



Work begins on West Melbourne's new "green oasis"

Lord Mayor Nick Reece and Davydd Griffiths celebrate construction getting under way on the Roden Street greening project, which will transform the area into a vibrant, nature-filled space. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Residents take fast-tracked North Melbourne hospital approval to Victoria's Ombudsman

“An approval for a new 11-storey private hospital for North Melbourne has been fast-tracked by the state government, but residents have slammed the process and lodged a complaint with the Victorian Ombudsman.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The \$300 million project by Australian Unity, to be built on the corner of Flemington Rd and Errol St, has been approved under the state government's Development Facilitation Program (DFP).

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny established the DFP in 2023 to "make faster decisions for priority projects". However Australian Unity's general manager healthcare property Chris Smith told North West City News, "the project will become a reality when a long-term anchor tenant for the project is secured and the project is financially viable, for all stakeholders."

"We were pleased to see the Allan Labor Government greenlight a new private hospital in the Parkville precinct," Mr Smith said. "This planning approval provides some certainty and will allow Australian Unity's Healthcare Property Trust to work with interested parties to progress a development that is sustainable for all relevant stakeholders."

According to the government, the new hospital will deliver 223 beds, pathology and medical imaging facilities, seven operating theatres, and 10 intensive care units, and will be located directly across from the Royal Women's Hospital.

The site, currently occupied by the Mercure Hotel, sits on the edge of a residential pocket in North Melbourne. As previously reported by North West City News, residents had raised objections to the development, citing a lack of transparency in the planning process, concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety, and potential impacts on neighbourhood amenity.

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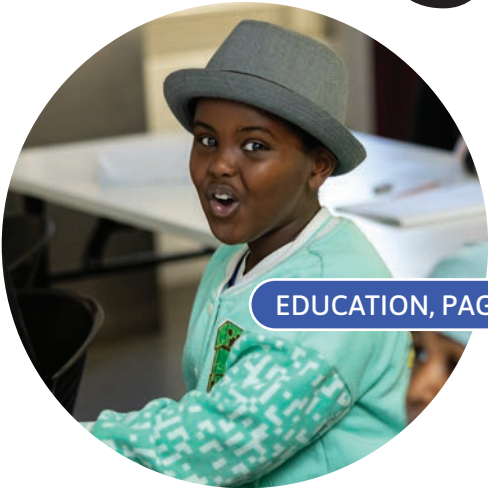
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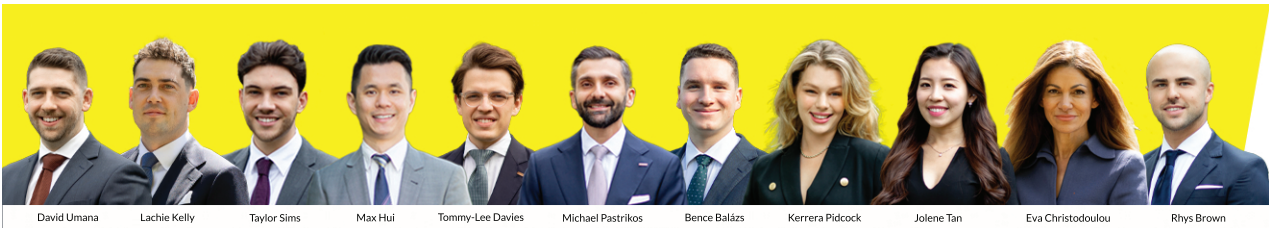
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Somali community celebrates opening of first language school

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Could Adam Bandt’s departure spell better things for the City of Melbourne?

“Politics is often referred to as a “numbers game”, and when it comes to elections, it’s all governments care about.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



After 15 years, Greens leader Adam Bandt is no longer Melbourne’s federal MP after succumbing to Labor’s red wave that swept across the country during the May 3 election.

He makes way for Labor newcomer, foster parent and CEO of the Nappy Collective Sarah Witty, who told sibling publication CBD News in February that Mr Bandt had been in the seat for so long and had “really done nothing”.

While this is the usual rhetoric one expects between candidates during an election campaign, it’s not an entirely fair reflection on what’s been a commendable stretch of service from Mr Bandt.

In conceding defeat on May 8, he pointed to Melbourne recording the highest votes in favour of the same-sex marriage plebiscite and the Voice to Parliament referendum, as well as putting a price on pollution and getting dental for kids into Medicare as being among his proudest achievements.

Mr Bandt proved to be a very caring and passionate local member and when not in Canberra, he could often be found at community group meetings, listening to the concerns of locals right across the electorate.

But if there’s any truth to Ms Witty’s assessment of Mr Bandt’s time as the Member for Melbourne, it’s perhaps that not having a local representative from a major party can often lead to less outcomes.

That’s because politics is, indeed, largely a numbers game. And when it comes to the electorate of Melbourne, the major parties have all but abandoned it ever since Mr Bandt first claimed victory in 2010.

Having become an increasingly entrenched safe Greens seat, Melbourne had morphed into a “protest” seat of sorts in the House of Representatives, and voters in this election were clearly tired of this often-obstructive element.

While this helps “balance the power” in our democracy, many will argue it has done little in the way of turning the attention of those in the government who hold the power to the needs of Melbourne.

Without overlooking Mr Bandt’s efforts, many will now be hoping that with a sitting government MP in the chair, Labor will start to throw more money and resources into retaining Melbourne for years to come.

This will be welcome news to the City of Melbourne, which has been caught up in the cycle of government inertia when it comes to Melbourne for many years, and this includes at a state level.

Victorian Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell will undoubtedly be sad to see Mr Bandt go, but there is now a real opportunity



for her to work constructively as a conduit between all levels of government to drive more outcomes on the ground.

Beyond major national matters such as housing and cost of living, there is a suite of local issues in need of some serious attention, from revitalisation of the CBD and Docklands to a range of planning and transport infrastructure projects.

As Melbourne’s new voice in Canberra, Sarah Witty now has a chance to be a practical voice for the inner city – one with access to Treasury’s coffers and real power to make a difference. Let’s hope she can make the most of her opportunity. ●

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North & West Melbourne Precinct Association

Hidden gem of a café bringing Vietnamese flavour to West Melbourne

“In the quiet streets of West Melbourne, a small café is quietly winning over locals with its blend of authentic Vietnamese flavours and welcoming, laid-back charm.”



WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



“Five years ago when I started the business, it was right before COVID,” Doan said. “I was just interested in doing something for myself.”

While the café was already operating under the previous owner, Doan joined as a partner just before the pandemic hit.

Despite the challenges, B.cuz Coffee & Eatery kept its doors open and adapted to the new world of take away.

Since then, the café has found its niche serving both traditional and creative Vietnamese dishes, alongside coffee and café staples.

“We play around a little bit with the food, but we try to keep the flavours traditional,” Doan told North West City News.

A standout on the menu is the café’s Vietnamese bánh mì, a hidden gem that has quietly built a reputation among those in the know.

B.cuz Coffee & Eatery, run by passionate chef and owner Doan Nguyen, has become a cosy meeting spot for coffee lovers, foodies, and their furry friends.

The café has built a loyal community following thanks to its relaxed atmosphere, dog-friendly garden, and hearty menu inspired by Doan’s Vietnamese heritage.

Doan, whose background is Vietnamese, brought her culinary skills to the café scene after years of working in kitchens.

She had been a chef for several years before deciding to step into business ownership.



“It wasn’t very popular for a few years because the café at the front, it doesn’t look like a bakery,” Doan said.

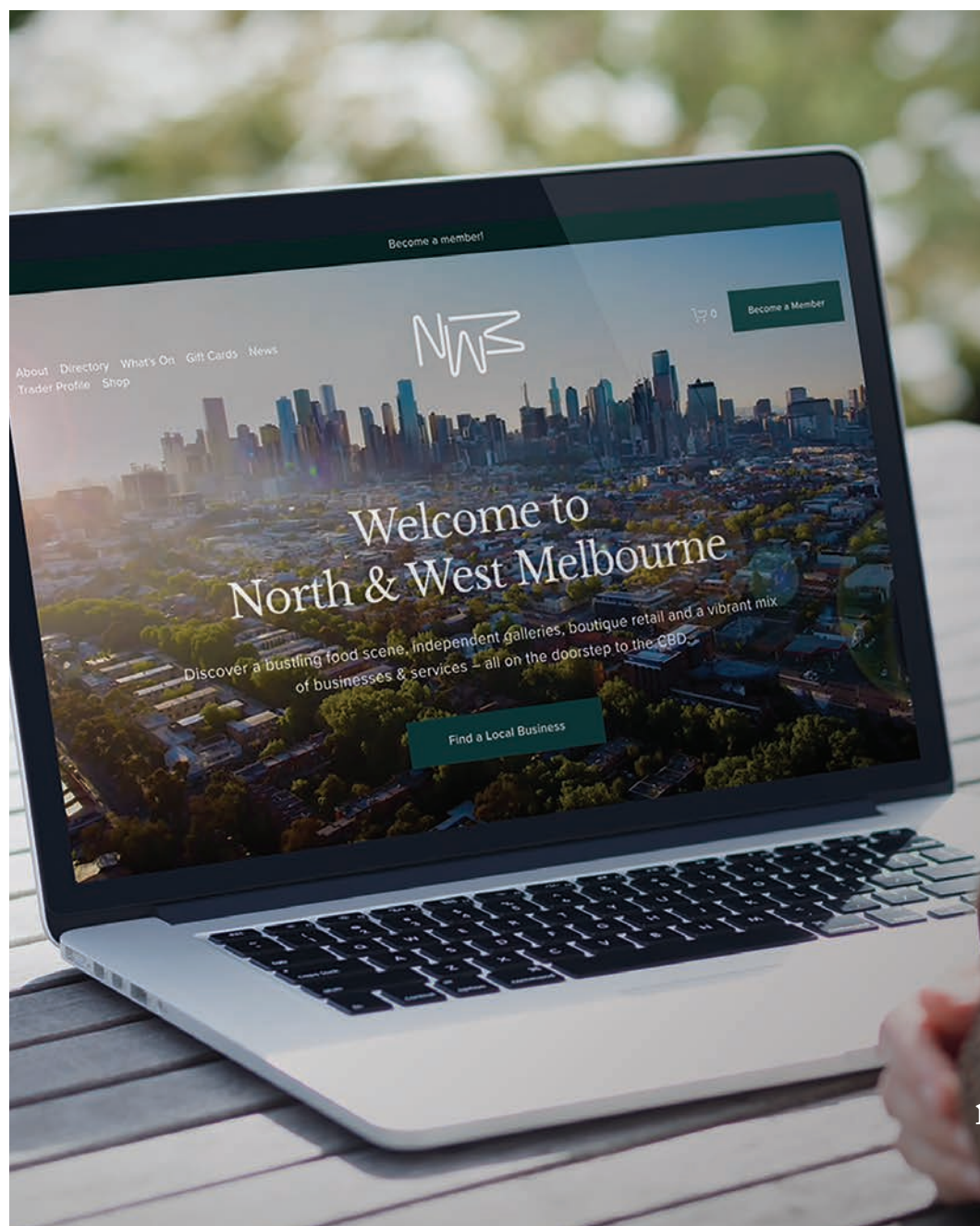
“Everyone loves the crispy pork, and the grilled chicken. We do it all on charcoal.”

For Doan, B.cuz Coffee & Eatery isn’t just about food – it’s about creating a space where people feel at home.

“We are small, but we do it with heart,” she said.

“People come here, they bring their dogs, they bring their friends, they relax in the garden, have coffee, talk, laugh. That’s what makes me happy.”

“It feels like you’re not working, you feel like you’re just enjoying your life.” ●




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Koreatown in Healeys Lane, Melbourne

Celebrate the historic launch of Melbourne's first Koreatown.

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It is now time to seal the deal, with the official opening ceremony set to take place on 17 May.

To mark the occasion, four large traditional Korean totem poles, called jang seung, will be unveiled at the entrances to Koreatown.

In Korean culture the totem poles are traditionally placed at the entries of communities to ward off evil spirits.



Jang seung carving in progress



These sculptures were hand-carved by master artisan Jong-yeon Kim and funded by the Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea in Melbourne.

The Koreatown opening ceremony will feature vibrant performances highlighting Korean traditions. There will also be a bibimbap tasting.

Special guests and officials also will join to celebrate this historic moment.

The celebrations carry on the next weekend with the Korea Festival at Fed Square.

Visitors can enjoy Korean food, music, and performances, including a high-energy K-pop showdown on Sunday night!

Koreatown adds new flavours to Melbourne's rich multicultural scene, joining well-known precincts such as Chinatown and the Greek Quarter in the CBD, and Little Italy in nearby Lygon Street, Carlton.

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KOREATOWN OPENING CEREMONY

Where: Healeys Lane, Melbourne
Date: Saturday 17 May
Time: From 11am

KOREA FESTIVAL

Where: Fed Square
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Residents take fast-tracked North Melbourne hospital approval to Ombudsman

Continued from page 1.

In late 2024, a group of more than 70 residents, led by Chapman St resident Bernie Cahir, argued the project had been “rushed through” with limited consultation and outdated traffic data. The short two-week window for submissions during the community engagement phase also coincided with the City of Melbourne’s election period, raising further concerns about oversight.

However, in its final approved version, the state government claimed it had made several amendments to address these issues. These include changes to building setbacks and form to allow more natural light into neighbouring properties, as well as improved pedestrian, cycling, and vehicle access to the site.

But Mr Cahir said the group that he represented argued that no substantive changes to building design, traffic access and safety of movements were reflected in the final permit.

He added that his group had provided many suggested improvements to both the Department of Transport and Planning and the City of Melbourne and received no feedback or requests for further discussions.

A spokesperson for the Department of Transport and Planning confirmed that the changes were informed by feedback received during consultation with residents and the council, with the aim of balancing hospital demand with neighbourhood impact.

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny said the hospital aligned with the long-term vision for the Parkville biomedical precinct.

“We’ve given the green light for a new hospital to be built in Victoria’s world-leading biomedical precinct,” she said. “The new hospital is consistent with the plans for the Parkville precinct, an established research cluster on the doorstep of the CBD for education, health, professional and technical industries.”

But Mr Cahir told *North West City News* following the government’s announcement on May 7 that the state government had never met directly with residents to hear their concerns, most of which remained unaddressed.

While the City of Melbourne had initially not commented publicly on the proposal, a spokesperson later confirmed the council was undertaking an assessment and would present its position to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) in early 2025. However, the application never made it to an FMC meeting, with the council bypassed under the government’s fast-tracked approval DFP process.

Mr Cahir said the council was yet to confirm what its position was regarding the issuing of the permit and what permit conditions it would like to see.



Mr Cahir’s group submitted a request to the government under Freedom of Information (FoI), which had revealed correspondence from the project’s proponent pushing the government to issue an approval amid rising development fees.

While Invest Victoria is responsible for determining viability under the DFP, which aims to fast-track projects of economic value of \$35 million or more across the state, Mr Cahir said this was only for projects that were considered “shovel ready”.

“Considering that Australian Unity has stated on two occasions that ‘the project will become a reality when a long-term anchor tenant for the project is secured and the project is financially viable’, fast tracking a permit is to enable surety for the government that projects that are ‘shovel ready’ can proceed,” he said.

“The DFP guidelines indicate that works should begin within 12 months of the issuing of permit,” Mr Cahir said, adding that the approved permit allowed the applicant 24 months to commence works and the possibility to extend with ministerial permission.

Residents have now lodged a complaint with the Victorian Ombudsman over concerns about the DFP process and the speed at which the permit was approved without proper economic analysis.

Despite the Minister’s changes to the original plans, some locals remain concerned that traffic volumes have been underestimated, particularly given the proximity of the Molesworth public housing redevelopment and nearby schools. Previous assessments relied on traffic data collected in late 2021 during a COVID-affected period, which



residents argued did not reflect current or future conditions – namely the impacts from the new West Gate Tunnel Project opening later this year.

Calls for additional traffic studies were not adopted, and the project’s planned entry and exit point will not feature traffic lights – relying instead on convex mirrors for visibility, a design residents say is unsuitable for a location with high pedestrian activity, particularly school children from North Melbourne Primary and University High.

Mr Cahir previously told *North West City News* that the lack of transparency between

planning authorities and the community left residents feeling sidelined.

“We’re not all looking at the same information at the same time; everybody’s making decisions in their own vacuum,” he said.

The government says the project will strengthen Melbourne’s biomedical capacity and benefit from improved accessibility when the Metro Tunnel opens later this year, connecting Parkville to the city’s train network for the first time.

It added that construction timelines and project partners were expected to be announced in the coming months. ●



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For the locals: Independent councillor Andrew Rowse charts a new path to Town Hall

“
Andrew Rowse has entered the City of Melbourne with a clear mandate for change – and a determination to do things differently.”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Elected as an independent and running a self-funded campaign, Cr Rowse brings a background in innovation and a strong community focus to his new role.

With no political affiliations and a pragmatic approach shaped by his work at the University of Melbourne, he aims to prioritise residents’ needs and restore trust in local government.

“It’s been really exciting. It is very much a new world for me, and so far, I’ve loved every minute of it,” he said.

A familiar face in the city’s startup and innovation scene, Cr Rowse heads the entrepreneurial centre at the University of Melbourne, where he works closely with researchers and emerging businesses.

Without financial backing and while managing a full-time job, his grassroots campaign turned into both an endurance challenge and an opportunity to log impressive miles on his Strava.

“I’d be working nine to five, I’d knock off at five o’clock, I’d drive to whatever suburb was next on my list, and I’d letterbox drop until two or three in the morning,” he said.

“It was exhausting, but I absolutely loved it. I saw things that I didn’t know we even had in the city.”

The community response, he said, was overwhelmingly positive.

“I think people are just genuinely sick of the partisan fighting. Having someone who was outside of all that enabled me to come in and look at every issue on its merit.”

Now in office, Cr Rowse is concentrating on amplifying the city’s innovation ecosystem and returning to grassroots values.

“We’ve got so many great innovations, but we just haven’t quite figured out how to crack into that and unleash the really cool things that are happening,” he said.

“And I want to make sure we’re delivering for our most important stakeholders – our residents.”

“We all geographically live here within Melbourne, and the only other thing I believe we can all have in common is shared values. If we fail to establish those values, then a multicultural community like we have in Melbourne will never truly thrive.”

A self-described “nerd” with an engineering background, Cr Rowse is relishing the behind-the-scenes view of council operations.

“To have the privilege of seeing how so many different areas work is just so intellectually exciting.”

Cr Rowse has already made the most of his new role, highlighting his welcome speech at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra’s free summer concert series as a particularly meaningful experience.



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

A long-time attendee of the event, he described the opportunity to address the crowd as a “childhood dream” come true.

“I’ve always been someone who has said ‘yes’ to opportunity. To me, this is a massive opportunity and responsibility, and I don’t take that lightly.”

“Local politics should be about the locals – taking the party out of party politics. That’s why I’ve loved my journey so far.” ●



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Heritage meets high-rise in new West Melbourne apartment project

“

A major build-to-rent development that's set to transform a key West Melbourne corner has been given the green light by the City of Melbourne.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Jessica Liew – Plus Architecture
Photo: Mau Cheng.

Dalston House, designed by Plus Architecture for Lofts Property, will rise 20 storeys at 405–421 Spencer St, delivering 190 rental apartments ranging in size from studios to four bedrooms.

Located at the intersection of Spencer and Batman streets, the site sits within walking distance of the CBD, Southern Cross Station, Flagstaff Gardens and Errol St, placing it in one of the city's most connected and evolving precincts.

The development incorporates a mix of new and old, with key heritage features from the site's past life as a bakery – such as the original façade, chimneys and brick ovens – retained and integrated into the final design.

“The retention of significant heritage elements was a key focus, allowing us to merge history with modern design in a way that enhances both the building and the surrounding streetscape,” Plus Architecture principal Jessica Liew said.

Set behind the preserved bakery frontage, the tower's clean lines and modernist-inspired palette provide contrast while balconies and glass façades offer residents city views and private outdoor

space.

The building will include co-working facilities and wellness spaces, such as hot and cold plunge pools, and steam and sauna rooms, and will activate the street at ground level with retail and commercial offerings.

Peter Loftis, managing director of Lofts Property, said the approval followed a complex planning process, including multiple VCAT hearings, and noted that the project had since shifted to a build-to-rent model.

“Dalston House reflects our continued commitment to creating high-quality residential spaces,” Mr Loftis said. “It's underpinned by a long-standing belief in the West Melbourne precinct – its rich character, established amenities and

close proximity to the CBD.”

“Our partnership with Plus Architecture has been instrumental in bringing this project to life. Together, we have successfully navigated complex planning challenges, including multiple VCAT processes, to create a development that thoughtfully responds to Melbourne's evolving urban landscape,” he said.

“This project has now transitioned to a build-to-rent development, aligning with the strong momentum of the build-to-rent sector.”

Dalston House joins a growing pipeline of build-to-rent projects in Melbourne and is the latest in a series of residential towers designed by Plus Architecture within the City of Melbourne. ●





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Council opposes Infrastructure Victoria’s push for Macaulay Rd tram extension

“The City of Melbourne has maintained Macaulay Rd isn’t a suitable alignment for a tram extension into Kensington in its response to Infrastructure Victoria’s draft 30-year strategy.”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Councillors considered council management’s submission to the draft strategy at its May 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, where an amended motion was ultimately supported by a majority of councillors.

Infrastructure Victoria released its strategy for public consultation in March this year, which makes 43 recommendations and seven future options relating to a range of areas, including housing, public transport and community infrastructure.

With the state government forecasting around 120,000 new homes in the City of Melbourne by 2051 – more than double the current number – Lord Mayor Nick Reece



said Melbourne must be considered a “growth area” in a planning context.

Chief among Infrastructure Victoria’s major transport recommendations affecting the City of Melbourne include delivery of the new Metro 2 train service between Mernda and Newport via Fishermans Bend.

The strategy also makes several recommendations under its push to extend tram lines across the city, including to Fishermans Bend and Arden, where maps

council’s submission stated.

However, the council added that the “north-south” high-capacity public transport corridor between Arden St and Flemington Bridge was consistent with its Macaulay and Arden Structure Plans.

For the City of Melbourne to reach the state government’s housing targets, extending public transport to the city’s remaining urban renewal zones in Fishermans Bend, E-Gate, Arden and Macaulay is considered crucial.

Deputy Lord Mayor and the council’s chair of planning Roshena Campbell said while it was “heartening to see a continued focus on delivering critical infrastructure” in the city, she didn’t support the government’s current review of developer contributions.

“I understand the Victorian Government is currently reviewing developer contributions across the state as a means to support delivery of major infrastructure. Now my firm belief is that developer contributions must be returned to deliver infrastructure in the local government area in which they are collected. That just makes sense,” Cr Campbell said.

“It’s clearly the intent of infrastructure contributions. It’s fair to the local community, and particularly a community like what we see in the City of Melbourne that is set to grow at a pace, with intensified development and drastic increases in the number of residents,” she said.

“Also to support the desires of the developers themselves who want to see investment returned locally in the areas in which they are constructing dwellings.” ●

Melbourne’s Somali community celebrates opening of first language school

Melbourne’s first dedicated Somali language weekend school has opened its doors, providing a vital space for young members of the Somali community to connect with their heritage.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The school, based in North Melbourne, runs every Saturday from 10am to 12pm at 12 Sutton St, and caters to children aged 5 to 15.

An initiative of Melbourne Somali Community Inc (MSC), the program aims to preserve the Somali language and cultural traditions by offering classes in reading, writing, speaking, and cultural studies.

Organisers say the school is already

fostering pride, confidence, and a sense of identity among its students.

The launch of the school marks an important milestone for MSC, a not-for-profit organisation that supports Melbourne’s

Somali community, particularly those living in public housing.

MSC’s work includes advocacy, education, job referrals, and community-building events such as the annual multicultural Eid festival.

The new school is part of MSC’s broader efforts to create opportunities for Somali youth to stay connected to their roots while developing important communication skills. ●

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Future talk in the present tense: Melbourne's 2050 Summit walks a fine line between vision and volume

It was a scene straight out of a political strategist's dream.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



More than 700 minds gathered at Melbourne Town Hall on May 9 to envisage what the city could become by mid-century, brought together by a council with bold ambitions and a Lord Mayor determined to stir civic imagination.

It was, by all accounts, a day of immense energy, ideas, and good intentions. But with so many voices in the room, some were left wondering – can a vision of the future survive the weight of the present?

The City of Melbourne's 2050 Summit, the brainchild of Lord Mayor Nick Reece, marked an ambitious step into long-term thinking for a council juggling short-term realities. He proclaimed the day was about "aspiration" and that "everything was on the table".

With its format and fanfare, the event bore more than a passing resemblance to Kevin Rudd's Australia 2020 Summit held in 2008 – an event that clearly left an impression on Cr Reece, himself a former staffer under Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Rudd's successor.

Credit where it's due: it's rare for a local government to cast its gaze so far ahead.

Council staff pulled off an impressive feat in delivering such a large and complex event at short notice, and the Lord Mayor's opening address set the tone, celebrating Melbourne's global contributions, from the cochlear ear implant and Vegemite, to Kylie Minogue and the world's first feature film about the Ned Kelly Gang ... "you're welcome, Hollywood," the Lord Mayor quipped.

And while the morning's program was heavy on speeches, it brought some big names. Among the presenters were Governor of Victoria Margaret Gardner, Premier Jacinta Allan, Opposition Leader Brad Battin, and NGV director Tony Ellwood, who used the opportunity to promote the state's largest ever cultural infrastructure project, NGV Contemporary. Productivity Commission chair Danielle Wood floated a congestion levy, while the University of

Melbourne's Ahelee Rahman spoke to the role of academia in shaping future cities.

But it was after morning tea that the real test began. Participants split into themed workshops covering everything from "Liveability and Wellbeing" to "Democracy and Leadership". Guided by facilitators, attendees condensed their discussions into ideas scribbled on butcher's paper and ranked them via interactive polls.

In practice, what emerged in many rooms wasn't so much a crystal ball as a community noticeboard – familiar concerns about housing, equity, mobility and safety re-aired in the hope that collective wisdom might reframe them into something new. It was less about 2050, and more about 2025, just spoken in a slightly more hopeful tense.

In the "Liveability and Wellbeing" group, ideas around affordable housing and inclusive city design dominated. Under "Climate and Environment", there were calls for a "regenerative future" and for Melbourne to see itself as a "Country-first city" prioritising First Nations principles. The "Movement and Infrastructure" group dreamt of Melbourne as the "micromobility capital of the world", while "Democracy and Leadership" sought more trust, more cohesion, and a more participatory city.

Whether any of this will translate into a coherent long-term vision remains to be seen.

It's easy to be sceptical about mass workshops of this scale. Compressing big city questions into a single day, with hundreds of contributors and no clear roadmap for how their voices will be synthesised, is no small challenge. For those already



uncertain about the purpose of the exercise, the summit may have reinforced doubts. But for others, the chance to speak into Melbourne's future – however loosely defined – offered something more intangible; a feeling of being heard.

Nowhere was this more powerfully captured than in a short video and presentation from the Youth Roundtable, held in the lead-up to the summit. It was one of the day's most inspiring moments, reminding attendees why they were there in the first place: to plan not just for today's challenges, but for the generations who will inherit the city. The youth participants called for a future shaped more by hope than fear, driven by opportunity for all, and committed to addressing the climate emergency.

In the final hour, those remaining were asked to vote via QR code on their preferred ideas. It was a neat moment of deliberative democracy. But will it be remembered as more than that?

That task now rests with the City of Melbourne. The summit was a powerful gesture – but the gesture must be followed with substance. Council must now analyse, distil, and embed the contributions of the day into a strategy that is more than just a crowd-sourced wishlist or a "great reset". It must be strategic, layered, and clever.

Ironically, all of this happened in the lead-up to the council's annual budget release on May 13 – a stark reminder that lofty visions still land in the reality of spreadsheets and trade-offs.

Within Town Hall itself, the summit – one

of Lord Mayor's big picture election pitches – exposed a lack of shared clarity about the exact purpose of the day. That uncertainty, more than any particular idea or outcome, could ultimately determine how effective the summit proves to be.

Still, the fact that Melbourne held such a summit at all is cause for cautious optimism. In a moment when civic discourse often feels reactive, the 2050 Summit was at least an attempt to look ahead.

Whether it proves to be a footnote or a turning point will depend not just on the follow-through – but on whether the city, and those listening at state and federal government, truly commit to building the future it asked its people to imagine. ●



Artists in residence present *Rewind Forward* at Public Record Office

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) has selected its 2025 creatives in residence and is celebrating by launching a group exhibition, with the five artists showcasing their work at the Victorian Archives Centre (VAC) Gallery in *Rewind Forward*.

WORDS BY
ALEXANDRA RANDALL



PROV'S residence project provides artists with a unique opportunity to research and create work based on their archives, helping understand how the past continues to inform our current day-to-days.

Following an application process in which the PROV was "truly overwhelmed by the exceptional quality of proposals," the organisation landed on Emile Zile, Sam Wallman, Shannon Slee, Susan Fitzgerald, and Queer-ways, a duo composed of Luciano and George Keats.

Although all five artists have a distinct focus and specialisation, they share a common goal; to use the archives to extract the facts of past everyday life out of distant memory and walk the audience through the lesser-known histories that made Melbourne what it is today.

The culmination of their research will be presented in the group exhibition *Rewind Forward*.

As the title suggests, while the past is a starting point, the present day can never be ignored. Instead, these artists have used the archives to, as Susan Fitzgerald puts it, take the audience on "a trip down memory lane," all while considering the broader social, economic and technical developments that allowed for change.

Ms Fitzgerald, who specialises in graphic design, traces past designs of public transport tickets and the lost art of the manufacturing process, asking why, and how, these materials came to be used, while Sam Wallman – a port worker and comic journalist – focuses on the impact of automation at the docks across time.

Shannon Slee changes it up again, using her skills in textiles to explore historical violence perpetuated against women through the prohibition of safe abortion access, memorialising the many women who lost their lives to this. Queer-ways also uses textiles, but for a different end, bringing to life outfits that landed people in the courts for gender non-conformity in the early 20th century.

Finally, video and performance artist Emile Zile creates personal essay film, informed by the lingering traces his own family have left in the archives.

Creating art from PROV's vast collection is not an easy task. As Mr Zile points out, the collection is "immense, almost unfathomable," but it is within this scale that opportunity lies.

"[It is] a storyteller's dream, each archival drawer opening offers multiple narratives and ways of telling stories of our shared history", he said, adding that the "the opportunity to work with PROV on a wide-ranging large-scale public project is both thrilling and daunting."

Mr Wallman echoes this: "The archives are a collective property, a kind of commons, and I am grateful to have an excuse to sniff around them," he said.

Rewind Forward is the manifestation of these archives, saving the audience the time and meticulous attention to detail required to trawl through them by presenting fresh reflections on where we've come from, and where we might be heading next.

Opening night is on May 29 at VAC Gallery in North Melbourne. Free tickets are available via [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au). ●

Brad Battin doesn't fit the mould of a typical politician – and he's fine with that

“

Dubbed the “bogan from Berwick”, Victorian opposition leader Brad Battin embraces his background as a former police officer, footy player and coach, and someone who still genuinely road-tests policy ideas at the pub.

”

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Having left school early and owned a Baker's Delight, Mr Battin, complete with tattoos, is quick to point out that he's not your typical pollie. From parliament to the pub, the father of two appears determined to bring politics back to the people.

“When someone talks about the pub test – I actually do the pub test,” he told *North West City News*.

“If I've got an issue and I wonder whether it's any good, I'll literally go to the pub and have a few beers and have a chat to people – it's the best way to find out information and if they sit there and go, ‘you're an idiot’, they're probably right.”

Open about the fact that he “never wanted to get into politics”, it's this everyday appeal and connection to community that has underpinned the Member for Berwick's 15-year career in parliament, now rising to become Victoria's next alternative Premier.

The new opposition leader sat down with *North West City News* to discuss his first few months in the job, the road ahead to the November 2026 state election, and how Melbourne must regain its edge as one of the world's best cities – and that's not without some advice for new City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece.

It's still early days for Mr Battin who only took over from his predecessor John Pessuto at the start of the year following the high-profile defamation case between the former opposition leader and Liberal MP Moira Deeming.

While Ms Deeming won the case, she is now reportedly pursuing costs that threatens to both bankrupt Mr Pesutto and provide an unwelcome and lingering distraction for Mr Battin to contend with.

But he's naturally upbeat about the state of his party when asked by *North West City News*, affirming that all his colleagues had “one thing on their mind now”, and that was to “win government”.

“What we read in the media versus what happens in real life is always a bit different,” Mr Battin said. “But overall, I've never walked into the party room and felt ‘oh this is going to be a long day.’”

“Over the next just over 600 days, you're going to have a group that have come together for the right reasons, to do the right things, to effectively win government. As long as they're concentrating on that then we're going to be in a good position.”

Mr Battin is now hoping to reconnect with voters by presenting himself and his team as a grounded alternative focused on restoring pride in Melbourne and delivering a “sensible” path forward on infrastructure, housing and safety.

While acknowledging that “obviously no-one wants to be in opposition”, he describes the past few months in the role as rewarding and energising, adding that the opportunity to lead the party was one that he seized with both hands.

“It's been a real challenge. You learn a lot about yourself and different leadership styles,” he said. “The team's positive, proactive, and I think we're in a good position moving forward.”

A longtime MP for the outer south-eastern electorate of Berwick, Mr Battin said his passion for the inner city stemmed from his time spent working in Melbourne and Prahran as a copper.

He says Melbourne was, and still has the potential to be the world's greatest capital city but believes the sense of civic pride in the CBD has waned.

“We've got nearly everything going for us – we used to have the best nightlife, we used to have the best and safest streets, but now we're just seeing too many places closed and businesses are struggling,” he said.

“We need to bring that pride back into Melbourne.”

Mr Battin says part of the solution lies in revitalising the city beyond major events. That means supporting smaller events and ensuring cafes, restaurants and retail can thrive all year round – not just during the tennis or AFL finals.

While his federal counterparts have come under scrutiny for their now scrapped election policy to force public servants back to the office, he believes in a much more “sensible, balanced approach” for Melbourne.

“My wife works from home a couple of days a week and it suits her, and her productivity is up, but I think we have to take productivity into consideration, as well as the impact across the whole state,” he said.

On crime and safety, he said concerns were widespread and had become the most commonly raised issue in the community, alongside cost-of-living pressures and the city's quieter weekdays post-COVID.

He called for more collaboration between Spring Street and Town Hall, and while acknowledging Lord Mayor Nick Reece's efforts to bolster street security, Mr Battin said some initiatives had overstepped.

“I've met up with him [Nick Reece] a couple of times. He's pretty dynamic.”

“I get what Nicholas is doing around trying to put security on the streets with people in knife proof vests, etcetera, but it should be the police's role, and I think that's really important,” Mr Battin said.

“Rather than trying to fix the problem of the state, he should be focusing on what he can do and actually encourage the state to fix that,” but added that “part of that too is we should work together on cleaning up the city”.

Mr Battin said he was open to working with the City of Melbourne on shared projects and pointed to cities like Ballarat, which he noted took “pure pride” in keeping its streets clean.

“There's a group up there [Ballarat] that goes around and cleans up the footpaths every morning. I haven't seen that in Melbourne other than those little trucks that drive around, which do nothing compared to the guy with the big high-pressure hose.”

With infrastructure shaping up as a key election issue, Mr Battin said the government's flagship Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project would be reviewed and scrapped if the Coalition wins power, labelling it “unaffordable”.

Instead, he flagged targeted investment in rail electrification upgrades in growth corridors, and a greater focus on buses – including dedicated lanes and expanded networks in growth areas.

“Obviously, we know we want it [SRL] cancelled now but if that doesn't happen, we have to assess it. You don't want to be stuck



with a noose of something that we just can't deliver,” he said.

“If you can use buses in line with trams and align them better, I think that's a fantastic way that we can get more cars off the road without going out and promoting taking cars off the road. If people trust the system and it works, they'll use it.”

On housing, Mr Battin said high-rise developments alone wouldn't solve the crisis, suggesting that many Victorians wanted more space and would prefer outer suburb or regional options if properly supported.

He also criticised the government's rebranding of the SRL as a “housing project”, arguing it was a way to shift public attention away from cost blowouts.

“The evidence is in, not everyone wants to live in a high-rise,” he said. “We've got thousands of places available in Melbourne and if everyone wanted to live there, they would be full.”

“The housing plan that the government's got is dictating where you need to live rather than asking people where they need to live and then putting in place a longer-term plan.”

He said areas like Geelong offered major potential for long-term housing solutions, and that more should be done to unlock both brownfield and greenfield sites, especially those already tied up in state government planning in the inner-city such as Fishermans Bend, E-Gate and Arden-Macaulay.

While stopping short of committing to specific projects like Metro 2, Mr Battin said any future government would need to assess priorities based on return on investment and infrastructure gaps.

With less than two years until the next

election, recent polls suggest voters are tiring of Labor ahead of what will be 12 years of consecutive government. A recent Resolve poll finds Mr Battin leading Jacinta Allan as preferred Premier 36 to 23.

While his party will need to win at least 25 seats to claim government and hold onto what it has, he believes there's a growing appetite for change.

“I think people are sick of it. They're sick of Labor. It's not a person, they're just sick of Labor.”

He said people were increasingly talking about crime, cost of living, infrastructure and healthcare, with many raising concerns about Victoria's mounting debt and the financial strain on households and businesses.

“Labor can't manage the big projects; they can't manage a lot of things and Victorians are the ones who are paying. Our process now is about how can we fix that,” he said, adding that his party had already announced its intentions for “more gas”, “cutting waste”, and “getting rid of corruption”.

“Now the process is about what are our big policies moving forward. For example, how do we address things like crime – it can't just be lock them up and throw away the key. While that's the easy way out, there also has to be a preventative model where we guide the next generation away from the system.”

Asked why he was taking on the challenge of leading Victoria, Mr Battin doesn't hesitate.

“If we don't have change, it's only going to get worse. You need a responsible government in there to start the process of fixing the damage that's been done.” ●

The Reece Police: Council budget delivers green wins and financial reset

The City of Melbourne's 2025–26 draft budget has handed down a welcome result for residents of North and West Melbourne and Kensington, with significant investments in parks and community infrastructure – and a clear shift towards tighter fiscal management under the new-look council.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



The headline act for the city's north-west is a \$40 million commitment over four years to redevelop the North Melbourne Community Centre, which will become a state-of-the-art facility at the heart of the growing Macaulay precinct.

Further west, the council has earmarked funds to deliver two new pocket parks – one currently under way on Roden St in West Melbourne and the other on Chapman St in North Melbourne – under its Pocket Park Program. In Kensington, construction will soon begin on Chelmsford Street Park, transforming more than 3600sqm into a new green space for the community.

The green wins are part of a broader \$44.3 million investment in open space and greening initiatives across the municipality.

"This budget delivers on our promise of a better Melbourne," Lord Mayor Nick Reece said. "We're continuing to invest in the services and infrastructure our community deserves, including new parks and gardens, and cost-of-living relief."

The community infrastructure program is accompanied by a newfound emphasis on financial stability, led by Cr Owen Guest, a recent addition to the council and head of the Finance, Governance and Risk portfolio. Cr Guest – who holds a doctorate in economics and finance – has been credited with spearheading a financial turnaround.

"For the first time in five years, we're delivering back-to-back surpluses," Cr Guest said. "We've found savings of \$15 million from last year's deficit and are on track to return to a debt-free position within seven years. That's a big shift from where we were."

The council's debt had previously been projected to peak at \$275 million in 2025–26. That figure has now been revised down to \$212 million, with further reductions forecast over the coming years. Cr Guest

described this shift as "the start of unwinding unsustainable COVID-era expenditures" and a step towards restoring trust and transparency in city finances.

Cr Reece backed the approach, noting that "while we're making every dollar count, we continue to deliver the services and infrastructure our community needs."

The \$732.4 million budget includes a \$154 million capital works program, with \$18 million allocated to finish stage one of Greenline along the Yarra, as well as upgrades to the Queen Victoria Market precinct (\$35 million), and the opening of a new library in Southbank (\$5.3 million).

Public safety also received a major funding boost, with the city announcing a record \$4.5 million investment. This includes \$2.1 million to expand the Safe City Camera Program with support from the state government and \$2 million for additional on-street security patrols, with around 10 new safety guards expected to be deployed.

"This is about making Melbourne cleaner, safer and more welcoming – 24 hours a day," Cr Reece said.

The Lord Mayor's pledge to expand the city's private security presence reflects one of the more contentious features of the draft budget – even before the review of its current trial has concluded.

The existing program, which pairs two security guards with city local laws officers, remains under evaluation. But with a further \$2 million allocated in the budget, Cr Reece has confirmed the council will press ahead with recruiting additional security personnel.

Exactly how this expanded safety presence will operate remains unclear. Cr Reece was left scrambling for clarity when questioned on the powers that these new guards would hold.

"They will have the power to make a citizen's arrest," he said, adding that they would be "well trained in managing hostile situations" and would offer "a very visible safety presence."

Pressed on what distinguished these guards from any other citizen – since the power to make a citizen's arrest is not unique – Cr Reece acknowledged they would not have any special legal authority.

He emphasised that it marked the first time in the city's 180-year history that



Melbourne would deploy such a program. "This is a major new safety presence on our streets and I'm confident it will make a big difference," he said.

Cr Reece said the initiative would be implemented in close collaboration with Victoria Police and social service agencies as part of an integrated approach.

In practical terms, the new guards will likely mirror the responsibilities of local laws officers – dealing with issues such as illegal public drinking, drug use, and begging. But with ambiguity surrounding their role, critics are concerned about oversight, legal clarity, and the potential for duplication of police functions.

For households, the budget also delivers some cost-of-living relief. Ratepayers will receive a full rebate on the state government's three per cent rate rise, along with reduced waste charges. On-street parking fees remain frozen for the eighth

consecutive year, and residents can look forward to \$2 pool entry, free fitness classes, and 600 free swimming lessons this summer. Free pet registration will also be offered to owners of Melbourne's 12,000 furry companions.

But perhaps the biggest test for this budget will be whether its legacy matches its ambition – especially when it comes to how carefully the City of Melbourne can balance investment in neighbourhood infrastructure with its new fiscal discipline.

Cr Guest was cautious but clear during the May 13 press conference.

"We're not starting from scratch. But we are building a better foundation. That means no more 'overpromising' or assuming external funding that doesn't exist. We want to move forward with honesty, accountability and a realistic plan."

Public consultation on the draft budget is open until June 2. ●

West End Art Space unveils trio of thought-provoking exhibitions

West Melbourne's West End Art Space presents three compelling solo exhibitions this month, each offering a distinct lens on human perception, societal complexity, and emotional introspection.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Running from May 3 to 25, the exhibitions – *A Wonderful Life* by Stephen Tierney, *Surface Tension* by Miranda Smith, and *The Inhabitants* by Geoff Harrison – invite viewers to engage deeply with contemporary themes through innovative visual approaches.

In *A Wonderful Life*, Stephen Tierney uses the power of collage to explore the dissonance between idealised happiness and real-world turmoil.

Drawing on photojournalism from the 1950s and '60s, Stephen juxtaposes images of joy and leisure with stark representations of war, sexism, and unrest. The result is a striking commentary on the myths we maintain around fulfilment and progress.

Through bold imagery and dramatic black-and-white contrasts, the exhibition asks its audience to question the very foundations of the "wonderful life" narrative.

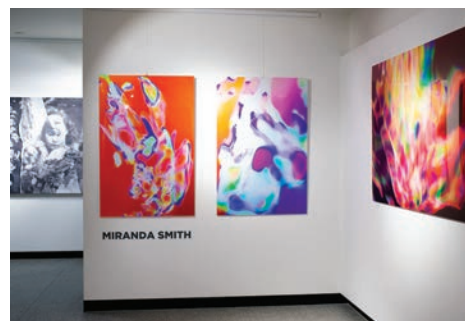
Miranda Smith's *Surface Tension* transforms the act of photography into a vibrant exploration of light, movement, and instability.

Rather than treating the camera as a neutral observer, Miranda uses it as a tool to create painterly compositions where colour becomes a fluid force.

The exhibition includes an artist talk on May 17, offering visitors a chance to delve deeper into Miranda's process.

In Gallery 1, Geoff Harrison presents *The Inhabitants*, a series of atmospheric paintings that offer meditative scenes suffused with psychological tension.

Often ambiguous in setting, Geoff's works



focus on the quiet interplay between light and space, creating visual environments that resonate with both accessibility and introspection.

Through these hauntingly still landscapes, Geoff confronts his own anxieties and hopes, inviting viewers to reflect on their own inner worlds.

All three exhibitions opened with a joint reception on May 8, providing an opportunity to meet the artists and experience the diversity of expression housed under one roof.



Founded in 2016, West End Art Space has become a vital fixture in Melbourne's contemporary art scene.

Under the direction of visual artist and restoration expert Anna Prifti, the gallery is known for supporting both Australian and international artists with a strong exhibition history.

Anna's background in preserving mural paintings and Byzantine iconography informs the gallery's broader mission: to nurture creative practices while safeguarding cultural heritage. ●



Brunch and banter on the menu at Kensington’s new Market Brunch series

Melbourne Farmers’ Markets has launched Market Brunch, a new monthly event bringing together Victoria’s leading food artisans in a relaxed, communal setting at Kensington’s historic Younghusband precinct.

WORDS BY
SEAN CAR



Held on the first Sunday of each month from 10am to 2pm, the new series kicked off on May 4 and offers a curated taste of Melbourne brunch culture, with everything from vegan pastries and sourdough to mimosas and artisanal cheese on the table. Hosted in the redeveloped wool store-turned-creative precinct, Market Brunch builds on the growing community activation of Younghusband, which also recently welcomed the Rose Street Markets to its bluestone laneway.

The brunch series transforms the site’s industrial past into a vibrant food hub, inviting guests to pull up a seat at shared tables, connect with stallholders, and slow down over good food and conversation. Around 15 stallholders feature each month, with confirmed names across May and June including Bill’s Bakeshop, Caravan Chai, Frankly Raw peanut butter, Long Paddock cheese, Madeleine Butter, and Wallace Family Produce. Each stallholder shares a focus on craft, quality, and local provenance. Adding depth to the experience are “Show & Tell” sessions, where producers share their stories, techniques, and the inspirations behind their offerings. With the heritage-listed Younghusband precinct now home to more than 17,000 sqm of community, office, and public space, events like Market Brunch reflect its evolution into a new destination for food, creativity and connection. Following a well-received debut, Market Brunch will return on Sunday, June 1, with free entry and a fresh lineup of stalls and stories to discover. melbournefarmersmarkets.org.au ●

ENVIRONMENT

How should land be prioritised in the city?

Globally, people are flocking to cities creating all sorts of demands and economic opportunities. Along with this unfortunately comes greed.



What is required of urban land now and in the future? And how should it be shared among all, including the more than human life that we have pushed out. Who gets to make decisions about this valuable and limited gift of land? Global and local businesses, developers with big bank cheques, and superannuation dollars are holding sway and drowning out community and nature (which has no voice at this table), with councils and governments. Shelter for citizens is important but how this is built and shared should not create unbalanced wealth. It is expected, according to City of Melbourne independent research, that many more people will be moving into Melbourne over the next decade requiring housing. In parallel, homelessness and the expected homelessness continues to rise. Homelessness is a complex issue, not cyclical but rather structural of a system that does n’t support all members of the community. Current financial systems and policies tend to benefit high earning individuals and global corporations. In addition, years of cuts to social services have left inadequate public funding for social housing, agencies and support services for those vulnerable. This is the downfall of late-stage capitalism, benefitting a few and not all. Potential young homeowners are increasingly pushed out of the market due to pricing and so are having to rent, which removes supply from others. On top of this global businesses like Airbnb take a chunk of accommodation (14 per cent). **The argument of density versus sprawl** We have seen the growth of multiple high-rise developments across the various suburbs; you only need to look at Macaulay Rd to see how quickly this has befallen on Kensington impacting the ecology. How do trees, shrubs, grasses, hills, rivers,

streams, and wildlife fit in amid all this noise, demand, pollution and construction? Pushed to the fringes with plants and trees being managed, designed and strategised to try and provide wild spaces in the city for insects, birds and other organisms as more of the earth is cemented over and asphalted – starving the water table and soil life. **Circular economy principles call us to invest in our natural capital, to regenerate** How much place for the wild is in the city? Our council sells a public parking lot to a wealthy developer furthering its wealth, rather than building a homeless sanctuary, a community facility or natural wealth. Priorities seem to be on short-term financial gain over long-term community benefit and care for the environment. To remain human what do we need to feed not only our bodies but our mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. How do we want to live? People in inner cities are expected to live in a cement box that has a couple of windows, no sight of nature, no place to go outside and put your feet on the ground, no place to grow a few vegies, flowers and plants. Let’s build natural wealth and manage our natural capital with more respect. ●

Jacqui van Heerden
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NORTH & WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

Supporting our Queensberry Cup

The North & West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) is proud to support the 2025 Queensberry Cup, a lively billycart race and street festival hosted by the North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre.

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, Errol and Queensberry streets will come alive with thousands of locals and visitors, offering businesses a unique opportunity to showcase their brand, build partnerships, and grow their community presence. This beloved event, featuring up to 50 billycart racers, live music, the Famous Village Dog Show, food stalls, and family activities, celebrates the spirit of North and West Melbourne. Last year, it generated more than \$50,000 in local spending, making it an ideal platform for cafes, retailers, and artisans to connect with customers and collaborate with other businesses. The NWMPA’s support enhances these opportunities, fostering partnerships that strengthen our precinct’s economic and community vitality.

Sponsorship, managed through the Neighbourhood Centre, is a powerful way to position your business as a community leader while encouraging collaboration. Flexible packages include logo placement on posters, banners, and the Queensberry Cup website, as well as opportunities to contribute to the silent auction or sponsor a race category for naming rights. Businesses have run successful pop-up stalls, and sponsorships support the Neighbourhood Centre’s programs for disadvantaged children, seniors, and disempowered men. Contact the Centre’s director, Ariel at arielv@centre.org.au to explore sponsorship options. For businesses creating special offerings, the NWMPA will host a networking event on June 2, 2025. This event will bring businesses together to network and discuss how local businesses can collectively leverage the opportunities this day presents. Some suggestions include creative event-day promotions, such as happy hour specials, pop-up stalls like Melrose Place 3051, billycart-themed dishes or a trail of local offerings. These can be or promoted through the NWMPA, City of Melbourne’s and NWMNC’s channels.



Businesses can also race a custom billycart to promote their brand and spark connections. The Neighbourhood Centre, together with Peter Mac Men’s Shed and Smarter Choice Auto, provides design and maker sessions with tools and design support to ensure your cart is race-ready. Compete for the Queensberry Cup trophy and gain media coverage from outlets like North West City News. Visit queensberrycup.org.au for details.

Supported by the NWMPA, the Queensberry Cup celebrates North and West Melbourne’s vibrant community. Join this event to collaborate, grow, and highlight our precinct’s charm. Email info@northwestmelbourne.com.au or visit queensberrycup.org.au to get involved. Make October 18, 2025 a memorable day for our community! ●

West Melbourne, a Sense of Place is launched

It seemed like a cast of hundreds as we all lined up for our group photograph. There were the writers, (those who could not be there and were represented by a family member), the editor and the layout/designer and the members of the subcommittee of the Hotham History Project who had overseen the publication.



WORDS BY
FELICITY JACK

West Melbourne, a Sense of Place, was launched on Monday, March 24 at the City of Melbourne Bowls Club. This was the culmination of work that had taken place over many years – the first chapter to have been written was in 1996.

Twenty-three authors have been busy at work since then, contributing in all to 26 chapters. It was a great event and provided an opportunity for community members to get together for a chat while enjoying a drink and refreshments.

The book was launched by local historian Janet McCalman who talked about the early Indigenous people who lived in the local area. It was a meeting place for



tribes from a large area of Victoria who met for corroborees and to negotiate business deals and family issues.

The Blue Lake, located in the area now covered by Melbourne's industrial west, features prominently in the book. This was both a larder and a gathering place for many Indigenous tribes. Sadly, colonisation degraded the lake into a filthy swamp, and the Indigenous people were decimated by

disease and by dispossessed of their lands.

The book includes some beautiful water-colour images of many of the local houses whose history, and their inhabitants, have been written about. These were generously donated by local artist Angela Williams.

The book can be ordered through the Hotham History Project website. The cost is \$39.95. The book can be delivered for no charge to addresses in North and West

Melbourne (post codes 3003 and 3051) but for all other Australian postcodes a flat rate delivery fee of \$11.30 is charged.

If you are interested in knowing more about the history of North and West Melbourne you are encouraged to join and receive our newsletters and notification of forthcoming events. hothamhistory.org.au ●

STATE MP

Melbourne needs more sports ovals, but we need to get it right

Right around the corner from my house is JJ Holland Park, one of the best parks in the City of Melbourne.

The park has three sports ovals, and as our community knows, they are very well used. On any given afternoon or weekend morning, you can find kids playing soccer, footy, cricket, LARPing or live-action role-playing, and a whole host of other activities.

We're lucky to have these great facilities, but across our city, it's becoming harder and harder for sports clubs to find places for kids to play. Sports fields are booked out, and for sports like netball, kids are missing out on training or having to travel long distances to practice due to the lack of facilities.

As an inner-city electorate with a growing population, Melbourne has a real need for more sports grounds and infrastructure. But space is limited, and we need to find creative solutions. The opening of the refurbished Kensington Rec Centre will help, but the need is so great that pressure is now also being put on places like Royal Park to turn natural and passive recreational areas into sport fields.

I believe that with proper planning we can have more sports fields without eating into the most precious parts of Royal Park, or compromising the passive recreation space that we all need to thrive.

We need spaces to walk our dogs off-leash, places to sit and reflect, exercise and run or play spontaneous games, as well as organised sport. We can get the balance right and do this well, but only if the government plans well, and right now I'm worried the Labor Government is not doing this important work.

For example, the new Arden development is going



to house tens of thousands of people but the State Labor Government has only planned two sports fields. I'm calling on the government to fast-track the development of these spaces so that we can use them now, not in 10 years, and to build more community and sporting facilities at Arden to keep up with demand.

The community and experts have also proposed other creative solutions.

The City of Melbourne is looking at lights for Oval 2 in JJ Holland Park and a new scoreboard on Oval 1, so more sport can be played or practiced after hours, especially during winter months.

Another idea that I'm pushing for is for our local schools to open up for after-hours use. Infrastructure Victoria supports this but the State Labor Government needs to provide incentives for schools so they can manage any extra security or cleaning that may be needed to make this happen, as well as the interaction with after-school care programs.

It can be done, if the government supported and encouraged schools to make it happen. I've written to the Minister for Education about this.

If you have other ideas about how we can increase access to sports ovals and sporting facilities in the electorate of Melbourne I want to hear from you! ●

Ellen Sandell

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM



PGRA

PGRA attends 2050 Summit

After all the excitement of our Neighbours' Day event and Easter egg hunt, the past month has been relatively quiet for the Parkville Gardens Residents' Association (PGRA). We're planning a surprise event for late June so watch this space.

There are a few things that we are waiting for with eager anticipation. The first is feedback on our funding applications for the upcoming financial year.

We expect to know by the end of this month whether we have been successful or not. Keeping fingers crossed that we'll be able to continue staging events that draw the community together in a safe and enjoyable way. That's what we love to do.

We're also waiting to hear what local residents had to say to the City of Melbourne about pedestrian and road safety in the neighbourhood. We expect feedback sometime this month.

In the meantime work has just commenced to repair and upgrade the footpath around the Galada Ave Reserve. That's scheduled to take a couple of weeks.

I was pleased to be able to represent PGRA at the Melbourne

2050 Summit at Town Hall on Friday, May 9. Several hundred participants got enthusiastically involved in the process to imagine what they'd like Melbourne to be 25 years down the track.

Lots of ideas, some practical, others very ambitious, all thought-provoking. It's going to take the council a while to digest the wealth of ideas and present them back to us.

One piece of feedback we have received was disappointing. The Minister for Housing, Harriet Shing, responded to our appeal for the community centre the neighbourhood was originally promised.

She replied to say that there were "no plans to revisit the site for a dedicated community centre". Not the news we wanted to hear, but we'll keep pursuing the issue.

The Royal Park Master Plan consultation generated so much information and opinion that the draft has been delayed until much later in the year. We look forward to that. ●

Tom Knowles

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@PGRA.ORG.AU





1. Nicholas Hoult (pictured) will play which famous comic book villain in an upcoming film?
2. What redevelopment in Royal Park has now been completed?
3. What practice does Hello Kids Therapy Hub specialise in?
4. Which video game was originally titled *Puckman* in Japan?
5. Which band had a hit with the 2009 song *Little Lion Man*?
6. Which reality TV personality is running for the seat of Melbourne in the upcoming federal election?
7. Portugal produces half of the world's supply of what buoyant material?
8. Which popular British soap opera debuted on screens in 1995?
9. What European country was the first to allow same-sex marriage in 2001?
10. What is the City of Melbourne in pursuit of acquiring in Macauley?
11. When was the North Melbourne public housing tower built?
12. Who is Arden Station named after?

1. Lex Luthor 2. The Ryder Park Pavilion
3. Speed pathology 4. Pac-Man
5. Mumford & Sons 6. Tim Smith 7. Cork
8. Holliboaks 9. The Netherlands 10. The Moonee Ponds Creek 'drainage land'
11. 1968 12. George Arden, the co-founder of the *Fort Phillip Gazette*

No. 312

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SPLIT, CRANE, RIPEN, ADEPT, MELTS

May. 2025

No. 047

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Theme: Primates

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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APE	MONKEY
CAPUCHIN	ORANGUTAN
CHIMPANZEE	PROBOSCIS
GORILLA	RHESUS
HOWLER	SIAMANG
MACAQUE	SIMIAN
MANDRILL	SQUIRREL
MARMOSSET	TARSIER

Secret message: A little too familiar

No. 047

- 1 Clear (5)
- 4 Female killer (9)
- 9 Having a small piece broken off (7)
- 10 Examiner of accounts (7)
- 11 Turn to use (7)
- 12 Virgin Mary (7)
- 13 Inscribing onto a hard surface (9)
- 15 Paraphernalia (4)
- 17 Counterfeit (4)
- 19 Central American country (9)
- 22 Unopened rose (7)
- 25 Changed (7)
- 26 Continuing (7)
- 27 Strain (7)
- 28 Release (9)
- 29 Rate of progress (5)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Orator (8) | instalments (6) | enegger (6) |
| 2 | Limit (7) | 14 Promise (9) | 23 Scottish child (5) |
| 3 | Copy (9) | 15 Signs of | 24 lsm (5) |
| 4 | Infuriating (9) | welcome (9) | |
| 5 | Kingdom (5) | 16 Blue (8) | |

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| 6 | Closed (5) | 18 | Appoints (7) |
| 7 | Baltic country;
capital Tallinn (7) | 20 | Travel
business (7) |
| 8 | Story in
instalments (6) | 21 | Actor, – Schwarz-
enegger (6) |
| 14 | Promise (9) | 23 | Scottish child (5) |
| 15 | Signs of
welcome (9) | 24 | Ism (5) |
| 16 | Blue (8) | | |

[illegible]

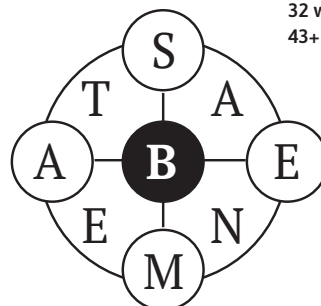
No. 047

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No. 047

21 words: Good
32 words: Very good
43+ words: Excellent



Reference:
Collins Concise
English Dictionary

SOLUTIONS

WHAT'S ON

May

Experience the north west city buzz this month with workshops, markets, exhibitions and more.

4, 5, 6 CLUB

Join the fortnightly 4, 5, 6 club for an epic after school adventure packed with stories, craft and games! Unleash your creativity, make new friends and dive into a world of fun. Age: 4 to 6 years.

North Melbourne Library

MONS UNTIL 23 JUNE, 4PM – 4.45PM

REWIND FORWARD: CREATIVE IN RESIDENCE GROUP EXHIBITION

Public Record Office Victoria's residence project provides artists with a unique opportunity to research & create work based off their archives, helping understand how the past continues to inform our current day-to-days.

Victorian Archives Centre, Nth Melbourne

THURSDAY 29 MAY, 5PM – 7PM

MELBOURNE ZOO

Make the most of the school holidays, when children under 16 receive free entry, and see over 300 species of animals in a beautifully landscaped setting.

Melbourne Zoo, Elliott Ave, Parkville

OPEN DAILY FROM 9AM

STEPHEN TIERNEY: A WONDERFUL LIFE

Challenging the viewer to reconsider the simplicity of its title, *A Wonderful Life* confronts the contradictions in the societal ideal of happiness through the medium of collage.

West End Art Space, West Melbourne

UNTIL 25 MAY, 11AM – 4PM

RISING: AMPLIFIED

It's a fine line between pleasure and pain. Chrissy Amphlett was a seismic force in a school uniform. Now, beloved performer and writer Sheridan Harbridge fronts the band in an electrifying new cabaret show.

Union Theatre, Parkville

11 – 13 JUNE, 7.30PM – 9PM

YOUNGHUSBAND ROSE STREET MARKET

Monthly market showcasing 60+ stallholders offering a curated mix of handmade art, ceramics, fashion, jewellery, artisan goods and more.

Younghusband, Kensington

SATURDAYS UNTIL 19 JULY, 12PM – 2PM

MARKET BRUNCH

Market Brunch by Melbourne Farmers Markets is a monthly food market celebrating some of Melbourne's most creative and passionate food producers. Runs on first Sunday of each month.

2-50 Elizabeth St, Kensington

UNTIL 8 JUNE, 10AM – 3PM

COFFEE CUPPING AND TASTING

An opportunity to try some of the world's best coffee, and also look at what goes into espresso blends, different flavour profiles, filter roasts and talk about what makes a great specialty coffee.

Rumble Coffee Roasters, Kensington

6 JUNE – 3 OCTOBER, 3PM – 4PM

WATERCOLOUR CARD MAKING

Create your own unique set of greeting cards while learning the basics of watercolour painting. All materials supplied. Suitable for people 12+. Lead by artist Valentina Serebrennikova.

Kensington Neighbourhood House

SATURDAY 24 MAY, 2PM – 4PM

MELBOURNE PAINT LAB ART WORKSHOP

A 60-minute journey through the vibrant world of street art, offering hands-on opportunities to experiment with various painting techniques under the guidance of professional artists. Suitable for age 5+.

The Blender Studios, West Melbourne

UNTIL 15 JUNE

KENSINGTON PARKING REVIEW

The council is making parking in Kensington simpler and more available. Share your thoughts in its survey to inform Kensington's next annual parking review. Register online at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

Online Community Session

TUESDAY 27 MAY, 12PM – 1PM

Business Directory

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PRECINCT

NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL

www.haileybury.vic.edu.au

HAILEYBURY

KEYSBOROUGH BRIGHTON HERWICK CITY BEIJING

www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au
273 Victoria St, West Melbourne

9321 9200

SIMONDS
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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Your City of Melbourne community update

CITY OF MELBOURNE

DRAFT BUDGET 2025-26

The City of Melbourne's 2025-26 draft Budget will be available from Tuesday 13 May for community feedback.

It will outline the projects and services we plan to invest in during the next financial year.

Let us know what matters most to you and your community.



Consultation open from
13 May to 2 June 2025.

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

