



Community advocate for the North Melbourne Housing Estate Awil Hussein and Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell address a community meeting on February 26.
Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Public housing residents file lawsuit against the state government over housing demolition plan

“

North Melbourne and Flemington public housing tower residents are taking legal action against the state government for wanting to demolish their homes, alleging their human rights were being disregarded.

”

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Last September, the government announced that it would demolish and redevelop 44 housing towers across Melbourne, prompting a wave of uncertainty and fears of displacement among residents.

The North Melbourne towers are listed among the first to go along with estates in Carlton and Flemington at a yet-to-be specified time during the next 30 years.

Then-Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said, “unless we take bold and decisive action now, Victorians will be paying the price for generations to come”.

He was speaking of the housing statement and the government’s pledge to build 800,000 homes over the decade to 2034 to accommodate the state’s growing population, which is forecast to reach 10.3 million by 2051.

The tower at 33 Alfred St has been earmarked as the first tower to be demolished, with residents concerned about being forced out of their homes.

It’s understood they have also felt pressured and rushed by Homes Victoria to sign relocation agreements that they are not happy with.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) has now filed a class action against the government at the Supreme Court of Victoria with the hearing heard on March 12, on behalf of public housing residents in North Melbourne and Flemington.

The writ, filed in late January, alleges the government “failed to properly consider the human rights of residents” when it made the decision to redevelop the public housing towers by 2051.

IMCL’s managing lawyer Louisa Bassini said an injunction halting the plan to demolish the public housing towers would allow residents an opportunity to have the court consider their application before their communities are relocated.

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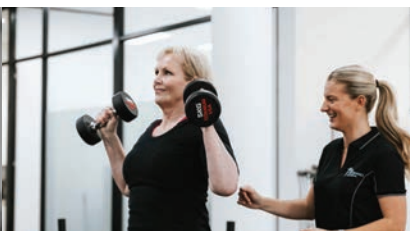
Animal health company Zoetis moves into old CSL site

Global animal health company Zoetis Australia has bought a major portion of the former CSL site in Parkville’s biomedical precinct.



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Public housing residents file lawsuit against the state government over housing demolition plan

Continued from page 1.

“Under the Charter, public housing residents have the right to live free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with home and with family, the right to have families protected, the right to have the best interests of children be protected, property rights, and the right to security.”

The lead plaintiff, Barry Berin, a resident of 23 years at 33 Alfred St, North Melbourne, has filed the class action on behalf of public housing residents in North Melbourne and Flemington, which means all people residing in the towers in these suburbs are automatically included in the legal proceedings.

He said the government’s decision was made “out of the blue” and that not a lot of clear information was being shared, and residents “still don’t know what to expect”.

“They haven’t set a date in terms of when the demolish the buildings,” Mr Berin said.

“Nobody knows what’s going on. It’s going to be very chaotic [relocating].”

“My role is to not only put my name out there but also making sure the right information is out there in the community.”

Currently, there are 10,000 people living across the 44 towers, which range from 50 to 70 years old, but after all the sites are rebuilt, the state government said 30,000 people were expected to be housed, along with a boost of 10 per cent more social housing across the sites.

However, it is reported that 11,000 would be public housing tenants, with 19,000 other residents “in a mixture of social and market housing”.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing last year said its relocation teams were working with translators and community leaders and participating in



briefing sessions, community meetings, and pop-up information stalls to provide renters with information about the project, listen to their questions, and discuss the process for relocating.

Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell said the government was “tearing public housing communities apart with very little regard for residents”.

“There was no consultation with residents prior to the Labor Government deciding to demolish all public housing towers, and residents were shocked to hear from the media that their homes would be demolished, and that the majority of public housing land would be privatised,” she said.

“Residents have a right to be angry and have a right to have their voices heard. I fully support residents in their class action.”

Several public housing community meetings have been held in recent months including at the North Melbourne Community Centre on February 26, which heard from public housing advocates and residents from the Barak Beacon who have lobbied against the government for wanting to demolish their estate in Port Melbourne.

For more on this issue and the recent meeting on February 26, read Melbourne MP Ellen Sandell’s column on page 13. ●

Information regarding public housing class action against the Victorian Government

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) has filed a class action against the Victorian Government on behalf of public housing residents in North Melbourne and Flemington at the Supreme Court of Victoria.

WORDS BY INNER MELBOURNE COMMUNITY LEGAL

The claim states the government failed to properly consider the human rights of residents when

it made the decision to “retire and redevelop” all public housing towers by 2051. IMCL’s CEO, Elisa Buggy, said the way the government made its decision was also incompatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic).

What does the class action mean for you?

You do not have to move or agree to move from your home now. We are asking the government to properly consider the human rights of residents when making any decisions about the redevelopment of the towers.

Under the Charter, residents have the right to live free from

arbitrary or unlawful interference with home and with family, the right to have families protected, the right to have the best interests of children be protected, property rights, and the right to security.

We are asking the government for complete transparency about its decisions, why they were made, and their impact on your human rights. Victorians should know how and why government has made key decisions that impact an individual’s rights. People who live in public housing and whose rights are directly impacted by this decision have a right to know.

IMCL is also asking the government to properly consult with residents before making any decisions

and allow you to have a say into the future of your home.

What do you need to do?

The lead plaintiff has filed the class action on behalf of public housing residents in North Melbourne and Flemington, which means all people residing in the towers in these suburbs are automatically included in the legal proceedings. This is because the decision to redevelop the estates and the process being undertaken affects all residents similarly.

At this point, you do not need to do anything. There are no legal costs for residents, except for the lead plaintiff if the claim is unsuccessful. People can also obtain

a copy of the documents filed at supremecourt.vic.gov.au.

What happens next?

There will be an initial hearing to discuss preliminary issues about the case and a timetable to resolve the matter will be drafted. The government will explain its defence, and the lead plaintiff will be given an opportunity to respond. Once the parameters of the claim have been established, residents will be issued with a notice that details available options.

Free information and legal help

Residents can contact IMCL for free legal advice at (03) 9328 1885 between 9am and 5pm or by email at info@imclorg.au. ●

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North and West Melbourne Precinct Association



CorePlus lands in North Melbourne

"I'm in the business of making people feel good," laughs April Apostolikas, the owner of North Melbourne Pilates and yoga studio CorePlus.

WORDS BY
JOYCE WATTS



April's early dreams of becoming a professional ballet dancer took a detour due to a curve in her spine, leading her down a path of interior design and architecture for more than a decade.

But life has a way of coming full circle.

"After the birth of my third child, I had low energy and felt unfit. I started exercising again, mixing home workouts with group fitness, and then completed a Pilates training course."

"Because I'd always thought that I'd like to own a business, the idea of owning a CorePlus franchise grew organically from there."

Over 18 months, April, with her husband Tex behind the scenes, transformed a former courier depot on the corner of Queensberry and Leveson streets into a spacious and serene two-level exercise studio.

"We chose North Melbourne because we love the sense of community here. It's so peaceful and quiet through some of the streets, yet it's on the cusp of the city, so you've got the best of both worlds."

CorePlus North Melbourne opened in 2023 and April and her team of instructors now share their knowledge and passion with a diverse community of locals – women, men, young, old.

"There's a lot of people coming in but we keep seeing the same faces, and I think that's really special about our studio," April smiles.

What sets CorePlus apart? It's their heated classes, a feature that amps up the fitness experience. "It's great for detoxification. Obviously, as we sweat, we start to release some of those toxins within. I think mentally it's great as well because it's challenging," April explained.

"I've enjoyed creating a space for people to come and move in a really supportive environment – it's all about feeling good, inside and out."

CorePlus is located at 493-495 Queensberry St in North Melbourne and is open seven days a week. ●

Photo by Anna Encio.

For more information:
core-plus.com



Join or renew your North & West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) membership!

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- Listing in the online NWMPA business directory
- NWMPA window decal and precinct tote bags
- Benefit from the precinct gift card initiative

northwestmelbourne.com.au



NORTH WEST CITY LOCAL

Living life to the full



Anthony Bartl has never let his physical limitations hold him back from living life to the fullest, and he wants to send the same message to others who have a disability.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The Kensington resident was only six years old when his life changed forever.

He had been walking home from school when he was struck by a car while crossing Macaulay Rd, Kensington, without looking. It left him with a C1 quadriplegia – the highest-level spinal injury.

But it has not stopped Mr Bartl, 43, to prove that with a positive mindset and determination, anything is possible.

He is the first person in Australia with his condition to complete primary and secondary school, and obtain a university degree, which he completed in media studies.

Today he is a part-time primary school teacher at Princes Hill Primary School, a writer, and a journalist.

He has published many articles, including writing a chapter about his life experiences in a book titled *Turning Points*. Published by Monash University Publishing in 2022, the book tells of 25 remarkable Australians and the moments that changed their lives.

But Mr Bartl's biggest feat yet is having created a documentary, which chronicled his travels through Africa in 2013.

The 55-minute documentary called *Unwheel Adventures* was launched in 2015 after it was screened at Crown Casino's

Village Cinemas, which was organised by Eddie McGuire.

But in further exciting news it was featured on SBS in December last year and is available for viewing for the next three years on SBS On Demand.

Mr Bartl said he lucky enough to win \$50,000 on the TV game show, *Hot Seat*, which was able to fund his Africa trip. A further \$50,000 was provided by the Pratt Family Foundation to help fund the film crew.

The documentary captures Mr Bartl on a safari tour, going on a river cruise infested with crocodiles, and visiting local communities. However, the journey wasn't without its setbacks.

"The bush mechanics came out each day the chair broke down, and on site they diligently went about fixing it," he said. "Having a disability overseas is a real unknown but I was fortunate the people were so welcoming and supportive and outgoing."

During his travels, he also visited a special school dedicated to kids with disabilities, who were sadly deemed "cursed by their ancestors" due to cultural beliefs of witchcraft in South Africa.

He said he "really wanted to send them a message of hope" that children could achieve their life aspirations.

Mr Bartl said having his documentary played on a mainstream channel was a "real accomplishment" and "lot of people can benefit from its message".

"I try to live life to the full and I try to make the most of every day." ●

Watch the documentary:
SBS On Demand



A planning application amendment has been submitted for an eight-storey build-to-rent development in Kensington following a change to the project's architects.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Developer and build-to-rent giant, Greystar, was granted planning permission in October last year for a 447-apartment development at 352-400 Macaulay Rd, but a planning amendment was lodged in February.

Greystar remains the same applicant but there was a change in architects from Scott Carver Architects to Jackson Clements Burrows (JCB) Architects.

This required an amendment to reflect changes to the façade design introduced by JCB architects.

Other proposed changes include the number of apartments reducing from 447 to 441 and the retail floor area increasing from 657sqm to 1007sqm. Carparking spaces would also be increased from 168 to 170 under the new plan, with bicycle spaces increasing from 410 to 498 and motorcycles spaces increasing from zero to 10.

According to the proposal, the development comprises studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, communal amenities, a landscaped courtyard, ground floor retail spaces, and carparking.

"The large brick warehouses of Kensington's past, such as 'Young Husband', are referenced through the expression of brickwork to the facades," the plans stated.

"The long facades have been separated into seven façade types to provide a sense of smaller neighbourhood communities and assist with identity and wayfinding."

Overall, it said the proposed development "will positively contribute to the vibrant Kensington village by providing a dynamic residential community and retail and hospitality spaces".

Recent planning changes will include mid-rise residential mixed-use sites within the Kensington precinct to accommodate more than 10,000 residents and 9500 jobs by 2025.

The development is in middle of Local Residential's project of 477 apartments at 346-350 Macaulay Rd, and Assemble Communities' 362-apartment project at 402 Macaulay Rd.

The City of Melbourne also endorsed plans in February for a 394-dwelling development at the corner of Macaulay Rd and Boundary Rd in North Melbourne.

North and West Melbourne Association secretary and former Lord Mayor Kevin Chamberlin said the proposal was "yet another massive development" on Macaulay Rd.

"It's unclear as to whether this really meets any government housing strategy, or is really just a standalone investment proposition," he said.

"It's unclear how much family accommodation will be provided within the complex or is it just another investment standard with studio and one-bedroom units?"

"The all-important question is where the infrastructure such as childcare schools and open space to support the residents?" Mr Chamberlin said, adding traffic impacts would "only get worse" if not addressed.

The Department of Transport and Planning will make a final decision on the amended application. ●

Brendan Rees

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IRREGULAR

A hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for the community of people who live, work, and play in North and West Melbourne

WORDS BY
NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE
PRECINCT ASSOCIATION



Have you ever had an idea that reimagined our public spaces or the ways in which the community of North and West Melbourne connects? What if others within the community have had a similar idea or would support your idea if they could?

Perhaps you would like to enlist support for a regular "bike bus" to encourage more local kids to ride to school in a safe and fun way. Or maybe you have walked past the Telstra Exchange building on Chetwynd St and wondered whether a concept like silo art could be brought to the inner city to transform an eyesore into a tourist attraction, co-funded through a campaign driven by the entire local community.

Maybe your ambition is even bolder, and your idea envisages transforming local streets through the introduction of Barcelona-style "super-blocks" and you believe you can generate a groundswell of support to make it happen.

As part of Melbourne Design Week 2024, and under the theme of Design the World You Want, the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) is proud to be presenting *IRREGULAR* – a hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for the community of people who live, work, and play in North and West Melbourne.

IRREGULAR will be held at Cobblestone Pavilion, North Melbourne Meat Market from May 23 to 25. The very best ideas from our community will be exhibited over three days in a variety of visual formats, with keynote speakers and presentations, panel

discussions and workshops.

This festival of ideas and actions has been created to showcase the incredible depth of talent and diversity of expertise and perspectives within our local community, facilitate connections and collaborations that may not otherwise exist, and provide inclusive and interactive forums for the entire community to participate.

IRREGULAR takes its name from an influential newsletter that was started more than 50 years ago by two local urban activists, Ruth and Maurie Crow. As a festival, it will give the community an opportunity to unite and not only reimagine the future urban spaces and ways in which we will connect but also play a meaningful role in helping to shape that future.

Further details:

- Invitations to submit an idea are now open to the community, with submissions due by Friday, April 12.
- Go to irregularfestival.com.au for a copy of the submission form, and all the details you will need.
- A panel of judges will shortlist submissions against the assessment criteria published on the form, and the NWMPA will help shortlisted contributors create a visual presentation of their idea for the exhibition.
- The panel of judges will award prizes to the best ideas under different categories and there will be additional prizes for those ideas that resonate most with visitors to the exhibition.
- Tickets to speaking events will become available when the Melbourne Design Week program is launched in early April. The exhibition will be open as a free entry. ●

For more info contact Dylan O'Donnell via email: irregular@northwestmelbourne.com.au



ARTS HOUSE

Dissent: a game of choices and morality

For five days in March, *Dissent*, an event exploring morality and social conditioning, will take over North Melbourne's Arts House.

WORDS BY
MARILYN TAN



The show was created by Māori storyteller Daley Rangi, who "generates anti-disciplinary works investigating injustice and speaking truth to power".

During each show, four strangers will join Rangi in front of a live audience, roll a dice and make a series of escalating and uncomfortable choices.

Rangi said that *Dissent* "explores ethical and social dilemma", where players were faced with situations "that bring them into conflict with forces of authority and their own morality".

The artist, who is in residence at the Sydney Theatre Company, said that the show was about "everyday activism and the

choices we make hour to hour".

Arts House access advisory member Jonathan Craig said that *Dissent* flipped the script on traditional tabletop games.

"From the outside, it seems like tabletop games are all about escapism. You imagine yourself in a more dramatic world as a more powerful person. I love how *Dissent* flips the script, gamifying the familiar," Craig said.

The game enthusiast and writer is also curious how players will "respond to difficult decisions in the everyday".

Arts House acting artistic director Olivia Anderson said, "*Dissent* is a provocative and imaginative new work about how our choices shape our environments and ourselves.

We look forward to seeing who is game enough to come and roll the dice."

Dissent will run from March 20 to 24 at Arts House, 521 Queensberry St, North Melbourne. ●

For more information:
artshouse.com.au



IRREGULAR

As part of Melbourne Design Week 2024, a hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for people who live, work and play in North & West Melbourne.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEA TODAY!



NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE
PRECINCT ASSOCIATION



Council overwhelms itself on Israel-Hamas conflict

City of Melbourne councillors spent four hours debating a war taking place on the other side of the world at its February 20 meeting, which expectedly drew usual questions about local government overreach.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



While everyone has their views on what the role of local government should be and which “lanes” it should remain in, this latest example of a council veering into foreign affairs should only raise the question around “good governance”.

To Cr Jamal Hakim, and many other sitting councillors, when it comes to the current war in Gaza, “good governance” is making a statement on behalf of Melburnians affected by the conflict in an effort to preserve our city’s proud multicultural values.

Cr Hakim, who brought the motion to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, highlighted that more than 100,000 Palestinians had been killed, injured, or declared missing since the war began.

These numbers, together with the many Israeli civilians who continue to be held hostage by Hamas, are not something that any member of our community, politician or not, can ignore.

As a major international city, Melbourne is home to many people from all over the world with diverse backgrounds, all of whom will be feeling the impacts of this tragic conflict in Gaza differently.

It’s far from the first time the council has formed a position on an international issue

either. Only recently it terminated its sister city relationship with St Petersburg amid the war in Ukraine. It’s also called for the release of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, who is a Melbourne resident.

And the conflict in Gaza is sadly having real-world impacts for the people of Melbourne. The rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia is a disgusting and unfortunate reminder of this fact.

The motion on February 20 introduced by Cr Hakim sought to take a stand for the thousands of innocent Palestinians who have lost their lives in the war against Hamas and help give voice to constituents in Melbourne feeling this pain.

But while few could disagree Cr Hakim had nothing other than the best of intentions in bringing the debate to Town Hall, it’s also not hard to argue that this process could have, and should have, been handled a lot better.

It’s understood Cr Hakim and Lord Mayor Sally Capp had agreed that the City of Melbourne ought to make a statement reflecting the pain being felt on all sides of this conflict in our city, while calling for peace and unity.

Fair enough. And “a statement”, championing peace, while condemning atrocities on both sides issued at the beginning of the meeting before the usual agenda of council business kicked off, perhaps is all it should have been.

But as the Lord Mayor prepared to go on leave amid changing circumstances and further consultation with those groups affected in the community, Cr Hakim took on the responsibility of drafting a motion – one which ultimately made its way onto the meeting’s agenda, inviting media attention, fierce debate and some 200 protestors to rally outside Town Hall.

It was often noted during the debate that the council should be commended

for providing a space for people to have their views and feelings heard on this issue. Absolutely. We’re fortunate to live in a city where this is made possible.

As beloved Melburnian and council regular Chris Thrum said during the meeting, “peace be in this room”.

But ultimately, “good governance” is a balance between practicality and pragmatism.

Pragmatism is not shying away from important issues, local or global. It’s having the courage of conviction to do what’s right, and not what’s easy. But the practicality of government is also recognising reality, and the need to deliver real-world outcomes.

While symbolic, all the debate largely achieved was eat up four hours of a council meeting stacked with incredibly important items. These included the Queen Victoria Market southern site development plan, a new homelessness strategy, a developer contributions plan for Fishermans Bend, a neighbourhood planning update, a fair access sport and recreation plan, and a motion on guidelines for the adaptive reuse of city buildings.

Some of those community members who attended the meeting had to wait until after 10pm to have their say on these issues that fall under the auspice of local government, unlike the motion on Gaza which dominated proceedings.

And after close to three-and-a-half hours, Cr Hakim’s motion was ultimately voted down five to five, with Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece using his casting vote to sway the outcome.

Ironically, Cr Reece then put forward an alternative motion, which in his words was “less divisive”. It was unanimously supported.

Despite Cr Hakim saying it didn’t go far enough in calling out the disproportionate response by Israel in its fight against Hamas,



▲ Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece addresses the media the morning after the debate.

he too ultimately voted in favour.

At the end of it all, “good governance” might have recognised the need for clear communication from the outset, which might have helped ensure a similar outcome was achieved via a simple statement read out at the beginning of the meeting.

What transpired was a ridiculously long debate, a whole range of unnecessary security concerns for people attending, and no material impacts on the war in Gaza itself.

In the future, the council would be wise to ensure that all matters relating to foreign affairs, albeit with local significance, go through a more rigorous process to provide for a more efficient outcome.

The power of good governance compels it. ●

Sean Car
EDITOR

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Kensington’s streets come alive in local art

Local artist Sarah Gleeson has captivated the community with her beautiful illustrations of the Kensington neighbourhood.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Transitioning from a career in graphic and web design, Sarah rekindled her love for illustration five years ago, which she now considers her “main passion”.

“I first started drawing these illustrations just from walking around the streets with my two-year-old because we love going for walks – we often frequent Kensington because I just love the area,” Sarah told North West City News.

“I would just take pictures of things that I thought were interesting and draw them later.”

Her decision to share her artwork with the Kensington community through a local Facebook group was met with overwhelming enthusiasm.

“I got such positive feedback that I’ve gone back to Kensington to take some more iconic photos of the really recognisable spots so I can do more illustrations,” she said.

Through the post, Sarah has even made connections with a local business and is in the process of organising her illustrations to be featured and sold in the shop. ●

For more information:
[instagram.com/sarah.gleeson.creative](https://www.instagram.com/sarah.gleeson.creative)



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West Melbourne welcomes its first build-to-rent development with the arrival of The Briscoe by Kinleaf

On what City of Melbourne Acting Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece described as a “red letter day” for West Melbourne comes the launch of The Briscoe by Kinleaf, a \$150 million build-to-rent (BTR) development from Sentinel Fund Manager Australia (Sentinel Australia).

WORDS BY
JACK HAYES



Sentinel Australia president and director Michael Streicker was joined by Cr Reece, and its investment partner for the project, Federated Hermes, to mark the opening of the sustainable 172-apartment rental community and to recognise Victoria's growing BTR housing sector.

“As Australia's largest capital city, it's essential Melbourne keeps up with demand for attractive build-to-rent offerings, and The Briscoe is doing just that,” Cr Reece said.

“With premium apartments and amenities like a fitness centre and rooftop lounge, all just a stone's throw from the Melbourne CBD, there's no doubt that The Briscoe will be a valuable addition to West Melbourne.”

The BTR model creates homes for the rental market, whereby dwellings are owned and maintained by one central landlord, instead of selling to individual buyers.

While BTR development in Australia is still in its infancy, accounting for only 0.6 per cent of rental properties in the country according to Knight Frank's *Breaking the Shackles* September report, it is the second largest institutional real estate class in America.

The Briscoe is Sentinel Australia's third operational BTR apartment community in Australia. It follows the success of its The Elements by Kinleaf development in Western Australia, which was the very first operational and stabilised institutional BTR in the country and has since fully leased across its two completed phases.

According to Mr Streicker, The Briscoe has delivered a “boost of high-quality rental

supply to Melbourne's housing market at a critical time.”

“It is evident that housing needs and preferences are evolving across Australia and The Briscoe is a great example of how a well-designed BTR product with an experienced operator can fulfill some of the growing demand for housing and offer greater housing choice,” he said.

“Sentinel has owned and managed rental housing on a global stage for more than 50 years and we take great pride in bringing our experience to the local market to create positive outcomes for our residents, investors, and the communities in which we operate.

“We look forward to growing our Kinleaf resident community at The Briscoe and at future locations across the country, including in North Melbourne's expanding biomedical precinct where we are currently in planning to deliver another high-quality build-to-rent asset.”

The Briscoe is purpose-built for renters and offers sustainable one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments for rent across its seven floors. It is professionally managed under Sentinel's dedicated Australian property management platform, Kinleaf, with management, leasing and maintenance staff located on-site.

The apartment community is pet-friendly and features a curated range of resident amenities. ●

For more information:
thebriscoe.com.au



Global animal health company Zoetis Australia has bought a major portion of the former CSL site in Parkville's biomedical precinct.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Zoetis has acquired most of the CSL site, in Poplar Rd, Parkville Gardens, from the state government.

The arrangement includes a capital investment to help start sovereign manufacturing capabilities.

The state government originally bought the site so that the Parkville precinct becomes a world-leading biomedical centre for innovation and advanced manufacturing.

“It's a \$350 million vote of confidence in Melbourne to secure the old CSL site for Zoetis, and as we continue to invest in infrastructure and housing in the area, Parkville will only further cement itself as a world-leading biomedical hub,” Minister for Precincts Colin Brooks, who joined Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins in making the announcement, said.

The state government said the deal would create up to 95 jobs.

Zoetis said acquiring the 8.5-hectare site would significantly expand its current operations to develop and manufacture vaccines for sheep, cattle, dogs, cats and horses.

Currently 130 million doses of vaccines for companion animals and livestock are

produced in Australia each year.

A Fortune 500 company, Zoetis generated revenue of \$8.5 billion in 2023 with about 14,100 employees globally.

Zoetis CEO Kristin Peck they were excited to increase their investment in Australia and provide greater support to Australia's farmers and veterinarians.

“This investment will enable us to meet future demand for essential veterinary and livestock vaccines in Australia – as we look to expand capacity, upgrade our production capabilities, and facilitate exports to new markets,” she said.

“Australia's livestock sector is highly regarded around the world, and Zoetis is proud to help the region's livestock farmers be part of a climate solution as they increase productivity, health and welfare outcomes that can have a positive impact on the planet.”

CSL moved to its new 18-storey headquarters at 655 Elizabeth St in Parkville in August last year.

The building, by Melbourne developer PDG, includes a global head office and innovation labs.

CSL has also expanded with the development of a new purpose-built facility in Melbourne Airport Business Park at Tullamarine, and a major expansion of its Broadmeadows plasma fractionation facility.

In 2023, Zoetis sold \$484 million of products in Australia, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year. The company employs 426 people in Australia.

The growth of Parkville's health and education precinct will be serviced by the new Parkville Station expected to open ahead of schedule in 2025. ●

Volunteers needed!

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METRO MELBOURNE





Photo taken in January showing works are progressing well on-site

Residents from Kensington and across the city will have access to a new swimming pool, super-sized gym and more indoor sports courts when the revamped recreation and aquatic centre opens next year.

The Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, developed together with the community, will deliver modern health and wellness facilities to the growing neighbourhood.

Works are well underway to redevelop the once beloved yet tired centre, with City of Melbourne investing \$68 million to build a brand new, state-of-the-art facility.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the centre will cater for the Kensington population now, and well into the future.

“More than half the households in Kensington are families – making it one of the most popular suburbs in our municipality to raise children,” the Lord Mayor said.

“Features like the outdoor children’s water play area are a direct result of our consultation with the community, and we’re supporting healthy ageing through building new spaces for group fitness classes.

“We’re doing what counts, ensuring access to health and wellness is embedded in the Kensington community for decades to come.”

Works are well underway following the safe removal of asbestos contaminated materials, with the centre on track to open in 2025.

Key milestones in the first half of 2024 include finishing work on the facade and roof, the structure frame of the new stadium, installation of sports court flooring and fitting services such as electrical and plumbing.

While construction continues inside the centre, the Lord Mayor encouraged the community to get excited about the new services that will be available. The centre will continue to be managed by YMCA Victoria, delivering community-focused health and wellness programs for everyone passing through the centre doors.

The new indoor 25-metre pool will include eight swim lanes – adding to the City of Melbourne’s suite of aquatic centres across the municipality.

“We know swimming is an important part of our community’s health goals. We want to encourage confidence in the water from a young age, which is why we’ve included a dedicated Learn to Swim pool,” the Lord Mayor said.

“This means lessons can operate without disrupting lap swimming. We’ve also included a ‘wet lounge’ so parents and families can watch on as their youngsters learn to swim.”

Blinds will be installed so the pool hall can be sectioned off, allowing for women’s only swim classes and sessions – a feature that’s proved popular at Melbourne City Baths.

City of Melbourne’s Property Infrastructure and Design Acting General Manager Jonathan Kambouris said progress on the project was picking up pace heading into 2024.

“Kensington residents keeping an eye on the site will have noticed a flurry of activity at the end of 2023 as we installed the framing and walls for the stadium. We also finished the concrete slab pours for the ground and first floors,” Mr Kambouris said.

“In line with the City of Melbourne’s commitment to sustainable building practises, the centre will feature solar panels and run entirely on renewable energy – no gas and employ recovery technology to use otherwise wasted heat, generated by air conditioning, for the warm indoor pool.

“While we did have to remove some trees to allow for the centre’s expansion, we’ve upcycled some of those trees into playground furniture at the nearby Kensington Community Children’s Co-operative. Once the building is finished, we’ll be replanting those trees and adding more.”

The centre’s new stadium will be triple the size of the original facility – with three courts able to host simultaneous activity. The multi-purpose courts mean all the favourites – basketball, netball and futsal – will be catered for, alongside other sports like badminton and volleyball.



The state-of-the-art facility will feature a new multi-purpose court, with gym behind.



The eight-lane pool will be a key feature of the new centre.

Group fitness classes such as cardio, spin, yoga and pilates can be hosted in new program rooms, while the upgraded gym will include cardio machines, weights and a stretching zone - and will be four times bigger than the original gym space.

The new centre’s main entrance will be from JJ Holland Reserve, providing seamless transition between the park and the interior. A new cafe will be publicly accessible – not just available to centre patrons.



Stay up to date on the project via the website and sign up to our newsletter by scanning the QR code.

FAST FACTS

Your new Kensington Community Recreation and Aquatic Centre will include:

- a 25-metre pool featuring eight lanes
- a dedicated learn-to-swim pool
- children’s water play zone
- improved gym facilities
- three full-sized multipurpose courts
- health and wellness areas
- four large flexible spaces suitable for a range of classes and community uses
- accessible change rooms, including a Changing Places change room
- a new cafe



DID YOU KNOW?

So far, we’ve removed about 40,000 tonnes of soil from the construction site. That’s almost equal to 650 trams.



An artist’s impression of the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Connect with us

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EXPAND YOUR MIND AT ARTS HOUSE

Nestled in the North Melbourne Town Hall, Arts House is a treasure trove of dance, theatre, music and visual art with a year-round program for adventurous art lovers and people looking to experience new worlds.

If you're at home, endlessly scrolling through streaming services looking for something new, press pause. Arts House offers something you've never seen before and opens the door to intrigue, reflection and excitement.

“These wild, joyous and sensitive works illuminate the margins, push at the boundaries and affirm our shared humanity. Through troubled times, the experimentations of these artists challenge and celebrate other ways to live and hold potential to transform communities.”

Olivia Anderson, Acting Artistic Director at Arts House

Here are just a few of the unmissable performances in store at Arts House in the coming months. Meet your friends at one of North Melbourne's fabulous eateries and then sit back, watch the show and set your imagination free.

CUDDLE

20 to 25 February

Partners in crime raise the stakes and go all out on a dance heist. The window is short and the road is dangerous — will they make it out alive?

A surprise smash hit of the 2023 FRAME Biennial of Dance, *CUDDLE* combines contemporary dance with martial arts, figure skating, rodeo barnyard dance and theatrical inspirations.

Don't miss this unique, technically brilliant, inventive exploration of dance and intimacy.

Dissent

20 to 24 March



Roll the dice, make your choice.

Explore how, where and why we take civic action. Four players are invited to take on the role of a fellow community

member and interact in an unnerving world created through imagination and experimentation.

Presented by Māori storyteller Daley Rangī, *Dissent* is an irreverent exploration of everyday resistance. Each roll of the dice and subsequent consequence shapes the story and reflects relationships with authority.

Discover more about yourself and your community in this warm-hearted, playful and imaginative study of ethical and social dilemmas.

Odalala

3 to 27 April



As an expression of Arts House's Equity—Builder - a roadmap to anti-racism and justice in the arts - Vishal Kumaraswamy returns to curate *Odalala* ('from the depths of one being').

In combination with *nireekshane* ('the act of seeing' - at Arts House from 1 March to 27 April), this exciting and unique exhibition brings together Australian and international artists to examine histories of caste, migration, gender and sexuality through contemporary expression.

Odalala is a multi-format activation, featuring an exhibition, public programs, talks, screenings, communal meals and curator and accessible tours. It includes two new major commissions: *ALAM* from Elyas Alavi and a new performance installation by Sajan Mani, the first Indian person to be awarded the Berlin Art Prize in 2021.

ALAM spans a large-scale sculptural work, videos and performances that look at the intersections of Islamic ritual and marginalised queer identities. Sajan Mani's new performance installation explores colonisation, missionary-led education and growing up in a Dalit community of rubber tappers.

The Bridal Lament

8 to 19 May

A lush and electrifying bi-lingual song cycle that has taken Sydney and Adelaide by storm, *The Bridal Lament* is a glorious audio-visual experience by award-winning vocalist, pop icon and visual artist Rainbow Chan 陳雋然.

Drawing on her Weitou ancestry (first settlers of Hong Kong), Chan reimagines a ritual known as the bridal lament, a public performance of grief in which a bride wept and sang in front of family and friends, expressing bitterness towards their arranged marriages and patriarchal rule.

With new songs by Chan and direction from Tessa Leong, this lavish work pays homage to ritual in a vibrant presentation of movement and colour.

See it in combination with *The novice*, fry and fledging from 6 to 24 May. This free installation of silk paintings and sound composition has been created by Rainbow Chan 陳雋然 to accompany *The Bridal Lament*.

ANITO

5 to 9 June

Did you know that ancient Filipino ritual and funerary gold objects were melted down by the Spanish colonisers and moulded into crucifixes?

In *ANITO*, the iconic Justin Talplacido Shoulder shares his latest fantastical creations, queering the mythologies of his Filipino heritage and imagining a Future Folklore where this raw material is re-moulded into new forms both sacred and profane.

A mythic world of hybrid creatures is brought to life through dance, theatre, installation, visual arts and elaborate costumes.

GURR ERA OP

12 to 16 June

What would you do if you could never go home? What happens to your identity when the physical place that holds your ancestral foundations disappears?

Join four mainland-born Torres Strait Islander women as they battle against the rising tide of climate change threatening their home, culture and identity.

GURR ERA OP ("the face of the sea" in Meriam Mir) is a celebratory sharing of culture and a call to action in the face of climate devastation, interweaving hybrid Torres Strait Islander contemporary storytelling, movement and spoken word.

Art for everyone

Many Arts House shows feature accessible performances, including Auslan interpreted, relaxed elements, tactile tours and audio description. Check each event page for more access information including visual ratings and warnings.

Arts House's Disability Inclusion Action Plan is taking positive actions towards accessibility and inclusion. It was created in conversation with Deaf and Disabled people alongside Arts Access Victoria. Arts House's Equity—Builder is a commitment and roadmap to anti-racism and justice in the arts.

Explore all current and upcoming events at artshouse.com.au

IN BRIEF

OUT AND ABOUT ACTIVITY GUIDE OUT NOW

Discover why Melbourne is a great place to age with our latest Out and About Guide.

Our updated guide has a variety of free or low-cost events, activities, services and support information in the City of Melbourne that promote healthy ageing and social connection.

From regular community meals to gardening groups, tech help to historical tours and plenty more, there's something to suit all interests and to help keep both body and mind active.

Pick up a free copy at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub, or read it online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout



PASSIONATE ABOUT PARKS?

Expressions of interest are open to join City of Melbourne's Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee. People from all backgrounds, with experience or an interest in parks and gardens, horticulture, ecology, landscape design or health and wellbeing are invited to apply.

Committee advises Council on a range of technical and community issues involved in sustainable management of the City of Melbourne's parks, gardens and urban landscapes.

For more information and to express interest before 8 March, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/parks-gardens-committee

NEW SMALL CBD PARK PROPOSAL

A new small park is being proposed for the corner of MacKenzie and Victoria streets in the CBD. Review the plans and have your say before 11 March at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/mackenzie-street-greening



Artist's impression of the proposed park

KEEP IN TOUCH

To stay connected with all the latest news from the City of Melbourne, follow us on social media and subscribe to *Melbourne News* at

news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

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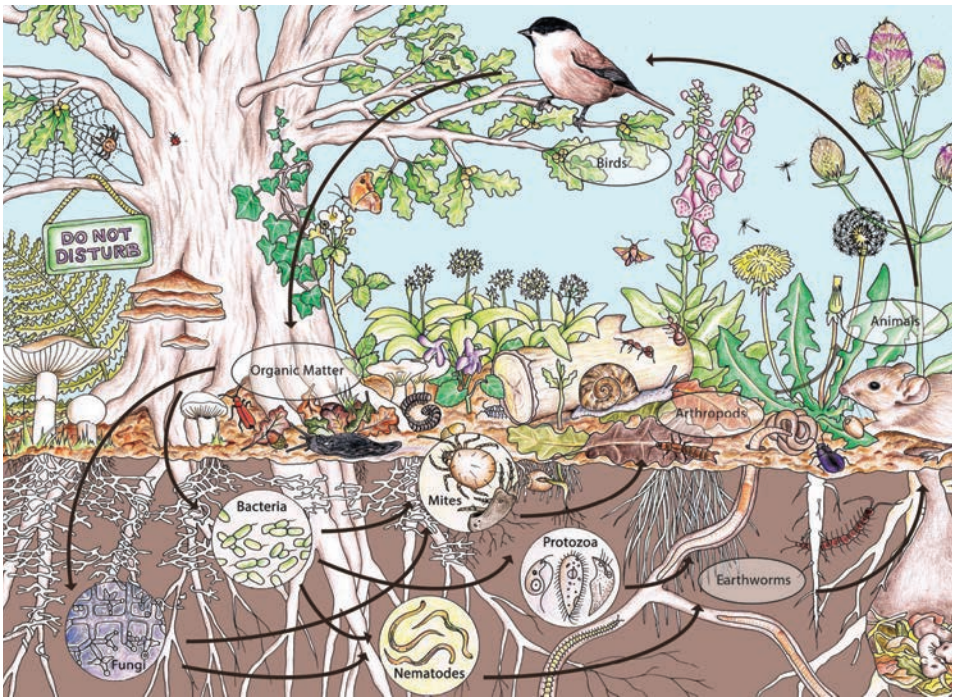
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Permaculture: one of Australia’s noblest exports

“Permaculture provides a positive way forward of how humanity can work with nature to deliver its needs of shelter, food, water, energy and life purpose”

Since the 1980s, permaculture has provided “hope” and the “how” to many wanting to actively make permanent culture change. Permaculture shows people how to work with land and natural forces, to design a sustainable and regenerative life reliant on the sun’s energy – from a city balcony garden to a broadacre farm to a desert. Permaculture considers energy consumption and the true costs of things by understanding the systems of production and consumption and limits of the earth so that we take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. It not only sets this as a directive but also provides a way for us to do it through design principles and ethics. Globally, (possibly) millions have heeded the call, undertaking permaculture design certificates (PDCs) and various permaculture trainings to apply change. Permaculture premises that life is about cooperation, causing us to think how the parts interact with and work together so that we can put the elements together to interact beneficially with other life forms



to create harmony. We the humans are the designers of these integrated systems. Geoff Lawton, who is a leader in this space, said, “we believe that humans have a duty to be the most beneficial element in an environment instead of the most destructive.” Permaculture has been taught globally since the 1980s as an interdisciplinary earth science. A multitude of books and publications have been written about it. Various

demonstration sites, institutes and farms have been set up allowing participants the experience of working with nature. One of the most famous examples is Geoff Lawton’s *Greening the Desert* project in Jordan. “The *Greening the Desert* project is living proof that we can reverse desertification and bring back life to desolate barren lands. By living in harmony with nature and applying permaculture design practices to

the landscape the possibilities are endless,” Mr Lawton said. Permaculture has become a grassroots, international movement of practitioners, designers, teachers, groups, organisations and networks and has influenced many other movements like Transition Towns, Seed Savers, organic and sustainable farming, repair, localisation, and closed loop to name a few. Bill Mollison is credited as the “father of permaculture” where through many years of exploration, spending time in nature and study led him in the 1970s to develop permaculture. He was joined by David Holmgren. Bill Mollison passed away in 2016 and leaves behind a legacy of hope and self-responsibility. Some local permaculture-inspired initiatives in Kensington include: The Kensington Food Forest, The Kensington Repair Hub, The Kensington Seed Savers, The Urban Farm Collective, The Kensington Fresh Food Market, The Kensington Compost Hubs and Transition Town Kensington. For more information just enter “permaculture” into your search engine. ●

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HISTORY

Celebrating the eight-hour day

Victoria’s Labour Day holiday is enjoyed by several million people throughout the state.

WORDS BY
FELICITY JACK
HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT

Some enjoy time with family and friends, others participate in festivals and gatherings throughout regional Victoria, and thousands flock to the banks of the Yarra to enjoy the Moomba Festival. But how many people are aware of the history behind this public holiday? Victoria was the first place in the world to instigate an eight-hour day for workers without loss of pay. This achievement is celebrated every year on the second Monday in March. Conditions for working people in the early days of settlement could be gruellingly hard. A group of men, many of whom were immigrants from the United Kingdom with a history of agitation for reform, got together to lobby for improved conditions. They adopted the slogan “Eight hours labour, eight hours recreation and eight hours rest”. The culmination of their planning took place on April 21, 1856, when a number of stonemasons working on the law quadrangle at the University of Melbourne downed tools and marched to Spring St where Parliament House was under construction. The stonemasons on this site were agitating for better pay. There was much public sympathy for the reform and the workers finally won the day. It was up to each industry to negotiate their own hours and conditions but the precedent had been set and the eight-hour day soon became an accepted norm as other industries took on the fight.



On Monday, May 12, 1856, the stonemasons celebrated with a procession from Carlton Gardens to Richmond’s Cremorne Gardens. Bands, floats, and decorative banners made the event a festive occasion. Almost 700 people took part in the march, with many trades being represented. It was not until 1916 that the *Eight Hour Day Act* was passed in Victoria and New South Wales. In 1879 the Victorian Government declared a holiday to commemorate the eight-hour day movement and it was widely celebrated throughout the state. The day was renamed Labour Day in 1934 but as the depression took hold, followed by the Second World War, public interest in celebrating the day declined. The final march was held in Melbourne in 1951, to be replaced four years later by Moomba in 1955. The Moomba Festival takes place alongside the Yarra River over the weekend of Labour Day. It has grown in size, with carnivals, processions, fun fairs and a Birdman Rally. More than one million people attended over the four days of the festival in 2023. But as Victoria celebrates, we should be mindful of continued inequality among the workforce and the risks that can erode our working conditions. Legislation was passed last month in federal parliament that safeguard workers’ rights by limiting an employer’s right to contact staff during their time off. The fight for equal pay for women is ongoing. ●

Image:
The *EIGHT HOUR DAY MEMORIAL* is located on the corner of Russell and Victoria streets. Percival Ball’s monument, constructed of granite, bronze, gold-leaf and stone, was unveiled in 1903. Fourteen surviving pioneers of the eight-hour day movement attended the ceremony. Around the monument’s globe the inscription reads “Labour, Recreation, Peace”.

hothamhistory.org.au



Arden Station to feature ode to the history of rail

A piece of Victoria’s railway history has been gifted to the Metro Tunnel’s new Arden Station as a reminder of the important role trains have played in the state’s history.

The almost 170-year-old “Geelong and Melbourne Railways 1857” sandstone plaque has been installed at the station’s concourse entrance, on show in a custom display case.

The plaque was originally set in the wall of a workshop that once stood where Arden Station is today. It was first designed to commemorate Werribee Station’s opening but was relocated to North Melbourne in 1927 following a fire.

During construction of Arden Station the plaque was handed over to heritage conservation experts for restoration. Now in its new home, it will become a tangible connection to the past for passengers to enjoy for generations to come.

Metro Tunnel project director Ben Ryan said the plaque paid respect to Victoria’s industrious railway history.

“The Metro Tunnel Project is the biggest upgrade to Melbourne’s transport network in 40 years, but it’s important to remember how far we’ve come in the last hundred or so years,” Mr Ryan said.

“The historic plaque at Arden Station will remind people of the ingenuity that has gone into making Victoria’s railway network what it is today.”

With major construction of Arden Station now complete, rigorous testing will continue throughout 2024 to prepare the station for the Metro Tunnel opening in 2025.



The modern station with its distinctive brick arched entrance will become the heart of a future health and residential precinct just two kilometres from the CBD.

It will include bike parking spaces, drop-off zones, accessible carparks and will be within walking distance of the North Melbourne Recreation Centre, Arden Street Oval and the route 57 tram.

Work on the Metro Tunnel’s remaining four stations – Parkville, State Library, Town Hall and Anzac – is continuing at pace, with construction of Parkville Station nearing completion.

The Metro Tunnel will connect the busy Sunbury, Cranbourne, and Pakenham lines via a new tunnel under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, freeing up space in the City Loop and creating capacity to run more trains more often. ●



PARKVILLE GARDENS RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Neighbourhood festivities in Parkville Gardens

Sure enough, the hottest days of the year didn’t occur in summer, they only showed up once the kids were back in school. That’s the wonder of weather in Melbourne.

Here in Parkville Gardens, we’re fortunate to live in a haven of gardens, lawns, shrubs and trees. Every day they remind us of how precious our environment is and what we must do to protect it from the ravages of global warming.

We’re hoping for a fine and mild day on Sunday, March 17 for our Neighbours Day community picnic. There’ll be something for everyone – pony rides, games and a Taekwondo demonstration for the kids, and a barbecue for everyone with vegetarian and non-vegetarian fare. Add to that as you wish with your own picnic provisions.

Come along to the Galada Ave Reserve from 12pm to 2pm and catch the neighbourly spirit.

That day’s a wee bit early for Easter eggs, even if hot cross buns have been on sale for months. So, we’re having our annual Easter egg hunt the following Sunday, March 24. Please note that the hunt will take place at 11am sharp. There’ll only be one, so make sure you’re there in plenty of time before 11am. Don’t be disappointed!

We renew our thanks to the City of Melbourne for the funding grants that make all our community events possible.

In what seems to have been a low-key announcement, the state government has revealed that the global animal health company Zoetis has purchased the bulk of

the CSL site in Poplar Rd for \$350 million. Zoetis produces vaccines for a wide range of animals, including sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, dogs and cats. Interestingly, this move represents a return to base.

According to a March 7 article by *The Australian’s* commercial property editor, Ben Wilmot, Zoetis’ connection with the site goes back to 1922 when it was the animal health division of CSL.

The unit was sold to Pfizer in 2004 before becoming part of Zoetis. It looks like it’s here to stay.

Wilmot states that “Zoetis’s footprint at the Parkville site will grow five times as it expands operations over the years ahead.” One must wonder what a “five times” expansion could mean. One might also wonder what the remaining part of the CSL site is to become.

The last of the Parkville Neighbourhood Survey pop-ups has been held but you have until March 31 to complete the online survey. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to inform the City of Melbourne about your hopes and dreams for Parkville Gardens as well as any concerns you have.

Go to participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024 and have your say.

See you on Sunday, March 17. ●

Tom Knowles

PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU



FEDERAL MP

You shouldn’t have to win a lottery to have a home

For many people, finding an affordable place to live is impossible.

One of the reasons it’s so hard to buy your first home is that the housing market is rigged in favour of ultra-wealthy property investors.

When people are bidding at an auction, trying to buy their first home, they have to compete with others who might already own a handful of properties.

The reason it’s so unfair is because wealthy property investors get access to government handouts (like negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions) that renters and first home buyers don’t.

So, at an auction, an investor can keep bidding the price up and put it out of the range of a first home buyer, knowing that the government will subsidise their purchase and they can write off their losses as a tax break.

Tax handouts for property investors cost the country’s budget almost \$39 billion in forgone revenue – and with rising interest rates and house prices, this keeps going up.

So far, Labor has refused to touch these handouts to wealthy property investors. Instead of tackling the billions going to rig the property markets, Labor established a so-called “Help-to-buy” lottery.

It’s a band-aid solution, and it will make the problem worse.

The scheme can only be accessed by 0.2 per cent of eligible renters and first home buyers.

And it will help push up house prices even more for the 99.8 per cent of people who can’t get into the scheme.

First home buyers and renters can’t afford house prices as they are, and any scheme that sees prices continuing to soar is only going to make the problem worse.

The Greens’ position is straightforward:

you shouldn’t have to win a lottery to buy a home.

Over the next few weeks, we’re going to be negotiating with Labor over their scheme, because they need our support to get it passed.

We will be pushing Labor to make housing more affordable by fixing negative gearing and capital gains tax handouts. We’ve said Labor should look at those investors with two or more investment properties, because they don’t need government handouts.

We will also keep pushing for a rent freeze and a cap on rents, as we know these schemes will work for renters.

With rents continuing to rise rapidly and rental inflation likely to hit another record this year, we need a rent freeze and an end to the handouts to the wealthy property developers.

A lottery for new home buyers isn’t going to cut it. The rental crisis is breaking people. Buying a home shouldn’t be harder to win than the hunger games.

What we know is that pressure works. If we push and push, we know we can get a better deal for renters and first home buyers.

Something has to change for renters and first home buyers. We need to stop the rigged and broken system, so everyone has an affordable place to live. ●

Adam Bandt

FEDERAL MP FOR
MELBOURNE
ADAM.BANDT.MP@APH.GOV.AU





QUESTION:
What's your favourite local hangout?

Faces of North West City



FILIP
Fitzroy Gardens.



GEORGIA
Good Measure in Carlton.



GRACE
Benchwarmer in North Melbourne.



MARTIN
Anywhere with coffee!



KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

Unison Housing ... what are you thinking?!

Many will know that our Kensington Community Network (KCN) meets regularly to share news, perspectives and needs in the community. This committee is jointly managed and chaired by Unison's Deb Wilson and Rebecca Smith from Kensington Neighbourhood House (KNH).



The KCN has a long history. It was originally a community development sub committee, appointed by the Minister for Housing, to function as a steering group for the Kensington Public Housing 10-year redevelopment.

Sometime before our recent KCN meeting, many of us knew that one of our co-chairs, Deb Wilson (Unison Housing community engagement place manager), who works on the Kensington Estate (just east of JJ Holland Park), was retiring from her role after 17 years.

At the meeting, which was Deb's last day, we got a shock when we heard that Deb did not know if, when, or by whom she was being replaced! How can that be?

Unison Housing itself says, "place managers are at the heart of the delivery of our

housing services".

Importantly, she also had a unique community engagement role. This role, in particular, was critical to the "coal face" work that often dominated Deb's schedule.

Yes, you got it. Unison Housing, which is a very important housing manager working on behalf of the state government, clearly hadn't planned to appoint a successor for Deb.

Make no mistake, over her 17 years she is leaving some big shoes to fill. She was a key person connecting the community with the Kensington Estate. She was a go-to person for residents, particularly for renters on the estate. One would think that a role so

critical would be immediately filled, with a hand-over period to help the successor.

Deb had also been the leading light in organising community festivals. In 2019 the Kensington Food Forest, a project set up by Deb and Jacqui Van Heerden from Transition Town Kensington (TTK), received both a Victorian and National Best Practice Community Engagement Award.

Also, more recently, Deb has been a leader in two further significant achievements:

First, a community engagement award from the Kensington Somali Community, and secondly, a super-progressive initiative together with TTK, KNH, the Town Hall Compost Hub, and the Kensington Urban Farm Collective, where she helped secure nearly \$150,000 for a circular economy project in Kensington.

Having a community engagement role should be a "feather in the cap" for Unison Housing. Governments are beginning to understand just how critical having someone with community development nous is.

Does Unison understand this? It doesn't seem they do. I understand that community engagement positions are not thick on the ground in Unison Housing.

Having a further look at Unison Housing's website, in its value statements a key "value" jumps out at me: "We put the customer at the heart of what we do, we value each

other and welcome diversity".

How can this oversight occur if "the customer is at the heart" of what Unison is doing, and place managers are "at the heart of the delivery"? The community engagement role was clearly "people" and community wide focused, as opposed to "property" focused.

Unison Housing has an obligation to deal with both. Community engagement and placemaking should clearly be at the "heart" of this. The renters at the Kensington Estate (Unison's clients), are some of the most vulnerable members of the community; they are juggling their lives amid a housing crisis.

Unison Housing CEO, James King, has responded to our questions saying ... "We are currently assessing what is needed for the role/community engagement [Deb's position] more broadly before we decide on next steps."

Kensingtonians will be listening and watching. ●

Simon Harvey
SPOKESPERSON
INFO@KENSINGTON
ASSOCIATION.ORG



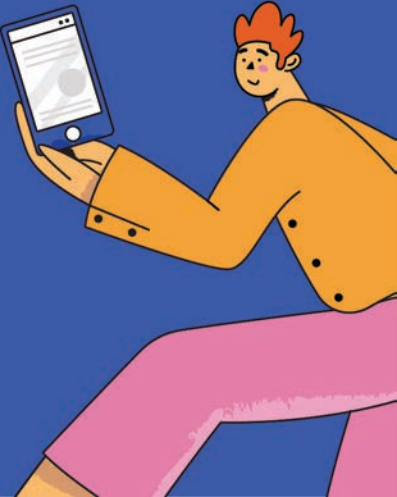
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Stretch & Strengthen For Women

This floor-based class is gentle and low impact. It is aimed at improving flexibility, balance, spinal mobility and co-ordination. No prior experience necessary.

Wednesdays
10am - 11am \$20/month

Creative Art For Kids

Explore the creative arts and use your imagination. Discover new techniques and experiment with making art in a fun and relaxed environment.

Tuesdays or Wednesdays
3.30pm - 4.15pm (5-8 years)
4.30pm - 5.30pm (9-12 years)



www.kensingtonneighbourhoodhouse.com



ph. 9376 6366



North Melbourne’s *The Roundtable* named as a finalist in Premier’s Design Awards

A public installation initially conceived during the COVID-19 pandemic has been shortlisted for one of Victoria’s most prestigious design awards.

WORDS BY
GEMMA GRANT



The Roundtable is located within the Errol Street Reserve in North Melbourne, and features a communal “table” which is covered in various species of edible plants. Vegetation featured within the installation was selected according to appearance, smell and taste. According to its design brief, the table itself represents “the original common space, an object that celebrates coming together, seeing each other, and sharing food.” Designed to facilitate social cohesion and connection, the project had been through several iterations before being unveiled

in January 2023. The final version of the installation encourages visitors to “pick, smell, and taste the plants,” as well as to “use the table as a hub for social exchange.” Intended only to be a temporary installation, the piece’s longevity has exceeded expectations. Various public events have utilised the space, including public forums, social events, and community meetings. The installation has therefore been celebrated for its “outsized impact relative to budget and project scope.” Its ability to create “something of enduring public benefit within minimal means” has been noted by critics. Commissioned by the City of Melbourne, *The Roundtable* is a joint collaboration between urban design practice Common, landscape architects Enlocus and RMIT Architecture. Winners of the 2023 Victorian Premier’s Design Awards will be decided upon by an expert panel of jurors. The results will be announced at a ceremony in March. ●



Life Performance helps achieves your goals, no matter what age

Life Performance in West Melbourne is on a mission to help people pursue what they love in life.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Health meets passion for the state-of-the-art sports medicine and rehabilitation facility, which has a range of specialised programs designed to enhance physical wellbeing and quality of life. “It’s the ability do the things that you love, and we would love to help people get to that,” senior physiotherapist Shane O’Sullivan said. Among the programs available are Bones and Brawn – Muscle and Bone Health, Stay Upright – Falls Prevention, and General Health and Fitness which are geared towards people aged between their 50s and 70s, with the aim of putting unwanted changes in bone health decline and muscle mass to a stop. It involves two group classes per week over a six- or 12-week period with classes including strength, mobility, power, and bone building exercises all in a fun and social environment. Mr O’Sullivan said the program was suited towards people improving their balance system and “make them more confident on their feet”. It’s about fostering resilience, preventing falls, and embracing the golden years with vigour. Mr O’Sullivan said the performance programs also had an entry assessment and exit assessment before entering a new phase. “We have some good research to show that we can

offset the decline in muscle mass with an appropriate strength resistance training program,” he said. Another program, Exercise Rehab, is perfect for managing a long-term injury, including chronic pain, recurrent injuries or any physical limitation that is reducing involvement in work, sporting, or leisure activities. Clients who will benefit from this may have an injury such as ankle sprains, achilles tendon pain, and chronic lower back pain. “The program involves an individual session one-on-one with a clinician who then designs the program, digs down into the deficits that they have, and then puts the individual program in place,” Mr O’Sullivan said. The third program offers is GLA:D from “Good Life with osteoarthritis in Denmark”. It was brought to Australia in 2016 to help those with hip or knee osteoarthritis. People who completed the program within one year reported 35 to 42 per cent average pain reduction, 17 to 29 per cent reduced pain medication use, and 38-39 per cent had improvement in joint-related quality of life. Mr O’Sullivan said all programs were about furthering life’s possibilities – not its limitations. Life Performance offers physiotherapy, exercise physiology, podiatry, massage, and with an exercise and sports physician onsite, the business provides performance pathways for all ages. ●

For more information:
lifeperformancehealth.com.au



STATE MP

North Melbourne residents unite against demolition of public housing

I recently joined a packed event in North Melbourne, where residents gathered to talk about how they can work together to stop the demolition and privatisation of public housing in North Melbourne and Flemington.

Awil has lived in the North Melbourne public housing towers for 23 years. His children go to the local school, and he is an active member of his local community. Like so many of his neighbours, Awil was shocked to hear that the Victorian Labor Government plans to demolish his home. He doesn’t know if he’ll be separated from his family and community, if he’ll have to take his kids out of school, or if he’ll ever be able to return to the local neighbourhood he loves. But one of the worst parts of Labor’s plan to demolish all of Melbourne’s public housing towers is that no public housing will be rebuilt on these sites at all. So far, Labor’s plan is that most of the public housing land at North Melbourne



and Flemington (and every other high-rise estate in Melbourne) will be used for expensive private apartments, with a small amount of privatised “community housing” and no actual public housing at all. This is what has happened at other estates which have been privatised, including Abbotsford St in North Melbourne. The Labor Government seems to be trying to get rid of the vast majority of public housing across Victoria, so they bear no

responsibility for social housing into the future. Residents are concerned and angry that they will not be able to return to public housing that’s managed by the state government but will instead only have the choice of going into “community housing” or other privatised “affordable housing”, which are often much more expensive. And while “community housing” can be a good thing, it does not provide the same

protections, rents or security of tenure as public housing, and many residents are worried about what this means for their families’ futures. Many residents are still understandably shocked and confused by Labor’s announcement that their homes will be demolished. With the demolition due to begin in 2025, residents still haven’t been told where they will be moved to and when or if they’ll be able to return to North Melbourne. My office is supporting a resident-led petition against the privatisation of public housing in Victoria. If you’re interested in helping us get signatures (if we get enough signatures we can force a special debate in Parliament), then please get in touch. As Awil said at the meeting, “People who are unified for their human rights cannot be defeated.” ●

Ellen Sandell
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE
OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



Quiz



1. Elio Sarpi (pictured), founder of Instagram page Houses of North and West Melbourne, has recently been awarded what?
2. Joanna Lumley plays which character in British comedy show *Absolutely Fabulous*?
3. Before it was the green oasis we know today, Flagstaff Gardens was the site for what colonial use?
4. In which year was Google invented?
5. Smelling something that is not actually there is called what?
6. What is the official summer sport of Canada?
7. What does burrito mean in Spanish?
8. What are the chances that a coin will land on its edge during a coin toss?
9. According to Wikipedia, Melbourne Zoo is home to how many animals?
10. North Melbourne Football Club have won how many AFL/VFL premierships?
11. Which institutional North Melbourne restaurant is under new management after a new fit-out?
12. What is the name of the new artwork at Arden Station from Sydney-based multi-disciplinary artist Abdul Abdullah?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Local History Project Award at the 2024 Community History Awards
2. Patsy Stone
3. A burial site
4. 1998
5. Phantasmia
6. Lacrosse
7. Little donkey
8. One in 6000
9. 5120
10. Four
11. Sosta Ristrante
12. *Come Together*

5x5

No. 034

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

G		P		D
	N		N	
V		S		A
	S		E	
N		A		S

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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March, 2024

Sudoku

No. 033

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

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: South America

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

AMAZON	GUYANA
ANACONDA	MACAW
ANDES	MACHU PICCHU
ARGENTINA	PATAGONIA
BRAZIL	PIRANHA
CAPYBARA	RIO
COLOMBIA	SURINAME
GALAPAGOS	VENEZUELA

Secret message: Very diverse place

Crossword

No. 033

ACROSS

- 1 Highways (5)
- 4 Best features (9)
- 9 Paintings of people (9)
- 10 Gap (5)
- 11 Prefix meaning new (3)
- 12 Bigotry (11)
- 13 Female stage performer (7)
- 15 It causes a bad reaction (7)
- 17 Acrobat (7)
- 20 Journeys (7)
- 23 Focus (11)
- 25 Enemy (3)
- 26 Former US president (5)
- 27 Provided safe-haven (9)
- 28 Levels (of quality) (9)
- 29 Short literary composition (5)

DOWN

- 1 Contrite (9)
- 2 Transport hub (7)
- 3 Endure (7)
- 4 Type of garment (5)
- 5 Subsequent (9)
- 6 Nose hole (7)
- 7 Coach (7)
- 8 Part of a play (5)
- 14 Injured player carrier (9)
- 16 Preceding day (9)
- 18 US state (7)

- 19 On the sheltered side (7)
- 21 Great (7)
- 22 Attempts (7)
- 23 Cuts (wood) (5)
- 24 Land measures (5)

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 033

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

SOLUTIONS

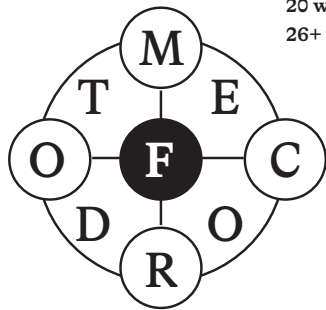
S	G	T	O	A	K	X	W	C	D	L	Z
02	02	02	02	02	02	02	02	02	02	02	02
U	B	A	F	H	I	N	A	V	R	O	I
01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	01

9-Letter

No. 033

Today's Focus:
14 words: Good
20 words: Very good
26+ words: Excellent

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



SOLUTIONS

Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

comfort, COMFORTED, corf, croft, deform, deft, doof, doofer, food, foot, foote, footer, force, forced, ford, 'fordo, 'fore, form, forme, formed, fort, forte, fret, froe, from, from, ref, roof, roofed

WHAT'S ON
March

As we welcome autumn we welcome a huge month in Melbourne's event calendar. Keep up-to-date with everything happening in your neighbourhood.

FESTA DO BRASIL

The Bonehead Taproom is open as usual at 1pm but featuring playlists of Brazilian music and expertly cooked BBQ from the Brazilian grill masters at BrazOZ.

Bonehead Brewing, 86 Parsons St, Kensington
boneheadbrewing.com.au

SATURDAY, MARCH 16: 1PM - 11PM

SPANISH LANGUAGE FIESTA

After almost a decade the Spanish Language Fiesta says goodbye to its North Melbourne home, so don't miss your last chance to celebrate.

George Johnson Ln, North Melbourne
centre.org.au

SATURDAY, MARCH 16: 11AM - 4PM

KENSINGTON CIRCULAR ECONOMY LAUNCH

The City of Melbourne's first Circular Economy Precinct officially kicks off at this month's Kensington Market. This is a free event. Booking not required.

Kensington Town Hall, 30-34 Bellair St, Kensington

SUNDAY, MARCH 17: 9.30AM - 4PM

MAINIT ILLUSION

Bringing together the creative forces of Saluhan Collective and Liquid Architecture, Mainit Fantasy / Mainit Illusion evokes Asian dive bars, jeepneys and Red Horse beer on ice.

Arts House, 521 Queensberry St, North Melb

UNTIL MARCH 23: 10AM - 4.30PM

THE DISASTER SHIELD

In this stunning window commission, artist Sher Ali has collaborated with a group of female weavers to share the beauty of traditional Afghan embroidery, in a wish to protect innocent people from destruction.

Arts House, 521 Queensberry St, North Melb

UNTIL MARCH 25

SHADOW OF ANOTHER

Noah Spivak's current processes collaborate with the alchemical world, creating temporal artworks that express a deep adoration (and understanding) for the materials used.

West End Art Space, 112 Adderley St, West Melbourne

MARCH 30 - APRIL 20: 11AM - 4PM

CHATTY CAFE

Enjoy a chat and a cuppa at Chatty Café

Kensington Neighbourhood Centre
18 Anthony Street, Kensington

Every Thursday 1pm to 3pm

EVERY THURSDAY: 1PM - 3PM

BAKERY HILL DISTILLERY TOUR & TASTING

The 90 minute event includes a detailed guided tour of the distillery, conducted by a distiller itself where you will learn how Bakery Hill produces its malts.

Bookings essential: bakeryhill.com/pages/tours
411 Macaulay Rd, Kensington

SUNDAYS: 2PM - 3.30PM

TECH HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Tech Connect offers FREE weekly one-on-one hour sessions and monthly group workshops with trained and skilled "Lively Tech Helpers". Bookings essential.

Kensington Neighbourhood Centre
healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au
9376 9743 | trybooking.com/CLFSX

FRIDAYS: 9.30AM - 12.30PM

TECH HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE NTH MELB

Tech Connect offers FREE weekly one-on-one hour sessions and monthly group workshops with trained and skilled "Lively Tech Helpers". Bookings essential.

Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre
healthyageing@melbourne.vic.gov.au
9328 1665 | trybooking.com/CLFKR

FRIDAYS: 9.30AM - 12.30PM

IRREGULAR

A hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for people who live, work and play in North & West Melbourne

NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

MAY 23 - 25

Business Directory

POLITICIAN

PRECINCT

SCHOOL

shape SHARE imagine



What do you want to see in your neighbourhood?

Shape the future of West Melbourne, North Melbourne and Kensington by taking City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Survey. Whether you live, work, study or play in the City of Melbourne, your ideas could help inform Council's future budgets or be included in the next four-year Council Plan.



Have your say

Take the survey to help shape the future of your neighbourhood and for the chance to win a \$200 Queen Victoria Market voucher.
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024

