

YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE MAGAZINE

# MELBOURNE

AUTUMN 2024



**70 YEARS  
OF MOOMBA**  
CELEBRATING  
COMMUNITY

**DOING BUSINESS  
IN MELBOURNE**  
HOW TO START, GROW  
AND SUPPORT LOCAL

**DISABILITY  
PRIDE GUIDE**  
ACCESSIBLE  
ADVENTURES

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CITY OF MELBOURNE



Councillor Jamal Hakim, Councillor Davydd Griffiths, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece welcoming international students back to Melbourne earlier this year

**We're thrilled to bring you the autumn edition of *Melbourne* magazine.**

It features updates on exciting city-shaping projects, as well as opportunities to expand connections in your community and ways to get involved in events and happenings in the city.

Our cover celebrates 70 years of Moomba – Australia's largest community festival held right here in the events capital of the nation. We take a look back at the marvellous monarchs, the daring antics, and how it has grown in popularity over the years to become one of Melbourne's most popular events.

Catch up on how work is progressing on the Greenline Project, the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre and Dodds Street Linear Park. Our team is working hard to bring the community's vision to life, creating a bustling new riverfront precinct and providing important community infrastructure.

Melbourne is fast becoming one of the best places to start and grow a business. Last year, Invest Melbourne attracted 67 major projects, creating more than 1,650 jobs and \$430 million in capital expenditure. We've also welcomed the City Economy Advisory

Committee to draw on the expertise of business and industry representatives and help us find new ways to boost visitation and business.

In this edition you can explore our city's array of local businesses and learn more about doing business in Melbourne, including all the resources and support available to help you thrive.

Ensuring city cleanliness is not only an essential part of our business, it's also key to our status as Australia's most liveable city. Find out how our clean team makes the city shine, and take steps to keep it sparkling through our online reporting tool.

There's so much more to discover within these pages, including a guide to accessible dining, facilities and adventures across the city.

We hope you enjoy this edition. To stay up-to-date, subscribe to our email newsletter at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**Sally Capp AO  
Lord Mayor**

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Tia Hutajulu wearing a costume by Ganda Marpaung in last year's Moomba parade



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The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations. We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

# CLEAN TEAM AND GARDEN GURUS ON PATROL ACROSS THE CITY



Melbourne's Clean Team hits the streets daily

**High-pressure hoses, specialist street-sweeping machines and dedicated graffiti patrols greeted workers as they returned to the city after the summer break.**

Before the sun rises and the peak hour commute begins, work has already started for some of the city's more important employees: the cleaners and the green-ers.

As the city buzzed through summer with festive crowds followed by the excitement of the Australian Open, all eyes were fixed on the return-to-work cohort and ensuring the streets feel as clean, safe and welcoming as possible.

The Melbourne Clean Team has pivoted its efforts, concentrating on cleaning the five major transport hubs – Flinders Street, Flagstaff, Parliament, Melbourne Central and Southern Cross stations – before 8am, to greet those travelling into the city for work.

The crews fan out in a line across the footpath, like a spaced-out search party, and scour every inch of the ground and lower walls for rubbish and grime.

They are also doubling-down on known hotspots, like Elizabeth Street South, which will get extra pressure washing and increased Clean Team graffiti and litter patrols.

It's been a busy start to 2024 already for the team, which was first introduced as a pilot program in March last year and swiftly made permanent.

In January, the team collected about 450 tonnes of litter and dumped rubbish from the city. For perspective, a standard bus weighs 20 tonnes.

They also scrubbed the city clean of more than 5000 square metres of graffiti – that's the same size as the three floors of retailer H&M in Bourke Street Mall.

Beyond cleanliness, the City of Melbourne is creating and maintaining lush pockets of nature throughout the urban environment.

There are 62 hectares of parks within the central grid – and they are at their peak right now. These shady, green oases offer a wonderful range of opportunities to make the most of your lunch breaks in the city.

The city's own gardening guru Sam Davis, horticulture asset supervisor at Serco, shared his insider knowledge, recommending a stroll through Parliament Gardens to see visual feasts of salvia bonfire red and dianthus dash violet, with pockets of pink begonia.

At Government House Drive, 12,000 marigolds, salvias and celosia make up a bold display, while Hotham Walk in popular Fitzroy Gardens is popping with 30,000-plus blooms.



A clean city is everyone's responsibility. Report rubbish, tagging and cleaning issues at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/reportanissue](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/reportanissue) or scan the QR code.





## CITY FLASHBACK

This vintage poster from Moomba 1983 is one of more than 13,000 eclectic pieces preserved

in our City Collection. Browse more fascinating images and artefacts at [citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au) or book a tour at [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/art-and-heritage-collection-tour](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/art-and-heritage-collection-tour)



A smoking ceremony at Moomba 2023

## RECONCILIATION WEEK: NOW MORE THAN EVER

National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The highest yes votes in the Voice referendum were recorded in the Melbourne electorate, and this year's National Reconciliation Week theme - Now More Than Ever - is a reminder that work and truth-telling must continue.

To deepen your understanding of local Country, visit [aboriginal-map.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://aboriginal-map.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## HAVE YOUR SAY

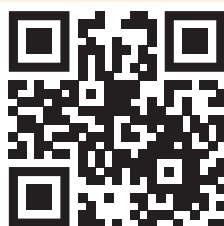
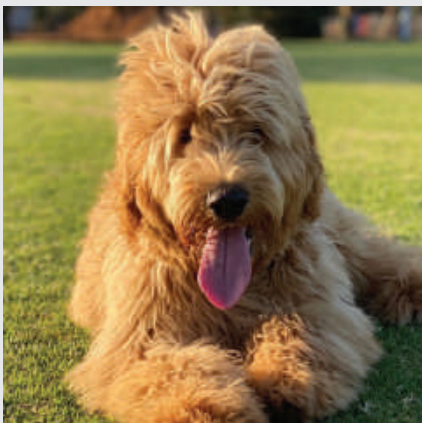
We want your feedback and ideas to help shape the future of the City of Melbourne, and all the unique neighbourhoods within the municipality. During March, we're running a Neighbourhood Survey and inviting feedback to help shape our next

Reconciliation Action Plan, Homelessness Strategy and Food Policy. Then we'll invite feedback on our Draft Budget from 14 May.

Share your feedback and subscribe for updates at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## OODLES OF OODLES AND PAWESOME PET NAMES

There's no doubt about it, Melburnians love dogs. Can you guess the City of Melbourne's top dog breeds and most popular pet names? What about the most creative pet names? (We're looking at you, Stormageddon Floofington.) Our data experts have crunched the numbers for each pooch-loving neighbourhood and rolled it together into one fun and interactive story. Visit [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/doggy-data](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/doggy-data)



### MELBOURNE NEWS, YOUR WAY

Read the latest city-shaping news and celebrate community champions online at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au) and subscribe to receive updates direct to your inbox. You can also subscribe using this QR code.

This print magazine can be found at local libraries, community hubs and cafes. If you'd like to receive a copy in the post, email [melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

We'd love to hear your feedback about *Melbourne* magazine. To share your thoughts with us, write to [melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

# Global photo fest creates epic outdoor art trail

Follow a free trail of spectacular photographic art that weaves through Melbourne's iconic landmarks and laneways this March.

We're supporting PHOTO Australia to present the third edition of its award-winning biennale, working in partnership with some of our city's leading museums and galleries.

PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography will present 100 free exhibitions and installations across Victoria, showcasing more than 150 diverse local and international artists, including many female-identifying and First Nations photographers.

This year's theme is: "The Future Is Shaped by Those Who Can See It".

The program invites audiences to glimpse possible and parallel futures, and how current actions are shaping future realities - from AI-generated images and surveillance evasion to climate futures and animal espionage.

"The world has changed immeasurably in recent years and what lies ahead is far from certain," said Elias Redstone, Founder and Artistic Director of the festival.

*"At PHOTO 2024, visionary artists and photographers are sharing their insights of the world as it is today to raise questions about what lies in store for us tomorrow."*

Alongside the artworks, PHOTO 2024 will host curated talks, tours, workshops, discussions, film screenings, celebrations and experiences. Explore the full program at [photo.org.au](http://photo.org.au)

## Four highlights of PHOTO 2024 at iconic CBD locations

- **State Library Victoria:** an immersive exhibition reimagining the images of Rennie Ellis and the first Australian exhibition of Malian photographer Malick Sidibé
- **Fed Square:** a monumental 20-metre photograph by Nan Goldin capturing an intimate moment of her parents kissing, facing Flinders Street and Hosier Lane
- **St Paul's Cathedral:** an exhibition of seven images that changed the course of history
- **Old Treasury Building:** a series of images titled *Uncanny Valley: Photography, Tech and the Hyperreal*, representing cutting edge digital creation



An artwork by South Sudanese artist and writer Atong Atem at PHOTO 2022, installation view

Photo: Will Hamilton-Coates

# THE GREENLINE PROJECT: TRANSFORMING MELBOURNE'S RIVERFRONT



An artist's impression of a leafy section of the Greenline Project at Birrarung Marr

## Big projects are happening across Melbourne.

The Greenline Project will transform the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung, delivering a four-kilometre riverfront promenade between Birrarung Marr and the Bolte Bridge, with five interconnected precincts creating lush waterfront spaces.

This year, we'll deliver 450 m of interconnected boardwalks and promenades, viewpoints and thriving green spaces at Birrarung Marr.

This stage of works will create three unique spaces along the water's edge:

- **The River Edge** – the entrance to the Greenline Project, providing extensive pathways, new habitat for wildlife and lush green areas for play and recreation.
- **The Lookout** – an important place for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural celebrations, featuring an enhanced lookout along the river, additional seating and new plantings.
- **The Fig Tree Boardwalk** – creating a peaceful, shaded space for art, storytelling and nature with a tree-lined platform and new seating.

"Birrarung Marr will be the stunning entry point to the Greenline Project – delivering a sublime riverfront experience with lush green spaces to bring people together," Lord Mayor Sally Capp said.



An artist's impression of a peaceful boardwalk on the riverbank

***"The Greenline Project is an unequivocally transformational project that is set to inject \$1 billion into Melbourne's economy."***

While works are underway, diversions for pedestrians and cyclists will be in place near the Batman Avenue entry point, so please follow the signage.

To explore an interactive map outlining the vision for the entire Greenline Project, crafted in consultation with the community, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenline](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenline)

You can also drop in to our new Greenline Project Hub, opening soon on the lower terrace of Fed Square, as you walk down from St Kilda Road to northbank.

## Dodds Street Linear Park

From kilometres of riverbank to tiny pocket parks and everything in between, we're turning grey to green across Melbourne.

Over in Southbank, the Dodds Street Linear Park is transforming under-used roadway into public open space in the heart of Melbourne's arts precinct.

Found between Grant Street and Southbank Boulevard, the project will deliver 1300 square metres of native grassland planting and 35 new trees among paved bluestone pathways and gathering spaces.

The park will rejuvenate a quiet part of the city, encouraging exploration of the area, and providing a place for students, residents, visitors and workers to gather and recharge.

For more information on the Dodds Street Linear Park and other projects, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/cityprojects)



*An artist's impression of a new multipurpose court at Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre*

Residents from Kensington and beyond will have access to a new swimming pool, super-sized gym and more indoor sports courts when the revamped recreation and aquatic centre opens in 2025.

Planned together with the community, the Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre will deliver modern health and wellness facilities to the growing neighbourhood.

Works are well underway to redevelop the once beloved yet tired centre, with the City of Melbourne investing \$68 million to build a brand new, state-of-the-art facility.



*Turning the first sod*



*An artist's impression of the new centre*

#### FAST FACTS

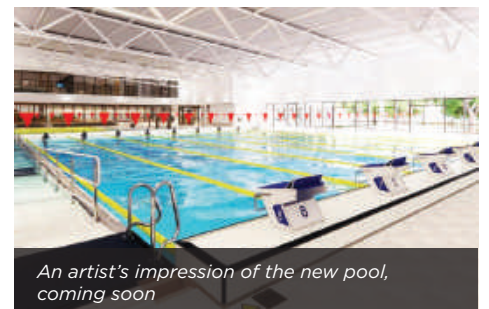
The new Kensington Community Recreation and Aquatic Centre will include:

- a 25-metre pool featuring 8 lanes
- a dedicated learn-to-swim pool
- children's water play
- improved gym facilities
- three full-sized multipurpose courts
- health and wellness areas
- four large flexible spaces suitable for a range of classes and community uses
- accessible change rooms, including a Changing Places change room
- a new cafe.

The centre's new stadium will be triple the size - with three courts and multi-purpose floors to host popular sports including basketball, netball, futsal, badminton and volleyball.

Group fitness classes such as cardio, spin, yoga and Pilates will be hosted in new program rooms, while the upgraded gym will be four times the size, offering cardio machines, weights and a stretching zone.

The new centre's main entrance will be from JJ Holland Reserve, providing a seamless transition between the park and the interior.



*An artist's impression of the new pool, coming soon*

#### A greener workout

Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre will feature solar panels and recovery technology to use otherwise wasted heat, generated by air conditioning, to warm the indoor pool.

Trees removed to allow for the centre's expansion have been made into playground furniture for the Kensington Community Children's Co-operative. And once the building is finished, we'll replace the trees and add more.

Key milestones in the first half of 2024 include finishing work on the facade and roof, the structural frame of the new stadium, installation of sports court flooring, and fitting services such as electrical and plumbing.

To learn more about fitness and recreation in your neighbourhood, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne)

**CELEBRATING 70 YEARS**

**OF MOOMBA**

**7 TO 11 MARCH**



*The popular Underwater float will return in 2024*

**Head to the banks of the Yarra River, Birrarung Marr and the Alexandra Gardens for the platinum jubilee of Australia's largest community festival this Labour Day long weekend.**

Moomba has been enchanting Melburnians with free, family-friendly fun since 1955 – proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

Join us this year for skate competitions, world-class water sports, face painting, dance workshops, live music, kids' yoga, carnival rides, karaoke, bubble and magic shows, ukulele lessons and much more across five magical days.



*A skater in action at Riverside Skate Park*



*A ride with a view at the Moomba carnival*

### **ACCESS AND INCLUSION HIGHLIGHTS**

We're introducing **relaxed hours** for people who are sensitive to bright or strobing lights, loud music and sounds on Friday 8 March from 4pm to 6pm.

People with hidden disabilities are also invited to collect free **sunflower lanyards** on-site throughout the festival. These are a discreet sign to our trained staff that you may need extra assistance.

### **MOOMBA MONARCHS: DOWN MEMORY LANE**

This year's Moomba monarchs are children's entertainer Emma Memma and comedian Peter Helliar.

The tradition of crowning Moomba monarchs dates back as long as the festival itself.

In the earliest days, a queen was chosen in a beauty contest. Finalists were judged on their self-confidence, poise and ability to answer tough questions like: "How many sheep are there in Australia?"

A string of non-Australian monarchs later caused controversy, and none more so than the 1977 King of Moomba – Mickey Mouse. Mickey received a pie to the face and a mock crowning of Blinky Bill was staged in protest.

Dame Edna Everage and Molly Meldrum were among the local personalities crowned in the following years.



*Emma Memma and Peter Helliar are the Moomba monarchs for 2024*

## A PARADE OF ALL NATIONS

The Moomba Parade is the much-loved centrepiece of the festival, promising a special kind of magic driven by the community.

Around 1800 people from dance troupes, cultural performance groups and marching bands participate in the parade alongside a fleet of impressive floats and giant puppets. Look out for the giant new ladybugs this year.

The cover of this edition of *Melbourne* magazine shows Tia Hutajulu wearing a beautiful costume designed and made by Ganda Marpaung in last year's Moomba parade.

Hailing from Indonesia, Tia belongs to the Bonapasogit Victoria community and the ExtravaGanda group.

"I enjoy being in the parade because I'm not just watching, but participating directly in the very famous, colourful and amazing Moomba festival," Tia said.

*"The parade gives me the opportunity to share my country's cultures by wearing our traditional costumes and by doing traditional dance."*



People watching the Moomba Parade in 1987



The Queen Mother at Moomba in 1958

## MOOMBA ARTEFACTS ON SHOW

In celebration of 70 years, a special Moomba collection has been curated at Melbourne Town Hall with a showcase of all things Moomba from over the years – from monarchs' robes to a bottle of vintage spumante.

Tours of our Art and Heritage Collection are free and available year-round, however this special collection will be on display until 8 March. Bookings essential. Search for the Art and Heritage Collection Tour at [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMY

Moomba has been certified carbon neutral since 2022.

The Alexandra Gardens will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, and our organic waste collection alone will divert more than 4.5 tonnes of food waste from landfill. That's equivalent to 450 watermelons or 22,5000 curly potatoes.

The event also supports more than 800 jobs across a range of sectors, including the arts, creative, construction and services industries.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [melbourne.vic.gov.au/moomba](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/moomba)



People watching the Moomba Parade in 1987



An extravagant float in 1959

## MUST-SEE MOOMBA MOMENTS

### MOOMBA MASTERS

All weekend

Ooh and ahh as an elite field of Australian and international water ski and wakeboard athletes complete on the Yarra. There'll be slalom, tricks and jumps galore as participants vie for the coveted Moomba Masters title.



Moomba Masters athletes

### BJORN AGAIN

Saturday 9 March

Dancing queens and super troupers can relive the magic of ABBA's 1977 Moomba performance at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl when world-renowned tribute show Bjorn Again takes to the stage as the sun sets.

### BIRDMAN RALLY

Sunday 10 March

See courageous competitors don inventive homemade flying devices and hurtle themselves over the Yarra in the Birdman Rally from 11am. It's all in the name of charity, and good fun.

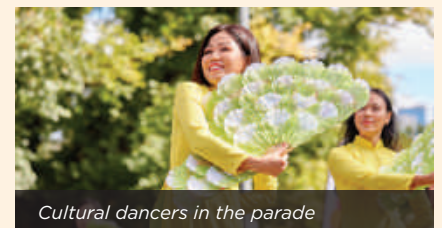


A firefighter takes the leap for charity

### MOOMBA PARADE

Monday 11 March

See larger-than-life floats, dance troupes, community groups and performers pass by as the epic Moomba Parade weaves through the leafy surrounds of Linlithgow and Birdwood avenues, finishing near the Shrine of Remembrance and Royal Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre. The parade begins with a smoking ceremony at 10.45am. If you can't make it, tune in to Channel 9 from 1.30pm.



Cultural dancers in the parade

## EVENTS CALENDAR

# WHAT'S ON IN MAGNETIC MELBOURNE



Event dates and details may change.  
Check online for updates at  
[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

**1 TO 24 MARCH**

### PHOTO 2024

Discover 100 free exhibitions of stunning photographic art by more than 150 visionary creatives from around the world. Located at galleries and unexpected outdoor locations across Melbourne and beyond.

**7 TO 11 MARCH**

### MOOMBA

Celebrate the 70th anniversary of Australia's largest community festival on the banks of the Yarra River – Birrarung. Don't miss the iconic parade, carnival, Birdman Rally, family-friendly entertainment and water sport championships.

**17 MARCH**

### HERALD SUN / TRANSURBAN RUN FOR THE KIDS

Don't miss your once-a-year opportunity to walk or run over the Bolte Bridge to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

**20 TO 24 MARCH**

### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

The smell of freshly cut grass and bursting blooms will scent the air as this event returns to the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, presented by Scotts. Expect show gardens, beautiful floral installations and retail.

**21 TO 24 MARCH**

### AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

Feel the buzz as the world's best drivers zoom around Albert Park, with festivities flowing into Fed Square and beyond. Keep an eye out for F1 legends and tourists flocking from around the world.



**7 TO 11 MARCH**

Moomba

**23 MARCH**

### SPANISH LANGUAGE FIESTA

Join 3000 people in the streets and lanes of North Melbourne to learn and celebrate Latino culture through language, poetry, theatre, music, dance and food. Head to Leveson and Little Errol streets to find the party.



Spanish Language Fiesta

**29 MARCH**

### GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL: KIDS DAY OUT

Come together with the community for a day of family-friendly fun and entertainment to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital. Find the fun at Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre. Free entry.

**27 MARCH TO 21 APRIL**

### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Book tickets to experience side-splitting laughs with international headliners and emerging artists alike. Soak up the vibes around the festival hub at Melbourne Town Hall, and don't forget to browse the popular kids' program.

**4 APRIL**

### MELBOURNE VIXENS FAN DAY

Love netball? Come together with other Melbourne Vixens fans for a free festival of activities and entertainment during the school holidays. From 11am to 2pm at Fed Square.

**10 TO 11 APRIL**

### LITTLE FOOD FESTIVAL

Make a beeline for Fed Square if you have children aged 5 to 12. This festival offers fun, hands-on and play-based opportunities to learn about food, health and sustainability.



**20 TO 24 MARCH**

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show



4 APRIL

Melbourne Vixens Fan Day

28 APRIL

Sri Lankan Festival

28 APRIL

SRI LANKAN FESTIVAL

Head to Queen Victoria Market for a day of vibrant celebrations, delectable cuisine and captivating performances. This event celebrates the cultural diversity, heritage and arts that make Sri Lanka unique.

13 TO 14 APRIL

EID AT QUEEN VIC MARKET

Immerse yourself in diverse Muslim cultures with food and art from Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Southeast Asia and beyond. The biggest celebration in the Islamic calendar, Eid marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting.

25 APRIL

ANZAC DAY

Pay your respects at the dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance, watch the march as it winds through the streets of Melbourne, attend the iconic footy match or stop by your local pub for a game of two-up.

3 TO 5 MAY

BUDDHA'S DAY AND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Commemorate the birth of Buddha and the diversity of our multicultural and multi-faith society through traditional ceremonies, performances, children's activities and spectacular nightly fireworks at Fed Square.



Buddha's Day and Multicultural Festival

9 TO 12 MAY

MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL

Come together with fellow writers and readers to be inspired, challenged and thrilled by a diverse program of books and ideas. Meet top authors and take your pick from talks, debates, performances and workshops.

12 MAY

MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

Help raise vital funds for breast and ovarian cancer research by taking part in the Women in Super Mother's Day Classic. The annual fun run and walk will involve laps around the Tan, starting and ending at Alexandra Gardens.



Mother's Day Classic

19 MAY

FAB SOUTHBANK

Join the fun at Boyd Community Hub for this triannual festival that celebrates the diverse community of Southbank. Expect arts and crafts, delicious food, stalls, children's activities and multicultural festivities.

25 MAY

THE LONG WALK

Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures at Alexandra Gardens. Enjoy pre-match activities and live entertainment from First Nations artists before the iconic "long walk" to the G.

UNTIL JUNE

ARTPLAY: 20TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

Explore a city where wild animals and humans live together as citizens, discover a world where kids are in control, and browse creative and connective activities for parents and carers of new babies. At Birrarung Marr and online. [melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay)

UNTIL MID JUNE

ARTS HOUSE SEASON 1

Discover new and bold contemporary art and performance across the Season 1 program, featuring dance, photography, installations, music and a tabletop roleplaying game. At Arts House in North Melbourne. [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au)



Arts House Season 1



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

***Master tailor Igor Iskahov has run Lonsdale Clothing Alterations for more than 30 years - he is the recipient of a Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Award***



# Guide to doing business in Melbourne

Melbourne is a great place for businesses to start, grow and go global.

Whether you're a cupcake whizz or a game-changing biotech startup, you can find valuable support and networks on your doorstep.

## SEEK ADVICE FROM OUR BUSINESS CONCIERGE

Our Business Concierge service makes it easier for traders to operate in the city with fast-tracked permit approvals, business and marketing support, and industry contacts. Our dedicated team of case managers is on hand to support businesses in all industries – small, large, or just starting.

Brother-sister duo Jess Colgan and Brett Duncan are co-founders of plant-based patisserie GingerSnap, which celebrates the limitless potential of people with disability. We supported them during their recent relocation to new premises in West Melbourne.

*“The Business Concierge has been incredible from the beginning – consistently checking in on us throughout the construction phase to see how we were going, referring us to the lovely marketing team, and sharing relevant grant applications,” Jess said.*



Jess and Brett from Gingersnap

## SUPPORT LOCAL

Not a business owner? No worries. You can do your bit by supporting local businesses in your neighbourhood. Seek out cafes, retail and hidden gems on [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

## SURROUND YOURSELF WITH SUPPORT AND KNOWLEDGE

Join your local precinct association to take advantage of networking, training, promotion and knowledge-sharing among businesses in your neighbourhood. Find out more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/precincts](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/precincts)

Our Business Concierge team can also help you navigate training, funding, operational guidelines and grants coordinated by numerous organisations – from mentoring to licensing for background music in retail stores.

## APPLY FOR A BUSINESS GRANT

The City of Melbourne offers a wide range of grants and sponsorships to individuals, community organisations and businesses in the arts, recreation, events and business sectors.

Grants and sponsorships help recipients deliver quality programs, events, products and services that bring a wide range of environmental, social and economic returns to the city. Learn more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/grants](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/grants)

## GO GLOBAL FROM MELBOURNE

Our Invest Melbourne team equips local startups with valuable networks and information to unlock their business potential and progress prototype to global impact.

We also have TradeStart advisers – part of Austrade's TradeStart network – who are focused on helping health and technology businesses identify and secure opportunities in global markets.

These game-changing startups help premature babies breathe, build human “mini brains” to find cures for neurodegenerative disease, support people with limb loss through virtual reality, and more.

Dr Evelyn Chan is the CEO of Smileyscope – a virtual-reality device making medical procedures safer and more enjoyable for patients in every children's hospital in Australia, and in more than 40 centres in the USA.

“The talent, infrastructure and innovation resources in Melbourne enable entrepreneurs to be able to thrive and create sustainable businesses locally, and bring these innovations to the world,” Evelyn said.

*“The TradeStart team has helped us connect to other groups locally and internationally, as well as identify resources such as grants and opportunities to raise awareness of our work. We're grateful for their support.”*

## CELEBRATE SUCCESS WITH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Each year we present awards for Small Business of the Year and Small Business Innovation. Recent recipients include passionate cheesemonger Hakim Halim from RIPE Cheese, and GAIA Project – a group sending lettuce into space to change the face of agriculture.

We also celebrate the people behind inner-city businesses that have stood the test of time with our Lord Mayor's Small Business Achievement Awards. Among the recipients are legends who have been in business in the city for more than 10, 20 and 40 years.

Applications for the next round of awards open on Wednesday 3 April. To learn more, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards)

## START YOUR JOURNEY

Visit us online to start a conversation with our Business Concierge or Invest Melbourne and subscribe to the Business in Melbourne newsletter for regular updates on news, grants, training and support.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Read more inspiring stories about local businesses and entrepreneurs – including all the movers and shakers mentioned in this article – at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/economy](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au/economy)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [melbourne.vic.gov.au/business](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/business)



# TOY LIBRARIES SPREAD JOY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

**The Hotham Hub in North Melbourne is a hive of excitement, laughter and discovery.**

New toys and old favourites – trucks, slides, a miniature post office box – the City of Melbourne’s toy library collection spans 3000-plus items for ages zero to eight, across three locations.

At the Hotham Hub, there’s space for borrowers and their families to stay and play. Toy library attendants notice patterns in families forming relationships – the children get along, so they tend to come at the same time each week or fortnight.

Beyond a centre for fostering play and curiosity, the libraries have become social spaces for kids and their parents.

“The children are able to play together, and you notice parents chatting and forming friendships, too,” said Bernadine Nolen, a team leader in our library and children’s services branch.

“We watch kids develop their social skills through learning to share with others, especially in a new environment.

“The collections are carefully curated and reviewed – informed and updated with the help of feedback from the experts, children! We focus on toys that are fun, help to develop skills and imagination and support brain, muscle and language development.”

The City of Melbourne runs three toy libraries across the municipality: alongside Hotham Hub, there’s The Chapel in Carlton, and Library at The Dock in Docklands.


It’s free to join and free to borrow from our toy libraries. About 250 families use the service each year – a membership base that has been steadily expanding since we removed annual membership fees in July 2023.

Since then, 552 families have borrowed, enjoyed and returned some 6759 items.

Families come from across the city to visit the libraries, because they recognise the benefits, Bernadine said.

*“They’re free, they’re a social space for kids and families, they give parents the chance to trial toys before they commit to buying them, and they’re good for the environment because they reduce waste.”*

To access the toy libraries, join up to the City of Melbourne libraries network, a free service that’s available to all Victorian residents.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries)

## TOY LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

### THE CHAPEL, CARLTON

Monday: 3pm to 6pm  
Wednesday: 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm

### HOTHAM HUB, NORTH MELBOURNE

Tuesday: 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Thursday: 3pm to 6pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm

### LIBRARY AT THE DOCK, DOCKLANDS

Click and collect



# DISABILITY PRIDE GUIDE TO MELBOURNE

Gonketa's Auslan-inspired mural

Every person with disability should be able to access the spaces and assistance they need. So we're adapting our events, programs and facilities to make Melbourne more accessible and inclusive.

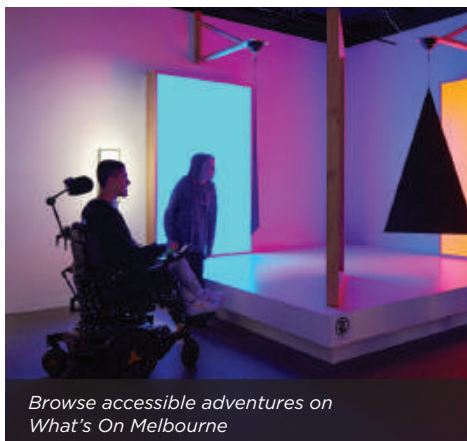
We can connect you to services like a mobile library and carer support groups, to name a few. But that's just the beginning. Here are some more ways to get the most out of Melbourne.

## Sport and recreation

Explore accessible recreation centres and more than 50 inclusive sporting activities, including sailing and blind soccer. People with Down syndrome can also work out with volunteers through FitSkills at Melbourne City Baths.

## Dining, retail and entertainment

Browse ever-evolving guides to accessible adventures, produced by a person with lived experience of disability. Think wheelchair-friendly restaurants, dietary guides for foodies, and autism-friendly outings.



Browse accessible adventures on What's On Melbourne

## Access and mobility maps

Find accessible parking, transport, toilets, and charging points for scooters and wheelchairs. There are also 14 Changing Places in central Melbourne that offer full-sized change tables, ceiling hoists and peninsula toilets. And we offer incontinence product disposal bins in some male and all-gender toilets thanks to the BINS4Blokes program.

## SAY IT WITH A SUNFLOWER

Do you have a hidden disability? We invite you to collect a free sunflower pin, lanyard or wristband from our events, tourism hubs and libraries, or from Traveller's Aid - as a discrete sign you may need extra assistance.

## Outdoor play and connection

Discover local playgrounds with accessible surfaces, liberty swings and opportunities for sensory play. People with dementia and their carers are also invited to connect at Kensington's sensory garden.

## Art that celebrates disability

See Larissa MacFarlane's mural that celebrates disability pride leaders in Royal Lane. Gaze up at Gonketa's Auslan-inspired mural in Rainbow Alley. Then check out accessible performances and events at Arts House and ArtPlay.

## Disability pride podcast

Listen to artist Larissa MacFarlane discussing ways to call out barriers for people with disability on an episode of Peta Hooke's *I Can't Stand* podcast supported by the City of Melbourne.



Larissa MacFarlane with one of her public artworks

*“Disability pride is our best tool for resisting ableism and for resisting discrimination. For being able to advocate not just for ourselves but for other people, for making the world a better place ... If we don't have disability pride, then doing that work is really, really hard.”*

Larissa MacFarlane

## Ways to help shape your city

Have your say on city-shaping projects through Participate Melbourne, apply for grants, and make use of bookable spaces. Plus, get to know our Disability Advisory Committee, which guides our access and inclusion activities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[melbourne.vic.gov.au/  
accessingmelbourne](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/accessingmelbourne)



# A WILD LIFE: PARK RANGERS RESCUE ROOS AND REPTILES

Ranger Isaac Dodd (centre) out and about in Melbourne

**A roo on the hop in Carlton. A blue-tongue lizard basking in a laneway. Ducklings in distress. Our park rangers have seen it all and know just what to do. So – before you step in – give the experts a call.**

Our park rangers do important work – helping visitors, keeping our parks safe and protecting the City of Melbourne’s urban ecosystems through a range of programs.

The team members have diverse experience in fields including conservation, environmental science, outdoor education, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

It’s just as well the rangers are multiskilled, because they often have some wild encounters. Like tailing a lost young kangaroo that was reported to be hopping up Lygon Street, as ranger Isaac Dodd explains.



Isaac with the sedated kangaroo

“I was driving the ranger ute, snaking my way up through Carlton following reports of the roo,” Isaac said.

“He’d ended up in an apartment block backyard, highly distressed, cornered in by a resident’s dogs, trying to dig under a pool fence. I was first on the scene.”

Ranger Isaac helped remove the dogs to calm the kangaroo down, and called in reinforcements from Vets for Compassion, Wildlife Victoria, Victoria Police and other agencies. Meanwhile, residents helped hold up a roo net.



The kangaroo waking up at Plenty Gorge

The vet team arrived and swiftly darted the kangaroo, sedating him for an in-field assessment, while another local helped by acting as a makeshift stand for an IV bag.

“It was a real team effort, with so many people and agencies working together. Thankfully the vets found the kangaroo was in great health, just overheating from the stress,” Isaac said.

“Once he’d cooled down, he was released to join up with a mob of roos out at Plenty Gorge. A volunteer patiently stayed with him throughout a three-hour nap, then after groggy wake-up he hopped away to join his new family.

“It was a perfect outcome, even if it left him with a nasty hangover.”

***Wild animals that are sick, injured, displaced or orphaned may need our help, but Isaac encourages you to think carefully and get an expert’s advice before you capture or move a creature.***

When a bird strikes a window, for example, it may just be concussed, simply needing to be left in dark, quiet spot for up to an hour to bounce back on its own.

Plus, many native Australian birds – like lorikeets and magpies – fledge on the ground, so they might look like they’re in distress. But removing them from their parents’ sight could be the wrong choice.

“Some birds fledge on the ground – after leaving the nest they can spend a few weeks unable to fly, building their strength and learning ‘how to bird’ while their parents protect and feed them from overhead,” Isaac said.

“Often these young fledglings can be hard to differentiate from their parents.”

Recently, a well-intentioned cafe owner saw a rainbow lorikeet unable to fly, so assumed it was injured. They put the bird



Keep an eye out for the rangers' education trailer in your neighbourhood

in a box and the rangers attended the call, finding a very feisty and perfectly health fledgling.

"We learned that while the bird was being contained, two other lorries (his parents) were swooping the well-intentioned kidnapper. Although the cafe owner was trying to do the right thing, it could've accidentally resulted in the bird being orphaned," Isaac said.

"Luckily, when we returned to the site where the fledgling was found, both parents were still overhead. Soon after we released the young one, the parents swooped down to greet and feed him. I'm happy we could get him back to living his best lorikeet life."

Escaped pets can also cause a fuss in the middle of the city, like when Isaac received a report of a blue-tongued lizard in one of our iconic laneways.

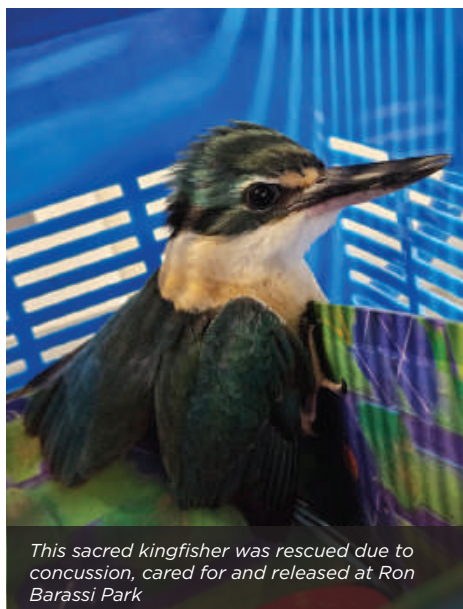
"Although blue-tongues are native to Melbourne, this one had the colours of a Queensland and was precariously basking in a busy CBD laneway," Isaac said.

"He was very comfortable being handled, indicating he was an escaped or released pet. We contacted Reptiles Victoria and the team ensured he went to a special rehab and rehoming program."

Our rangers' other adventures include fishing a group of ducklings out of a deep drain with a long pool net and caring for a concussed sacred kingfisher before releasing the bird at Ron Barassi Park in Docklands.



These orphaned Australian wood ducklings were rescued, looked after by a licensed wildlife carer until they were old enough to be independent, then released at Royal Park



This sacred kingfisher was rescued due to concussion, cared for and released at Ron Barassi Park

## HOW TO CARE FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE

- **Call an expert before taking action.** If you spot an animal in trouble, visit [wildlifevictoria.org.au](http://wildlifevictoria.org.au) and click 'Report' or call their 24-hour hotline on (03) 8400 7300. They'll call in our park rangers to help if needed.
- **Understand natural behaviours.** Get to know local species to recognise natural behaviours, like birds that fledge on the ground.
- **Check pouches for joeys.** Remember that when you see a dead marsupial, there could be an orphaned baby on board.
- **Don't feed wildlife.** Human food isn't meant for animals. For example, ducks can't digest bread – it causes severe illness. Animals who are fed can also become dependent and forget how to find their own food.
- **Keep your cats indoors.** Cats are by far the biggest killers of local wildlife.
- **Leave water out for wildlife when it's hot.** Not all creatures can balance on the rim of a bowl, so add a rock for smaller creatures like lizards to drink from, and sticks so they can easily climb out.
- **Grow a wildlife garden.** From native plants to bee hotels, there are lots of ways to make your home more wildlife-friendly and foster new habitat, even if you just have a balcony with pot plants. To get top tips from a Gardens for Wildlife volunteer, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife)
- **Use wildlife-safe fruit netting.** If you're netting fruit trees, use a fine mesh that won't let wildlife get tangled up.
- **Reduce, reduce and recycle.** Waste has a major impact on our environment and biodiversity.

## NATURE WALK IN ROYAL PARK

Did you know that Parkville is home to our city's biggest open space? Spanning 169 hectares, Royal Park is a sanctuary for flora and fauna, including ancient river red gums, the picturesque Trin Warren Tam-boore wetlands and abundant wildlife.

Walk, cycle, birdwatch, explore the nature playground, play team sports or tee off on the golf course. Then stay tuned for the Draft Royal Park Master Plan later this year. Developed with the community, the plan will outline our vision for the future of this special place.

## YOUR COUNCIL



Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, Councillor Kevin Louey, Councillor Roshena Campbell, Councillor Jamal Hakim, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece, Councillor Davydd Griffiths, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Councillor Rohan Leppert, Councillor Philip Le Liu, Councillor Elizabeth Mary Doidge and Councillor Jason Chang

## IN BRIEF

### GUIDE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Find out why Melbourne is a great place to age with our updated *Out and About* guide. The handy directory features free or low-cost events, activities, services and support information, refreshed for 2024. Pick up a free copy at your local library, neighbourhood centre or community hub, or read it online.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/outandabout)

### MAKE ROOM

Our landmark Make Room project is set to open mid-year, to address the critical needs of people experiencing rough sleeping. A Council-owned building at 602 Little Bourke Street is being transforming into 50 studio apartments for transitional housing, with on-site services and wrap-around support.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/makeroom](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/makeroom)

### GET YOUR FLU SHOT IN APRIL

Immunisation helps protect children and adults against harmful infections by using the body's natural defence mechanism – the immune response – to build resistance. We provide a range of vaccinations in the community setting, including flu shots, immunisations for children, and a new shingles vaccine if you're over 65.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

### NARRM NGARRGU

Discover narrm ngarrgu, our new flagship library and family services centre in the heart of the Queen Victoria Market precinct. It's an oasis in our busy city with over 30,000 books, artworks, creative spaces and a rooftop terrace overlooking the stunning city skyline. Bookable spaces are free for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/narrmngarrgu](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/narrmngarrgu)

### REPORT IT ONLINE

Do you need to let us know about a problem like graffiti, a barking dog or an illegally parked vehicle? Follow the link below to report issues to the right team, find out what is required and how different types of issues may be resolved. If there is any danger to the public or public space, please call us on 03 9658 9658.

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/reportanissue](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/reportanissue)

#### Lord Mayor Sally Capp

Portfolio Lead, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations, and Aboriginal Melbourne  
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[lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

#### Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

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#### Councillor Dr Olivia Ball

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#### Councillor Kevin Louey

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#### Postal address for all councillors

City of Melbourne,  
GPO Box 1603, Melbourne VIC 3001

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

MARCH			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 5 & 19 March	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 26 March	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
APRIL			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 9 & 23 April	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 23 April	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
MAY			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 7 & 21 May	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 28 May	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall

View all meeting dates at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil)

## PEOPLE WE MEET IN MELBOURNE



**TOMAS JAJESNICA**  
Meditation master

“I quit my well-paying corporate job and got into the biggest debt of my life. But I could see the mental health of my friends and colleagues deteriorating in real time around me and knew I had to stick it out.”

Starting Mr Meditate was a leap of faith that paid off for Tomas, who has received an Achievement Award as part of the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards for spreading his own brand of calm across the city through meditation workshops.



**CHRISTOS PAPADIMITRIOU**  
Biotech leader

“Neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s can erase people’s experiences and wisdom. It’s very sad and disheartening to see this in a loved one. We’d like to change this with our technology.”

Imagine a small tray that holds nearly 100 human “mini brains” – each one a millimetre in diameter and taking us closer to finding cures for diseases like Alzheimer’s. Tessara Therapeutics is leading this work in Parkville.



**GEORGIE STONE OAM**  
Young Melburnian of the Year

“My hope for the future is that the trans people who come after me don’t have to fight so hard. I know they’ll have to fight, but I hope they don’t have to fight so hard.”

Transgender rights advocate and Neighbours star Georgie Stone OAM was named the inaugural Young Melburnian of the Year in the City of Melbourne’s prestigious Melbourne Awards.



To learn more about Tomas, Christos and Georgie, search for their names at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### CONTACT

[melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus)  
03 9658 9658

### NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE

Teletypewriter (TTY) users phone  
13 36 77 then ask for 03 9658 9658  
Speak & Listen users phone  
1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9658 9658

### IN PERSON

Melbourne Town Hall, Administration Building  
120 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
Business hours, Monday to Friday

### CONNECT



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### POSTAL ADDRESS

City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3000

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[melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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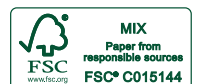
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or 02 9334 3524.



### INTERPRETER SERVICES

We cater for people of all backgrounds.  
Please call 03 9280 0726.

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03 9280 0726	हिंदी
03 9280 0726	All other languages



# shape SHARE imagine



## What do you want to see in your neighbourhood?

Shape the future of the area you live, work, study or play in by taking City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Survey. Your ideas could help inform Council's future budgets and the next four-year Council Plan.



### Have your say

Take the survey by 31 March to help shape your neighbourhood and for the chance to win a \$200 Queen Victoria Market voucher. You can also use the link anytime to receive updates about your local area.  
[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Survey-2024)

