



## A renewed vision for Postcode 3000

Lord Mayor hopeful Jamal Hakim has revealed his running mate for Town Hall as renowned writer and CBD resident Esther Anatolitis, who has stressed the importance of "Postcode 3000" in shaping the area's future. More on page 9.

Photo: Oltra Creative.

## Minister approves three towers for Queen Victoria Market's Southern Site

“  
Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny has approved permits for long-awaited plans to redevelop Queen Victoria Market's (QVM) "Southern Site" into three separate towers.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD & SEAN CAR



The Minister's approval on August 20 comes after City of Melbourne councillors unanimously endorsed developer Lendlease's proposal to construct Towers 1 and 2, and student accommodation provider Scape Australia's Tower 3, which were considered as two separate permit applications at the August 6 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting.

"This project is delivering hundreds of new homes in the heart of Melbourne, giving more Victorians the opportunity to live close to jobs, transport, and servic-

es – all while protecting the heritage and charm that makes Queen Victoria Market such a beloved part of Melbourne," Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny said.

In March, Minister Kilkeny signed off on a final development plan for the 3.2-hectare precinct to be known as "Gurrowa Place", which is bordered by Franklin, Queen and Peel streets.

The planning permit applications, which went before the council on August 6, mark the next stage in the vision to revitalise the QVM precinct's southern boundary, with the three towers to comprise new apartments, student accommodation, offices and retail, along with new publicly-accessible laneways.

However, while Heritage Victoria gave its approval of the \$1.7 billion plans in late 2023, the project has since been referred to the Commonwealth Government for a federal heritage review, which remains ongoing.

QVM is a National Heritage place and is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*. Protections under national environment law are a separate consideration to any obligations or approvals under state legislation.

But Friends of Queen Victoria Market president Mary-Lou Howie made the argument to councillors at the August 6 meeting that the City of Melbourne shouldn't progress the plans while the review was under way.

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## Arron Wood "energised" about the road ahead

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## Design competition launched for QVM building

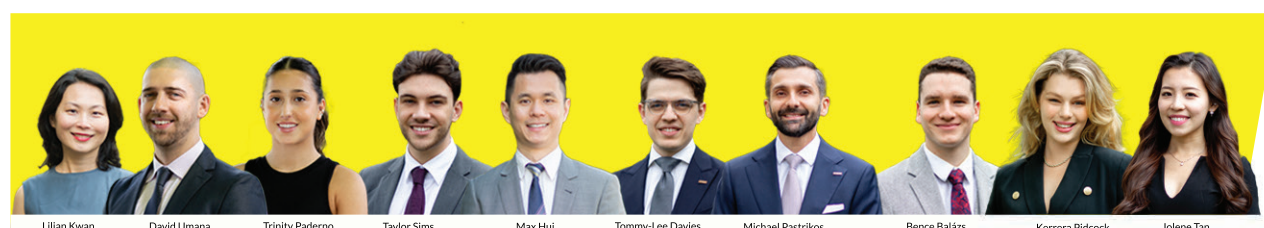
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## Greens reveal housing policy for the City of Melbourne



## A medical service for people experiencing homelessness is coming to Melbourne

A new medical service that provides free healthcare to people experiencing homelessness will be established in the CBD in September.



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## CONTACT

Suite 208, 198 Harbour Esplanade  
Docklands 3008  
cbdnews.com.au  
Tel: 8689 7980

## EDITOR

Sean Car

## PUBLISHER

Hyperlocal News Pty Ltd  
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# Elizabeth St's feline mascot

“ Stand opposite the old GPO and look towards Flinders St, and you'll see the Mazda cat sign on the side of the Beehive Building at 94 Elizabeth St. ”

WORDS BY SABRINA CAIRES



Melbourne is painted all over with ghost signs – old advertisements and business signs that have remained long after the companies or products they were promoting have disappeared.

If you keep an eye out on your next neighbourhood stroll, you're sure to spot at least a handful of signs from old milk bars and other local businesses of times past.

The Mazda cat sign on Elizabeth St is one of the CBD's most emblematic ghost signs.

Painted in 1956, the sign has no connection to the car manufacturer; it originally advertised Mazda Lamps, which manufactured incandescent light bulbs in Australia throughout the mid- to late-20th century.

The sign makes an appearance in the background of the 1959 film *On the Beach*, starring Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner.



The Mazda company name and slogan have been removed, and only the painting of the cat looking west over the city remains.

Back in 2017, the sign came under threat when an application was made for another advertisement to be painted on the same building.

Following a campaign from the Melbourne Heritage Action group, it was confirmed that the new sign would be painted on the opposite side of the building, leaving the Mazda cat safe and sound.

Ghost signs are rarely heritage-listed and are therefore hard to protect.

Those that do remain – like the Mazda cat – may have started as temporary advertisements but have become beloved remnants of the city's past lives. ●



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## Melbourne City Council postal election

### My council, my vote



Two simultaneous elections will be held for Melbourne City Council this October – one to elect the Leadership Team (Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) and the other to elect 9 councillors.

#### Voting by post this October

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Melbourne City Council general election from Monday 7 October. Complete and return your ballot material ASAP. Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election manager by **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

#### If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Wednesday 7 August, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by completing the online redirection form at [vec.vic.gov.au/redirections](http://vec.vic.gov.au/redirections), or call 131 832.

Requests for redirection must be received by 5 pm on Monday 9 September.

#### Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision – please register by 5 pm Tuesday 10 September. To register, call 03 8620 1314 during business hours.

#### Early votes

If you will be away during the voting period (7–25 October), you can go to your local election office to vote in person, from 3 pm on Thursday 19 September.

The Melbourne City Council election office is at:

Drill Hall  
51 - 57 Victoria Street  
Melbourne

#### How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the election manager.

There are 2 different roles you can nominate for:

- Leadership Team – Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor
- councillors – 9 vacancies.

**You can nominate for the Leadership Team or as a councillor, but not both.**

If you nominate for the Leadership Team, you need to make a single joint nomination.

If you nominate as a councillor, you must nominate individually but you can agree with other candidates to form a group and appear on the ballot paper together.

To nominate for either the Leadership Team or councillor election, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the election manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from Monday 9 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September at the election office.

Visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from Tuesday 20 August.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the election manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the election manager from Monday 9 September on 131 832 to make a nomination appointment.



#### Candidate information sessions

5:30 pm Wednesday 4 September at Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne

12:30 pm Thursday 5 September at Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Candidate information kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available online and from the election manager.

**Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.**

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)





# Renewed Arron Wood “energised” about the road ahead at Town Hall

“A fresh start, a proven record” is the message at the heart of Arron Wood’s reinvigorated bid for the City of Melbourne, citing a lack of vision for the city as his prime motivation for returning for another crack at Town Hall.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



It’s no small thing to put yourself up for public office. As the former Deputy Lord Mayor knows all too well, “it’s the most public job interview you can go for”.

After falling short against Sally Capp during the COVID-riddled 2020 election, he admitted “it was actually really hard to lose” after putting his vision out there for the people of Melbourne at the time.

“I think COVID was really tough for so many people,” Mr Wood told CBD News when reflecting on the 2020 campaign. “It was tough even to get out and talk to people because they were dealing with so much.”

But as the pandemic continued to take hold across Melbourne, he said that the time away from council, where he served between 2012 and 2020, had given him precious time with his young family during a crucial period.

“COVID had a long tail and our family like a lot of families suffered, particularly our kids – they really got impacted with online schooling and all the rest of it. So, it took them a long time to bounce back,” he said.

“In the end, you deal with whatever you’re given and what I was given was certainly not second prize – I got to actually spend more time with my family when they needed me most.”

With Melbourne ultimately falling victim to the world’s longest lockdowns, Mr Wood is the first to “recognise it’s not easy to bounce back” as the City of Melbourne dealt with more than its share of challenges over the course of the last council term.

And he said that if “things had been fly-

ing”, perhaps there would have been no need to mount a comeback to Town Hall.

But in his words, he said “things aren’t going in the right direction”, and that it was the “lack of vision for what Melbourne should be as a city” which challenged him the most.

With that, and following consultation with the people who know him best – namely his family who he said were “110 per cent” behind him – he’s putting himself out there for the city he loves once again.

“It’s a combination of factors,” Mr Wood told CBD News.

“Still having that passion and drive, knowing that I’ve got the skills to do the job and then seeing the city head in the wrong direction.”

“I saw crime, city cleanliness, even just the way of getting in and around the city, how businesses were struggling, how people were struggling. But the biggest thing for me was that lack of vision for what Melbourne should be as a city.”

The well-known environmentalist, who founded innovative education program Kids Teaching Kids before entering politics, led the city through significant change during his eight years on council and chaired governance, finance and environment.

Among many of his notable achievements, Mr Wood played an instrumental role in the council’s Melbourne Renewal Energy Project (MREP), enabling a new wind farm in Ararat to power the city’s infrastructure, paving the way for MREP2.

Serving as Deputy Lord Mayor during his last term on council, he also led the city as Acting Lord Mayor through one of its most tumultuous periods following allegations of sexual misconduct made against former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

He said voters only needed to “go back to my track record” to prove that “when I promise something, I deliver”, adding that unlike his main opponent in current Lord Mayor Nick Reece, he was heading into this campaign with a united team.

Cr Reece is a long-time Labor Party member who is running as an independent in this



election on a “unity ticket” alongside Liberal Party member Cr Roshena Campbell as his deputy – an idea Mr Wood described as “farcical.”

“The idea of a unity ticket, where someone from a completely different political persuasion and vision from the opposite political space suddenly joined hearts, I think is a little bit farcical,” Mr Wood said.

“I do want people to be sceptical in this election of what’s been said.”

Under a “five-point plan” for the city, Mr Wood has a suite of policies aimed at cost of living, city safety, cleanliness and greenery, the economy, residential communities and “reviving Melbourne’s cultural heartbeat”.

Announcing swimwear entrepreneur Erin Deering as his running mate in August, Team Wood has already pledged to make Melbourne Australia’s “Christmas Capital” and has promised a zero per cent rate freeze – a policy he last introduced at Town

Hall during COVID as chair of finance.

As the campaign for Town Hall ramps up heading into September, Mr Wood told CBD News he was “feeling energised about what I could do if I was elected”, and that he represented a “clear choice” between change and “more of the same”.

“The City of Melbourne is there to be provide good customer service, and that’s something which actually does excite me – to lead that culture,” he said.

“The biggest excitement I got while I was on council was going down to a residents’ group or even a lone resident who’s got an issue and they’ve been banging their head against the brick wall trying to get it solved.”

“I’m really clear with people I speak to that if they want just to meander along more of the same, then vote for the current Town Hall leadership, but not if you want a change in direction – if you want to actually start fixing some of the problems that we have.” ●



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Regards,

Arron Wood & Erin Deering

Candidates for Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor  
City of Melbourne

## Our 5-point recovery plan

If elected, Team Wood will deliver a five-point recovery plan to get the city back on track:

-  **Tackle the cost-of-living crisis**
-  **Revitalise Melbourne's economy**
-  **Make Melbourne safer, cleaner, greener, and more accessible**
-  **Revive Melbourne's cultural heartbeat**
-  **Support our communities to thrive**



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# Minister approves three towers for QVM's Southern Site

Continued from page 1.

Following a question from the council's chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert as to whether the council had procedural grounds to be considering the permit applications in light of the federal heritage review, council officer Marjorie Kennedy confirmed that the matter involved a "separately legislated process" that could be considered "concurrently or sequentially".

Under the plans, "Tower 1", designed by 3XN Architects, comprises 42,851sqm of commercial office space across 29 levels, while "Tower 2" by NH Architects includes 569 apartments, of which 81 will be affordable homes across 47 storeys.

The 53-storey Kerstin Thompson Architects-designed "Tower 3", which will sit at the corner of Franklin and Queen streets, proposes 1100 student residences managed by Scape and 229sqm of retail space at the ground floor.

The project also includes a 1.8-hectare public park to be known as Market Square, and the restoration of the existing heritage Franklin St Stores into a new retail village to complement the QVM offering.

A total of 387 parking spaces, including 200 for QVM customers, 20 for traders' vans, 87 for residents, and 80 for workers, will be included across Towers 1 and 2 to further offset the loss of parking due to the creation of Market Square.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that the development would make

positive contributions both to Melbourne and the QVM precinct, describing the architecture of the three towers as "extraordinary" and "stunning".



NH Architecture director Nick Bourns said all three tower designs had sought to provide "an important piece within the connective tissue of Melbourne" and would bring the city to "the edge of the market."

"[The towers] look at trying to extend the grain of the city to that edge and really activate and make sure that southern edge becomes a part of the vibrant city we all love," Mr Bourns said.

The Lord Mayor said that a major challenge for the redevelopment had been respecting the precinct's heritage to allow for "new and old" to come together. "[It's] probably one of the biggest examples we've seen of major new projects interfacing in a complex heritage environment," Cr Reece said.



But Kerstin Thompson, the architect behind Tower 3, said she saw the project as a wonderful example of how the mixture of new and old made cities much more vibrant by bringing heritage to life.

"There's no such thing as good heritage when it's dead heritage," Ms Thompson said. "This is going to bring a whole lot of activation ... and add to that [heritage] with the new buildings."

The project still awaits the outcome of the federal heritage review, which is a requirement for any National Heritage place that is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

As reported in June by *CBD News*, a spokesperson from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water said, "Any action that is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance, such as National Heritage places, must be assessed and approved under national environment law before it can proceed."

Despite Heritage Victoria's approval and endorsement by the City of Melbourne, which is a 100 per cent shareholder of QVM Pty

Ltd, many traders and residents remain opposed to the council's market renewal program.

At the time of publishing, more than 3000 people had signed a petition to "Save Queen Victoria Market", calling on the council to ensure its renewal protected the market's "viability as Melbourne's traditional, fresh food and general merchandise market".

Mary-Lou Howie said that current plans for the Southern Site would constrain and downgrade the market's traditional historic function as a low-cost public market, and adversely impact traders. ●

## City of Melbourne bans share hire e-scooters from the CBD

The City of Melbourne has walked back on its contracts with e-scooter share hire providers Lime and Neuron, citing community safety concerns.

WORDS BY  
SABRINA CAIRES

At the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on August 13, a report from council management had recommended any longer-term procurement be deferred until the effectiveness of new Victorian Government regulations was proven.

In July, Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams announced

the introduction of tougher rules to improve safety alongside Lord Mayor Nick Reece, proclaiming e-scooters "were here to stay".

"We know there have been safety concerns, and that's why we have thoroughly assessed their use and are introducing some of the toughest new laws in the country to make e-scooters safer," Minister Williams said.

"They've proven popular among commuters, especially shift workers, providing an additional option to travel home safely."

However, the Lord Mayor would ultimately introduce an alternative motion, which was leaked to the media the day before the August 13 meeting, that instead called for a complete ban of shared e-scooters from the municipality.

Councillors voted six to four in favour of the motion, which gave providers five days'

notice, after which they will have 30 days to cease operations and remove all 1500 e-scooters from the City of Melbourne.

The controversial surprise proposal to ban hire e-scooters on the eve of the council meeting drew a significant number of submissions from right across the community, with many turning up to speak for and against.

In a press conference on August 14, Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that while there were "good arguments on both sides," the concern for community safety prevailed.

"We heard from shop traders in the city, we heard from residents, we heard from the head of the emergency department at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, we heard from a blind lady. They told us that the city's footpaths have not been safe," Cr Reece said.

"They told us that the e-scooter trial has

not worked and there are just too many people breaking the rules, people not wearing helmets, double-dinking, riding on footpaths, creating a hazard for people around the city."

The council meeting heard more than 600 submissions, including from the head of emergency medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Mark Putland, who said that up to 40 patients were presenting to the department each month with injuries from e-scooter accidents.

Cr Reece said that the city's bike share services would continue.

"The fact is, we haven't seen the problems with the share bikes that we've seen with the e-scooters," he said. "We don't see the lawlessness with the bikes. I, for one, am pleased to see those share bikes continuing in Melbourne." ●

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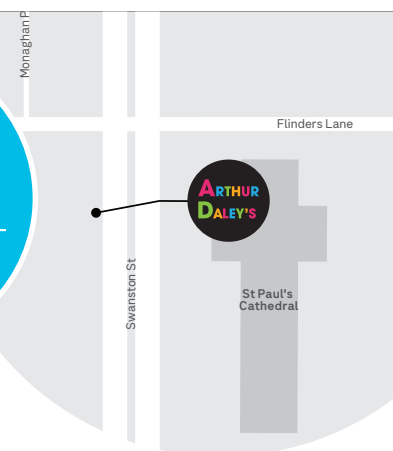
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# City of Melbourne elections: where things are at

We've learned plenty more during this past month about the makeup of the field competing for Melbourne Town Hall at October's City of Melbourne elections. Here's a snapshot ...

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



## The two front runners

Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece wasted little time after being sworn in during July to announce his bid for the city's top job, announcing a campaign underpinned by a pledge to "get good done".

This was followed by announcing Liberal Party member and current councillor Roshena Campbell as his deputy. While the identities of who will be making up the Team Reece councillor ticket remained unconfirmed at the time of publishing, it's understood long-term Cr Kevin Louey will be given the number one spot, meaning a likely fifth consecutive term on council – 20 years to be precise.

As for Cr Reece's main opponent, former Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, who served alongside Reece as a fellow Team Doyle councillor during the 2016 election campaign, also announced his candidacy for Lord Mayor in late July.

And on August 11, Mr Wood announced his running partner as swimwear entrepreneur Erin Deering, who despite being new to politics is understood to have a "unique ability to innovate and lead on a global scale."

Cr Reece's campaign has so far included promises of lighting up Melbourne's laneways, a "Melbourne 3000 board", free swimming lessons for beginners and "Australia's largest ever renewable power purchasing plan".

Mr Wood meanwhile has sworn to implement a zero per cent rate freeze, cut the cost of annual parking permits, establish a comprehensive program to tackle graffiti and make Melbourne Australia's "Christmas Capital".

## The smokey

Announcing their candidacy here in North Melbourne in early August was current independent councillor Jamal

Hakim, who has proven to be an impactful contributor during his first term.

Cr Hakim has made a habit of engaging with all corners of the community and he said Team Hakim would "shape a future for Melbourne that prioritises people, not politics", pledging a "democratic, welcoming and flourishing city" on his watch.

While the weight of the City of Melbourne's gerrymander, where businesses are each given two votes to residents' one, will present a challenge for Team Hakim, preferences will prove the key in who ends up in the Lord Mayoral robes.

Given the number of teams expected to make up this year's field, depending how preferences flow (particularly the more progressive tickets) don't be shocked if Cr Hakim emerges as a front runner come October.

## The rest

The Greens have announced Roxane Ingleton and Marley McRae McLeod as their Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor candidates, however most of the interest is with who runs in the party's first two councillor positions.

The Greens have historically contributed two councillors to the City of Melbourne, and those will most likely be taken by current Cr Dr Olivia Ball, and newcomer in West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian. Three-term councillor and Kensington resident Rohan Leppert won't be recontesting in October.

The Labor Party also announced its ticket in Kensington on August 10, headed up again by Lord Mayor candidate and East Melbourne resident Phil Reed. But again, expect Cr Davydd Griffiths to be returned to council at the number one spot on the councillor ticket.

While the Greens have notoriously been the kingmakers at recent City of Melbourne elections, it will be interesting to see who Labor chooses to preference after Cr Nicholas Reece (a Labor member running as an independent) selected Liberal Cr Roshena Campbell as his running mate – a move which hasn't been well received by either Labor or Liberal.

More interestingly, the Liberal Party is endorsing a City of Melbourne council team for the first time ever, and it's understood East Melbourne resident and former federal candidate for Macnamara Owen Guest will fill the number one councillor spot.

That leaves pollster Gary Morgan, who has run for Lord Mayor at the past several



Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece  
and Cr Roshena Campbell



Arron Wood  
and Erin Deering



Cr Jamal Hakim



Phil Reed

elections and is largely there to try and get a councillor elected (rumours are this is West Melbourne resident Mary Masters) and provide preferences to his preferred Lord Mayoral candidate. Last time around, that was Sally Capp.

As always, there have also been discussions swirling around about a resident-led ticket, and former Carlton football great Anthony Koutafides has announced he will run for Lord Mayor, with former federal Liberal MP Gladys Liu taking the number one spot on his ticket.

While some reports have linked Team Kouta with the Liberal Party, others have speculated that it could be, in fact, a feeder ticket for Cr Reece – a mad Carlton fan who only recently posted a selfie taken with Mr Koutafides at the MCG.

As for the remaining councillors who

haven't declared their intentions publicly, Cr Phil Le Liu is understood to be running on Arron Wood's ticket, while Cr Elizabeth Doidge earned her place in 2020 on a predominantly CFMEU-backed ticket. For obvious reasons, it appears her return to council would seem unlikely.

That leave Cr Jason Chang, who earned his spot on Arron Wood's 2020 ticket, and has been a part-time contributor on council due to the constraints of running his business Calia, which went into receivership earlier this year. He confirmed on August 13 that this term would be his last.

As per previous elections, Hyperlocal News (publisher of CBD News) will host a donations register on its website inviting all candidates to declare their donations during the campaign. ●

## Nick Reece for Melbourne Mayor



Melbourne is the best and fairest city in the world – and I've got a plan to make it even better. I want to make our neighbourhoods greener, our streets cleaner, our events bigger, and our city safer.

I want to deliver better community services and quality housing that's affordable, while protecting our heritage suburbs.

I want to make Melbourne an economic powerhouse, from headquarters to startups, making it easier to do business, supporting our traders and hospitality industry – the beating heart of our city.

I've got a strong track record as a City of Melbourne Councillor – and as Lord Mayor, I will be someone who Gets Good Done.

I'd love your support! Nick [nickformelbourne.com.au](http://nickformelbourne.com.au)

Authorised by Nicholas Reece, PO Box 1163, Carlton 3053.





# Stand for Council

## Become a candidate in the Melbourne City Council elections



**In October 2024, we will hold two elections – one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor – and the other to elect the nine councillors.**

We encourage people from all backgrounds and experiences, who reflect the rich diversity of the City of Melbourne community, to nominate as a candidate. You have from 9am on Monday 9 September until noon on Tuesday 17 September to submit your nomination to become a candidate in the Melbourne City Council elections.

More information about candidate nominations can be found at [elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au/standing-as-a-candidate](https://elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au/standing-as-a-candidate)

### Election timeline and important dates:

<b>9 September</b>	Nominations open at 9am
<b>17 September</b>	Nominations close at 12 noon
<b>19 September</b>	Team name (for Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor teams) and group registrations (for Councillors), close at 12 noon, ballot draw at 3pm
<b>23 September</b>	Statements, questionnaires, group voting tickets and indication of preferences close at 12 noon
<b>7 October</b>	Ballot pack mailout begins
<b>25 October</b>	Voting closes at 6pm
<b>1 November</b>	All postal votes must be received by 12 noon
<b>15 November</b>	All election results declared



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## A look to Postcode 3000: Jamal Hakim announces Esther Anatolitis as deputy

Lord Mayoral hopeful Jamal Hakim has revealed his running mate for Town Hall as renowned writer and CBD resident Esther Anatolitis, who has stressed the importance of “Postcode 3000” in shaping the area’s future.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



A “democratic, welcoming and flourishing city” is the vision current Cr Jamal Hakim is striving for after announcing his candidacy for Lord Mayor on August 2 ahead of October’s City of Melbourne elections.

Celebrating the city’s diversity is at the heart of the former Midsumma Festival board member’s campaign for Town Hall, and he has pledged that Team Hakim would “shape a future for Melbourne that prioritises people, not politics”.

It’s a narrative that strongly resonates with Esther Anatolitis, who is considered one of Australia’s most influential advocates for arts, media and urban planning, and has joined Team Hakim as its candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor.

A long-time contributor to the Greek community, if elected, Ms Anatolitis will make history as the first Greek-Australian Deputy Lord Mayor of the largest Hellenic city outside of Greece.

*Neos Kosmos*, for which she has also written, featured Ms Anatolitis among the 50 most prominent Greek Australians of the time in its 50th anniversary magazine, and when one glances at her CV, it’s easy to understand why ...

Ms Anatolitis’s leadership career in arts, media and urban planning began in ethnic broadcasting when she ran the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council, and later worked at SBS Radio Melbourne.

Within the City of Melbourne, she has been CEO of Express Media, the Emerging Writers Festival (of which she was a founder), Craft Victoria, SYN Media 90.7FM, Regional Arts Victoria, and Melbourne Fringe.

She has been an *AFR 100 Women of Influence* finalist and has worked on cultural precincts and master planning all over

Australia, and was inaugural deputy chair of Contemporary Arts Precincts, the social enterprise behind Collingwood Yards.

Ms Anatolitis has also worked with local governments, including the City of Melbourne, on arts precinct and urban planning projects, and is a prolific writer, commentator and editor who has written several books.

She has served numerous government policy committees and arts boards, including ACMI, Regional Arts Australia, and the Arts Industry Council of Victoria, and is currently a member of the governing council of the National Gallery of Australia, co-chair of the Australian Republic Movement, and an associate professor at RMIT School of Art.

As a “passionate advocate of Australian multiculturalism” who speaks several languages, she has advised both the Hellenic Museum and the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria, where she has served the board of the Antipodes Festival.

She is also a proud member of Melbourne’s queer and disability communities,

living with a rare brain condition similar to epilepsy on the migraine spectrum.

With many others having approached Ms Anatolitis to run for the City of Melbourne in the past, Cr Hakim said he was thrilled she had accepted to join his team as someone who “understands quintessential Melbourne”.

Ms Anatolitis told *CBD News* that Team Hakim’s message for a democratic, welcoming and flourishing city was something she wanted to be part of.

“I’m someone who lives, works and loves Melbourne. I’ve been here for more than 20 years, and I am no stranger to representative governance,” Ms Anatolitis said.

“The evolution of any city is kind of beautifully cyclical and that cycle grows and expands. Melbourne’s success is very much grounded on its multiculturalism.”

And it’s that very foundation that Ms Anatolitis said she hoped to build upon if elected through a new machination of the council’s highly successful Postcode 3000 policies of the 1990s.

“I would love to empower the council team to come up with ‘what is the future of Postcode 3000?’ It was an incredibly successful, impactful strategy from 20 years ago after the ‘90s recession,” she said.

“I love the strategic, innovative work that was done years ago such that we’ve now got a Melbourne with a beautiful urban forest, those laneways and small businesses and small galleries and so on, which are renowned internationally.”

“What is the future of postcode 3000? And we’re not just talking about residential in the next chapter – it’s got to be about how can we support artists, creative and community organisations to afford to do their important work within the municipality.”

“To use the old ‘placemaking’ term, I genuinely feel part of a city village and my neighbours are the people who actively want to keep making Melbourne a city village. It’s a city of many, many villages and I love that, and I’m so committed to strengthening that.” ●

## Design competition launched for QVM’s “Queens Corner Building”

The City of Melbourne will invite designers from across the country to reimagine both Queen Victoria Market’s Queens Corner Building and Southbank’s “red stairs” as part of a “design competition”.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The first design competition projects, part of the council’s “Design Excellence Program”, were unanimously supported by councillors at the August 13 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

The yet-to-be-built Queens Corner Building is set to become a significant civic facility as part of the Queen Victoria Market precinct redevelopment – located directly across from the new Market Square.

The new building has been envisaged to provide a new creative, community hub incorporating a visitor centre and essential amenities, as well as supporting the ac-

tivation of the square and market.

Meanwhile, a makeover of the “red stairs” at Southbank’s Queensbridge Square has also been proposed following strong community feedback to transform the ageing landmark.

This round of projects is the first to be run under the council’s new design competition guidelines,

which were adopted in 2023, and will be open to Australian and international designers – with 60 per cent of shortlisted teams to be local, emerging or small design practices.

The council’s chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert said design competitions had proven to “lift the quality of a city’s buildings and places – encouraging new ideas

while supporting the diversity of designers throughout the industry”.

“We want to harness the incredible design talent and expertise in our own backyard. What better way to do that than by subjecting major public projects to design competitions,” Cr Leppert said.

With such competitions having shaped some of the world’s most

iconic landmarks – from the Eiffel Tower to the Sydney Opera House and Melbourne’s own Fed Square, Lord Mayor Nick Reece shared his enthusiasm for the initiative.

“We’re another step closer to our first design competition in a generation – with a proposal to transform two prominent sites with enormous potential,” Cr Reece said.

“We know the red stairs are tired and in need of an overhaul. There’s a huge opportunity here to create a modern meeting place for Melburnians. A location that’s as well-known as ‘under the clocks’ at Flinders Street Station.”

The winning designs will either proceed to commission or receive a monetary prize – with a potential \$25,000 prize for the “red stairs”, and \$35,000 for the more complex Queens Corner Building, subject to the competition scope.

The competition would run for four to eight weeks in 2025, and include an open expression of interest, select requests for proposal and a final shortlisted interview. Construction of the winning designs would be subject to a draft concept endorsement from the council and community engagement. ●





## Council erects pop-up park at Kilkenny Inn site

The City of Melbourne has opened a temporary park at the former Kilkenny Inn site in the CBD.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



While the park may only be temporary, it technically marks the first new park in the CBD since 2021, following the opening of Market Square in November 2021.

The council endorsed plans for a 21-storey office tower on the former Kilkenny Inn site at the corner of Lonsdale and King streets in May 2021. Following approval from the state government, the site was left dormant for some time and the council identified

an opportunity to work with the developer to activate it until construction begins.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said that while the park was only temporary, it was a “stellar example of how we can work with developers to navigate the tricky and complex uncertainty of delivering major projects”.

“This is an outcome that delivers positive results for everyone,” Cr Reece said.

“We know people love green, open space, especially in the middle of the city. We’re pleased we’ve been able to work with the developers transforming the former Kilkenny Inn – to bring some life to the dormant site while construction timelines are finalised.”

The council’s planning portfolio lead Cr Rohan Leppert added that as “the residential population of

the CBD continues to grow quickly ... we’re delighted to be able to take these opportunities when they arise.”

The City of Melbourne said it regularly worked with developers to activate sites awaiting construction.

This is managed through the initial approval process, requiring temporary activation of the land if there are any construction delays and the site is to remain vacant for six months.

Council officers worked with the developer and approved plans for a temporary park to activate the space in April 2024.

The park, which opened to the public on Monday, August 12, includes instant turf and gravel, useable spaces, potted small and medium size trees, and park furniture including picnic tables and bench seating. ●

## Greens reveal housing policy for the City of Melbourne

The Greens are pushing for an “abundance of affordable homes” in the City of Melbourne as the central policy initiative of its election campaign for Town Hall.

WORDS BY SEAN CAR



A “fairer, greener Melbourne” is the message the Greens are urging Melburnians to get behind as the party pledges to do everything it can to shift the needle on providing desperately needed affordable homes in the city.

Launching their campaign in Carlton on August 18, the Greens’ 2024 bid for Melbourne will be led by Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor candidates, North Melbourne resident Roxane Ingleton and CBD resident and mental health peer support worker Marley McRae McLeod.

While the City of Melbourne’s electoral gerrymander, where businesses are given two votes to residents’ one, makes it near impossible for a Greens Lord Mayor to be elected, the party has historically contributed two councillors to Town Hall.

As previously reported by CBD News, the number one and two spots on the Greens’ councillor ticket will be taken by current Cr Dr Olivia Ball, and newcomer West Melbourne resident Karl Hessian.

Current Cr Rohan Leppert, who has served three consecutive terms over 12 years at the City of Melbourne for the Greens, won’t be recontesting at the elections in October.

Speaking at the party’s campaign launch, Roxane Ingleton, a registered midwife at



the Royal Women’s Hospital, said she was running for Lord Mayor because she believed in a more “affordable, sustainable and healthy city”.

Having lived and worked in Melbourne for much of her life, she said she was passionate about creating connected communities and “fighting for compassionate treatment of the most vulnerable among us”.

“I live and breathe Melbourne,” Ms Ingleton said. “My work sees me interacting with and caring for our local community members from all walks of life, often during the most sensitive and transformative time of their lives.”

She added that much of her work was about “championing fairness and equality, both in the workplace among my colleagues, in our health system and in our broader communities”.

Speaking with CBD News ahead of the party’s campaign launch, she said the issue of housing went to heart of this message, and that the Greens were the only team with a plan to do something about it in Melbourne.

With opportunities for a greater number of affordable homes in urban renewal areas like Arden, Ms Ingleton said the Greens would continue pressuring the government to go harder.

“The pandemic, recession and ongoing cost of living crisis has exposed unreliable, insecure work as well as soaring housing prices across the city. I know what it means to be an essential worker that struggles to affordably live near my work,” she said.

“Rental affordability and housing diversity are in a dire state. We need abundant housing supply, and we need to do it well.

We need quality and affordable homes to support healthy communities, and we need our services, infrastructure and green open space to keep pace with growth.”

“As Lord Mayor I will fight for quality, energy efficient affordable housing close to where people work. The plan I announce today will build a more affordable and more sustainable city.”

Sharing its housing policy exclusively with CBD News, the Greens plan to:

- Meet and beat the Victorian Government’s draft Housing Target for the City of Melbourne through a municipal planning strategy.
- Expand Homes Melbourne to build 300 new below market rental homes for key workers on Council-controlled land in the next term of council and manage private affordable housing contributions.
- Advocate fiercely for inclusionary zoning, including mandatory 30 per cent affordable homes in urban renewal areas.
- Hold the state to account in its promise for affordable homes in Arden, an obvious location for new higher density public housing.
- Position Power Melbourne 2.0 to offer affordable renewable energy for residents, whether owners or renters, at scale.
- Retain the Victorian-best pensioner rates concession and Victorian-best rates hardship policy.

Joining Cr Dr Olivia Ball and Karl Hessian on the Greens councillor ticket at the number three and four spots, respectively, are Parkville resident and allied health worker Aaron Moon, and North Melbourne public housing resident and youth leader Barry Berih. ●

Proudly representing the community in Melbourne’s CBD

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





# A medical service for people experiencing homelessness is coming to Melbourne

“

A new medical service that provides free healthcare to people experiencing homelessness will be established in the CBD in September.

”

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



Street Side Medics (SSM) is a weekly service that functions as a mobile general practice. Vans are retrofitted with medical equipment and provide a range of medical services on a weekly basis in areas with demographically high concentrations of homelessness.

It was founded by Dr Daniel Nour in 2020, and it has since supported thousands of patients across NSW. The clinic in Melbourne's CBD will be the first in Victoria.

Dr Nour, who was named Australian of the Year in 2022, told *CBD News* that bringing the service to Melbourne has been on his mind for some time due to the prevalence of homelessness in the CBD.

According to the last Census, 30,660 Victorians were experiencing some form of homelessness, with Melbourne's inner-city notable for a higher proportion of people experiencing rough sleeping and living in improvised dwellings.

The clinic will be located in front of the The Salvation Army's Melbourne Project 614 site alongside their evening Twilight Cafe service.

The clinic will open on September 5 and will run at this same location each week from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, providing a range of general practice services. Bulk billing is also available.

However, for those without Medicare or experiencing any other limitations, SSM has a no-turn-away policy and attends to all patients free of charge.

"You don't need anything. All we need is

a name and we create a patient record and then we go from there," Dr Nour told *CBD News*.

The services include but are not limited to immunisations, pathology services, health examinations, diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions, screening tests and referrals to appropriate medical specialists.

"By providing our walk-in service at the same location weekly, our aim is to not only improve the catchment of patients but also, to build rapport with them as we attend to their healthcare concerns," Dr Nour said.

Now with more than 600 volunteers and multiple customised vans, SSM also works in partnership with partner organisations to provide people experiencing homelessness with numerous essential services such as food and laundry.

But despite the organisation's interstate growth, its path to success was laden with adversity, with Dr Nour told repeatedly that it was destined for failure.

During his final year as a medical student living in Central London at the age of 24, Dr Nour came up with the idea for Street Side Medics after he provided first aid to a man having a seizure.

Once the paramedics arrived, he spoke with the man's friends who said that he had been having seizures for many months.

However, when Dr Nour asked whether he had been to see a neurologist or GP, to which they laughed at the suggestion of seeking help.

After learning of the struggles homeless people in England had accessing healthcare, Dr Nour researched Australia's

healthcare system and was dumbfounded to find out that despite being one of the best in the world it was fraught with accessibility issues.

"There are a number of significant and challenging barriers that limit access to healthcare for people experiencing homelessness," Dr Nour said.

"We've found the barriers to accessing services by the homeless include lack of awareness of available services, prohibitive costs, lack of transport, the level of documentation required, stigma and embarrassment, previous negative experiences and distrust."

But thanks to Dr Nour's efforts, these barriers have been reduced, and with 12 clinics across New South Wales and Melbourne's first SSM clinic opening in September, the young doctor's dream of providing the service nationally is etching closer to reality.

In addition to the mobile clinics, SSM also has a research and education division.

The research division is led by a specialised nurse focussed on collecting data on the plight of Australians experiencing homelessness specific to their access to primary healthcare.

The education division meanwhile aims to shape the way future generations see homelessness by working with primary schools and high schools as well as tertiary teaching facilities.

Dr Nour said he was also pleased to announce SSM was developing a training division, which will identify suitable candidates who are experiencing homelessness for training and potential employment. ●



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## JOINING THE DOTS AROUND MELBOURNE FOR RIDERS

More and more people are using bikes to move around, and with Melbourne set to become the biggest capital city by 2030, it's crucial that workers, students, residents and visitors feel confident getting from A to B.

To accommodate these new road users, we need to deliver high-quality bike lanes in the right locations.

Through City of Melbourne's refreshed bike lane program, we're joining the dots in our network - installing more durable infrastructure with protected spaces for bikes and private scooters improving footpaths and planting more trees.

We've seen a huge uptake in riding since we started installing more bike lanes in 2020 - with 22 per cent more rides on these routes, and a massive 83 per cent drop in riders feeling unsafe. We're also seeing 34 per cent of rides by women and girls in these lanes, as they feel more safe travelling on these routes.

### SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE NEW RIDING LANES

#### Exhibition Street

The separated bike lanes we delivered on Exhibition Street in 2021 are receiving a spruce up with new bluestone islands and raised sections in front of the theatres.

This route is perfect for those going to a late-night comedy gig, belting their heart out to a favourite musical or even dipping their toes into city-riding for the first time.



Swanston Street / Elgin Street

#### Grattan Street

To support the thousands of university students, hospital workers and inner-north residents who ride through Carlton every day, we've delivered protected bike lanes on Grattan Street.

They connect to the bike lanes between Bouverie Street and Royal Parade which were delivered by the Victorian Government, and popular riding routes along Rathdowne and Swanston streets.

#### Arden Street

We've kicked off construction to deliver protected bike lanes - mean riders and drivers can move around the city safely, providing a safer and better-connected riding network in North Melbourne.

The improved route will join the dots between the Abbotsford Street lanes and Capital City Trail, and provide a smoother journey for riders when Metro Tunnel's new Arden Station opens in 2025.

#### Queensberry Street

With Grattan Street now fully open to road users and pedestrians, we're proposing to reinstate Queensberry Street to one traffic lane in each direction and deliver safer, greener bike lanes.

We consulted with the community on the draft design plan in July and August 2024 - to stay up to date with this project, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/queensberry-street-riding-lanes](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/queensberry-street-riding-lanes)



New bike lanes mean riders and drivers can move around the city safely

#### What's coming up?

Over the next year, we're prioritising bike lanes that join the dots between the inner suburbs and the city - keeping Melburnians connected.

With major transport works underway such as the Metro Tunnel Project and essential tram track upgrades, we've made our bike lane program flexible so that we're not adding any more delays to your trip.

Keep up-to-date at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/new-bike-lanes](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/new-bike-lanes)



New bike lanes on Rathdowne Street

### NEW WEBSITE MAKES IT EASIER TO CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

Connecting with the City of Melbourne just got easier with the launch of our new website.

Whether you live in, work in or visit the city, you can easily access the information you need about our facilities and services in a simpler, easier way.

Our new website - [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au) - is designed to improve access to the most popular information, including paying rates, applying for permits, booking hard waste collection or pet registration.

Features of the site include:

#### PAY, REPORT, REQUEST

Interact with us more efficiently online with forms, tools and information for the most common council services in one place.

#### TRANSLATION

The site can be simply translated into 16 languages at the click of a button, to better meet the needs of our community.

#### INTUITIVE NAVIGATION

Our contemporary, user-friendly design prioritises accessibility, making it easier to explore the site.

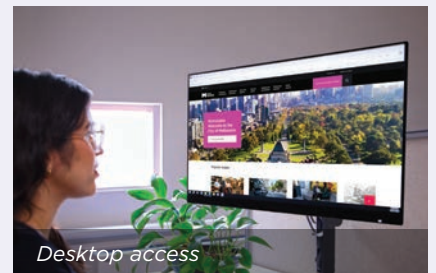
#### MELBOURNE NEWS

Read the latest news from the City of Melbourne. Keep up-to-date with city-shaping projects, epic events and ways to connect with your community.

#### IMPROVED SEARCH

Our fast and accurate search function allows you to filter by keyword from any page on the site.

The new website is a central part of our digital transformation. The new design provides a consistent and accessible browsing experience for everyone, whether you're on a desktop computer or a mobile device.



Desktop access

For any queries about our new website or if you can't find what you're looking for, contact our **Customer Service team on 9658 9658** or submit your query to us online at [melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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## A LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Be a change-maker within your community by developing skills to help you host events and run projects to improve your neighbourhood.

**Do you want to support connection within your community and motivate others to participate but not sure how? Why not apply to be a neighbourhood volunteer and learn how to support change in your area.**

City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Volunteer Program is now open for applications from passionate people with a connection to our neighbourhoods.

The pilot learning program will run over eight months, with 24 volunteers chosen for their connection to the CBD, Docklands, Carlton or Southbank in this first phase.

During the bespoke training program, volunteers will take part in professional development opportunities, gain hands-on experience in leading and

delivering community projects, learn about community engagement, and take guided tours of council buildings and facilities. This learning period will be followed by 12 months of casual volunteering work.

With weekly sessions, you will learn about council processes and receive funding to run your own community project. You'll also get the

opportunity to learn from experienced City of Melbourne staff and write a blog post for our Neighbourhood Portals.

This is a great opportunity to boost your connection with the community and make friends who have shared interests.

The program is open to people who have a connection to CBD, Docklands, Carlton or Southbank and are passionate and curious about the community. Priority will be given to people who are under the age of 30, people with a disability, people from multicultural backgrounds, or from the LGBTQIA+ community.

Participants will be expected to commit between two to six hours of their time each week during the program. Expressions of interest close at 5pm on Monday 16 September.

Find out more and apply at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods/volunteer-program](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods/volunteer-program)



# Discover your Neighbourhood Portal



Access community grants, find local news and events in the CBD, and learn about community-building programs at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/cbd](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/cbd)



## 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](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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## Don't lose ur head: Six the musical is back in Melbourne

Smash hit musical *Six* is back holding court at the Comedy Theatre.

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN



A new Australian cast take on the pop musical's formidable score, telling the story of the six wives of Tudor King Henry VIII through the eyes of his famous exes.

*Six* made a roaring comeback after its first performance dates were cancelled in 2020 by the COVID pandemic.

It played to packed houses in Australia's capitals from 2021 through 2023, and returns to the Comedy Theatre by popular demand ahead of a second national tour.

"*Six* has seen incredible anticipation and demand from fans, which was a major force to bring the global phenomenal back to our stages," producer Louise Withers said.

*Six* debuted at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2017 and has since become the little musical that could.

Nine productions are currently under way globally, including on Broadway and in the West End.

The new Melbourne production has opened to rave reviews.

Creators Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss wrote the show while students at Cambridge University.

Taking the history of the famous Tudor wives, they styled the show like a pop concert, using the Beyonce video album *Live at Roseland: Elements of 4* as inspiration.

The new cast of queens includes Kimberley Hodgson as Catherine of Aragon, Deidre Khoo as Anne Boleyn, Loren Hunter as Jane Seymour, Zelia Rose Kitoko as Anne of Cleves, Chelsea Dawson as Katherine Howard, and Giorgia Kennedy as Catherine Parr.

Music theatre legend Sharon Millerchip again is the company's associate director.

*Six* runs for 80 minutes over one act. The musical is playing at the Comedy theatre now through to October 20 before transferring to Sydney. ●

## Melbourne Fringe Festival throws Long Prawn on the BBQ

It's a public barbecue, but not as you know it. The amphitheatre at Federation Square is about to get *COOKED*.

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN



An architecturally-designed hot plate stage will take up residence in the riverside space for the length of the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Local culinary artists Long Prawn will be on hand to entice artists around the working barbecue with grilled food, some edible, some artistic.

Free food will be available hourly during *COOKED*'s free drop-in daytime program.

In an Instagram post unveiling the new series of events to fans, Long Prawn said *COOKED* had been two years in the making.

"The program folds together various saucy elements; hot design, bratty bratwursts, a spoonful of collaborators, chefs we crush on, food we adore [and] artists [who] make us blush," the culinary collaborative said.

In the evenings, the amphitheatre will transform for *Cooked: Hot Nights*, featuring live music, performance and snacks. *Hot*



*Nights* will kick off with *Seasoning the Grill*, a free First Nations grill up and smoke out. The First Nations-led performance will feature dance, DJs, art and "mad feeds".

The bespoke grill space has been designed by Melbourne-based Mikhail Savin Roderick Projects, with interiors by Mike Hewson. *COOKED* will be open October 1 through October 20.

A full calendar of events around the BBQ is available at [melbournefringe.com.au](http://melbournefringe.com.au). ●

## Reimagining Birrarung: new exhibition imagines river's bold potential future

A new exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria is set to offer an ambitious, futuristic vision of the Yarra / Birrarung River.

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN



*Reimagining Birrarung: Design Concepts for 2070* considers the future of the city's famous river over the next six decades.

Designers were asked to use emergent technology, science and First Nations knowledge systems to create concepts for the future use of the river and its lands.

Rich images from contributors offer glimpses of expansive native parklands, robotic drones monitoring wildlife health and safety, and aquaculture in historic riverside buildings.

"Through the presentation of thought-provoking and real-world possibilities, the exhibition asks audiences to consider what we want for the future of Birrarung, as well as what this river, as a living entity, wants for itself," NGV director Tony Ellwood said.

Eight of Australia's leading architectural and design firms have contributed, using animation, 3D models, interactive maps, multimedia, renders and illustrations to display different sites along the river corridor

from the Yarra Ranges to Port Phillip as they could be by 2070.

The project has been guided by Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Elders in collaboration with the state government's Birrarung Council.

"We're incredibly proud to sponsor this important exhibition that will offer Victorians a thought-provoking experience and immersive vision for the future of the Birrarung," Victorian Minister for Water Harriet Shing said.

Contributing design firms include Aspect Studios, Bush Projects, McGregor Coxall, Office, Openwork, Realm Studios, SBLA and TCL.

*Reimagining Birrarung* will be on display at The Ian Potter Centre in Federation Square from August 23 to February 2. Entry is free. ●



## Craft Victoria presents *Luminosity*

The work of four distinctive Australian artists is on display at Craft Victoria in a new exhibition titled *Luminosity*.

WORDS BY  
DAVID ALLEN



The small but lustrous collection explores the interactive qualities of light through different materials.

Artists Simone Tops, Anastasia La Fey, Liam Fleming and Jenna Lee provided pieces for the collection, crafted with materials including kangaroo vellum, silk, mould blown glass, Japanese paper, and fibreglass.

"The four exhibiting artists work in different mediums and unite in this exhibition to explore how their work interacts with light," a Craft Victoria spokesperson said.

"Respectively, the artists specialise in the mediums of textiles, glass, paper and metal." *Luminosity* launched at a special event on August 15.

Craft Victoria is in Watson's Place off Flinders Lane in the CBD. *Luminosity* will be on display until September 21. ●



# Flinders Lane's last tailoring workshop moves out

“The final tailoring workshop on the street that was historically the centre of Melbourne's rag trade is moving to Carlton following CBD rent hikes and post-COVID business challenges.”

WORDS BY  
SABRINA CAIRES



When Andy Cossar opened Houndstooth Tailors at 333 Flinders Lane in 2019, he knew he was moving into a workshop stratified with Melbourne's clothing history.

The workshop has passed through six generations of ownership and has been in operation since 1905.

Flinders Lane was a hub of the textiles industry throughout the 20th century; a one-stop-shop full of haberdashers, tailors, belt-makers and other clothing manufacturers who lined the street.

The workshop that has now become Houndstooth was able to survive the decline of the rag trade throughout the 1960s and '70s because it was heavily focused on government work, including the manufacturing of Victoria Police uniforms and ceremonial garments.

The workshop started solely as a manufacturer, then began doing alterations, and then started producing bespoke suits when Mr Cossar bought the business.

“It's a sad thing that this workshop is going to move,” Mr Cossar told *CBD News*. “I remember coming in here when I first started selling suits, and I remember asking the tailors, would they teach me to sew? And one of them was like, no, you go learn first, and then you can come in here.”

“From that, I went from selling suits to then doing sewing classes on a Saturday morning. I remember a friend of mine saying, you know, ‘Why are you doing this?’ I said, ‘If I don't do it, who will?’ It's a dying trade.”

Before the pandemic, the vast majority of Houndstooth's clientele were corporate workers.

Mr Cossar said he could count on one hand the number of wedding suits Houndstooth had made back then.

But since lockdowns, many corporate clients have continued to work from home for all or most of the week.

As a result, 60 per cent of Houndstooth's business now comes from weddings and 40 per cent from corporate.

A handful of other tailors making bespoke suits still exist in other areas of the CBD, but Hound-



CBD LOCAL

stooth is the only tailor that also manufactures the suits onsite.

The business's Flinders Lane lease is up in January, and Mr Cossar is currently preparing to sign the lease for the new shop.

He's hoping to keep Houndstooth's showroom in the city, even though the workshop itself will be moving to Carlton.

He's looking forward to continu-

ing to do the thing he loves.

“Where we kind of differ is that we will do bespoke [garments]. Sometimes people will come in with the weirdest things,” he said. “We made an A-line skirt for a lady out of alligator leather that was meant to be for a couch. I was like ‘Yeah, we'll take it.’ Anything, with a needle and thread, we will have a go at.”

“Tailoring is a beautiful thing,”

Mr Cossar said. “What the tailors do here, turning flat fabric into a finished garment, is amazing.”

“When you see someone's face change when they've had something made for them, that's what drives me to keep doing my job. And I always warn [customers] it's a dangerous game once you get something made, because you won't go back.” ●

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# The magic of public conversation with an archbishop and a cartoonist

Anglican archbishop of Melbourne Reverend Dr Philip Freier has been holding public conversations at Federation Square for 18 years.

WORDS BY PENNY MULVEY



The first conversation, on the then controversial topic of stem cell research, took place at Fed Square's The Edge, on April 17, 2007, with guests Rev. Dr Gordon Preece and Professor Loane Skene.

A member of the faculty at the Melbourne Law School, Dr Skene had served on two major federal committees on human cloning and embryo research. Dr Preece continues to research issues around ethics and work.

Since that first conversation, in the year Rev. Dr Freier was installed as Archbishop, he has hosted more than 60 free conversations at Federation Square on topical matters impacting Melbourne and Victoria.

His conversation guests have included many public figures, such as Aboriginal elder Auntie Joy Murphy Wandin, Julian Burnside QC, actor Noni Hazelhurst, Rev. Tim Costello, former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, author John Marsden, 2010 Australian of the Year Professor Patrick McGorry,

RMIT associate professor Sharif As-Saber, lawyer and social activist Nyadol Nyuon, and former Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp. In 2007 Rev. Dr Freier discussed with 2006 Young Australian of the Year Trisha Broadbridge whether happiness was just a dream for Australians.

Trisha's husband, AFL footballer Troy Broadbridge, died in the 2004 Asian tsunami on their honeymoon. Trisha established the charitable Reach Broadbridge Fund as a way of managing her grief, and with the help of Troy's Melbourne Football Club teammates built the Broadbridge Education Centre on Thailand's Phi Phi Island.

IN 2008, the archbishop explored with actor Noni Hazelhurst and Julie Gale, campaigner against sexualisation of children, the topic of childhood wellbeing in a toxic society. Sadly, Julie died in 2018 after a five-year battle with breast cancer.

In 2009, three public figures, Tammie Fraser AO, Noelene Brown OAM and Bud Tingwell AM (1923-2009) talked with the archbishop about whether ageing was something to be feared.

A report produced by the Australian Parliament, titled *Boat arrivals in Australia since 1976*, reminds us of the political football so-called boat people became during the 1990s and 2000s.

Quoting from the report: "The 1990s through to the mid-2000s saw an increase in policies aimed at deterring asylum seekers from coming to Australia by boat



including the introduction of mandatory detention laws, the excision of external territories from the migration zone and off-shore processing for those arriving at such places and the introduction of temporary protection visas."

The archbishop's conversation on this topic in 2011 challenged the audience about how well our nation embraces the dispossessed. Titled, *Welcome stranger? Australia and refugees*, guests Abdul Karim, an Afghan refugee, youth worker, Jessie Taylor, lawyer and refugee advocate and Rowan Callick, Asia-Pacific editor of *The Australian*, joined the archbishop in a re-

flection about who we are as a nation and what is our response to the stranger.

Since 2007, the Anglican archbishop has invited the people of Melbourne to join these free conversations, to hear people with particular areas of expertise engage in robust conversations about significant matters of life and faith.

After 18 years of these public conversations, the very last will be held on October 2 between the archbishop and prophet, poet and cartoonist, Michael Leunig on the topic "Is our society allergic to God?"

All are welcome at Fed Square's The Edge for an 8.30am start. ●

# The City of Melbourne endorses plan to tackle homelessness

The City of Melbourne has endorsed a strategy that strives to prevent and end homelessness in Melbourne.

WORDS BY JON FLEETWOOD



Within the final Homelessness Strategy 2024-30, which councillors unanimously adopted at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on August 6, the council has vowed to make Melbourne a city where everyone has a home.

The mover of the motion, Greens Cr Dr Olivia Ball, said that homelessness is a regrettable feature of the city "due to decades of underinvestment".

According to the Cr Dr Ball, the strategy represented only one part of the council's response to that crisis and that the next step was for

the creation of a two-year costed action plan outlining how the strategy would be implemented.

The council said that through its strategy, it would advocate, partner and deliver initiatives to ensure people who were experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough, would have access to homelessness prevention, support and housing services.

A data snapshot created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the 2021 Census revealed that within the City of Melbourne, more than 1100 people experienced homelessness.

Aboriginal people make up five per cent of the city's homeless population, while young people aged 15 to 25 and women account for 15 and 25 per cent, respectively. The council said its plan would respond to the individual needs of those experiencing homelessness at a disproportionate rate.

Cr Jamal Hakim said that the strategy was an important reminder that housing was a human right and that the City of Melbourne was

committed to doing everything it could to ensure everyone had a roof over their head.

The council said that solving the complex problems of homelessness and housing shortages required a collaborative effort between all levels of government in Australia, the private sector, housing organisations and the broader community.

The Victorian Government's Big Housing Build includes a \$5.3 billion investment in more social and affordable housing, aiming to build 800,000 homes across the state over the next decade.

In collaboration with the state government, the federal government is currently developing a National Homelessness Plan that will set out a shared vision to inform future housing and homelessness policy in Australia.

It has also established the Housing Australia Future Fund and committed to investing \$10 billion into affordable and social housing projects.

With "collaboration" and "part-



nerships" a key priority of the council's strategy, the City of Melbourne will work with all tiers of government and relevant stakeholders throughout the implementation process.

"The strategy must be built on simple but powerful beliefs and strategies and actions that everyone who chooses to be housed should be housed, so that no-one is left behind," Cr Hakim said. ●

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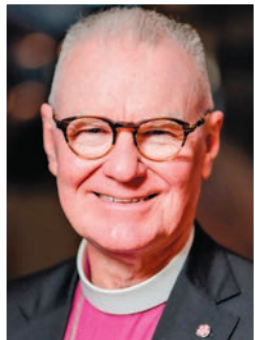
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## Is our society allergic to God?

Why are we reluctant to discuss spiritual matters?



Join cartoonist **Michael Leunig** in conversation with Anglican **Archbishop Philip Freier** at The Edge, Federation Square, **Wednesday 2 October**, 8.30am-10am. *This is a free event.*





## Council calls for a “civic celebration” for Olympians

Lord Mayor Nick Reece has led calls for the city to host a public welcome home event for Melbourne’s Olympians and Paralympians, however the state government has yet to confirm its support.

WORDS BY  
JON FLEETWOOD



Cr Reece raised the idea as part of a motion of “urgent business” at the August 6 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Despite some initial confusion among councillors as to the need to consider such a celebration as “urgent business”, the procedural motion was ultimately carried by enough councillors for the debate to proceed.

Cr Reece explained that the council had only been informed in “recent days” that the Australian Olympic Committee was working with state governments around the country to organise homecoming celebrations following the Paris Games.

He said the council needed to act “quickly” in order to “position” Melbourne and provide its officers with time to assess what options might be available in partnership with the state government.

The subsequent motion, committing the

City of Melbourne’s support for an event, “ideally in partnership with the Victorian Government”, was ultimately passed unanimously by councillors.

“Melbourne is Australia’s home of sport and it’s only fitting we host a homecoming event for our Olympians and Paralympians in the centre of the city,” Lord Mayor Nick Reece said.

Cr Reece said he’d like to see the city host a large event after the opportunity was lost for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics due to COVID, calling for “huge celebration” at Federation Square followed by a civic reception at Melbourne Town Hall.

The city most recently hosted such an event following the 2016 Rio Olympics, where Bourke Street Mall was shut down for a “street party” as fans turned out in their thousands to greet athletes.

The Lord Mayor said that there was a considerable number of ideas that could be investigated, however the council had yet to receive any confirmation from the state government on whether or not they would support it.

Cr Le Liu slammed the Victorian Government for not organising the event and said that it is an “absolute travesty” that the council needed to initiate it.

Cr Roshena Campbell said that she saw it as a great opportunity for the city.

“At a time where there can be a little bit too much that divides us, how good is it to have something that brings us all of us together, cheering on our Olympians has been such a great joy,” Cr Campbell said. ●



## Labor reveals its team for the City of Melbourne

The Labor Party has unveiled a five-person team and its theme for the upcoming City of Melbourne local government elections: “keeping local government local”.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



True to this mantra, the Labor team for Melbourne announced its campaign at Bellair Street Reserve in Kensington on August 10.

Labor is again being led by Lord Mayoral candidate and East Melbourne resident Phil Reed, who registered less than 10 per cent of first-preference votes when he headed up the party’s 2020 campaign.

The results were enough to elect first-term Cr Davydd Griffiths, who is again running in the number one spot on Labor’s councillor ticket and is largely expected to be returned for another term.

Labor will head to the election with a new candidate for Deputy Lord Mayor – Virginia Willis – a Kensington resident with a background in workplace relations, safety and employment rights, who currently lectures

at RMIT.

The remainder of the team, taking the number two and three positions on the councillor ticket are Somali Women’s Development Association operational manager Zainab Sheik, and Parkville resident and sustainability leader Michael Aleisi.

Mr Reed said City of Melbourne elections tended to turn into a battle of personalities instead of policies, and the focus needed to be reset on the needs of local residents and local ratepayers.

“The City of Melbourne has become one of the fastest growing municipalities in the nation, with population expected to double and reach more than 308,000 by 2041, and jobs forecast to increase by 41 per cent and reach more than 659,200,” Mr Reed said.

“That sort of growth requires a focus on the services and facilities we usually associate with municipalities of Melbourne’s urban fringe – childcare, parks, playgrounds, maternal and childhood health.”

“Labor understands the role local government plays in the delivery of these services, and we know that a unified and cohesive team is essential to creating a stable and effective administration that can deliver the commitments we make.”

Mr Reed said Labor’s full policy agenda would be released in early September. ●



## An update on the Victoria St garden

The small Drill Hall garden park between Therry and Victoria streets is a City of Melbourne accessibility project, originally advocated by local social housing residents in 2013.

WORDS BY  
DRILL HALL COMMUNITY  
GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Many had mobility challenges, who wanted a nearby place, where they could enjoy a bit of greenery and even develop a community garden. The council has now temporarily fenced it off due to anti-social and challenging behaviour among homeless people and others passing through.

The council, together with community volunteers, are now gradually repairing the damage and restoring the area.

After the fencing was erected, local residents and workers noticed the difference. The area is safer, quieter and tidier. Some residents even want it to remain closed. And the marginalised souls who occupied the garden, who were never safe even among themselves and, of course, will not be safe, until they are decently housed and receive the care they need? Well, they have moved on.

Nevertheless, they have rights. There must be a place again for them in the future; the garden has to be open to everyone, but how that can be successfully managed is still to be worked out. Many of the social housing residents have experienced homelessness themselves and despite the setbacks, retain empathy and tolerance for their former street mates. From the 19th century onward public space has always been seen as democratic space and that must include everyone.

The City of Melbourne, for heritage reasons, must remove the fence in October. To repeat: the task now is not to allow the area to revert to the previous situation, where despite constant efforts by the council’s compliance officers, supported by police, the garden remained a socially barren out-of-control area and no-go zone. This excluded its legitimate intended use as a healthy amenity for everyone, particularly for those with mobility and accessibility challenges – irrespective of whether they are homeless or not. Essentially, everyone, even those exhibiting anti-social behaviour etc., were excluded from the benefits of the garden.

One constant presence, despite the chaos of the past many months, has been the community garden run by local residents. It has taken a battering, but volunteers led by garden manager Sam Weaner continued to do what they could to maintain it, despite the often-challenging circumstances.

The separate (unfenced) Victoria St sec-

tion remains largely unaffected and continues to provide a picture of what a community garden exposed and open to a public busy street and pedestrian pathway can achieve. Sam only needs to spend a couple of hours a week to tend it, but the constant attention that it receives from passers-by is truly inspiring.

The pedestrians; men, women and children, tourists and students from all round the world stop, look, sometimes take photographs, single out particular herbs and flowers for attention and then pass on. It is noteworthy that it has never been seriously vandalised, certainly never on the scale experienced by the now fenced off main garden and might that not suggest ideas for the restoration of the whole garden again?

The council has suggested that the community garden volunteers “activate” the garden by having a constant presence and a lot more volunteers. As Sam’s experience with the Victoria St garden suggests, this is not necessary and, in any case, the implicit suggestion that garden workers become a sort of “flowerpot home guard”, contradicts the spirit and purpose of a garden/park/public space – and why should they be more effective than a posse of council compliance officers supported by police?

Perhaps the Victoria St garden flourishes without anyone standing guard over it, precisely because it fronts a very busy footpath? The garden and the pedestrians comprise a sort of transient mutual spectacle, where the garden is a small theatre of nature, and the pedestrians are a passing parade and interested audience. It is an inclusive passing crowd; no one is excluded. Is that not what we need on a larger scale in the main garden?

However it can be described, it seems to work. Perhaps what will work in the main garden is not a fence or human bodyguard, but measures to encourage people to use the garden in varying active but also transient ways, mirroring to some extent the very varied levels of interaction between pedestrians and the garden in Victoria St? One suggestion is for the council to place a small outdoor gym in the area, which has a large local student population. Another is to have a sort of “hide and seek” play area for young children who also appear to be a significant part of the local population and the pedestrian traffic.

If we are to give real meaning to terms like “inclusion”, “diversity”, “engagement” and “activation” beyond the buzzword routine, we need to analyse them in terms of observed and actual lived experience as with the Victoria St garden example. We need to break it down to the particular needs and behaviours of groups and individuals likely to use the space and then find ways in which they can become part of a general community experience.

It will take keen observation, hard work and experimentation, but it can be done. Hopefully the council will recognise and support such an approach for rehabilitating the garden. ●



# Looking after your mental health

Stress, anxiety, depression, unwillingness to interact socially and lack of physical activity. These symptoms may indicate that your mental health needs some tender, loving care.

On August 1, CBD residents heard from four specialists, Dr Hugh Leslie from CBD Doctors, Tristan Chooi from Reimagine Psychology, mental health counsellor Arman Rashid and the City of Melbourne's wellbeing and mental health coordinator Ruairi Cleary.

A clear message came out of the event. Taking the time and effort to attend to your mental wellbeing has a positive impact on your happiness, longevity and healthspan.

The topic of mental health is large and complex. A small article such as this can only cover some of the main points. We all have ups and downs in life. Happy days and down-in-the-dumps days. However, if you are generally enjoying life, feel largely contented with your lot and have periods of happiness, you are most probably mentally healthy too.



“  
What can I do to improve my mental health?  
”

Being aware of the status of your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Take some time to think about the state of your mental wellbeing. What follows is a check list. Are you:

- Exercising regularly?
- Sleeping well for seven to nine hours per day?
- Eating healthy foods and avoiding stimulants?
- Addressing anxiety and depression with talk therapy, lifestyle changes or medical treatment?
- Addressing chronic stress with positive changes that aim to remove the cause of the stress?
- Ensuring that you have an active

social life? Humans thrive when they are interacting with others.

- Building strong and positive relationships with others and contributing to your community?
- Promoting positive mental states through such activities as meditation and positive thinking?

### What is going on in my head? The gentle art of positive thinking

Did you know that you have two brains? There is the autonomous brain that keeps you functioning without you having to make a special effort. The things that this brain just does without you having to intervene. More than just keeping your heart beating and bodily functions working, your brain also has learned tasks. Your daily habits and skills. Those of us who type, for instance, just type out our thoughts without having to worry about where the letters are on the keyboard. It is your autonomous brain that allows you to do this remarkable thing.

Then there is the other brain. That brain is the one that talks to you. The so called

“voice in your head”. It is sometimes quite imaginative. “Oh, my goodness, what happens if I don’t convince the boss that my idea will work?”

The voice in your head that can cause stress and worry. Or it may even come up with creative ideas to challenge you, or it may even get you all excited about a new and interesting adventure.

You need to pay attention to the ideas and thoughts generated by the free-flowing thoughts in your head. Be attentive and sometimes critical of what “the voice” is saying. When you are stressed, the same bleak story can be going round and round in your head. This is where the positive thinking can be called into force. You need to actively challenge the negativity.

Techniques such as slow mindful breathing or attentive positive thoughts can be used to counter the brain-generated negative ones.

### What do you mean by “gratitude practice” and “living in the moment”?

These are techniques that have the power to help you feel happy. Remind

yourself during the day about the little things for which you are grateful. This is essentially the old adage to “count your blessings”. That second brain often dominates, coming up with thoughts you may not want to address right now. By living in the moment, breathing slowly and consciously, you can let those worrying thoughts float by. Such techniques bring calm into your life. A little rest from the hurley burley and worries of normal life.

### Problem solving

Sometimes life seems impossible to cope with. Your problems may seem insurmountable. Your emotions come into play. That can make the way ahead even more challenging. The solution is to become “the analyst”. Break down your problems into small pieces. Then focus on tackling one small task at a time. Making many small steps relieves tension and rewards you along the route towards your goal.

Although mental health in human beings is an extremely complex area and it is not something that we tend to discuss with others, a few simple techniques and attention to your general body health can keep your mind health in tip top condition.

### The next Forum 3000 event is the Annual General Meeting

Taking place on September 5, 6pm at the Kelvin Club. As part of Residents 3000 tradition, we welcome the current Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece. For more information, go to the website at [residents3000.com.au](http://residents3000.com.au).

### Hire e-scooters to be banned in the CBD

The Council should be applauded for listening to resident’s concerns about the safety of rented scooters that were being ridden on crowded footpaths instead of the road and were taking up space, being left in unsupervised areas adding to unnecessary city clutter. ●

**Dr Sue Saunders**  
VICE PRESIDENT



## APARTMENT LIVING

# Reviewing maintenance contracts in your apartment building

Living in a world of apartments is complex. Commercial Facility Services looks at the importance of reviewing maintenance contracts.

WORDS BY  
TALHA MOLLAH

Inside every building is a story that is told from many different perspectives. Life within apartment living is complex. Join us as we answer all your questions so we can better understand that world a little bit better.

### Importance of due diligence in reviewing maintenance contracts: a building manager’s perspective

As a building manager, ensuring that every contract signed aligns with the long-term goals of the property and its residents is crucial. Maintenance contracts require

careful scrutiny. The process of reviewing these contracts isn’t just a formality – it’s a critical step in safeguarding the building’s operational efficiency and financial health.

### Hidden clauses and unexpected commitments

One of the biggest challenges when reviewing maintenance contracts is identifying special clauses that could lock the building into an unfavourable agreement. These clauses are often buried in the fine print and can create significant issues down the road. For instance, in a recent contract with a gym equipment provider, there was a clause stating that by the end of the five-year agreement, the building would not retain any of the leased machinery. Typically, contracts in this domain are structured to allow for the eventual ownership of the equipment. However, in this case, the terms meant that the building would have to start from scratch at the end of the contract, potentially leading to unexpected costs and operational disruptions.

### The trap of proprietary software

Another common pitfall is the implementation of proprietary software by maintenance companies. When these companies introduce their own systems, they often do so with an exclusivity clause, making it difficult – and expensive – to switch providers in the future. This can create a scenario where, despite dissatisfaction with the service or pricing, the only viable option is to continue with the current provider due to the lack of compatibility with other systems. Such scenarios underscore the importance of understanding not just the financial implications of a contract, but also the technological dependencies it might create.

### The role of due diligence

Due diligence is the key to avoiding these traps. It’s essential to carefully review every aspect of a contract, from the service terms to any special clauses that might be included. Engaging legal counsel or a contract specialist to review these documents can provide an additional layer of protection,

ensuring that there are no surprises after the contract is signed.

In the role of a building manager, I’ve learned that overlooking even a minor detail in a contract can lead to a “sticky situation” that could have been easily avoided with thorough due diligence. The responsibility lies in making sure that every agreement is not just beneficial in the short term, but also sustainable and flexible enough to adapt to the building’s future needs.

By being vigilant and proactive during the contract review process, building managers can prevent costly mistakes and ensure that the services provided genuinely meet the building’s needs without unnecessary complications.

Being equipped with all the relevant information from your building manager will ensure a seamless and enjoyable start to your new home.

Have a question that you would like answered? Submit yours to [admin@commercialfs.net.au](mailto:admin@commercialfs.net.au) and stay tuned to future editions. ●



## QVM TRADER PROFILE

## Mary Martin Bookshop celebrates first anniversary at QVM

“

The September school holidays bring a special celebration for Mary Martin Bookshop as it marks its first anniversary at Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

”

WORDS BY  
NICOLAS THURN-VALSASSINA



The festivities will take place on Sunday, September 22. Bookshop owner Jaye Chin-Dusting told CBD News that the store would host various games and activities throughout the day.

“We’ve planned an all-day program featuring games like pass the parcel, guitar sing-alongs, and storytelling sessions with a couple of authors,” Ms Chin-Dusting said.

Mary Martin Bookshop is well-versed in hosting events. Since its opening, it has been an active community participant, known for its innovative book clubs, such as the Breakfast Club – a collaborative event with neighbouring coffee shop Market Espresso.

“We meet once a month at 8.30 in the morning, they have breakfast and they describe crime books,” Ms. Chin-Dusting said.

“The tagline is ‘it’s crime with your croissants and coffee’. You get regulars coming in and then people join us, which is good fun.”

Another popular evening event is Mystery Night with Mary Martin Bookshop, designed for those who relish enigmatic experiences.

“We hold it at one of the little wine bars on Queen St, less than three minutes away from where the bookshop is.”

After purchasing tickets, participants are escorted to the venue by staff members.

“A glass of wine is waiting for them and the books are all wrapped up, so they don’t know what the book is,” Ms Chin-Dusting said.

To ensure customers don’t miss out, more details about the first-anniversary celebration and book clubs can be found at [marymartinbooks.com.au](http://marymartinbooks.com.au). ●



## 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 on 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. ●

## Brunettis to take over council café

A prominent City of Melbourne-owned hospitality venue on Swanston St right next to Melbourne Town Hall will soon be resurrected by popular Melbourne café icon Brunetti Oro.

WORDS BY  
SEAN CAR



The council last entered a 30-year lease with the site’s previous operator Cafe L’Incontro in 1994, and the council has now confirmed it has entered into a 10-year lease with Brunetti Oro to take over the venue, with the option of a 10-year extension.

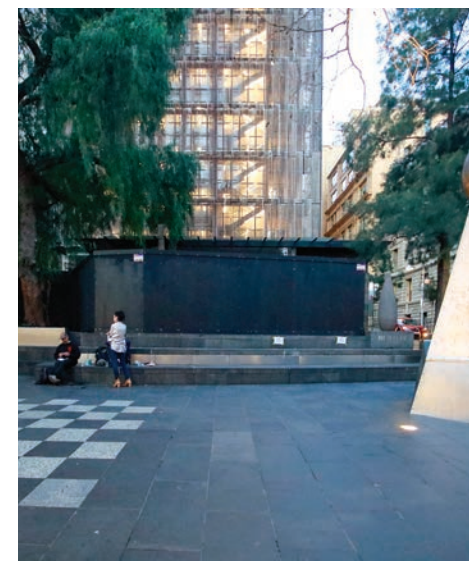
The council said that following a competitive tender process, Brunetti Oro, which operates other CBD venues on Flinders Lane and Myer at Bourke Street Mall, was selected as the best operator to lease and refurbish the site.

It said refurbishment works would soon begin subject to the approval of a permit from the City of Melbourne.

The site at 140 Swanston St was first converted from open space into a café in 1992 to promote street activation and combat anti-social behaviour in the area.

Lord Mayor Nick Reece said the council was “thrilled” that Brunetti Oro had been selected.

“Brunetti’s is truly Melbourne – an institution with years of experience operating premier café venues across the city,” Cr Reece said. “They’ve put forward a vision to create an iconic destination on Swanston St – with refurbishment works to take place to revitalise the space and breathe new life into



this busy corner of our city.”

“With an expected opening before Christmas, we cannot wait to sing carols while enjoying a cake and espresso right outside Town Hall.”

“Melbourne is the most European of Australian cities and the home of cafe culture” Brunetti on Swanston will showcase Melbourne cafe culture, on one of busiest streets. It will also be a really cool new hangout spot in the CBD.”

Brunetti Oro director Yuri Angele said the business was excited to launch “something special” with its traditional offer in a new piazza.

“We look forward to welcoming Melburnians and visitors back to the city’s vibrant and bustling Swanston Street precinct – with our new home located on the corner of Little Collins and Swanston streets, a stone’s throw from our original City Square,” Mr Angele said. ●





## Newsboys Club

This faded and foxed image of the corner of Collins St has a ghostly quality that compels us to look within it.

WORDS BY  
JULIE BEVAN

The man in his coat and stovepipe hat drives his cart away from us down the empty street towards the nothingness at the centre of the image, leaving only the newsboy to stare towards us sentinel-like defending his territory.

And defending his territory was a necessary skill. In the hierarchy of hard times newsboys were the poorest of the poor, using their meagre earnings to support themselves and often their families. So, although they took care of one another, a man needed to be able to stand his ground.

Late 19th-century Melbourne was tough times, and this brought out the best and the worst in people. The shoeless newsboys were seen by some as an “obnoxious annoyance” with a council by-law allowing them to be fined or jailed for the “violent outcry” with which they attracted business. But they had their champions too, who, like the founders of the Ragged Schools, thought all the boys needed was a chance. So, they gave them one.

Notable among these benefactors were William Forster and William Groom, who established “Try Excelsior” classes, which in time became the Newsboys Club.

Both the Newsboys Club and the Ragged Schools sought to raise children out of poverty, not by what they gave them but by how they enabled them. The Newsboys Club gave boys boots, but they also taught them how to mend them, so they were able to succeed through their own actions.

Initially focused on overcoming the boys’ unmet needs for food, warmth and literacy, the Newsboys Club changed over time to meet the changing needs of the boys.

One of the most important changes was the arrival of Miss Edith Onians. Well to do and of practical Christian outlook, Miss Onians found her calling when she began teaching basic literacy to the newsboys at the Try Society. She spent the next 58 years supporting them, advancing them, responding to their changing needs and above all, caring for them.

During Miss Onians’ time services expanded to include sports teams, cabinet-making, fitting and turning, boxing, free haircuts, basic dental services, savings accounts and, in time, a baby clinic for the wives of old boys and much more.

As one former newsboy said of the club, “I saw opportunity” and of Miss Onians herself another said, “when I first met her, I was a poor ragged hungry kid. I had never been to school and could not spell ‘cat’. She taught me to read. She fed me and clothed me and taught me the difference between right and wrong.”

Unsurprisingly the Newsboys Club produced success stories ranging from Olympians, through a State Cabinet Minister to a Melbourne Cup-winning jockey.

So, although the newsboy of the faded image stands alone, he doesn’t stay alone. ●

## Almost 100K homes empty in the middle of a housing crisis

97,861. That is the number of homes that were left empty in Melbourne last year according to Prosper Australia’s recent report.

At a time when tens of thousands of Victorians are sleeping rough or living in their cars, and the wait list for public housing continues to grow, this is absolutely outrageous.

These are homes that people could live in. Instead, they’re mostly owned by property speculators who are leaving them empty while they wait for the right time to sell and make a huge profit, or homes that are listed on Airbnb.

The Labor State Government should not find it acceptable that there are nearly 100,000 homes empty in our city, while people have nowhere to live.

Earlier this year, the Greens used our power in the Victorian Parliament to get the Labor Government to introduce a tax on empty homes. It begins on January 1, 2025, and the tax will increase for every year that someone leaves a home empty.

This is a good step to addressing this problem, but there’s still much more to do. Our housing system is completely cooked. Here’s another example. If someone buys a property and then sells it for a profit, they only pay tax on half of that profit. They pay less tax on that profit than you do on your salary.

Labor should not put the rights of people to be property investors and earn huge profits, over the right of someone to have a roof over their head.

The Greens and I will keep pushing Labor to:

- Recognise housing as a human right
- Cap rent increases
- Stop the privatisation of public housing and build more public housing homes
- Regulate Airbnbs to get more homes on the long-term rental market
- End tax concessions for property investors

These are easy solutions that the Labor State Government could implement if they had the will.

We need homes for people to live in to solve the housing crisis. It really is that simple.

If there’s anything I can help you with, please get in touch at [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com). ●

**Ellen Sandell**

STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

[OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM](mailto:OFFICE@ELLENSANDELL.COM)



Ellen Sandell and other Victorian Greens MPs join the Victorian Homelessness Network on the steps of Parliament during Homelessness Week.

## LETTERS

Dear editor,

I am a human rights lawyer specialising on the right to peaceful assembly and association, also known as the right to protest. I’m writing in response to the article *Protests spoil residents’ weekends. Where to draw the line?* (CBD News, August 2024).

While I understand the frustration of disrupted weekends, I believe it is crucial to consider the broader context and history of peaceful protests in our city and on our community more broadly.

Historically, significant social changes have been achieved through protests, often seen as obstructive and annoying at the time. Consider the suffragists who demanded the right to vote. They were often seen as disruptive and were brutally repressed, including through the use of sexual violence, before their brave efforts resulted in victory. Their protests, now celebrated as a pivotal moment in history, were once widely criticised and condemned as being extremist and obstructive.

Similarly, the fight for the eight-hour

workday, a right we take for granted today, was won through persistent peaceful protests. Workers building the Parliament of Victoria and the University of Melbourne downed tools and obstructed roads and worksites until their demands were met. These actions were no doubt inconvenient to some but ultimately beneficial for all of us.

Framing protests as the problem is, in fact, the problem. It also allows politicians, who are obviously failing to heed the calls of their protesting constituents, to escape accountability. Protest is a valid and lawful use of public space. Even if one does not agree with the message or tactics, as long as the protest is peaceful – a term with a specific legal definition – it must be allowed, even if it is temporarily obstructive or inconvenient to some.

International and Victorian human rights law already provides clear guidelines for facilitating protests and balancing the rights of all public space users. Ignorance of these guidelines is high, so I encourage your readers to familiarise themselves with them via

the Human Rights Law Centre’s Declaration of our Right to Protest. The Declaration outlines how protests should be protected and how the rights of protesters and others in public space should be balanced. The Declaration can be read here:



Many of us today, including the writer of the article, would not be able to vote or enjoy the eight-hour workday including being able to form and join unions without our right to peaceful protest. Similarly, we would not be able to fight against inappropriate development in our beautiful city, advance LGBTIQ+ rights, ensure safe and accessible abortion care, call for an end to apartheid, or campaign for peace, wom-

en’s rights, accessible public transport, adequate and affordable homes without our right to peaceful protest. These rights and freedoms we take for granted today were not gifts from parliaments, police or politicians; they were fought for and won through protests big and small.

Before jumping down with manufactured outrage at the truest expression of participatory democracy – peaceful protest – we must remember the many benefits of protests over the decades because protesters are often vindicated by history, even if they are criticised in today’s headlines.

Sincerely, David Mejia-Canales  
Senior Lawyer at the  
Human Rights Law Centre ●



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
[ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:ADMIN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)







## 伊丽莎白街的猫咪吉祥物

“

站在旧GPO对面，向弗林德斯街方向看去，你会在伊丽莎白街94号的Beehive大楼侧面看到Mazda猫咪标志。

”

Sabrina Cairns

墨尔本到处都是“鬼标志”——这些是古老的广告和商标，尽管它们所宣传的公司或产品早已消失，但这些标志依然存在。

下次在你附近散步时留心观察，你肯定会发现一些过去的奶吧和其他当地企业的标志。

伊丽莎白街上的Mazda猫咪标志是CBD最

具代表性的“鬼标志”之一。

该标志绘制于1956年，与汽车制造商Mazda没有关系；它最初宣传的是Mazda灯泡，该公司在20世纪中期至后期在澳大利亚制造白炽灯泡。

这个标志出现在1959年由格利高里·派克和艾娃·加德纳主演的电影《寂静的地球》的背景中。

Mazda公司的名称和口号已经被移除，现在只剩下这只猫咪向西眺望城市的画面。

早在2017年，这个标志曾面临威胁，当时有人申请在同一建筑上绘制另一则广告。

在墨尔本遗产行动组织的推动下，最终确认新广告将被绘制在建筑的另一侧，从而使Mazda猫咪标志得以保留。

“鬼标志”很少被列入遗产名录，因此很难保护。

那些保留下来的标志一如Mazda猫咪——可能最初只是临时广告，但如今已成为城市过去生活的珍贵遗迹。



## 布鲁内蒂斯接管市议会咖啡馆

位于墨尔本市政厅旁边斯旺斯顿街的一家著名墨尔本市政府所有的餐饮场所即将由受欢迎的墨尔本咖啡馆标志布鲁内蒂·奥罗 (Brunetti Oro) 重新开张。

Sean Car

市议会上一次在1994年与前任经营者L'Incontro咖啡馆签订了为期30年的租约，而现在市议会已确认与布鲁内蒂·奥罗签订了一份为期10年的租约，并可选择再延长10年。

市议会表示，在经过一场激烈的招标过程后，布鲁内蒂·奥罗被选为最佳经营者，将租赁并翻新该场所。布鲁内蒂·奥罗目前在弗林德斯巷 (Flinders Lane) 和伯克街购物中心 (Bourke Street Mall) 的Myer店内经营其他CBD场所。市议会还表示，翻新工程将很快开始，前提是获得墨尔本市政府的许可。

该场所位于斯旺斯顿街140号，最早于1992年从开放空间改建为咖啡馆，旨在促进街道活力并打击该地区的不良行为。

市长尼克·里斯 (Nick Reece) 表示，市议会“非常高兴”布鲁内蒂·奥罗被选中。

“布鲁内蒂斯是名副其实的墨尔本象征一家在全市经营顶级咖啡馆多年的机构，”里斯议员说。



“他们提出了一个愿景，要在斯旺斯顿街打造一个标志性的目的地——翻新工程将进行，以振兴这个空间，为我们城市繁忙的角落注入新的活力。”

“预计在圣诞节前开业，我们迫不及待地想在市政厅外边享用蛋糕和浓缩咖啡，边唱圣诞颂歌。”

“墨尔本是澳大利亚最具欧洲风情的城市，也是咖啡文化的发源地。”

“斯旺斯顿街上的布鲁内蒂斯将展示墨尔本的咖啡文化，它还将成为CBD的一个非常酷的新聚会场所。”

布鲁内蒂·奥罗的董事尤里·安杰莱 (Yuri Angele) 表示，公司非常兴奋能够以其传统特色在新的广场上推出“特别的东西”。

“我们期待着欢迎墨尔本人和游客回到充满活力的斯旺斯顿街区——我们的新家位于小柯林斯街和斯旺斯顿街的拐角处，距离我们最初的市政广场仅几步之遥。”安杰莱先生说。

## 墨尔本市禁止电动滑板车进入CBD

墨尔本市因社区安全问题取消了与电动滑板车共享租赁服务提供商Lime和Neuron的合同。

Sabrina Cairns

在8月13日的未来墨尔本委员会会议上，市议会管理层的报告建议推迟任何长期采购安排，直到维多利亚州政府新法规的有效性得到验证。

7月份，公共和主动交通部长加布里埃尔·威廉姆斯在市长尼克·里斯的陪同下宣布了

旨在提高安全性的更严格规定，并宣称电动滑板车“将长期存在”。

“我们知道存在安全问题，这就是为什么我们彻底评估了电动滑板车的使用，并引入了一些全国最严格的新法律，以提高电动滑板车的安全性，”威廉姆斯部长说。

“电动滑板车在通勤者中非常受欢迎，特别是轮班工人，为他们提供了一种安全回家的额外选择。”

然而，市长最终提出了一项替代动议，该动议在8月13日会议前一天被泄露给媒体，要求在该市全面禁止共享电动滑板车。

## 墨尔本市批准应对无家可归问题的计划

墨尔本市批准了一项致力于预防和结束墨尔本无家可归现象的战略。

Jon Fleetwood

在2024-30年的最终《无家可归战略》中，市议会在8月6日的未来墨尔本委员会 (FMC) 会议上全体一致通过了这一战略，承诺将墨尔本打造成一个人人都有家可归的城市。

动议的提案者，绿党议员Olivia Ball博士表示，由于几十年来投资不足，无家可归现象成为了这座城市令人遗憾的特征。

据Ball博士称，该战略仅代表市议会应对此危机的一个方面，下一步将是制定一项为期两年的行动计划，明确如何实施该战略。

市议会表示，通过该战略，将倡导、合作并实施确保无家可归者或露宿者能够获得预防无家可归、支持和住房服务的举措。

根据澳大利亚统计局在2021年人口普查中创建的数据快照显示，在墨尔本市内，有超过1100人经历了无家可归。

原住民占全市无家可归人口的5%，而年龄在15至25岁之间的年轻人和女性则分别占15%和25%。市议会表示，该计划将响应那些无家可归现象尤为严重的个人需求。

议员Jamal Hakim表示，该战略是一个重要的提醒，表明住房是人权，墨尔本市致力于尽一切可能确保每个人都有个安身之



所。

市议会表示，解决无家可归和住房短缺的复杂问题需要澳大利亚各级政府、私营部门、住房组织和更广泛的社区之间的共同努力。

维多利亚州政府的“大型住房建设”计划包括53亿澳元的投资，旨在未来十年内在全州范围内建造80万套社会和可负担住房。

在与州政府的合作下，联邦政府目前正在制定一项国家无家可归计划，该计划将提出一个共同愿景，为未来澳大利亚的住房和无家可归政策提供指导。

它还建立了澳大利亚住房未来基金，并承诺投资100亿澳元用于可负担和社会住房项目。

的意见。他们告诉我们，城市的步行道并不安全，”里斯议员说。

“他们告诉我们，电动滑板车试验并未奏效，违规行为太多，人们不戴头盔，双人共骑，在人行道上骑行，给城市中的人们带来了危险。”

市议会会议收到了600多份意见书，其中包括皇家墨尔本医院急诊科主任马克·普特兰的意见，他说每月有多达40名患者因电动滑板车事故受伤而到急诊科就诊。

里斯议员表示，该市的自行车共享服务将继续运营。



## WHAT'S ON September



September in Melbourne is bustling with exciting events offering something for everyone to enjoy.



**SCOTS' SEPTEMBER ORGAN SERIES**  
Join us through September at 3pm Saturdays and 1pm Wednesdays for awe-inspiring performances by world-class organists. Admission is free!  
**Scots' Church – Cnr Collins St / Russell St**  
[scotschurch.com/music-events](http://scotschurch.com/music-events)

SEPTEMBER 4 – 28



**HONK! UNTITLED GOOSE EXHIBITION**  
ACMI's interactive exhibition gives new insight into the creative development of the viral sensation, Untitled Goose Game. Previously unseen concept art is presented alongside playable versions of the game.  
**ACMI**

SEPTEMBER 17 – FEBRUARY 16



**LIBRARY CINEMA AT NARRM NGARRGU**  
Come along for contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards, and bring the family. *Free and Easy*: 轻松+愉快 is showing this month.  
**narrm ngarrgu Library**

SEPTEMBER 12, 4.15PM – 6.15PM



**SOUTH EAST ASIA FESTIVAL**  
The Queen Victoria Market is offering authentic hawker-style food from South East Asian food businesses alongside cultural performances, street entertainment and other activities.  
**Shed C and D, Queen Victoria Market**  
SEPTEMBER 7 – 8, 9AM – 4PM



**ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL**  
Join a day filled with innovative ideas, actionable solutions and inspiration to tackle waste and consumption head-on. Visit the repair cafe, clothes swap and network with like-minded people.  
**The Atrium and The Edge, Fed Square**  
SEPTEMBER 14, 10AM – 7PM



**COMEDY IN THEORY**  
Step into Comedy in Theory, an exhilarating mix of stand-up, alternative sketches, improv and musical comedy – all completely free. The stage features award-winning comedians from across the globe.  
**Theory Bar, 19-23 Meyers Pl**  
THURSDAYS, 8PM – 10PM



**NEW TO MELBOURNE LANGUAGE EXCHANGE**  
Every week, over 200 people from 23+ countries meet at New to Melbourne language exchange to practise a language and make new friends, perhaps over a drink.  
**La Di Da, 577 Little Bourke St**  
WEDNESDAYS, 6PM – 8PM

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CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR  
たくさんの美しい女性 日本語を話します





601/31 Spring St, Melbourne  
**Sold in under 2 weeks**



1005/225 Elizabeth St, Melbourne  
**Sold in 5 days**



**Just Listed**

6.5/201 Spring St, Melbourne



Featuring a private outdoor terrace with tree-top views that overlook St. Patrick's Cathedral and Parliament House.



**Just Listed**

711/225 Elizabeth St, Melbourne



A lovingly enhanced one bedroom apartment in the heart of the CBD.



8/7 Drewery Ln, Melbourne  
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