



Take a tour
of Fire Services
Museum of Victoria

Discover the rich history of firefighting at the Fire Services Museum of Victoria, home to more than 10,000 artefacts that bring to life the heroic stories and defining moments that have shaped fire services in Melbourne and beyond. More on page 2. Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

Updated draft of Royal Park Master Plan released

“The new draft plan comes amid the Victorian Liberal Party’s renewed push to revive the East West Link, which has previously been met with strong pushback from Royal Park advocacy groups.”

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



The Royal Park Master Plan envisions the next 20 years of the park, with one of its key objectives being the preservation of the park’s cultural and environmental significance.

Released on November 25, the new draft plan noted that, “feedback gathered through consultation showed strong community sentiment against an east-west tunnel, or any future transport projects and designs that

may impact the current form and function of the park.” Parkville Association president Rob Moore said the group was concerned about overdevelopment of Royal Park in light of the new draft plan.

“We need clarification on lighting. We certainly would not want to see a path through the centre of the circle, and we don’t believe that any work to be done around Walmsley House, where they proposed a café, or covered barbecues are really necessary in what is traditionally a bush park,” Mr Moore said.

“The setting of Royal Park was always meant to be one of a peaceful park for the community to share, and the great emphasis on sporting facilities and various other things is probably over the top as we have plenty of sporting facilities at Princes Park and within Royal Park already.”

“There probably is a need for an East West Link, but not under Royal Park. The route would have to be totally different ... it would be totally unacceptable for any tunnel project to emerge anywhere in Royal Park,” he added.

Community consultation on the draft Royal Park Master Plan will be open until February 14, 2025.

The Royal Park Protection Group and Friends of Royal Park have previously advocated against the East West Link when the construction contract was first signed in 2014.

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Coconut-covered bliss at Tokyo Lamington

This Elgin St cafe and bakery is serving up fluffy cubes of heaven, covered with coconut, or hundreds and thousands, or crushed pistachios, or flaky pastry ...

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**The deadline for the February
edition is January 24**

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Fire Services Museum of Victoria: celebrating firefighting heroes and history

Nestled in the heart of East Melbourne, the award-winning Fire Services Museum of Victoria has proudly occupied the former Headquarters Station of the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade since 1980.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Boasting a remarkable collection of more than 10,000 fire-related artefacts from across the globe, the museum is dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich history of firefighting and fire safety in Victoria.

Its exhibits not only highlight the evolution of firefighting equipment, but they also provide insights into the people and the stories that have shaped the state's fire services.

With many of the museum's staff being retired firefighters, a visit offers more than just a glimpse into history; it's an opportunity to hear at firsthand accounts and fascinating "fire brigade folklore" about the tools, traditions, and heroes that have defined firefighting in this region and world-wide.

"Fire brigades go back to the time of Rome. The first cut was various patricians with their own private fire brigades and groups of slaves fighting fires," retired firefighter and museum volunteer Ian Munro said.

"They turned up at your place, and you effectively had to sell your house for them to put the fire out," he said. "Once they put the fire out, they'd sell the house back to you at a higher rate because they had saved the building."

Before 1891, Victoria relied on a system of volunteer and insurance company fire brigades to manage firefighting efforts.

In that year, the Victorian Government enacted the Brigades' Act, which established two separate boards, one for rural Victoria and one for the metropolitan area. This led to the formation of the Country Fire Brigades Board and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

Today, these organisations are represented by Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), formed in 2020.

FRV serves major regional centres, and the volunteer-driven Country Fire Authority (CFA), which was established following a Royal Commission into the 1939 Black Friday fires.

The Royal Commission's recommendation for a single, unified firefighting authority in rural Victoria paved the way for the creation of the CFA.

Through the museum's exhibits, visitors can explore the rich and often forgotten history of firefighting in Victoria, including the story of the Great Fire of Melbourne in 1897.

"It burnt out a whole block [between Swanston and Elizabeth streets, and Flinders St and Flinders Lane]; only two buildings weren't damaged," Mr Munro told *Inner City News*.

"One of them was on the corner of Swanston St and Flinders St, because the firemen went out of their way to save their girlfriends in the upstairs bar."



Over the years, the museum's dedicated volunteer team has acquired, restored, and proudly displays a remarkable collection of firefighting vehicles.

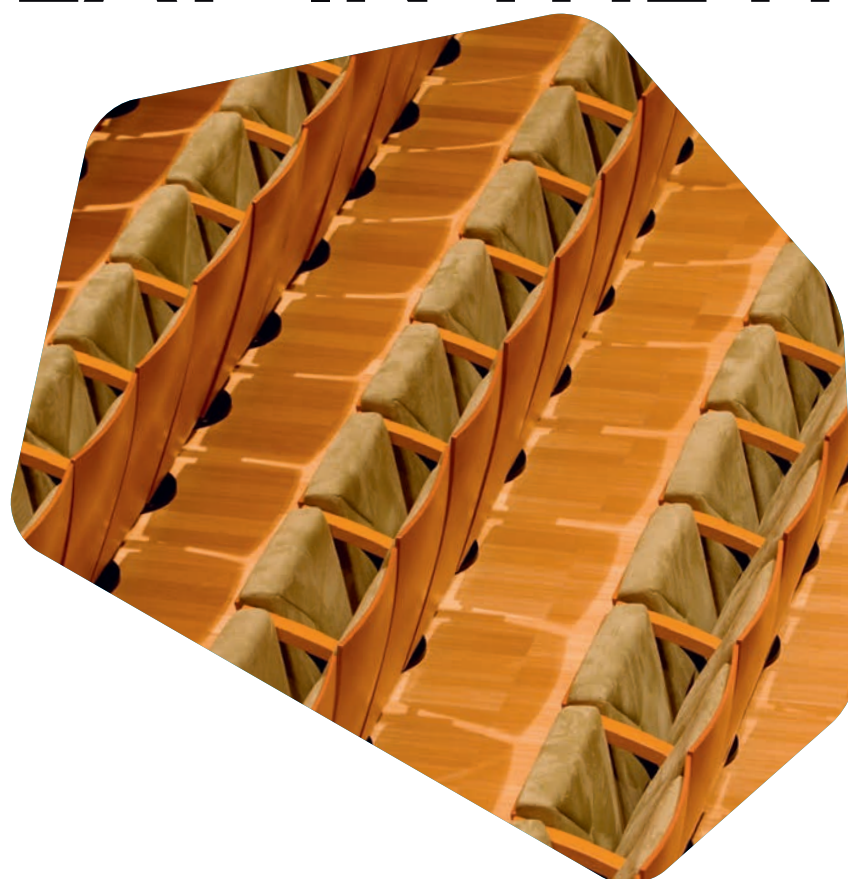
Among them is the "8 Pump", a 1956 Rolls Royce fire pump that once served as the official hearse for Fire Brigade funerals and continues to be used today for "full honour" funerals.

The museum also commemorates the brave firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty, with an ever-expanding tribute to their sacrifice and commitment.

Whether you have a personal connection to firefighting history or simply want to learn more, the Fire Services Museum of Victoria is a treasure trove of captivating stories and historical artefacts, celebrating the dedication, resilience, and courage of our firefighters. ●

'GORGEOUS VENUE, NOT A BAD SEAT IN THE HOUSE!'

— Jenny B



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San Remo Ballroom strikes gold

Before being recognised as the state's best convention centre, the San Remo Ballroom donned many hats.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Located at 365 Nicholson St in Carlton North, it opened its doors in 1870 and was home to a roller-skating rink and a furniture store before becoming one of the city's most prized cinemas.

However, it wasn't the 1960s that the building became the ballroom and since then it has cemented its place as one of the finest entertainment and event-hosting establishments in Melbourne, with a legacy that lives on.

The San Remo Ballroom took out the Event and Convention Centre Caterer category at the 2024 Restaurant and Catering Hostplus Awards for Excellence for Victoria and Tasmania.

The owners of the venue Maria and Rob Cardoni were honoured to have received the award and said, "being recognised for our commitment to exceptional food and service in such a competitive category is incredibly meaningful to us and the entire SRB team."

"Our team works tirelessly to ensure each event is perfect, and this recognition is a true reflection of their passion, commitment and dedication," they said.

The Awards for Excellence is part of the restaurant and catering industry's nationally recognised awards program that in the case of the Victorian and Tasmanian round celebrates exceptional service and culinary talent from across the two states.

To determine the catering section



winners, entrants are assessed on all aspects of their catering business, including operations, food, service, staffing, and event and site outcomes.

Since taking ownership of the San Remo Ballroom in 2010, the Cardonis have worked tirelessly to continue to build on its heritage investing a lot of time and energy into creating new menus and ensuring that their service is impeccable.

Mr Cardoni said that the venue had always been renowned for bringing people together and for being a great place to celebrate.

"Maria and I have always wanted to keep this tradition strong, and winning this award is the icing on the cake," he said.

"Our entire team, from our exceptional front-of-house and kitchen staff to all the team behind the scenes in event planning, share this win," Mr Cardoni said.

"They are the heart and soul of every event we host." ●

Local Carlton gallery unveils annual Christmas exhibition

Bridget McDonnell Gallery's 39th annual Christmas exhibition will open on December 6, with this year's event promising a diverse selection of works by both renowned Australian and international artists, continuing the gallery's tradition of showcasing exceptional art.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Bridget McDonnell Gallery, a mainstay of the Carlton art scene since 1986, first hosted the Christmas exhibition in 1985, just two years after gallery owner Bridget McDonnell started the gallery at its first location in Armadale.

The inaugural show featured woodcuts by Hall Thorpe, with the gallery now known for its focus on Australian art, presenting regular exhibitions of early Australian watercolours, modern Australian paintings, and Australian women artists, among others.

This year's Christmas exhibition, curated by Ms McDonnell, will feature more than 100 works priced under \$2,000.

The collection includes pieces by notable artists such as William Strutt, William Dobell, Sidney Nolan, Shay Docking, and others, offering a rare opportunity to acquire significant artworks at affordable prices.

"The Christmas exhibition is our most popular exhibition of the year, and many of the major public collections in Australia have purchased works at our Christmas exhibition – which demonstrates the calibre of the pieces we feature," Ms McDonnell said.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to invest in



a historically relevant piece to add to your collection, or as a gift for someone special."

McDonnell is also excited to present a special highlight of the exhibition - works by her close friend, British artist Celia Perceval.

Ms Perceval, the daughter of esteemed Australian artist John Perceval, recently visited Melbourne for a solo show at the gallery.

She was joined by her family, including cousins Polly Boyd and other relatives, to celebrate the event.

Among the works featured in the Christmas exhibition are *Beaty on her Bike* (1969) and *John Merrick* (1970) – two early drawings that capture the children of Ms Perceval's brother, artist Matthew Perceval.

Matthew Perceval, also a contributing artist to the exhibition, will showcase several of his own pieces.

The exhibition runs from December 6 to 21, with the gallery open from Tuesday to Saturday. ●

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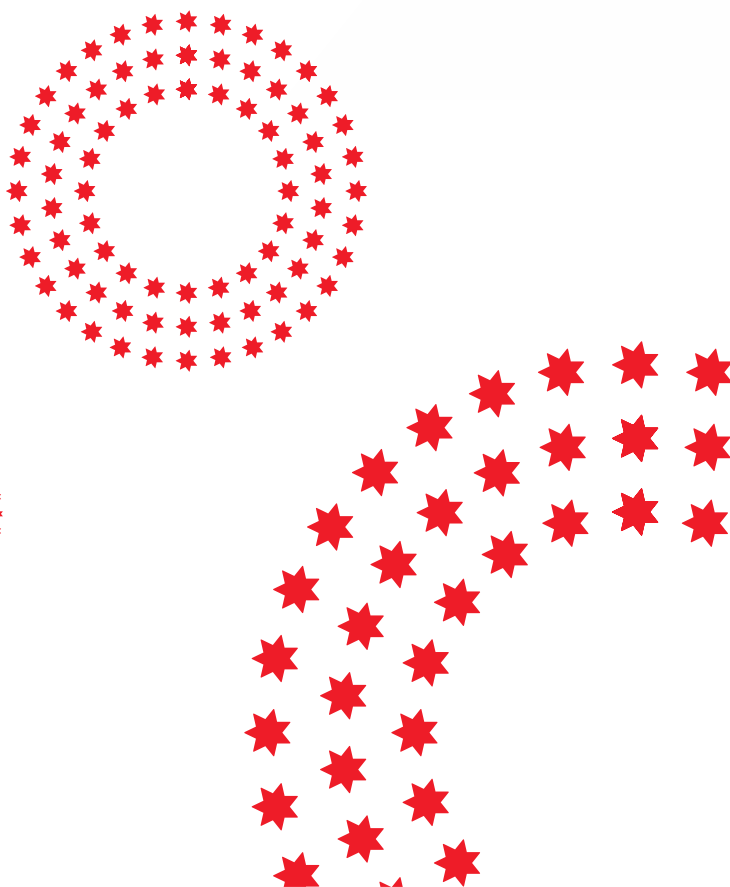
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This year's Christmas Festival is set to be our best yet with a spectacular laser show on the Yarra-Birrarung.

The Crown Christmas River Show will illuminate Southbank each night of the Christmas Festival, dazzling Melburnians with water fountains, lasers, lights and projections to a soundtrack of festive favourites.

An array of Christmas decorations will also adorn the city, including themed laneways, giant presents, and nutcrackers.

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For the full program, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/christmas



Skyline spectacular



The Crown Christmas River Show



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melbourne.vic.gov.au/nye

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Inner City News in 2024: a year in review

“

Take a step back in time as we feature some of the highlights from every edition of *Inner City News* over the course of 2024 ...

”



▲ **March:** The community celebrated a ground-breaking program aimed at transforming the natural landscape of the historic Melbourne General Cemetery.



▲ **June:** Urban Camp celebrated 40 years of serving as a bridge between urban and rural lifestyles while offering an extraordinary camping experience right in the heart of the city at Royal Park.



▲ **September:** The new Lygon Street Market launched in Argyle Square in September.



▲ **February:** Father Bob Maguire Foundation CEO Paul Brophy honoured with Australia Day award.



▲ **April:** Harmony Day made a triumphant return to Carlton Primary School, uniting the community in a multicultural celebration.



▲ **July:** Grattan St reopened after six years of major construction works for the Metro Tunnel Project.



▲ **October:** *Inner City News* visited Iranian filmmaker Fafa Alavi in her vibrant space on Elgin St, home to Alavi Productions.



▲ **May:** Royal Park Tennis Club launched its tennis programs dedicated to coaching and offering social connection for blind and low-vision players.



▲ **August:** Carlton public housing residents raised their concerns ahead of rent increases that came into effect in August.



▲ **November:** Hundreds of residents marched from Flemington to North Melbourne to voice their opposition to the state government's redevelopment plans for Victoria's 44 public housing towers.

Nick Reece sworn in as Melbourne's Lord Mayor

In what was a tight race for Town Hall amid one of the most stacked and competitive fields in recent memory, incumbent Lord Mayor Nick Reece has emerged successful and was sworn in as Melbourne's Lord Mayor on November 19.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



Together with new Deputy Lord Mayor and former Team Capp councillor Roshena Cambell, Cr Reece has promised to make Melbourne the "best and fairest" city in the world through an ambitious policy agenda.

Among a long list of pledges made over the course of his campaign to "Get Good Done" includes deploying new city safety officers, installing more CCTV cameras, a freeze on rates, \$2 swimming pool entry, new parks, and establishing Australia's largest bulk purchasing renewable energy scheme.

The election results were calculated by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) at the Drill Hall near the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) on November 7, with Team Reece also managing to secure places for two of its councillor candidates on the next council.

Cr Kevin Louey has found his way back onto the City of Melbourne for an impressive fifth consecutive term, and he'll be joined by fellow Team Reece compatriot in QVM trader Mark Scott, who has been elected for the first time.

Three further incumbent councillors

were also re-elected, including Dr Olivia Ball from the Greens and Labor's Davydd Griffiths, who both return for a second term, while Phil Le Liu won a third consecutive term after securing his seat through Team Wood.

Alongside Cr Scott, four other new councillors were elected: Owen Guest from the Liberals, Gladys Liu from Team Kouta, Rafael Camillo from Team Morgan, and North Melbourne local Andrew Rowse from Innovate Melbourne.

Despite ultimately securing the same number of team members on council as his predecessor Sally Capp, Cr Reece described his campaign as a "hard-fought win", saying there hadn't been such a competitive field in modern times.

"[Throughout the campaign] there wasn't a street or neighbourhood that we didn't reach out to and connect with," Cr Reece said. "No one worked harder than us."

"I will build a Melbourne that is cleaner, greener, safer and more prosperous. I will build a Melbourne that is inclusive and diverse."

Early in the count, AFL great Anthony Koutafides potentially looked like pulling off a miraculous victory due to benefitting from preferences from the Liberal ticket, which itself exceeded all expectations by securing more than 13 per cent of the primary vote.

But Team Kouta would ultimately finish fourth in the race because of a late surge from the Greens led by Lord Mayoral candidate Roxane Ingleton, who finished a distant second to Cr Reece following preferences, with 38.51 per cent in comparison to Cr Reece's 61.49 per cent.

Team Reece comfortably won the primary vote count in the end with 20,523 votes, well ahead of the Greens on 12,445 votes, while first-time Liberal Lord Mayoral candidate Mariam Riza did incredibly well to finish

third with 11,985 votes. Mr Koutafides came fourth with 11,345 votes.

The great surprise of this election was the underperformance of former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood who despite being considered as Cr Reece's main rival in the contest ended up in fifth position with just 8856 primary votes.

The outcome for Mr Wood, who went into the contest benefitting from Greens and Labor preferences, reflects the conservative swing in this election with Team Reece, the Liberals and Team Kouta all doing better than many had predicted.

The Greens, Labor and now former councillor Jamal Hakim's Team Hakim ticket meanwhile all underachieved based on the progressive vote seen in recent elections, with Cr Dr Olivia Ball now the sole Green on the next council.

Despite being a member of the Labor Party, Cr Reece's decision to run alongside Liberal Party member Roshena Campbell and so secure preferences from the Liberals, as well as Team Kouta, Team Morgan and Rip up the Bike Lanes, has ultimately paid dividends.

It was an ambitious campaign that has proven to resonate with many across the city, and it will be interesting to see how the more moderate Cr Reece pursues his policy agenda on what looks set to be a much more conservative council.

Councillors Guest, Liu and Campbell are all established members of the Liberal Party, while Cr Le Liu is a former Liberal Party member, and councillors Louey and Camillo are renowned for their largely conservative stances.

There is a clear divide between the more moderate to the progressive members of the new council team, with Cr Dr Ball, Cr Griffiths and first-time independent Cr Rowse to be significantly outnumbered.

During the campaign, Cr Reece also made



a number of announcements that didn't all bode well with the public, namely his call to sell the council's share in The Regent Theatre, which appears to have fallen on deaf ears within the creative industry.

Veteran election analyst Roy Collins said the Liberal Party's decision to run its first-ever endorsed Lord Mayoral ticket has shown the party's brand had the potential to win a lot of people's votes.

The result also perhaps sums up changing attitudes towards the current Labor Victorian Government, with Premier Jacinta Allan continuing to slump in the polls. The Greens brand has also taken a hit in other recent election results across the country.

Mr Collins also noted that Team Reece and the other conservative tickets had gained from the gerrymander that exists under the current City of Melbourne Act, where businesses are given two votes to residents' one. After the final results were known, Cr Reece conceded that the legislation "needs a refresh". ●



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JOURNEY BEYOND

Updated draft of Royal Park Master Plan released

Continued from page 1.

At the time, Friends of Royal Park expressed concerns that proposed tunnel entry and exit portals within the park would have destroyed the local biodiversity and landscape.

At the Victorian Planning Panel's hearing regarding an enquiry into the East West Link in March 2014, nine community groups presented their concerns with the project, with all groups strongly opposing the proposal.

"The groups cannot conceive of a more destructive activity in Royal Park than the construction of a trench up to 120 metres wide and 30 metres deep for 1.4km through the park," the groups said of the proposed tunnel.

The original plans released in 2014 proposed an 18-kilometre tunnel connecting the Eastern Freeway in Clifton Hill to the Western Ring Rd in Sunshine West, including an entry and exit point in Royal Park.

Former Greens councillor Rohan Leppert campaigned to protect Royal Park from the proposed tunnel when he was first elected to council in 2012.

In a Facebook post in September 2024, Mr Leppert wrote, "Fighting that proposal off was an all-consuming affair for the community that demonstrated to Government just how fiercely loved this place is by Melburnians."

Victorian opposition leader John Pesutto said the proposal should be brought back onto the agenda while speaking outside state parliament last month.

"The East West Link does need to be built because you've got North East Link coming online and the Eastern Freeway will become

even more of a car park than it already is," he said.

The former federal Coalition government set aside \$4 billion in the 2020-2021 federal budget for "the first Victorian Government willing to build the East West Link".

But in 2022, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Catherine King said Labor would not provide that funding, declaring the project "dead".

The East West Link was first proposed by Ted Baillieu's Liberal government in 2011.

In 2014, the East West Connect consortium was appointed to finance, design, construct and operate the tollway.

Former Premier Daniel Andrews suspended construction of the project after he was elected premier in 2014, and formally cancelled the construction contract in 2015.

A report published at the time by former acting auditor-general Peter Frost wrote, "The advice provided to the then-government was disproportionately aimed at achieving contract execution prior to the 2014 state election rather than being in the best interests of the project or use of taxpayers' money."

The auditor-general's report found that the cost of axing the project amounted to \$1.1 billion.

Mr Pesutto's calls are the latest in a series of similar attempts by the Liberal Party to bring back the East West Link; Michael O'Brien renewed the Liberal Party's push for the project during his election campaign in 2021, as did Matthew Guy in 2018. ●

Pawn-demonium! Carlton Gardens Primary hosts its first chess tournament

In an exciting first for the Carlton Gardens Primary School (CGPS), the school has hosted and also triumphed in its inaugural chess tournament held on November 8.

WORDS BY
CARLTON GARDENS CHESS CLUB



The contest drew a crowd of young strategists from across metropolitan Melbourne competing for qualification to the state final.

The event saw 12 talented CGPS students compete alongside visiting children from 14 other primary schools, with Candlebark School fielding the most participants, with a team of 19.

For many students, including the majority of the CGPS team, this was their very first experience in a formal chess competition, but that didn't stop them from making an immediate impact.

The tournament featured seven rounds of intense, fast-paced matches, with participants ranging in age and experience level.

Each game has tested the players' strategic thinking, patience, and ability to adapt under pressure. Despite the tournament's competitive nature, the atmosphere was one of camaraderie, as players shared tips and celebrated each other's successes.

The field was strong, with top contenders from schools like Candlebark and also Glendal, which brought their own seasoned players to the table.

However, CGPS ultimately emerged victorious, securing first place after a nail-biting series of matches. The school's players, led by the Batyrbekov brothers, showed incredible skill, teamwork, and determination, especially given that many of them were new to the competitive chess scene.

"What a great achievement and opportunity for our students," CGPS principal Nathan Gage said, reflecting on the team's win. ●

"For some, this was their first tournament ever, so to see them come together, work as a team, and play with such focus was truly inspiring," he said. "It's a testament to the hard work they have put in over the past few months to prepare."

Candlebark School, which had been a strong contender throughout the day, claimed second place, while St Andrews Primary secured third position. Each school's performance showed not just individual talent, but also the value of chess programs that foster discipline, critical thinking, and resilience in young minds.

Tournament director Tim Broome from Northern Star Chess commended CGPS for the state-of-the-art facilities and the strong volunteering team put together to run the event.

He noted that "chess is a great way for young people to develop the '16 Habits of Mind', which are life skills that go beyond boosting academic performance.

"Future chess champions are those who learn best to apply the disciplines of patience, curiosity and calculation, and who do so with resilience and with a continuing love for playing the game," Mr Broome said.

"It always amazes me to see just how well some of these very young kids play at our tournaments." ●

Coconut-covered bliss at Tokyo Lamington



LYGON LOCAL

“This Elgin St cafe and bakery is serving up fluffy cubes of heaven, covered with coconut, or hundreds and thousands, or crushed pistachios, or flaky pastry ...

WORDS BY
SABRINA CAIRES



With flavours like fairy bread popcorn, melon boba and pistachio lemon, Tokyo Lamington has made its name by putting unique twists on the humble lamington.

But even though customers love the wacky and wonderful flavours that come out of the Tokyo Lamington kitchen each month, chef and co-founder Eddie Stewart says his favourite is still the classic recipe.

"My favourite is still the OG – jam and cream in the middle with chocolate and coconut," Eddie tells *Inner City News*. "For me, it's what a true lamington is. A lot of people argue it's not a real lamington because it's got the jam and the cream, it's got both," he says.

"But for me, that's what my grandmother made and that's what is a lamington."

Eddie and his business partner Min Chai opened Tokyo Lamington's Carlton store in 2022, after the resounding success of their first store in the Sydney suburb of Newtown.

The concept for Tokyo Lamington emerged while Eddie and Min were running a café which they opened in Tokyo in 2018.

That original café served classic Aussie breakfast fare, but more than anything else on the menu, customers were drawn to the lamingtons.

"Lamingtons are the perfect product to sell in Japan because Japanese love that really soft sponge cake in the middle," Eddie says.

The pair had originally hoped to open Tokyo Lamington's first location in Tokyo itself, but those plans were derailed by the pandemic.

Instead, they opened a pop-up shop in Sydney's Chinatown in 2020, which operated for around six months.

"We were testing the waters during COVID, which was probably one of the hardest times to do that. Everyone thought we

were crazy, opening a shop in the middle of COVID," Eddie says.

Soon after that, Eddie got a call from a real estate agent asking if he wanted to take over a lease in Newtown, which had been the old location for Black Star Pastry, where he used to work.

The Newtown store opened in 2021, selling 100,000 lamingtons in its first year.

A year later, Tokyo Lamington made its Melbourne debut.

"I think that between Min and I, we've always loved Carlton. It's just got that really beautiful family vibe about the place, it's a little bit under the radar," Eddie says.

"We picked the shop in Carlton where it is on Elgin St because it was out of the way; we like to be hidden away a little bit, or just off the main roads."

Eddie estimates that he and his staff have come up with more than 600 lamington flavours so far.

Along with the OG lamington, some of his favourites have been gingerbread and pumpkin charcoal, which was a Halloween special. "Yuzu is probably the most popular, everyone goes crazy for the yuzu meringue," he says.

This fan's preference doesn't have the classic coconut coating, instead it features a vanilla sponge filled with yuzu curd and whipped cream, and is covered with fluffy, toasted meringue.

Eddie says that the upcoming Christmas flavours are focused on evoking nostalgia.

"People have got expectations for Christmas, you know. You need to have a gingerbread, a Christmas pudding, something fruity. So, all our lamingtons for Christmas are based upon what you would see on the Australian Christmas table," he says.

"We've got a lot of staff from all around the world. A lot of our kitchen staff are from Indonesia, so they'll do a lot of South-east Asian kinds of desserts," he says.

"Pandan's always on the menu, we've got ube, things like that. It's very much a big team effort for flavours here."

There's more to Tokyo Lamington than its name might suggest, as it also offers a range of savoury baked goods, including a signature pork katsu sausage roll, and pies with unexpected fillings like beef and black bean or cauliflower cheese and wasabi.

There are also special quiches with a unique texture similar to that of a Chawanmushi, which is a Japanese set custard.

Looking ahead, Eddie says a lamington shop in Tokyo is still on the horizon, although not in the immediate future.

For now, Tokyo Lamington Carlton will keep dishing up its own spin on classic Australian treats. ●



STREET SMART MELBURNIAN OF THE YEAR PUTS PEOPLE AND PLANET FIRST

Rebecca Scott OAM at the STREAT cafe in East Melbourne

How does a “scrappy country kid” go on to be Melburnian of the Year? It’s a long and winding road for social entrepreneur Rebecca Scott OAM.

While travelling in Vietnam, science communicator Rebecca Scott found a stone in her shoe. The type of stone that compels you to change your life and strive to make life better for those around you.

“In a fairly stark way, I saw the issue of youth homelessness in Vietnam, and you know how once you’ve seen something you can’t unsee it?” Rebecca said.

“Youth homelessness became a thing I couldn’t unsee.”

“I came to think of it as the stone in my shoe. I couldn’t keep walking along with that stone in my shoe, even after I returned home to Canberra and went back to my job at the CSIRO.”

“It felt like such a foundational thing that every human needs: a safe, affordable, loving home. It’s so critical to a life of wellbeing: it’s so much more than a home.”

In her downtime, Rebecca researched the complex youth homelessness sector and eventually found a missing

piece of the puzzle: training, education and a sense of belonging.

“You can’t afford a house to live in if you don’t have a job,” Rebecca said.

“It made me and my partner Kate think we needed to build a holistic solution to homelessness that included training and employment pathways.”

So they took a leap, quit their Canberra jobs and moved to Melbourne in 2009 to set up hospitality enterprise STREAT.

Since welcoming its first class of trainees, STREAT has now supported more than 5210 young people and offered 351,753 hours of training, support and work experience.

“I’m a really unexpected social entrepreneur. My training was in science as a plant biologist and then a science communicator. I stumbled into being a social innovator.” Rebecca said.

Buoyed by her enthusiasm, generosity and curiosity, STREAT has expanded to run 12 cafes, a coffee roastery, an artisan bakery, and a catering and events business.

The whole thing is engineered to support young people who might otherwise fall through the gaps.

HOW A SENSE OF BELONGING CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE

Twice a year, a class of young people assembles at STREAT through referrals from the prison system, detox facilities, homelessness and mental health services. Many have been in out-of-home care from a very young age.

“I love watching a new class start,” Rebecca said.

“They’ve come to the program because they’ve got lots of barriers, and we’ll walk alongside them for the next year to give them a bunch of skills and confidence, and most importantly a sense of belonging.”

As the team begins to address those barriers – such as drug and alcohol addiction or homelessness – the person underneath begins to shine.

“Something magical happens when a young person starts to see that those hopes and dreams might be possible,” Rebecca said.

CREATING MORE THAN HOSPO HEROES

Nearly 15 years after the first graduate class at STREAT, many participants have flourished in varied careers, using hospitality as a stepping stone to follow their passions.

“We’re not here to create ‘hospo heroes’! We’re teaching you a bunch of transferrable life and employability skills. It just happens to be that hospo is a good industry to get those skills,” Rebecca said.

A collaborator at heart, Rebecca is always looking for ways to connect with other social innovators and inspire the next generation of citizens into living a purposeful life.

When STREAT was off to a flying start, she turned her mind to building an ecosystem to support nascent social enterprises.



The Purpose Precinct

Enter The Purpose Precinct at Queen Victoria Market, the front door to a sector that includes more than 3000 social enterprises across Victoria.

It’s a collaboration between STREAT, Good Cycles, and other businesses that put the planet and people before profit.

Here, you’ll find shops, a cafe, workshop space and the new Moving Feast Kitchen, which brings together social enterprise farms and kitchens, caterers and hospitality providers.

“We’re all working together as this little ecosystem, thinking about food systems,” Rebecca said.

“The Moving Feast Kitchen is designed not only to rescue lots of unsold produce from the market, but also create new products in the kitchen.

“It makes no sense to throw out food when it could be eaten, especially when we have people in the city who are hungry. Bringing those two things together is part of the reason why we put that kitchen together.”

MELBOURNE AWARDS

We’re proud to announce the winners of the **Melbourne Awards 2024**. These remarkable individuals and groups are committed to making our city an inclusive, creative and forward-thinking place.

Meet the winners at melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourne-awards



A class group at STREAT



KEEP YOUR COOL THIS SUMMER

It is important to adapt our behaviours to prevent heat stress

Melburnians are urged to prepare for a hot summer and reminded of the dangers posed by heatwaves in our city.

By 2050 Melbourne will experience an average 16 days over 35 degrees each year.

The City of Melbourne is committed to reducing the threat of extreme urban heat for vulnerable people.

Our goal in Melbourne is to provide places of respite for residents and visitors during extreme heat events.

WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED ACTING TO:

- Cool the city through urban greening
- Host heat health information sessions and distribute cool kits to help support at-risk members of the community
- Help keep you cool and hydrated with the use of our Cool Routes map to find drinking fountains and cool places of respite in the city.

All our efforts combined aim to cool Melbourne by four degrees, to improve liveability, resilience, and community health.

Keep an eye out for heat health alerts on City of Melbourne's social media channels and from the Department of Health, or be aware of upcoming weather.

For tips on how to stay safe during the heat visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/heatwaves



Drink cool water regularly, even if not thirsty

Explore your neighbourhood

Whether you live, work, study or play in our city, we have information to help you get the best out of your area.



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



Meet your local banker

Introduce yourself and your role at NAB Carlton

My name is Scott Balderson, and I'm the branch manager for NAB Carlton. In my role, I lead a dedicated team of customer advisors to provide exceptional support and service to our customers.

I also work closely with home lending specialists, business bankers, and other teams within NAB to build strong, lasting relationships with our customers and the local community. Together we strive to help our customers achieve their financial goals and make a positive impact in the area we serve.

How long have you been with NAB, and what has your journey with the bank been like?

I have been with NAB for four years. I started my journey as a leader in NAB Assist, where I supported customers impacted by the challenges of the pandemic.

Three years ago, I moved into another leadership role in our retail branches, supporting our amazing customer advisors, which has been a rewarding experience.

NAB's dedication to supporting its customers and investing in the growth and success of its people makes it a fantastic organisation to be a part of.

What key areas of expertise and responsibilities are central to your role at NAB Carlton?

My role at NAB is centred around keeping our customers at the heart of everything we do. We focus on helping them achieve their financial goals, supporting them through significant life events, and ensuring they feel confident in their banking journey.

Building strong relationships with home lending specialists and business bankers allows to deliver tailored solutions that meet our customers' unique needs, especially for local businesses that are vital to our community.

A key part of my role is protecting our customers when things don't go as planned. Whether it's helping them safeguard their money or taking proactive steps to prevent fraud and scams, our priority is ensuring they feel secure and supported every step of the way.

What are the key benefits of having a local bank in the Carlton community?

By having a local bank in the Carlton community, we can build lasting relationships with our customers.

We focus on creating relationships with the community, so whether someone's managing everyday banking or saving for a big goal, they know they have our support.

We're proud to support local businesses in Carlton and nearby suburbs with flexible banking and tailored solutions like merchant services, and a dedicated business banker.

We also offer convenient Zoom appointments for our home lending customers, making it easier for them to access the support they need.



We also love supporting the community in other ways, like partnering with local universities to support student scholarships or helping startups get off the ground.

What types of customers or clients do you primarily support and work with?

We support a diverse range of customers, from small and large businesses in Carlton, the surrounding suburbs, and the Melbourne CBD, to individuals at all stages of life. This includes professionals, retirees, international and local students, and younger people starting their baking journey or looking to purchase their first home.

Is there something about your local bank or bankers that might surprise people or is less commonly known?

Many of our customer advisors in the Melbourne CBD speak multiple languages, and we also offer an interpreter service to ensure we meet the diverse needs of all our customers.

Do you have a particular aspect of your job that you find especially rewarding?

The most rewarding aspect of my job is the relationships we build with our regular customers.

It's especially fulfilling to support our older customers, helping them navigate digital banking and equipping them with the tools to protect themselves from scams and fraud.

Do you enjoy being based in Carlton and contributing to the local community there?

Sure do! We have such a vibrant, diverse community and whenever I have colleagues visiting my branch for the day the first question they ask is "where are we going for lunch?"

We are spoilt for choice, and we love supporting our local restaurants, bars and cafés.

If you need support with your banking needs, reach out to NAB Carlton branch manager Scott Balderson on 0452 670 483 or NAB home lending executive Robbie Larkin on 0436 613 996. ●



Retroactive Documents: local artist and designer's latest exhibition

Carlton resident and multi-disciplinary artist Steve Hennessy's recent exhibition brings together decades of collected materials to illuminate the "instability and poly-temporal nature of art".

WORDS BY SABRINA CAIRES



The exhibition is part of Mr Hennessy's PhD thesis, which is titled *Retroactive Documents – Subverting the Linear Account of the Personal Archive*.

The concept at the core of the exhibition initially emerged in 2020 when Mr Hennessy started exploring photocopies from his archives, drawing inspiration from a period in the early 1980s where photocopies were frequently used in collage art.

"So, I'm taking things that were sitting there for, you know, 30 or 40 years, and then I'm starting again with a new collage," Mr Hennessy told *Inner City News*.

"And then, at the end of that collage process, I said, 'this is a retroactive document'. I coined the phrase, and that became the subject of my thesis a little bit later on."

The exhibition presents photos and objects as items that can not only capture a point in time, but also gain new meaning.

"Time doesn't feel linear – my studio is full of items that connect me with the people, projects and experiences that have shaped me," Mr Hennessy said.

Retroactive Documents is a multimedia exhibition using digital photo collage, plywood sculptures and audiovisual pieces.

Mr Hennessy said the exhibition development process was a way to engage with the back catalogue of artworks and materials that he has accumulated over his 45 years as an artist and designer.

"The stored collection of source material, bits and pieces, newspaper cuttings, postcards, pictures, you know, memorabilia; all the things that go into an artist's archive of things that they might use in the future.

"I decided that it was time to go through

these things and start using them in a positive way to make works for the future, so to speak," he said.

"It was a way to use dormant things in the archive and so, in some ways, it's trying to reignite the past through a sort of recuperative process where I'm reviving things for the present or the future. It's not so much about nostalgia for the past."

Early in his career, after studying art at RMIT, Mr Hennessy adapted his skills as an artist to work as a designer.

In the mid '80s he worked with architects such as Allan Powell and Greg Burgess.

His work has since included designing the lighting for the Crown entertainment complexes both in Melbourne and interstate, including the custom chandeliers in the Palladium Ballroom and the Crown Towers foyer.

He has also designed lighting and public sculptures for the Immigration Museum, the University of Melbourne, Princes Pier and the Shrine of Remembrance.

Mr Hennessy said he was drawn to complete his PhD as a way of re-engaging more deeply with his art practice.

"I've had some cancer issues since 2017 and so obviously I've been through a lot of treatment processes at Peter Mac," he said.

"I did have a sense of unfinished business that the art, even though I kept producing art all during that time, I sort of wanted to restore the balance sheet.

"And even though there's a lot of design in the current exhibition, I wanted to sort of make sure that my art practice was reinforced and boosted. The last three to four years of research was all about recuperating the art career, giving it a strong context, and to make sure that both sides of my practice were well represented."

Although Mr Hennessy's studio is located in Prahran, he has lived in Carlton for 15 years now.

In the mid '90s, he lived at Curtin House in the CBD, before moving between Carlton and Fitzroy.

"When I moved away from the city, I made the joke that I was moving 'off the grid', meaning the Hoddle Grid," he said.

"For me, it was like moving to the suburbs, even though it was only about two kilometres from the city." ●





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There's Still Tomorrow

“

There's Still Tomorrow is a film about the ever-elusive promise of the future, taunting us with its perpetual deferral. Tomorrow will be better. Tomorrow I will change my life. It's a familiar refrain – one most people know better than its fulfilment.

”

WORDS BY
RUBY LOWENSTEIN



For Delia, played by Paola Cortellesi (who also directed and co-wrote the film), in 1946 post-war Italy, that promise feels impossibly out of reach.

Her todays and tomorrows, like our film, begin in a dance of harsh and unsettling normalcy. "Good morning," Delia says to her husband, Ivano (Valerio Mastandrea). He hits her. Just another typical morning.

She swings her legs over the bed and stomps on a rat. The kids are screaming, almost as much as her father-in-law, and the dance continues.

Welcome to Delia's world - a society grappling with the trauma of war, where American GIs patrol and men dominate the social order.

Delia is a hero we know - our mother, our sister, our friend. A woman for whom dreams have given way to survival, and life is defined by a cruel husband and the weight of familial responsibility.

The film's title initially feels like a promise of the day Delia might escape her domestic servitude. But this is, to a degree, a sleight of hand. Amid the struggles of this society, something else stirs. A familiar refrain rises among the women: "I'll have my say."

And what of the letter Delia clutches? It's a question you'll have to wait until the film's conclusion to uncover.

For although this film is about escape from abuse, intergenerational trauma, and the hopes of motherhood - to give our children a better life - it is also a mystery. The true meaning of the refrain, the mysterious letter and Delia's quiet acts of rebellion unfold like a puzzle, revealed piece by hopeful piece.

Still, in some ways this is a film that's challenging to watch. It portrays a life many know or fear

and deserves a trigger warning for its depictions of domestic violence.

However, *There's Still Tomorrow* manages the difficult task of rising above the shocking, elevated by a creator who knows that sorrow and hope go hand in hand, made more powerful, more striking, in their contrast.

A rare film that shows us there are still new things to say - and new ways to say them. Its black-and-white style draws from mid-century neorealistic filmmakers, yet the film at every turn feels fresh, even playful.

Cortellesi deftly subverts narrative expectations, breaching and transcending strict realism with choreographed musical sequences set to a surprising yet never out of place soundtrack.

While such meticulous vision means the creator's hand is strongly felt, the film's artifice does nothing to undermine audience immersion or water down hard-hitting themes. Instead, this approach renders moments more accessible and poignant, than if played outright.

We all know the unfulfilled promise of tomorrow. But Cortellesi's film dares to imagine the seemingly impossible - the arrival of that wonderful, atypical day when stagnation gives way to change. Shining, golden and overdue. Sisyphus pushes his boulder to the top of the hill and Godot arrives. You change your life.

Already one of the most successful Italian films of all time, *There's Still Tomorrow* is a work of rare wit and enduring significance, deserving of every accolade - and, most of all, your time.

Ruby Lowenstein is a writer, critic, and producer with a BA (Hons) in Cinema and an MA in Arts and Cultural Management from the University of Melbourne. Since 2017, she has worked in the arts and media sector, driven by her passion for cinema, art, and literature. ●



Grand Slam celebrations for Parkville Tennis Club's 120th anniversary

A northside Melbourne institution, the Parkville Tennis Club, has celebrated its 120th anniversary in style.



WORDS BY
DAVID ALLEN



A gathering of members both past and present was held at the Royal Parade clubhouse this October in honour of the club's foundation in 1904.

Club president Anne Phefley said Parkville's three courts remain a favourite for Melburnian tennis lovers and attracted a very diverse and friendly crowd.

"Tennis is a very social sport and there is no dominant demographic, gender or age group that plays here," she said.

"It's important to have a vibrant sport culture and tennis is a sport you can play almost as long as you can walk."

"Seeing people at the anniversary party who have been with the club since the '70s mingling with young people who have just joined us, having a laugh and talking about matches they'd won was so lovely," Ms Phefley said.

"It was like a big family reunion." Parkville residents decided to found the club in 1903, establishing it first in Royal Park before relocating to the club's current Royal Parade address in 1912.

The then-asphalt courts were replaced with the more popular red porous surface of crushed brick in 1936.

The club collaborated with the City of Melbourne to resurface the courts in the wake of the COVID pandemic, and the council also replaced the club's court lighting with energy efficient LEDs this year.

Ms Phefley says members are already looking towards the 150th anniversary.

"We want to keep the same excellent court standards, our friendly atmosphere, and encourage people to stay active and to play a sport," she said.

The club welcomes newcomers, be they experienced players or just curious to pick up a racquet for the first time.

Parkville hosts social tennis events four times a week.

The club is open to non-members on Tuesday evenings, and on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons for all skill levels.

The Tuesday sessions are free and are followed by a light supper, while Wednesday and Sunday are free for the first four weeks, then \$5 per person thereafter.

On Fridays, more advanced players can also access the court for \$5 per person.

"There's always a way to help people come back to or take up tennis," Ms Phefley said. ●

Proudly representing the
community in inner Melbourne

Evan MULHOLLAND MP

Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

9651 8242 EvanMulhollandMP Evan.Mulholland@parliament.vic.gov.au

Shop 24, 55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights EvanMulholland.com.au

Authorised by Evan Mulholland MP, Shop 24/55-63 Paringa Boulevard, Meadow Heights VIC 3048.



Royal Park Masterplan

Well, the Royal Park Masterplan has been lodged with some amendments, and it can be found on the Participate Melbourne website under Royal Park Master Plan.

Following former City of Melbourne councillor Rohan Leppert's intervention, several points were made and to be considered. From those points that the Parkville community and Royal Park groups highlighted, not a lot has changed, so it is important that as many people as possible read and comment on the proposals.

The consultation period is open until February 25, 2025, which is three months. While it appears to be a lengthy time, clearly over Christmas and New Year a lot of time at the council and for residents will be taken up by holidays!

There will have to be compromises as we can't have all of our wishes however, speaking on behalf of most locals, we feel that Royal Park under the 1998 plan focused on a bush park in the centre of Melbourne to be the lungs of the city, and for all residents to experience the beauty of Australian nature.

The flora and fauna have been assisted by the great work of the Royal Park Protection Group and Friends of Royal Park and naturally they are most concerned about the outcome.

We believe the park is there to share but not filled with sporting ovals, concrete footpaths, coffee shops and barbecues! Enough said, read and write! We will also be holding local meetings to hear views from all.

Chris Nicholson, a senior Serco employee

who held the responsibility for Royal Park as horticulture and supervisory manager, has just left to take up a senior role with a local council. To Chris, from all of us, thanks for your great and passionate stewardship of the park over the last 12 years. A great community man and amazing passion for our special park!

Meanwhile down the road in Town Hall Nick Reece has been elected Lord Mayor! Many congratulations, as from a personal point of view I have always found Nick to be supportive and amazingly accessible. A mixed council, and I repeat my offer to all councillors to take a walk around the suburb and our Royal Park so you know where it is!!

Recently I mentioned the poor safety at the Morrah Street tram stop. Cars not stopping, pedestrians walking against non-synchronised lights, and bikes being ridden over the crossing! Along with Trinity College this matter has been taken up with the Minister; hopefully we get things moving quickly!!

The Parkville Association will have held the Party in the Park as you read this. We know we have a great community so let's hope the weather gods stepped in and let us have a great day!

To all, seasons greetings, and be in touch in 2025! ●

Rob Moore

PRESIDENT

PARKVILLE ASSOCIATION



METRO TUNNEL

Transformed City Square set to reopen next year

Victorians have been given a glimpse at what Melbourne's revamped City Square will look like when it opens next year.

The iconic public space is undergoing a grand makeover, including an entrance to the Metro Tunnel's new Town Hall Station and a tribute to the land's Traditional Owners.

Artist impressions of the revamped area show welcoming spaces for events, retail and hospitality, along with new landscaping and artworks.

At the centre will be a permanent Smoking Ceremony dish developed with Wurundjeri Elders, with Woi-wurrung language and artwork etched into surrounding paving and throughout the square.

These elements are part of the Metro Tunnel's Connection to Country initiative, which celebrates the Traditional Owners of the lands of the Kulin Nation on which the five new metro stations are built.

An interactive, digital version of the much-loved Mockridge fountain, known as the "water wall", will feature along Collins St, while the bronze sculpture *Beyond the Ocean of Existence* will also return.

Crews have started building the Town Hall Station's City Square entrance at the Collins St end of the square.

The station's glass entrance canopy sits above five escalators leading down into a two-tiered concourse, a grand "square beneath a square" that is expected to be used by more than 10,000 people daily during peak periods.

Widened pedestrian crossings at the nearby Swanston and Collins streets intersection will accommodate the increased foot traffic and boost pedestrian safety.

City Square was closed in 2017 for construction on Town Hall Station, one of the



five new state-of-the-art underground train stations opening next year that will transform the way Victorians move around our biggest city.

City Square will open to the public next year ahead of the Metro Tunnel opening to passengers.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade of Melbourne's train network since the City Loop opened in 1981 and will double the size of Melbourne's underground rail network as we move towards becoming Australia's biggest city.

The project will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via twin nine-kilometre tunnels under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from Melbourne's northwest to the south-east, better connecting all Victorians to jobs, healthcare and education. ●

No sausage and no sizzle: 2024 Melbourne City Council election

It was not that long ago we lined up at a local polling booth to cast a vote for our preferred local council candidate. Waiting in the line was for many distracted by a sausage in a slice of bread provided at minimal cost by a local club or organisation.

WORDS BY
MARTIN BRENNAN – VICE PRESIDENT

It raised funds, satisfied the hunger and took time off waiting in the line. The democracy sausage, as it became known in the 1980s, satisfied the hunger for democracy.

The polling booth at a local school, community centre or church was a community event even though it involved a personal and private vote for a preferred candidate.

The polling booth also required candidates to have local supporters to hand out how to vote cards in a last-minute attempt to influence voters.

The sausage together with the polling booth were a very local thing! It became synonymous with democracy and built a sense of community.

The recently held Melbourne City Council election lacked the sizzle. Only two-thirds of votes were received and five per cent were informal.

The general view was that the campaigns failed to interest voters and information on the teams was limited to the Lord Mayoral candidate.

The campaigns also provided no vision for the city's future nor policies that reflected the interests and needs of residents and local business.

The election, however, did shine a blinding light on the electoral provisions of the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* and revealed their shortcomings and pitfalls.

During the election campaign it became pretty obvious that funding and preference deals provided the best insight into the motivation, credibility and suitability of candidates running for the council, and also skewed the result.

The source of election funding was hidden, with most candidates declining to have the amount and source of their funding announced until 40 days after the result election.

No doubt the benefactors and the beneficiaries of the successful campaigns will be revealed in conflict-of-interest declarations in future council decision-making.

The *Age* editorial on October 16, 2024, called for reform of the *City of Melbourne*



Act: "[the] voting system must change, it's not a preference, it's a demand".

The editorial reported on the backroom deals and preference flows between candidates that it said could result in an unexpected Lord Mayor for Melbourne; "as *The Age's* reports have made manifestly clear, reform is needed. To do nothing is to cast integrity out the window."

Then on October 19, 2024, *The Age* editorial asked, "who's the best for Melbourne? *The Age* cannot endorse mayoral candidates".

It revealed that the leading Lord Mayoral team leaders were unwilling to accept *The Age's* invitation to reveal their campaign donors in real time.

It went on to say that transparency in this campaign has been severely lacking, including for party membership. The complex flow of preferences, it stated, results in unexpected and unintended outcomes.

The election campaign has resulted in calls for a review and reform of the *City of Melbourne Act* and its electoral provisions.

We need electoral provisions that return the *City of Melbourne* to real democracy.

We need one vote one value, the reintroduction of wards, attendance voting and the election of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor by the council.

The Carlton Residents Association is well prepared to represent the interests of its members and friends over the next four years with its "Agenda for Carlton", providing a platform for its advocacy role to the council. ●

Church of All Nations Christmas Worship Services



Sunday December 22
Lessons and Carols at 10.00am

Christmas Day
at 9.00am

180 Palmerston St, Carlton
For more information
0447 142 425



Melbourne's original aquarium destroyed by fire

Melbourne's original aquarium was located in the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton.

In those days the Exhibition Building was more extensive than it is today. It had two large wings attached to its northwest and northeast corners, and from 1930 until 1953, the northeast wing housed what was then Melbourne's only public aquarium.

That was until January 1953 when it was destroyed by a massive fire that almost consumed the historic Royal Exhibition Building as well.

At about 6pm on the evening of January 28, 1953, an alarm was raised by two children who saw flames at the rear of the building and ran to the night watchman calling out, "there's a fire. The place is burning!"

Firemen and members of the staff said afterwards that if the boys had not acted so quickly the whole of the historic building might have been destroyed.

Fire trucks soon arrived, and a large crowd began to gather. Thousands of people who were heading home after a day's work gathered to watch and to help the firemen try to control the blaze and stop it spreading to the adjacent main building.

Dozens of members of the public joined in the efforts to fight the inferno, including children who scurried up ladders to deliver

extinguishers to firemen on the walls of the aquarium.

Thousands of fish perished as red-hot sheets of corrugated galvanised iron from the roof crashed into the fish tanks. Rare tropical fish, brought to the aquarium only a few months before, were lost.

The seals, which had been a big attraction at the aquarium, escaped as volunteers from the crowd coaxed the blackened creatures from the water. The terrified seals were still circling the pool long after the fire was out.

All of the birds including two peacocks were rescued. Firemen and volunteers dashed through choking fumes to release the terrified birds and carry them to other cages out of the danger area. One peacock escaped and was still wandering around the blackened ruins at dusk.

Perhaps the most famous of the aquarium's exhibits, Ned Kelly's armour, was fortunately saved.

The fire caused damage in the millions of dollars in today's terms, and the aquarium was never reopened. ●

Sylvia Black

SECRETARY – EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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No affordable housing in regional Victoria

Last month we saw another round of reports on how desperate things are for households searching for affordable, secure homes in regional Victoria.



WORDS BY
CORY MEMERY



There have been some increases in community housing numbers under the Big Housing Build in major regional cities, but they haven't stemmed the crisis.

Under the Big Housing Build, dwellings that have been/are being built as "affordable" housing have rents set at 100 per cent of local market rents.

Just how that fits with delivering actual affordable housing is yet to be explained by the state government. Incomes are generally lower in regional Victoria compared to Melbourne, so those seeking a secure home to live in are in an impossible situation.

Supreme Court action by public housing residents

Despite attempts by Homes Victoria to have their human rights case thrown out, the Supreme Court is pressing on with asking them to provide all the details of how they arrived at a decision to demolish all the towers in Melbourne.

At the time of writing this column just how the agency will respond was not known.

At previous hearings, the agency's lawyers had argued that the residents taking the action should pay all of Homes Victoria's legal bills.

Fancy that, residents seeking to confirm their human rights were ignored in the decision making by not being consulted are being asked to pay to clarify those rights!

Homes Victoria had been asked to table all relevant reports in state parliament a while back but declined, claiming government cabinet confidentiality.

They did, though, provide a list of all documents that weren't provided, and it can be reviewed at this link:

The list includes mention of yield reports, which can only mean assessments of what could be built in locations where demolitions were being considered. There also appears to be building condition reports used to justify demolitions.

The new Arden suburb
The state government has had redevelopment on this industrial and publicly held land in its sights for some time.

It has promised to deliver big on new homes for Melbourne's burgeoning population, with 50,000 intended to be housed by 2051.

The government owns a significant amount of land around the new rail station for the suburb. It has called for submissions from a select group that includes developers and community housing providers involved with the past Public Housing Renewal Program and the Big Housing Build's Ground Lease Model approach to demolishing and redeveloping public housing estates.

Go to the following link at



Given the public ownership of the land, an opportunity to deliver on a large scale, housing that is publicly owned and not an opportunity for profit making by developers, is being passed up.

The precinct would be an ideal location to see a publicly owned residential builder in operation to the benefit of low to moderate income Melburnians over the next decade, not those who can afford the luxury dwellings the developers listed usually build.

Written with the assistance of the Save Public Housing Collective ●

STATE MP

There's an old saying that every government dollar should be treated as if it was hard earned, because it was – by a taxpayer.

Given that Victoria is the highest-taxed state in the nation, this is a pretty fair rule to apply and one I would hope that the government would abide by. Sadly, this is not the case.

WORDS BY
EVAN MULHOLLAND

The Victorian Labor Government, which marks ten years in office this month, has allowed waste and blowouts to define their infrastructure agenda ever since they paid \$1.1 billion to not build a road shortly after coming to office.

Ten years on, this is no more evident than with the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL). When the history books are written – and with a completion date of 2053 that'll be around when the Suburban Rail Loop north is completed as well – this project will be a byword for waste and blowouts.

The cost of the SRL has already blown out to \$216 billion and that is just for the first half, servicing the eastern suburbs seats that Labor is so desperate to protect for their own short-term political future.

Analysis from the independent Parliamentary Budget Office already shows that the project's cost outweighs the benefits. A decade before this first section is even scheduled to open, it is already clear that the return on investment is just not there.

It's not just the Liberals saying this. Both Infrastructure Australia and the

Australian National Audit Office have raised serious concerns about the project's financial viability. The federal Albanese Labor Government is refusing to say whether they will contribute funds.

The [current Victorian] government has refused to provide a credible business case and has failed to meet the basic funding criteria set by Infrastructure Australia. This is deeply concerning and demonstrates a lack of planning and forward thinking on a signature project that the government seem determined to pursue at their own folly. Ultimately the problem with this project, and as I said earlier the reason why every dollar of government money needs to be respected, is because being in government is about choices.

The Labor Government has chosen – against just about all advice – to continue to pursue this project. Whether that is now out

of stubbornness, folly or another motivation is something I will leave others to judge. But because of this choice this money, this \$216 billion, is not able to be spent elsewhere.

Every dollar wasted on the Suburban Rail Loop is not able to fund more and better paid essential workers, or better roads and infrastructure which is so desperately needed across my electorate of the northern suburbs and across the entire state.

Victorians are crying out for better services, better hospitals and roads, and they're not going to get them from this Labor government because of its decision to fund a tunnel that just isn't going anywhere.

Evan Mulholland is the Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Victorian Legislative Council. ●

Quiz



- Who won the inaugural Opera Australia Impact Award?
- What is the name of director Adam Elliott's latest claymation film?
- Where will University High's new campus be located?
- Who founded La Mama Theatre?
- Christina Hendricks (pictured) was nominated for several Emmy Awards for her role in which TV series?
- True or false: there is a book called *Mr. Nobody* in the Mr. Men series?
- In which sport is the annual Ballon d'Or awarded?
- Who wrote the novel *Robinson Crusoe*?
- Which colour did the ancient Greeks not have a word for?
- What is the bestselling video game console of all time?
- Where can the City of Melbourne's largest open space be found?
- How many screens does Cinema Nova have?

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- East Melbourne resident Linda Thompson
- Memoir of a Snail*
- 399 Lonsdale St
- Betty Bursall
- Mad Men*
- True
- Soccer
- Daniel Defoe
- Blue
- PlayStation 2
- Royal Park
- 16

5x5

No. 307

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

S		R		T
	R		M	
R		P		S
	V		N	
W		L		S

SOLUTIONS

SPRAT, CREME, ROPES, EVENT, WELDS

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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January, 2025

Sudoku

No. 042

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block

EASY

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

HARD

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

SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

HARD

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

Wordfind

Theme: Politics

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

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

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| ARDERN | MAY |
| CANBERRA | MERKEL |
| DEMOCRACY | OBAMA |
| ELECTION | POLITICIAN |
| GILLARD | PUTIN |
| GOVERNMENT | TRUDEAU |
| MACRON | TURNBULL |

Secret message: Presidents and prime ministers

Crossword

No. 042

ACROSS

- Public assembly (5)
- Metallic element (9)
- German-speaking country (7)
- Ten year periods (7)
- German city (9)
- Result from (5)
- Sound of indigestion (3)
- Wielding (11)
- Evaluations (11)
- Knight's title (3)
- Non-PC (5)
- Terrible beating (9)
- Clique (7)
- Attack (7)
- Utilises (10)
- Objects (5)

DOWN

- Dreads (5)
- Materials (9)
- Deserve (5)
- Southern US state (7)
- Modernised (7)
- Adds to (9)
- River flowing from Tibet to the Arabian Sea (5)
- Envoy (9)
- Sadness (9)
- Bishop's office (9)
- Establish (9)
- Things of consequence (7)
- Conquerors of England in 1066 (7)
- Soak (5)
- Seaweed wrapped rice (5)
- People who favour black clothes and make-up (5)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11												12		
13														15
16														19
20														24
25														
27														28

SOLUTION

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

Codeword

No. 042

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

SOLUTIONS

P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J
W	O	L	A	M	G	V	L	F	U	T	X	O			

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

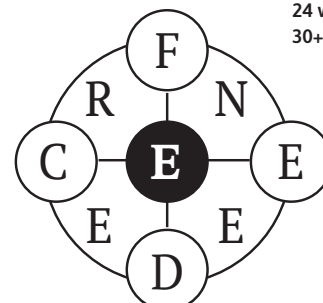
9-Letter

No. 042

Today's Focus:

- 18 words: Good
- 24 words: Very good
- 30+ words: Excellent

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



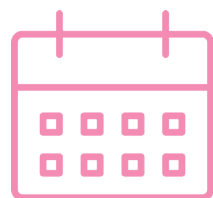
SOLUTIONS

Reference:

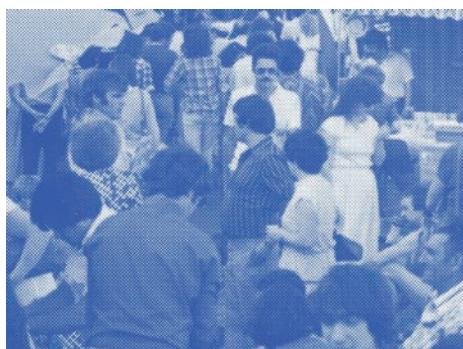
Collins Concise English Dictionary

need, needer, nerd, recede, read, reef, reefer, rend
deener, erne, feed, feeder, fence, fend, fender, fern, free, freed,
cede, cere, cered, cred, creed, decree, deer, defence, defer, DEFERENCE, dene,

WHAT'S ON December & January



There are lots of festivities around the Inner City in December and January to see you through the holidays.



THE LYGON STREET MARKET

A new monthly market that promises to showcase the very best in locally made art, design, and tasty treats. The market made its debut in September and returns on the first weekend of each month.

Piazza Italia (Argyle Square), Carlton

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, 10AM – 3PM



BRIDGET MCDONNELL GALLERY'S CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

The annual Christmas exhibition will feature a collection of 100 paintings under \$2,000 by important Australian and international artists.

130 Faraday St, Carlton

6 – 21 DECEMBER



POETRY OPEN MIC

Every Wednesday night at the Motley Bauhaus, attendees can indulge in poetry, sip wine or whisky, and find inspiration in a space designed for heartfelt expression and creative freedom.

The Motley Bauhaus

UNTIL 18 DECEMBER, 7.30PM – 10PM



THE BIG DESIGN MARKET

The most anticipated shopping event returns to the Royal Exhibition Building, bigger and better than ever. Find more than 250 designers showcasing the finest in Australian design and craftsmanship.

Royal Exhibition Building

29 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER



FIRE SERVICES MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

Discover the rich history of firefighting through more than 10,000 artefacts that bring to life the heroic stories and defining moments that have shaped fire services in Melbourne and beyond.

39 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne

OPEN THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SUNDAY



CARLTON KIDS MARKET

This indoor fun market is run by kids, for kids. Kids will be selling their pre-loved toys, games, clothes, books and more with lots of great bargains. BYO bags, cash only.

Kathleen Syme Library

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER, 9AM – 11AM



PIINPI: CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS FASHION

Garments bursting with the colours and shapes of Country are on display as part of Australia's first major survey of Indigenous fashion.

Birrarung Gallery, Melbourne Museum

UNTIL 19 JANUARY

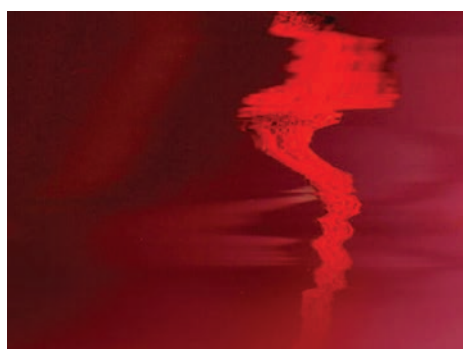


CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG

Experience the magic and joy of music this holiday season and celebrate the spirit of giving and community and join in the big Christmas carol sing-a-long.

Church of All Nations, Carlton

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER, 4.30PM – 6PM

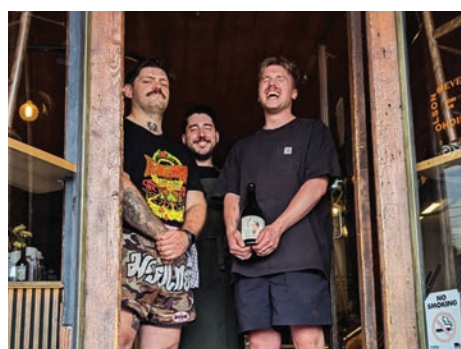


RMIT VISUAL ARTS GRADUATE EXHIBITION

RMIT's Advanced Diploma Visual Arts graduating students exhibit a survey of their two year investigation into multiple practices.

RMIT Photography Studios Building

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, 6PM – 9PM



SLEEPY'S CAFE AND WINE

In celebration of their 3rd birthday, Sleepy's Cafe and Wine Bar will be pouring wine from magnums and whipping up delicious Chinese-Mexican food, with a boiler room set live from the kitchen.

787 Nicholson St, Carlton North

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, FROM 5PM



CHEESE AND WINE MATCHING

Join your hosts in the 160-year-old cellars of the Victoria Brewery for a delicious afternoon of global cheese and wine matching as Sommelier Antony guides you through the perfect pairings.

Life's Too Short Bar, East Melbourne

UNTIL 29 DECEMBER

Business Directory

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sales@lnkitchens.com.au



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At 300 metres above sea level, enjoy breathtaking views while indulging in menus curated by award-winning Executive Chef Renee Martillano. Renee's menus adapt to the seasons, featuring the best Victorian and Australian produce. Choose from a six or eight-course Chef's Tasting Menu with optional wine pairing for an even more sensational experience, available every evening. Alternatively choose Altitude Dining to combine sophisticated dining with the allure of Melbourne Skydeck experience, blending sights, sounds, and flavours into an unforgettable experience. Altitude Dining is available for weekend lunches and evening dinner Sunday to Thursday.

SPECIALTY EVENTS

At Eureka 89, we host an array of specialty events throughout the year. Explore our upcoming festive events and immerse yourself in our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Celebrations.

Join us for our NYE celebrations. Name a better location to welcome the new year! Indulge in a 6-course tasting menu, premium beverage package, live music, and more. Don't miss out!



BOOK NOW

For bookings and enquiries visit
Eureka89.com.au or call 03 9693 8889

JOURNEY BEYOND