'think global act local'" ... or something to that effect.

Also, there is that well-trodden path of stoicism, which points out that some things are in our control and others are not. The stoic's mantra would be something like "work out what matters and focus on what you can control". Sounds good to me.

Focusing on the positives, we are very fortunate in the inner north-west of Melbourne. We have good local government, we have good schools, and we have active and "progressive" local organisations.

I want to add that we have some good media too! Not all communities are so fortunate. I have written before in this column that, as a consequence of our role (or our charter), we in the Kensington Association tend to focus on the negatives ... what's not so good, what could be better? I believe we need to be mindful of both – the good and the not so good.

Our federal leaders have been forecasting 2023 to be challenging on a number of fronts. The good news is that we have community "positives" to help us weather whatever is "served up". On a personal level I think I'll embrace the stoic's mantra and hope I can break through the clouds from that "pandemic pall". ●

NATURE

Flights of fancy

As a photographer, one of the most helpful gadgets I ever designed for my local welding man to bring to fruition was a pipe with a clamp at one end and lateral hole at the other.

WORDS AND PICTURES BY
Howard Birnstihl

This allowed me to mount my studio lights in the most difficult and unlikely places. So, what's this got to do with birds you might ask?

Well, having the right tools for the job not only tends to save one's sanity but in the case of the rufous heron illustrated, on a rare visit to a North Melbourne pond, it ensures its very survival. A night heron uses that dagger to skewer and secure its prey of frogs, yabbies, fish and any invertebrate hiding in the mud along the reedy shores. Similar to, but rather more shy than egrets and storks, herons use a number of different hunting techniques. Often, they employ patient ambush, staying as perfectly still as the concrete versions sprinkled around the suburban lawns

of Melbourne, until the right tidbit walks into the frame. Sometimes they move quietly and hesitantly, patiently stalking their lunch, but they can also be downright ruthless, charging in with no prisoners taken. At times they use strange leg and wing movements to confuse their prey while some species walk with their wings out to produce shade and reduce the glare as they hunt in their own shadow. On their more energetic days they behave rather like cormorants, employing the hover and dive approach. Whichever technique they use, the finishing touch is always provided by that perfectly designed stiletto-like bill.

A wonderful contrast is the claw-like beak parrots use to crack open the seeds and nuts they so readily enjoy. The sight of a cocky or parrot, like some ravenous toddler clutching its crust in chubby fingers



▲ Night heron.

and chewing mesmerically is one of nature's delights. With more space we could discuss in detail the destructive habits of galahs and cockatoos which often use their bills to destroy whole houses and to gnaw out hollows in trees to construct homes of their own. This action is actually vital for the bird's survival, controlling the length of the beak, otherwise it would continue to grow and become unmanageable.

We could also mention spoonbills, spinebills, wee-bills and those frenetic pneumatic-like woodpeckers which must possess necks of iron the way they hammer out their feeding holes in tree trunks. We will also

leave for another time the constantly probing beak of the magpie which seems to have a sense of its own, rarely failing to produce a wriggling morsel from just a few thrusting jabs into any soft green lawn. We may make mention of the weapon all snakes and lizards fear – that beak of the happiest of bush-dwellers, the kookaburra, its cast iron appearance with slight hook at the end familiar to us all. And what of that bulging bulbous bill of the waddling pelican which as any child knows holds more than its belly can? A marvellous piece of equipment indeed.

Yes, the subject is almost limitless, and we haven't even touched on the other end of birds – their feet. Have you noticed that some birds have three toes pointing forward and one backwards? This is a great aid to their perching ability and not surprisingly these birds are known as "perching birds" (or "songbirds", and as "passerines" to the boffins). The rest of our avian friends are known as "non-passerines", usually with two toes facing in each direction.

We've all watched and marvelled at the way swans appear to be cruising



▲ Kookaburra.

without any effort as they glide majestically across our ponds and lakes, but below the surface there are two webbed feet going like the clappers to produce that serene motion. Ideal too for making their way across muddy marshlands, these webbed feet act like snowshoes preventing the owner sinking into the ooze.

At the other end of the scale are the talons of the wedge-tailed eagle, probably our most ubiquitous bird. Able to snatch and carry off not only field mice and rabbits, but the occasional lamb, this feat is aided by equally powerful wings.

And speaking of wings, we haven't touched on the unique design of feathers which make birds so unique. Maybe next time.

'Til then, must fly. Cheers. ●

STATE MP

Thank you, Melbourne

Thank you to the people of Melbourne for re-electing me as your state MP.

It's been an honour to stand up for you, and your values, in Parliament. I look forward to working hard to ensure our community's values continue to be represented to the state government.

I'm pleased that I will be joined in the parliament by even more Greens MPs in both houses of parliament. At the time of writing, counting in the Upper House has yet to be finalised, but it looks like we'll have a mostly progressive cross-bench in the Upper House with Greens holding the balance of power. This means we were able to keep the extreme fringe right-wing groups out of our parliament (fingers crossed).

But elections aren't actually about us as politicians – elections are about you, the voters, and the values you care about, and what you want to see for the future.

Throughout the election campaign, I talked about wanting to go further and faster on climate action, the need to build more affordable



▲ Ellen Sandell with volunteers and former Greens leader Richard di Natale on election day.

housing, and bring integrity back into our parliaments. The people of Melbourne voted for this – and we'll get to work straight away by introducing our Integrity Bill into the parliament before Christmas, which introduces a range of measures to clean up politics and bring more accountability to government.

We also have a lot of work to do to push the government forward on many of our local issues: like better pedestrian safety (especially around schools), accessible trams stops, curbing the influence of big property developers on our planning system, and more.

To find out more about what I'm working on for our electorate, or to let me know what you would like me to work on, please check out ellensandell.com and get in touch office@ellensandell.com ●



Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM

PARKVILLE GARDENS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

How good is a community picnic?

Very good! That's what the local community thought about the Parkville Gardens' Residents Association's (PGRA's) Spring Fling on Sunday, November 27.

The children, parents, friends and neighbours who turned out in numbers for the event had a great time. Everything went wonderfully well. Even the skies defied the forecast and refused to rain. The day was suitably fine and mild.

The major highlights of the day were pony rides and the barbecue. Two beautiful and perfectly behaved Shetland ponies gave the kids terrific fun – in many cases several times over. Thanks, Georgia and Jessie (the handlers, not the ponies)! The aroma of sizzling sausages, veggie burgers and onions always whets the appetite. Committee members and a keen volunteer did a sterling job with the cooking. No-one went away hungry.

Adding to the variety, the City of Melbourne's pop-up library, the Mel-Van, offered free books for kids and adults alike, and games as well.



Thanks for coming to Parkville Gardens, Emily and Lucas! Last but not least were other games that kids could enjoy at their own leisure.

All in all, it was a great community event

that brought together local residents of all ages and from many different cultures, too many to list in full. A random sample would include Somalia, Iran, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

We are a richly diverse community and all the better for it.

Finally, a big "thank you" to the City of Melbourne for the Community Impact grant which made the event possible and free. Full marks to the council for its financial and administrative support. Grant regulations prevent us receiving this funding again next year, so we are doing our best to explore other funding opportunities.

That wraps up the year's activities. I believe we've succeeded in staging a great combination of events that have drawn the community together, strengthened identity and enhanced resilience. To recap, the children's Easter egg hunt in April, a dinner and trivia night in June, AGM in September, a Children's Week event and Halloween in October, and finally the Spring Fling. Thanks to all committee members and associated helpers.

We look forward to building on this foundation in 2023. ●



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

CRITIC

Local novel trades in forgiveness

If you are used to reading tightly plotted crime fiction in which every word counts, Philip Salom's latest character-driven novel will have you perplexed.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

"Yes, I'm happy to meet and talk about it, soonish, though the novel is 400 pages long! Not a quick read," he emailed *North West City News*.

This is Salom's fourth novel and the most embedded in the local setting of North Melbourne and Parkville.

But his publishers, Transit Lounge, call Salom's style digressive and that is an understatement.

The result is a sometimes-confusing jumble of character profiles assembled around a bicycle thief.

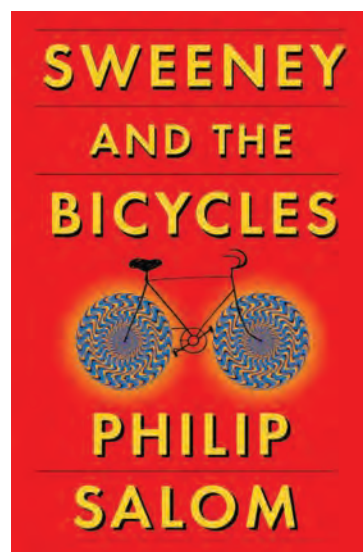
Inmates of a rooming house seem to pop into the narrative out of a past novel and a stream of consciousness style heralds the literary pretensions

of the hero who has studied memoir while in jail.

Salom is an approachable author in the sense that he is often seen around on the streets, likes a chat and has picked up a lot of detail, some of which he uses to contrast Parkville with North Melbourne.

Sweeney, the bicycle thief, lives in his grandmother's house in Parkville and also in a rooming house where he hangs out with the Sheriff who smokes rollies. "Parkville was just too bloody civilised. Smoking in the street was about as wild as it got."

The Sheriff used to live in North Melbourne. "Yes, a livelier suburb by far, all the motley he could wish for. The happily truncated streets, the parks full of dogs and personal



▲ Sweeney and the Bicycles, Philip Salom, Transit Lounge, 2022.

coaches and young breastfeeding mums, or the hipster gatherings on

the green median strip outside The Auction Rooms. The bicycles parked everywhere."

Sweeney wanders between the two suburbs admiring the bicycles. He is a bicycle romantic. Salom delights in the nominative case.

When he admires a gleaming Ferrari red bicycle no more than a week old, he grabs it, picks the lock and replaces it with one of his own that no-one else can trick open.

"Cars double-parked, as always in Errol St doing U-turns, and jaywalkers like himself crossing, pausing only to dodge cars and the 57 tram after it has screeched, sometimes excruciatingly, around the Queensberry St corner."

Local colour such as this adds to the sense of urban confusion but there is a method to the chaos: the owners of the bikes Sweeney steals eventually turn up in the narrative and forgive him for it.

The owner of one bike is a woman

called Rose who lives in a third-floor apartment on Villiers St with her sister. One day she catches the 59 tram into the CBD with her sister and sits next to Sweeney and the Sheriff. He has a bike with him. He looks familiar. He reminds her of his dad. She becomes a love interest.

When Sweeney is referred to a psychiatrist, she tests out a radical therapy on him, even though she has had her bike stolen by him as well.

The novel moves quite deeply into therapy mode "looking for patterns in past and present worries".

Characters are more concerned with fulsome expression than the usual plot intersections, perhaps a liberating strategy in an age dominated by the intersectional orderliness of texting.

This is a live-and-let-live novel that is curiously inspiring, trading as it does in forgiveness rather than logic.

Sweeney and the Bicycles, Philip Salom, Transit Lounge, 2022. ●

NORTH WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION TRADER PROFILE



A mouth-watering Balinese escape at your doorstep

For people wanting to experience a night in Bali, without the flight, then family-owned restaurant Warung Agus is just the place to transport you away.

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

Located in West Melbourne on Victoria St, the Balinese restaurant has been honing in on everything that is to love about the Indonesian island for more than 30 years.

For Mary Ida Bagus and her partner Agus, who is Balinese and had experience working in a couple of restaurants in Bali, opening Warung Agus was a dream come true.

Starting out with a catering business and a pop-up night-time restaurant that they shared with a cafe who owned the shop and operated during the day, the couple was determined to have their own place.

Now in the same space they have occupied since 1989, Warung Agus has successfully continued to operate as a family-owned business, with “three generations now working” there.

“Two of my grandchildren work here while they are studying, and one daughter does all our social media and everything, while my other daughter is the chef,” Ms Ida Bagus said.

“So, a lot of the family is involved.”

Unfortunately, the restaurant’s on-going struck reached a speed bump during the past seven weeks when they had to close for repairs after a fire broke out in the garden behind the restaurant.

Now back and raring to go, the family business is determined to continue to provide a “unique experience that people won’t get anywhere else”.

“Bali is a tropical place and so we have reflected that with a lot of fresh flowers, plants and greenery around the restaurant, and made it reminiscent of being in the tropics,” Ms Ida Bagus said.

“We also have a beautiful parklet [temporary alfresco setting] out the front that is full of plants and beautiful Balinese umbrellas, which will be a lovely spot in the summertime.”

“Then inside, people will see a lot of really beautiful artefacts, paintings, and modern and traditional decorations. It’s a place where people can come and talk and be in a nice environment as a cultural experience.”

While the restaurant does appeal to a lot of people that are very fond of Bali and its food and culture, Ms Ida Bagus also said that it is also a great space for people who “have never been to Bali before, or have no interest in going to Bali”, as they come to just enjoy the food.

“Balinese food is a south-east Asian cuisine based on rice with other ingredients,” she said.

“The sauces are also very spectacular and not like any other cuisine, even though they use the same ingredients of all the neighbours around them. Traditionally people in Bali ate with their hands, so the sauces aren’t watery and are a bit different to curries.”

Catering for all dietaries, with everything from vegan to heavy meat dishes, Ms Ida Bagus



said that people could continue to expect an authentic Balinese experience with all the dishes and their recipes originating from the island.

A notable classic dish on the menu is that of Babi Guling, which is a roast pork “party dish”, a continual favourite of many who come to the restaurant.

Warung Agus uses only fresh produce, with everything from its dishes to its non-premixed cocktails being made from ingredients found at Queen Victoria Market – a place Ms Ida Bagus said they chose to reside near on purpose.

“We decided to open up close to the market because even though it was a bit of a no man’s land in 1989, it’s such a good spot and it is still where we source all of our fresh products to this day,” Ms Ida Bagus said.

For people who are unsure what kind of dish to go for, if they have never experienced a Balinese restaurant before, Warung Agus has also made things easy with a set menu banquet-style offering.

For \$60 a head people can experience all the best dishes on offer, with the restaurant also catering for dietary requirements and preferences and offering a specialised kids menu.

Alternatively, Warung Agus has takeaway feast boxes up for grabs for people wanting to indulge in a celebratory Balinese feast at home.

Following the recent closure of the renowned restaurant, Warung Agus will also be extending its open times over the festive and new year period, with their updated times available on their website and socials. ●

For more information:
warungagus.com.au

NORTH WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

Join in on the fun and cheer this Christmas in North and West Melbourne

‘Twas 10 days before Christmas and all through the streets, there was fun and excitement and places to meet!

WORDS BY *North & West Melbourne Precinct Association*



▲ Santa is coming to town on December 20, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm outside The Centre on Errol St.

The North & West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) is bringing the festive good times with Santa visits, Christmas magicians, giveaways, and live music.

Visit one of our participating retailers and enjoy complimentary custom designed wrapping paper by local artist Beck Ng.

Look out for the free gift-wrapping service when you shop at Airs & Graces, Spieledeluxe, Stranger Than Paradise, Martin Fella, Metta Chai, Fabric Drawer, Here’s Looking at You Kid, Gallerysmith and West End Art Space.

While you are shopping, you can enter the North-West Melbourne Christmas raffle, where you can win \$200 Precinct Gift Cards and hundreds of other prizes and vouchers from local stores.

Entry is simple, just spend \$25 in store and ask to enter the raffle for free!

Santa is coming to Errol St as school breaks for the year. You won’t miss him because he will be arriving in a very special fire truck that will stay on the street for the little ones to explore and take photos in. There will be an elf face painter, balloon twister and special presents for all the kids to enjoy!

Come and say hello and take some photos with Santa and his entertaining Elf on Tuesday, December 20 from 4.30pm to 6.30pm outside The Centre on Errol St.

Elf Twinkle Toes will entertain the kids from

outside Stranger Than Paradise, spreading cheer, good will, fun, mischief, and mayhem. Twinkle Toes is the most wanted circus elf in town, with comedy routines in tinsel diabolo, bauble juggling, Christmas ballooning, elf magic and more ... Elf Twinkle Toes has a fun repertoire that is sure to give a very Merry Christmas to one and all.

Look out for the mischievous Elf and his Precinct Gift Card giveaways on Monday, December 19 4pm to 6pm outside Stranger Than Paradise and Thursday, December 23 from 5pm to 7pm on Errol St.

There are loads of things of fun things to do in the lead up to Christmas in the precinct – The Centre Community Choir will perform on Thursday, December 15 on Errol St from 6pm; there will be live music on Errol St on Friday and Saturday evenings, and you can come and join your neighbours for a drink and chat at Gallerysmith on Wednesday, December 14 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. ●

For more information:
northwestmelbourne.com.au

MELBOURNE ZOO

Melbourne Zoo herd welcomes female elephant calf

Melbourne Zoo is celebrating the safe arrival of a healthy female elephant calf, the first of three expected by January 2023.



▲ Photo: Zoos Victoria.

After spending a week behind-the-scenes to bond quietly with mother Dokkoon and the rest of the Asian elephant herd, visitors can now see the Zoo’s newest arrival for themselves.

Melbourne Zoo Trail of the Elephants Life Sciences Manager, Erin Gardiner, said the team was taking its cues from mum and bub.

“We are taking a very slow, hands-off approach for these first precious few weeks,” Ms Gardiner said.

“Dokkoon is a very experienced mother, so we have been watching her closely and letting her behaviour guide when and how we introduce her calf to the other members of the herd and our visitors.”

“There may be days when the calf needs quiet and may not be out in public view.”

“We know many people will be bursting with excitement to see her, but rest assured she will stay small for a long time and there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to meet her.”

Dokkoon gave birth to the calf at 1am on Wednesday, November 16 surrounded by other female members of Melbourne Zoo’s tightly bonded Asian Elephant herd.

The birth follows a 22-month pregnancy during which Zoo vets and keepers carefully monitored Dokkoon and the calf’s health.

The calf is the first to be born at Melbourne Zoo through natural conception, thanks to first-time father Luk Chai who arrived at Melbourne Zoo from Taronga Western Plains Zoo in December 2020.

Two more calves are due to be born at Melbourne Zoo by early next year, with Num

Oi and Mali also pregnant.

The simultaneous pregnancies mean the calves will be raised by the entire herd, with huge benefits for herd cohesion, social development and the natural raising of young elephants.

Zoos Victoria’s 350,000 members have been given the opportunity to help name the new arrival.

Zoos Victoria is part of a regional breeding program for Asian Elephants, which are classified as endangered in the wild by the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List.

Zoos Victoria also maintains an international partnership with Fauna & Flora International, which is undertaking fieldwork in Vietnam to establish wild elephant numbers and to better understand the threats Asian Elephants face in the region.

The entire Asian Elephant herd, including the calves, will move from Melbourne Zoo to Werribee Open Range Zoo in 2024, following completion of an \$88 million expansion funded by the Victorian Government.

Zoo members and visitors can follow the calf’s progress via Zoos Victoria’s official social channels. ●

PUZZLES & TRIVIA

Quiz



- In what year was The Victoria Racing Club given approval to build a wall around Flemington Racecourse?
- What is Australia's biggest not-for-profit veterinary hospital?
- Mt Isa is a mining town in which Australian state?
- Where is the Sea of Tranquility?
- When was the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre building demolished, and what was the estimation for the revamp?
- Which song by Adele (pictured) features the lyrics, 'There's a fire starting in my heart, Reaching a fever pitch, it's bringing me out the dark'?
- True or false: the banksia plant is native to China?
- Which Australian bird is sometimes known as the 'bushman's clock'?
- Under the Assemble Communities proposal for a mixed-use development on the corner of Macaulay Road and Barnett Street, how many apartments have been assigned?
- Are white or green beans used in the French dish cassoulet?
- What social enterprise had a community street soccer tournament recently to support disadvantaged Victorians?
- How many years has the North Melbourne Police held the Christmas toy and food drive?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. 2004 2. Lort Smith Animal Hospital 3. Queensland 4. On the moon 5. In May 6. Rolling in the Deep 7. False (Australia) 8. Kookaburra 9. 362 apartments 10. White beans 11. The Big Issue 12. 20 years

5x5

No. 018

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

A		A		E
	A		I	
E		I		G
	E		U	
T		E		S

SOLUTIONS

ABASE, VALID, EKING, REVUE, TRESS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD PAGEMASTERS.COM

Dec, 2022

Sudoku

No. 018

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

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: War

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ARMY | FRONT |
| ATTACK | HOSTILE |
| BOER | INVADE |
| CAMPAIGN | IRAQ |
| CIVIL | NAPOLEON |
| COMBAT | OCCUPY |
| CONFLICT | STRIFE |
| CRIMEA | TRENCH |
| DISPUTE | TROOPS |
| FIGHT | VIETNAM |

Secret message: Peace train

Crossword

No. 018

ACROSS

- Swamp (7)
- Slid; dashed (7)
- Tribes (5)
- South American (9)
- Wrath (3)
- Connect; associate (11)
- Struggles; filters (7)
- Dried or cleaned without wiping (6)
- Scottish delicacy (6)
- School (7)
- Bug poison (11)
- Common pet (3)
- Emitting (9)
- Expel; escape (5)
- Accounts (7)
- Feather cleaners (7)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11						12								
13		14						15		16				
														17
	18					19		20						
21														
22				23								24		
25										26				
27										28				

DOWN

- Strangest; craziest (8)
- Exchange (5)
- Descending with rope (9)
- Argues (7)
- Boxed; fought (7)
- Oily fruit (5)

- East Asian nationality (9)
- Tangoed (e.g.) (6)
- Epic; instrumental (9)
- Those with faith (9)
- Grows in the womb (8)
- Alcohols (7)
- Wined (7)
- Reflector (6)
- Seat (5)
- Greek island (5)

SOLUTION

S	H	L	S	N	D	S	D	H	O	C	O	E	R		
E	L	R	E	L	I	I	O								
L	E	C	E	D	N	I	L	I	D	V	R				
V	R	A	N	R	O										
L	V	A	E	D	I	C	I	L	S	N	I				
S	T	R	O	C	S	I	O	S	I	O	S				
D	S	E	T	O	S	I	O	S	I	O	S				
S	T	R	O	C	S	I	O	S	I	O	S				
D	N	E	E	L	E										
I	R	E	L	E											
K	D	E													
C	L	A	N	A											
A	V	A	L	P	A										
S	C	O	O	R	E										

Codeword

No. 018

12	3	16	10	23	5	20	3	O	12	22	B	
3		1		9		23		16		21	23	
5	20	O	21	9		11	3	10	20	O	22	10
7		22				23		21		19		20
13	O	10	22	16		3	10	23	13	3	5	16
17				17		3		5		13		
16	5	21	3	12	10	9	3	18	17	16	10	
		17		22		17		16			21	
15	23	2	17	13	3	1		4	23	3	8	17
23		17		10		8				21		23
12	17	21	15	22	21	24		17	14	23	4	16
23		16		21		4		4		6		O
1	17	17		17	14	17	5	22	10	3	O	1

SOLUTIONS

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

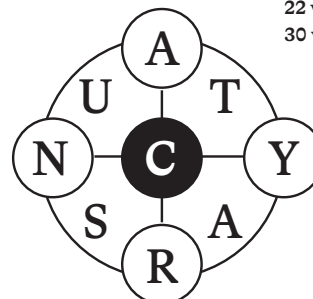
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

9-Letter

No. 018

Today's Focus:
15 words: Good
22 words: Very good
30 words: Excellent

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



Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS
acts, actuary, arcs, canary, cans, cant, canis, carat, cart, carts, cast, cast, crust, crusty, curt, curtsy, cuts, cyan, cyst, racy, sacra, SANCTUARY, saucy, scan, scan, scant, scanty, scar, scary, scar, scur, scrutiny

What's On: December 2022 - January 2023

Community Calendar



UNTIL DECEMBER 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



UNTIL DECEMBER 23 - FREE

Christmas in North & West Melbourne

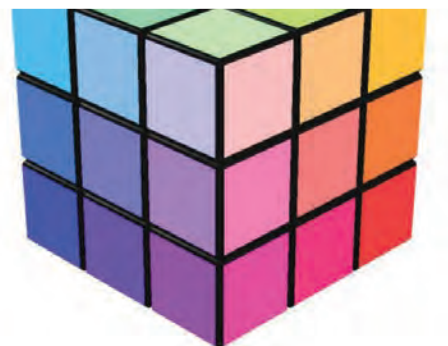
Kick off the festive season in the North West Melbourne precinct with 10 days of celebrations. Santa will come to check who has been naughty and nice – if you've been good, you may see him twice!

Errol Street
North Melbourne 3051

UNTIL JANUARY 22
Gregory Burgess: From the Coalface
Gregory Burgess: From the Coalface is an exhibition exploring of the architect's archive, working processes and legacy.
Noel Shaw Gallery, Level 1
Baillieu Library
University of Melbourne, Parkville 3010



DECEMBER 16 – 17
Rubik's World Cube Association Oceanic Championship
Come along to watch 800 of the best speedcubers from Oceania as they compete in 17 events recognised by the World Cube Association.
Melbourne Sports Centres - Parkville
10 Brens Dr, Parkville 3052



UNTIL DECEMBER 31 - FREE

Birds Eye View

Heightened through audience participation, 'Birds Eye View' allows free reign to conceive your own stories and ignite your imagination.

Arts House
North Melbourne Town Hall
521 Queensberry St, North Melbourne



THREADING STORIES

Aimed at residents over 55, this program is an opportunity to learn or practice creative skills (such as knitting, sewing, craft, painting), while forming connections and exchanging ideas and stories.

Kensington Neighbourhood House
89 McCracken St, Kensington
Call 9376 6366 to find out more

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



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 Holland Park
December 17, 10am - 1pm



Business Directory

Health & Fitness

Precinct

Politician

Real Estate

School

Shopping

Rendina

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



26 GREENHAM PLACE, KENSINGTON 3 1 1 1

- Modern, open plan design, basking in natural light
- Private courtyard and low-maintenance garden
- Brand new kitchen with luxury inclusions

SALE - \$880,000-\$960,000
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271
 Jack Curtin 0435 828 955



7 LORD STREET, RICHMOND 3 2 1 1

- Expansive, luxuriously appointed kitchen
- Multiple outdoor living spaces
- Alarm, intercom, off-street parking & lock up garage

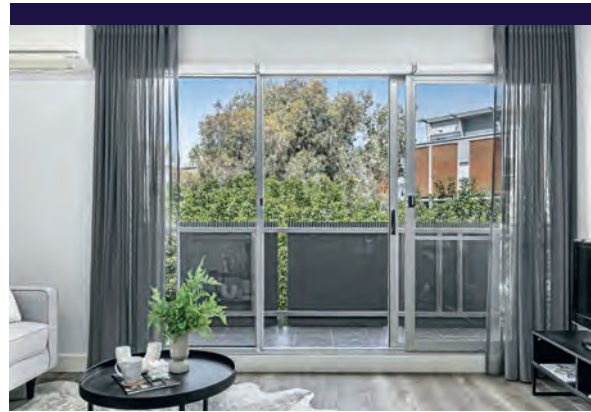
SALE - \$1,820,000
 Lou Rendina 0418 525 415
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



129 WALTHAM STREET, ASCOT VALE 2 2 1 1

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

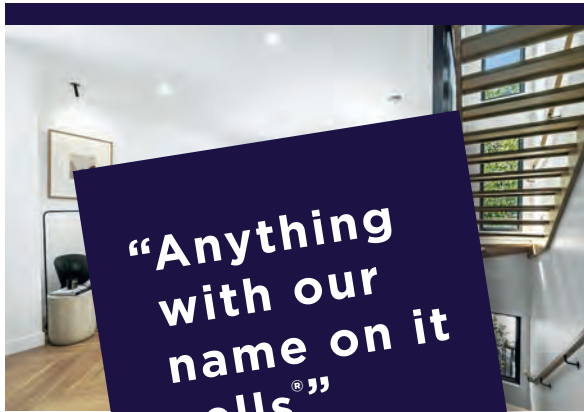
AUCTION Sat 29th Oct at 11:30am
 Simon Gray 0415 034 855



208/80 SPEAKMEN STREET, KENSINGTON 2 2 1 1

- Open-plan living/dining leading to large balcony
- Kitchen with stone benches and S/S appliances
- Euro laundry, secure entry & gym on site

SALE - \$500,000-\$540,000
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271
 Jack Curtin 0435 828 955



24A PARK STREET, KENSINGTON 2 2 1 1

- Architectural 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



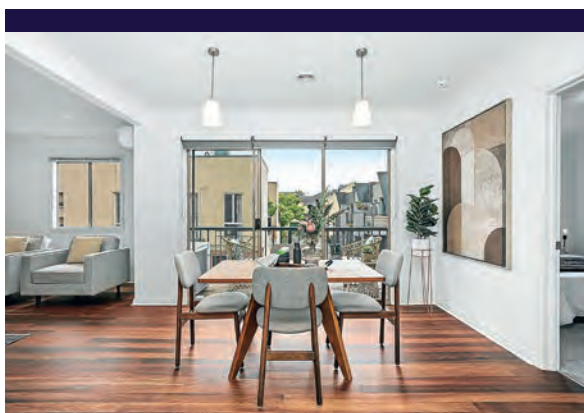
7/162 STOCKMANS WAY, KENSINGTON 2 1 1 1

- Fresh & bright interior with open floorplan
- Euro laundry, balcony, heating & cooling
- Auto garage with storage void, direct internal entry

SALE - \$610,000-\$650,000
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950

WHAT IS MY HOME WORTH?

SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT!



55 FRANCIS LANE, KENSINGTON 2 1 1 1

- Spacious Contemporary Living
- Set over two levels, plus open plan
- Heating & Cooling & transport nearby

SALE - \$699,000
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950



G1/30 RANKINS ROAD, KENSINGTON 2 1 1 1

- Open-plan, well appointed kitchen
- European laundry & central bathroom
- Ground level, with court yard & street access

SALE - \$425,000
 Nathan Collyer 0418 312 271
 Frank Mammone 0447 441 950

ANYTHING WITH OUR NAME ON IT SELLS®
 519 MACAULAY RD, KENSINGTON 3031 | 9381 6500 | RENDINA.COM.AU
 OUR OFFICE WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2022 AND RE-OPEN THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY 2023