



Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell, who met with public housing residents at a community meeting in Carlton on June 26, has described the rent increases as “outrageous” and a “heartless move” by the state government. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Carlton's public housing residents brace for rent increases

“

Carlton public housing residents have raised concerns about looming rent increases due to come into effect from August 18, questioning how the adjustments align with market values given the substandard condition of many units.

”

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The increase follows a five-year review by the Victorian Government's authority on statutory valuations, the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV), which makes assessments on a range of factors, including property age, size, and type, comparing them to the private rental market in the area.

With the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) basing the “full” market increase on the VGV's independent valuation, around 160 residents in Carlton

were notified of the change via a letter sent on June 6. “Residents in Carlton and North Melbourne particularly have been the most affected because market values are obviously really high,” Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre's (CNLC) community development manager Elle Morrell told *Inner City News*.

With public housing rents calculated at 25 per cent of household income, Ms Morrell, whose organisation supports many vulnerable residents in Carlton, highlighted that households with a higher income would face higher increases.

“The increase is having a huge impact mainly on people who are working, but generally these are very low-income jobs like aged care, childcare and cleaning,” Ms Morrell said.

“If the husband's working, the mother's working and they've got some children who are older, all of that income comes into play. A lot of stress and fear and anxiety has come as a result.”

Although some residents may be eligible for a rental rebate if their new rental amount is more than 25 per cent of their household income, Ms Morrell noted that this information had been “poorly communicated” by the DFFH.

“It wasn't well promoted in the letters that went out – it was just like one line at the end. This is also another form that residents have to then fill out to apply for,” she said.

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A new free food initiative
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Melbourne French Theatre brings Marivaux's *La Surprise de l'Amour* to life



The Melbourne French Theatre (MFT) is excited to announce 14 performances of their 2024 production, *La Surprise de l'Amour* by Marivaux, from August 6 to 17.



WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



One of the most successful theatre companies across Australia, the MFT is a not-for-profit organisation founded 47 years ago by Michael Bula and David Gorrie.

The passionate team produces one to two productions annually, alternating between classic and modern works, providing a unique platform for both professional and amateur actors to perform in French.

This August, MFT will bring Marivaux's classic to life for local audiences.

"We chose Marivaux because he's a playwright as good, but not as well-known as Molière. Molière is Shakespeare of France, and Marivaux is the next generation after," Mr Bula said.

"It's a beautiful play. What attracted me to it was one word – love. You give this word to 1000 people and you have 1000 interpretations of what it means or what it does."

La Surprise de l'Amour is a three-act romantic comedy that follows Lelio, who, after being betrayed by a woman, renounces love and retreats to the countryside with his



valet, Arlequin.

While Lelio struggles with his heartache, Arlequin remains infatuated with women despite their imperfections. Meanwhile, Lelio's servant, Jacqueline, yearns to marry Pierre, a servant in Lelio's home. But his views stand in the way of their happiness.

"This particular plays also brings in a lot of what was happening in France in that period, so it's got a historical and educational element," Mr Bula said.

Mr Bula describes the cast as a "United Nations of actors", highlighting the diverse backgrounds represented in the show, including Moroccan, Mauritian, Algerian, and

Spanish artists who unite through their love for the French language and theatre.

"French is a world language, so it really brings together a lot of different people and different experiences," he told *Inner City News*.

A distinctive feature of MFT's production is its commitment to authenticity, presenting the play in its original French.

English surtitles will also be displayed to indicate character names alongside dialogue.

"We do not change a comma, that would be an insult to Marivaux," Mr Bula said. "The actors can't wait to perform, they're very excited." ●

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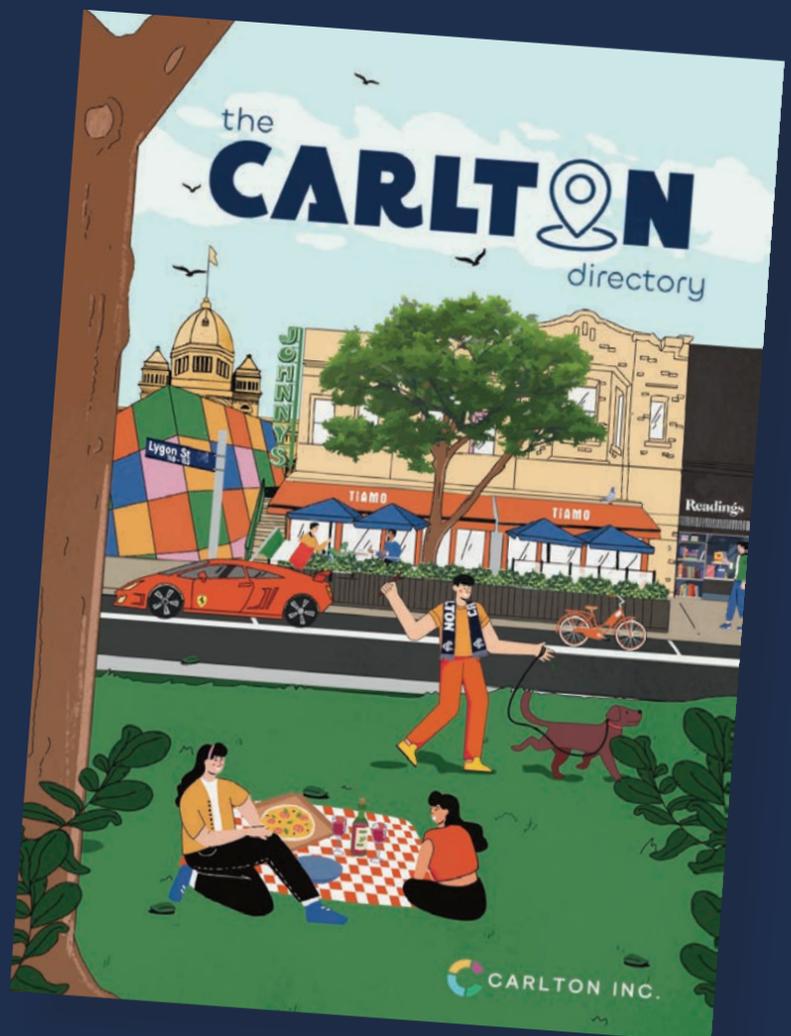
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LYGON LOCAL

Snack Monster: the casual snack bar sibling in the Jimmy Watson's family

At Snack Monster, indulge in an “affordable and genuine” selection of Italian-inspired bites, complemented by an ever-changing list of tasty wines.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Named after part-owner Simon Watson's beloved greyhound Brian, Snack Monster is an extension of family-run establishment, Jimmy Watson's: a Lygon St institution since 1935.

Housed in what was once a cellar filled with Simon's grandfather's vintage wine barrels that are still on display today, Snack Monster opened in early 2023 to provide a “different offering” to Carlton locals, setting itself apart from the traditional approach of Jimmy Watson's.

“It's lovely to now have it as a space we can trade that has a different concept. I like using the brain in a more creative way than just a normal, full-service restaurant and kitchen,” Simon said.

Specialising in “pincho” or “cicchetti”, Snack Monster features a delightful array of nibbles that change daily, with some favourites including sliced eggs on bread with anchovies, and creamed cheese and smoked salmon.

But while many locals rave about Snack Monster's delicious offerings, there's one

loyal customer who stands out.

“Most days, Brian will come through for a snack. He'll get a few little morsels in the morning, but obviously being a greyhound, he will then go and sit on the couch for the rest of the day,” Simon told *Inner City News*.

The wine list at Snack Monster is refreshingly uncomplicated, focusing on “whatever's going and whatever's good”, with an emphasis on affordability.

“We get a lot of our wine from Bottega Tasca, they're good boys and very trustworthy,” Simon said.

“It's not limited to Italian wines, just good value and something tasty that people won't get in other places.”

Having been in Carlton for most of his “working life”, Simon describes the community as a “vibrant village” and enjoys catering to a younger demographic with the Universi-

ty of Melbourne in such close proximity.

“It's the sort of bar that I would like to go to, that's how I built it. Not run-of-the-mill, and a bit quirky,” he said.

Snack Monster is the perfect place this winter to enjoy a glass of wine on a first date, catching with old friends, or simply cosy up with a good book.

Snack Monster is located behind 331 Lygon St in Little Elgin St and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 12pm to 11pm, and Sunday from 12pm to 8pm. ●



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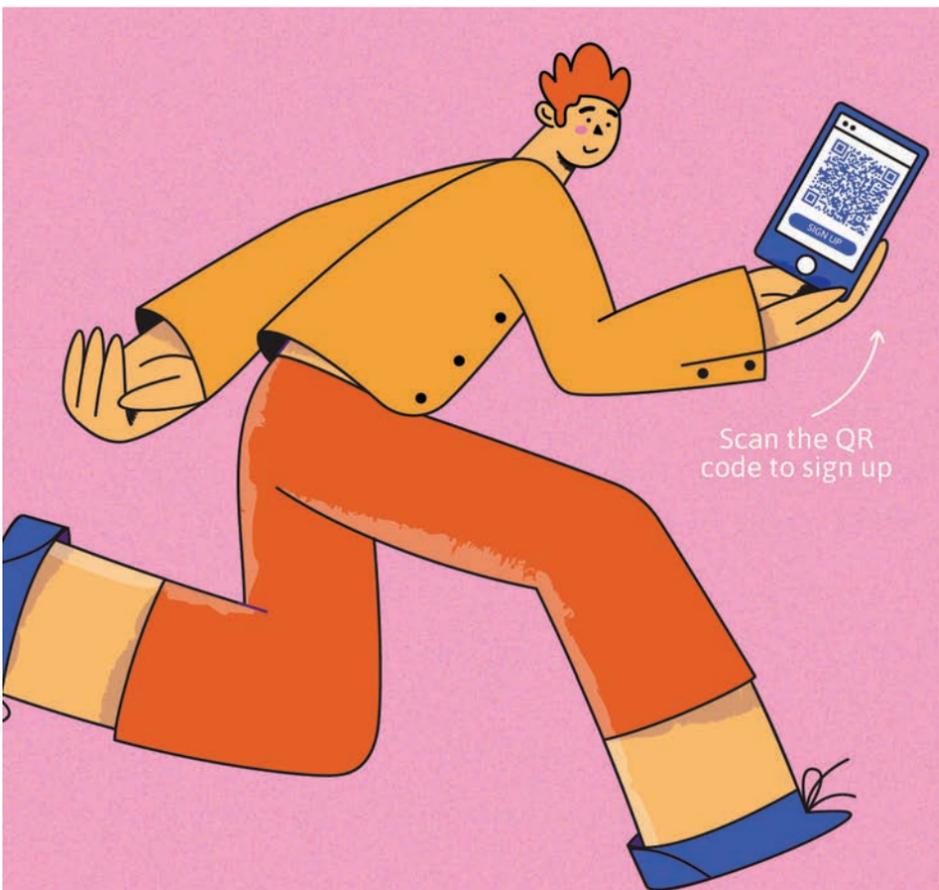
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Nick Reece picks Roshena Campbell as his running mate

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece has made somewhat of a shock selection for his deputy mayoral candidate at the upcoming City of Melbourne local government elections in current councillor and Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



Cr Reece had made it widely known that he was seeking to run with a "unity ticket" at the council elections and had been working to secure a well-known Liberal candidate to join his team.

On July 28, he revealed that person was Roshena Campbell, who ran second on Sally Capp's councillor ticket at the 2020 elections, with Cr Reece running as the former Lord Mayor's deputy on the same team.

However, it was during the last council term that the political divide between Cr Capp and Cr Campbell became increasing apparent on issues such as the council's transport strategy, which she has previously branded as "anti-car measures".

Cr Campbell's continued criticism of the bike lane rollout saw her replaced in her role as deputy chair of the council's transport portfolio, while she also opposed Cr Capp and Cr Reece's positions on a range of other issues.

In 2023, she went on to unsuccessfully run for the Liberal Party in a federal by-election in the seat of Aston, and many had expected that she would be keeping her options open at the upcoming City of Melbourne elections.

However, at an announcement in Carlton on July 28, where Cr Reece also vowed to double the number of CCTV cameras across the city if elected, it was Cr Campbell who appeared alongside him.

While running as an independent, Cr Reece is a long-time Labor man having worked as a senior advisor for former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, as well as for Victorian Premiers Steve Bracks and John Brumby.

Despite their differences on some issues, he said that Roshena Campbell was some-

one he had a great deal of respect for and that she was "smart, diligent, and always works hard for the people and local businesses of Melbourne."

"I'm honoured that she has agreed to be my candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor, and I look forward to working closely with her to help make this amazing city of ours even better and fairer," Cr Reece said.

With a "track record of delivering" initiatives such as Melbourne Money during COVID, boosting the city's events calendar, and getting the council's budget back into surplus, Cr Campbell said she knew how important it was to invest in the community.

"Melbourne has given me so much and it is a privilege to be able to give back. I am running with Nick Reece because I believe that working together, we will deliver the best outcomes for Melbourne's residents and traders," Cr Campbell said.

"As a university student, I fell in love with this city and made it my home. As a barrister and councillor, I've spent my entire working life listening to and fighting for people."

"As the daughter of small business owners, I know government can make a real difference to whether businesses thrive. I am committed to doing everything I can to make our city's economy fire."

Cr Reece also used the opportunity to reveal Cr Campbell as his running mate to pledge that if elected as Lord Mayor, he would install an additional 200 cameras across Melbourne "to supercharge the city's network of Safe City Cameras to help keep residents, traders, and visitors safe."

The \$13.65m investment will almost double the number of cameras in the city and be the largest ever City of Melbourne investment in the network.

Working closely with Victoria Police to identify the exact camera locations, the new high-tech cameras will prioritise city Hot Spots and Black Spots – areas wherever crime rates and anti-social behaviour are at their highest, or busy retail areas where there is a gap in the network with no CCTV coverage.

The Safe City Camera Program will also be extended to parts of the city that have not had CCTV previously including busy retail strips and high traffic areas in Southbank, Docklands, Carlton, West Melbourne, North Melbourne, and Kensington. ●

Public housing towers class action to proceed to trial

The Supreme Court of Victoria has issued orders for the historic public housing class action to proceed to trial in October.

WORDS BY INNER MELBOURNE COMMUNITY LEGAL

The court will consider whether Homes Victoria made the decision to demolish the towers properly and with appropriate consideration for the human rights of the people whose homes will be destroyed.

The residents argue the decision to demolish 44 public housing towers was made without regard to the policies and procedures that Homes Victoria is required to follow, and therefore the decision should be remade.

The Court's decision provides some relief for residents despite Homes Victoria confirming its intention to proceed with the demolition, with the agency notifying Inner Melbourne Community Legal ("IMCL") that it will sign a contract to raze the towers on or after July 19, 2024.

Homes Victoria also has obligations under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006 (Vic) ("the Charter"). Residents will argue that Homes Victoria failed to consult with them about its plans or consider their human rights.

IMCL's managing lawyer Louisa Bassini

said this was significant for people living in public estates across Melbourne.

"The Victorian Government has fought tooth and nail to stop this trial from proceeding. Residents can now be confident that the decision to demolish their homes will be properly considered by the courts," Ms Bassini said.

"Homes Victoria's intention to enter a contract for demolition by the end of this week demonstrates a lack of regard for the arguments residents are putting to the court."

"Public housing residents have been treated as an afterthought in the Government's plans. The determination to proceed with demolition contrasts with Homes Victoria's lack of transparency about what their plans are for the estates or commitment to rebuild public housing."

Ms Bassini said Homes Victoria had failed and was still failing to ensure that residents who were being relocated had legally enforceable rights and protections.

"Families in public housing estates are feeling pressured to leave their homes with no certainty of what they are moving into, and whether they will be able to return to public housing and the communities they depend on," Ms Bassini said.

About Inner Melbourne Community Legal

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) works for inclusive and safe communities and the full realisation of human rights, which includes advocating for systemic change in many areas including police accountability. ●



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GREENS STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

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Carlton's public housing residents brace for rent increases

Continued from page 1.

"For people with low literacy levels or English as a second language, understanding bureaucratic forms is really hard. As a not-for-profit organisation, we are happy to help, but it's creating a whole new service that we don't get funded for."

The DFFH told *Inner City News* that an additional letter was sent to residents clarifying the application process for rental rebates and advising that a hardship provision is available to renters under financial stress.

The department has also made "proactive contact" with renters who pay market rent to inform them of their eligibility to apply for a rental rebate and other available support services.

However, Ms Morrell and residents are concerned with the rent increases "being pegged against private rental of a lot higher standard of living than what you get at the housing estate".

"There are often huge maintenance issues like lifts being out every couple of weeks, and if you live on the 19th floor and you're elderly, you can't walk up all those stairs every couple of weeks. There are water leaks, there's no air conditioning in the summer, and there's a lot of safety and security issues," Ms Morrell said.

"There needs to be awareness that public housing isn't cheap. It can be a really bad standard of living, and then your income leaves you with only \$50 a fortnight to eat and pay bills."



▼ Ellen Sandell meets with public housing residents at the Church of All Nations last month.

Amid the state government's intended redevelopment of 44 public housing towers across Melbourne and the urgent need for "safe and secure housing", Ms Morrell said that residents were in

a "state of anxiety" about the future of their living situations.

"It's just a whole atmosphere of not knowing, and not feeling like they've got control over their living situation," she told *Inner City News*.

"When something big like a redevelopment comes on, that often sucks all the energy and things like a rent rise are missed. But this is impacting people now in their lives, so that's why I think it's important

to be aware of it and try to work with the community to understand the system and try to avoid this electric shock in their budget."

Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell, who met with public housing residents at a community meeting in Carlton on June 26, described the rent increases as "outrageous" and a "heartless move" by the state government.

"First Labor plans to demolish and privatise public housing across Melbourne, and now they're slapping some of our most vulnerable public housing tenants with huge rent increases of nearly 100 per cent – this is outrageous," Ms Sandell said.

"What a heartless move from the Labor State Government to slap public housing tenants with a nearly 100 per cent rent increase when we're in the middle of a housing crisis."

"The Labor State Government is already one of the worst landlords in the state, with public housing residents waiting years for basic maintenance, and now Labor are jacking up the rent on their tenants by a ridiculous amount."

"This needs to be reversed, and instead Labor should adopt the Greens proposal for a rent freeze across the whole state to give renters some breathing space."

The community meeting held at the Church of All Nations on June 26 heard from residents on a range of concerns, with some expressing anger at the demolition and lack of information about where they would be housed during construction. ●

Council releases plans for Queensberry Street's new bike lanes

“

As a part of its riding lane delivery program, the City of Melbourne has released proposed designs for Queensberry St riding lanes in Carlton and is seeking community feedback.

”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In April 2024, the council endorsed an updated Cycling and Micromobility Infrastructure Program after it had fallen 23 kilometres short of its target of constructing 44 kilometres of new bike lanes by June 2024.

As a part of the program, the council is proposing to reinstate Queensberry St to one traffic lane in each direction and deliver safer and better-connected riding lanes from Peel St to Rathdowne St.

With Grattan St now open and Metro Tunnel's new Parkville Station almost complete, the council is looking to begin constructing the new bike lanes in mid- to late-2025, once the community has been

given a chance to have its say on the plans.

The proposed designs are currently open for community feedback on Participate Melbourne until August 8.

There are four sections along Queensberry St that are proposed to be changed, including Peel St to Leicester St, Leicester St to Swanston St, Swanston St to Lygon St and Lygon St to Rathdowne St.

Within these sections, traffic lanes will be reduced in both directions and 50 parking bays will be removed to make way for the new protected bike lanes.

The proposed design incorporates a range of design features to ensure cyclists are provided with the safest possible riding lanes.

They will include protection at intersections, flexible bollards, gaps closed in median islands, concrete separator

kerbs and islands, widened footpaths, vehicle hook turn boxes and green surface treatment at selected locations.

There will also be new zebra crossings installed on O'Connell and Berkeley streets, while 57 new trees are proposed to be planted as part of the council's Urban Forest Strategy.

According to the council, this mix of small to large evergreen and deciduous trees will help to create a cooler environment in the warmer months, reduce air pollution, encourage outdoor activity, and support biodiversity. ●

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/queensberry-street-riding-lanes







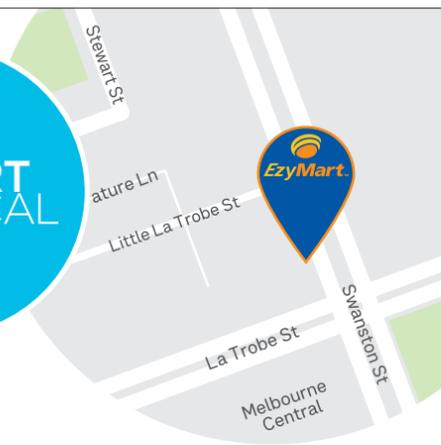
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Reviving history: student's transformative designs for Melbourne General Cemetery

An exhibition by landscape architecture students from the University of Melbourne has showcased design ideas for the future of Melbourne General Cemetery.

WORDS BY NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA 



On July 11, Melbourne University students held an exhibition showcasing 24 individual landscape projects for redesigning Melbourne's oldest cemeteries.

With digital scans of landscape elements and heritage features from within the cemetery, the main goal of the exhibition was to explore new possibilities for the Melbourne General Cemetery, including more public areas and better facilities.

It comes amid current efforts by the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust to revitalise the cemetery by planting locally native plants and grasses as part of "Project Cultivate".

Damien Tang, one of the 24 Master of Landscape Architecture students who participated in the exhibition, told *Inner City News* that his vision for a garden cemetery included a variety of grasses, flowers, and shrubs from native and exotic species.

"My philosophy was that water enables the growth of an abundance of flowers and woody shrubs, and the diverse vegetation can absorb water and slow down water's flow, mitigating the potential flooding that occurs on Lygon St," Damien said.

Using the area's biodiversity to its advantage, the design proposes replacing retaining fences with waterlogging-tolerant vegetation and seasonal flowers to create a visually attractive garden cemetery.

"This new garden allows people to ramble and discover moments at the cemetery, such as the overgrown vegetation, bird life, and beautiful woody shrubs and flowers," Damien said.

Biodegradable urns are part of Damien's design strategy. He suggests that urns

containing cremated ashes can be topped with growing vegetation and any plant of the client's choice.

"Even when a person has passed away, they have never left us. Their essence will return to the Earth, supporting the new growth of the vegetation, hence, symbolising a cycle of life," Damien said.

Creating a new memorial ground was another idea presented at the exhibition by landscape architecture student Josh Yu.

His design recognises that the cemetery currently offers unique tranquillity and atmosphere, but the lack of intervention has pushed the space into a critical state.

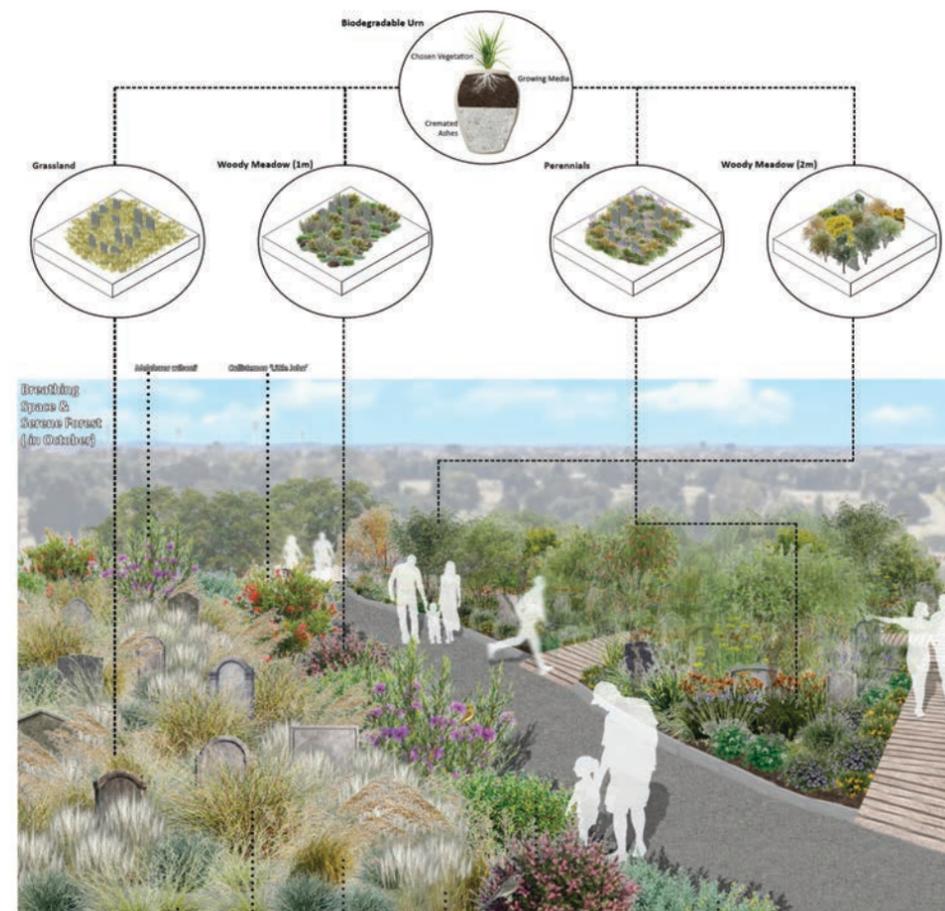
"After running for more than 170 years, it is now almost fully occupied by graves, with minimal space left to be developed," Josh said. "This raises a wide discussion on the future of the cemetery."

Josh's solution involves compiling the deteriorated headstones scattered throughout the cemetery into a single memorial ground.

This initiative aims to honour the deceased while maintaining the cemetery's historical integrity.

"Despite having deteriorated, I believe that the stones are not waste, but contain stories and emotions that once lived vividly," Josh said.

"It serves not only for friends and relatives of the deceased but anyone who is experiencing any kind of loss." ●



City of Melbourne unveils next urban forest plan for inner city

The City of Melbourne is seeking community feedback on new draft "urban forest" precinct plans for Carlton and East Melbourne.

WORDS BY JON FLEETWOOD 

implementing strategies that ensure that 90 per cent of the municipality's tree population is healthy.

Since the strategy's implementation in 2012, tree numbers have risen to more than 80,000, with plantings in Carlton having risen from just over 5000 to around 9000 in 2023.

East Melbourne has also seen 3500 trees planted in its neighbourhood since 2012, including 15 major street tree planting projects completed.

However, according to the strategy, canopy cover for each precinct hasn't progressed far beyond 30 per cent and the council is committed to increasing this to 40 per cent by 2040 by planting 3000 trees per year across the municipality.

The council says that continuing to increase the canopy cover is essential to combat the heat risks that the CBD faces due to its buildings, roads, and infrastructure absorbing heat.

Without intervention, temperatures in the central Melbourne are expected to reach levels associated with heat-related illness in vulnerable populations more often and for longer than in surrounding suburban and rural areas.

Through previous consultation, residents in Carlton and East Melbourne precincts have identified that in addition to greater canopy cover, they want to see a select mix of native and exotic species planted in "harmony with the streetscape and its uses".

Targeted feedback will be sought from contributors, along with widespread promotion to capture views and inform the final versions of the precinct plans, which will be considered by councillors in February 2025.

According to Cr Leppert, one of the key reasons behind this success is community consultation.

"The best thing about this is that it's done with the community. The workshops inform these draft plans, and consultation will now happen on these draft plans," he said. ●

The plans mark the next stage of the council's Urban Forest Strategy, which sets ambitious 2040 targets to protect and grow the city's canopy cover, help cool the city, increase biodiversity, and boost amenity to support business and tourism.

The draft strategy, which was tabled at the July 9 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, proposes a range of healthy, diverse, and resilient tree species supported by an integrated approach to managing water and soil.

"The urban forest will be colourful and connected, providing shade for people and habitat for native birds and pollinators. It will strengthen the character of the heritage precincts and create a public realm that supports the public life," the strategy states.

The draft strategy, which also includes precinct plans for the CBD and South Yarra, are available for public comment via an online survey on the Participate Melbourne website until August 8.

The City of Melbourne's environment portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert said he was pleased that the City was striving towards "ambitious" 2040 targets, adding that if the latest vision was anything like the award-winning 2013 plans, they would be the "single best thing" that the council did to connect with each local community.

The council is actively working to become a leader in urban forestry by 2040 by aiming to increase canopy cover to 40 per cent and



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Free meal program comes to Carlton

A new free food initiative has been launched in Carlton to help address food insecurity amid the cost-of-living crisis.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Born from the success of our Local Lunch Club program, the FareShare Library Feeds Initiative was created through a partnership between the City of Melbourne and not-for-profit organisation FareShare.

As of July 10, healthy frozen meals have been available for people to take during opening hours in the foyer of the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre located at 251 Faraday St in Carlton.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said that last year, one in three people in the City of Melbourne experienced a degree of food insecurity and that the initiative sought to make it easier for members of the community to access free, hot meals.

"With a huge helping hand from FareShare, we're offering 400 free, nutritious meals a month to community members that can be collected with no questions asked in the heart of Carlton," Cr Reece said.

Meals are available for pick up during library opening hours and community members can take up to two meals a day, with the option to microwave these on-site. There will be clearly-marked halal, vegetar-



ian, and other options available, too.

FareShare is a charity that operates Australia's largest not-for-profit kitchens in Melbourne and Brisbane where chefs and volunteers work hand-in-hand to cook the best possible meal for every person in need.

According to the food rescue charity, the need for meal relief has never been higher with the soaring cost of living, frequent natural disasters and the lingering effects of

the pandemic hurting millions of Australians.

On June 4, the council endorsed its "2024-2034 Food City Policy", which outlines its vision to address food insecurity and its intention to advocate, lead, partner and deliver initiatives that foster "food justice" by providing people with "dignified and equitable access".

The purpose of the food policy is to provide an overarching vision and framework



to uphold coordinated decision-making to strengthen the local food system, food economy and people's access to safe, affordable, culturally appropriate, and fresh food.

The partnership between the council and FareShare is the latest of a number of food security programs recently launched at Kathleen Syme.

Cook to Connect, run in partnership with cohealth, is a free fortnightly cooking class series held at the library and, while the Local Lunch Club, run in partnership with Open Table, provides community members with a hot meal in a socially inclusive space.

"Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre is now a hub for access to food and cooking tips," the Lord Mayor said. ●

A safe space for Aboriginal women and children at Carlton Baths

Carlton Baths will house a new support service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children as part of government efforts to address soaring rates of family violence.

WORDS BY
DAVID ALLEN



As part of the Victorian Government's Free from Violence Local Government Program, the City of Melbourne has established a partnership with Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service to pilot a family violence support service in Carlton.

The service will be co-located with Family Services at Carlton

Baths, to provide Aboriginal women and their children with access to culturally appropriate family violence services and support, and a dedicated safe space to practice healing and culture and connect with community.

Elizabeth Morgan House CEO Kalina Morgan-Whyman said the pilot program was an "opportunity to broaden our impact with our women, which for us, is always a privilege."

"Supporting frontline specialist service gaps to provide holistic responses which support the many facets of a woman's identity, while also recognising the external influences and elements which impact her, is crucial," Ms Morgan-Whyman said.

The program is the first and only service run by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation within the City of Melbourne.

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece said the council was proud to deliver

the "critical pilot program" in partnership with the Victorian Government and Elizabeth Morgan House. "Australia is experiencing a family violence epidemic – and Aboriginal women are 33 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence," Cr Reece said.

"All levels of government must work together to deliver more culturally appropriate services. We're willing to offer spaces in our trusted council facilities, to provide much-needed support for our community, closer to home."

Data from family violence prevention organisation Our Watch found Indigenous woman experienced violence at 3.1 times the rate of non-Indigenous women during the past 12 months.

Three in five Indigenous women have also reported physical or sexual violence from a male partner, which Our Watch listed as the leading reason for the disproportionately high rate of



Indigenous children being removed from families.

EMH head of communications Roberta Styles-Wood said the population of Indigenous women in Melbourne's northwest had risen 40 per cent since 2021.

"At the same time, reports of family violence from that community have risen by more than 10 per cent," Ms Styles-Wood said.

"It's important Indigenous women know this holistic service is available."

Select clients of the new service and their children will also be given free access to health services at the Baths.

Support workers from EMH will be at Carlton Baths every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm providing the free, walk-in service. ●

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VICTORIA



A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

MIRACLES CREATED THROUGH COMMUNITY GRANTS

Get support to host events that create community connection

When Rozilah Kamarudin applied for a City of Melbourne grant to hold a series of workshops for young people, she was spurred by a desire to help them reach their potential.

Her idea was to use crafting flower fairies as an ice breaker so people could focus on new possibilities. Rozilah said the practice can help young people manifest what they want to be themselves. An engineer by trade, Rozilah is also a certified coach, supporting people to follow their goals.

"In solutions-focused coaching, the 'miracle question' is key. It's important for people to be able to see the possibility of a miracle and the power of visioning. That's how the flower fairies workshop came about," she said.



A grant helped Rozilah run a community craft workshop

"City of Melbourne has been very kind and supportive to me. I moved to Australia from Malaysia in 2022 without any network but City of Melbourne helped me to apply for a Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grant so I could use my skills to help others."

"I was expecting only 10 people for each of the fairy-making workshops, but it booked up really fast and I had 20 per session."

The grant Rozilah received covered the cost of materials for participants, as well as promotion of the workshops.

GOT AN IDEA? GET A GRANT TO SUPPORT IT

Get support to host events and projects that create community connection and benefit the people in your neighbourhood.

City of Melbourne offers grants to people, community organisations and businesses in the arts, community, recreation, events and business sectors. We encourage applications that reflect creativity and are inclusive and sustainable.

These grants help our community to deliver quality programs,

both large-scale and community-focused events, and services which benefit Melbourne and its people.

They should also bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the city. Each year, City of Melbourne offers \$12 million in grants for the community. Have a look at how we can support you.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION GRANTS

Do you have an idea that empowers your community to identify and respond to issues? Or one that will increase community connection and belonging?

Apply for a **Community Inclusion Grant** and support your community through access and participation, while promoting equity, diversity and inclusion.

These grants are available to not-for-profit organisations and schools to work in partnership with the City of Melbourne.

Grants available: \$1000 to \$20,000 **Applications close:** Monday 12 August

SOCIAL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS

Do you have a project which addresses affordable housing or human rights? What about loneliness or community safety?

The **Social Investment Partnerships Grants** support you to partner with City of Melbourne to address social issues. The program promotes projects that enable equitable opportunities and help our diverse neighbourhoods to thrive.

The grants support people to be part of social, cultural, economic and civic life, and contribute to a sustainable, equitable and resilient city. Available to not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and B Corporations.

Grants available: \$25,000 to \$80,000 each year, for two years
Applications open: Tuesday 1 October

CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS SMALL GRANTS

Creating connected and inclusive communities in our neighbourhoods is a priority. We provide small grants to support residents and organisations to address local issues and neighbourhood priorities.

These grants empower people to influence change in communities within their own neighbourhoods. Projects should support people to take part and connect, as well as equity, diversity and inclusion.

Applicants can be a not-for-profit constituted organisation, school, community leader, or an individual.

Grants available: Up to \$2000
Applications open: Year-round

Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Access community grants, and find local news and events in Carlton, Parkville and East Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods



Find out more information about all City of Melbourne grants at melbourne.vic.gov.au/grantsandsponsorships



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MELBOURNE

Nominate as a candidate for the Melbourne City Council election in October

Do you have ideas for the future of Melbourne? Are you passionate about making a positive contribution to your community and want to make a difference? Now is the time to put your hand up and stand to represent your community as an elected councillor.

We encourage people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the rich diversity of the City of Melbourne community to nominate to run as a candidate in the next elections in October.

Register for one of the free information sessions to learn more about the role and responsibilities of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors.

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STAND FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Wednesday 31 July
Time: 6.30-8.30pm
Where: St Kilda Town Hall Auditorium, 99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda

CITY OF MELBOURNE RESIDENT-ONLY INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Thursday 15 August
Time: 6-8pm
Where: Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Room, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

For more information, visit mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024

To be a candidate for either election, please ensure you are enrolled to vote within the City of Melbourne by Tuesday 6 August.

To find out more, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au/standing-as-a-candidate



Learn about the role of councillors at an information session



Have your say on our tree-planting plans

URBAN FOREST PRECINCT PLAN

Last year we asked you for your input to help us create tree planting plans for our city.

The drafts of the new Urban Forest Precinct Plans for Carlton, CBD, East Melbourne and South Yarra are available for public comment.

This is an opportunity for community members to influence tree planting in their neighbourhood for the next 10 years.

The draft plans are available for public comment until Thursday 8 August. Share your feedback at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest

IN BRIEF

COUNCIL ELECTION

Melbourne City Council elections will be held by postal ballot in October. If you have enrolled, you will receive a ballot pack, and you have until 6pm on 25 October to post back your completed ballot pack. Councils play a major role in delivering services to residents and businesses. Your vote makes a difference. For more information, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au

MAKE IT A MARKET DAY

We're restoring the iconic Queen Victoria Market and adding modern facilities to make the market work better for traders, customers and visitors. With lots of work underway, plan ahead and consider catching the tram, train, bike or scooter to get to and from the market. Your favourite market stalls are still open for business. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal

NOW OR NEVER RETURNS

Our newest festival – Now or Never – is back after an incredible debut last year. From 22 to 31 August, check out 250 leading local and international artists and creatives across a program of groundbreaking music and audio-visual performances, immersive art installations, provocative talks, spectacular technology and much more. Book your tickets at nowornever.melbourne.vic.gov.au

POWERING UP THE GRID

Our first Power Melbourne community battery has been switched on at Russell Place, delivering renewable energy onto the electricity grid. Two more batteries will be switched on soon at Boyd Community Hub and Library at the Dock. Visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne to stay up-to-date.

BUDGET ENDORSED

Our Budget 2024-25 and the Annual Plan 2024-25 were adopted by Council on 25 June. Our \$781 million Budget will help us deliver essential services for our community today while investing for the city's future growth. Cost of living has been front of mind through the development of this Budget as we continue to deliver core frontline services, along with free and affordable services our community rely on. Read more at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/our-plans-2024-25

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

The surreal and wonderful mind of Nick Gatenby

Running an agency while creating a surrealist oeuvre is not for the faint-hearted, but it has been the reality for Parkville-based artist Nick Gatenby since he made his move across the ditch amid the pandemic.



WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



After completing a Bachelor of Design, Nick, who is originally from New Zealand, worked in advertising and moved to Melbourne at the end of 2020 to grow his agency Collido Creative.

Since making the move, he immersed himself in the local art scene and worked with notable brands like Schweppes, Mars Wrigley, Nando's Australia and PlayStation as an artist, creative consultant, and curator.

However, alongside growing his agency Nick found the time throughout the pandemic to begin his seminal body that gradually grew into his first exhibition *The Void* which was held in July at BSIDE Gallery in Fitzroy

"Coming into COVID was actually a bit of a change for me, like it was for everyone. I was made unemployed at that point and so I started to freelance and when I started freelancing, it opened up a lot of different opportunities," he said.

"I'd always wanted to move more away from the commercial stuff into more of the art world, so I saw it as an opportunity."

Nick's dream has now become a reality after his successful solo exhibition where he showcased 10 paintings, that he said were inspired by the anxieties of modern life and completed over a two-year period, each piece requiring around 30 to 60 hours.

The body of work explores the chaotic interplay of reality and media-saturated perceptions, seeking to explore questions and ideas that inundate the digital world such as eating meat, partying, and raising a family.

His surrealist style is informed by the way he wants to represent these ideas as he feels that it reflects the way they are frequently distorted.

"As a collective, we continue to experience a strong sense of uncertainty in post-pandemic life,



with the emergence of artificial intelligence, global conflicts and inflation," he said.

"I wanted to encapsulate this feeling of the unknown in my art, examining the space between what's real and what we think is real."

The artworks invite viewers to reflect on the impact of contemporary culture and consider reach-

ing out to those who see the world differently, in an intersection that Nick said could only be described as *The Void*.

With his first solo exhibition now complete Nick and his partner are relocating to London, where he will continue to build his body of work and keep his artistic dream alive.

"The mindset basically is that

you kind of become who you're surrounded by and there's some of the best artists in the world that live in London," he said.

Although Nick's stint in Parkville has come to an end, he said that he had enjoyed his time in a "beautiful" area, and while London gains a budding surrealist mind, inner-city Melbourne has to say goodbye for now. ●

EAST MELBOURNE GROUP

The latest from East Melbourne

The East Melbourne community continues to be strongly represented and supported by the many community groups who provide important services to all.

WORDS BY
GREG BISINELLA - PRESIDENT

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) committee of volunteers has been active during the past month and has many ongoing community projects.

Trivia Night

Deb Browne, Krys Hendrickson and the team put on a sold-out trivia night with more than 80 people at the Unitarian hall on July 5. The event raised \$2500, with proceeds going to support the East Melbourne Community Choir.

Email Ann-Maree if you would like further information or wish to join the choir: emnn3002@gmail.com

Upcoming event

A Swiss national day-inspired Fondue Night is on Wednesday, August 14 at Life's Too Short Bar.

Bookings: trybooking.com/CTXLR

East Melbourne confronts family violence issue

The EMG conducted a recent community information session on family violence.

Keynote speakers were Rasha Abbas,

CEO of Jolimont-based provider inTouch (intouch.org.au) along with Senior Judicial Registrar of the Family Court, Ceilia Conlan.

Attendees were presented with some confronting facts about the scourge of family violence along with some uplifting information on what is being done by inTouch and the courts to alleviate this societal problem. The EMG is pleased to be supporting our local service provider inTouch. You can donate directly to intouch.org.au/donate

Bishopscourt restoration appeal

Bishopscourt is the "first house to be built in East Melbourne and the largest intact urban estate in the City of Melbourne".

Listed on the National Trust Heritage Register, it has been under the leadership of Anglican Archbishop Philip Freier and his wife Joy for many years. The annual East Melbourne Community Christmas Picnic is hosted there and has been a mainstay of our community.

The property is now in need of some much-needed restoration. The flagstone pavers under the verandah, bluestones at the entrance and rising damp in the main building are badly in need of attention.

The EMG is supporting the restoration project. Donations can be made via the National Trust: bishops court.org.au/donations/ ●



Three Magpies Perched in a Tree returns to La Mama Courthouse

Directed and written by proud Arrindjeri/Wathaurong man Glenn Shea, *Three Magpies Perched in a Tree* returns this season to La Mama Courthouse from August 14 to 25.

WORDS BY
NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA



The production explores the idea of whether story and culture can offer spiritual relief by presenting an Indigenous Gothic tale that addresses the harsh realities of front-

line juvenile justice work.

The first Indigenous graduate from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and inaugural First Nations producer, Mr Shea performs alongside the narration of actor and activist Uncle Jack Charles.

Winning the 2023 Green Word Award for Best New Writing Award as well as receiving the State Library of Victoria R.E. Ross Trust Development Award in 2010, the show serves as an important platform for representing First Nations storytelling.

Three Magpies Perched in a Tree will run from August 14 to 25 at La Mama Courthouse and on September 11 and 12 at David Li Sound Gallery at Monash University's Clayton Campus. ●

Kinds of Kindness – a review



Kinds of Kindness is the latest curiosity from Yorgos Lanthimos, the acclaimed director of *The Lobster* (2015), *The Favourite* (2018), and *Poor Things* (2023).

WORDS BY
RUBY LOWENSTEIN

This black comedy triptych unfolds through three distinct yet complementary stories, featuring the same ensemble cast: Jesse Plemons, Willem Dafoe, Emma Stone, Hong Chau, and Margaret Qualley, each tackling different roles.

To label this anthology film anything other than an “odd, thought-provoking, and grotesque layer cake” would be a disservice to its intricate nature. The film provides a twisted yet nuanced take on the complexities of desire and the fundamental drivers of human existence: life, death, sex, and food. While it may not be an easy watch, its darkly poetic exploration of these themes is undeniably powerful, strange, and confrontationally human, as perhaps only the absurd can be.

The first tale explores the challenges of free will through the story of a man (Jesse Plemons) who agrees to follow every directive given by his boss (Willem Dafoe), including decisions about his weight, the food he eats, and even whom he marries.

In the second tale, Jesse Plemons plays a man whose wife (Emma Stone) is missing at sea.

When she is miraculously rescued, he becomes consumed by paranoia, doubting whether she is truly his wife and demanding she go to extreme, cannibalistic lengths to prove herself.

In the final tale, two cult members (Jesse Plemons and Emma Stone) who only drink the tears of their leaders (Willem Dafoe and Hong Chau) hunt for a girl who can bring people back to life (Margaret Qualley).

Although each story is distinct, they are unified into one twisted, unsettling experience by their common aesthetics, paranoid atmosphere, and preoccupation with desire and consumption. Part of the film’s barbed yet subtle beauty lies in the growing sense of

the uncanny as each actor takes on a new role. The visual style constantly toys with the line between absurdity and grotesqueness. A standout recurring technique is the use of shot composition that cuts off people’s heads during key dialogue, adding a disconcerting sense of disorientation.

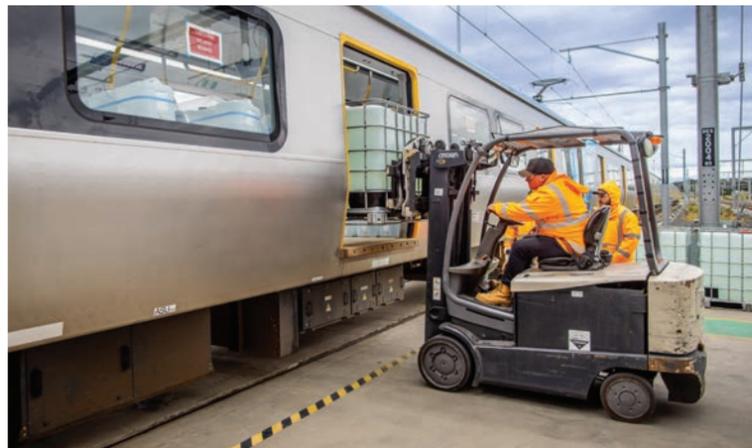
Each story makes folly of our desires with Lanthimos’s characteristic black humour. Humanity’s eccentricities, taken to an extreme, absurd place, are the butt of the joke, whether it’s the human propensity to be overwhelmed and immobilised by freedom, our tendency to desperately want something only to lose interest once we have it, or the tragedy of getting what we want only to squander it.

Of course, these interpretations offer neat, allegorical, Aesop-like readings of the three stories. Viewers should remember that, like many absurdist texts, this film illuminates human nature by starkly contrasting our search for meaning with a seemingly meaningless universe. These explorations of human folly and desire are not moral judgments, but rather challenging questions presented to us in their rawest, sometimes bloodiest, and always most unsettling form.

After each story, nothing is neatly wrapped up, and everything remains open to interpretation. This ideological complexity makes the film both confusing and rich in meaning. Yet, at its core, the film’s message may be surprisingly simple: existence is undeniably strange, perhaps impossible to fully understand, yet we have our constants – life, death, sex, and food. ●



METRO TUNNEL



Pushing the Metro Tunnel to its limit

Test trains have run through the Metro Tunnel for the first time carrying the weight of a full passenger load – but without a passenger in sight.

Instead, the test team piled two trains up with water tanks to carry the equivalent weight of a full passenger load.

The two seven-carriage trains each carried 42 1000-litre water tanks and thousands of water bottles – nearly 135 tonnes of water or about 19,200 kilograms per carriage – during this critical phase of testing.

The team then monitored how trains performed under the pressure of a full load in the twin nine-kilometre tunnels over two weeks.

Testing will continue in the Metro Tunnel – the biggest upgrade of Melbourne’s train network in 40 years – into the second half of 2024.

In the coming months the test team will push the project’s systems and technology to their limits to ensure the tunnels and five new underground stations are ready to open to passengers in 2025.

Test trains have already run

nearly 20,000km since first entering the tunnels almost a year ago. But trains still have further to go with another 150,000 kilometres to be travelled during testing before opening.

The project’s 300 Victorian-first platform screen doors will be opened and closed at least another 30,000 times during this phase, making sure they are working seamlessly in tandem with the doors of Melbourne’s modern High-Capacity Metro Trains.

Trial operations will start next – running practice services with drivers and station staff in a dress rehearsal to ensure everything is ready for a safe and reliable opening for passengers.

Major construction has finished on Arden and Parkville stations, with Anzac Station next to be completed and progress continuing the two CBD stations – Town Hall and State Library.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade to Victoria’s rail network since the City Loop opened in 1981.

It will free up space in the City Loop, creating a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the north-west to Cranbourne and Pakenham in the south-east – via a new tunnel under the city. ●

PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS’ NETWORK

Defining affordable housing in Victoria

Justification of the demolition of public housing in Victoria has mentioned creating new, “affordable” housing in redevelopments.

It has been a story of change in Victoria, though, when it comes to its definition and calculation by Labor governments.

When the first Ground Lease Model project was announced in 2020, it was advised that rents in this type of housing would be set at 25 per cent below local market rents in the suburbs they were being built in. See bottom of pg 14 in the following document:



This is a percentage that has been used in past programs and is being used (74.9 per cent) in current government programs.

Two years later with the second Ground Lease Model, “affordable” housing rents were increased to just 10 per cent below local suburb market rents. See bottom of page 18 in the following document:



This increase was in a joint media release from then Premier Andrews and Housing Minister Wynne:



No justification for the increase has ever been provided.

Included in their joint statement was a promise that no rents in affordable hous-

ing would be set above of 30 per cent the “median income in Melbourne”. It was stated that this would make the “new homes affordable wherever they are located”. Income is defined as gross, that is, before tax. Although not mentioned, it is clear that the “median income” being used is for households, not individuals.

As proof of this, rents for three-bedroom units at the Bills St, Hawthorn redevelopment were recently advertised at \$720 per week.

There is no public information from the ABS or any other reputable analysts on the current median household income in Melbourne. Homes Victoria have not disclosed the figure they currently use.

The ballot process for affordable housing encourages prospective applicants to assess whether they can afford the rents for what is on offer, using 30 per cent of their gross household income as an upper limit. It reads as caring but is really just a self-screening mechanism to deter households applying, if 30 per cent exceeds the

advertised rents. It is a game of matching households to rents that have been set using a slight discount of market rents.

Just how the ballots are working is not being revealed. Are essential workers – teachers, firefighters and rescue workers, childcare workers, etc. – being selected to be able to live closer to where they work? This is something the government has boasted it would deliver.

Leases are also being promoted as having fixed rents for three years. The reality is, though, that most if not all will have five per cent per annum increases included in their conditions. Five per cent per annum is more than most workers expect their wages will increase by over the same period. ●

Cory Memery
CITY OF MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY CHAMPION 2020



The historical treasures of Drummond St

The southern end of Drummond St in Carlton contains some of the earliest extant buildings in Melbourne and many that are of historic or architectural importance. But they may be under threat from developers.

One of Melbourne's earliest buildings is the old bluestone St George's Church that still stands in Drummond St near the corner of Pelham St. The original part of the church was constructed in 1855. It is currently being used as a chapel by Corpus Christi College, a seminary for trainee Catholic priests.

Many of the buildings in this part of Drummond St were built during the boom period of the 1880s. This was the era of "Marvelous Melbourne" when the city was awash with money made from gold mining and its most impressive Victorian houses were constructed.

Carlton was a popular area for the more affluent members of society at the time because of its elevation and proximity to the city, and hence some of the buildings from this period are quite magnificent.

For example, the large building at 93 to 105 Drummond St constructed in 1890 is probably the most substantial terrace in Melbourne, a magnificent row of seven terraces, all of them three-storey, with integral verandas throughout.

It is one of several buildings in this part of Drummond St that are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

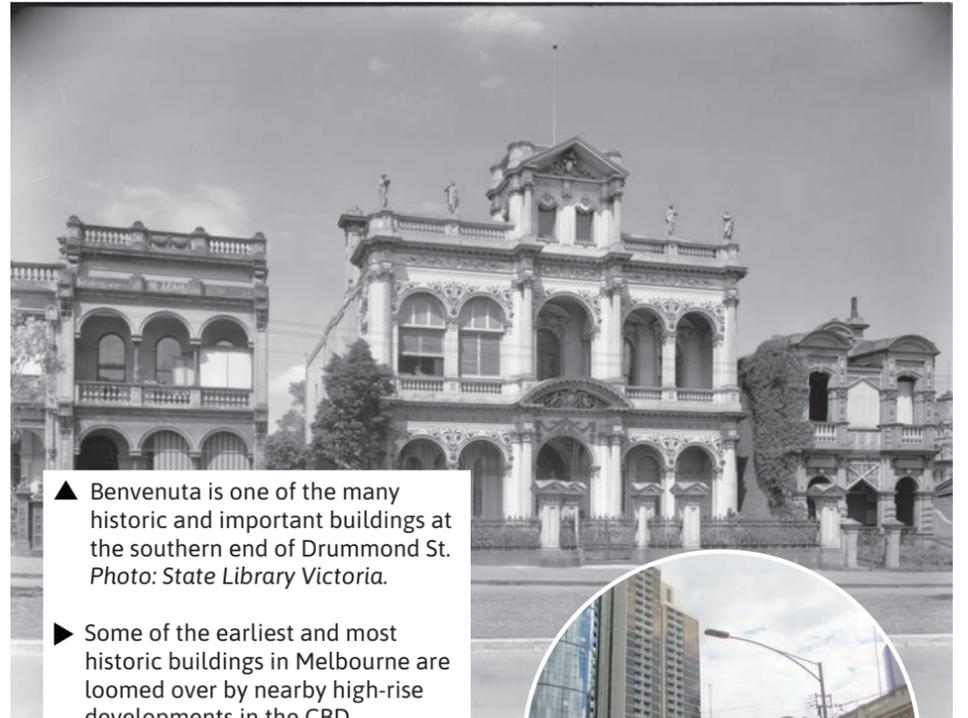
Benvenuta at 48 Drummond St is one of Melbourne's best examples of the florid Victorian Baroque style. It has large amounts of exterior decorations and an interior that is equally spectacular. It was built in 1892-93 for Mrs Leah Abrahams, who was the widow of a man who made his money by importing and selling small arms. It is now a residential college for the University of Melbourne.

The southern end of Drummond St where these buildings are located is right next to the central business district (CBD), separated from it only by the width of Victoria St, and now loomed over by high-rise developments in the CBD. Being so close to the CBD means that this area is unfortunately of considerable interest to developers.

The area is covered by a "heritage overlay", a planning control applied by local councils to areas or buildings that are determined to be of cultural heritage significance.

But being covered by a heritage overlay does not provide complete protection. The Corkman Hotel in Leicester St, Carlton, illegally demolished in October 2016, was covered by a heritage overlay.

The area is also one block away from the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building and is within the area around that World Heritage-listed site that is supposed to be protected. We can only hope that these protections are effective. ●



▲ Benvenuta is one of the many historic and important buildings at the southern end of Drummond St. Photo: State Library Victoria.

► Some of the earliest and most historic buildings in Melbourne are loomed over by nearby high-rise developments in the CBD. Photo: Jeff Atkinson

Jeff Atkinson

PRESIDENT

JEFFANN@BIGPOND.NET.AU



PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION

A great time had by all

On July 22 the Parkville Association held its fourth Christmas in July. With more than 70 people in attendance and some very interesting guests all enjoyed the usual Naughtons hospitality!

Our guests included the Lord Mayor Nick Reece and his wife Felicity Pantelidis. Fr Joe Caddy, who is currently Vicar General of the Diocese of Melbourne and the soon-to-be Bishop of Cairns, and Asher Goddard, senior student at Trinity College who is heading up the Bursary gardening squad, were also present.

Rather than an election address we asked Nick to talk about his life and he gave us an amazing insight into the activities leading up to his council career. We all enjoyed the journey and I am sure there will be more donations from Parkville to Movenber later this year!

Joe talked about how much he had enjoyed living in Parkville and the closeness of the residents. While sad to leave given the fact it was an extremely cold night Cairns sounded very welcoming.

Asher talked on behalf of the team from Trinity that will be helping maintain the street-side garden beds and some residents' gardens. For those who have not met the Trinity team, yet they will be on our streets early in August.

Clearly our relationship across Royal Parade has developed and given the University of Melbourne sits in Parkville we welcome them all and enjoy our joint community.

Grattan St is, as mentioned in the last newsletter, now open and has helped many get across to Parkville. The streetscape looks superb, and it will be exciting to see the new plantings in spring.

Over the past couple of months since the

super tram-stop was built it has become very noticeable that the Morrah St stop is very busy and quite dangerous. The number 10 stop was removed following the upgrade and the traffic exiting the stop has grown dramatically given it is the main stop for the University.

Sadly, nearly every tram has to constantly ring their bell as cars fail to stop when passengers are alighting. I feel for the drivers who try so hard to protect their passengers. It must be remembered many years ago when Morrah St was closed from the central reservation it was done following the death of a passenger.

The next few months will be very interesting as we are now in the council election phase. I am sure we will be approached by all candidates so any issues that you would like me to raise let me know.

We are also trying to arrange the usual meet the candidates online. This is key given the Royal Park Masterplan review and the issues raised by the RPPG, Friends of Royal Park and, of course, the Parkville Association.

Only another month until spring! ●

Rob Moore

PRESIDENT

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION



Pet's Corner



Coco the Carlton puppy

WORDS BY

NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA



Coco is a little four-month-old French bulldog puppy. Her owner, Guillermo, takes her for long walks around the Carlton Gardens.

Three months ago, Guillermo and his wife found Coco listed for sale on a newborn puppy website.

Among her brothers, she was the one who caught their eye. "We fell in love as soon as we saw her," Guillermo told *Inner City News*.

"There was a lady with two of them, a boy and a girl." "We thought the girl might be

better for us because she might be quieter and calmer."

The couple has a specific plan for walking Coco. Guillermo walks her in the mornings while his wife works, and when he works, his wife takes care of Coco.

"She's quite lucky to have us," Guillermo said.

"She's never alone because someone's always here during the day and night."

Born in Cuba, Guillermo has travelled since a young age.

At 20, he moved from Italy to Australia.

Now, he is a happy member of the community, in the company of his wife and little Coco. ●



What goes around comes around for our public housing residents

The Carlton Residents' Association (CRA) has previously expressed strong support for improving and expanding public, community, and affordable housing opportunities in our suburb.

WORDS BY
MARTIN BRENNAN



The decision therefore of Homes Victoria to abandon the red brick public housing towers at 141 Nicholson St and 20 Elgin St, Carlton for demolition without consultation with residents or the community needs to be challenged.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL), which is undertaking a class action on behalf of Carlton, North Melbourne and Flemington public housing residents, successfully won a decision of the Supreme Court of Victoria to allow a questioning of the process adopted by Housing Victoria to demolish the public housing towers and the infringement of the human rights of residents.

The Minister for Housing, Harriet Shing, proposes however to push ahead with the planned demolition of the public housing despite the decision. The CRA has been informed by IMCL that there is little they can do to challenge the demolition of the red brick public housing towers as all residents have been evicted.

The irony is not lost on those who remember the 1960s and '70s when there was large scale redevelopment by the Housing Commission of Victoria. This resulted in 20- to 30-storey towers in inner Melbourne and the displacement of low-income residents. Few of those displaced from their homes that were demolished were resettled in the inner city.

The Bolte Liberal Government went against resident and community concerns



and bulldozed hundreds of homes in order to build the towers across inner Melbourne. Resident associations protested along with public housing residents. In 1973 the high-rise building program was abandoned.

Today the Labor Government, also without consultation, is proposing to demolish the public housing towers that have been home to low-income families, many from overseas who have fled or made a decision

to make Carlton their home.

The Minister for Housing's response to the CRA letter expressing concern at the demolition without consultation was the demolition date, scheduled for July, and the date for the completion of the new homes, projected to be 2028. It is difficult not to be sceptical if not cynical at the lack of transparency and consultation plus the haste to demolish.

The former Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp informed the CRA that the council did not participate in the decision to evict and demolish the public housing towers. She said that the council would review a planning application from Homes Victoria for the new development when it became available.

E-scooters to take to our streets

The state government's protracted e-scooter share scheme trial has at last come to an end and they will be legalised across the state in October this year.

In essence there will be safety measures as well as increased penalties for dangerous and illegal riding that includes riding on a footpath, riding without a helmet, riding while intoxicated and double dinking.

The companies are also expected to implement footpath detection technology and Protective Service Officers will have powers to enforce the rules.

However, the important requirement in the proposed legislation will be that e-scooter share companies must have a contract with a council in the municipality they wish to operate.

The CRA has supported the council in its lobbying to the state government to be given the contractual powers and residents expect to be consulted on the work to be undertaken to ensure that the contracts are strong and meet the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

The current Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece is a supporter of e-scooters but has recognised that the e-scooter shared scheme has not worked as hoped and has welcomed the tougher regulatory regime.

As the caretaker period of the council commences on September 17 there will need to be a great deal of work undertaken to ensure that e-scooters are integrated into our mobility options.

Currently they impact on safe walking and cycling across our city. We look forward to being informed by the council how residents will be consulted to ensure that the e-scooter shared scheme meets the mobility needs of us all across our suburb and the city. ●

CARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE

All Aboard! Transforming Tram 776 into an iconic community hub

Residents of Carlton, get ready to embark on an extraordinary journey with us at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre!

WORDS BY
TONY MILNE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



We are thrilled to introduce the Tram 776 Project – a bold and vibrant initiative set to transform a heritage tram into a bustling hub for our community.

Through VicTrack's Retired Trams Strategy, Tram 776 will be a dynamic space dedicated to learning, gathering, and celebrating our diverse community. It's set to offer a unique venue for workshops, education classes, and community meetings, as well as a charming location for your next event.

Imagine stepping into a beautifully restored tram housing a pop-up café and restaurant in the warmer months, where you can enjoy global cuisine cooked by new migrants and refugees, with all profits invested into our programs for people

experiencing disadvantage.

We're excited, but we need your help to make this vision a reality. Are you a builder, experienced fundraiser, or skilled tradesperson? Your expertise can help bring Tram 776 to life.

We are also seeking community donations – every contribution, big or small, brings us one step closer. Your donation is tax-deductible and directly supports the project.

To further our efforts, we encourage everyone to share our vision with friends, family, and colleagues. The more people know, the quicker we can achieve our goal.

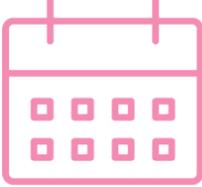
While we're eager to start, there's still a long tram track to go with approvals and fundraising. But with the community's support, we're confident we can overcome these hurdles and create something truly special.

Join us in this exciting journey and help make Tram 776 a cornerstone of our community, celebrating diversity, creativity, and connection. Together, we can transform this heritage tram into an iconic space for all.

Visit our website to volunteer, donate, or for more information: cnlc.org.au/the-tram-776-project/ ●



WHAT'S ON August



Make the most out of the last month of winter with Melbourne's bustling events calendar.



BOOK WEEK: COSTUME WORKSHOP
Join in a fun workshop to take the stress out of last minute book week costumes. Create a Dog Man hat, a Diary of the Wimpy Kid mask, or transform yourself into the very hungry caterpillar, the only limit is your imagination.

East Melbourne Library

MONDAY, AUGUST 12 3.30PM – 5PM



CLIMATE CAFE SERIES
A special supported Climate Cafe for young people to have open discussions with science and mental health experts about the climate crisis in our shared world.

Learning Lab, Melbourne Museum

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15 4.30PM – 6.30PM



SCI-FI: MYTHOLOGIES TRANSFORMED
The exhibition at Science Gallery Melbourne offers fresh insights on science fiction, a genre built on envisioning alternative futures and imaginary realms.

Science Gallery Melbourne

OPENING 3 AUGUST 2024



MAMMA BALL PARKVILLE
Mamma Ball is a free basketball skills and fitness program for those who identify as a woman and non-binary. Each weekly session is tailored to suit those who attend, no matter their skill-level or experience.

State Sport Centres, Parkville

THURSDAYS, 9.30AM – 10.30AM



STORY STUDIOS AUSTRALIA
Story Studios Australia, previously Melbourne Young Writers' Studio, run creative story writing programs for kids, teens and adults. The programs are led by professional and practising writers who are passionate about sharing their expertise and inspiring writers.

Young Writers' Studio, 170 Elgin St, Carlton

mywritersstudio.com.au



THESEUS' SPACESHIP
This new piece by Australian composer Richard Sanderson explores the impact that technology can have on replacing, replicating, and interpreting aspects of the world.

Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston St

MONDAY, 12 AUGUST 7PM – 8PM



EAST MELBOURNE NEIGHBOUR NETWORK
The East Melbourne Neighbour Network aims to create a thriving and inclusive community and provides a range of health and wellbeing activities for people of all ages, as well as a community choir. For further info contact:

Sue and Ann-Maree: emnn3002@gmail.com

WEEKDAYS @ VARIOUS TIMES



FIT FOR A KING: VINCENT JENDEN REIMAGINES
The interiors of historic East Melbourne townhouse, Fairhall, have been theatrically designed by guest curator Vincent Jenden, evoking a sumptuous sense of occasion Fit for a King.

The Johnston Collection, East Melbourne

UNTIL 8 SEPTEMBER



THE COMMUNITY GROCER CARLTON
The Community Grocer Carlton is a weekly pop-up fruit and vegetable market selling up to 140 types of fruit and vegetables at affordable prices.

510 Lygon St, Carlton

FRIDAYS, UNTIL DECEMBER 20, 8AM – 12PM



NOCTURNAL: MUSEUM AFTER DARK
On the second Thursday night of every month, catch up with friends and uncover the secrets and mysteries behind some of the world's most fascinating exhibits with tours, talks, trivia and wearable art drop-ins, sip on cocktails and grab a bite to eat

Melbourne Museum

UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12



COOK TO CONNECT
Join a dietician in these sessions to learn new tips and tricks for cooking healthy and delicious meals. Even without all the bells and whistles of a full kitchen it is still possible to make nutritious food.

Kathleen Syme, 251 Faraday St, Carlton

TUESDAYS, UNTIL DECEMBER 17, 11AM – 1PM

Business Directory

CAT SITTER

PURRRFECT CAT SITTER
Does your cat prefer to stay at home while you're away? I come to you!
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Proudly representing the community in inner Melbourne
Evan MULHOLLAND MP
LIBERAL VICTORIA
evan.mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Melbourne City Council elections

Enrol to vote by 6 August



Councils play a major role in delivering services to residents and businesses.

Your vote makes a difference.



Scan the QR code for more information, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au or call 1300 735 427.



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