



Making room in the City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne and Unison Housing successfully transformed a former council building into supportive housing, with Make Room opening its doors to first residents in January. Read the full story at cbdnews.com.au
Photo: Hanna Komissarova.

"Opportunity to reset": Council to stage a 2050 summit for Melbourne

“As the curtains drew to a close at Town Hall during the final meeting of 2024, the City of Melbourne endorsed the creation and delivery of a summit that will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Melbourne.”

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



The 2050 Summit, set to be held at Melbourne Town Hall, will provide a forum for councillors to engage directly with the community and Melbourne's "best" and "brightest" to determine a long-term vision for the city through to 2050.

It's expected that more than 1000 participants, including residents, community groups, and businesses, will contribute their input on how the city should continue to grow.

At the December 10 council meeting Lord Mayor Nick Reece stated that the summit would help the council set specific goals for the city and establish a roadmap to achieve them.

He believes this is an opportunity to bring Melbourne "together" and "unite" the city through a collective vision.

Council officers are currently working on the logistics and costings for the summit and will present a report detailing their findings at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in February 2025.

Speaking at the December 10 meeting, Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell said, "what an exciting time to be a Melburnian and what a great time for our city."

"It's an opportunity to reset, to seize the opportunities we have, and to confront our challenges," Cr Campbell said. "I've often said that some of the best ideas for our city come from outside this place, and this is very much in that spirit."

Cr Dr Olivia Ball believes it is a great opportunity for the city to create a vision that reflects the community in all of its diversity. ●

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Roshena Campbell shares her vision for the city's future

ELECTIONS, PAGE 5

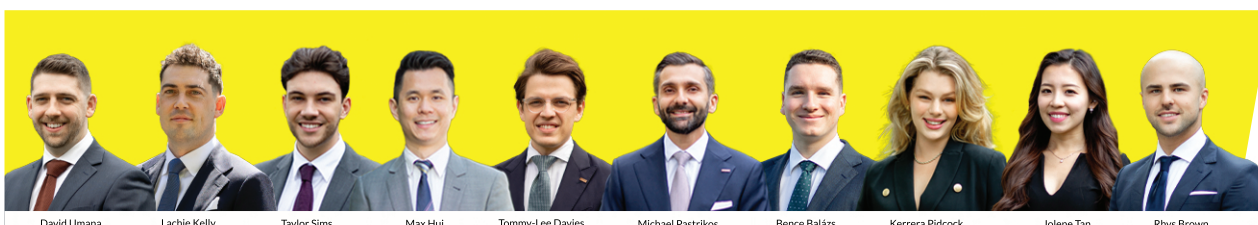
"Deepest pockets win": what does electoral reform for the City of Melbourne look like?



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"That feminist joint": QVWC celebrates 30 years

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) has introduced a new Conservation Appeal Fund, aimed at preserving and enhancing the iconic heritage building.



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A memorial for the deceased Turning Basin on the Yarra

“ Have you ever observed the five carved-wood figureheads proudly facing the Yarra River at Enterprize Wharf, representing a dragon, woman, bird, man and lion? ”

WORDS BY
ANNA BOLTEN



To unravel the mystery behind these sculptures, one must travel back in time to the 19th century.

The section along the Yarra River near the corner of Queen and Flinders streets was the focus of Melbourne’s shipping activity.

This spot was the furthest point that ships could navigate up the river. And it was particularly favourable because just below the natural falls, which created a barrier between the salt and freshwater, there was a widening in the river.

The widening enabled vessels to turn around after unloading at the Customs House, which today, houses the Immigration Museum.



Years later, the so-called Turning Basin was filled in. But because of its historic significance, this action needed to be reversed.

In 1996, the Yarra Turning Basin Project was launched. This would recreate the historic Turning Basin and develop a new riverside promenade that would extend the existing spatial design of the river’s northern bank.

On top of that, it was decided that an artwork was needed to celebrate this historic place.

The concept for the site’s public artwork entailed a series of five figureheads, which would sit on wooden piers that were integral to the design and material of the timber wharf.

Four drafts of designs were presented for the concept, with the City of Melbourne’s Public Art and Acquisitions Committee selecting Bruce Armstrong and Geoffrey Bartlett’s so-called *Constellation*, which was then unveiled in 1997.

They crafted a dragon, woman, bird, man and lion from wood, decorated by metal elements, which depict maritime forms, lines

and images, using traditional approaches to the sculpture’s design.

These sculptures evoke a long history of figurehead carving from around the world and reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of those who used the Turning Basin during the early years of settlement.

The ornaments capture the natural suggestions of clouds, the billowing of sails and the movement of wind vanes.

On top of that, the title of this work, *Constellation*, pays homage to the long history of seafaring, with the stars guiding many a vessel from one port to another. ●



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From barrister to Deputy Lord Mayor: Roshena Campbell shares her vision for the city's future

“

As the newly elected Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Roshena Campbell looks back on Team Reece's "people-powered" campaign and shares her strong commitment to the "long-term future of the city."

”



WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



With her background as a former barrister and expertise as councillor during the previous council term, Cr Campbell says she has always sought roles that champion and advocate for the rights of others.

"I love that role of being trusted to be somebody's voice, to fight for an outcome for them. I do think these are certainly skills that I bring to Town Hall," Cr Campbell told CBD News.

"That opportunity for public service that you get at council is a really exciting, it's a level of government that's closest to people."

"You actually get to change the way they go about their day-to-day lives, whether that's their ability to move around the city easily, the ability for people to open businesses in the city, and importantly, people feeling safe and that they have a clean and prosperous city."

Although running on an independent ticket with Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Cr Campbell is a member of the Liberal Party, in contrast to her running mate's ties to the Labor Party.

Despite concerns that their decision to run on a "unity ticket" might threaten their chances by losing Labor preferences to Team Wood, their victory ultimately secured a mandate for a fresh, collaborative approach to leadership in the city.

"I am so honoured that Nick asked me to run with him, and I think that one of

the things that you will very much see us both committed to is making sure that we do not waste a single day of this term," Cr Campbell said.

"It is such an honour to be able to serve in these roles, and we want to make sure that we're not wasting a minute, and that we are getting on with the job of delivering."

The transition from councillor to Deputy Lord Mayor undoubtedly brings with it greater responsibility and increased pressure.

However, Cr Campbell says that "the most important thing you can do, no matter what role you have at Town Hall, is to make sure you're always out there and continuing to listen to people".

Her campaign highlight? Engaging with the community and "speaking to residents who we might not otherwise hear from".

"We represent the small businesses of Melbourne, and those people are so busy that they don't often have time to come into Town Hall and tell us what their concerns are, or tell us the changes they need to see," she told CBD News.

"Having that opportunity to actually go out to them and speak to them and listen to both residents and businesses directly was such a highlight."

For Cr Campbell, the campaign offered valuable insight into not only the changes Melburnians are hoping for, but also the aspects of the city they wish to see more of.

"An example of that would be parks and gardens in the City of Melbourne. People love our green spaces and want to see more of them, that's why that was one of our election promises."

The new council is currently in the



COUNCILLOR PROFILE

process of developing its annual plan and budget, which will outline priorities for the next four years.

However, one thing Cr Campbell is certain about is that city safety and cleanliness will be top priorities in the first half of the year.

"I don't think that we have a licence to do anything else unless people who live and work and visit the city feel that it is safe and clean," she said.

"That's why we've implemented the Clean 10 contract, which means we've got people on the ground now 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so that we can respond to things much more quickly than ever before."

"We're seeing huge levels of visitation in the city, which is a really exciting thing. That means that we need to make sure that the city presents itself at its best."

Cr Campbell, excited by the "diverse experiences and views" within the new council, believes that "the one thing uniting all of us is to make sure that Melbourne is a

city that everybody is proud of".

"My kids have grown up in the city. They learned to swim at Carlton Baths, read at Kathleen Syme, and they've taken their first steps in Carlton Gardens. The city is very much at the heart of our family life, and I really am very conscious of making sure that it is a good place for people to raise a family," she said.

"I moved to Melbourne when I was 18, and my first home was in the CBD. With Melbourne being the fastest-growing city in Australia, it is so important that we make sure that not only do we have housing to meet that population growth, but we have a place that it is a pleasure to live."

"Investing in parks and gardens, for example, I think is so important because it's just critical that people who live in the CBD or the inner city have open space. That amenity is what has always made Melbourne a fantastic place for me to live and to raise a family, but I want that to be the case for future generations as well." ●

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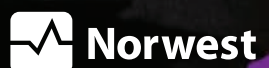
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“Deepest pockets win”: what does electoral reform for the City of Melbourne look like?

With donations revealed and the city’s new Lord Mayor Nick Reece inaugurated, the electoral dust has just about settled on the new council term for the City of Melbourne.

WORD BY
JON FLEETWOOD



However, after hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations were given to prominent leadership tickets – Team Reece, Team Wood, Team Kouta, and the Liberals – and with the municipality’s voting system coming under increasing scrutiny, preference strategists and councillors, both past and present, are calling for reform.

Cr Reece has publicly acknowledged he is open to the idea, though how or what such reforms would look like is not yet known.

He told *CBD News* on January 20 that he supported “the reform of campaign finance arrangements for local government and will work with my newly elected fellow councillors and the Victorian Government to achieve this.”

Under the current system, leadership tickets strike preference deals with one another to determine how the votes will flow, and businesses get two votes while residents only get one.

Veteran preference strategist Ray Collins said this inequity prevented a fair and equitable representation of the community and also in effect blocked residents from being elected.

He sees the current system as deeply flawed and said it was in urgent need of change, as it favoured those with the greatest war chest and was not truly representative of ratepayers.

In Mr Collins’ eyes, a return to the ward system – which every other Victorian municipality operates under – would be fairer. He believes that while it doesn’t eliminate the ability for strategists to work the system, it would allow for a more diverse and genuinely representative council to be elected.

“We would have a true local representative and a decent cross-section of the community on council,” he said.

Another point of contention for Mr Collins is the risk that donations from developers and people affiliated with developers pose to democratic decision-making on planning matters.

While councillors must declare a conflict of interest, back-room dealings and logrolling can still occur, according to Mr Collins.

Currently, candidates are required to release details of donations, including sources and amounts, 40 days after the election, but Mr Collins said that real-time disclosure should be introduced so voters are informed of potential vested interests before filling out their ballot paper.

Throughout Lord Mayor Cr Nick Reece’s campaign, he publicly spoke of his self-imposed rule to not accept donations from property developers in the City of Melbourne, nor from tobacco or gaming interests.

However, the election donation registry revealed that Cr Reece had received significant donations from property developers outside the City of Melbourne and from several donors who are linked to developments within the municipality.

Most notably, he received a \$60,000 donation from the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), which has recently had an application to rezone its North Melbourne headquarters considered by the council.

As reported by *The Age*, Cr Reece also accepted a donation from Audi Centre Melbourne two days after voting to discontinue part of Roden St in West Melbourne, which adjoins the business, as part of the

council’s plans to create a new linear park. \$20,000 was also donated by Spring Street Advisory, which operates out of an office on Collins St and offers strategy development and implementation services to property development companies.

CBD News is not suggesting any of these donations influenced the Lord Mayor’s decision or were improper, only that it raises concerns regarding his campaign pledge with respect to donations from developers.

Former three-term Greens councillor Rohan Leppert believes there needs to be greater transparency surrounding who has donated to a campaign.

According to Mr Leppert, because it was difficult to define a developer in law, there was confusion surrounding who is, and who isn’t, a developer.

Mr Leppert said that he personally defined a developer as someone who has a narrow interest in a company whose primary purpose is to purchase and sell property at a profit.

However, due to donors such as the ETU not looking to profit from a development, there is uncertainty about whether or not they are considered a developer.

“Because the public will assume that a developer is someone who stands to make substantial profits from the development of property that they own, it’s the definition of developer that’s causing all of these problems,” he said.

Additionally, Mr Leppert said that the addresses of companies and their ABNs should be provided so voters can see who is donating to whose campaign, preventing developers from creating alternate business names to lodge donations under.

In NSW, it is unlawful for a person to make a political donation on behalf of a property developer, as well as for a developer to solicit another person to make a political donation. However, Victoria has no such legislation.



CBD News contacted the Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos for comment but he did not respond.

The state government is currently undertaking consultation for the creation of lobbying reforms that could potentially extend to local government, with legislation slated for October this year.

The reforms come after the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission’s (IBAC) Donations and Lobbying Report recommended that the state’s new regulatory regime for lobbying extend to both state government and local government.

IBAC also recommended that greater obligations be placed on lobbyists to document and publish information about contact with government representatives, “real-time” reporting of donations and that donors should make a declaration outlining any interest in a local government matter that they have.

In addition to the lobbying reform consultation, the state government is considering changes to Victoria’s electoral and political donations system following recommendations from an Electoral Review Expert Panel. ●

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THE MILLION DOLLAR PODCAST

By Ramneek Wayne



EP. 05 THOMAS AND ANABELLE

*Founders of
Femme Organic*

In this episode of *The Million Dollar Podcast*, Thomas and Anabelle, co-founders of Femme Organic, delve into their transformative journey from Melbourne's lockdowns to pioneering a revolutionary period care brand. With an unwavering focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and transparency, Femme Organic has redefined period care with innovative products that prioritize both the environment and the needs of menstruators.

They share the origins of Femme Organic during the strict lockdowns, where limited options on supermarket shelves sparked the idea to create 100% organic cotton products that are free from harmful chemicals and biodegradable within months. Despite challenges such as navigating the world of manufacturing, perfecting their product, and establishing their brand, Thomas and Anabelle have built a company that not only stands out in a competitive market but also drives meaningful change.

Their story is one of resilience, adaptability, and determination, offering valuable insights for aspiring entrepreneurs. From the importance of building a solid network to the significance of staying true to one's vision, Thomas and Anabelle highlight the lessons they've learned while charting Femme Organic's course toward becoming a leader in sustainable period care. This episode is a must-listen for anyone looking to turn their passion into a purposeful business.

From lockdown to launch: femme organic's mission to make a difference

In a world dominated by fast-moving consumer goods, Femme Organic brings transparency, sustainability, and innovation to period care.

Thomas and Anabelle, along with their three sisters, founded Femme Organic during Melbourne's strict COVID-19 lockdowns. The scarcity of organic and plastic-free period care products on supermarket shelves sparked their journey. Their mission? To redefine period care with 100% organic cotton products that are free of harmful chemicals and biodegrade in 6 to 12 months—compared to the 500 years it takes for conventional options.

"We wanted to create products that truly cared for people and the planet," says Anabelle. This idea quickly transformed into a family-driven mission, with everyone playing a role in the business, from research to branding.

Overcoming challenges: from idea to innovation

The path to launching Femme Organic wasn't easy. At the start of their journey as independent entrepreneurs, Thomas spent

nights researching the basics of period care and developing a solid business plan. The duo faced hurdles in finding certified manufacturers and refining their product through trial and error.

"We had over 100 people trailing our tampons and pads during lockdown to ensure quality," Thomas recalls.

Their branding journey was equally unconventional, relying on in-house efforts and family input to create a design that was inclusive and aligned with their vision of feminine energy. Additionally, Thomas and Anabelle stressed the importance of conducting a SWOT analysis early on, ensuring their vision was clear and their steps well-defined.

From local success to national recognition

Femme Organic's big break came with an exclusivity deal with Priceline within their first year. However, their journey wasn't without setbacks. A trial with Woolworths didn't go as planned, but the experience taught them invaluable lessons.

"One door closes, and two open. It pushed us to innovate, and now our bathroom boxes are a core part of our business," says Anabelle. They emphasized that each setback reinforced their commitment to quality and transparency, and it motivated them to explore new markets and innovate further.

Lessons for aspiring entrepreneurs

For Thomas and Anabelle, success is about perseverance, adaptability, and staying grounded. They believe in the power of learning through challenges and emphasize the value of surrounding oneself with a supportive community.

"Don't fear failure. Take the risk. Every mistake is a step closer to success," Thomas emphasizes.

Anabelle adds, "It's not just about what you know but who you know. Building a strong network is crucial. And remember, comparison is the thief of joy—focus on your own journey."

They also advocate for embracing imposter syndrome as a sign of growth and encourage entrepreneurs to lean on their co-founders and community during tough times. "The best part of this journey has been knowing we're not alone," says Anabelle.

Looking ahead: global ambitions

While their initial business plan dreamed big, their current focus is on becoming Australia's number one period care brand. Expansion into Europe and the U.S. is on the horizon, but as Thomas notes, "One step at a time. We're refining our model and ensuring every product we create serves its purpose."

For a sustainable, inclusive future, Femme Organic is leading the way. Their next milestone is to further integrate their bathroom boxes into workplaces, gyms, and cafes, ensuring accessibility and convenience for everyone.

Feeling inspired?

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“That feminist joint”: QVWC celebrates 30 years

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Queen Victoria Women’s Centre (QVWC) has introduced a new Conservation Appeal Fund, aimed at preserving and enhancing the iconic heritage building.

WORD BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



The initiative, in partnership with the National Trust, honours three decades of advocacy for women’s rights and the promotion of gender equality.

“We are the last remaining tower of what was The Queen Victoria Women’s Hospital, which was a massive hospital. It played a very important part in the history of Melbourne, with more than 200,000 babies born here,” QVWC CEO Keryn Negri said.

“It was a hospital run by women practitioners, and its entire board and management were also run by women. The woman who established this centre was Doctor Constance Stone, and she was Australia’s first registered woman doctor.”

“The history of the place is extraordinary, it’s a really significant site for women and it’s wonderful that this last remaining tower was saved.”

The tower was rescued from demolition in the late 1980s when a group of Victorian

women chained themselves to the front fence to block its destruction.

In 1994, an Act of Parliament preserved the site, establishing the QVWC as it exists today.

“A lot of people walk past the centre and they don’t know what goes on here and what it’s about. Not much gets told, certainly not the story of Constance Stone and the important role the hospital played in the story of Melbourne,” Ms Negri said.

“This was the hospital where the first IVF baby in Australia was born; it was the first hospital to employ translators; it was the first hospital that had a partnership with the Russell St police headquarters where women who had been raped or experienced sexual assaults were brought here to be examined rather than at the back of the police station.”

“This is the place where the centre against sexual assault started. It’s a very significant building and there are lots of people in Melbourne today who either worked here or were born here, but they all have incredible stories to tell.”

While Ms Negri will insist that Dr Stone is “much more interesting than me”, her dedication to social justice and promoting gender equity continues the mission and values that founded the hospital in 1899.

Ms Negri joined the centre from the University of Melbourne where she was the executive director of the Graduate School of Education.

Before that, she worked in the Victorian public service where she held a range of senior executive management roles across

several departments and portfolios.

“If there’s an impact I can make as CEO of this centre in the time that I’m here, I want to make sure the story isn’t lost. It’s too momentous a story and a pretty special part of Melbourne’s history,” she told *CBD News*.

QVWC is home to around 12 organisations led by women or dedicated to serving women, with Ms Negri describing it as a “hub for services supporting women”.

The centre is currently focused on tackling the rise in domestic violence within the community, as well as advancing pay equity.

It’s also launched its new Conservation Appeal Fund in partnership with the National Trust, aiming to raise \$4 million over the next four years to fund a series of conservation and restoration projects.

“The partnership with the National Trust is to conserve the heritage value of the building,” Ms Negri said.

“A big component of that is a very exciting project which is around reimagining the front and western side of the building, to build a historical interpretation of the centre so that members of the public can really know what it’s about. We’re hoping as a part of that, we get a statue of Constance Stone.”

The QVWC Shop is a major highlight of the centre, featuring and supporting Melbourne-based women’s businesses.



QVWC also offers four public spaces for hire, providing CBD businesses an opportunity to contribute to a sustainable organisation while making use of these versatile spaces.

“We’re not an organisation that just hires to women’s organisations, we have all manner of organisations. We have a wonderful rooftop and fabulous boardroom spaces, so I encourage businesses in the CBD to think about using us – and in using us, they’re supporting efforts for gender equality.” ●

State government says its “Addiction Action Plan” on track for the CBD

Key initiatives of the Victorian Government’s Statewide Action Plan to combat drug addiction are under way, with a suite of outreach programs already rolled out and a new community health service expected to open in 2026.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



In April 2024, the Statewide Action Plan was announced in response to a report by former Victoria Police commissioner Ken Lay, which provided a range of recommendations on how the government can help combat addiction, including a safe injecting room in the CBD, which was the only recommendation rejected.

Rather than opting for a supervised injecting facility, the government will be delivering a \$36.4 million community centre at 244 Flinders St, with the design currently being finalised before public exhibition.

A Victorian Government spokesperson told *CBD News* that all components of the Statewide Action Plan were being rolled out on schedule and that it was providing vital support to people struggling with addiction, not only within the City of Melbourne but across all of Victoria.

“Whether it’s introducing pill testing, doubling the number of rehab beds, or expanding access to pharmacotherapy – we’re getting on with the job of addressing and reducing drug and alcohol harms in our community,” the spokesperson said.

To help guide future policy and services throughout the CBD and across the state, new advisory positions and groups have been established.

In October last year, Dr Paul McCartney was appointed as Victoria’s first Chief Addiction Medicine Adviser and will serve as the government’s principal adviser on issues related to addiction, drug use, and harm reduction.

Working alongside a panel of experts, Dr McCartney will help guide the development of Victoria’s first-ever Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy to address drug harms over the long term.

Meanwhile, the not-for-profit community health organisation cohealth successfully launched its City Street Health program, with the number of outreach teams working across the CBD doubling since the action plan was announced.

These teams provide expert care and support to the CBD’s most vulnerable residents, including the tools and information people need to reduce the chance of overdose, alongside the provision of first aid and referral to wraparound services.

They are also responsible for distributing naloxone, a drug that can temporarily reverse opioid overdose. Additionally, 20 naloxone vending machines will be placed in key areas of need.

Another aspect of the action plan specifically tailored to the City of Melbourne is the establishment of the CBD Reference Group, which will include local businesses, government agencies, service partners, and residents.

The reference group, which is currently being finalised, will help set up the community health hub and ensure that people struggling with addiction within the city have access to the necessary services. ●

Farewell to Queen Victoria Market’s last remaining footy store

Since Market Sports opened its doors in 1990, it cemented itself as Melbourne’s premier AFL merchandise store. However, after its lengthy residency inside the Queen Victoria Market, the beloved store has now shut up shop.

WORDS BY
JON FLEETWOOD



To footy fans, it was heaven; to globetrotters wandering through the market, it was a place from where they could take home a slice of Australia; and for the shop’s owners, Neville and Selma Port, it was their livelihood.

However the store, located at 123-129 Victoria St within Queen Victoria Market (QVM), closed its doors on January 14 after 35 years of business.

Neville and Selma were originally from South Africa and arrived in Australia in the 1980s with the dream of setting up shop at QVM.

They purchased Market Sports in 2010 after spending more than 25 years operating a sporting goods stall within the market. But since the pandemic, the chances of the store surviving became increasingly slim as customer trends changed and QVM management developed a five-year strategy to support the market’s “recovery” and “revitalisation”.

As part of this strategy, QVM management set a target for hospitality to make up approximately 18 per cent of the total market mix. Hospitality currently accounts for eight per cent of all trade.

The premises that Market Sports operated from on Victoria St was identified as one of the sites to be transformed from retail to a hospitality space, which meant the business would have to relocate or close.

Neville Port was “devastated” by this. It was not just a loss to the market but to all of Melbourne, according to Mr Port, as it was one of the last remaining official AFL merchandise stores.

The business owner was proud of his loyal customer base, many of whom came from interstate and would go out of their way to stock up on footy paraphernalia and clothing.

However, he noted that operating the business became increasingly difficult over the past five years due to rising rent and rates, which made it harder to stay afloat.

The first blow came during the pandemic in



September 2020, when Neville and Selma had to close their stall within the market, which they had run alongside their shop on Victoria St.

In the years that followed, they had hoped to sell the store and retire, with the peace of mind that Market Sports would continue. At one point in 2024, they had an interested buyer, but due to paying rent on a month-to-month basis, they were unable to sell the business and faced the added risk of termination with just 30 days’ notice.

QVM management did offer alternatives, such as an 18-month lease starting in October 2024 and short-term leases at a smaller location, which would have allowed them to sell their remaining stock throughout 2025.

But none of these options were viable, according to Mr Port, due to it being an AFL requirement that the store had street frontage.

QVM CEO Matt Elliot said, “QVM management is committed to supporting traders and maintaining Queen Victoria Market as an accessible and affordable place to do business.”

He noted that they have specific support processes for traders experiencing genuine financial hardship, available on a case-by-case basis.

But for Market Sports, an agreement that aligned with the market’s vision and Neville and Selma’s aspirations for the business was never able to be reached.

For more than 30 years, the market was home to the Ports, and while they didn’t get the fairytale ending they had hoped for, it will always remain a special place in their hearts.

Both Neville and Selma would like to thank all the customers who supported their business and allowed Market Sports to prosper for so many years.

“We love you all, and farewell to AFL at the Queen Victoria Market,” Selma said. ●

Prodigal son: Melbourne musician Michael Paynter makes good in *Jesus Christ Superstar*



Melbourne is no stranger to productions of Andrew Lloyd Webber's legendary rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

WORDS BY DAVID ALLEN



In 2013 and 2017, Tim Minchin and Rob Mills both led concert productions at Rod Laver Arena and the Arts Centre respectively.

But it's been a staggering 48 years since a fully staged version of the hit musical played a major Melbourne theatre.

Veteran Melbourne musician Michael Paynter opened *Superstar* in Sydney to rave reviews last year at Sydney's Capitol Theatre.

Michael spoke to CBD News about leading the production home to Melbourne in March 2025.

What brought you into the cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar*?

"My friend Mahalia Barnes was cast as Mary Magdalene, and they were looking for a Jesus. They asked her if she knew anyone who would be the right fit and she said: 'You should try this Melbourne guy'. I've never been that interested in theatre, but somehow, they talked me into it and here we are."

Has there been a moment during the production when everything came together, and it became fun?

"During rehearsals as I was getting intimately acquainted with the music, pretty early on in the piece it occurred to me how much fun this was to sing, and I knew I was going to have a good time doing it."

The role of Jesus is notoriously a "big sing". Is there anything you've done preparing for it to keep your voice in good nick?

"I tend to live healthily. I train every day. I have a pretty joyless diet, I guess you could say. I just try to sleep as much as I can. I've got some people in my family who were professional athletes, so I've watched them, how they prepare their mind and their body for games for quite a while. It's just making sure you do everything you can so when you walk in the stage door every evening, you're in tip-top form."

What are you looking forward to most about debuting in Melbourne?

"There's a lot of family and friends, colleagues and fellow musicians I've played with in bands over the last ten-years that aren't in Sydney. It's going to be a special thing for them to be able to come and see the show. I think Melbourne has always been such a great place for the arts. They respect and revere the arts so highly, so I

think it's a wonderful place to make art of any kind."

The show is playing at the Princess Theatre. You're going to have the entire CBD at your disposal. Is there anywhere you plan on making a local haunt for the cast?

"Oh, man! Take your pick of restaurants in the CBD. And I think I'll be heading to Eau De Vie (a cocktail bar on Malthouse Lane in the East End) for the odd whisky nightcap. That'll be lovely. Melbourne is a feast for the senses of all kinds. It's a lovely place to call home and hopefully I can know it a little more intimately by spending that much time in the heart of it."

Is there anything you'd say to audiences ahead of coming to see *Jesus Christ Superstar*?

One of the great things about this show

and I think why it's still so relevant and people still love it is because every new version brings a different perspective on the music. I think this one is unlike any that has been done before. This is an intense, complex, challenging and confronting production. It's as much all those things as it is hilarious, entertaining and thrilling. The last couple of productions Australia has seen have been done amazingly well but more in a concert performance style. This one is very grimy and earthy. It's been surprising some people in Sydney, and I hope it continues to surprise and entertain as well as we move through the country."

Jesus Christ Superstar will play Melbourne's Princess Theatre from March 16 through June 8. Tickets are available through Ticketek. ●

Save the date for free concerts at Sidney Myer Music Bowl

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) returns in February with a trio of outdoor performances at Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

A more than 60-year tradition continues on February 5, 15 and 22 as the MSO stages its Sidney Myer Free Concerts series once again.

The 2025 free summer series opens with Cybec assistant conductor Leonard Weiss leading the MSO for *Journeys and Adventures* featuring stories of exploration, playful moments and roaring showstoppers.

A *Symphonic Showcase*, led by MSO's principal conductor Benjamin Northey, rounds out the season with two world premieres and a program filled with passion and drama.

Chief conductor Jaime Martín also makes

his debut at the Bowl conducting a program featuring acclaimed Czech composer Antonin Dvořák, legendary American composer George Gershwin, and French composer Maurice Ravel's best-known work *Boléro*.

"It is an absolute thrill to make my debut in this iconic concert series at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl," Mr Martin said. "These free concerts are an extraordinary gift to Melburnians and visitors to this wonderful city."

"They are a celebration of music, community, and Melbourne's vibrant summer spirit. Sharing the joy of live orchestral music with such a diverse audience, under the stars in this beloved venue, is truly special."

At the first concert on Wednesday, February 5, conductor Leonard Weiss and the MSO will perform *Journeys and Adventures*, a thrilling orchestral exploration of crowd

favourites including John Williams' music from cinematic blockbusters *Star Wars* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*.

On Saturday, February 15, Jaime conducts at the Bowl, with pieces by Dvorak, Gershwin and Ravel promising a blissful evening of fabulous music in the great outdoors and a not-to-be-missed opportunity to see the MSO's much-loved chief conductor Jaime Martín.

Benjamin Northey and the MSO will then deliver a *Symphonic Showcase* on Saturday, February 22, featuring two masterpieces of 20th century orchestral music and two works receiving their world premiere.

It's free to enter all concerts and no bookings are required. At each event gates will open at 4.30pm with entry on a first-in basis.

The concerts begin at 7.30pm and last around two hours including interval. All



three performances will also be broadcast live on MSO YouTube and ABC Classic.

The free series is made possible by the MSO Sidney Myer Trust Fund, in association with ABC Classic, The University of Melbourne and Arts Centre Melbourne. ●



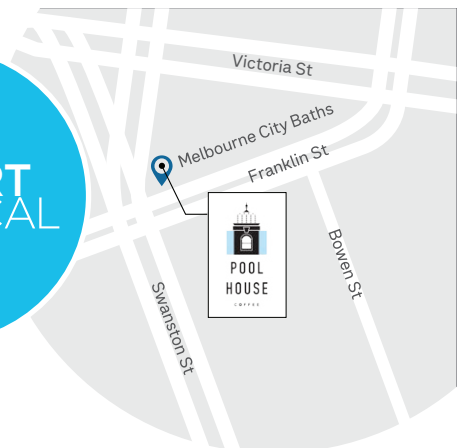
Poolhouse Coffee

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

Feel free to eat in and have a chat to the friendly staff.

Opening Hours
Mon-Thu: 7am-3pm
Fri: 7am-2pm

6 Franklin St
poolhousecoffee



Supporting business



Construction partner:
Design & Construction

CYP-BS00446

New exhibition *Fresh!* gives insights in upcoming craft makers

“

Craft Victoria presents *Fresh!* from February 1 to March 8 – an exhibition showing the skills of some of the best graduating Victorian craft, design and fine arts students.

”

WORDS BY
ANNA BOLTEN



Fresh! offers audiences an insight into new directions of contemporary craft due to the makers who exhibit there.

With the exhibition, some of the best Victorian graduates in the field of craft and design have been honoured every year since 1993. *Fresh!* 2025 will mark the 32nd iteration of this annual exhibition.

Craft Victoria provides the graduates with a significant opportunity to begin their career as makers. This year's selected join to the more than 400 graduates from Victoria, the *Fresh!* initiative has already supported in the past.

The finalists for 2025 are, firstly, Afra Kullu, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Monash University with a focus on material-led practice.

The second finalist Qianxun Li is a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Gold and Silversmithing) from RMIT University and an artist from China with experiences in Vietnam and Australia whose works combine metal and natural materials.

Lucinda Johnson-Cornes, the next *Fresh!* finalist for 2025, is a Bachelor of Textiles (Honours) from RMIT who is a textile artist integrating various mediums to weave narratives that connect with both her community and Indigenous heritage.

Also graduating from RMIT, Yueyun Chen (Lily), was selected. She is Bachelor of Fashion Design (Honours) and a Chinese-born designer whose work bridges traditional craftsmanship and modern design with a focus on crochet techniques.

Furthermore, there is Bachelor of Fine Arts (Gold and Silversmithing) from RMIT Dee Robinson who uses traditional and ancient methods of gold and silversmithing blended with painting and model-making.

Indigo Stuart, another finalist from RMIT university with a Bachelor of Fashion Design (Honours) and studies at the Swedish School of Textiles in Borås, is a fashion designer whose work bridges heritage and innovation.



Lastly, the finalist Lachlan Vasic, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Gold and Silversmithing) from RMIT, was chosen. He is an artist forming sculptures and objects through his practice of gold and silversmithing with the inspiration of day-to-day urban landscapes and subtle details.

To decide who were selected for *Fresh!* 2025, a team of craft and design professionals viewed graduate exhibitions across Victoria to search for the freshest emerging makers working within craft and design disciplines.

The 2025 *Fresh!* selection panel included: teacher at The School of Fashion and Textiles at RMIT University Jake Nakashima-Edwards, ceramic artist Danielle Thiris, designer and jeweller Anke Kindle, and Craft Victoria's exhibitions and programs manager Anni Hagberg and creative projects assistant Georgina Loughnan.

Fresh! will be open in the Vitrine gallery at Watson Place from Saturday, February 1, 11am. The *Fresh!* Awards ceremony will be held on February 6. Entry to Craft Victoria is free. ●



Proudly representing the
community in Melbourne's CBD

Evan MULHOLLAND MP

Liberal Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

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LIBERAL
VICTORIA

City noise – how to solve ...

**Do you live in the city?
There is going to be noise,
but you can cope.**

The city buzzes with life. It is noisy but it is an active, alive noise. It is people doing things. Travelling on trams, digging up the road, constructing a building, cleaning the streets, paramedics rushing to a medical emergency, fire trucks keeping our city safe ...

This is good noise. The noise of living. But there is bad noise as well. The disco that runs until 3am playing loud music so that you cannot sleep. There are loud motor bikes that tear up and down the streets at night disturbing the neighbourhood. Then there are the motor vehicles that have faulty or deliberately modified mufflers. What a din! Both types of muffler-deficient vehicles are a current problem, driving residents "up the wall".

There are noisy people in the streets. Happy noises of people laughing, fooling about, having fun. Nasty noise where people are angry, drunk possibly, and maybe aggressive. Residents don't want that noise, either!

Another problem area is the water-powered excavation pumps that often run at night when traffic is light. These machines are really loud with a consistent whine that makes you reach for the nearest sound cancelling headphones to give some relief.

Finally, to top off this list of noise problems, there are the rooftop air conditioning units. Not all are noisy, but some are. These disturb your equanimity as they turn on and off, all day long, and into the night. It is really difficult to get absent owners to respond to such noise.

What can we do to mitigate noise?

The Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) website has excellent information about noise, explaining the laws that make it an "offence to cause unreasonable noise" depending on its volume, intensity, duration and time of day. Too much noise can reduce people's quality of life as it causes stress and sometimes severely affects sleep – vital for good health. And that's apart from the danger to your hearing if exposed to intense, loud noise.

There are things that you can do. The EPA explains the avenues available in their many documents. Raise the issue with your neighbour or whoever is causing the noise, contact the City of Melbourne or Victoria Police (dial 000 at night) and there are other measures.

With regard to the current motorcycle and motor vehicle noise, under Part 5.6 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021, motor vehicles must meet noise standards when travelling on roads. In addition, the Victorian Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2021 also has a regulation (289(1)) for noise. It states, "a person must not use a vehicle on a highway if the vehicle is creating undue noise". The only problem is that currently neither of these regulations appear to be being enforced.

Protect your apartment

Another approach is to protect your apartment. In the past it has not been the custom to install double glazing that has the effect of reducing background noise as well as providing insulation from cold weather. It is possible to install retrofitted double glazing, however. There are two types. One uses polycarbonate glazing attached to the inside of your window

with magnets. The other uses glass that is also fitted to the inside of the window. Both methods cut down noise appreciably and reduce the need for air conditioning.

It is also possible to measure noise level on your phone. There are several apps available for this purpose. When noise inside your apartment is greater than 75 decibels, rest assured, that is noisy and unreasonable!

Where taverns are licenced for live and/or DJ's music, the low frequency (bass) noise generated is difficult to measure but can disturb many residents with the vibration and repetitive sound. This is a modern problem that the licencing authorities should take into consideration. Many times, double glazing is not sufficient to block low frequency sound. Such venues need to be required to have adequate sound proofing.

Most owners' corporations have rules in place to ensure noise inside apartments is minimised. Floorboards are required to have sound insulation underneath. In new buildings walls should be properly insulated from sound transmission. Older buildings built with thick brick or stone walls have good natural sound protection.

Residents 3000 supports idea of quiet, peaceful, enjoyment of our environment.

Authorities put laws and rules in place from time to time, but it is up to the residents of the city to make sure that those policies are enforced.

Unless we take the effort to follow through on unacceptable noise issues, then standards will inevitably fall and "less than ideal" will prevail.

Residents 3000 is a community group with a long history of representing our members when times get tough and living amenity in the city is threatened. We aim to work



together with authorities to keep our city a happy, pleasant place to live.

Next Residents 3000 Forum

We are pleased to welcome back the Metro Tunnel team for an update. There is much activity happening with trains doing practice runs through the tunnel. All the new station builds are well advanced. The meeting will be held at the Kelvin Club on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 6pm for 6.30pm start. More details can be found at: residents3000.org.au.

Dr Sue Saunders

VICE PRESIDENT



HOSIER INC

Reviving Hosier Lane – a new chapter for Hosier INC

Since its 2013 inception, Hosier INC has been synonymous with the vibrancy and artistic soul of Hosier Lane.

WORDS BY
ROBYN BUNTING
HOSIER LANE CONVENER



As an association dedicated to fostering creativity, community, and collaboration, we have been privileged to support this iconic Melbourne space – a canvas for street art, a magnet for cultural exchange, and a landmark loved by locals and visitors alike.

In recent times, Hosier Lane has seen its share of challenges, from safety concerns to disrespect for the art and the space itself. These issues have threatened to overshadow the essence of what makes Hosier Lane truly special: its ability to bring people together and inspire happiness and awe with its ever-evolving creativity.

So, with no further delay, Hosier INC is stepping back into the fray with renewed energy and purpose. Our mission is clear: to reinvigorate Hosier Lane, restore its reputation as a haven for artistic expression, and ensure it remains a safe and inclusive space for all.

The first step in this journey is to reconnect with the community. We're calling on residents, businesses, artists and visitors who share our vision to join us in this revival. Collaboration lies at the heart of

Hosier INC's philosophy, and we believe that by working together, we can tackle challenges, celebrate creativity, and foster a sense of respect and collaboration among everyone who visits or contributes to this space.

Safety is the cornerstone of our efforts – a vibrant creative space can only thrive when everyone feels welcome and secure. Whether it is implementing better lighting, increasing accessibility, or simply encouraging mutual respect, we are committed to creating an environment that reflects the values of Hosier Lane's diverse community.

Lastly, we want to encourage a culture of respect – not just for the art itself, but for the artists, the history of the lane and the community that calls this place home. Hosier Lane isn't just a destination; it's a living, breathing expression of Melbourne's creative heart. By respecting this space and each other we can ensure its legacy endures for generations.

As Hosier INC embarks on this exciting new chapter, we invite you to be part of it. Whether you are an artist with a vision, a neighbour with ideas, or a visitor who wants to support our mission, there is a place for you in this journey.

Let's bring Hosier Lane back to life – together.

Hosier INC will be writing a regular column for CBD News this year, giving Hosier Lane updates about events, and projects happening in the laneway.

For everything else please find us online: hosierutledge.wordpress.com or via socials: [@Hosierinc](https://www.instagram.com/Hosierinc)



Stop and smell the dahlias this summer at QN Flowers

There's nothing quite like a stroll through the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) on a sunny day, with a bag of fresh fruit and vegies in one hand, and a colourful bundle of flowers in the other. And at QN Flowers, you'll find all your summer favourites.

WORDS BY
GEORGIE ATKINS



Although the QN Flowers stall has been a part of the market since 2016, Ali and Amir became its proud owners in May of last year.

With more than a decade of experience in the floral industry, the pair source some of Melbourne's freshest, seasonal blooms for their stall on String Bean Alley.

At the moment, dahlias and hydrangeas are among QN Flowers' most popular seasonal blossoms.

"At QVM, 90 per cent of our sales are cut flowers. Other than that, people come and choose the flowers, and our florists can make arrangements for them," Ali said.

QN Flowers' in-house florists, including Amir's wife, are known for creating custom bouquets tailored to any style or occasion.

Whether you're buying flowers for your home or need a bespoke arrangement, their fresh-cut bunches are always plentiful.



The store also offers a selection of indoor plants and terrariums in various sizes, perfect for adding a touch of greenery to any space.

When it comes to celebrating special occasions, QN Flowers is your go-to.

Mother's Day, graduation, and other key milestones are some of the busiest days for the stall, as customers come to mark these important moments with beautiful blooms.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner on February 14, Ali, Amir, and their

team of florists are ready to help make this day memorable for you and your loved ones.

"The traders here in the market are very lucky, it's a very good place and time always goes fast," Ali said.

"Other flower shops, they sit and have to wait for customers or a phone call. But in the market, so many people come and go. Different people, different nationalities, we love it. It was always our dream to have somewhere like this." ●

Metro Tunnel blowout costing Victorians

Initially estimated at costing \$11 billion, the Metro Tunnel project has now blown out to \$15.5 billion, in yet another clear case of Labor's financial mismanagement.

WORDS BY
EVAN MULHOLLAND

Slated for completion by 2025 recent reports have revealed that the project faces up to a 12-month delay in the construction of the final stations, with Labor desperate to meet its promise to have trains operational by the end of 2025.

Like other major projects under this Labor government, the Metro Tunnel has not been immune from an array of controversies. In 2023, it was revealed that taxpayers were being rorted for unfilled "ghost shifts" on major project sites including on the Metro Tunnel.

Then last year the Metro Tunnel was the centre of controversy again as former CFMEU boss John Setka illegally accessed Metro Tunnel worksites to rally against the government after his rightful resignation from the union.

These came at a time where further allegations of thuggery, bullying and intimidation came out against the CFMEU across multiple "Big Build" sites which the Federal Court ultimately characterised as having fostered a culture of "thuggish assertion of control".

As the Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region, I have witnessed how my own community has been let down by the Allan Labor Government thanks to its fiscal mismanagement and cost blowouts on the Metro Tunnel.

Patrons of the Upfield and Craigieburn lines were left disappointed as Labor quietly dropped budget cuts for planned frequency upgrades that were meant to be delivered as part of the project.

A train turn-back on the Upfield line at Gowrie needed to solve a single-track bottleneck that limits peak hour trains to one every 15 minutes and a turn-back and platform extension at Essendon needed to run more trains on the Craigieburn line have been axed as the government struggles to reign in the ballooning cost of this project.

Commuters who rely on these lines are left without the promised improvements, facing continued overcrowding and unreliable services.

It was also recently confirmed that five out of six Melbourne trains will be unable to use the new Metro Tunnel. Only this Labor Government could spend up to \$15 billion on a new rail tunnel which can't be used by 85 per cent of Melbourne's trains.

In contrast, the recent opening of Sydney's new metro system was met with widespread acclaim, attributed to effective planning, budget adherence, and timely delivery.

Melbourne's experience starkly differs, with cost overruns and delays robbing communities of much needed investments and infrastructure upgrades. And who was the Minister responsible? Premier Jacinta Allan who has displayed the same level of competence as when she was Minister responsible for the Commonwealth Games.

Ultimately Labor's inability to manage money has robbed commuters of the benefits the Metro Tunnel was meant to deliver. If Jacinta Allan was hoping for the same euphoric reaction to the Sydney Metro, I doubt voters in the northern suburbs will be as forgiving.

Evan Mulholland is the Liberal MP for the Northern Metropolitan Region and new Shadow Minister for Major Projects. ●

HISTORY

The doctor is out right now

Photographed circa 1910, this mansion with distinguished Corinthian columns was found at 182 Collins St (now 41 Collins St, Collins Place Plaza) and, from 1872 until 1910, it was the home and surgery of notable doctor and politician-about-town, Louis Lawrence Smith.

WORDS BY
ASHLEY SMITH

Louis was born in London in 1830, studied at Ecole de Médecine in Paris and trained at Westminster Hospital. Like many young men during the 1850s, he was seduced by the siren call of gold and in 1852 arrived in Melbourne.

However, his stint on the goldfields left him penniless and frail from dysentery. Back in Melbourne, he established medical rooms at 197 Bourke St East (a few doors west of Pellegrini's), then later moved across the street to 190-192 Bourke St East (now the Salvation Army).

He was famous for excessive advertising in a competitive industry, and it was claimed "it costs Dr Smith £3000 per annum for advertisements alone" (1857 article, Australian Home Companion found in *The Age*, February 7). He treated various ailments such as gout, rheumatism and venereal diseases (*Colac Herald*, March 10, 1876) and he also consulted by mail for £1.

His vegetable pills claimed to cure stomach disease, headache, heartburn and scurvy (*The Banner*, November 4). To further boost his growing reputation, he turned his



Bourke St practice into a museum which featured a planetarium and wax anatomical models. However, not all was rosy, and, in 1858, he was one of the first people in the colony to be accused of the then-illegal act of abortion. Fortunately, he was found not guilty.

In the early 1870s Louis took up residence at 182 Collins St and he occupied the building for the rest of his life, along with his expansive family (he was married twice and fathered more than a dozen children).

The ever-busy Louis was also a prominent politician, first elected into the Legislative Assembly for South Bourke in 1859 and later re-elected to the seats of Richmond (1871-74, 1877-83) and Mornington (1886-94). As a politician, he was involved in committees for the extermination of the Phylloxera insect (being a keen vintner), postal reform

and fisheries. However, scandal also marred his political career, and, in 1863, he violently attacked the Minister of Justice (John Denniston Wood) in Parliament House's refreshment rooms over an insult.

He produced award-winning wines and, for nearly 30 years, was on the Exhibition Building Committee. He was an avid race-horse owner, breeder and rider who proudly wore his red and green silks and tartan cap as homage to his birthplace.

Louis died of pneumonia on July 8, 1910, and, soon after, his family left the mansion which by the 1930s was knocked down for an extension to the neighbouring Oriental Hotel. In its turn, the hotel was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the current Collins Place shopping plaza.

A stone bust of Louis' head can be found at the Exhibition Building. ●



Tributes flow for Flinders Street Station photo booth owner

The owner of the iconic Flinders Street Station photo booth, Alan Adler, passed away last month at the age of 92.

WORD BY
JON FLEETWOOD



For thousands of tourists from afar and Melburnians passing by Flinders St, Mr Adler's photo booth was a place that many precious moments in time were captured.

For 50 years of the booth's 65-year life, Mr Adler was at its helm, and he became an icon of the city.

In a social media post, Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece paid tribute to the business owner and said that he was a "quintessential Melburnian who was part of so many magic moments."

"Alan was the keeper of these special moments for more than 50 years. He kept this booth running long after the others had shuttered," Cr Reece said.

"First dates, momentous occasions, mad moments, the Flinders Street Photo Booth and Alan have captured them all."

"We owe Alan a great debt of thanks – all those wild and precious moments captured on the iconic black and white slips."

At the 2022 Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards, he was recognised for his service to the community and will forever have a special place in the hearts of Melburnians. Vale Alan Adler. ●

METRO TUNNEL



The Metro Tunnel completes its biggest trial yet

The Metro Tunnel has completed its most significant "dress rehearsal" yet – trains making more than 2600 trips across 10 days as part of trial operations.

Trains travelled more than 35,000 kilometres, roughly the length from Melbourne to London and back, as part of the work in early January in preparation for opening later this year.

Trains travelled at a frequency of between eight and 12 per hour between Hawksburn and West Footscray on the Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via the new twin nine-kilometre tunnels.

Train frequency is expected to increase in the coming months as operators refine the new technology inside the tunnels and stations.

It's all part of the project's latest phase to make sure the complex systems and technology are working as designed, and all the necessary processes and procedures are in place for when passenger services begin.

The 10-day blitz was also an opportunity for Metro Trains staff to become more familiar with the project, with another 46 train drivers trained to operate the new high-capacity Metro Trains – taking the total number of trained drivers to around 200. Trial operations will continue to test

the system's staff and drivers through exercises based on real-life scenarios that focus on the use and operation of the tunnel.

The team will run through more than 100 exercises to demonstrate the project's complex systems and technology are working as designed.

Some exercises will be rehearsed multiple times over many months to make sure all the necessary processes and procedures are in place for staff ahead of passenger services in 2025.

Activities will range from the fundamentals – such as manual opening and closing of the platform screen doors in the event of a failure – to intruder detection and mass station and train evacuation exercises.

Work on Town Hall and State Library stations in the CBD is progressing at pace, and testing and trial operations will continue in the coming months to ensure the tunnel is safe and reliable.

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

It will connect the busy Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines via a new tunnel and five new stations under the city, creating an end-to-end rail line from the north-west to the south-east, giving passengers new connections and more choice. ●

Butchery graduate named Australia's Apprentice of the Year

Matthew Tyquin, a butchery trainee who graduated from William Angliss Institute in the CBD, has been named the 2024 Australian Apprentice of the Year at the Australian Training Awards (ATA).

WORDS BY
ANNA BOLTEN



While Mr Tyquin originally had other plans for his career path, his ultimate decision to become a butcher is one that has already proven to have paid off following his successful apprenticeship.

The ATA Gala Ceremony held on December 6 honoured apprentices for their exceptional contributions to the vocational education and training sector, with Mr Tyquin emerging a winner.

But this wasn't the first award he has claimed during his apprenticeship, during which he was enrolled in a Certificate III in Meat Processing Retail Butcher and employed at Ashburton Meats.

The graduate was already named Victoria's Apprentice of the Year and People's Choice Winner at the 2024 Victorian Training Awards on August 30, 2024.

He was also named the World Champion Butcher Apprentice at the 2022 World Butchers Challenge – considered the Olympics of butchery – held in the USA, where he competed against others from around the globe.

He has also been appointed to the Australian Butchers' Guild Ambassador Program and promoted to manager at work, by his employer Ashburton Meats.

His success comes off the back of the unwavering dedication, skills and passion for the butchery trade he displayed during his training at William Angliss Institute, which celebrates 85 years of education in 2025.

"During my apprenticeship, I was primarily based at my workplace, being able to have one-on-one personalised lessons with my trainer Peter O'Rourke from the Institute," Mr Tyquin told CBD News.

He said that he had been keen to adopt the "paddock-to-plate" philosophy, and had become a strong advocate for animal



CBD LOCAL

sustainability and promoting ethically-sourced meat to customers.

"I think it is important for the consumer to know exactly where their food comes from and how they have been looked after," he said, adding that winning his latest award had felt "surreal".

"To be considered the best among so many other talented and decorated apprentices is such an honor," he said. "This award rounds off my apprenticeship and highlights what an incredible journey it has been."

But Matthew's adventure was not always straightforward.

Born in South East Melbourne, he was introduced to butchery at the age of 15 when working as a "clean-up kid" at a local butcher shop before deciding to take on a Bachelor of Biomedicine at La Trobe University.

"I initially was working part-time at Ashburton Meats butcher shop," Mr Tyquin said.

"Working there, I was able to see firsthand behind the scenes of what the butchery trade was all about."

Two weeks after completing his studies, Matthew realised his passion wasn't in the science lab, but instead in the craftsmanship of butchery. ●

Quiz



- 1. The biggest yacht race in Australia is the Sydney to where?
2. What device is used by musicians to practice playing to a regular pulse?
3. Where is the CBD's newest off-leash dog park located?
4. Author R. F. Kuang released what popular literary satire in 2023?
5. What was Melbourne Central station originally meant to open as?
6. The Barossa Valley is in which Australian state or territory?
7. What milestone did Scots' Church celebrate last year?
8. What are the surnames of Jim Carrey's (pictured) famous characters Ace and Truman?
9. Andouille, kielbasa and chorizo are all types of what?
10. Who won the Melburnian of the Year Award at the 2024 Melbourne Awards?
11. What was the name of the antecedent of RMIT?
12. At what age were you allowed to enter State Library Victoria when it first opened more than 150 years ago?

Sudoku

No. 044

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

EASY

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku

HARD

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku

SOLUTIONS

Solution grids for Easy and Hard Sudoku

Crossword

No. 044

ACROSS

- 1 Cries out (8)
5 Baltic country (6)
10 Erect (5)
11 Place in new arrangement (9)
12 Slavic language (7)
13 Musician (7)
14 Enslave (9)
17 Unadorned (4)
19 Sulk (4)
20 Assertion (9)
24 Relating to the stars (7)
25 Second thoughts (7)
27 Guesser (9)
28 Examine (5)
29 Oppose (6)
30 Initiations (8)

15x15 crossword grid

DOWN

- 1 Otic membrane (7)
2 Winds (5)
3 Spirit to stimulate appetite (8)
4 Legal counsel right (7)
6 Antenna (6)
7 Clear of blame (9)
8 Warned (7)
9 Chatterbox (6)
15 Sickens (9)
16 Explosive (1,1,1)
18 Broken down (8)
19 French bacteriologist (7)
20 Elf (6)
21 European country (7)
22 Missing digits (7)
23 Fastens (6)
26 Religious (5)

SOLUTION

Solution grid for Crossword

Codeword

No. 044

23x23 codeword grid

14x14 grid for Codeword

SOLUTIONS

Solution grid for Codeword

Wordfind

Theme: Hats

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

Wordfind grid

- BEANIE SOMBRERO
BOATER STOVEPIPE
BONNET SUNHAT
BOWLER TITFER
CAP TOP HAT
COWBOY TOUQUE
FEDORA TRILBY
HELMET TRUCKER
PORK PIE

Secret message: Keeping your head warm

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

1. Hobart 2. Metronome 3. Eades Park 4. Yellowface 5. Museum 6. South Australia 7. 150th anniversary 8. Ventura and Burbank 9. Sausage 10. Rebecca Scott 11. Working Men's College of Melbourne 12. 14

5x5

No. 309

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

5x5 grid for 5x5 puzzle

SOLUTIONS

SMITE, PACED, ACING, THESE, SORES

PUZZLES AND PAGINATION
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February, 2025

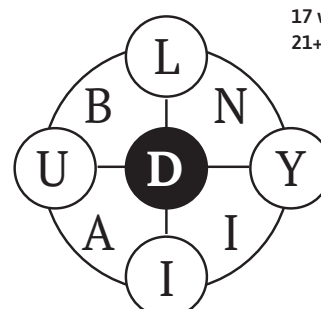
9-Letter

No. 044

Today's Focus:

- 13 words: Good
17 words: Very good
21+ words: Excellent

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



SOLUTIONS

Reference: Collins Concise English Dictionary

audibly, badly, bald, bandy, baud, bind, bland, blind, build, daily, daub, dial, dual, duly, idly, INAUDIBLY, inland, lady, laid, land, laud



致敬弗林德斯街车站照相亭的老板

标志性弗林德斯街车站照相亭的老板艾伦·阿德勒 (Alan Adler) 于上月去世，享年92岁。

Jon Fleetwood

对于成千上万来自远方的游客以及经过弗林德斯街的墨尔本人来说，阿德勒先生的照相亭是捕捉许多珍贵时刻的地方。

在照相亭65年的历史中，阿德勒先生掌管了50年，成为这座城市的象征。

墨尔本市市长尼克·里斯 (Nick Reece) 在社交媒体上发文向这位企业家致敬，称他是“一位典型的墨尔本人，见证了无数神奇时刻。”

“50多年来，艾伦一直守护着这些特殊的

瞬间。他在其他照相亭关闭后，仍坚持运营这间照相亭，”里斯议员说道。

“第一次约会、重要时刻、疯狂瞬间，弗林德斯街照相亭和艾伦都将它们一一捕捉。”

“我们欠艾伦一份深深的谢意——所有那些被定格在标志性黑白照片上的疯狂而珍贵的瞬间。”

在2022年市长小型企业奖上，他因对社区的贡献而受到表彰，并将永远在墨尔本人心中占据特殊的位置。

安息吧，艾伦·阿德勒。

州政府表示其“成瘾行动计划”在墨尔本CBD按计划推进

维多利亚州政府为应对药物成瘾问题而推出的全州行动计划的关键举措已全面展开，一系列外展项目已经实施，并计划在2026年开设一家新的社区健康服务中心。

Jon Fleetwood

2024年4月，州政府宣布启动全州行动计划，以回应前维多利亚州警察局长肯·雷 (Ken Lay) 提交的一份报告，该报告提出了一系列建议，帮助政府应对成瘾问题，其中包括在CBD设立安全注射室。然而，州政府唯一未采纳的建议便是这一安全注射室提议。

取而代之，政府将在弗林德斯街244号建立一个耗资3640万澳元的社区中心，目前该中心的设计正在最终确定中，之后将公开展示。

维多利亚州政府发言人向《CBD新闻》表示，全州行动计划的所有部分都在按计划推进，并为墨尔本市乃至整个维州的成瘾者提供至关重要的支持。

发言人表示：“无论是引入药物检测、将康复床位数量翻倍，还是扩大药物治疗的可及性——我们正在努力解决并减少社区中的

毒品和酒精危害。”

为了指导CBD乃至全州的未来政策和服

务，政府已设立新的咨询职位和小组。去年10月，保罗·麦卡特尼博士 (Dr. Paul McCartney) 被任命为维多利亚州首位首席成瘾医学顾问，并将担任政府在成瘾、药物使用及危害减少方面的主要顾问。

麦卡特尼博士将与一组专家合作，推动维多利亚州首个《酒精及其他毒品战略》的制定，以长期应对毒品危害。

与此同时，非营利社区健康组织cohealth已成功启动其“城市街头健康”项目。自行动计划发布以来，CBD的外展团队数量已翻倍。

这些团队为CBD最脆弱的居民提供专业护理和支持，包括提供减少过量服药风险的工具和信息，同时提供急救和转介至综合服务。

他们还负责分发纳洛酮 (Naloxone)，这是一种可暂时逆转阿片类药物过量的药物。此外，政府将在重点区域放置20台纳洛酮自动售药机。

该行动计划的另一个重点是专门针对墨尔本市区制定的CBD参考小组。该小组将包括当地企业、政府机构、服务合作伙伴和居民。

目前，该参考小组正在最终确定中，将协助建立社区健康中心，并确保市区内成瘾患者获得必要的服务。

记得保存日期，悉尼迈尔音乐碗免费音乐会即将开启

墨尔本交响乐团 (MSO) 将于2月重返悉尼迈尔音乐碗，带来三场户外演出。

这一延续了60多年的传统将于2025年2月5日、15日和22日再次上演，届时MSO将举办“悉尼迈尔免费音乐会”系列演出。

2025年夏季免费系列音乐会将由Cybec助理指挥伦纳德·魏斯 (Leonard Weiss) 指挥MSO，为观众带来《旅程与冒险》，呈现探索故事、轻松时刻和震撼人心的经典作品。

由MSO首席指挥本杰明·诺西 (Benjamin Northey) 执棒的《交响展演》将以两部世界首演作品和充满激情与戏剧性的曲目为本季画上圆满句号。

首席指挥海梅·马丁 (Jaime Martín) 也将在音乐碗首度亮相，带来捷克著名作曲家安东宁·德沃夏克 (Antonin Dvorák)、美国传奇作曲家乔治·格什温 (George Gershwin) 以及法国作曲家莫里斯·拉威尔 (Maurice Ravel) 的经典作品《波莱罗舞曲》 (Boléro)。

马丁先生表示：“能够在这个标志性的音乐会系列中首次亮相，令我感到无比激动。这些免费的音乐会是送给墨尔本人及这座美丽城市游客的一份珍贵礼物。”

“这些演出不仅是对音乐和社区的庆祝，更是墨尔本充满活力的夏日精神的体现。能在这个深受喜爱的场地、在星空下与如此多元化的观众分享现场交响乐的乐趣，真的非常特别。”

在2月5日 (星期三) 的首场音乐会上，指挥伦纳德·魏斯将与MSO一起带来《旅程与冒险》，演奏包括约翰·威廉姆斯 (John Williams) 为《星球大战》和《E.T.外星人》等电影创作的热门音乐作品，为观众呈



现一场激动人心的交响探索之旅。

2月15日 (星期六)，海梅·马丁将在音乐碗指挥德沃夏克、格什温和拉威尔的作品，承诺为观众带来户外音乐的极致享受，同时也是欣赏备受喜爱的首席指挥海梅·马丁的绝佳机会。

随后在2月22日 (星期六)，本杰明·诺西将与MSO共同带来《交响展演》，演奏两部20世纪交响乐杰作及两部世界首演作品。

所有音乐会均可免费入场，无需预订。每场活动的大门将于下午4:30开放，入场采取先到先得的原则。

音乐会将于晚上7:30开始，持续约两小时，包括中场休息。三场演出还将在MSO的YouTube频道及ABC Classic电台进行现场直播。

此次免费系列音乐会得到了MSO悉尼迈尔信托基金、ABC Classic、墨尔本大学和墨尔本艺术中心的支持。

市议会呼吁制定墨尔本2050年统一愿景

在2024年最后一次会议上，随着市政厅的帷幕落下，墨尔本市议会正式批准创建并实施一项峰会，该峰会将在塑造墨尔本未来方面发挥关键作用。

Jon Fleetwood

这场名为“2050峰会”的会议将在墨尔本市政厅举行，届时市议员将直接与社区以及墨尔本最“优秀”和“聪明”的人才互动，共同制定城市至2050年的长期愿景。

预计将有超过1000名参与者，包括居民、社区团体和企业，共同提供意见，探讨城市应如何继续发展。

在12月10日的市议会会议上，墨尔本市市长尼克·里斯 (Nick Reece) 表示，此次峰会将帮助市议会设定城市的具体目标，并制定实现目标的路线图。他认为这是一个将墨尔本“团结”在一起，并通过共同愿景“凝聚”城市的机会。

目前，市议会官员正在研究峰会的后勤安排和成本预算，并将在2025年2月的未来墨尔本委员会会议上提交详细报告。

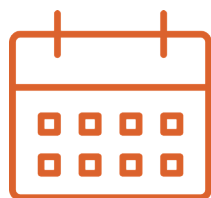
在12月10日的会议上，副市长罗什娜·坎贝尔 (Roshena Campbell) 表示：“作为墨尔本人，这是一个令人兴奋的时刻，也是我们城市的伟大时机。”



坎贝尔议员说道：“这是一个重新出发的机会，让我们抓住机遇并应对挑战。我经常说，一些关于我们城市最好的想法往往来自市政厅之外，而这次峰会正体现了这种精神。”

奥利维娅·鲍尔博士议员 (Cr Dr Olivia Ball) 认为，这次峰会为城市提供了一个绝佳机会，以创建一个能够充分反映社区多元性的愿景。

WHAT'S ON February



Melbourne is warming up in February, with exciting events offering something for everyone to enjoy.



ZINE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS DROP-IN WORKSHOP

Learn how to create an 8-page mini zine in this hands-on workshop. All materials are provided – just bring yourself and (hopefully) leave with a completed zine.

Sticky Institute, 510 Elizabeth St

SAT 25 JAN, 12PM – 1.30PM



NGV DROP BY DRAWING

Learn new tips and tricks to hone your drawing skills, taking inspiration from the NGV Collection. Suitable for all skill levels, all materials provided.

NGV International, Level 2

SAT 25 JAN, 2PM – 4PM



LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Head to Chinatown for the city's biggest cultural celebration. Visit bustling food stalls, relax in the beer garden and enjoy hands-on activities with the kids.

Chinatown, Russell St

SUN 2 FEB, 10AM – 8PM



AUSTRALIAN OPEN POP-UP

Experience the Australian Open 2025 at the Queen Vic Market with a specially designed mini tennis court. Channel your inner champion, with tennis equipment provided and tennis coaches to guide you.

D Shed, Queen Victoria Market

TUES – SUN, 9AM – 4PM, UNTIL 2 FEB



SIDNEY MYER FREE CONCERT: JOURNEYS AND ADVENTURES

Embark on a musical odyssey with the MSO under a starry night sky. Join in for this thrilling orchestral exploration of crowd-pleasing favourites.

Sidney Myer Music Bowl

WED 5 FEB, 7.30PM – 9.30PM



THE MUSEUM OF FALLING

Presenting a tragi-comic parade of falling images and objects, this exhibition-cum-installation reanimates the city collection in amusing and telling ways.

City Gallery, 110 Swanston St

MON – FRI, 8.30AM – 5PM, UNTIL 14 FEB



SUMMER NIGHT MARKET

For 15 weeks, the Market's iconic sheds will transform into a vibrant hub of flavourful street food, refreshing drinks, unique shopping and captivating entertainment.

J – M Sheds, Queen Victoria Market

WEDS UNTIL 12 MARCH, 5PM – 10PM

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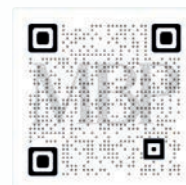
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