

# NORTH WEST CITY NEWS

northwestcitynews.com.au

Forever Free

Puzzles & Trivia P22



**New pop-up shop supports First Nations women**  
*Photo by Murray Enders*

Corina Muir (pictured) and her business partner Annette Sax say they are proud to be supporting First Nations women through their social enterprise Amber Days & Yarn Strong Sista Collective shop, which has recently launched on Errol St. Read the full story online at [northwestcitynews.com.au](http://northwestcitynews.com.au)

## Residents step up campaign to have traffic noise reduced from West Gate Tunnel

*The Department of Transport (DoT) is reviewing growing concerns raised by residents in relation to traffic impacts from the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) as it opened the door to “mitigation measures”.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

The DoT’s response comes as West Melbourne residents have long feared that without buffers to limit noise or air pollution on the Wurundjeri Way extension (WWE), their quality of life would be disrupted.

Under the plans, the Docklands arterial road Wurundjeri Way would be extended north through the proposed E-Gate development, a 20-hectare state-owned site that is earmarked to become a new suburb, with green space, for more than 10,000 residents. According to the DoT, community and City of Melbourne feedback has been acted upon with the extension being lowered to reduce the impact on residents.

It said the WGTP’s 63-decibel noise limit applied to the new Wurundjeri Way extension with detailed noise modelling showing “this can be achieved without requiring noise walls”.

“This detailed noise modelling is based on future traffic volumes on the Wurundjeri Way extension,” the DoT said, but added, “in the unlikely event that the noise levels are not achieved, mitigation measures will be implemented.”

The Department confirmed it was reviewing further concerns and “will keep the community informed” after it met with community members to discuss existing rail noise impacts and potential changes from the WGTP.

However, at its May general meeting, the North and West Melbourne Association (NWMA), which is lobbying for noise barriers on the extension, heard from a resident who “found it hard to comprehend” how the extra volume of traffic would be managed once the WGTP was completed.

According to the meeting’s minutes, the DoT had predicted an extra 9500 vehicles per day, “but this figure is for traffic between the morning and evening peak periods, so the volume will actually be more like 10,000”.

The meeting also questioned what “strategies would be taken to address traffic streaming off the five arteries” of the West Gate Tunnel including Dynon Rd, Dudley St, Queensberry St, and Arden St and the WWE.

The NWMA therefore resolved to write to the DoT “regarding the traffic situation in North and West Melbourne after the West Gate Tunnel is opened”.

*Continued on page 5.*

## Giant leap forward for Macaulay Precinct

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has endorsed new planning controls to its ambitious Macaulay Structure Plan which addresses key issues of flooding, affordable housing, transport, and reflecting the “distinct character” of four new distinct precincts.

At their June 14 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors considered Planning Scheme Amendment C417, which seeks to implement the planning controls of the structure plan – a vision that sets out a major urban renewal precinct in North Melbourne and Kensington spanning 90 hectares.

The new controls come after the council endorsed the structure plan with changes in November last year following community consultation. The planning scheme amendment represents the next important step in Macaulay’s evolution by introducing the structure plan into the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Among a number of amendments made since the council endorsed the original structure plan is rezoning the mixed-use zone to a “special use zone” to support a “genuine mix of uses in Macaulay”.

This includes managing land that is vulnerable to flooding as well as encouraging new developments to dedicate 20 per cent of their floor space to employment or other non-residential uses where permits are issued for accommodation to “support a greater mix of commercial/retail uses” in a bid to meet a projected 9500 jobs in Macaulay by 2050.

It also sets out four new schedules to reflect the “distinct character” of Macaulay’s four sub-precincts – Boundary, Melrose, Chelmsford, and Stubbs.

These include floor area ratios, building heights, street wall heights, a “design excellence review process”, upper-level setbacks, active frontages, setbacks and new connections and laneways.

*Continued on page 4.*

TRANSPORT, PAGE 02  
**A** Parkville Gardens push for better bus services



PLANNING, PAGE 03  
**B** Kensington locals fight against development



ELECTIONS, PAGE 07  
**C** Inner north-west election wrap



SAFETY & SECURITY, PAGE 10  
**D** Funding for “death trap” Royal Park crossing



For a clear path to success  
Kylie 0417 960 492  
Simone 0447 022 266  
Trevor 0456 377 780



CONTACT  
Suite 108, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
northwestcitynews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

EDITOR  
Sean Car

PUBLISHER  
Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
ABN: 57 623 558 725

ADVERTISING  
Hyper-local print works for advertisers in our digital world because local people are interested in local news. To sell to the North West City community, contact Jack Hayes on 0401 031 236 or jack@hyperlocalnews.com.au

Reader contributions are welcome. Send letters, articles and images to: brendan@hyperlocalnews.com.au

The deadline for the July edition is July 7.

SOCIAL MEDIA  
Follow us on Twitter @North\_West\_City\_News

Like us on Facebook northwestcitynewsmelbourne

Follow us on Instagram @northwestcitynews

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.

hyperlocalnews.com.au  
admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au



# Parkville Gardens commuters continue to wait for better bus services as the Greens seek answers

*The Parkville Gardens community stands to wait longer for a more frequent bus service after the state government confirmed it was “continuing to plan” its delivery, leaving commuters frustrated.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Murray Enders*  
TRANSPORT

Residents have felt short-changed with its public transport options, with only one bus route servicing the relatively isolated neighbourhood, which runs every hour.

Local Greens MPs have long advocated on behalf of the growing community, with Brunswick MP Tim Read having successfully lobbied the state government last year to “demand more” bus services to Parkville Gardens, which was supported by a community petition.

However, the government’s commitment has yet to come to fruition.

The matter was brought back into the spotlight after Greens leader and Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region Samantha Ratnam addressed parliament on May 25 seeking answers from Public Transport Minister Ben Carroll.

“Despite promising funding in last year’s budget to increase the frequency of services on the line, there is still just one bus every hour, meaning residents who want to travel to work, the city or even the supermarket for fresh food need to rely on a single bus every 60 minutes,” she said.



▲ Greens Brunswick MP Dr Tim Read has led calls for more bus services to Parkville Gardens for many years.

“The area is growing as additional apartment buildings are constructed, including much-needed social and affordable housing—which is very welcome—yet the public transport options are extremely limited.”

In her concluding remarks, she asked, “When will the frequency of services on the 505-bus line increase?”

Mr Carroll responded to the question on June 9, saying the Department of Transport (DoT) was “continuing to plan for delivery of additional services between Moonee Ponds and Melbourne University.”

“This includes discussions with the local bus operator and an analysis of the local road network including the impact of works around Grattan St as part of the Victorian Government’s Big Build.

“I look forward to advising the Member and her community in due course once this work has been finalised.”

However, the Parkville Gardens Residents’ Association, which has long been concerned at the “inadequacy of public transport” to its neighbourhood, was left disappointed that a “clear response” was not provided by Mr Carroll.

“Local residents are forced to rely on their own vehicles to get to work or study or shops. This is unsatisfactory, both from a cost and an environmental point of view,” a statement from the association said.

It said despite extra funding for an improved service having been announced in last year’s state budget, “this has yet to translate into an upgraded timetable”.

The residents’ association applauded Ms Ratnam for having “taken up the issue again in state parliament”.

A DoT spokesperson said, “we are continuing to plan for additional services between Moonee Ponds and Melbourne University.”

“At the same time work continues to deliver the Metro Tunnel which will transform public transport in Melbourne’s inner-north with new stations at Arden and Parkville.”

Mr Carrol said the government was investing \$108.5 million in the 2022 State Budget to improve local bus services in “growth areas, implement bus reform, improve accessibility and customer outcomes and to get students to school.”

In June 2021, the government released Victoria’s Bus Plan which set out how it would deliver a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network. ●

## QUEEN VIC MARKET

# winter night market

WED  
FROM  
5 PM

UNTIL  
31 AUG

The Winter Night Market is back at Queen Vic Market every Wednesday evening until 31 August.

Rug up in your winter woollies and head to the Market to enjoy delicious street food, hot bevies, roaring open fires, great shopping, live music, and fun at the silent disco.

With free entry, the only prerequisites are to come hungry and ready for a good time!

winternightmarket.com.au



# Kensington locals fight against proposed development which would be “completely out of character”

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

Kensington residents are fighting a proposal to put a mixed-use development in their historic street, saying its size would have a “very negative impact”.

Property developer Assemble Communities wants to build four buildings between four and eight storeys high at 402-432 and 434-444 Macaulay Rd, which are currently the sites of industrial buildings.

The project would include a total of 362 apartments consisting of one- and three-bedroom studio apartments – of which 20 per cent would be provided as social housing.

Under the plans, three buildings would also comprise shops, a supermarket, a cafe, and office space. All ground floors would feature community spaces and workshops which would cater for social engagements, events, functions, recreational and networking activities.

Onsite amenities for residents would include a courtyard area, a common area, and co-working spaces and lounges.

However, objectors have expressed concerns about the plans, saying the sheer size of the development was “far too big”, and would affect the neighbourhood’s character and amenity.

Kensington Association chair Simon Harvey has written a submission outlining his concerns, particularly the development’s impact to traffic and parking, which is “not being properly considered”.

“The proximity of Barnett St to existing commercial properties on the Macaulay Rd corner, in addition to the new commercial premises to be built along Macaulay Rd, will absolutely require special treatment of the street parking arrangements, in order to protect the parking needs of residents in Barnett St,” he wrote.

“There are steps that can be taken to mitigate



▲ Kensington Association chair Simon Harvey and other residents are strongly objecting to a “bulky building” proposal, which they say will be imposing on their backyard privacy, which makes no transition to their single storey heritage homes. Photo: Murray Enders.

the very negative impact of a development of this size on existing residents.”

“With another development in the pipeline (352-400 Macaulay Rd), and others in progress or waiting to be realised, there is an urgent requirement for a precinct-wide traffic and parking assessment.”

According to the plans, a total of 161 car parking spaces would be provided in one level of a basement for residents and retail tenancies. An additional 338 parking spaces would be provided for bicycles and 10 for motorbikes.

A Barnett St resident, who did not want to be identified, said he and other residents “strongly object” to the proposal, saying it would have a

detrimental impact on the community.

“It’s a very heritage street, the backdrop of the proposed build will be completely out of character,” he told *North West City News*.

He said traffic issues “are just the beginning of the major issues and impact this development will have on both the Kensington community but especially Barnett St residents.”

In his submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in opposing the plans, he said other new developments at 393 Macaulay Rd, 347 Macaulay Rd, and 15 Thompson St, would increase congestion and traffic, which “has not been well considered and accounted for throughout this plan.”

The resident also cited issues of privacy, saying “as a young family we are deeply concerned about the new build with residents seeing into our backyards.”

He said the planting of infant trees to create privacy for Barnett St residents would “take a considerable amount of time” – up to 10 years – before the trees were tall enough to cover the view from the new apartments – with residents calling for temporary screens to be installed if the development is approved.

According to the planning application, Assemble Communities will aim to “deliver a scale of development that complements the established low-scale residential area”.

“A variety of architectural techniques including differing building forms and typologies, contrasting materials and finishes, street walls, setbacks, street level activity, and distribution of balconies and windows to each of the buildings deliver a truly exceptional design response to the site,” it said.

Assemble said the social housing offering was a “fundamental component” of the application, and “demonstrates a measurable broader community benefit within an identified urban renewal precinct”.

DELWP is considering the plans. ●



## Council considers new park outside North Melbourne Town Hall

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne will assess the “benefits, opportunities and impacts” of a new forecourt or park on Queensberry St adjacent to North Melbourne Town Hall following its June 14 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Cr Rohan Leppert moved a motion at the meeting for council management to consider “a variety of options” within the area of Queensberry St between Errol and Leveson streets and report back to councillors by April 2023.

The motion noted calls from the community for new public open space on Queensberry St adjacent to the Town Hall, while also noting the \$100 million North Melbourne, West Melbourne and Docklands Transport and Amenity Program (TAP), and that “Queensberry St traffic calming and open space opportunities is a project for future consideration, subject to a series of state/council approval and funding decisions”.

Cr Leppert also acknowledged calls from the local community for the nomination of a place within the municipality to properly honour the legacy of North Melbourne social and environmental planning activists Ruth and Maurie Crow. The assessment will also provide advice for the process for naming of a section of a new park, or other location within North Melbourne, for the Crows. ●



## WE GET THE BEST OUT OF OUR BOYS

One Campus

FROM 2023

Simonds Catholic College is a small school with big opportunities in the heart of the city. Our teachers are **experts in teaching the way boys learn best**. We are committed to small class sizes to ensure your son will receive the attention he requires to achieve his personal best.

## YEAR 7 2023 & 2024 APPLICATIONS OPEN

9321 9200

273 Victoria St, West Melbourne [2 blocks from Queen Vic Market]

[www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au) [info@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au)



Following our acquisition of a multi storey building on Chetwynd St and the completion of refurbishment of existing areas, we are thrilled to announce that SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE will become **ONE SCHOOL ON ONE CAMPUS**. By 2023 all students across Year 7-12 will be based at our West Melbourne site **in the heart of the city**.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

SIMONDS\_CATHOLIC\_COLLEGE



## Kensington Neighbourhood Portal goes live, helping connect communities

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A new online interactive portal where residents can learn more about the Kensington neighbourhood and have their say on local matters has officially launched.

Dubbed the “Neighbourhood Portal”, the City of Melbourne initiative will allow the community to better connect with the council by helping share their ideas for the future.

The council said its “new place-based” neighbourhood approach would also ensure it could understand and respond to unique communities across the municipality.

The CBD and Kensington portals are the first to go live with more set to launch later this year for West Melbourne, North Melbourne, Carlton, East Melbourne, Parkville, Docklands, Southbank and South Yarra.

The portals will feature an overview of each neighbourhood, including list of local priorities following two rounds of community consultation.

These included residents having raised concerns around traffic and parking management, which the council said its Transport Strategy 2030 would commit to reducing speed limits on all local streets plus key arterial roads to keep people safe.

Other feedback, which is available on the portal, included residents wanting improvements to South Kensington and Macaulay train stations to enhance safety, function, and appeal while others wanted to see more frequent train and bus services.

Also available on the portal are facts and figures about the area, as well as an acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung places of significance with an interactive map.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was proud to further enhance its connections within communities with the launch of our Neighbourhood Portals.

“The neighbourhoods in the City of Melbourne are unique, each with their own identity, priorities and aspirations,” she said.

“That’s why we’ve implemented a place-based neighbourhood approach to better understand the individual needs and ideas of people across our vibrant municipality.”

Cr Capp said the portals would be a hub for local information, updates on council plans in action and good local news stories.

“We look forward to working closely with Melburnians through our Neighbourhood Partners to bring their needs and ideas into fruition.”

The portals were endorsed at the council’s Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 14 – which was held for the first time at Meat Market Stables in North Melbourne.

To help realise its priorities, the council is also launching a new Connected Neighbourhoods program, which will offer grants of up to \$2000 for organisations and individuals to bring ideas that benefit the local area to life. Applications open on July 1.

The council’s health, wellbeing and belonging portfolio lead Cr Dr Olivia Ball said the council was committed to supporting its diverse communities and acting on their priorities. ●

# Giant leap forward for Macaulay Precinct

*Continued from page 1.*

With the council hoping to achieve a diverse range of housing options, it has also proposed that new development includes 3.8 per cent of the building’s floor area for affordable housing, equating to a projected 14 per cent across the entire Macaulay precinct.

Changes to the precinct’s parking overlay will discourage on-site car parking on a site-by-site basis and “encourage consolidated, publicly available carparks and encourage a travel mode shift toward sustainable transport options”.

In approving the new schedules, the council will now seek authorisation from Minister for Planning Richard Wynne to prepare and exhibit the planning scheme amendment.

According to a council report, the amendment is “generally in accordance with the structure plan although further modelling and analysis has resulted in the refinement of some built form requirements”.

Council officers have recommended the controls be implemented on an “interim basis,” rather than seeking a further extension to the existing interim built form controls which expire in June and September this year.

The council’s planning portfolio lead Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said Macaulay “is a small but vitally important” part of the City of Melbourne.

While Cr Reece conceded it had “some wonderful pockets” there were “some parts” which were “not reaching anything like their proper potential,” in which he referenced the corridor between Boundary Rd and Moonee Ponds Creek.

“With this planning scheme amendment, we are looking to get right down into some fine-grain planning detail; that’s why we have divided the area up,” he said, adding the planning controls would allow Macaulay to develop and grow in a way which was “sensitive to the built form.”

Cr Reece also declared, “we want Macaulay to be our first EV [electric vehicle] ready suburb in Melbourne” with all new carparks in Macaulay



to include charging infrastructure.

He added that the proposal, which seeks for all developments to have at least 3.8 per cent affordable housing or developers to make an equivalent financial contribution to affordable housing, would be a “game changer”.

He also said the plan included a new green space and pedestrian pathways.

North Melbourne resident Geoff Leach addressed the meeting saying that while he gave “somewhat faint praise to the refresh”, he was concerned that Arden Macaulay precincts were getting “massive amounts of dense high-rise development”, with the belief that buildings had gone from 20 metres high under original plans in 2012 to 36 metres-plus under the current vision.

Cr Reece said while the council had “gone to great lengths to defend some of the controls” in the Moonee Ponds Creek-Boundary Rd corridor, he conceded “we have supported developments which are certainly higher than the 20 metres that were flagged back in 2012 but certainly a long way short of what some of the

“

*With this planning scheme amendment, we are looking to get right down into some fine-grain planning detail; that’s why we have divided the area up.*

”

developers were shooting for”.

He added this corridor was “not everything that it could be” and believed the proposed controls “will get some really high-quality medium density living through there.”

However, he reiterated that there would be “plenty of scope for consultation” and encouraged all residents to make submissions.

Deputy planning portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said the new set of controls were a “faithful representation of what that structure plan asks for.”

However, he did ask the question as to why the development contribution plan overlay, estimated by the council at more than \$135 million, did not include five proposed Moonee Pond Creek bridges.

The council’s city strategy director Sophie Hanley said while it would be “desirable” to include the bridges, the “risk of committing council to such expensive items, particularly when we don’t control the land on either side of the creek, it was considered too higher risk.” ●

## Council meets with North Melbourne locals

WORDS BY *Sean Car*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The next iteration of its “neighbourhood series” of community-held Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meetings saw the City of Melbourne assemble with North Melbourne locals at the Meat Market on June 14.

As part of its new “neighbourhood approach” to delivering services and engaging with suburbs in its municipality, the council for the first time in 2022 has stepped away from Melbourne Town Hall to bring local democracy to its ratepayers.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp and eight out of the other 10 councillors appeared in person on the night. These locally-conducted meetings start at 6pm, after a 45-minute period for locals to interact socially with councillors and staff.

In addition to a locally focused agenda, the meeting heard from a number of North Melbourne residents on a range of local issues. One prominent issue discussed was the council’s recent decision to award the management contract of the North Melbourne Community Centre gym at Bunclie St to North Melbourne Football Club’s The Huddle to “focus on social inclusion and providing access to employment”.

Some residents expressed concerns about what the closure of the facilities meant for the likes of nearby public housing residents living in the Melrose St estate, with one local calling to “defer action” until the council undertook consultation.

Another resident suggested that the former arts and craft centre, which formerly ran at the Meat Market, be resurrected in partnership with the state government, the owner of the heritage building.

Concerns were also raised by one resident regarding the six-storey primary school currently



under construction at Molesworth St and the lack of pedestrian and traffic safety plans for the surrounding neighbourhood.

A Melrose St public housing resident also requested the council look into improving the situation for local residents wishing to rent community meeting space at the North Melbourne Community Centre, which he claimed was currently “impossible” due to other groups from neighbouring suburbs booking space under annual arrangements.

The City of Melbourne’s director of community development Rushda Halith provided the meeting with an overview of “key neighbourhood issues” and projects currently being undertaken by the council in North Melbourne.

Ms Halith said the council’s current service priorities in the suburb included childcare, family services and healthcare, libraries and community spaces, parks and public spaces, sports and recreation, as well as arts and cultural initiatives.

As part of the council’s neighbourhood planning program in the municipality, Ms Halith said it had consulted with around 600 people

in North Melbourne during March and April and was currently analysing feedback ahead of a “neighbourhood portal” being launched in October.

As reported in this edition, the council has recently launched one of two of the first neighbourhood portals for Kensington, providing a “one stop shop” for council resources, services and information.

While Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was “excited about the new approach to community engagement”, some local public housing residents told councillors that they had never even heard of the neighbourhood planning process for North Melbourne.

One member of the North Melbourne Public Housing Residents’ Action Group called on the council to meet with residents to “improve connections” and address a number of issues including safety, lighting and access to services.

In acknowledging that “some residents don’t feel heard”, Cr Capp said it would work to address the disconnect some residents felt with their local council. ●

# Residents step up campaign to have traffic noise reduced from West Gate Tunnel

*Continued from page 1.*

Moreover, the NWMA discussed the suitability of the \$100 million Transport and Amenity Program (TAP) in funding “traffic mitigation” in relation to the impacts of the WGTP.

The TAP has been described as a suite of streetscape improvement projects that will “help to alleviate and leverage some of the effects and benefits of the West Gate Tunnel Project”.

It is co-funded by the DoT and the council in a matched funding arrangement with up to a maximum of \$100 million over the next four years, but there have been calls from the community that the TAP budget should be geared towards the WWE in the “interest of residents”.

Resident Phillip Symonds, whose Railway Place home would run parallel to a section of the WGTP, said he was concerned about traffic noise impacting West Melbourne amenity, which already contends with the busy railyard.

“It’s going to give you noise, pollution, and trucks onto the freeway,” he told *North West City News*.

“If we sat on the rooftop, that’s going to have a direct line of sight over the top of the sound wall [along the railway] down to the road.”

“The problem is they keep sticking to the old VicRoads sound barrier system which only protects noise level to the first floor.”

WGTP acting CEO Peter Lellyett said traffic changes would be monitored following the construction of the project and traffic management implemented if needed in consultation with the City of Melbourne.

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

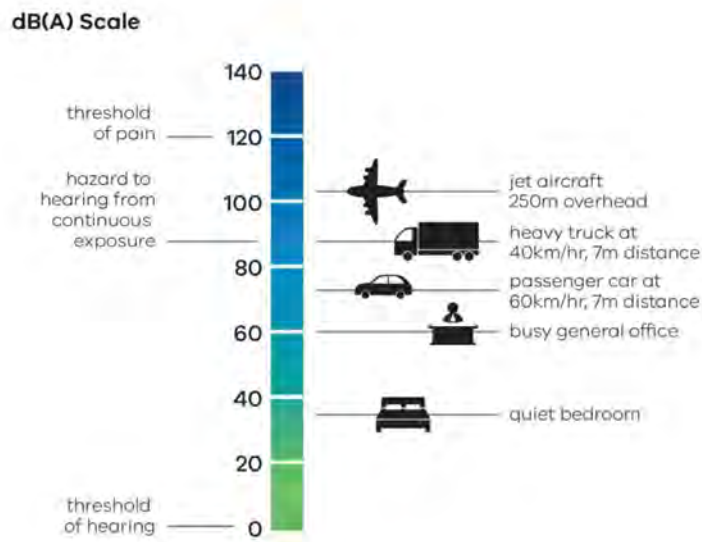
The DoT said its integrated Inner West Transport Program was seeking to identify ways to mitigate traffic impacts on inner west communities when the West Gate Tunnel opens.



▲ An example of a potential noise barrier being promised to a Le Fevre St in Spotswood as part of the project, which according to the WGTP, currently experiences “up to 70 decibels” - above the 63 decibel noise limit.



▲ The current outlook from homes on Railway Place across the West Melbourne railyard and the WGTP’s under-construction Wurundjeri Way Extension, which the DoT says will comply with its 63-decibel noise level limit. Below: a decibel scale from the WGTP’s website.



It included the Millers Rd and Williamstown Rd corridor study, the Hobsons Bay Transport Planning Study, and the TAP across North Melbourne, West Melbourne, and Docklands.

It followed the WWE having undergone an “extensive assessment” as part of planning and environmental approvals for the WGTP, which is being built by tolling giant Transurban and the state government.

Under the plans, the project would support cycling and walking around the area with first-time cyclists having a direct route from Werribee to the city. ●



**Brendan Rees**  
JOURNALIST  
BRENDAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

# Shop the Precinct

Support our local businesses by gifting the ultimate gift card.

Visit our website to purchase and find out where and how to redeem your cards.

# Key bike lane projects to start this year

*The installation of protected bike lanes on Arden St and Macaulay Rd will begin before the end of 2022 after the City of Melbourne confirmed the projects were in their final stages of approval.*

WORDS BY *David Schout*  
TRANSPORT



As bike lanes re-emerged as the city's hot topic in June, councillors endorsed the prioritised delivery of protected cycle paths outside of the CBD for the 2022-23 financial year.

The council's director of city strategy Sophie Handley confirmed that both the Arden St project (which will run from Wreckyn St to Moonee Ponds Creek) and Macaulay Rd (from Arden St to Eastwood St) were "in their final stages of design" and were awaiting approval from the Department of Transport.

Subject to that approval, shovels were expected to be in the ground before Christmas.

Both projects, which are on "high value routes", are set to feature kerbside protected bike lanes that, crucially, will separate bike riders from motor traffic.

Physical barriers have been proven to both increase the confidence of current cyclists, and improve the chances of would-be cyclists getting on two wheels.

While the move was a welcome update for local cyclists based north of the CBD, the decision to defer the installation of bike lanes inside the Hoddle Grid for the next 12 months drew an indignant response from Melbourne's cycling community.

Protesters gathered at the front of Melbourne Town Hall prior to a June 7 Future Melbourne Committee, and the relevant motion drew more than 1000 public responses.

Several submitters spoke publicly at the meeting, either in-person or via video link, with almost across-the-board praise for the council's rollout to date.

Many spoke of an improved confidence travelling to and from the CBD on their bikes as a result of the lanes, and warned that any halt to the rollout would set a dangerous precedent.

At what turned into a marathon five-hour meeting, councillors voted in favour of pausing the CBD rollout following two years of "accelerated delivery".

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the move would give people a chance to adjust to having the bike lanes in the city, and a chance to look at some of the issues raised by business owners and delivery vehicles about how it has affected their work.

An amended motion, voted for by 10 of 11 councillors, specified that the deferral would be restricted to the 2022-23 financial year only.

There was some confusion prior to, and

during, the meeting about the nature of the motion.

Some pro-cycling supporters assumed it had meant a municipality-wide halt on the installation of bike lanes, while others — perhaps swayed by disingenuous reports — had even feared the city might remove some lanes and revert them to vehicular access.

The reality, however, was that the council's budgeted \$4 million allocation for bike lanes within the next 12 months would still be spent, merely outside the Hoddle Grid (the area bound by Flinders, Spencer, La Trobe and Spring streets).

The installation of key CBD bike lane projects to come — including on Flinders St — were still some way off being ready for approval, and the council had not (as was assumed by some) called a halt to works.

A report from management released five days prior to the meeting noting the "deferral" of the rollout in the CBD had set off a chain reaction of events.

"[It] generated the perception that the council had a raft of Hoddle Grid projects ready to go and for political reasons we would 'defer'

them. Not so. Our significant shovel-ready projects are outside the Grid," Cr Rohan Leppert Tweeted after the meeting.

The Lord Mayor noted an all-round communications failure at the conclusion of the meeting.

"As misleading as the headlines have been, as confusing as some of our own wording might have been, this motion this evening — and voting in favour of it — represents a balanced approach to safe access to and around our city for all modes of transport and the work that needs to continue to achieve that."

Cr Leppert said, "the optics have been shocking."

"Where this stupid episode all went wrong is when City of Melbourne thought it would be a good idea to sell the non-delivery of new bike lanes in the Hoddle Grid for a year as a 'deferral'. That happened on Thursday, *The Age* headline didn't help, and outrage followed," he Tweeted following the meeting.

"The report before us noted the economic boon that cyclists bring to the city, and that bike lanes are busting congestion, moving people from cars to bikes. The recommendation to pause Hoddle Grid bike lanes for a year was not supported by the data and arguments in that report."

The move to pause the CBD rollout irrespectively represented a strategic shift and was an admission from management that the rollout had perhaps been too-much-too-soon in Melbourne's epicentre. ●



*David Schout*

JOURNALIST

DAVID@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

## Dogs free to have fun

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees & Rhonda Dredge*  
COUNCIL AFFAIRS



Popular parks in West Melbourne and Kensington could receive off-leash dog areas under a plan being considered by the City of Melbourne.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour at their Future Melbourne Committee meeting on June 7 to consider designating eight new off-leash areas for dogs including Riverside Park in Kensington and Eades Park in West Melbourne.

Under the proposal, Eades Park would be fully fenced while a timed access model at Riverside Park would see dogs run around freely between the hours of 6pm and 8am every day — with no fencing.

Eades Park is planned to have temporary fencing in the first year followed by permanent fencing the second year, subject to budget.

The recommendation comes as a review of open spaces in 2019 and two phases of community engagement in 2021 identified gaps in off-leash provisions across the municipality.

Among the doggos to celebrate the rules possibly changing in their favour at Riverside Park were Nina, Jasper and her mate.

Instead of walking for 20 minutes to JJ Holland, local dogs could have a run at their doorstep.

Riverside Park abuts the high-density residential area of the old Kensington sale yards and residents have been campaigning for an off-leash area.

There is plenty of room in this secluded riverside park and the prohibition has been confusing.

"I used to come here during the lockdown," said Nina's owner, a resident of Flemington. "I'm not sure when the sign went up."

Jasper's owner said that a lot of people ignored the sign. "Every time I come out here there are a lot of dogs off lead."

She said locals had been petitioning the

council. "It should have happened a long time ago."

Dog owners were wary about giving their names because they didn't want their pets to get into trouble for breaking the rules.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said with Melbourne's dog population booming, "we see a need to up the ante when it comes to designated spaces for pooches large and small to run free — to exercise and socialise with their friends."

If the proposal is endorsed, it would add 3.5 hectares to the existing 16 hectares of off-leash parkland across the municipality, equating to nearly 10 MCGs worth of space.

Environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said while pets had a "really important community and individual health function", he did get a "little bit frustrated" when people move to the city with a large dog and asked for an off-leash dog park.

"I'm not going to magic up \$30 million to buy a building and build a dog off-leash park. It's not as simple as that. So, there's a difficult balance between government responsibility to provide these spaces for a growing dog population and individual responsibility for those living in the densest suburbs in Australia," he said.

However, he conceded the proposal would "try and balance all of those different needs".

Cr Davydd Griffiths said dog ownership was "something that we want to be encouraging in the City of Melbourne" as pets were "fantastic for mental and physical health". ●

## Community bands together to help bring little Theo home after he was struck by a car

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
COMMUNITY



A North Melbourne woman has spoken of her relief after being reunited with her furry friend who ran away after being hit by a car.

A "massive" community search for Theo, a Beagle Kelpie cross rescue dog, was undertaken after he ran onto the road and was struck by a speeding car near Clayton Reserve about 2pm on June 3 before he ran off in fear.

At the time his owner Suci Ida Bagus had been out walking her other rescue dog at Royal Park in Parkville when Theo's dog walker called her in distress about the incident.

"I broke down, I was really freaked out," Ms Ida Bagus said. "I thought, 'Oh my God, is he dead?'"

Ms Ida Bagus said her mischievous Theo, who is "a bit double-jointed", managed to free himself from his harness during a regular walk.

He was then hit by a car after running onto Gracie St, which was witnessed by shocked onlookers and staff from the nearby Lost Dogs' Home.

Frantic, Ms Ida Bagus raced to the scene where she spent hours desperately searching far and wide for two-year-old Theo.

Luckily, social media posts about Theo's disappearance caught the attention of the community — with dozens of people "coming out of the woodwork" to help find him.

Ms Ida said she was "roaming around in circles" after there were sightings of Theo near Royal Park as well as at O'Shanassy St — about a kilometre away from Clayton Reserve.

"It was dark and getting colder ... and then suddenly, I got a call at 8pm. It was my family saying some people found him and he's at the Kensington emergency vet."

Theo was checked over and "miraculously there was nothing wrong with him."

"Apart from a scab on his chin, he was pretty good," Ms Ida Bagus said after a couple

had found Theo at the corner of Howard and Queensberry streets at an empty construction site.

"The funny thing is the people who found him didn't know he was missing. He didn't attack or anything which is also rare for a rescue that's injured."

He returned home the same night and has been "literally himself".

Unfortunately, it's believed the driver did not stop at the scene and the registration of the vehicle is unknown.

Ms Ida Bagus said she was overwhelmed by the community's heartfelt effort, adding "I don't think words can express how grateful I am."

"Even my friend who grabbed his car after he was meant to sit his third-year psychology exam that afternoon, said, 'No, no, I'm gonna search up and down the street.'"

Others who recognised Ms Ida Bagus as the owner of the Warung Agus Balinese restaurant in West Melbourne also joined the search.

"If no one was looking for him it could have been a completely different outcome," Ms Ida Bagus said.

"I'm planning on doing a thank you dinner to all the people that helped in the search."

In the meantime, Theo, who has been "busting to go outside", finally made it back to his favourite park — in a different harness, of course. ●



## Melbourne Zoo director Michelle Bruggeman resigns

WORDS BY Carol Saffer  
BUSINESS

Michelle Bruggeman stepped down from her role as director at the Melbourne Zoo at the end of May to take on a significant new position in the aged care and retirement sector.

Having served more than three-and-a-half years as director, Ms Bruggeman was responsible for setting a strategic vision and operational plan that ensured continuous growth and development of the organisation.

She led a committed team of 700 staff and volunteers and delivered strategy through exceptional planning, stakeholder and partner engagement, outstanding communication skills and operational expertise.

“The decision to move on has been extremely difficult as I have learnt and loved working with Melbourne Zoo, the extended Zoos Victoria teams and organisations such as the Royal Park Stakeholder Network,” Ms Bruggeman said.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Zoos Victoria and have met and worked with some incredible people and organisations on my journey here.”

Zoos Victoria CEO, Dr Jenny Gray, thanked Michelle for her considerable achievements during her time as director.

“Her energy, enthusiasm and positivity have launched many improvements and new initiatives and set the zoo up for great success in the future,” Dr Gray said.

Protectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc. secretary Michael Petit wished Ms Bruggeman grateful thanks for her crucial role in forming the Royal Park Stakeholders Network.

“There are many organisations with keen and sometimes competing interests in the future of Melbourne’s historic largest park,” he said.

“Her commitment to bringing all parties together to find common ground is a legacy richly earned.”

Zoos Victoria has begun a global search for the new director, with Zoos Victoria director for business development Robyn Grattidge taking up the position in the interim. ●

# Greens romp home for a fifth consecutive term in Melbourne; Shorten reclaims Maribyrnong

WORDS BY Sean Car  
ELECTIONS

Greens leader and Melbourne MP Adam Bandt enjoyed his best Federal Election yet on May 21, winning a fifth consecutive term with an increased percentage of the primary vote, while his party expanded its presence in the House of Representatives. For Kensington residents, who are a new addition to the seat of Maribyrnong, long-serving local MP and former Labor leader Bill Shorten will lead them for the next three years after a comfortable victory.

In addition to the emergence of “Teal Independents” helping to dismantle the Coalition Government across the country, the Greens increased its number of Lower House seats from one to four, picking up Brisbane, Ryan and Griffith in Queensland.

While fellow Greens candidate Steph Hodgins-May, who was contesting the neighbouring seat of Macnamara for the third consecutive election, drew a significant swing to The Greens, Labor incumbent Josh Burns narrowly emerged the victor of the close contest which was only called on May 31, more than one week after the election.

The cross bench has more than doubled from six seats in the 2019 election to a whopping 16, leaving the incoming Labor Government with only a slender majority of 77 seats in the Lower House.

Speaking with *North West City News* following his re-election, Mr Bandt said he was “really humbled” to be elected to Melbourne again with an increased vote but said he and his team had worked “really hard” locally through its “people-powered model”.

“We were getting really strong messages of increased support; the question was how big it was going to be. We knew more people would turn to the Greens, but it was great to see so many seats turn Green for the first time,” he said.

“Melbourne is a really diverse electorate. While we’ve got some of the most expensive real estate in the country, we’ve also got a huge amount of public housing. Part of the reason why there is so much cohesion and respect among the people in Melbourne is that everyone in Melbourne knows that the more equal we are as a society the better off we’ll all be.”

“People now want politics to reconnect with the community; that’s one take away lesson from this election. Across the country people had started to switch off from politics. Our message was that politics can actually make people’s lives better. We can do it in a way that brings the community together.”

Mr Bandt told *North West City News* that some of the feedback he found the “most moving” was from younger people, who he said were delivered “a real moment of hope” by the election result.

“The thing I found most moving was the amount of young people who came up to me, very emotionally, and said, ‘this is the first time



that I feel hopeful about politics in the future,” he said.

“For a lot of younger people, they just had a decade of terrible government, houses becoming more unaffordable and the climate crisis getting worse, and that’s been their whole experience of politics.”

While many commentators put the May 21 demolition of the Liberal Party down to a repudiation of former Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his government, the results were underpinned by a desire for stronger action on climate, integrity and gender equality.

Between The Greens and the many Teal Independents who ran in traditionally Liberal seats on a strong platform of action on climate, Mr Bandt said a “very clear message” had resonated among voters across the country.

“We’ve just lived through three years or drought, fires and floods and people know we’ve got to get out of coal and gas and take climate action, and that the window to do it is now,” he said.

“You now see that right across the political spectrum, with people now shifting the way they vote to call for more climate action and that is really encouraging.”

“This has always been something that matters to the people of Melbourne and we’re going to work hard to push on that in the next term of parliament.”

As far as for as Melbourne was concerned, he said its post-pandemic recovery would “be a priority for me.”

“I’ll be pushing hard for support for our creative sector in Melbourne to ensure that as we still deal with the consequences of the pandemic that we’re still able to get those creative and arts events back on their feet and functioning sustainably again,” he said.

In neighbouring Maribyrnong, which as of last year now incorporates Kensington, incumbent Bill Shorten claimed a comfortable win with 62.4 per cent on two-party preferred.

While the former Labor leader won with 42.3 per cent of the primary vote, he did experience a 2.4 per cent swing against him from 2019, however, this was dwarfed by Liberal candidate Mira D’Silva, who experienced a swing against of 7.7 per cent.

Mr Shorten, who campaigned strongly on a number of local issues including Moonee Ponds Creek and a new community battery in

Kensington, said with 35 per cent of Australians voting against the two major parties, the new government would work hard to “win the confidence”.

“In the case of about 35 per cent of the people they picked another party, other than Labor or Liberal,” he told 3AW’s Neil Mitchell following the election.

“I think it would be wrong of us not to acknowledge that we need to win the confidence and get more of the first votes of more Australians at the next election.”

“We do that by just keeping our promises and working hard every day for the people.”

### Council reiterates priorities with new government

At the City of Melbourne May 31 ordinary council meeting, councillors voted unanimously in support of writing to new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to confirm areas of advocacy and “our willingness to work together”.

In stating that it was “imperative to pursue election commitments made for Melbourne as a matter of priority”, the council moved an urgent item of business reiterating its priorities and election commitments made by the new government in Melbourne.

Notably, those included a commitment by the Albanese Government to partner with the council on Greenline, support Power Melbourne with community batteries in Southbank and Kensington, as well as \$5 million towards the revitalisation of Moonee Ponds Creek.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council was looking forward to working closely with the new head of Prime Minister and Cabinet and former University of Melbourne vice-chancellor Glynn Davis.

“Our commitments from federal Labor are most relevant now that they’ve been able to form a majority government. This is an opportunity for us to move forward with a good sense of urgency,” Cr Capp said.

Both Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Cr Rohan Leppert also expressed their excitement at working with new Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King, who Cr Leppert described as “a bloody good operator”.

“I think it’s great we now have a local government minister from Victoria, even if she is not metropolitan she is a bloody good operator and she commands a lot of respect in this field,” Cr Leppert said.

“This [motion] is a brilliant start. I love the motion because we’ve got a brand-new government sworn in today and the very first thing we’re doing mere minutes later is saying, ‘thank you, can we have the cash?’ But this is just the start and there’ll be a whole lot more to it.”

Cr Reece said it had been a “transformative fortnight in Australian politics”, which represented an “exciting time ahead for the City of Melbourne and this new federal government to forge a new partnership for the benefit of the city.” ●



**POOL HOUSE**  
COFFEE

## Poolhouse Coffee

Poolhouse Coffee is a little oasis tucked beneath the Melbourne City Baths, offering tasty sandwiches, rice paper rolls, pastries and a range of treats. They roast their own coffee beans including a seasonal house blend and single origins. Feel free to dine in and have a chat to the friendly staff.

📍 6 Franklin St, Melbourne  
☎ 03 9639 6809  
📷 @poolhousecoffee







Construction partner:



CYP-BS00303



▲ 505-513 Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne



▲ 30-38 Gatehouse Drive, Kensington

## Old and underused council properties could be up for sale

WORDS BY *Sophie Berrill*  
PROPERTY

Two worn and “underutilised” City of Melbourne-owned properties in Kensington and North Melbourne are expected to go on the open market, following a community engagement process.

A report tabled at the May 31 council meeting proposed the sale of four properties owned by the council, with two others located on Canning St in Carlton and A’Beckett St in the CBD.

“The current condition of these buildings does not support future needs without rebuilding or significant refurbishment, which is not considered financially viable,” the report read.

The most significant of the four properties is the heritage-listed building located at 505-513 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne.

The premises has been used for child and family health services and is currently leased to Cohealth until the end of June.

In neighbouring Kensington’s old saleyards, the other local property at 30-38 Gatehouse Drive was built in 1998 and currently houses Midwives and Mothers Australia, a non-council service.

This property is in the Local Government Zone and, according to the report, needs further consideration of the most appropriate zoning before any divestment, which could take 12 months.

Pursuant to section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, councillors voted unanimously on May 31 to authorise public notices of the “council’s intention to sell the land to be placed on council’s website”.

Before deciding to sell all four properties, the council must also seek community input and feedback.

Over a four-week period beginning in July 2022, the council says it will roll out meetings, a survey, a letter box drop and social media engagement targeted at surrounding owners and occupiers of each property, as well as the local community.

Each property will be considered individually on its own merits, taking account of the community engagement response.

If the council decides to sell the properties, it intends to reinvest proceeds into “city-shaping infrastructure projects” and the capital works program to provide vital community services.

# West Melbourne set to have the nation’s first solar-powered façade office tower

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*  
PLANNING

West Melbourne will be home to Australia’s first-ever office building to have a solar panel façade system under a \$40 million project.

The eight-storey building at 550 Spencer St will be powered by 1182 panels in a system that will produce 50 times more energy than a regular rooftop solar system on a house.

Designed by Melbourne architect Pete Kennon, the project is currently being built by Crema Constructions with an expected opening next year.

It will be a fossil-free development with no gas onsite and is expected to save an estimated 70 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

Once complete, it will be the first building in Australia to have a facade system that harnesses sunlight for energy.

“West Melbourne is perhaps the most prime city fringe suburb underutilised is on the cusp of an urban renewal, so we wanted this building to set the stage for quality and aspiration for the future precinct,” Mr Kennon said.

The breakthrough environment design, which received “overwhelming support” from the City of Melbourne, came about in response to COVID-19. Mr Kennon said workers were choosing where they wanted to work based on the “performance, health aspects and the



▲ An artist’s impression of the development at 550 Spencer St.

environment of the workspaces,” adding “new spaces of work have a larger responsibility”.

“The development also includes wellness initiatives to optimise the user experience of its

occupants including controlled thermal comfort through natural lighting levels, providing views to the natural environment and natural ventilation in each level,” he said.

“Instead of mimicking an industrial warehouse of the past to belong to a pre-existing language of superseded uses, we have designed a building where its function, purpose and technological benefit is in the future. A building designed for a better future for all of us.

“We want this building to be a symbol of innovation and sustainability of how the built environment can be part of the climate solution.”

“We started discussions with a number of manufacturers soon after learning they didn’t have a presence in Australia. We designed a building facade with the product, and I pitched the concept to the client.”

Mr Kennon had researched glazing products in operation in Europe that embody solar cells within a facade glass screen “that didn’t look like the typical and ugly solar panels you see on rooftops”.

His team then flew the executives of the product out from Germany and “mapped out” the performance from different facade alterations that would work with local glass distributor George Fethers & Co.

“The innovation was an idea presented by the architect; however, it was enabled by banding a group of industry experts together to deliver such a momentous outcome for the future of the built environment.” ●



▲ Paola demonstrates salami hanging methods to Boyd.

## Getting hooked on salami

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
BUSINESS

Salami season has opened and that means buying supplies so that friends can gather over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend to socialise and create their own traditions.

Paola Marafio is an excellent saleswoman and knows how passionate customers are about their artisan products.

A discussion can last for five minutes about the size of hook required to hang a salami off a pole.

“We’re open seven days a week from passata season to the end of September,” she said, to cater for the growing number of people involved in artisan projects.

Many customers are beginners and need nurturing as they embark upon the artisan journey. Sure, it’s business for The Artisan’s Bottega at Victoria St in West Melbourne but it’s also an increasingly popular community and family activity.

“We’re getting a lot of younger Australians trying this season,” Paola said. “I think when they were locked up people needed something to do for their mental peace of mind.”

The traditions were brought here by European migrants in the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s.

Boyd Atkin got into making salami because his grandfather worked with migrants on the

power lines. This had a good impact on his eating habits as a kid with fresh vegetables and fruit from the Queen Victoria Market.

Now, Boyd is an avid salami-maker. Salami-making is his way of getting his act together and meeting mates for a positive activity.

In the early days he hung up his salami in a garden shed. “It was a really warm winter six or seven years ago and they failed.”

How you hung them was crucial, he said. They are better in a larger shed with a higher roof so the warm air rises.

Salami needs cool weather. Even then, it can develop a mould. That’s why hooks are preferable to string. You can get them down easily to wipe off the mould with water and vinegar.

Hanging options are just one of the decisions for the salami-maker. Others include spice mix, type of skins and the source of meat.

“It sounds complicated but it’s not,” Paola said reassuringly. It’s her job to talk customers through all of their decision-making.

Skins can be made of the actual bowel wall or collagen, which becomes pliable when put in warm water.

Once customers get into making, they branch out. Limoncello is another product and Boyd boasts a 60-year-old lemon tree.

“That means the roots have set and it produces fruit all year around,” Paola said with admiration. ●

## Greens state MP will re-contest seat in November election

WORDS BY *Carol Saffer*  
POLITICS

The recent Federal Election saw the Australian Labor Party gain seats in the Lower House allowing it to govern with a majority.

Deputy Leader of the Victorian Greens, Ellen Sandell MP, believes that voters who wanted to see both Labor and the previous Coalition undertake considerably more policy on climate change, voted and increased the Greens seats in the federal House of Representatives and the Senate.

“The federal election made it clear: to get strong action on climate change, we need more Greens MPs and climate champions in our Parliament to push Labor and the Liberals further and faster,” Ms Sandell said.

“We did it at the federal election – now we need to do it at the Victorian election too.”

Ms Sandell officially announced on Wednesday, June 1, that she would re-contest the seat of Melbourne which she has held since 2014 at November’s state election.

“I’m excited to run for the seat of Melbourne again and continue serving my local community while pushing the next government to go further and faster on climate change, affordable housing, integrity in Parliament and better women’s representation,” she said.

Her achievements during the past eight years include campaigning successfully to get the Labor Party to reverse its position and stop the polluting East West toll road, campaigning with regional communities across the state for an Australia-first ban on fracking, and helping stop a disastrous gas import terminal at Westernport Bay.

Ms Sandell was instrumental in the Greens-initiated inquiry in Parliament when Melbourne’s recycling system totally collapsed, leading Victoria to introduce a 10-cent refund on bottles and cans and overhaul our waste system. She took a hands-on approach in helping residents access food, medicine and vital information when nine public housing towers were suddenly forced into a hard lockdown by the Victorian Labor Government in 2020.

“In Melbourne, we’re seeing housing become totally unaffordable, while the Labor Government has stopped building public housing,” she said. ●



# One Kensington local doing his part for the community and planet

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*  
COMMUNITY

A new sustainability forward idea has been initiated at the McCracken St Food Share Pantry in the form of blue towels, with Kensington local Joseph Tuban at the forefront of the addition.

Putting the initiative into action on June 5, the supply of the reusable towels has been positively received by the community despite a hiccup in the system already having to be dealt with.

But Mr Tuban is remaining positive that the initiative is still worth actioning.

"I left a bunch of single ones for people to grab for free and then others in a box packaged in a bundle of five with a money jar but sadly all the towels are gone, and the money jar is empty," he said.

"But hopefully we can figure out a way to get some money for them as two dollars [for each bundle] will go to the food share pantry and three dollars will hopefully go to the washing machine and laundry detergent used when I wash them in a 50-degree cycle."

Working as a registered nurse in a Parkville operating theatre, Mr Tuban first became aware of the amount of wastage that occurs in the hospital following a sustainability conference, and in particular the wastage of the blue towels.

The blue towels come to the hospital in a sterile packet and are used only once to dry hospital workers' hands after they do a five-minute surgical scrub and before they put their gloves and gowns on.



Following their use, they are then put in a bin that has not been emptied and picked up by a local charity since COVID.

"I thought maybe I could do a little more about the overflow of the blue towels as they are so useful. It seemed like such a waste for them to go straight to landfill," he said.

"I use them at home all the time for cleaning

the coffee machine, kitchen, spills or cleaning my bike."

Hopeful the idea will continue to be embraced by Kensington and other communities, Mr Tuban said he was now "so driven" to continue with the initiative and help with minimising the waste to landfill.

He is also currently speaking with the Kensington Neighbourhood House on a new way to launch the idea, with plans to keep them inside the centre, during operating hours, as the next option.

Kensington Neighbourhood House (KNH) told *North West City News* that despite the towels being taken without donation, the idea remained a positive one for the pantry as it aligned perfectly with their principles.

"Joseph's initiative is another wonderful example of community-led solutions – locals finding ways to support each other while reducing our environmental impact," the KNH spokesperson said.

"The McCracken St Food Share pantry's concept is 'Give what you can. Take what you need.' A simple idea brought to life by the energy and dedication of a group of volunteers and kept alive by the generosity and goodwill of local residents."

Much trust is placed in the community when it comes to the McCracken St Food Share Pantry, and by and large, it has been a resounding success.

While confusion may have been the reason behind the towels being taken without donation, it is one Mr Tuban is not hung up on due to the positive sustainability aspect outweighing the false start. ●



▲ Brad Phillips with his recommendation for June.

## New chapter for Wayward Books

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
BUSINESS

People might be missing Wayward Books and worrying that one of their favourite local personalities was doing it hard.

Judy Collings is, in fact, in Italy on a holiday with friends after retiring and selling the business.

The lease was up at her Bellair St shop and she thought she had a buyer.

The crunch came and her old mates at Erinbank Gift Shop in Macaulay Rd came to her rescue and bought the books.

They might be a new chapter in the Kensington lit scene but it's already up and running with a thoughtful approach to bookselling.

"We thought it a reasonable extension of the gift shop," Brad Phillips told *North West City News*. "It was a good community asset, and we didn't want to see it disappear."

The new bookshop is tucked away in a room at the rear but it's already having an influence on the rest of the business and Brad is beginning to talk about genre in terms of gift items.

He said it was important to have a range of price, depth in the offering and a few high turnover items.

"Gifts have to be displayed for effect. They can't be random, and they need a balance of price points."

The same can be said for books. Their careful placement hooks a reader. A book by Ferlinghetti suggests a radical bent.

But top shelf in the bookshop are some first editions by more conservative authors, Joe Bjelke-Peterson and Robert Muldoon and Ruth Park.

"These provide interesting snapshots of politics 30 to 40 years ago," Brad said.

The fiction section is well-represented with a mix of new and second-hand books with an average price of \$10.

Judy stocked zines and locally produced poetry books and Erinbank is carrying on the tradition of supporting lesser-known Melbourne writers.

Literary conversations are also available with more of a focus on new titles carefully selected by the Erinbank team.

Brad is recommending *Girt Nation* by David Hunt this month, even though a customer says the book, the third in a series, is not as good as the first two.

It's difficult being a bookseller and recommending titles. Most booksellers are wary. "You can't be critical of someone's choice," Brad said.

The shop would buy second-hand books, Brad said. "If we've got it, we won't buy it." He advises emailing pictures of the covers to the shop. ●



▲ Neighbourhood by Terry Matassoni

## COVID Madness in our neighbourhood

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*  
ARTS & CULTURE

There wasn't much real action during the pandemic for people in lockdown and they had to find it wherever they could.

Two artists have used the local setting as prompts for their work for an exhibition at Australian Galleries.

Painter Terry Matassoni has a studio above a beer hall in Victoria St.

His window was the best vantage point for watching and his painting *Neighbourhood* shows how empty and strange the streets were.

All of the action during the pandemic was on TV and the other artist Glenn Morgan realised he was onto a gold mine when he tuned in for his daily fix.

The drama that unfolded as the virus breached the border alerted him to the way society became polarised into good and bad guys, mostly bad.

He was horrified to see the overkill by authorities at the public housing towers at Racecourse Rd and built a model out of painted plywood with residents complaining at their windows.

Terry bought the two-storey shop in Victoria St in 1993 when many shops were boarded up.

"When I came to live in North Melbourne it was very down," he said. "It wasn't fashionable. Because I'd been living in New York, people live close in a city situation, amongst it. I wanted to do the same."

He began painting intimate views of people through windows living close to each other but still feeling alone, taking his inspiration from the great US chronicler of urban life, Edward Hopper.

During the lockdown he took a longer view. The abstract structure of the city began to dominate his imagination, not in a reductive way but as if the neighbourhood was rearranging, the church in Curzon St moving into the right corner of his canvas, his studio in the left.

Ironically, Glenn's incisive reporting on painful incidents during the pandemic was also done from a distance, from his studio in Warrnambool.

His caricatures of anti-vaxxers and demonstrators are hilarious, and he hasn't tried to censor out his condemnation of their stupid moves.

He was forced into watching Channel 7 to collect his information when the ABC stopped covering protests.

His exhibition raises important questions about the media and its moral stance.



▲ Glenn Morgan with a model of High rise towers



▲ Selfish bastards by Glenn Morgan



▲ Terry outside his Victoria Street studio

Who could forget the way the delivery guys were hammered for crossing the border and bringing a new variant of the virus to an apartment block in Maribrynong?

Glenn calls this work *Selfish bastards*. He demonstrates the way artists can lift up the curtain on the local psyche to discover the fear beneath.

Neighbourhood and beyond, Terry Matassoni and Covid Madness, Glenn Morgan, Australian Galleries, until June 25. ●



*Rhonda Dredge*  
JOURNALIST  
R.DREDGE@HOTMAIL.COM

# New harvest for Citywide

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
SUSTAINABILITY

Sometimes at about noon there will be a long line of street sweepers arriving from the CBD to offload their “harvest” at a large, rather complex wash plant at the Dynon Rd depot.

The tech guys at Citywide have invested in the innovative plant and have it running every day.

The sweepers drop off their mix of litter, leaves, sand and grit which has to be processed.

Since 2016 not one skerrick of street sweepings from the City of Melbourne has gone into landfill, according to depot manager Travis Martin, despite the expense of using the plant.

“None of the street sweepings go into landfill,” he said. “They come here.”

Last month *North West City News* reported on a new glass recycling plant at the depot that is dealing with the sugary dregs on bottles.

This month another of Citywide’s innovative operations has been revealed to *North West City News* as we step behind the recycling curtain that has shielded some waste disposal processes in the past.

The plant was the first in Australia when it began separating all of the components of the sweep and now other municipalities are beginning to catch on.

“You could say that we’re harvesting this



▲ Travis Martin with the Citywide wash plant.

from the road for processing and re-using,” Travis said.

There’s a drop-off point, a conveyor belt, a vibrator, a magnet and various pieces of equipment that divide the harvest into leaves for compost and sand and grit for the construction industry.

Street sweeping would seem to be the least of the city’s problems in terms of waste management issues, but the process is just becoming economically viable with the rise in EPA levies for landfill over the past three years.

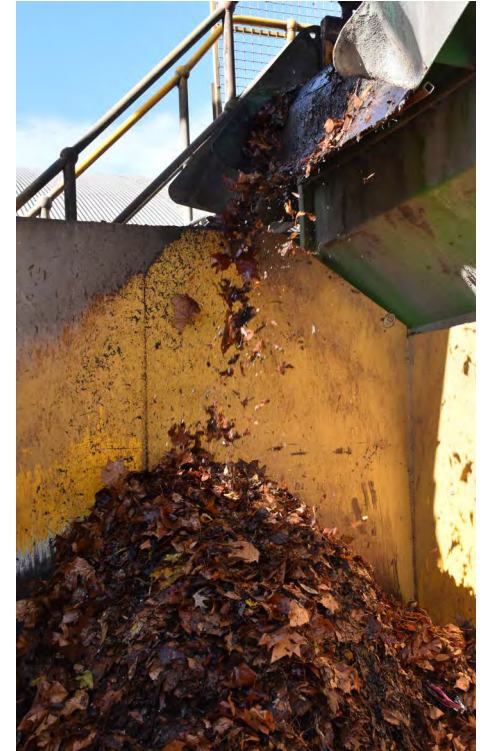
Before that, Travis said, “the cost, I think,

was an inhibitor of some ideas. This looks like an expensive exercise. It has been. For some councils the cost of these projects outweighs the good.”

He said that most streets in the CBD were swept every day and that the municipality generates a large volume of waste, sand and grit blown off construction sites and leaves, which add 30 per cent to the volume in autumn.

It is estimated that more than 6000 tonnes per annum come off the city’s streets but the plant is able to process 22,000 tonnes.

The feed material is fed into a hopper, then a



wash box, then another wash program with 95 per cent re-use of water.

Travis said the improvement of technology had been the driving force behind the plant as well as the change in attitudes.

“It seems to be with the progression of technology and innovation that different techniques are able to harness waste for re-usable products.” ●



▲ Members of Royal Park Stakeholders Network celebrate the council’s budget support.

Photo: Carol Saffer.

# Royal Park “death-trap” crossing gets long-awaited funding for upgrade

WORDS BY Carol Saffer & Brendan Rees  
SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkville Gardens residents are celebrating after the City of Melbourne announced it would spend \$1.5 million to upgrade a dangerous intersection at the Royal Park Railway Station.

After years of advocating, residents were relieved to receive the news the council would fix the notorious “S-bend” on Poplar Rd at the Royal Park Railway Station and tram intersection.

The funding was confirmed in the council’s draft 2022-23 budget in May with safety works and upgrades to be undertaken at the intersection, which is described as a “death trap”.

Parkville Gardens Residents’ Association president Tom Knowles welcomed the announcement, saying Poplar Rd was frequented by the community’s growing population – including families with young children – going to

and from the zoo.

“There is no safe crossing in that location, so they have to take their chances with the traffic,” he said.

“I am regularly struck by the risk they are forced to take. The installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing is long overdue.”

“I’m conscious this may entail some delays for drivers, but the safety of pedestrians is paramount.”

The news also resulted in jubilation within the ranks of the Royal Park Stakeholders Network, who had called for improvements to the dangerous “S-bend” on Poplar Rd in January this year.

Michael Petit, Protectors of Public Land secretary, said the network had been campaigning to the City of Melbourne to kickstart the safety upgrade as it was “a death trap and something that needs to be fixed.”

“This joint council and state \$1.5 million

safety plan will greatly reduce the threat of serious injury or loss of life for the many visitors to Royal Park who arrive by train, tram, bicycle, and foot,” he said.

“The dangerous ‘S-bend’ on Poplar Rd will be replaced by traffic signalling, and safe ways to push a pram, ride a bike and walk across in safety.”

“I think it safe to say that we are all in a word, chuffed, and we are deeply grateful for the championship of Cr [Rohan] Leppert.”

Mr Petit said forming the stakeholders’ network was a step in the right direction to ensure individual groups informed each other of their objectives and plans so they could work collaboratively.

The City of Melbourne’s deputy planning lead Cr Rohan Leppert said he was delighted the project was finally being funded with the council and the state government each to contribute \$750,000.

“It is a testament to the persistence of locals and Royal Park advocates that the project has been prioritised,” Cr Leppert said.

“At \$1.5 million this project isn’t cheap, but that’s because we need to synchronise pedestrian crossing signals with the rail crossing to avoid road traffic backing up over the rail line.”

He added the Poplar Rd pedestrian crossing would “greatly improve” the link between the zoo and Royal Park Station, and “make this wonderful part of Melbourne safer for all road users and park visitors.”

The Royal Park Stakeholders Network, comprised of more than a dozen community groups, venues and council officers, was initiated in late 2020 to address concerns related to the use and conditions of the park.

Friends of Royal Park secretary Kaye Oddie said Poplar Rd presented dangers for tram drivers due to poor sightlines in both directions. ●

ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IN 2022-23

The City of Melbourne is a dynamic municipality with 11 diverse neighbourhoods. Our draft Budget 2022-23 sets out how we plan to invest in the Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville, West Melbourne neighbourhoods to deliver core services, maintain and improve parks, public spaces and recreational facilities, and fund events that will build Melbourne’s momentum.



	Residential population	Number of businesses	Main occupation Professionals	Residents born overseas
KENSINGTON	11,926	390	44%	32%
NORTH MELBOURNE	17,926	884	42%	51%
PARKVILLE	10,595	373	42%	41%
WEST MELBOURNE	8,263	513	40%	50%

## INVESTING IN CAPITAL WORKS

The City of Melbourne will deliver a record infrastructure program, investing \$270 million in projects across the municipality in 2022-23 to plan for the future needs of the community.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said ‘our super-charged infrastructure pipeline invests in Melbourne’s momentum – building confidence and creating up to 1,000 jobs at a critical time for our city’.

‘We’re investing in our community facilities and making important upgrades to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our city,’ she said.

New infrastructure investments and upgrades in Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville, West Melbourne include:

- \$25 million for Kensington Community and Recreation Centre redevelopment
- \$4 million for pump station upgrades in Stubbs Street
- \$4.4 million for the upgrade of Brens Pavilion for community sports
- \$2 million for the North and West Melbourne and Docklands Transport and Amenity Program
- \$1.5 million for a pedestrian crossing on Poplar Road
- \$1.4 million for other green space, infrastructure and cultural projects.
- \$1.08 million for cycle infrastructure
- \$500,000 for the Melbourne Innovation District Urban Realm
- \$324,000 to reduce speed limits

Renewal and maintenance works to be carried out in Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville, West Melbourne in 2022-23 include:

- We will invest \$9 million on renewal works for roadways, footpaths, kerb and channel, parks, landscape and property.
- We will invest about \$2.4 million on maintenance works including at our community facilities, creative spaces and other property, for urban forest health and pedestrian infrastructure.
- In addition, through the Business Precinct Program, we will invest up to \$180,000 annual funding to the Kensington Business Association and the North and West Melbourne Precinct Association for business support and activation initiatives.



To find out more about what we’re doing in your neighbourhood over the next 12 months, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)

## INVESTING IN LOCAL SERVICES

City of Melbourne is committed to providing the highest level of services to our community.

### Childcare and family services

The Kensington Community Children’s Co-Operative is a City of Melbourne facility leased by a Committee of Management. It offers a 140-place education and childcare centre with integrated and sessional kindergarten. The integrated Family Services team includes maternal and child health, immunisation, family and parenting support, and counselling.

We also deliver education and care and integrated kindergarten at two facilities in North Melbourne. Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services Centre provides a 106-place education and childcare centre, as well as family services and maternal child health, playgroups, parent education and family support, and counselling. North Melbourne Children’s Centre is a 48-place education and childcare centre.



### Libraries, cultural and community spaces

The North Melbourne library provides loans of books and other material to 3300 members. In 2022-23 we will purchase 4000 new books for this library. We provide online access to books, films, music and other resources, computer access and 24-hour wi-fi, and deliver programs for children, teenagers and adults.

The Kensington Neighbourhood Centre, Kensington Town Hall and the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre are available for hire.

We also manage River Studios, which accommodates 60 affordable artist studios plus one factory makerspace.

### Parks and open spaces

The City of Melbourne manages and maintains more than 10 public spaces and three playgrounds in West Melbourne, including the significant Flagstaff Gardens.

We manage and maintain more than 30 public spaces and 10 playgrounds in Kensington, including JJ Holland Park.

We manage and maintain more than 10 public spaces and two playgrounds in North Melbourne, and more than 10 public spaces across Parkville including the largest open space in the municipality, Royal Park.



### Sporting and recreation venues

Work is under way on the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment. When complete it will feature a 25-metre eight-lane pool, learn-to-swim pool and water play area, a three-court stadium, three multipurpose program rooms, change rooms and a cafe.

North Melbourne Recreation Centre offers a gym, group fitness, seasonal pool, swimming lessons, and sports stadium across two sites. Part of the North Melbourne Recreation Reserve is leased and licensed to the North Melbourne Football Club and Fencing Victoria.

The North Melbourne Community Centre provides a stadium, gym, group fitness and facility hire.

At Royal Park, we provide many sports fields for use plus two tennis facilities and a nine-hole golf course available for public use. We also manage sports fields at JJ Holland Park and Newmarket Reserve and the Kensington Banks Tennis Courts in Riverside Park and the Flagstaff Multipurpose Courts and the City of Melbourne Bowls Club in West Melbourne.

## COUNCIL MEETING IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

This month, join us in North Melbourne on Tuesday 14 June at 6pm at Meat Market, 3 Blackwood Street.

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



ADVERTISEMENT  
Your City of Melbourne community update

# LANDMARK BUDGET INVESTS IN MELBOURNE'S MOMENTUM

## City-shaping infrastructure projects, a stellar events calendar and making the city safer and cleaner are highlights of the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2022-23.

The record \$837.8 million investment to build city-shaping projects, promote a jam-packed calendar of events, and make the city cleaner and safer will ensure the Melbourne experience is better than ever for residents, workers and visitors.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the draft Budget is designed to make our city cleaner, greener and full of people again.

'The City of Melbourne is the engine room of the Victorian economy so it's imperative that we continue to invest in its momentum.

'This draft Budget is a record \$837.8 million investment to build momentum, create confidence and deliver essential services for the city and the community.

'We're investing to grow our economy beyond pre-pandemic levels and create a fairer, better-connected, and even more extraordinary city.'

Our draft Budget is big on delivery, job creation and investing in the city's sustained momentum.



Our draft Budget will build momentum and restore confidence

## INVESTING IN CITY-SHAPING INFRASTRUCTURE

Our draft Budget includes a record \$254 million on infrastructure to build better facilities, create jobs and supercharge the economy.

Our landmark Greenline project will receive an initial \$40 million to bring it to life, transforming the north bank of the Yarra River - Birrarung into a vibrant promenade.

In another significant milestone for the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal, we're spending \$50 million on the planned next stage of the project.

Works to restore the market's heritage sheds will be completed within the year, along with the revamped Food Hall. Construction will begin on upgrades to the Queen Street streetscape, Northern Shed and Trader Shed, making it easier for traders to do business.

The massive infrastructure pipeline will generate up to 1,000 jobs,

providing a significant economic boost for businesses across the city.

Investment in major community infrastructure projects includes \$25 million for the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment. With construction already underway, the new facility will boast a 25-metre pool, gymnasium, multi-purpose courts, community spaces, and accessible change-rooms.

More than \$8.2 million will complete the fit-out of the Munro Library and Community Hub, with the project slated for completion in 2023.

We've also allocated \$13.7 million to repair and maintain footpaths, roads and other city infrastructure. This includes another footpath blitz, as well as new street furniture, wayfinding signage and street lighting.

## RECORD YEAR OF EVENTS



Events will enliven our city

We're planning our biggest year of events, investing a record \$33.7 million in festivals, activations and creative initiatives to enliven our streets and laneways, entice visitors into the city, support local businesses and cement Melbourne as the events and cultural capital of the country.

All the city's favourite events will return bigger and better than ever - Christmas Festival, Moomba, New Year's Eve, Melbourne Fashion Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week, Melbourne Music Week.

All the fun begins in July when Firelight Festival will light up Docklands for a three-night celebration of the winter solstice - featuring a new immersive lighting display, fire installations, music, live performances and food trucks.

We're drawing again on our constructive partnership with the State Government, to boost community festivals and initiatives, through the \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund.

## RATES KEEP OUR CITY SERVICES RUNNING

We continue to create city confidence with this year's budget, and rates have their part to play.

Rates are necessary to keep our city running. Our teams work around the clock delivering essential services from waste and recycling collections to road works and street cleaning, public health and safety schemes.

After two years of rates relief for residents and businesses, we will return to the normal rates cycle by implementing the Victorian Government's 1.75 per cent rates cap.

This will ensure we can deliver on all essential services residents and traders rely on, as well as continuing to deliver on all major projects.

We will help cost of living pressures for pensioners by providing a rates discount of up to \$247, the most generous in the state.

To provide ratepayers with a clearer picture of what they're paying, waste costs will be listed as a separate item on rates notices. This brings the City of Melbourne in line with most other Victorian councils.

Finance portfolio lead Councillor Philip Le Liu said investments in the draft Budget will ensure Melbourne remains the engine room of the Victorian economy, while building momentum to create a fairer, better-connected city, and delivering more initiatives than ever before.

'Years of disciplined financial management made it possible to increase investment to support our community as the pandemic steered our city off track over a difficult two years,' Cr Le Liu said.

'After delivering consecutive recovery-focused budgets and providing \$17 million in rates relief, this draft Budget puts us in a strong position to deliver a surplus in 2023-24.'



We're working hard to keep the city clean

## KEEPING THE CITY CLEANER AND SAFER

We've listened to our residents and ratepayers, and keeping our city attractive, clean, and safe is imperative.

So, we're doubling down on our efforts to keep the city clean, safe and free from graffiti, with a huge \$33.6 million investment. That's almost \$5 million more than last year to do this.

We're expanding our Rapid Response Clean Team to fast-track graffiti

removal and doubling our investment in high pressure cleaning.

To keep people safe and crack down on antisocial behaviour, \$5.4 million will be invested into critical safety infrastructure and resources, including \$2 million to improve city lighting in areas such as St Kilda Road and the Yarra River's north bank.



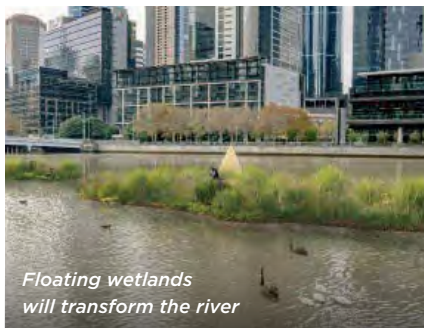
All your favourite events are back



We continue to deliver for our community



Greenline will transform the north bank of the river



Floating wetlands will transform the river

**Green light for Greenline**

In the biggest vote of confidence yet for the landmark Greenline project, we'll invest \$140 million in the city-shaping project over the next four years. In the next year, a record \$40 million will be spent to create floating wetlands, begin transforming almost 600 meters of the river's edge at Birrarung Marr and continue early works along the north bank.



Backing business with continued support

**FIRST CHOICE FOR BUSINESS**

Our draft Budget invests in making Melbourne the first choice for business by cutting red tape and attracting new investment and visitors to boost spending and restore confidence. We'll spend \$730,000 to extend our Business Concierge service - providing recovery and specialised support, startup advice and mentoring at no cost to more than 15,000 businesses.

A \$1 million commitment for Invest Melbourne will ramp up work to encourage new proposals, attract global headquarters and significant projects, and simplify start-up processes.

More than 60 businesses looking to establish in Australia have already been identified, and Invest Melbourne is actively targeting these organisations to choose Melbourne over any other capital city.

A new digital system to fast-track permits is also set to be introduced, making it even easier for businesses and developers to lodge and track applications for dozens of different permit types, including on-street trading and business advertising.

More than \$500,000 will support 1,500 hospitality venues and 1,000 creatives through the extension of outdoor dining and busking permit fee waivers until 31 October. Since 2020, Council has absorbed \$2 million in permit fees to ease the burden.

**A GREENER CITY**

Our draft Budget includes a \$50 million investment to create new open space, protect parks, charge ahead with Power Melbourne and cut emissions.

More than \$26 million has been committed to protecting and maintaining the city's parks and gardens, along with an additional \$1.6 million to replace public toilets in Fitzroy Gardens and Carlton Gardens, and \$2 million to improve the southern sports field in Fawkner Park.

The city's green canopy will be vital in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, with \$1.8 million for

the annual tree planting program to add 2,400 new trees across the municipality.

We will continue to build on our commitment to combat climate change and move towards net zero emissions with a \$650,000 investment in the landmark Power Melbourne project - creating a neighbourhood scale battery network to supply renewable energy to the community.

Work in the coming year will focus on engaging with the community, as well as designing and funding the first batteries in partnership with the private sector.

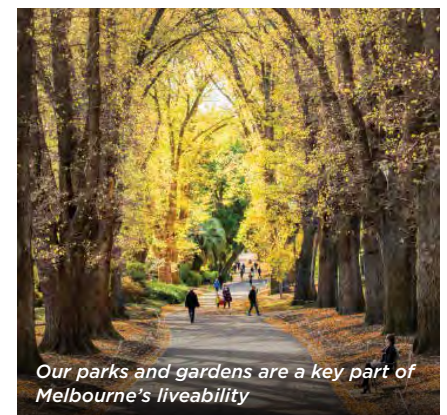


We're turning grey space into green

Feedback on the draft Budget 2022-23 can be provided on Participate Melbourne until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 June.

After a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on Thursday 23 June to consider community feedback, the final Budget is expected to be endorsed by councillors on Tuesday 28 June.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans)






Our parks and gardens are a key part of Melbourne's liveability

**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* magazine online at [magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

You can also join conversations to influence plans for your neighbourhood through Participate Melbourne at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**Connect with us**

-  /cityofmelbourne
-  @cityofmelbourne
-  @cityofmelbourne



## NORTH &amp; WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION

## Champions of the community in every sense

“

For this month's North and West Melbourne Precinct Association (NWMPA) column we begin the first in a series of columns showcasing North and West Melbourne's "Precinct Ambassadors".

”

It's for those invaluable members of the community that are integral to the fabric of North and West Melbourne.

To kick things off we have the powerhouse couple behind North Melbourne's coffee culture revolution, Andrew and Genevieve Kelly.

Although the term "powerhouse couple" would not sit comfortably with this humble duo, you would be hard pressed to find two people who have done more for their communities both locally and abroad.

The first in a long list of local credentials came when the couple founded institutional Errol St cafe, Auction Rooms, back in 2008.

"We couldn't quite understand how North Melbourne didn't have a cafe that ticked all the inner-city boxes. It has cafes, and very successful ones, but we felt we could offer something a little different," Ms Kelly said.

"Melbourne was just on the cusp of the coffee revolution, and we were very fortunate with our timing."

"There have been successful businesses here, and they are well-loved by the people who have been here for a long time, so it is nice to see new places come in to sit alongside them, because to lose those businesses would be to lose the old-school heart and soul of North Melbourne."

In the eight-year span to selling Auction Rooms in 2016, Mr Kelly had begun what would eventually become a lifelong pursuit and passion for ethically sourced and consciously produced coffee.



▲ Genevieve and Andrew Kelly at their Little Howard St cafe and roastery.

Enter Small Batch Roasting Co., the nearby offshoot that would transform the trajectory of their business lives.

While Auction Rooms was their "flagship cafe; Small Batch is the coffee that made it famous."

Mr Kelly's commitment to an unwavering ethos of exceptional tasting coffee that has positive social impacts and supports sustainable agriculture is something to behold.

"We found a systemic suppression of producers by businesses as they are seen to be at the bottom of the supply line," Mr Kelly said.

"After a long process of investigation, we realised we had to do something, and that something was starting a company in Columbia."

"Working directly with producers we were then able to begin the conversation about

regenerative and organic agriculture. It's one thing to have great tasting coffee, but it's not going to be around for long if you are depleting your soils horrendously."

According to Mr Kelly, without a Spanish speaking guide he would often be fed the party line from companies that claimed they were working in the best interests of local producers.

Following extensive investigation, he found out his payments to producers would take up to 14 months to arrive, and in some cases, not at all.

It wasn't until a chance meeting with a local producer by the name of Didier, did Mr Kelly finally crack through the layers of ambiguity and deceit associated with sourcing coffee.

"Consumers want to be fair, equitable and honourable, but they don't know how to

navigate a world that full of pretty words," Mr Kelly said. "There is much more connectedness between producers across multiple countries, seven or eight years ago, that probably wasn't there."

Along with tirelessly championing equitable and sustainable business practices abroad, the Kelly's are also very active locally.

Ms Kelly sits on the committee of North Melbourne Primary School, where she is also employed by the school as part of its education support team, assisting children with learning disabilities or diagnosed conditions and need extra support in the classroom.

Maybe powerhouse couple might not be the right term, but they certainly do a power of work to make their communities a better place.

●

## NORTH &amp; WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT TRADER PROFILE

## Celebrating five years at the West End Art Space

*As far as galleries go, West Melbourne's West End Art Space, which celebrated its fifth birthday in May, is just in its infancy.*

WORDS BY Jack Hayes

Its director, however, brings more than 30 years of industry experience, commitment, connections and adoration for abstract art and its artists.

West End Art Space founding director Anna Prifti is a visual artist with a long career in restoration and preservation of mural paintings and Byzantine iconography.

Through a dynamic exhibition program, the objective of West End Art Space is to showcase and support Australian and International artists and nurture their art practice.

"I've been in the arts industry for more than 30 years. You build a name and reputation, but

also a vision of what your gallery would one day look like," Ms Prifti said. "It has been a lifelong dream to actually have a gallery of my own."

"In our current exhibition, 'Five' A Birthday Exhibition, we look to make sure works are coherent and fit the vision of the gallery. We have grown together with the artists displayed and they all have things in common, they have studied art, they exhibit regularly and continue to create art."

'Five' exhibits works from more than 35 abstract artists, primarily local or Indigenous artists, all with a deep connection with the gallery and Ms Prifti herself.

The show includes the hauntingly beautiful sculpture and paintings of artist Sue Rosalind Vesely.

Drawing influence from the Greek and Roman ages, the Royal College of Art, London alumni works completely from memory, entirely without the aid models.

Ms Prifti said Ms Vesely's artwork evoked the response from visitors that she had somehow managed to "paint their dreams."

There is also the striking work from Polish-born Australian artist Cezary Stulgis; a sculptor,



painter and designer whose highly distinctive work fuses next-level aesthetics with classical craftsmanship.

His bright pink dog sculpture forms the centerpiece of the exhibition, magnetically drawing you from the street into the gallery.

Ms Prifti said although there had been some "tough times" during the lifetime of the gallery, the growing response and awareness from

locals had been incredibly heart-warming.

"Galleries are a meeting point for the community, we have people meet here who live in the same street or same apartment building who have never met before. It is a wonderful thing," Ms Prifti said.

"We have a simple principle. You have to sell art to stay alive and keep the lights on. We are in the business of promoting and selling art, it is as simple as that. Promoting artists, nurturing their careers, selling their work."

Finissage for 'Five' A Birthday Exhibition is from 6pm, Thursday, June 16.

The gallery will then transform completely to showcase a group show for NAIDOC Week 2022.

The West End Art Space sits on the ground level of Trenerry Property's West End development at 112 Adderley St, West Melbourne. ●

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

# Quiz night and community dinner

*Friends, neighbours, students, locals one and all – take the plunge and join us for our Quiz Night and Community Dinner on June 23 – especially if you’ve never come to one of our events before. Don’t be shy! Invite your friends and make up a team. We promise you a warm welcome, lots of fun, great entertainment, and a hearty meal – all for \$20, and even less if you are a paid-up member.*

The event will be held at the Reggio Calabria Club with dinner starting at 7pm including main and dessert followed by an 8pm quiz.

Just click on the QR code or go to the Eventbrite site. We’re looking forward to a most enjoyable night. Don’t miss out!

You also have a second invitation. This one’s entirely free and for our common benefit. Our local MP Ellen Sandell, has organised a survey to sound out Parkville Gardens residents about the issues that matter to them.

It doesn’t take long to fill out and it’s a great opportunity for you to have your say. Just go to [ellensandell.com/parkville-gardens-survey](http://ellensandell.com/parkville-gardens-survey) and help her (and us) make the neighbourhood an even better place to live. Of course, you are always welcome to contact us directly via our Facebook page or by email to [members@pgra.org.au](mailto:members@pgra.org.au)

We’re grateful to Samantha Ratnam, Greens leader in the Legislative Council, for seeking answers from the government about implementing their promise to fund a more frequent 505 bus service through Parkville Gardens.

The provision of adequate public transport for residents will become even more pressing when the current building under construction is completed early next year. Owned and managed by social housing entity, Housing First, its residents are expected to be older people.

Their nearest stop for the hourly bus service is some hundreds of metres away. The addition of the new apartment tower will also highlight the missing link in the public transport system for residents - a connection between Parkville Gardens and the Flemington Rd trams and Flemington Bridge station. This gap needs to be addressed.

One significant improvement in the pipeline is actually beyond our boundaries. The City of Melbourne has allocated \$1.5 million in its



budget to install a safe crossing from Royal Park Station to the Melbourne Zoo.

Crossing the road here has long been a hazard for zoo visitors arriving by train, especially those with young children in tow. This will affect Parkville Gardens residents who use Poplar Rd as a traffic route, but whatever delays may occur will be in the interest of pedestrian safety.

Work has not yet begun on the remodelling of the Galada Ave-Oak St intersection and the introduction of a pedestrian crossing. Supply issues seem to be the cause of the delay.

### Three reminders to finish with

One, sign up right now for our Quiz Night and Community Dinner. Two, complete the residents’ survey being conducted by Ellen Sandell’s team. Three, if you have any news to share or issues to raise, don’t hesitate to email us at [members@pgra.org.au](mailto:members@pgra.org.au)

In the meantime, stay as warm as you can! ●



**Residents can find us:**  
[facebook.com/groups/pgrass](https://www.facebook.com/groups/pgrass) or  
 email [secretary@pgra.org.au](mailto:secretary@pgra.org.au).



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

## ARTS HOUSE

# What does the world need right now?

“Three years ago, Rawcus artistic director Kate Sulan asked the 14 members of the Rawcus Ensemble to explore, and re-explore, the question: “what does the world need right now?”

WORDS BY *Kaylah-Joelle Baker*

After evoking a varied number of responses following the continual delay of their production *Here We Are Amongst You*, the time has finally come for their performance to hit the Arts House stage in North Melbourne.

Ms Sulan first founded Rawcus 22 years ago and since then has been focused on creating a company with an ensemble that not only

delights in working with one another but also creates emotive work centred around connection.

*Here We Are Amongst You* is no different with its continual concentration on the themes of connection, acceptance and welcoming all differences gracefully highlighted throughout.

“This is a warm, joyous and intoxicating new work that speaks about significant encounters,” Ms Sulan said.

“It’s like a meditation on intimacy and togetherness after the untethering and isolating experiences throughout the pandemic.”

The production will focus on the performers moving around in all directions on stage, creating encounters that will be different and dependent on the perspective of each person’s individuality and perspectives.

Known for their ability to draw on dance, theatre and visual art disciplines, the carefully choreographed work will bring exuberant and captivating engagements to the forefront.

The focus of the world and its need to embrace everyone’s differences with grace will be the underlying message that shines through.

“No two people will share the same experience, but everyone will be part of the warmth and connection that underscores this work,” Ms Sulan said.

*Here We Are Amongst You* by Rawcus will be at the Arts House from June 29 to July 10, with a tactile tour and audio described performance on Saturday, July 9. ●

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



SATELLITE FOUNDATION

# An interview with Henry von Doussa: *The Pink Book*

*Henry von Doussa is Satellite Foundation's family and community engagement person, and a social researcher at The Bouverie Centre. His second published book, The Pink Book, is a memoir that speaks to sexuality, gender, grief, and loss, and growing up as a gay man in Australia.*

Woven throughout the book is the exploration of creativity as a tool to understand the mental health challenges that formed part of Henry's family life. Here, Henry shares more about the process of creating *The Pink Book* and what its publication has meant to him.

The origins of *The Pink Book* can be traced back to 40 years ago.

**Tell us about its first iteration, and what inspired you to write *The Pink Book* as it is now?**

When I was a boy there was a lot of mental health trauma in my family. Mum was in and out of hospital and we had different people looking after the farm and the five kids. My mum and dad both did a terrific job of raising us, but with Mum's mental illness it was very difficult at times.

The original *Pink Book* was created when I was about seven or eight years old and I had to make a book for Book Week – it only had beautiful pink pages, no words, no story, not on the surface at least. My dad saved the book, and I have always treasured it. About two years ago I had the idea of filling those pages to free the waiting story of what was happening for me and my family in those early years of my life.

**How did you find the process of reformulating the memories of your younger days into this book?**

I loved thinking about the stories I would tell and how to shape them. There are some very difficult and somewhat private times I write about. But a lot of good times and laughs are reflected too. I think I did a bit of mental compartmentalisation to write the book. I sat back somewhat from the emotion to write what I needed to and then on reading it back, I could access some of the grief, and the joy. I think that has been a bit transformative for me.

**Creativity is a central theme of the book – why do you think it is such an important**



**tool when it comes to mental health and wellbeing?**

Overall, I think the book is about pressure. The pressure on a family when there are mental health difficulties, the pressure to get it right and perform at school, the pressure to conform with sexuality and gender. For me, creativity has always been a way to release pressure; a quick release mechanism, if you like. All my life I have loved creating things. The book has pictures of flowers I have grown and arranged, bits of artwork I made from Coke cans, creating

these things has allowed me to calm my mind and be present.

The original *Pink Book* allowed me to express myself without words. I was able to tell a story without feeling ashamed that I couldn't write or read well. Creativity works against shame. I took that same shamelessness into making this book.

**What has its publication meant to you, and to your family?**

My siblings, who I am very close to, just love the book. The book tries to put parental mental

health difficulties into a social and historical context; I write about the fact that in the '70s, a woman couldn't get a bank loan in Australia without having a man going guarantor; how many of the mental health treatments of the time had awful side effects and were harsher and less understood than they are today. I think the book has helped acknowledge to my siblings that our childhood was incredibly tough, and that it has not been talked about enough, what we witnessed, what we survived.

*Overall, I think the book is about pressure. The pressure on a family when there are mental health difficulties, the pressure to get it right and perform at school, the pressure to conform with sexuality and gender.*



**What do you hope readers will take from away from *The Pink Book*?**

In the book I use a quote from Albert Camus, "To create is to live twice." I hope people take that away. That regardless of your struggles, doing something creative can be healing. I hope they see that regardless of the mental health struggles in my family there was joy and hope for the future. And that my mum was a tough and beautiful woman. ●

**For more information:**  
[henryvondoussa.com](http://henryvondoussa.com) and  
[hares-hyenas.com.au](http://hares-hyenas.com.au)

METRO TUNNEL

## Metro Tunnel artwork brings colour to Kensington childcare service

*Panels from a Metro Tunnel Project mural have found a new home at a Kensington childcare service, giving a splash of colour to the early childhood education and care service's garden.*

About 12 panels from a 120-metre-long hoarding that had been used to fence the nearby western tunnel entrance construction site have now been installed at the Kensington Community Children's Co-Operative (KCCC).

The original mural was painted by renowned street artist Mike Makatron and friends in early 2019, featuring images based on ideas from the community about what they loved about JJ Holland Park – play, pets, family and fun.

Under the guidance of the artist, children



from the centre helped paint the big letters of "KENSINGTON" on the artwork.

When the hoarding was no longer needed at the construction site, the Metro Tunnel Project (with the approval of the artist) offered to donate and install some of the panels at the centre.

KCCC program leader Karen Bonson said the artwork had provided the centre with a "really cosy and homely" feel.

"What we wanted was to really have these really big birds and bugs peeking through the bushes and plants on our fence line because our

fence was very bare," Ms Bonson said.

"We've got a big praying mantis peeking through the bushes.

"The scale and the colour is incredible."

The artwork was a part of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program, which aims to keep worksites vibrant and attractive during construction of the city-shaping project.

Ms Bonson added, "A lot of the work we do with the children is talking about the land and the place we're on, particularly the First Nations people were the traditional custodians and then the change of the land and the space over time, with Metro Tunnel being a big part of that because that's actually changing the landscape before our eyes."

"Because some of the children were involved in the painting of it, they've been going over to look at it. It's been really lovely to keep some of that."

KCCC student Riley, 3, with his arms outstretched, said, "it's big, it's so big. It's bigger than me." ●



KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

## Creating calm

*During the endless lockdowns, I started stitching. Nothing fancy, just simple embroidery to start with. Now a patchwork quilt is slowly taking shape. However, it is not the end result that's important. It's the quiet daily act of sitting and stitching that is beneficial. My eyes following the thread, my hands busy, mind calm.*



The therapeutic power of making and creating can't be underestimated. Art in all its forms is healing. Unlike exercise, which engages your body, or meditation, which clears your mind, art-making forges a connection between both your mind and body to promote healing.

The communities of Kensington and Flemington are full of people making and creating. At Kensington Neighbourhood House we're lucky enough to host multiple groups each week and see first-hand the enormous benefit art-making brings to people's lives.

With travel off the cards for many, and a reluctance to get back into crowds, we've noticed a significant increase in the number of people wanting to engage in creative activities at a local level.

Our semester two program will include lots of options for people who'd like to learn new skills while meeting their neighbours.

Highly skilled ceramicist Shoko Mafune will be teaching the art of Japanese pottery, including how to hand-build with clay. Participants will be able to select their own glaze and Shoko will glaze and fire their pottery for collection.

Putting a new spin on a retro craft, Oz from Lennon and Me will run a macrame flower wall



hanging workshop, teaching weaving techniques using all-natural Australian yarn. The results are gorgeous – have a look at our website for photos.

Talented local artist Anna Kolusniewski will be teaching a range of different skills, including polymer clay beading, resin cheeseboard creation, and how to make pressed tin Christmas decorations.

If you prefer your creations to be edible, we're also planning a range of cooking workshops. Verena Puello, the larger-than-life head chef of Donde Mama will be running her popular Colombian Empanada workshop. This is a great way to get creative in the kitchen and enjoy a meal with other cooking enthusiasts.

We will also be offering a preserving workshop where you can learn how to make jams and chutneys from scratch, a sourdough baking session, vegetarian Mediterranean cooking, and my personal favourite – a Devonshire tea master class!

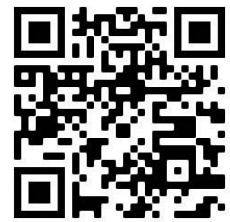
These programs are just some of the ways we are working to help our community reconnect and renew. Helping people to unwind, one stitch, snip, brush-stroke and scone at a time!

*Unlike exercise, which engages your body, or meditation, which clears your mind, art-making forges a connection between both your mind and body to promote healing.*



Our semester two activities brochure will be hitting Kensington letter boxes at the end of June.

You can also jump online to see everything on offer the QR code below: ●



ABORIGINAL MELBOURNE

## Barring – Nganjin: an exhibition of Stolen Generations survivors



*An Aboriginal art exhibition capturing the stories of grief, loss, and resilience from Stolen Generations survivors will be held at Federation Square as part of National Reconciliation Week.*



Hosted by the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT), the exhibition will showcase more than 45 artworks from First Nations' artists including paintings, weaving, prints, and mixed media – which the Trust's CEO Tom Mosby said would be a powerful display of truth telling.

Titled the Barring – Nganjin, meaning "Our Path Our Journey", the exhibition will be largest collection of Stolen Generations art in any single exhibition of the KHT, which will also feature work of Link-Up Victoria, a support service for Stolen Generations that helps connect families.

The Stolen Generations are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families under government policy and direction from the 1910s to the 1970s.

Mr Mosby said the trauma of the Stolen Generations survivors was still being felt by individuals, families, and communities – with each artwork being both a creative response and an act of healing.

"The powerful thing about this exhibition is that it is how the artists actually portray themselves and the trauma through the art so it's a powerful exhibition that I really encourage all people to actually visit," he said. "We all hear about Stolen Generations and Reconciliation Week, but the exhibition is something tangible that people can visit and visually reflect as part of their journey towards reconciliation as well."

The exhibition will be supported by the curatorial assistance of Link-Up Victoria's Aunty Bev Murray who will also display some of her

work alongside collections from Connecting Home, which provides broad-range services for Stolen Generations.

"Art and storytelling are important healing and wellbeing elements in our communities and this collection of works strongly portray the visual and powerful stories of each individual," Aunty Bev Murray said.

As part of Reconciliation Week, which runs from May 27 to June 3, Mr Mosby encouraged people to book in a guided cultural walk at KHT.

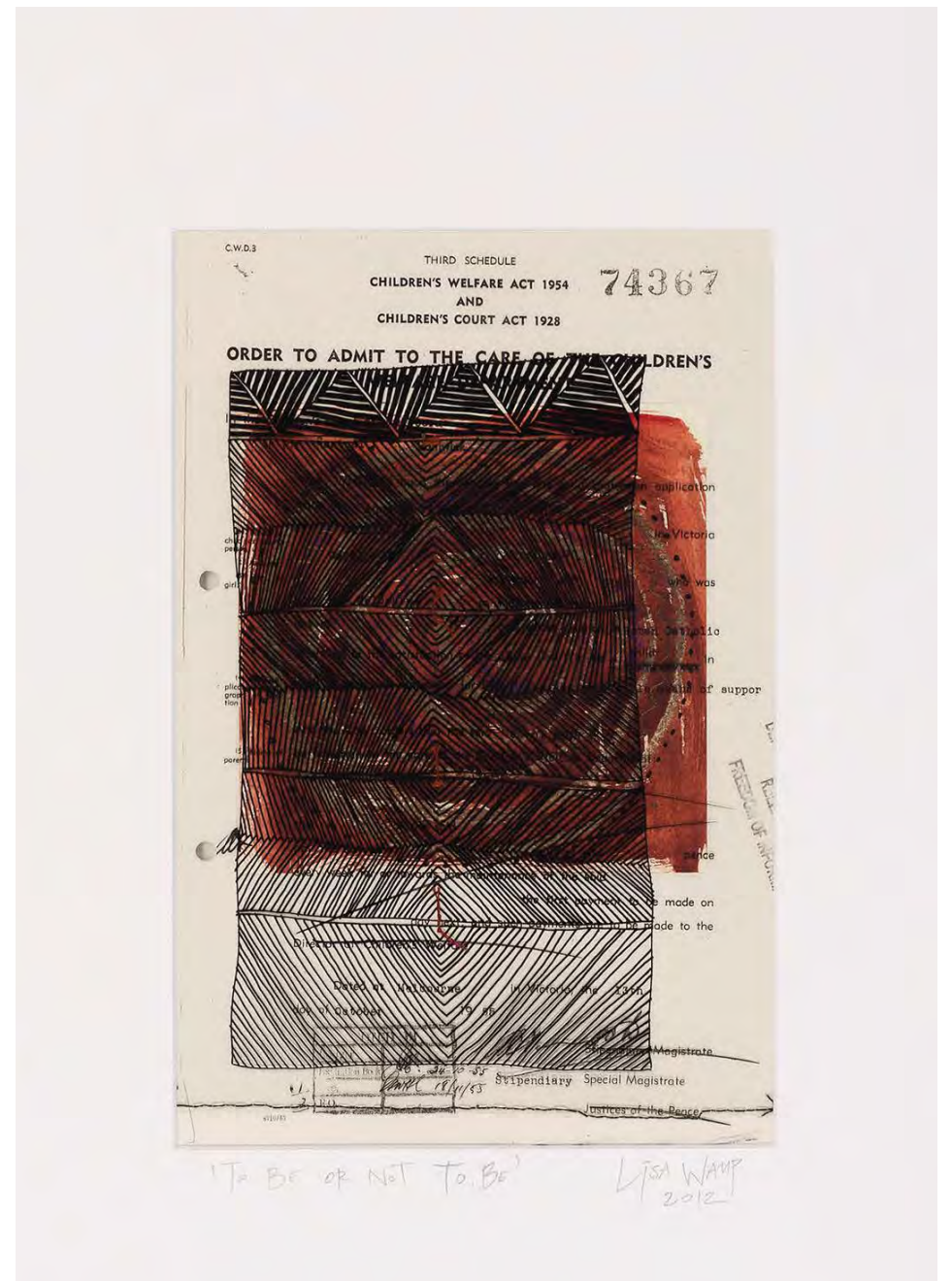
"People are taken on a tour where it's looking at the land on which Melbourne is built, pre-settlement history of Melbourne and also the settlement history of Melbourne as well and the impact on Victorian Aboriginal people and communities," he said.

"We really encourage people to visit us, not only as part of Reconciliation Week. Reconciliation is something we should all be thinking about all year-round."

Visitors can also visit the KHT shop which specialises in Victorian Aboriginal products.

Barring – Nganjin: Our Path Our Journey opens May 26 and runs until August 28 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Fed Square. Free entry ●

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



## NATURE

## A suspicious death

“

*There has been a murder in the garden. The whole of North Melbourne is buzzing and the renowned Italian Detective Ento Mologist, more lately of the yard [the backyard], has been brought in to investigate.*

”

WORDS BY *Howard Birnstihl*

The usual suspects are dragged in, the most likely being the long slender green fellow with the nervous constitution. Known locally as Mantis, she is in fact a female, slightly rounder than her male partner, as she is soon to be a mother.

Now there's no point in coming over all sentimental, she is a well-known killer with a record as long as your arm.

Ollie the Orb Weaver's wife is there too, very suss the way she hangs about at night in her gaudy outfits. Henrietta Huntsman, also an after dark operator, was also in the frame but there's no point looking at any CCTV footage as Huntsman spiders move too fast for the eye to see.

Gordon Gecko maybe? Now, I know what you're thinking, this is Melbourne, and those geckos are a tropical mob, but we do have one family down here, *Christinus marmoratus*, nicknamed "Marbled" gecko (maybe because he has



the balls to cope with Melbourne winters) and obviously conned down here by some pretty dodgy tourist advertising. Worth a look anyway.

The smart money was still on Mrs Mantis having been brought up with much low life in her neighbourhood, spending long hours defending herself from that eight-legged Arachnid mob, not to mention other odd birds and the occasional lounge lizard.

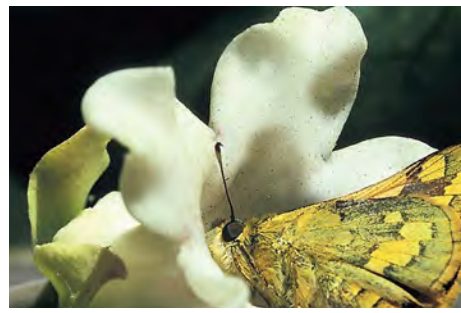
Her worst nemesis, another tough tart, Mrs Mantis Wasp, sneaks her own kids in with Mantis's kids, which, would you believe, eat the young Mantids for breaky.

Mrs Wasp's expensive brief reckons because she spends her whole life parading up and down like some Scots Guard making sure no one else has a chance to gobble them up, and because her kids always leave some of the young Mantids alive, she's actually doing us all a service.

But I ask you, do we want this kind of parasitoid behaviour in North West Melbourne?

We've all heard about Mrs Mantis biting hubby's head off after the main event [but police records show this rarely happens].

Nevertheless, she's obviously no wilting



them, suspiciously swaying to imitate a leaf buffeted by the breeze, and as for hiding upside down under a leaf at night, well, that just shouted guilt.

Actually, they were lucky to find the corpse at all, a thriving racket in body snatching occurring throughout the whole neighbourhood.

Some of these characters were real slugs. Of course, the namby pamby social workers always defend the ants, saying they're so family oriented and really hard workers, bleating out that same old excuse - "we only came along after it was all over". Oh yeah. Give me a break.

But visiting the garden next morning, everything appears different. Detective Ento Mologist is stunned. Here are now more dead bodies hanging in the greenery!

Limp remains of the cabbage white butterflies and once sprightly skippers hang, lifeless, suspended by their drinking tubes still glued into the innards of those insatiable white flowers.

*Araujia sericifera*, alias moth vine. It was all there in the files. He'd only had to look. A notorious killer originally from South America, well known for disguising itself as a harmless bloom. Cunning devil. How many innocent victims had it despatched, he wondered? If only the gardener had been more observant and rooted him out when he had the chance.

Oh well, that's life [and death] in the garden.

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



## KENSINGTON ASSOCIATION

## Apartment living – the new normal

*In contrast to most European and Asian cities, other than for social housing, Australian cities have not been characterised by apartment blocks, but this is changing in places like Kensington and North Melbourne.*



Under normal circumstances neighbourhood change is gentle, but change in some quarters of Kensington is less gentle than normal. For residents west of the Craigieburn rail line and east of Epsom Rd, change has been gentle, with the exception of the stockyards which once upon a time meandered under Epsom Rd down towards the Maribyrnong.

Until the end of the 20th century the "neighbours" in this "hood" were cattle! Change for this area has been transformational; over a relatively short period it has become the award-winning Kensington Banks residential development. In the parts of Kensington east of the Craigieburn line, down towards the Moonee Ponds Creek, change is happening now, and for those residents around Macaulay Rd, it doesn't feel gentle at all. It feels a bit tsunami-like-unstoppable.

Regular readers of the Kensington Association columns (in both the *North West City News* and *Flem-Ken News*) will be familiar with how we interrogate the pros and cons of different developments. Given Melbourne's population pressures and the need to kerb the crawl of suburbia, there is no surprise that Kensington is in

the development "firing line", but residents don't like it. Those who have lived in Kensington for a few years generally like (or even love) the place, and don't want the neighbourhood to lose its "feel". They will fight to retain places of heritage, to keep and extend open space, and to keep lines open to the sky and sunlight. We all know that these factors (sunlight, open space) are becoming more and more prized as we move further into the challenges of climate change. If development is done well, perhaps Melbourne can regain its former "most liveable city" status.

There are other changes I want to explore – particularly as we in the Kensington Association reflect on the needs and interests of the people for whom we purport to speak. Jumping forward a few years, once the development wave has happened, the Kensington Association (being a "residents' association") will need to "speak for" a different mix of residents. As well as our "traditional" residential base – the many families with homes on suburban blocks – there will be many more families living in apartment buildings. Families living along Macaulay

Rd will be renting or buying two-, three-, or four-bedroom apartments within eight- to 12-storey apartment complexes.

There is little doubt that the current residential and business populations of Kensington have warm community feelings about the place. I think it is important to reflect on why this is, and also how it can be maintained into the future. No matter what style of home we have – apartment, free-standing, or terrace, we are all human beings, so our basic needs are not radically different. However, meeting basics needs in apartment living involves a different set of challenges from life in traditional free-standing homes.

I suggest that in apartment complexes (unlike traditional homes) it is the internal shared facilities, structures and systems that make a big difference. Such things as access to storage, parking, the management of the apartment, charging facilities, transport share, waste management and community rooms, etc. Secondly, similar to all homes, the quality of external community infrastructure is vital to quality of

life – childcare centres, schools, paths, green open space, meeting, sitting and working spaces, etc. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Planning Departments of local and state government to comprehensively oversee the process of orchestrating these internal and external quality-of-life variables. In the medium to long term, it is these issues that will occupy the Kensington Association.

In September last year my Kensington Association article for *North West City News* was entitled "Community". I think it is worth revisiting some of what I wrote. I opined that while having a "good roof" is important in order to feel good about a place, it doesn't guarantee our contentment. I asked what makes the biggest difference. I wrote ...

"Is it trees, is it safety ... is it services, is it open space? It doesn't take many thought experiments to realise that 'people' are a critical factor. For me it boils down to the connections and relationships between people, and the 'quality' of those connections."

I guess you can say this is true about life in general. However, as I wrote in finishing that paragraph, "We know how neighbours, particularly those next door, can make or break our feelings about our 'hood'."

As more people in Kensington live in apartments, in closer proximity to one another, everything that fosters good connections and good relationships will determine whether warm community feelings persist into the future. ●



Simon Harvey

CHAIRPERSON

INFO@  
KENSINGTONASSOCIATION.  
ORG

# Congratulations to 300 cladding winners!

“

*The latest figures from Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) website show that about 35 per cent of cladding-affected apartment buildings have been selected for financial assistance for remediation works. Only “extreme risk” or “high risk” buildings qualify for state government funding.*

”

The CSV website shows that a total of 802 buildings have been referred to them by the Victorian Building Authority’s state-wide cladding audit. CSV has assessed these buildings for eligibility and risk. From the total referred to CSV, 300 funding agreements have been signed. Cladding remediation work has been completed on 154 buildings and underway on 51 more buildings.

Around this time last year, the CSV annual report showed the figures were 723 buildings referred, 253 funding agreements, 40 buildings completed and 160 buildings underway.

The comparative data also show a consistent funding rate of 35 per cent. In other words, your building has just over a one-in-three chance of obtaining CSV funding to remove flammable cladding.

Owners’ corporations that have been denied CSV support are telling us that the qualification process is opaque. Many buildings have received building orders from their council stating that the cladding is “a risk to life” and

yet these dangerous buildings do not qualify for financial support from CSV.

The CSV website also shows that 131 government buildings (94 complete) have been selected for remediation, while the number of apartment buildings out of the 300 (154 complete).

## COVID exposes housing crisis

The COVID crisis has affected us all in so many ways – medically, socially and economically. As the world readjusts, researchers are finding that COVID has also been instrumental in exposing the economic downside of short-term rentals.

Housing researcher Professor Peter Phibbs has been analysing data since before COVID and has found disturbing links.

“COVID really showed there’s a connection between the short-term rental market and rents all across Australia, and indeed across the world,” the professor told *ABC News* this month.

Professor Phibbs has studied the housing crisis in Hobart, which predates COVID. “When housing stock went from short-term rental back to the long-term rental market, in places like Hobart we saw a sharp reduction in rents,” he said.

In the interview, Professor Phibbs estimated that during COVID, rents in Hobart dropped by about nine per cent.

In another study, researchers William Thackway and Christopher Pettit in Sydney found rent prices in the most active short-stay neighbourhoods dropped by up to seven per cent.

The ABC reported Professor Phibbs as saying, the evidence is clear: you cannot have an unregulated short-term accommodation industry and a healthy long-term rental market. “Those two things just can’t co-exist,” he said.

“We need some sort of regulation to limit the spread of short-term rentals so we can enable the long-term rental market to provide homes for so many households that are looking for them at the moment.”

Another expert who backs up this view is Leith van Onselen, chief economist at the MB Fund and MB Super. Mr van Onselen, who has previously worked at the Australian Treasury, Victorian Treasury and Goldman Sachs, is also

concerned that short-term rentals like Airbnb are having a major impact on the rental market, exacerbating Australia’s acute shortage of rental homes.

Last month we reported on the steps being taken in jurisdictions around the country to regulate short stays. Sadly, Victoria lags far behind the rest of the country and the world. We are continuing to lobby for meaningful change in Victoria, and the professor has some salient advice for us.

“Making the regulation is probably the easy part,” Professor Phibbs told the ABC. “Enforcing the regulation can be quite difficult. It’s certainly resource-intensive. It sometimes involves quite long legal processes. It’s important to have some kind of taxing regime where short-term rentals pay for the cost of that regulation through some sort of bed tax.”

We Live Here has been highlighting the favourable tax treatment handed out to the short-stay industry at the expense of all other Australians.

We have also highlighted the woeful inadequacy of the enforcement process in the light-touch legislation known colloquially as the Airbnb bill – the short-stay provisions in the amended *Owners’ Corporations Act 2021*.

Let’s hope the Victorian state government can get behind the economic science presented by respected researchers, study the precedents being set by every other state in Australia, and finally take some real action.

## An unfair committee faces a formidable opponent

Nerrida Pohl has provided an update on the committee scandal at her inner-city building ...

“I printed out copies for all 500 apartments of the We Live Here article and an article by a retired politician, about my poorly-run five-member committee. A supportive owner-occupier wrote a nice cover letter, calling for new committee candidates. Letters were dropped to all occupants.”

“I had an excellent response. I had tried and failed on four occasions to be elected to this developer-controlled committee. This time the new owners’ corporation laws were on my side – a five per cent cap on proxies and all emails to be made available.”

“Before I was sent the owners roll, the OC manager emailed all owners to apologise that their emails were no longer private, and they could opt out if they wished. I applied to VCAT for urgent access to the email list. As soon as VCAT issued a case number the manager sent it to me.”

“Many residents offered to help reach other lot owners. Many agreed the property was not being well managed. Big investors responded with alacrity and with proxies. I received so many I had to return some.”

“During the faceless AGM webinar, a seven-person committee was agreed to by ordinary vote. A screen then appeared listing only the five names of the old committee which we were required to vote for first. The other candidates were on a second screen to be voted for only after the first vote was done. Some people had already voted, and I just scraped home in seventh place from 12 candidates.”

N.B. Ms Pohl could have challenged the election process in VCAT but decided to quit while she was ahead.

“At least I’m on the committee where I have the choice responsibilities of our flammable cladding politics and the issues that I took to court in the first instance,” she said.

We hope this story of dogged persistence, coupled with the new OC laws will inspire others to take on dodgy developers.

Congratulations, Nerrida!

## Campaign donations

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



## STATE MP

# Your Melbourne Greens team continues (and grows by one!)

“

*I have some news: at the time of writing (early June), my baby is due in one week! And before I embark upon a short period of maternity leave, I wanted to ‘officially’ announce that I’m putting up my hand to continue as your state MP for Melbourne at the Victorian election in November.*

”

There’s no denying that the last few years have been a rollercoaster. But after the recent Federal election, I am feeling very hopeful.

The election saw big swings towards candidates pushing for strong climate action and integrity in our parliaments, sending a strong message to the new government that this is what Australians want (and need!).

With more Greens in the federal parliament our MPs will push the government further and faster on climate change, integrity, women’s representation in parliament, and affordable



housing.

As someone who has worked my whole adult life for action on climate change, the results gave me a new spring in my step. They gave me hope about what we can achieve, together with the community, at the state election in November.

With just a few Greens MPs in the Victorian parliament, we’ve already been successful at pushing Labor to change their position and implement a ban on toxic gas fracking, stopping the polluting East West toll road, and getting a

cap on political donations.

When China stopped taking our waste a few years ago, it was the Greens-initiated parliamentary inquiry that pushed the government to adopt new solutions like a 10c refund on bottles and cans, a ban on single-use plastics and an overhaul of our recycling system. And during the pandemic we were able to stand up for public housing residents affected by the hard lockdown with new support programs now in place as well as successfully advocating for rent relief for people struggling to pay rent and support

for casual workers and international students.

But of course, we’re not done yet.

Unfortunately, the Labor government has opened huge new areas of Victoria for gas drilling, including right near the Twelve Apostles, has put a tax on electric cars and extended the life of our polluting coal-fired power plants. They’ve also given in to the property developer lobby and dumped their plan for a social housing levy that would’ve helped deal with our terrible housing affordability crisis.

We also need strong advocates to put forward bold solutions to reinvigorate our city post-COVID.

Given all of this, I think our work is more important than ever, and I’m excited to continue it as we head into the election in November.

It’s a pleasure to work alongside the community on important local and global issues.

While I’ll be taking a short time off to care for my new baby, which is very exciting, my office will remain open as normal. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com) and I can’t wait to see many local residents when I return (with a baby in tow!). ●



NORTH WEST CITY LOCAL

# Local stalwart and workers' rights devotee honoured with Queen's Birthday award

*A North Melbourne resident who has worked tirelessly representing the rights of blue and white-collar unions has been awarded a Queen's Birthday honour.*

WORDS BY *Brendan Rees*

Mark Perica, the senior legal officer at the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU), said he was honoured to be awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM), which recognised his significant service to industrial relations, and to law.

"It's amazing in two ways – a) I'm not in the class of people who usually get these and b) it's humbling to think that someone would care enough about the work I had done to nominate me. It's very humbling," he told *North West City News*.

"I owe this award to our members and the elected officials of the CPSU."

Mr Perica appears and acts for 80,000 members who work in various state public services including appearing in the Fair Work Commission, state industrial commissions, and in the Federal Circuit Court.

Mr Perica's contribution to industrial relations is extensive and driven by a desire for an equal, fair, and safe working environment for all workers.

His list of accomplishments is impressive including holding directorships in industry super funds and community organisations as well as being a representative in the industrial relations reform working group at the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

At a local level, he was on the committee of North Melbourne Legal Service (now called Inner Melbourne Legal) for about 10 years, which provides free legal services to people in the North Melbourne area.

A career highlight has been representing Australian workers in international forums, such as the International Labour Organisation, which he described as "the peak and a real privilege".

"Representing any worker, at any time, is a privilege but to represent Australian workers at an international forum is amazing," he said.

"I have made interventions in cases involving slavery in Thailand, physical harassment of trade unionists in Cambodia and Belarus, and child sex trafficking in Afghanistan."

He also assisted the Fijian Trade Union Congress in Fiji during their struggles when the parliament was dissolved in a coup in 2006.

"It's great to collaborate with all these amazing people in different countries on international matters."

As a North Melbourne resident of more than 30 years, Mr Perica loves his community and is particularly passionate about the Kensington Flemington Junior Sports Club Inc. where he has been awarded Life Membership.

He started out as a goal umpire before working his way up to the footy president, a position he held for 10 years and an opportunity he is grateful for.

To this day, he maintains, "you definitely get back more than what you put in".

While not involved in planning law, Mr Perica said he was also right behind the community in saving the 150-year-old John Curtin Hotel in Carlton which is under threat by developers after it was sold to an offshore buyer in April.

"John Curtin himself is an absolute icon of the labour movement, it's a sacred site ... it would be sad if that history and connection ends," he said.

In the meantime, Mr Perica said the Queen's Birthday award was still sinking in.

"When they rang to say would you accept it, I just about dropped the phone. I couldn't believe it, it's not something I expected. I still don't know who nominated me." ●



▲ Mark Perica has been awarded the Member of the Order of Australia.

ENVIRONMENT

# The unfortunate dirty truth about clean energy: part one

*Like many others I have been buoyed by the promise of electric and hybrid cars and solar energy as doing the right thing by the planet. My research has led me to uncover something different. I read an article by Carlos Zorrillia, which I encourage you to read.*

Minerals used in electric cars compared to conventional cars



We believe that we can continue to consume if we plant more trees and increase our "green energy consumption" – electric vehicles, solar farms, big electric storage installations, and monster wind turbines.

Let's ask ourselves how does this green energy work?

In his article Carlos presents the truth about the mining for those minerals in demand by the "green energy industry" for their particular properties.

Wind turbines, photovoltaic systems, electric cars, lithium-ion batteries, high voltage power lines and fuel cells all have one thing in common – enormous amounts of raw materials are consumed in their production, never mind the transportation and production costs.

The growing demand for these minerals and consequent high prices will have mining companies and opportunists seeking these minerals in areas that include ecologically fragile areas, indigenous occupied areas and politically unstable territories.

It is suggested that any local people occupying these sites identified by these mining companies will largely be forced to relocate with major disruptions to their connection to livelihood and land – these sites are not found

in our cosy First World neighbourhoods.

Some of these minerals are becoming harder to extract. Mining leaves behind environmental and community destruction – around the world there are 32,000 toxic lakes left of contaminated sludge from mining operations.

According to an International Energy Agency (IEA) report, in order to "hit net-zero globally by 2050, [it] would require six times more mineral inputs in 2040 than today".

The minerals considered by the IEA report are copper, nickel, cobalt and lithium, as well as graphite and rare earths. They are sometimes referred to as the "critical minerals." It is the specific properties they contain that makes these metals so desirable.

How much land and minerals are required to transition to this so-called "green energy" and at what cost to our planet and people?

Around 67 tonnes of copper are required to produce a medium-sized offshore wind turbine. To extract this amount of copper, miners have to move almost 50,000 tons of earth and rock, around five times the weight of the Eiffel Tower. The ore is shredded, ground, watered and leached.

In a solar farm measuring 1000 by 1000 metres, there are 11 tonnes of silver. A single Tesla

Model S contains as much lithium as around 10,000 mobile phones.

An electric car requires six times as many critical raw materials as a combustion engine – mainly copper, graphite, cobalt and nickel for the battery system. An onshore wind turbine contains around nine times as many as these substances as a gas-fired power plant of comparable capacity.

There is no doubt that electric cars produce much less carbon emissions than conventional cars and that is the important sales argument. According to the IEA, an internal combustion vehicle emits 40 tonnes of greenhouse gases over a life cycle of 200,000 kilometres, more than twice as much as an electric car, despite the CO2-intensive production of the battery.

Depending on the battery type, an electric car requires between 150 and 250 kilograms of special raw materials.

Carmakers are now pushing ahead with the expansion of their e-fleets, and competition has broken out among them over securing supplies of raw materials.

Many of these critical commodities come from a small group of countries. Indonesia and the Philippines (nickel), China supplies 60 per cent of rare earth metals. The Congo (cobalt)

and South Africa dominates around 70 per cent of the platinum market.

Poverty, corruption, authoritarian governments, and violent conflict often afflict countries rich in natural resources.

In Guinea lies bauxite, a raw mineral for aluminium, important for wind turbines and powerlines. The inhabitants of a village of 700 people, Hamdallaye, stood in the way of this extraction and were relocated to land where they could no longer grow their own food due to the poor quality of that soil. Stripped of being able to provide their own livelihood they are now reliant on the partly state-owned Guinean mining company to support them.

Norway has managed to put its advantage of supply of resources to good use with its good governance and stability – this transfer of expertise could help countries like Guinea also benefit from the global commodities boom.

There are great hopes that the green technology can be used to help save the climate, but that rescue also entails stripping the planet of precious resources.

"It's too short-sighted to think that all we have to do to protect the environment is to recreate the fossil-fueled world with electricity and swap the six-cylinder Jaguar for the battery-powered Tesla," Mathis Wackernagel said, a resource researcher and one of the most influential figures in the environmental movement.

What will happen if we create an even bigger environmental crisis while trying to fix the climate crisis? And what can we do now to avoid that scenario?

Moving to a low energy future ... part two. ●



*Jacqui van Heerden*  
CO-CONVENER OF TRANSITION TOWN KENSINGTON  
JACQUIVANHEERDEN@GMAIL.COM

## HISTORY

## The Albion Hotel

*The Albion Hotel was rebuilt in 1926, the year that our present Queen Elizabeth was born.*

WORDS BY *Felicity Jack*  
HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT

The hotel and the monarchy have endured massive changes during the past 96 years and one thing is certain – more change is on its way for both institutions.

The photo of 1935 shows the Albion Hotel and a view along Haines St with the gasometer that was demolished in 1978 in the distance. Cows are being herded eastward, presumably making their way to the meat market, and what appears to be a wheeled delivery vehicle is at the side of the road.

There are no trees, and no sign of the substantial slum area to the north of Haines St, where houses huddled together in close proximity. These were demolished after The Second World War to make way for the housing commission flats that have in turn recently been demolished to make way for a large-scale housing development. Currently a multi-level school and a gym are under construction.

On February 7, 1874, Hugh Peck, proprietor of the Freehold Home Investment and Building Societies Savings Bank, advertised a huge number of valuable freehold properties in different areas of Melbourne. He was offering more than £50,000 of properties in the

“important and rapidly improving borough” of Hotham. One of these properties was a large block along Haines St from Curzon to Abbotsford streets that included the Nene Valley Hotel that was on offer for £4711.

On July 22, 1874 the *Argus* advertised the Nene Valley for sale. It was new, on a splendid corner block, but the offer doesn't seem to have been taken up as the contents of the hotel were auctioned in February 1875.

By 1886 the Nene Valley had been renamed



▲ *Albion Hotel. Photo from the State Library of Victoria.*

as the Albion Hotel. Both the Albion and Nene Valley have English associations: the River Nene has its source in Northamptonshire while Albion (derived from Greek, meaning white) is believed to have been named by the Romans after the white cliffs of Dover which they would have encountered on their invasion of Britain.

The Albion has remained relatively unchanged since it was rebuilt, the only substantial change being the residential door being built on the left of the Curzon St main entrance. This is probably because Harris St no longer ran west of Curzon St where the hotel's residential entrance had been.

Articles sourced from Trove trace some incidents from the hotel's history in its early days.

On August 28, 1895 the proprietor Ann O'Shannassy was convicted of selling inferior spirits and was fined 2/6d with costs. A further seven local hotels received similar convictions.

The Liquor Licensing Board had strict control over the operation of public houses, and it is likely that the police took advantage of this to secure convictions, even on New Year's Day. On January 1, 1902, the licensee, Elizabeth Martin, was fined £5 for having the hotel door open at 2am.

Many hotels paid scant attention to the six o'clock closing rule that came into effect in Victoria in 1916 and did not end until 1966. The following event took place in 1933 ...

### Licensee shut himself outside

Evidence was given by Constable McKean at North Melbourne Court that when he and other police arrived outside the Albion Hotel in Curzon St, at 8.20 pm on August 24, Peter Anten Carlsen, the licensee, who was in the doorway, stepped on to the footpath, closed the door and then knocked on it, saying, “Police here.”

McKean said he and the other police were admitted to the hotel five minutes later by Carlsen's wife. Wet glasses were found in the bar room, a door of which was open.

For having the bar room door open during prohibited hours, Carlsen was fined £5. On a second charge of having disposed of liquor during prohibited hours he was fined £2.

The following article appears in the *South Australian Advertiser* for July 7, 1914, demonstrating how news was syndicated throughout the country. The same article does not seem to have appeared in local papers.

### Incendiarism. Hotel door set alight

Melbourne, July 6, 1914. Early on Saturday morning a door of the Albion Hotel, Curzon St, North Melbourne, was discovered on fire ...

Mr. H. F. O'Brien, the licensee, was in his room at the time, and was disturbed by smoke. With his wife he searched for the cause, and on going downstairs found the door leading to Harris St alight. A quantity of burnt paper was



▲ *Albion Hotel.*

on the stone step. Previous to going downstairs Mr. O'Brien heard someone knocking at the door, and on looking through a window saw a man gazing upward, but when the door was opened this man had disappeared.

No mention is recorded of the firelighter having been identified.

Today the hotel is well patronised and gets excellent reviews for its food and its friendliness.

The Albion Hotel is currently being considered for inclusion for heritage protection by the City of Melbourne. The proprietor, Jodie Yaman, does not know the implications for the hotel, but is clearly apprehensive that it will involve more restrictions and red tape. Spiraling inflation and the ongoing effects of the pandemic mean ongoing uncertainty for this historic hotel.

But one thing is clear: Jodie will do everything she can to maintain the high standard of service for as long as she can. ●



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

## BUSINESS

## Local school creating new pathways for boys

*According to a federal government Youth in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Research survey of 2000 respondents, 80 per cent agreed that “scientists make a positive impact on the world” and 64 per cent said that “learning about science and technology is exciting.”*

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*

That is why West Melbourne's own Simonds Catholic College (SCC) is partnering up with the University of Melbourne to create new career pathways and inspiration for its Years 7 and 8 students.

SCC principal Peter Riordan told *North West City News* the new partnership would create foundational understanding of both STEM and coding for students to ready themselves for the school's soon-to-be purpose-built building.

“We were invited to develop a partnership with Melbourne University where our Year 7 students head to its Science Gallery on a Tuesday afternoon to code and Year 8 students go down for STEM on a Tuesday morning,” Mr Riordan said.

“Rather than being just one year, they have asked if we will be interested in a 10-year partnership, which will be fantastic for our boys.”

“We see our STEM centre as an opportunity for boys to do applied learning, using their hands as well as their brains, and to do some great projects.”

As well as the natural benefits from university standard facilities and learning, the partnership

weaves in the development of independence by allowing students to make their way back to campus by themselves.

According to Mr Riordan, one of the most common questions asked by prospective Years 5 or 6 students touring their school was whether they offered coding, further solidifying the significance of this partnership.

SCC Year 7 student, Zac Karni, said he and his friends had loved the program as they were able to “learn skills you might not in traditional school.”

“We have been doing an assessment where we get to make a paper about a system in our body,” Mr Karni said. “I chose the circulatory system and I have been doing it with my two friends. We created a poster, and once it was finished, we voted whose work was the best.”

“We get to collaborate with new people from different classes, discover things about our bodies that can help us in different ways. I want to be a medical doctor.”

“You can learn about systems, use websites where we provide feedback about what we enjoyed and can make recommendations about what we can do in the next semester.”

Mr Riordan said all the planning was in place to have their new STEM centre complete by



▲ *Student, Zac Karni, teaching principal, Peter Riordan, a thing or two.*

next year and that staff and the leadership team were working hard to make sure deadlines were met.

SCC sat in the top 25 per cent of schools based on results in 2021 with a median study score of 30, and 31 in 2020.

“As an inner city school, and a huge number of students with English as their second language, those scores are pretty remarkable,” Mr Riordan said.

“Because we are a boys' school, when we are recruiting staff to the school, we don't just ask them why they want to teach, but why they want to teach boys.”

“We are a boys' school, boys and girls learn differently. Boys like structure, they like

knowing boundaries, they like programs where they can apply themselves, whether that be sport, music or drama, and a program that is suited to them.”

“We have just accepted four Ukrainian students. We have provided them with clothing, books and laptops and no school fees. Language is a little difficult at the moment, but they are just keen to learn.” ●

**For more information:**  
[sccmelb.catholic.edu.au](http://sccmelb.catholic.edu.au)



# What's On: May 2022

**QUEER STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES - JUNE 17 - FREE**

Australian Queer Archives' Angela Bailey will discuss five historic records that have a unique meaning to Victoria's contemporary queer communities.

**Victorian Archives Centre**



**AND SHE WAS WEARING TROUSERS: A CALL TO OUR HEROINES 30TH JUNE - 6 AUG - FREE**

And She Was Wearing Trousers: A Call to Our Heroines brings into focus some of the many women who defined, defied or described Southern African culture from the seventeenth century to today.

[www.artshouse.com.au](http://www.artshouse.com.au)

**Songbirds at North Melbourne Library**

Songs, rhymes and stories will engage your budding bookworm's mind and introduce them to the fun and rhythm of language.

For babies and toddlers to 18 months old; no bookings necessary.

**03 9658 9700**



**MAD HATTER'S CRAFT PARTY AT NORTH MELBOURNE LIBRARY 27 JUNE - FREE**

The materials are supplied, you bring the creativity to make your own crazy hat at this themed craft party.

**North Melbourne Library**

**FRENCH CLUB 10 JUN - 9 DEC - FREE**

Run fortnightly at North Melbourne Library, the French Club is an opportunity to explore French culture, improve your French language skills and make new friends.

**North Melbourne Library**

**TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE WRITING GROUP**

Fortnightly, Tuesdays 5-6pm

Online writing group via Zoom for trans and gender diverse young people and queer-identified people between the ages of 13 to 25 to connect and get writing.

[youngadults@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:youngadults@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT NORTH MELBOURNE LIBRARY 30 JUNE - FREE**

Come along to the Queen's Garden as you paint the roses red and enjoy a game of flamingo croquet.

**North Melbourne Library**

**THE CENTRE**

58 Errol St, North Melbourne

The Centre is a not-for-profit offering programs and activities that respond to the needs of the North & West Melbourne community, providing an accessible and inclusive agenda which fosters belonging and community spirit.

[centre.org.au](http://centre.org.au)



**WESTERN SUBURBS ORGAN CLUB**  
Kensington Neighbourhood Centre

18 Anthony St, Kensington  
June 20 - July 11, 1:45 pm

2nd Monday of the month (or 3rd Monday if the 2nd Monday is a public holiday). Cost: \$8 includes afternoon tea. Enquiries: Julie, **9307 8207**



**PARKVILLE TENNIS CLUB**

Parkville Tennis Club  
151 Royal Parade  
Parkville 3052  
Monday - Sunday, 6am - 11pm

Parkville Tennis Club on the edge of the central city is small and friendly, with three synthetic clay courts.

## Business Directory

### Politician

**ADAM BANDT**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE

142 Johnston Street, Fitzroy  
(03) 9417 0772  
[adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au)

**THE GREENS**

### Precinct

**NORTH + WEST MELBOURNE PRECINCT ASSOCIATION**

**Next Chapter**

Tom Hirini — Director  
0481 192 060  
[thenextchapter.com.au](http://thenextchapter.com.au)

### Shopping

**QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET**

For the best fresh produce, gourmet food and specialty shopping, you can't beat Queen Vic Market.

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
Saturday & Sunday  
with plenty of affordable parking.

[qvm.com.au](http://qvm.com.au)

**ELLEN SANDELL**  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

(03) 9328 4637  
[office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com)

146 Peel Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

### Real Estate

**Biggin & Scott**  
KENSINGTON

For a clear path to success

Kylie 0417 960 492  
Simone 0447 022 266  
Trevor 0456 377 780

### School

**SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
KNOWN SUPPORTED INSPIRED

CONTACT US  
Phone: +61 3 9321 9200  
Email: [contactus@scmelb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:contactus@scmelb.catholic.edu.au)  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
8.00am - 4.00pm

CAMPUSES  
St Mary's 7-9 | 273 Victoria St, West Melbourne VIC 3003  
St Brigid's 10-12 | 20 York St, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

**COLLINS PLACE**

35 Collins St, Melbourne [collinsplace.com.au](http://collinsplace.com.au)

# Next Chapter



## Florenze Terrace BUILDER APPOINTED

Works have commenced on site at Florenze Terrace with the appointment of North Melbourne local builder – Keyway Built.

Purchase your luxury town home before June 30 to receive a further 50% stamp duty reduction.\*

Privately addressed town homes from \$1,769,000

Imani Fawahl  
0415 790 222  
imani@thenextchapter.com.au



## Hotham Hill

25% SOLD AT LAUNCH

Now selling 1, 2 and 3-bedroom residences in North Melbourne's finest, tree-lined pocket.

Book your private appointment today to be one of the first to view floor plans.

Secure your next chapter at Hotham Hill before June 30 to receive a further 50% stamp duty reduction.\*

Eleven luxury residences from \$670,000



Tom Hirini  
0481 192 060

tom@thenextchapter.com.au

\*General advice only – stamp duty payable is dependent on individual circumstances.

thenextchapter.com.au



@nextchapterprojects