



An **IRREGULAR** idea to change North and West Melbourne

Photo: Hanna Komissarova

Locals are being called upon to reimagine their neighbourhood as part of **IRREGULAR**, a hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for people who live, work, and play in North and West Melbourne. *Full story page 3.*

“Vast, empty site”: Disappointment over scrapped Arden hospital plans

“
Community members and a City of Melbourne councillor have expressed disappointment over the state government’s decision to abandon plans for a new hospital in North Melbourne’s Arden precinct, saying it was a missed opportunity.”

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



“This approach also enables us to make the most out of both sites: consolidating medical care and services in Parkville and freeing up Arden for more homes for thousands of Victorians,” the government said.

The Arden campuses were proposed to be “centres for elective surgery, outpatient treatment, clinical trials, rehabilitation and low-risk women’s healthcare services, while the redeveloped Parkville sites will focus on emergency, trauma and acute care”.

Speaking to the media, Treasurer Tim Pallas said the electromagnetic interference was a “very substantial problem and probably in our estimation could not be overcome in any financially responsible way, and may well have compromised patient care”.

But the outcome has drawn criticism from the community including City of Melbourne councillor Rohan Leppert who said “to say this is disappointing is an understatement”.

“The Arden vision called for an internationally competitive employment hub, and now it has no anchor institution,” he told *North West City News*.

“It also called for abundant affordable housing, yet not a single affordable home has been planned. When Arden Station opens it will sit in the middle of a vast empty site: a potent symbol of missed opportunity,” Cr Leppert said. “The precinct still has the potential for success; the transport connections alone will make sure of that. But we need those anchor tenants, and so the strategy to attract them, and stage land release, now needs to be planned openly.”

In a statement, The Royal Women’s and Royal Melbourne Hospitals welcomed the budget announcement.

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Madison’s provides a world for hair like no other

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CITY NEWS



COUNCIL AFFAIRS, PAGE 07

Local projects prioritised in council’s draft budget

\$6 million is set to be spent on creating new open spaces and greenery in North and West Melbourne, the City of Melbourne’s \$781 million draft budget has revealed.

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“Vast, empty site”: Disappointment over scrapped Arden hospital plans

Continued from page 1.

“We believe this is the right decision for both hospitals and are very supportive of the change for several reasons, including reduced travel for patients/families and clinicians between sites, and improved operating costs and efficiency by operating on one site,” it said.

“Our focus now shifts to the further expansion of our Parkville hospitals ensuring we can continue to be there for our community when it matters most, now and into the future.”

But other community members who were critical of the announcement included the North and West Melbourne Association’s secretary and former Lord Mayor Kevin Chamberlin who said the government’s decision was a “real disappointment”.

“Along with the Arden underground railway station the science and research facilities were the only key parts of the Arden precinct proposal that had any credibility,” he said.

“Opportunities for development in this area should still be considered that provide meaningful employment for the local people in the inner area. This is an ideal location to meet the desperate need for more educational facilities and open space.”

Mr Chamberlin added there was a “real opportunity” to address the need to provide social, affordable, public and housing, especially for larger families, noting the government “should not make the same mistakes made at Docklands by previous governments where the land was just sold off”.

“The community would be very keen to work with the government and the council



to achieve a good outcome for social, affordable and public housing on this very important and strategic land,” he said.

“It’s a chance to salvage something good and sustainable out of what’s left in the Arden precinct project.”

Leader of the Victorian Greens and State Melbourne MP Ellen Sandell said, “Now that Labor has scrapped plans for new Royal Women’s and Royal Melbourne Hospitals at Arden, the whole Arden plan seems like a schemozzle”.

“Now there’s no mandated public housing, no hospitals, and no high school at Arden, what will actually be built there? I’m worried Labor is setting Arden up to be another property developers’ free-for-all, just like the Docklands was.”

Victoria’s Opposition health spokeswoman Georgie Crozer lashed the government for being “disingenuous” after knowing the issues around electromagnetic interference years ago.

“Why didn’t they do their proper due diligence on the Arden site with the understanding those issues had been raised years before in 2018 when Peter Mac and the Royal Melbourne were being impacted by that part of the Metro Tunnel?” she said.

“It was a big glossy announcement for the 2022 election. It was designed to do what it did: capture people’s attention and get their vote without being truthful to Victorians and pulling the wool over their eyes.”

The government was contacted for comment. ●



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Transform your community at *IRREGULAR*

As Melbourne Design Week draws closer, so does *IRREGULAR*, a hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions with the chance to shape and change North and West Melbourne.

WORDS BY
JACK HAYES



The event will be held over three days, from May 23 to 25, at the Cobblestone Pavilion in North Melbourne's Meat Market.

The concept of *IRREGULAR* was born from North Melbourne local Dylan O'Donnell, who drew inspiration from the influential work of Ruth and Maurie Crow, two local urban activists from the 1970s.

The idea gained traction with the assistance and funding of the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA), which dedicated its hard-working team to helping bring the festival to fruition.

"*IRREGULAR* will celebrate the wealth of talent and diverse viewpoints in our local community," NWMPA president, Sylvia Hungria told *North West City News*. "Our goal is to foster connections and partnerships that might not otherwise occur while offering inclusive and engaging platforms for all business community members to engage."

"The NWMPA believes that change for a particular place can emerge quickly if it is a collective vision. Therefore, enabling a platform for showcasing ideas is paramount to us."

Along with the NWMPA, the festival received funding from the Scanlon Foundation and Our Community House, sponsorship from Lucas Mills Real

Estate and structural exhibition design by Dr John Doyle and a team of architecture



Render of the exhibition design and layout at the Meat Market in North Melbourne.

students from RMIT. This helped realise over 35 ideas from passionate locals who submitted detailed, articulate, and considered entries to reimagine their neighbourhood.

"*IRREGULAR* has always been about tapping into the expertise and creativity we knew was in our community," Mr O'Donnell said.

"The best part of this process has been unearthing the people and skills in North and West Melbourne. Whether they were showcasing their work globally, nationally, or locally, it has been amazing to find these residents. That has played out exactly as we had hoped."

"We are really happy with the range of experts, perspectives and ages of those participating. I think it is a really good reflection of North and West Melbourne."

Opening night – May 23

Opening night of the *IRREGULAR* program, beginning at 6pm on May 23, will see

a smoke ceremony, Welcome To Country and didgeridoo performance, words from *Blue Lake* author David Sornig; a discussion on the enduring legacy of Ruth and Maurie Crow from Rob Adams and Jane Homewood in conversation with Andy Fergus, and a panel talk facilitated by *The Age's* Jane Rocca with Courtney Holm, David Sequeria and professor Melanie Davern.

Exhibition program – May 24 to 25

Over two days, May 24 and 25, *IRREGULAR* will then exhibit the ideas of the local community and feature *Desired Lines* led by Laura Martires; *Design Your Own Arden ... in Minecraft* from the creator of Mini-Melbourne in Minecraft, Stephen Elford; presentations and workshops for entrants to make a case for their idea to be implemented, or participate in a workshop; and a presentation from Elio Sarpi, curator of Houses of North and West Melbourne.

"There are a lot of ideas that have had

a tremendous amount of thought behind them and in the last weeks before the event," Mr O'Donnell said. "We will be helping submissions source supporting documents and imagery to visualise their ideas."

One of those ideas comes from Dr Emma Lynas, a local resident and lecturer at RMIT's School of Fashion and Textiles.

Along with three academics, she is part of a collaborative research group called Textiles for The Care Economy, which has imagined a 'Sensory Salon,' which provides a comfortable retail experience for occupational therapists (OTs) and their clients.

"The sensory salon is a blue sky idea - where clients can come with their OTs and try on a range of clothes; we would liaise with a charity service to work specifically with second-hand clothes. There would be an alteration service on site," Dr Lynas said.

"This (*IRREGULAR*) is a really unique model where everyone is invited, and it's not overly dictated by academics or research. It enables everyone to have their ideas shared, and I think that's amazing."

"I want to commend the *IRREGULAR* team for providing the structure and resourcing. For me, it's very rare for a project to be this well resourced. We come with the idea and the rest is handled by the festival team."

Tickets for the opening night of *IRREGULAR* are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for concession card holders and include a free festival tote bag. They can be purchased at events.humanitix.com/i-r-r-e-g-u-l-a-r/tickets

Use of the Meat Market is thanks to the City of Melbourne's Community use of town halls scheme. ●

For more information:
irregularfestival.com



IRREGULAR

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

Buy your tickets to the opening night launch on Thursday 23rd May 2024. Doors open at 6pm.

Exhibition entry is free from 10am to 6pm on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th May 2024.

All ages are welcome, with fun activities to help everyone "Design the World You Want" at a hyperlocal level.



NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE
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North and West Melbourne Precinct Association

A world for hair like no other

If you are a North Melbourne local, chances are you've been blown away by the colour and fun that sits within the shopfront of Madison's World on Queensberry St.

WORDS BY
JACK HAYES



The part hairdressing salon, part gallery space is the embodiment of Madison Finn, its owner and creator.

Over 16 years in the industry, Madison has gathered a cult following, famous for bright, fashion-forward style, with a love for craziness and sophistication in equal measures.

"Our brand is bright but sophisticated. I like it to be crazy but clean at the same time," she said.

"It's crazy hair that has been done so beautifully that it can be commercialised to go through genres and wearable in different scenarios."

After growing out of her Fitzroy studio, Madison landed in North Melbourne with the help of her good friend and fellow business owner, Karla Laidlaw, who is just a few shopfronts away at her Queenberry St salon.

What drew Madison there was the appeal of a close-knit community and a space where she could live and work with her five-year-old daughter, Maimie.

"I wanted to be a part of a community. Most of the people knew me from Instagram, and they'd request a certain style, which is cool to me, but I wanted to show everyone, no matter the style, that their hair can be great," she said.

"Being a part of North Melbourne is a great place to have a business. Everyone is very welcoming. They all have unique stories and looks. We've been pretty lucky it all worked out."

Madison is one of four chosen hairdressers in *The Journal Mag's* FAME Team 2024, a mentor program that will see her showcase her skill in Sydney for Australian Fashion Week and later in May, London and Budapest.

Working alongside former boss, turned employee Frank Valvo (Fur Hairdressing), Emma, a hairdresser from Sweden with eight in the game, and apprentice, Alex.

The team has created a space where inclusivity and fun are pillars, pieces of art, just like the three-metre teddy bear from Madison's close friend and iconic Melbourne designer, Beci Orpin, sit just as comfortably as customers in their salon chairs, and most importantly, an environment where her daughter can grow and learn.

"I want it [the salon] to continually change



with how I feel, and even if you don't get your hair cut here, you a constantly seeing change and new artists in a space you wouldn't otherwise," Madison said.

"I don't really get a day off [from parenting], but it's a lot of fun. I feel like I can show Maimie the world and cool things within it."

"Keeping the fast new vibe in my life, keeps the fast new vibe in her life. Kids learn so much from what you are doing. I never

went to London with my parents when I was little. I didn't even know where it was at five, but she has that opportunity, and it brings new learning into our lives." ●

For more information:
madisons.world



FEDERAL MP

Something has to change

Right now, millions of people around the country are struggling to pay the rent or mortgage and keep up with the rising cost of food.

WORDS BY
ADAM BANDT

It's hard to stomach that while people are skipping meals and keeping a roof over their head, big supermarkets are making billions, and property investors are able to purchase scores of homes using

government tax concessions.

Labor is handing down another budget in the next few weeks, but don't hold your breath if you're hoping for substantial cost-of-living relief, more affordable housing or anything which will reduce the cost of groceries.

Labor's more focused on delivering for big corporations and protecting wealthy property investors than ensuring people struggling eat healthily, and sleep soundly.

They won't coordinate a rent freeze. They won't stop the hand-outs to property investors. They won't build enough affordable homes. They won't tackle the price gouging of big supermarkets.

Since coming to power, Labor's put more effort into protecting profits and property investors than they have in helping people deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

Why? Because Labor doesn't have the guts to do what's necessary, and Peter Dutton would be even worse.

They don't have the guts to take on the big supermarkets and their market power, or the wealthy property investors who get an unfair advantage when bidding against people trying to get into the housing market for the first time.

Instead of doing what's required, expect more band aids,

inadequate measures which are barely noticeable to most people.

We need to stand up to the big corporations. Make them pay a fair share of tax. And, if they have too much market power, so break them up. Big supermarkets are some of the most profitable corporations in the country.

The Greens have proposed breaking up the big supermarkets, so they can't set prices for consumers and suppliers, but the Labor Party rejected the policy out of hand. Instead, they take massive donations from the big supermarkets. If they took action, we could break up the big supermarkets, and reduce the cost of groceries.

Then there's housing. Labor has refused to limit tax concessions for wealthy profits holders. Over the next decade, these concessions are going to cost the budget billions. If the government had guts, they would be focused on winding back the tax concessions to people with more than two homes. This money should be going to helping people find affordable housing – not boosting property portfolios.

When the essentials are out of reach for many, something has to change. If you're disappointed in Labor and don't want Dutton, know that the Greens will put people first. ●

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Affordable housing proposed on council land

Two council-owned sites in North Melbourne and West Melbourne could be converted into affordable housing under a plan being considered by the City of Melbourne.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The sites at 44-60 Curzon St, North Melbourne and 325-341 Victoria St, West Melbourne would be leased as part of an effort to increase supply of affordable housing in the municipality.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of beginning community engagement on whether council leases both sites.

Public consultation to investigate affordable housing on the Curzon St (pictured) was undertaken in 2022, with the results showing a broad support for affordable housing in the municipality.

However, there were concerns "about the availability of parking in the Curzon St area and about the negative social impacts that an affordable housing development could have on the area".

"The main benefits that respondents saw arising from an affordable housing development in Curzon St are that it could help address the broader need for lower cost rents," a council officer's report stated.

According to a council document presented to councillors, it estimated the city has a shortfall of more than 6000 affordable housing units which was likely to increase to a 27,000-unit shortfall by 2036.

"In the 12 months to December 2023, wages grew 4.2 per cent, while rents grew 15.2 per cent over the same period. The demand for new affordable housing is significantly higher than supply, and there is an urgent need for action," the report said.

A car parking utilisation report undertaken by the council through Movendo Consultants in 2021 showed there would be "sufficient spare on-street capacity at all times on weekends and weekdays to accommodate the parking demand associated with the loss of this car park (78 car spaces combined), including the parking needs of visitors and shoppers" in North and West Melbourne.

A neighbourhood parking review has begun for West Melbourne, with parking improvements scheduled for later this year.

The council's health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead Cr Dr Olivia Ball said the proposal to lease both sites was "so important and desperately needed at the moment of the extraordinary housing crisis".

"It's a sign of our commitment to building affordable housing in the City of Melbourne on council land wherever we can and progressing this ambitious target and objective through consulting the community on conversion of two small car parks," she said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that with Melbourne gripped by a housing crisis, "every home that becomes available matters," adding that the council would also complete its Make Room housing project at 602 Little Bourke St in August.

"We're working to transform three council-owned sites to give more Melburnians a place to call home, while creating new pathways out of homelessness for our most vulnerable community members," Cr Capp said.

If the council decides to proceed with leasing the sites, a competitive process would be undertaken to select a community housing provider to develop and manage the site.

Since the council introduced its affordable housing strategy in 2020 it included an action to lease a council-owned site to a community housing provider by 2025. ●

Brendan Rees

JOURNALIST
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ARTS HOUSE

The Bridal Lament opens at Arts House

Hong Kong-Australian musician, producer, and songwriter, Rainbow Chan, is set to bring her unique one-woman, audio-visual "song cycle" *The Bridal Lament* to Arts House from May 8 to 19.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Drawing from the music and traditional rituals of the Weitou people, the earliest settlers of Hong Kong, Rainbow Chan has crafted a multidisciplinary work that sheds light on the poignant tradition of bridal laments; an ancient ritual that saw young brides express their protest against arranged marriages through three days of wailing and song.

"The show delves into themes of loss, resilience, and the complexities of gender dynamics through a cross-cultural and intergenerational lens," Rainbow Chen told *North West City News*.

Performed across three languages, her work integrates music, visuals, choreography, and storytelling, offering audiences a fresh perspective on ancient traditions and sparking conversations about "migration, gender, cultural inheritance and the power of song as a form of expression".

"The preparation process has been incredibly rewarding – collaborating with

talented individuals such as director Tessa Leong and working on the intricate details of the production has been a fulfilling journey," she said.

"It's been a labour of love to bring this vision to life on stage. What's more, I have collaborated closely with my mum on this show – she's not only one of our cultural consultants, but we're stoked to have my mum narrate the show in her mother tongue, Weitouhua."

Reflecting on the significance of Arts House and the North Melbourne area, Rainbow Chen says the "vibrant hub of creativity and cultural exchange" has been especially welcoming since moving from Sydney to Melbourne only last year.

"It's so nice to be warmly welcomed in this city. Being able to perform in this new environment adds an extra layer of meaning to the work," she said.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the support and collaboration that has gone into creating *The Bridal Lament*, it's a project that is deeply personal yet resonates with universal themes. I hope it leaves a lasting impact on everyone who experiences it, encouraging a deeper conversation around cultural heritage, women's resilience, and grief work." ●

For more information:
artshouse.com.au



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\$15m of vapes seized in record-breaking bust in West Melbourne

Police have undertaken the biggest seizure of vapes at a West Melbourne warehouse, with more than \$15 million of the illicit product removed from the market.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



Almost 500,000 vapes were seized after a search warrant was executed at a Lennon St property on April 17.

Six men aged 37, 31, 33 and 24 were arrested and interviewed. They have been all released pending further enquiries.

Police allege the warehouse was possibly being used by an organised crime syndicate for the trafficking of illicit tobacco products.

Victoria Police has been working closely with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, who will now take over the investigation.

Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Martin O'Brien of Crime Command said the illicit tobacco market had become a "significant driver of organised crime groups" during the past 12 months.

"Taskforce Lunar was established back in October last year and has worked closely with a range of specialist units including the VIPER Taskforce to target these organised crime groups," he said.

"We have seen almost 100 people arrested in connection to illicit tobacco as well as multiple large-scale seizures of illegally imported product."

Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said the seizure demonstrated how closely state and territory partners were working with the TGA to disrupt illegal vapes. ●

Bonsai master claims world title

Ryan Staggard can truly claim to being a master in the art of bonsai cultivation.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The North Melbourne resident recently took out first prize in a world bonsai tree competition – an accomplishment he never thought possible.

Mr Staggard's winning tree was a Japanese black pine bonsai, which stands at 15cm and 18cm wide.

The competition, which attracted participants from around the globe, was launched through an online American-based forum called the "Bonsai Nut".

Mr Staggard, 49, submitted photos online showing the progress of his miniature tree (as part of the rules) over the six-year competition time frame, after planting seeds in 2018.

He was announced as the winner by renowned international bonsai artist Walter Pall in December last year.

Mr Staggard said he had only been experimenting with growing bonsai for about two years before he came across the forum saying, "I decided that I've never actually grown a pine tree as a bonsai before."

"I know that the Japanese black pine is the tree to grow; it's called the King of bonsai."

He said trying to source the pine seeds in Australia was "super hard" but after three months he found sources that were able to supply 200 seeds "which was amazing".

All seeds were planted in pots on the rooftop of his home – but he had to select one bonsai as the "winning" tree for his final submission.



▲ Ryan Staggard with his global winning bonsai tree. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

"So, I tried to grow them all. I would have had over 150 little trees and then as things progress, I picked out ones that I thought had potential to be good."

Asked what the secret was to grow his bonsai, including maintaining its perfect proportions and balanced foliage, Mr Staggard said, "I think in some respects I'm quite lucky".

"Where the trees come from naturally in Japan has a very similar climate to Melbourne, so I was kind of lucky in that

respect ... they were happy to be growing in Melbourne," he explained. "People in lots of other parts of the world were having serious issues getting their trees to develop, whereas I just went with lots of fertiliser, lots of water, and lots of sun."

"I probably spent almost every day in that six-year period tending them, just to make sure everything was going well."

While the prize wasn't anything substantial – a few bonsai tools, he admitted it "was just the satisfaction of being able to do it". ●

Hana Assafiri releases memoir, *HANA: The audacity to be free*

Known for her impact on social change and women's empowerment, Hana Assafiri, owner of beloved Moroccan Soup Bar, has launched her latest endeavour – a powerful memoir titled, *HANA: The audacity to be free*.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



In her memoir, Ms Assafiri explores innovative approaches to fostering stronger, more inclusive communities; a mission she has tirelessly championed both personally and professionally.

At the heart of her transformative work lies the Moroccan Soup Bar – an iconic institution now nestled in North Melbourne following a 25-year legacy in North Fitzroy.

Her continued work at the Moroccan Soup Bar provides employment for marginalised women and serves as an example of the power of "intersectional activism" in fighting violence against women.

"I worked in women's domestic violence crisis services and also saw the shortcomings of those services due to limited funding and lack of understanding and commitment from governments," Ms Assafiri told *North West City News*.

"I set up the Moroccan Soup Bar and offered the hospitality and quirky, peculiar platforms and spaces that can reimagine how

we can do better and how we can grow better communities around the vision of humanity."

HANA: The audacity to be free, is Ms Assafiri's latest project in the space of women empowerment and social change, which she hopes will offer alternative perspectives and solutions to the challenges facing women today, informed by her own experiences of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The memoir is available from: moroccansoupbar.com.au/category/all-products ●

Calls mount to fix dangerous West Melbourne intersection after cyclist struck in hit-run

The community is calling for action to fix a dangerous intersection in West Melbourne after a cyclist was left with serious injuries in a hit-run incident.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



▲ Emergency services attend a collision at Dynon Rd and Citylink after a cyclist was hit by a truck. Photo: BikeWest.

Police are investigating after a cyclist was struck by a truck while travelling along Dynon Rd at the intersection of City Link at around 8.55am on May 8.

Police allege the truck driver fled the scene. The male cyclist was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson said it was "working closely with Victoria Police to support their investigation and to better understand the circumstances of this crash".

The incident has shocked the community, with Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell calling on the state government to improve safety at the intersection.

The incident comes after the death of cyclist Angus Collins, 22, who was struck by a truck while cycling at the nearby Footscray Rd-Dock Link Rd intersection on February 2, 2023.

"The Labor State Government has known about these dangerous intersections for well over a year, since Angus Collins was killed in a similar situation nearby," Ms Sandell said.

"I have begged Labor to act on this issue, to change the traffic lights to stop trucks killing and injuring cyclists, and they've refused."

Dr John Symons, president of cycling advocacy group BikeWest, said he had raised concerns with the

state government over the nature of the dangerous nature for the past six months.

"We warned them this is exactly what would happen. We are fairly certain it will happen again," he told *North West City News*.

"Changes to the intersection are absolutely vital. We would like to see a detour for bicycle traffic that takes riders around the back of the on ramp, so they avoid the intersection entirely – much like the bicycle path that goes around the on ramps on Footscray Rd."

"Failing that, the intersection needs a right-hand arrow for motor traffic heading east who are turning on to the on ramp."

As part of the West Gate Tunnel project, a new cycle path will be built above Footscray Rd, suspended between the new elevated road.

The 2.5 km veloway will be completely separated from traffic to improve safety by removing the need for cyclists to cross six intersections including busy port entries and exits.

Anyone with information about the hit-run are urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. ●

Paid parking proposal in Kensington rejected

The City of Melbourne says it will not introduce paid street parking along the trainline near Kensington Station after it was proposed during a community parking review workshop.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The metered parking was mooted for Bellair and Eastwood streets along the railway line at a rate of \$1 an hour.

The proposal was raised by a facilitator at a council-run workshop on April 18 as part of the Kensington Neighbourhood Parking Review, which is part of a broader review and update of parking across the city.

According to a participant and Kensington resident Leo McCartin, the workshop facilitator presented a slide show of the proposed metered parking.

Mr McCartin expressed concern that paid parking would have a negative impact on the community, not only for residents, but also their visitors, struggling local businesses, and commuters who do not live close to Kensington Station.

Mr Leo addressed councillors at their May 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting during public question time objecting to the proposal.

In response, Lord Mayor Sally Capp made it clear that no metered parking would be introduced.

"There is no consideration of metered parking being introduced to the train side of Bellair or Eastwood streets," she said.

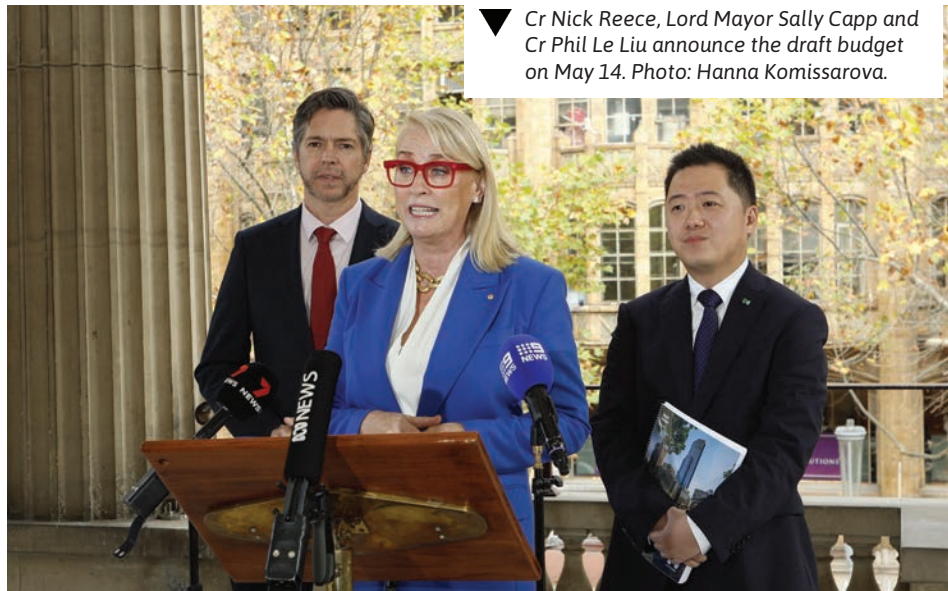
"We thank you for your participation and will be available for ongoing conversations and questions into the future on parking. We do understand how important it is."

"This is part of a new way of going forward where we're doing parking reviews every 12 months."

Mr McCartin said the council's decision was a good outcome for the community.

"The proposal to meter parking along the railway line completely ignores resident wishes to have unmetered parking as the present two-hour parking on the other side of these streets is and will be insufficient for their parking needs," he said.

"It flies in the face of getting people on trains and keeping cars out of the central city. No one will pay for a parking meter then a train fare. Some stations up the line even have free car parks to encourage train use." ●



▼ Cr Nick Reece, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Phil Le Liu announce the draft budget on May 14. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Council reveals \$781 million budget with community projects prioritised

\$6 million is set to be spent on creating new open spaces and greenery in North and West Melbourne, the City of Melbourne's \$781 million draft budget has revealed.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The projects are part of a \$100 million "transport and amenity program" that is aimed at easing traffic impacts in the city's north-west and Docklands when the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) opens as planned in November next year.

The amenity scheme is a 50/50 funding split between the council and the state government, and includes projects to improve streetscapes, transport, and amenity of the areas expected to be affected.

While the nature of the proposed projects is yet to be detailed, the council confirmed \$6 million would be spent over the next financial year including towards the Hawke St linear park, streetscape improvements to Franklin St, a shared pathway on Dynon Rd, and the Spencer St North masterplan.

As previously reported by *North West City News*, the amenity scheme came under criticism from the community earlier this year after residents expressed concern about how the money was being spent and allocated, and how it would address the WGTP's traffic impacts.

The council said it was advocating for funding to be released by the state government for the Spencer St North masterplan, which it hoped would be as soon as a few months' time.

The City of Melbourne's draft budget was announced on May 14, which has posted a surplus of \$101,000 surplus – the first time

in five years.

However, rates are set to increase under the state government's maximum 2.75 per cent rate cap in 2024-25 after being paused during the pandemic. Average rates for property owners will increase by \$37.

Parking fees will go up by 10 per cent to \$54 million due to more paid parking to be delivered outside of the CBD, while parking fines are forecasted to increase by 2.4 per cent to \$40 million.

But in a win for the community, the draft budget will see \$29.5 million to create new open spaces across the municipality including the Bedford St pocket park in North Melbourne which opens next year, complete with a barbecue and picnic area, and a play area.

Other greening projects include the Chapman St reserve, Roden St, MacKenzie St, and the Swanston St Triangle with \$3.9 million allocated in the budget.

A further \$23 million will be spent to complete the development of the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, which will open in early 2025. It will feature a 25-metre pool, three multi-purpose courts, and gym facilities.

In another major project, \$1.7 million will be invested to start planning and design works for a new North Melbourne Community Centre, providing access to maternal and child health, family, youth and ageing services.

In delivering her last budget before finishing her term this year, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was proud to return to a surplus budget.

"We've made prudent financial decisions to get us here – while still investing in core community services to support our growing population of residents, traders, workers, students, and visitors," she said.

Public feedback on the draft budget is open online until June 3 via Participate Melbourne. ●

Council accepts call not to pursue public open space next to North Melbourne Town Hall

The City of Melbourne will not pursue plans to create an open space next to the North Melbourne Town Hall after accepting the Department of Transport's decision to reject the proposal.

WORDS BY
BRENDAN REES



The project had sought to create a forecourt or park adjacent to the Town Hall with a variety of options proposed for a new open space on Queensberry St or Errol St or a combination of both.

While the department had formally notified the council that it would not support the plan at a March 19 council meeting, councillors agreed to defer the matter before making their final decision on the proposal until it received the reasons why the department had knocked it back.

These reasons were outlined in a council report presented at the April 23 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

This included through traffic on Queensberry St being needed in both directions because changes to Arden St and Queensberry St from the introduction of bike lanes would reduce the number of vehicle lanes and the capacity of these roads.

It also noted a westbound closure on Queensberry St (for the creation of open space) was expected to increase traffic on Arden St and impact public buses and cyclists. Another reason was that local access was required in North Melbourne to assist shop deliveries and maintain vehicle and bicycle access.

It also noted realignment of both the east and west bound traffic lanes to the northern side of Queensberry St increased the likelihood of vehicles entering opposing traffic or tram lanes but also heighten the risk of conflicts between left turning vehicles and pedestrians traversing through the area.

The proposal was considered as part of a \$100 million Transport and Amenity Program for North and West Melbourne and Docklands to deliver a suite of streetscape improvement projects to help mitigate the effects of the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Councillors voted that while it would not progress work on new public open space, it would request that council management finalise site investigations for a potential expansion of the Errol St median as a new open space opportunity. A concept plan would be developed by March 2025.

The council's environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said while he was a little disappointed with not going ahead with the green space next to the town hall, he accepted the department's decision. ●

Scott Alley is now open for business

Works are now complete at Scott Alley to prepare a pedestrian entrance to the new Town Hall Station.

With Scott Alley now open, your favourite businesses are looking forward to seeing you. Come check out the laneway and support your local favourites.

For more information on the Metro Tunnel, visit metro.tunnel.vic.gov.au

Supporting business

Construction partner:

CYP-BS00407

GUIDE TO WASTE-FREE SHOPPING AT QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET



Bettina de Chateaubourg has all the tips for waste-free shopping at Queen Victoria Market

Bring your reusable containers and bags to Queen Victoria Market to stock up on meat, fish, cheese, antipasto, wine, olive oil, grains, fruit, vegies, soap and more.

Join the Melburnians changing the way they do their grocery shopping to help save waste from landfill and live more sustainably.

Waste-free alternatives to almost every packaged grocery item are on hand at Melbourne's iconic market, along with a hearty serving of cost savings and community connection.

Shop waste-free with Bettina

Bettina de Chateaubourg has worked at Queen Victoria Market for 10 years. She started as a tour guide, and she's now the market's Tours and Visitor Experience Coordinator.

Low-waste living isn't something new for Bettina - the routine of shopping with her powder-blue vintage trolley, old flour sacks and reused containers is innate, and a great source of joy.

"When you shop at the market, you know that what you're buying is super fresh, and you can ask for the exact weight you need, so nothing is wasted," Bettina said.

"The traders are the produce experts. They know what the cucumbers or apples are like on any given day, what cheeses to buy and what to pair them with. We even swap recipes.

"These are great interactions - you don't get that at the supermarket."

Check off your shopping list

Bettina says she can get just about everything she needs at Queen Victoria Market, except for toothpaste. If you'd like to try shopping more sustainably, it's easy to get started.

"Just come along to the market and explore what's on offer," Bettina said. "Shopping waste free is great because you can buy in small amounts, and only what you need."

Beyond bananas and broccoli, there are plenty of specialty and gourmet items to be found at Queen Victoria Market that can also be purchased waste-free.

Head to Bill's Farm to pick up Meredith Dairy Goat Cheese in your own jar, or browse the beloved Dairy Hall for smallgoods, antipasto, or any other treats that takes your fancy.

Bring a cloth bag to purchase grains, pulses, dried fruits at Market Organics. And forget the cleaning aisle at the supermarket - refill your liquid soap and dishwashing liquid at Soapbox.

Then head to Rewine where you can refill bottles with premium wine straight from the barrel.

How to prepare for a waste-free shop

Queen Victoria Market has a plastic bag ban in place and encourages the use of cloth bags, reusable containers and coffee cups.

"Bring along plastic containers for meat, fish, cheese and butter. Bring jars for dips and antipasto. And bring

cloth bags, or reused plastic bags, for your fruit and veg," Bettina said.

"All the traders are very comfortable weighing and using your reusable containers. Just make sure the containers are really clean so they're pleasant for the traders to handle.

"Many fruits and vegetables don't need to be put in a bag because they have their own skin - like bananas and mangoes, to name a few," Bettina said.

Shaping Queen Victoria Market for the future

The historic Queen Victoria Market is the biggest open-air market in the southern hemisphere, spanning seven hectares and housing almost 600 traders.

The Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal is City of Melbourne's biggest investment to date.

Alongside renewal works - like shed restoration, modernising trader amenities and turning the old car park into a vibrant public space - sustainability is a primary goal for the market.

Learn more about the market's achievements at qvm.com.au/sustainability

Plan your shopping trip

The market is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. To learn more, visit qvm.com.au

IN BRIEF

CITY CLEANING AROUND THE CLOCK

We're supercharging our cleaning efforts like never before. The city's clean team will now be scrubbing, pressure washing and removing graffiti 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Report cleaning or graffiti issues at melbourne.vic.gov.au or phone 9658 9658.

FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL RETURNS

Melbourne's epic winter festival will be back from 28 to 30 June with fiery installations, live music and pop-up foodie feasts. And this year, get ready to experience Firelight Labyrinth, a colourful immersive experience like nothing you've ever seen before. From 28 June to 14 July. For festival details, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION NOW OPEN

Are you an aspiring storyteller? Enter the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards to win a share of \$12,000 in prizes. Choose your literary path with one of our five writing categories: short stories, poetry, non-fiction, First Nations writers or this year's special feature category, Stories by Trans and Gender Diverse Writers. Entries close 3 June. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/writingawards

FREE EVENTS IN 2025

Are you looking to host an event in Melbourne in 2025? Our Event Partnership Program supports free, accessible events that make lasting memories for locals and visitors. Whether it's a community, music, sports, food, arts, or cultural event, we want to hear from you. Applications are open until 31 May. Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au and search Event Partnership Program to learn more.



ADVERTISEMENT
Your City of Melbourne community update

How we're helping keep the community safe

As the third most liveable city in the world, we take safety and security seriously here in Melbourne.

We know how important it is to feel safe in the city - it is the most fundamental aspect of a liveable city. If people don't feel safe, they won't want to live, work or visit here.

That's why we work closely with Victoria Police and other agencies to monitor antisocial behaviour and support city safety.



CREATING SAFER, MORE SECURE STREETS

This year, we've invested \$6 million in critical safety infrastructure and resources, including more safety lighting to reduce antisocial behaviour at night.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, we've expanded our closed-circuit television camera network into new neighbourhoods - like Carlton - with eight cameras installed in key locations like Lygon Street and Argle Square by July.

We've also upgraded our safe city cameras in the CBD, along with upgrading lighting in key precincts such as Bourke Street, between Exhibition and Spring streets.

We know police can't be everywhere at once but this network of closed-circuit TV surveillance cameras helps

create a safer environment and reduce crime levels by deterring potential offending and helping in crime detection.

The cameras operate in areas where antisocial behaviour or criminal activity is historically more likely to occur.

Signage is placed in the monitored areas to alert the community of the surveillance.

Our specially trained security contractors in our Safe City Cameras Program Control Room monitor these cameras 24 hours a day, seven days a week, recording incidents and alerting police.

The footage can also be viewed at police stations and on officers' devices when responding to an incident.

In the past decade, the Safe City Cameras Program has:

- Recorded 47,258 incidents
- Provided 9,706 copies of recorded footage to Victoria Police
- And transferred 30,160 occurrences of live vision to police and triple 000.

What started with 23 cameras in 1995 and a team of one has grown to a slick operation of 254 cameras and a mobile CCTV car, plus 11 dedicated contract security staff, comprising two round-the-clock operators and a full-time technician and apprentice.

And we're not stopping there. In May, we're adding a Safe City Supervisor role from Monday to Friday.

This will enhance our proactive monitoring capability on the streets, improve training of existing and new Safe City Operators, streamline our administrative functions by processing police applications for footage faster, and provide us with a resource to constantly look at improvement of the system and operations.



Our Safe City CCTV car, which operates from 10pm to 6am on Friday and Saturday nights, will also be expanded to Thursday nights this year.

This vehicle is fitted with 360-degree CCTV surveillance cameras to record in real-time with electronic media downloaded at the end of each shift.

The car's movements are directed via the Safe City Control Room and tasked to jobs where our permanent cameras can't view - for example, if there's an incident in a small laneway.

This means we are able to report live incidents of crime, with accurate descriptions and paths of travel, to triple 000, and support police responses.

This is just one example of our collaborative efforts with emergency services across the city.

TRENDS WE'RE SEEING IN MELBOURNE

We constantly identify and respond to emerging security trends.

One of these is an increase in high-level criminal damage and arson in some of our main amenity blocks in our parks.

Thanks to our security team's innovative approach, we're trialling an environmental sensor - the HALO - that can detect smoke, spray paint and yelling to alert us to incidents for potential monitoring.

The sensor is linked to our CCTV management system.

Already, footage has been provided to police from arson events in an amenity block in South Yarra; and incidents of arson have reduced in the past five months.

BOOSTING SECURITY FOR BUSINESS

Our investment in security infrastructure is not only about liveability, it's also about supporting our business community.

We know that security done well supports local business and gives customers the confidence to visit our local traders.

That's why we work with our business community, encouraging them to maintain their own security equipment - such as lighting, CCTV cameras, door hardware and signage - to enhance the perception of safety in and around a property.

This also includes reporting faulty public lighting, dumped rubbish, graffiti or overflowing bins so we can rectify this as soon as possible.

If you notice an issue, report it via our hotline on 9658 9658 or at melbourne.vic.gov.au/pages/report-issue

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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Retraction

In the April 2023 edition of *North West City News*, a story titled, "Council gets back control of laneways, leaving door open for community garden", was published in print (page 6) and online.

In the fourth paragraph, the article referenced a submission made by a resident to a report (proposed Public Highway Declaration Shands Lane and PT5202, North Melbourne), which was considered by the City of Melbourne at its March 26 council meeting.

The article cites a quote from that submission, which raised concerns over how a community garden in the laneway had been "forcibly removed" by owners on Shands Lane in May last year".

However, the article failed to include important context provided by other residents who also made submissions to the same agenda item; one in particular which claimed that planter boxes had been placed unlawfully in Shands Lane blocking access to properties.

In referencing a "community garden", the article also failed to report that only unlawfully placed planter boxes obstructing access to properties had been forcibly removed, and not the garden as a whole.

Due to this oversight, together with a photo published with the online version of the article showing Shands Lane after the planter boxes had been removed, an impression may have been left on readers that the "owners on Shands Lane" behind their removal had acted improperly.

Hyperlocal News (publisher of *North West City News*) apologises for any distress and inconvenience this has caused to those affected by the article. ●

Futureproofing your bone and muscle health with Life Performance

“It is no secret that our bones and muscles decline as we age, particularly after 50.”

WORDS BY JACK HAYES



Muscle mass declines, and bone strength declines as a by-product, often exacerbating issues like osteoporosis, tendinopathy (or tendinitis), arthritis, and other disorders.

That is why, according to senior physiotherapist at West Melbourne's Life Performance Medicine Shane O'Sullivan, building and maintaining muscle and bone strength is essential to good health.

"The scientific evidence supporting our approach to building bone and bone strength is clear: high-intensity loading, influenced by the strength of muscle contraction, is key," Mr O'Sullivan said.

"We need to have strong muscles pulling on those bones to improve bone health. Reducing muscle mass will also be counter-productive for tendinopathy or tendinitis, joint issues, knee or hip arthritis, and other disorders."

"After age 50, some people, particularly women, start to see a decline in muscle mass and then, in some cases, a decline in bone health."

To alleviate or avoid these issues, Life Performance Medicine offers Bones & Brawn, a program tailored to assess weaknesses in muscle strength and health and, in turn, strengthen bones.



The program involves two group classes per week over a six- or 12-week period. Classes include strength, mobility, power, and bone-building exercises at their state-of-the-art 51 Stanley St facility in West Melbourne.

"In the first block of the program, we take measurements, execute the program twice a week, and list any complimentary work that can be done at home," Mr O'Sullivan said. "Then, we reassess at four or six weeks

and plan for subsequent phases." "Muscle strength changes begin to start at four to six weeks. Traditionally, we see the most effective results across a four-month program."

"If you're diagnosed with osteoporosis and osteopenia by a health expert, we can monitor it through our program by doing baseline testing and investigations and re-testing to confirm if the program is effective."

The program includes the use of various weight apparatus, such as barbells, squat racks, the Smith rack (like a squat rack but supported on tracks), and muscle isolation machines.

These ensure that there are no defects or weaknesses within muscle groups like hamstrings, quads, glutes, and calves. ●

For more information: lifeperformancehealth.com.au



HISTORY

The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum

Mary Kehoe's history of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, published in 1998, is a comprehensive account of the history of the building and tells the story of some of its residents.

WORDS BY FELICITY JACK & LORRAINE SISKA HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT

On the afternoon of Saturday, May 4, Mary Kehoe led a walk around the perimeter of the estate on which the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum once stood.

The walk began outside the TAB on Errol St and took in Miller, Abbotsford, Elm and Curzon streets. Mary pointed out the different styles of the buildings in Miller St: those on the south were Victorian, while those on the north were Edwardian in style, having been built after the Benevolent Asylum had been demolished and turned into a housing estate.

The Asylum stood at the end of Victoria St, a large and imposing building. It would, in those days, have been visible to shipping approaching the Port of Melbourne. The building was gradually extended over the years but despite its size it was unable to meet the demands that were made on it, with many people being refused admission for want of room.

The size of the estate (10 acres) was a surprise to many of the participants. Several large banners were displayed at appropriate points providing visual representations of aspects of the building.

The walk stopped near the corner of

Curzon and Victoria streets to examine a plaque that had been unveiled on November 10, 2000 by former Governor of Victoria, Dr Davis McCaughey, and his wife Jean. This celebrates the 150th anniversary of the laying of the first stone (that no longer exists) that had been placed by Charles Joseph Latrobe, then superintendent of the Port Philip District of New South Wales, in June 1850. The land had been granted by the New South Wales Government (Victoria became a separate state the following year and Latrobe took on the role of lieutenant-governor).

While the scale and design of the building was lavish and resembled a great Tudor country house, it had been poorly constructed. The dilapidated condition of the building, as well as the value of the land, led to it being demolished in 1911. The residents were transferred to Cheltenham.

Mary focused on one inmate in particular, Anastasia Leahy. She had arrived in Australia from Tipperary, Ireland, aged 15 in 1853, and took on the role of general servant.

She entered the asylum when she was 19, having become totally blind. She was the institution's longest resident, dying aged 83 in 1921. She was described in the annual report for that year as having a "happy disposition".

Mary is hopeful that an unnamed lane running off Curzon St might be named after her, but this is a decision to be made by the Melbourne City Council.

This is one of a series of walks and other events that the Hotham History Project is organising. The next one, on Saturday, June 22, has the title *True Crimes & Paranormal Activities of North & West Melbourne* and will be led by Andrew Morgner. More details of the walk are available on the Project's website, which also has a list of publications that are available to purchase. ●



▲ Photo courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.



▲ One of the visuals displayed on the walk.



ENVIRONMENT

Have we forgotten our role in cooperating with life?



As Vandana Shiva says in her book, *The Gift of Food*, "If we take care of all the beautiful beings in our ecosystems, in our soils, we will be nourished in return."

Scientists have proven that cooperation, not competition, between species has evolved and sustained life on this planet. We are all part of a local ecosystem – a geographical defined place comprising a multitude of species that interact with each other in complex and diverse ways to support the web of life in the ecosystem.

Well-functioning ecosystems have provided many human and other species needs with each element playing its part in contributing crucial nutrients, decomposition, energy flow and production. Ecosystems are full of biodiversity, from rivers, trees, plant medicines, food security, air, etc.

If we had to rely on our local ecosystem today, would we survive? In Kensington and North Melbourne, we have contaminated our rivers so we can't drink from them, wash our clothes or water plants and trees. We have covered up land for food growing and habitat with cement and asphalt and contaminated it with leads and toxins.

What is our contribution? We have not cared for our local ecosystem, so it can support our needs and the needs of biodiversity. We no longer even give back our human manure to the ecosystem.

Instead, we extract and take from other ecosystems through the global trade system, and continue to destroy other, mostly ecosystems in third world countries, to provide for our wants.

We no longer nourish ourselves, relying on others to grow our food and included in these others are the pollinators the bees, the butterflies, the soil including the earthworm, all play a part in providing us with the gift of food.

We have not returned this reciprocity; rather we have allowed and supported a food system that poisons billions of these creatures, destroys soils and ecosystems and exploits creatures and is cruel to them.

This continues out of our sight. As Tyson Yunkaporta says in his book *Sand Talk*, "we have outsourced our violence". The chances are most of us spend little time nourishing nature.

Increasingly our western culture even though most affluent and educated (so called) suffers from ill health, disease, pain, mental illness, and isolation. Our young people are losing hope and taking their lives. The violence of men against women is an epidemic and the latest research by Monash University shows young male misogyny in the school system is increasing. Wars are being staged against innocents, destroying land and ecosystems.

Those feeling powerless and fearful, focus on protecting themselves.

There is no simple solution, rather a small step in a direction. ●

Jacqui van Heerden

CO-CONVENER OF
TRANSITION TOWN
KENSINGTON
JACQUIVANHEERDEN@GMAIL.COM



METRO TUNNEL



Where there's smoke there's testing at Metro Tunnel's Arden Station

As testing continues, the team is ensuring not just that train services will run efficiently but also that passengers will be kept safe.

At Arden – the first Metro Tunnel station where construction was completed – fire safety systems underwent testing in April.

The project team worked with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to carry out tests inside the station on the concourse area and on the platform.

Crews used a fog machine to generate hot smoke with controlled flames – simulating how smoke would behave in the station in the unlikely event of a fire.

Smoke movement was measured along with speed, extraction time and the impact on emergency access points.

This fire testing is a Metro Tunnel first, with the other stations expected to undergo similar testing in coming months to ensure each station's ventilation system is working as expected.

Construction at Parkville Station is now also complete, making it the second station on the project to be finished. Parkville Station will connect the vital hospital and education neighbourhood to the train network for the first time when it opens in 2025.

Work is continuing across the other three Metro Tunnel stations, with Myki gates recently installed at Anzac Station. The station's artwork, Dr Raafat Ishak's *Future Wall Painting*, is also now in place at the pedestrian underpass that connects the station to the Shrine of Remembrance and Albert Rd.

Nearly 300 shifts of up to 50 people have been involved with train testing for the project, which began last year. Test trains have now been running for more than 2000 hours with 18,000km travelled, in preparation for opening in 2025.

The team will start test running timetabled services with drivers and station staff in a dress rehearsal later this year, to ensure everything is ready for a safe and reliable opening for passengers.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade to Victoria's train network since the City Loop opened in 1981. It will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via twin tunnels under the city, creating an end to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east and better connecting all Victorians to jobs, health, and education. ●

Volunteers needed!

Interested in teaching young people how to drive?
Become a Drive for Life Volunteer Mentor!

Drive for Life mentors:

- » Provide supervised driving lessons
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Register now!

0477 408 533

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METRO MELBOURNE



Department of Transport and Planning



QUESTION:

What's the most relaxing way to enjoy North Melbourne?

Faces of North West City



IRIS
Sitting with friends and walking around.



PATRICK
Walking with my dogs around Royal Park every morning.



SIMMY
Listening to the birds singing in the peaceful environment.



YASHVI
Eating out.

KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

Local fires are burning

Following the failed 2023 Referendum there is a sense that, while the dust of bitter discussion has settled, the fire for ever deeper "reconciliation" with our Indigenous peoples is burning even brighter.

The ongoing Yoorook Justice Commission and the coming months of celebration and commemoration are emblematic of this feeling. May 26 is National Sorry Day. Since 1998 this day has been a reminder of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were "stolen" from their parents through a cruel and ignorant assimilationist policy.

May 27 to June 3 is National Reconciliation Week. The theme for 2024 is *Now More Than Ever*, a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must continue.

July 7 to 14 is NAIDOC week. The theme is *Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud*.

Locally the Kensington Reconciliation Action Group (Krag) has been meeting and stoking the fire. Since mid-2022, in anticipation of the 2023 Referendum, Krag has been a meeting place for those with a passion for reconciliation.

In October 2022, the Krag joined the Kensington Association petition to City of Melbourne to have "culturally sensitivity statements" displayed to explain the "Honour Boards" in Kensington Town Hall conference room.

The City of Melbourne consulted with the Woiwurrung and Bunurong Elders, who supported the inclusion of cultural statements and moving the boards into a less used room. It was an important symbolic local initiative (reported on by Kate Kennedy in the April 2023 edition of *North West City News*). Krag will continue to advocate for truth telling and action in this space. The displays will be further refined with the council soon to take back the management.

During the past year Krag joined Reconciliation Victoria and other "rec" groups leading to the Referendum. We screened the film *Still We Rise* about the establishment of the "Tent Embassy" in Canberra. Krag received a grant from the

City of Melbourne to support YES campaign events.

We attempted to listen to a range of views in the community leading to the Referendum through round table "Together Yes" conversations during NAIDOC week in July 2023. During September and October, we joined the electorate of Maribyrnong in door knocking in support of the YES campaign.

Following the unsuccessful Referendum it was as if our "flame" – though never extinguished – stood still. In November we held a debrief and reflection for the Krag community at The Venny where we shared our disappointments and hopes.

So far in 2024 our fires are clearly burning. In March during Cultural Diversity Week, the Krag community and Kensington Neighbourhood House hosted a wonderful Ngarra – Dance Workshop with Djirri Djirri Cultural Services, celebrating dance in culture. This will be extended further on May 14 in the lead-up to National Reconciliation Week, with a Wurundjeri cultural discussion led by Djirri Djirri. Then on July 9 during NAIDOC Week, Krag will host a community gathering to reflect on our learning from the preceding year. In the Referendum, Melbourne, and Kensington in particular, returned one of the highest "YES" votes in Australia, so there is a much to process.

Other nearby happenings include an event on June 3 at Flemington Library from 6.30pm to 7.30pm with Indigenous writer John Morrissey when he will investigate colonialism, identity, and experiences of First Peoples, as per his remarkable debut collection of short stories, *Firelight*.

Further afield in Coburg, Merri-Bek Council is holding an event called *Let's Talk Treaty* on May 23 from 6pm to 8pm at the Coburg Civic Centre.

Any interested reader who would like to participate in Krag activities can contact Esther Sadek at Kensington Neighbourhood House – 9376 6366, or email kensingtonreconciliation@gmail.com.

Simon Harvey
SPOKESPERSON
INFO@KENSINGTONASSOCIATION.ORG



KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



Meet our Volunteers of The Year!

"Just do it online." Easier said than done! With core services increasingly moving to remote delivery, many community members are digitally excluded from participation in daily life.

A form is never just a form – there is always a story behind it. Our Form Help team are willing to listen to that story. They are incredibly patient and they are experts at problem solving. They will often make multiple appointments with the same person to ensure that a task gets completed properly.

Over the year, these volunteers helped enrol children in schools, submitted dozens of citizenship applications, completed passport applications for entire families, helped people claim Power Saver Bonuses, apply for jobs, police checks and working with children checks. They also spent HOURS on the phone to Centrelink, the Immigration Department and Births Deaths & Marriages, advocating on behalf of community members.

In a perfect world, we would not need a program like Form Help, but in our imperfect world, we are very grateful for this beautiful bunch of humans. Each one of them makes a difference – one person at a time. Congratulations on being our Volunteers of The Year!

If you are interested in becoming a Form Help Volunteer, visit kensingtonneighbourhoodheroes.com or call 9376 6366.

For years, we have seen an increasing need for "life support". People needing help to manage their online access to housing, health, education, employment, immigration and more.

Kensington Neighbourhood House's (KNH) Form Help Program is our response to this need. Form Help began as a small service where volunteers would assist people to fill out paperwork such as passport applications and Centrelink forms. It was designed for people with limited English.

When the program began in 2014, we had one volunteer and provided 26 appointments annually. In 2023, we provided almost 300 appointments!

Each booking is one hour. Participants are no longer only from migrant communities. Increasingly we see Australian-born community members who do not have the digital literacy to perform essential tasks.

Every week, our amazing Form Help Volunteers turn up for their regular shifts. For two hours each, they sit with people and support them to complete whatever it is that needs doing.

Rebecca Smith
MANAGER
REBECCA.S@KENHOUSE.ORG.AU



PARKVILLE GARDENS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Community dinner, funding success and e-scooters

Trees with colourful autumn leaves aren't too common in Parkville Gardens, but every year those we have brighten up the neighbourhood with vivid displays of yellow and red foliage. They cheer us on our way towards the chilly months of winter.

We're in a more serious mode now, with Easter holidays slipping into the past, schools powering their way through Term Two, and the AFL ladder taking clearer shape.

It's the perfect time for a festive celebration! Local residents are warmly invited to a family-friendly community dinner on the night of Thursday, May 23 ... that's soon! Put it in your diary now. Here are the details ...

The venue is the Reggio Calabria Club. Arrive at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. Thanks to funding from the City of Melbourne, the cost is very modest indeed – \$20 a head for Parkville Gardens residents, \$10 for paid-up Parkville Gardens Residents' Association (PGRA) members, and just \$5 for kids.

A highlight of the night will be a short presentation on safety and neighbourhood policing by neighbourhood policing coordinator for Victoria Police Acting Sergeant Nick Parissis. This should be of interest to everyone concerned with keeping Parkville Gardens a safe place to live and with minimising petty crime in the area.

Book in now – just scan the QR code and register with Eventbrite. We look forward to seeing you there! You can become a PGRA member on the night.

There's fresh, good news from the City of Melbourne: we've just been informed that our application for a community events

grant for 2024-25 has been successful. That means we can now confidently plan more community-building activities in the upcoming financial year. A huge thank you to the council and its grants team!

And, there's more ... our council neighbourhood partner, Nas Mohamud, has told us that we should soon have a new noticeboard installed near the Galada Reserve barbecues and children's playground.

We're delighted with this development. That spot is the most frequently used site in the area, so it will help us get our news and announcements out to everybody.

We're also looking forward to getting feedback from the neighbourhood surveys that were conducted back in March. First reports suggest that traffic congestion, climate change and local safety have appeared as top issues. Hopefully there'll be more to report next month.

One constant agenda item at the two-monthly meetings of the Presidents of Residents Associations with the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and the council's staff is e-scooters.

The trial period for the two commercial firms has been extended again by the state government so there's opportunity for further feedback. Please let me know your thoughts. Do you welcome them? Do you have concerns about them? What are the pros and cons as you see them?

Don't delay – send your feedback to me at president@pgra.org.au. ●

Tom Knowles

PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU



Pet's Corner



Brandi's love affair with Royal Park

Brandi the Collie is four years old and walks with her owner in Royal Park every day.

WORDS BY
RUIXUE SU

"She really enjoys the inner-city life because we are close to Royal Park. She needs a lot of exercise. I can also ride my bike in the park, and she can follow behind me, so she gets a lot of running that way," her owner Ro told *North West City News*.

"It would be nice if there were a few more local gated dog parks around the place, because that would make it easier if you just

needed to take your dog out again and let them socialise with other dogs."

Brandi likes other dogs, but mostly she likes playing and learning, as well as interacting with people.

Royal Park and Clayton Reserve are Brandi's favourite places to visit, and she is incredibly talented at playing fetch. According to Ro, she can catch a ball from 50 metres away.

Asked to describe Brandi in three words, Ro responded with: "beautiful, sweet-hearted and talented". ●



Parkville Gardens Residents Association

Thursday 23 May 2024
6.45 pm for a 7.00 pm start

CONNECT, SHARE, AND LISTEN

AT THE REGGIO CALABRIA CLUB

FUNDED BY CITY OF MELBOURNE

Tickets available on Eventbrite
Parkville Gardens Residents \$20
Paid Up PGRA Members \$10
Kid's meals \$5

Why not join the association for \$5 each year?
It would be great to have more neighbours involved.

Presentation by Acting Sergeant Nick Parissis
Neighbourhood Policing Co-Ordinator Vic Police

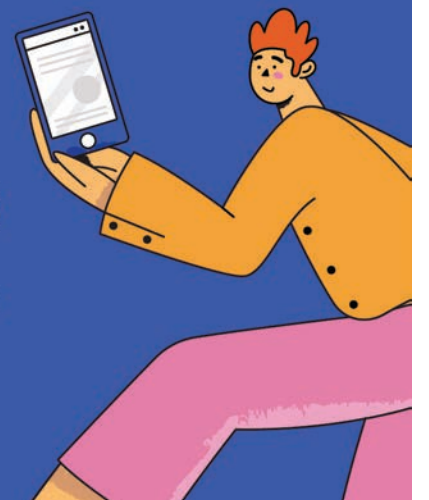
Community Dinner



NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

Subscribe to our EDM's for the latest news

Delivered monthly to your inbox



FREE Community Playgroups

Facilitated playgroups for parents/carers and children under 4 years old. A variety of learning activities are set up each week and participants also enjoy songs and stories. BYO drink bottle and snack.

Mondays 10am - 12pm
Tuesdays 10am - 12pm

Sunday Art Sessions

Monthly art-making afternoons in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Sun 19 May - Fabric painting
Sun 16 June - Polymer clay

2pm - 5pm \$50/\$30 (conc)

Kensington Neighbourhood House
www.kensingtonneighbourhoodhouse.com



Quiz



1. What new fitness studio has opened in North Melbourne?
2. What word can refer to the defensive walls surrounding a town or the process of adding spirits to wine?
3. Gables, Gilead and Glebe are suburbs in which Australian city?
4. The North and West Melbourne Precinct Association is presenting IRREGULAR – a hyperlocal festival of ideas and actions for residents and workers of the area. Where will the festival be held?
5. What street divides North and West Melbourne?
6. Dr Carmen Lawrence was premier of which Australian state from 1990-1993?
7. What is strange about the location of the North Melbourne Railway Station?
8. Indonesian Windy Cantika Aisah is an Olympic medallist in what sport?
9. The Solent is a strait that lies between mainland Great Britain and which island?
10. What is the name of John David Washington's (pictured) character in the movie *Tenet*?
11. What year did Kensington Stockyard close?
12. The Roundtable public installation was named as a finalist in the Premier's Design Awards. Where is it located?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. CorePlus 2, Fortification 3, Sydney
 4. At Cobblestone Pavilion in North Melbourne's Meat Market 5, Victoria St
 6. Western Australia 7. It's located in West Melbourne 8. Weighlifting 9. The Isle of Wight 10. The Protagonist 11. 1987
 12. Within the Errol St Reserve

5x5

No. 035

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

A		P		E
	A		O	
A		O		D
	E		S	
E		G		D

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: APPLE, BARKON, ALOUD, TENSE, EDGED
 DOWN: ABATE, PALED, PRONG, LOUSE, ENDED

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
 ©PAGEMASTERS PTY LTD
 PAGEMASTERS.COM

May, 2024

Sudoku

No. 035

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Forests

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| ASPEN | GLADE |
| BARK | HABITAT |
| BRANCHES | LARCH |
| CEDAR | LEAVES |
| CONIFERS | MOSS |
| CYPRESS | PINE |
| EUCALYPTS | SEQUOIAS |
| FAUNA | TIMBER |
| FIR | TREES |
| FLORA | WOODLAND |

Secret message: In green shadows

Crossword

No. 035

ACROSS

- 1 Schools (9)
- 6 Vote for (5)
- 9 Establish (3,2)
- 10 Ad (9)
- 11 Reject (5)
- 12 Listed in a hierarchy (6)
- 15 Attacker (9)
- 17 Discover (5)
- 18 Felony (5)
- 19 Provisional (9)
- 20 Resting (6)
- 23 Cars (5)
- 26 Bandit (9)
- 27 Earth in Latin (5)
- 28 Result (5)
- 29 Dangled (9)

DOWN

- 1 Aid (10)
- 2 Benevolent (10)
- 3 Dear (9)
- 4 Major (9)
- 5 Faint (5)
- 6 Summon (5)
- 7 Discharge (4)
- 8 Aquarium (4)
- 13 Enlisted (10)
- 14 Comprehend (10)
- 16 Dogged (9)
- 17 Underwrite (9)
- 21 Subject (5)
- 22 Sporting sides (5)
- 24 Unemployed (4)
- 25 Purposes (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11						12								
													13	14
15								16				17		
18								19						
24						20	21			22				
26														
28										29				

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 035

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

SOLUTIONS

L	X	R	I	H	V	F	B	O	K	Z	W	
9	12	17	21	22	11	16	22	7	23	1		
6		15		12		8				22		21
21	16	17	8	16		16	22	3	11	10	2	8
12		1		16		3		22		13		10
16	17	3	24	6		24	12	12	14	8	10	2

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

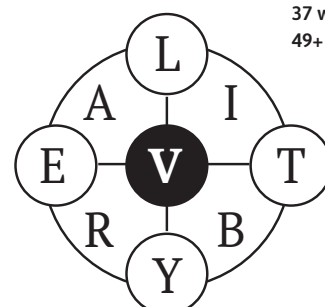
9-Letter

No. 035

Today's Focus:

- 25 words: Good
- 37 words: Very good
- 49+ 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

alive, aver, avert, bevy, brave, bravely, brevity, evil, lave, laver, levity, levy, live, liver, livery, rave, ravel, rival, rise, rivet, trave, travel, vail, vale, valet, variety, varlet, vary, veal, vell, vela, velar, verb, verbal, verily, VERITABLY, verity, vert, very, viable, viably, vial, vibrate, vife, vifer, vifal, vifelay, vifae, vifal, vifet

WHAT'S ON May



Winter is almost here and we have a great line-up of events to warm the body and soul. Keep up-to-date with everything happening in your neighbourhood.



MONSTA VINTAGE RETRO COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE!
Looking for well priced groovy, funky, retro and vintage clothing? We've got it! Pre-loved and new men's & women's: leather jackets, pants, dresses, bags, hats, shoes, Tokyo boots, fashion accessories, Dangerfield samples, Solid Gold Vinyl (all genres), weird collectables. Don't miss out. **46 Roden Street, West Melb (enter via Jones Place).**

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 11AM - 4PM



THREE EXHIBITION OPENINGS @ WEST END ART SPACE
Come along to the opening of three unique exhibitions ...
Aqueous Blooms by Jacquelyn Stephens
Passages by Beatrice Magalotti
Succulent Society Vol.3 by Anna Lohe
West End Art Space, 112 Adderley St, West Melbourne

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 6PM - 8PM



VALÉ: JOURNAL DE BORD
Journal de Bord by VALÉ showcases a captivating collection of works created during the artist's sojourn in Australia, just before embarking on his next creative voyage.
The Blender Studios, 33-35 Dudley St, West Melbourne

UNTIL MAY 23, 12PM - 5PM



THE NOVICE, FRY AND FLEDGING
The novice, fry and fledging expands on Rainbow Chan's preservation and reinterpretation of *The Bridal Lament* – a bygone Weitou ritual where brides sung of their grief, sorrow and fear before their arranged marriages.
Arts House, 521 Queensberry St

UNTIL MAY 24, 10AM - 5PM



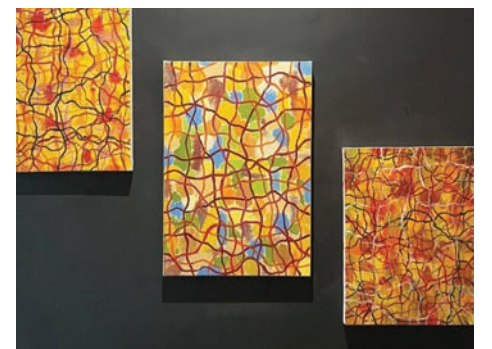
QUEER-WAYS: FROM ARCHIVE TO ARTWORK
Retrace the queer footprints of communities across Victoria through augmented reality maps, interactive murals and self-led audio walking tours.
Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel St, North Melbourne and live-streamed through Zoom.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 6PM - 7PM



IRREGULAR
As part of Melbourne Design Week 2024, the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association presents, *IRREGULAR* - a hyperlocal festival of ideas for the people who live, work, and play in North and West Melbourne.
irregularfestival.com.au

MAY 23 - 25



MATTHEW SIMPSON: CHANCE PAINTINGS
Chance Paintings by Yarraville-based artist Matthew Simpson features new works of randomly arranged lines. Chance and intuition play prominent roles in their creation.
One Star Lounge & Gallery, 301-303 Victoria St, West Melbourne

UNTIL MAY 26



BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER NIGHT OUT
Celebrate national burger day in style with legendary chef Sean Connolly hosting our build your own burger night out. It's all about creating your perfect burger and letting our amazing team bring it to life.
Bookings: shushburger.com.au/private-dining 50 Batman St, West Melbourne

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 6PM - 9.30PM



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

CHATTY CAFE

Enjoy a chat and a cuppa at Chatty Café

 Kensington Neighbourhood Centre
18 Anthony Street, Kensington

 Every Thursday  1pm to 3pm

CHATTY CAFE
Join us for a cuppa and afternoon tea, play our board games and puzzles and explore our beautiful sensory garden and mini library, with pre-loved library books to keep.
Kensington Neighbourhood Centre 18 Anthony St, Kensington

EVERY THURSDAY: 1PM - 3PM

Business Directory

POLITICIAN

ELLEN SANDELL

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637 office@ellensandell.com 146 Peel Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

PRECINCT




SCHOOL



www.haileybury.vic.edu.au

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9321 9200

SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

DOING WHAT COUNTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Making our neighbourhoods cleaner and greener for all to enjoy

Every day, the City of Melbourne strives to make a difference for the community – providing the services people rely on, while building a strong, inclusive and sustainable future.

To help guide this work, at the start of each Council term, we develop a four-year Council Plan informed by community feedback.

The Council Plan 2021-25 reflects the community's long-term vision for Melbourne and how Council will achieve it.

You told us that improving parking, road safety and transport, developing a circular economy, and creating a more connected community are important priorities for you in Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville and West Melbourne.

Now that we're in the third year of the plan, there's much to celebrate about what we've delivered in your neighbourhood from 2021 to now.



Capital works and infrastructure

- Commenced redevelopment of the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, with a 25-metre pool, gym and indoor sports courts.
- Consulted community on the Macaulay Road and Arden Street bike lanes to inform a proposal to install protected bike lanes.
- To make parking simpler and fairer, we commenced neighbourhood parking reviews in Kensington and West Melbourne.

Safety and community wellbeing

- Launched a new 24/7 cleaning and graffiti removal service to ensure the city always looks its best.
- Reduced the speed limit on local streets across North and West Melbourne for improved safety
- Administered immunisations to more than 12,000 people at sites across the municipality.

Boosting our economy

- Through our Business Concierge team, we supported and engaged with more than 13,000 businesses – small, big, or just starting – across the city last financial year.
- Invested more than \$4 million in grant funding to support local business owners and activation.
- Provided business training and mentoring through the To-LEAP program.

Arts and culture

- Welcomed 118,000 visitors each year to North Melbourne Library for education programs, computer access and more.
- In 2023, we enticed more than 4.6 million people to the city to enjoy 64 Council-run or supported events, including Spanish Language Fiesta and Somali Day Australia Festival – pumping \$152 million into the economy.

Sustainability and city greening

- Progressed our Power Melbourne initiative to improve access to affordable renewable electricity, with three batteries scheduled for installation mid-2024.
- Maintained more than 55 public parks and spaces, and 19 playgrounds, including Bellair St Reserve, the Women's Peace Garden, and Gardiner Park.
- Implemented a food waste service trial in West Melbourne.

Recreation

- Welcomed more than 42,000 visitors each year to the North Melbourne Community Centre and North Melbourne Recreation Centre for sports, gym and group fitness and pools.
- Managed sporting facilities in Kensington including the JJ Holland Park sporting fields, skate park and BMX track, and Kensington Flemington Bowls Club.

Get ready to share your thoughts

The draft Budget 2024-25, which will deliver the final year of the current Council Plan, is now available for feedback at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

To read more about what we've delivered in your neighbourhood visit news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/doing-what-counts



Connect with us

- /cityofmelbourne
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