

YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE MAGAZINE

# MELBOURNE

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2023

CHEESE IS  
PERFECT



**CHAMPION  
CHEESE SHOP**  
NAMED SMALL BUSINESS  
OF THE YEAR

**RENEWING OUR  
ICONIC MARKET**  
LANDMARK PLANS FOR  
QUEEN VIC PRECINCT

**FIND YOUR FLOW  
IN FAWKNER PARK**  
TAI CHI FOR THE YOUNG  
AND YOUNG AT HEART



CITY OF MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU



Lord Mayor Sally Capp AO (right) and new City of Melbourne CEO Alison Leighton (left) are making history as the first two women to hold these leadership positions at the same time

Welcome to the spring edition of **Melbourne** magazine, featuring cover star Hakim Halim – this year’s Small Business of the Year award winner and owner of RIPE, which specialises in Australian-made cheeses.

We are so proud to shine a spotlight on Hakim, and his fellow small business owners.

They make up 74 per cent of all businesses in the City of Melbourne, and account for 14 per cent of local jobs. These businesses are the engine room of our economy, the heart and soul of our city, and what makes Melbourne truly unique.

But more than that, they represent the creativity, determination and commitment shown by so many in our municipality.

Whether your dream is to open an artisanal cheese shop, become a pro skateboarder or create life-saving solutions to our community’s greatest health challenges – like the people featured in these pages – we want to support you.

Another feature in this edition is focused on the important referendum relating to the Voice.

We have agreed to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and say yes to the Voice in the upcoming referendum on the Constitutional Recognition of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

We believe Aboriginal people should be enshrined in the Constitution.

The intent of the Voice is to provide a clear avenue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have that say and, in this time of learning and reflection, we are committed to bringing people together to share and learn in a safe and respectful way. I encourage you all to learn more about the upcoming referendum by visiting [melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/voice)

This edition also features several exciting updates on our city-shaping infrastructure works. We cannot wait to bring the visions for Queen Victoria Market and the Greenline Project to life as we support our growing city of the future.

Until the next edition.

**Sally Capp AO**  
Lord Mayor

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 Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wadawurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin have to this unique place for more than 2000 generations. We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.

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# CONNECTING OUR WATERFRONT CITY ALONG THE BIRRARUNG



A leafy raised walkway leads towards the Evan Walker Bridge

## Have your say on the draft Master Plan that will guide the City of Melbourne's city-shaping transformation of the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung.

The Greenline Project will create four kilometres of interconnected promenades, parks, open spaces, native plantings, cultural activations and environmental renewal between Birrarung Marr and the Bolte Bridge.

The transformation is expected to create more than 3400 jobs during construction, more than 6400 ongoing jobs by 2042, and attract more than 1.1 million additional visitors to the city every year.

The draft Master Plan details the vision and design for five interconnected precincts – featuring lush waterfront destinations, spaces for events and community gatherings, picturesque new boardwalks, wide promenades, new native habitats and cultural activations.

This vision was informed by extensive stakeholder and community consultation, including surveys, pop-ups, workshops and walking tours of the site.

Check out the design ideas for each precinct and head to our website to share your feedback.

### **Birrarung Marr Precinct** (Birrarung Marr, Federation Vaults, Flinders Walk)

- Cultural event and performance spaces
- Expanded riverside promenade with uninterrupted views of the river and Southbank
- Terraced steps for an enhanced riverside dining experience
- New pathways to connect the CBD to the sports and entertainment precinct
- Native plantings to boost the ecology of the river's edge

### **The Falls Precinct** (Sandridge Bridge, Banana Alley Vaults, Turning Basin, Enterprize Park)

- New open space next to Sandridge Bridge
- An ecological river's edge and floating pontoons
- Upgrades to Enterprize Park and a new wetland habitat for local wildlife
- Enhanced connections with the river and habitat creation at Banana Alley Promenade

### **River Park Precinct** (Batman Park)

- Generous open space and lawns for play, exercise, social activities and cultural events
- A new, accessible play space with a nearby cafe or kiosk
- Riverside areas dedicated to water uses including fishing and boating
- New activities space under the Flinders Street viaduct

- Large ecology site, habitat creation and significant native botanical garden

### **Maritime Precinct** (Crowne Plaza, Seafarers River Frontage)

- New riverside promenade at Crowne Plaza to create new dining experiences and water access
- Small-scale decks over the river
- Improved boating access and amenities
- Educational installations and playful learning activities on maritime history
- A revived habitat on the river's edge with native plantings

### **Saltwater Wharf Precinct** (Collins Wharf Park, Collins Street and North Wharf Road River Frontage)

- New parkland with an ecological focus at North Wharf
- Improved boating and fishing access and amenities, creating a vibrant commercial precinct
- Raised waterfront platforms and enlarged promenade
- New boardwalks and seating to attract more riverside recreation and enable a potential river punt to Fishermans Bend



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



**CITY FLASHBACK**

This photograph shows a City of Melbourne staff member hand painting parking signs in 1958.

The image is one of more than 13,000 eclectic items preserved in our City Collection.

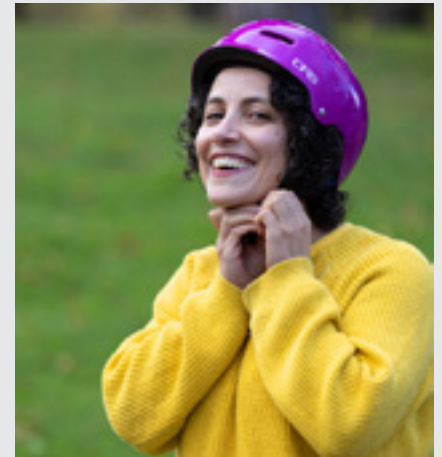
Browse the treasure trove of images and artefacts at [citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Flash forward to today and in the CBD we've begun rolling out simpler parking signs, cheaper rates for off-peak times, free parking for short stops under 15 minutes with the EasyPark app, and easier-to-access loading zones. Learn more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/simplerparking](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/simplerparking)

**FAQ**

**WHAT'S THE CARBON IMPACT OF MY COMMUTE?**

Every kilometre you travel in a regular car creates about 243.8 grams of carbon dioxide emissions. When travelling by train, this reduces to 28.6 grams, and emissions for tram travel have been completely offset. Cycling, walking and electric vehicles powered by renewables release zero emissions. We're working to make sustainable transport hassle free. Learn more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/climateaction](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/climateaction)



**GIVING LOCAL KIDS THE BEST START**

Emmanuelle Maurel is our Early Years Inclusion and Access Officer. She helps local families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds navigate early education, parenting and wellbeing services.

"By supporting brain development through education we can change the trajectories of children's lives and this can result in better life-long outcomes, especially for vulnerable children and their families." Emmanuelle said.

Visit [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au) to learn about Emmanuelle's role and meet more City of Melbourne staff.



**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)



*'Birrarrung Wilam' - meaning river camp - is an environmental art project at Birrarung Marr that celebrates the physical and spiritual connections between Traditional Owners and Country*

# The Voice: deepen your understanding before you vote

Australians will soon vote in a referendum about the Voice to Parliament.

The proposed constitutional reform to introduce the Voice would create an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples an ongoing say in decisions made about them.

We are committed to the journey of reconciliation for the betterment of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and we believe that the Voice to Parliament referendum is a significant and important step in this journey.

This is an important moment for all Australians, and we know that there are different views within the community.

.....  
***“Now is the time to look out for each other as we read, listen and ask questions.”***  
 .....

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the Voice to Parliament?

The Voice to Parliament is an advisory body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to work in partnership with the elected Federal Government.

It will provide non-binding advice only around matters that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Voice is an opportunity to make policies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, rather than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Voice to Parliament will guide Government policy and will not have the power to make laws.

### Do I have to vote in the referendum?

Yes. It is compulsory by law for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 and older to vote in referendums. Check that your enrolment details are at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)

## Attend an event or download resources in your language

We are committed to sharing information about the Voice to Parliament in a safe and respectful way, making it easier for people to get the facts and understand the role they need to play.

As part of our ongoing commitment to truth-telling, we have compiled a list of resources about the Voice to Parliament, the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart (of which the Voice is a part), and the upcoming referendum.

We have also developed translated resources to help people from multicultural, migrant and refugee communities learn more.

There will also be a community event held at Melbourne Town Hall in the evening on Thursday 21 September. Visit our website to find all the details.

Authorised by Sally Capp in Melbourne on behalf of Melbourne City Council



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

# THREE MEDTECH STARTUPS GOING GLOBAL FROM MELBOURNE



Virtetic team members Carine Lim, Jeremy Cao, Ricardo Garcia-Rosas, Jing Mu and Raphael Mayer

## Got a business idea that could change the world? You're in good company in Melbourne.

We're supporting impressive local startups as they journey from prototype to global impact through our Invest Melbourne team.

The startups are reducing emissions from city buildings, empowering urban designers to build better neighbourhoods, and giving doctors new tools to care for patients.

Here are three local startups working at the intersection of healthcare and technology. You can read more about each of these impressive businesses at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### Helping premature babies breathe

Ventora Medical is designing a neonatal airway pressure monitor to empower doctors with information to help them care for babies who experience breathing difficulties.

"Our goal is to improve the health outcomes for these vulnerable newborns. We are fortunate to be working with world-class clinicians who have helped us to create a product that can have a real impact on the standard of care.

"Being named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 was an incredible honour and validation of Ventora's potential. We felt a sense of pride and excitement to be recognised among some of the most innovative and impact-driven young people in the Asia-Pacific region."

**Amy Yu**  
Ventora Medical

### Supporting people with limb loss

Virtetic is using virtual reality to improve outcomes for people with limb loss in the critical time while they wait for a prosthesis.

"Our goal is to empower the prosthetics community through virtual reality - whether it be from the comfort of their home or their neighbourhood clinic, we want to be able to ease their transition, one screen at a time.

"Invest Melbourne has opened up several opportunities for us and we are seeing the fruits of this already. Having support like this, from people who care about and promote what you do, helps us a lot and makes all the difference."

**Raphael Mayer**  
Virtetic



A user immersed in Virtetic's digital world



Campbell Robertson-Smith from Incisive Technologies



Ventora Medical team members Alan Haszard, Amy Yu and Edward Buijs



Edward and Amy with Professor Christiane Theda, one of Ventora's co-founders

**Improving people's dental health**

Incisive Technologies helps dentists diagnose tooth decay earlier, before it is visible to the eye or x-ray machine. Their BlueCheck biomolecule turns sites of decay temporarily blue.

"Our aim is to advance oral healthcare by enabling preventative dentistry - this is hugely exciting and very rewarding personally. The greatest immediate impact may be seen in underserved or disadvantaged communities.

"As a company intending to launch our product internationally, the global TradeStart network is a crucial resource in supporting the engagement of partners across a wide range of activities including logistics, company incorporation and market strategy."

**Campbell Robertson-Smith**  
Incisive Technologies

.....  
***"Invest Melbourne has opened up several opportunities for us and we are seeing the fruits of this already."***  
 .....

**What's next for Invest Melbourne**

Invest Melbourne continues to eclipse its job creation and economic targets, and the team is currently working across more than 140 projects.

This could create or fast-track an estimated 8000 new full-time jobs across the city and generate around \$1.3 billion in capital expenditure.

**Get support to start and grow your business**

Experts from the City of Melbourne can help you unlock your business potential and join the many innovative and successful companies investing locally.

Our Business Concierge service is working to make it even easier for traders to operate in the city - with fast-tracked permit approvals, business and marketing support, and industry contacts.

We have also expanded our Invest Melbourne team with new TradeStart advisers who help small and medium-sized businesses secure opportunities in global markets, in partnership with Austrade.



To learn more and book an appointment, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/invest](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/invest) or scan the QR code.



# RENEWING OUR ICONIC QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET FOR THE FUTURE



*An artist's impression of the Gurrova Place project, the biggest mixed-use development in Council's history*

## Queen Victoria Market is one of Melbourne's most famous destinations, attracting some 10 million visitors each year.

It's home to more than 650 small traders and family-owned and operated businesses, and is the longest-surviving marketplace of its size and diversity in Australia.

The 145-year-old market is a critical part of Melbourne's early development and continues to play a central role in the city's cultural, business and social life.

Through the renewal of Queen Victoria Market and the surrounding precinct, the City of Melbourne is restoring the market's heritage while delivering modern facilities to make the market work better for traders, customers and visitors, and revitalising this growing part of the city.

In this special feature, we take a look at the projects we've delivered and the ones to come that will ensure the future of our magnificent market.



TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE  
WITH WORKS, VISIT  
[melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/qvmrenewal)

## Historic market transformation

Melbourne's beloved Queen Victoria Market is set to undergo a \$1.7 billion transformation.

Gurrova Place will be developed by Lendlease, following our landmark divestment of the Southern Precinct — generating more than \$1 billion in economic activity and creating more than 4000 new jobs.

The once-in-a-generation project will enhance the traditional market experience Melburnians and visitors know and love.

Gurrova Place will include build-to-rent apartments and 15 per cent affordable housing, student accommodation and landmark office space across three buildings — all connected to the market by the soon-to-be revamped Franklin Street stores.

A new underground car park will provide an additional 220 spaces for market customers, and 300 spaces on weekends.

We'll also create a new Market Square — unlocking one of the largest open spaces in the CBD. The 1.8 hectare 'people's park' will become a magnet for residents, locals and visitors.

In consultation with Traditional Owners, Gurrova Place will pay tribute to the site's history. Gurrova means 'place of exchange' or 'interchange', reflecting the purpose of the market.

The divestment of the Southern Precinct follows an agreement with the Victorian Government in 2014 to transfer the site to us to be sold, with all funds reinvested in the market's renewal.

Construction is expected to start next year with projects to be delivered in stages.

## Franklin Street refresh

We're also proposing to create a new link between the centre of the CBD and Queen Victoria Market along Franklin Street, paving the way for the landmark Gurrova Place development.

The Franklin Street transformation project includes 1250 sqm of open space plus more trees and plants, providing 40 per cent more coverage and helping create a cooler environment.

We'll also turn four lanes of traffic into two, create better connections for people moving between the CBD and Queen Victoria Market, and improve safety with new pedestrian crossings, lighting and reduced traffic flow.



*“The once-in-a-generation project will enhance the traditional market experience Melburnians and visitors know and love.”*

Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation

Consultation on this vision wrapped up in late August, and all feedback will be considered as part of the final design.

We're delivering this project in partnership with the Victorian Government as part of the \$100 million Transport and Amenity Program.

### **New Food Hall**

Set to open in spring, the new Food Hall will offer customers a contemporary place to eat, meet and enjoy the market atmosphere.

The tenancies are currently being fitted out in preparation for a diverse range of fresh food and drink offerings.

### **Munro development**

Our city's largest library and community hub is set to open in November on the doorstep of Queen Victoria Market.

The Munro development will also include family services, 2500 sqm of open space and laneways, new hospitality and retail stores.

Affordable housing apartments and 500 underground car parks for market customers opened in December 2021, and a boutique hotel and apartments were completed in November 2022.

### **A safer streetscape**

We've just upgraded the streetscape and roadway in front of the Munro development along Therry and Queen streets.

As a key gateway into the market, the upgrade of the streetscape will greatly improve safety, create a more welcoming and pedestrian-friendly street with wider footpaths, more greenery, lighting and shade for customers to stop and enjoy the market atmosphere.

### **Heritage shed restoration**

We're investing more than \$30 million to restore the market's culturally and historically significant open air sheds, securing them as the unique backdrop of the market experience.

Ten of the 12 sheds have been restored since 2020. Work has begun on Sheds H and I to repair and strengthen structural elements, painting, add insulated roofing to improve the temperature under the sheds, and upgrade common area services.

### **String Bean Alley**

Twenty-six independent traders in bespoke shipping containers now call String Bean Alley home and provide a uniquely Melbourne shopping experience in the heart of the market.

String Bean Alley is one of a series of key market improvements — identified in the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Master Plan — which directly address feedback from customers and traders, as well as recommendations from the People's Panel.

### **More sustainable operations**

Traders and customers told us that making Queen Victoria Market more sustainable is important. Solar power, stormwater harvesting and an on-site organic waste recycling facility are just a few of the projects proposed for the renewed market precinct.

We've already powered up more than 1550 solar panels to cut carbon emissions and reduce the market's electricity bill. Upon completion of the renewal project, the market will be powered by 3765 sqm of solar panels.

### **Visit Queen Victoria Market**

The market is open 6am to 3pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 6am to 4pm Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday. Specialty retail stores open at 9am.



Market Square will be a key feature of the Gurrova Place development

Artist impression, subject to approvals and consultation

# 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)



UNTIL  
**17 SEPTEMBER**

*Electric Kingdom*

**1 SEPTEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER**

**SEASON 2 AT ARTS HOUSE**

From examinations of consent to extreme encounters with nature, from reckoning with mortality to a reimagined vogue ball, Arts House's Season 2 program features manifestos, memoirs, provocations and parties.

**7 TO 17 SEPTEMBER**

**ELECTRIC KINGDOM**

Step into a fantastical realm and witness a magical world of epic proportions at Birrarung Marr. This free event features giant illuminated animals, mesmerising soundscapes and roving performers.

**21 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER**

**MELBOURNE ROYAL SHOW**

Make happy memories at one of Victoria's most iconic community events. Held at Melbourne Showgrounds, this epic celebration features animals, rides for all ages, delicious food and world-class entertainment.

**27 TO 30 SEPTEMBER**

**AFL GRAND FINAL SERIES**

Head to the central city during Grand Final Week to enjoy the buzz in the lead-up to the big game. Events include the Footy Festival, live sites and Auskick clinics.

**15 OCTOBER**

**NIKE MELBOURNE MARATHON FESTIVAL**

Cheer on runners in Australia's largest marathon event. The course incorporates some of the city's most-loved landmarks and finishes at the iconic MCG.

**1 TO 31 OCTOBER**

**CRAFT CONTEMPORARY**

Immerse yourself in contemporary craft and design at Craft Victoria's annual festival. This year's program is the biggest yet, with more than 100 exhibitions, projects, demonstrations and events.

**UNTIL 6 OCTOBER**

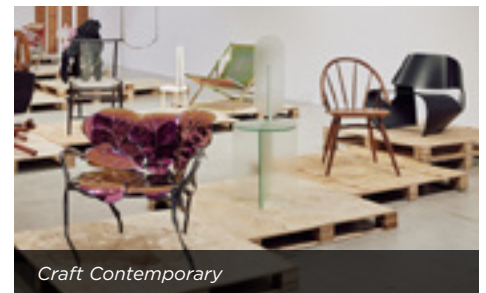
**NGV FRIDAY NIGHTS**

Experience a kaleidoscope of colour and sounds at this live music series that traverses disco, jazz and soul, alongside late-night access to the stunning exhibition: Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi.

**23 TO 29 OCTOBER**

**MELBOURNE FASHION WEEK**

Celebrate the best in Australian fashion with runways in unexpected and impressive locations, talks with experts, hands-on workshops, pop-up fashion moments and more.



*Craft Contemporary*

FROM  
**1 SEPTEMBER**



*GENESIS, part of Season 2 at Arts House*

**27 TO 29 OCTOBER**

**ARRIBA! MEXICAN FESTIVAL**

Experience Melbourne's rich and diverse Mexican culture through cuisine, folklore, celebrations, dance, music, bright costumes and mariachi. Find the fun at Golden Square Car Park on Lonsdale Street.



*Diwali @ Fed Square*

Photo: Reuben Gore at Top Bunk



UNTIL  
**29 OCTOBER**

*Arriba! Mexican Festival*

**6 NOVEMBER**



*Melbourne International Dumpling Festival*

Photo: Laura Du Ve

**4 NOVEMBER**

#### DIWALI @ FED SQUARE

Feel uplifted at Fed Square as annual Diwali celebrations showcase traditional and contemporary Indian culture through soulful live music, Bollywood dance workshops, craft, yoga, henna, authentic food and a bazaar.

**6 NOVEMBER**

#### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL DUMPLING FESTIVAL

Travel the world by dumpling at this delicious and culinary-packed festival dedicated to dumplings from many different cultures. Head to Queen Victoria Market for a delicious adventure.

**UNTIL 17 NOVEMBER**

#### THE FLYING CANOE

Journey to the islands of Kiribati in this at-home interactive audio experience for families. Follow along with a young Magic Spinner as she turns back time to reconnect with her ancestors. By Threshold. Co-commissioned by ArtPlay.

**UNTIL 27 NOVEMBER**

#### LIBRARY CINEMA

Come along to the Performance Space at Library at The Dock to enjoy contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen every month. Feel free to stay for snacks and a chat afterwards. Check dates online.

**25 NOVEMBER TO 25 DECEMBER**

#### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Explore a wonderland of Christmas events and dazzling decorations. Check off your Christmas list at hundreds of shops. Feast under festive lights or celebrate from rooftop bars. Celebrate Christmas - only in the city.



*Community Grocer*

### COMMUNITY CORNER

#### CARLTON

##### COMMUNITY GROCER

Stock up on low-cost fresh fruit and vegetables at a weekly affordable produce market at the Carlton housing estate. We backed The Community Grocer with a grant to reopen its beloved market, which sells fresh, culturally appropriate produce at prices 30 per cent lower than supermarkets. Head to 510 Lygon Street on Fridays from 8am to 12pm.

#### NORTH MELBOURNE

##### STEAM AFTER SCHOOL

Explore the fun of science, technology, engineering, art and maths with hands-on activities every fortnight during school term at North Melbourne Library, located at 66 Errol Street. Suitable for children aged 7 to 12. To find the details, and browse many more activities for children and families, visit [melbourne.vic.gov.au/activitiesforchildren](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/activitiesforchildren)

#### SOUTHBANK

##### FIX YOUR WOOLLENS

Learn how to care for, fix and store your woollens so they last longer, saving you money and reducing your impact on the environment. At Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Road, Southbank, on Saturday 14 October from 11.30am to 1pm. Supported by a City of Melbourne grant, this is one of many local events presented by Southbank Sustainability Group.



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

# CHAMPION CHEESE SHOP NAMED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The world's first cheese shop that showcases all-Australian artisanal produce has taken out top spot in this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.



Hakim Halim from RIPE Cheese, winner of Small Business of the Year

RIPE Cheese at Queen Victoria Market is a treasure trove for cheese connoisseurs, offering everything from prosciutto-wrapped treats from Bruny Island to gooey truffle toasts.

Hakim Halim is the “big cheese” behind this award-winning business. But he is quick to deflect all the glory to the cheesemakers themselves.

“I am most passionate about sharing the stories and produce of all the Australian artisanal cheesemakers to everyone,” Hakim said.

“Without them, RIPE will just be like any other generic cheese shop, deli and supermarket. They have done all the hard work in creating the best dairy products, and so credit goes to all our Australian producers.”

Hakim started his life in Melbourne as an international student 13 years ago.

He worked his way through various companies and experienced many hardships, including racial discrimination, before building his successful business.

“I thought being part of the corporate rat race was what I wanted. But once I started building a business with a purpose bigger than myself, everything made sense and I found joy,” Hakim said.

“That joy has pushed and motivated me to overcome any obstacles that we face, and work tirelessly to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

“It’s incredible to be recognised in the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, and I’m so humbled because I never could have imagined to be in this position when I first got here.”

Over his time in business, Hakim has seen the Australian cheese industry blossom. And he’s right there at the forefront of this growth, showcasing and advocating for local cheesemakers on the world stage.

“We see ourselves as the catalyst that brings Australian produce to the world. Last year, for example, we brought our cheese masterclasses to Singapore – who knows where to next!” Hakim said.

“We want to showcase Australian cheese and its producers through more advocacy, outreach, education and government lobbying. At the same time, creating more opportunities for future cheese experts through mentorship and scholarship programs.”

.....  
***“It’s incredible to be recognised in the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, and I’m so humbled because I never could have imagined to be in this position when I first got here.”***  
.....



Jaye Chin-Dusting from Mary Martin Bookshop, a Small Business of the Year finalist



Ted Tolfree and Shey Newitt from Crisp, a Small Business of the Year finalist

**Celebrating long-standing businesses**

As part of the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards, we also celebrate businesses that have reached impressive milestones of 10+, 20+ and 40+ years.

Among this year’s list was American Doughnut Kitchen, which has been serving up hot jam doughnuts at Queen Victoria Market for more than 70 years. Stop by the vintage van on market days to support this three-generation family business.



American Doughnut Kitchen has been in business for more than 70 years

**Hakim’s top tips for doing business in Melbourne**

Are you planning to start or grow a business in Melbourne? Hakim has this advice for your onward journey.

“Melbourne has a very competitive business market with lots of different concepts and brands, and discerning customers,” Hakim said.

“It is of the utmost importance to have a clear and genuine unique selling proposition that can be understood and appreciated for many years to come. Melburnians hate gimmicks!”

**“Melbourne has a very competitive business market with lots of different concepts and brands, and discerning customers.”**

**About the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards**

Independent small businesses, and the dedicated Melburnians who run them, are the soul of our city.

Each year we say thank you to those making a significant contribution to the city’s culture, prosperity and liveability through the Lord Mayor’s Small Business Awards.

Alongside the overall winner, we also recognise Melbourne’s most innovative businesses. This year, Docklands-based startup Gaia Project Australia took out the Small Business Innovation Award.

While sending lettuce to space might sound like sci-fi, the Gaia team is planning for interplanetary growth, while changing the face of local agriculture to address climate change and food security.

To read more about this great work, search for Gaia at [news.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://news.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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

# Find your flow in Fawkner Park

Tai chi for the young and young at heart

**Meet the four-year-olds and older people who come together for tai chi classes once a month. Together they're keeping ageism at bay and connecting body, mind and spirit.**

Anticipation flutters through a group of tai chi students on a misty Thursday morning in Fawkner Park.

All eyes are on the pre-schoolers who are ambling towards them, ready for their intergenerational tai chi class.

On a small platform at the front of the class, Master Han Jin Song welcomes the children as they take their place amid the grown-ups. His baby-blue silk tai chi uniform shimmers.

"We are young and old together. Choose someone to stand next to, and let's have fun!"

This mood-boosting activity is organised by the City of Melbourne to foster connection between the generations, intercept ageism, reduce social isolation and celebrate healthy ageing.

Once a month, the four-year-olds join older students under golden elms near the children's centre, which shares a roof with the senior citizens' centre.

Master Han has taught tai chi in Fawkner Park for more than 10 years, but this program is the first time he's hosted four-year-olds together with regular students such as retiree Teresa Poore.

"It's lovely to be able to do something with the children," Teresa said. She's been studying tai chi with Master Han every week in Fawkner Park for almost a year.

"It's like having a session with my own grandchildren. I missed them growing up, my grandchildren are in the UK.

"It's lovely to be able to share what I know of tai chi with these young ones."

"As we get older, living in a big city like Melbourne can be fairly isolating," Teresa said.

"These tai chi classes are about community and friendship. And the coffee and biscuits after the class are great too!"

Rainbow lorikeets chatter in the trees above, while Master Han takes the class through a series of slow, graceful movements. Transferring energy from hand to hand.

An assortment of walking sticks, and makeshift and official tai-chi sticks lean against the trees, waiting for their moment in the sequence. Handbags, shopping bags and polar fleece tops are looped over low branches.

*"I come to see all the smiling faces. It's more reward than money."*

Kids wobble on the spot as they mimic a flying crane. Draw the imaginary bow. Row the boat. Bounce the ball.

"It takes time, but we gradually get better," Master Han said.

"The more we feel it, the more we want to do it. The better we become."

A woman dressed all in white leans over to steady the four-year-old in front of her as she tries to "bend like a banana".

One child veers off to the sandpit. Another points out the moon above the treeline. His friend rolls down a small hill.

A man in a deep-blue velvet tracksuit tries to draw a child's attention back to Master Han and the class.

It's time for the four-year-olds to wander back to the Fawkner Park Children's Centre and Kindergarten. As they walk, they reflect on the class.

"I feel good," one child said. "I loved learning tai chi," said a second. "I liked the man that was with me," said another. "I liked when I was seeing the man play tai chi."

Until they come again in a month's time, Master Han and his intermediate tai chi class will continue to meet every Thursday from 10am to 11am to flow together like a great river.

Afterwards, they meander back to the South Yarra Senior Citizens Centre for refreshments and a chat.

"It's exercise, but it's also social. At the end of the class, we sit and talk," Master Han said.

"I come to see all the smiling faces. It's more reward than money."

Visit our website to discover many more activities and services for older people.



Master Han leads community members of all ages through peaceful poses



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

.....  
*“We are young and old together. Choose someone to stand next to, and let’s have fun!”*  
.....



# PRO SKATERS COACH

# NEXT-GEN ATHLETES

# IN MELBOURNE PARKS

**Head to the Kensington and Riverslide skate parks to enjoy inclusive skateboarding sessions every week. Supported by top coaches, some participants have Olympic dreams in sight.**

Richard Flude, an award-winning skater and Secretary of the Victorian Skateboard Association, said Melbourne's skateboarding culture has come a long way over the years.

World champions like Shane O'Neil and Hayley Wilson have soared to fame, and now more stars are emerging through weekly workshops that welcome young people from diverse backgrounds.

"I grew up in the City of Melbourne and I've skated since QV was a car park with ramps and the YMCA managed the facility out of a shipping container there," Richard said

"The city has changed so much since then, and society has become more accepting of skateboarding. I'd say Melbourne is among the top three skating cities in the world.

"More than other cities in Australia, Melbourne understands the social importance of a skate park – a youth centre doesn't always fit the bill."

Richard and his network have big plans for skate coaching in Melbourne, to help diverse people progress from wobbly first-attempts to the world stage.

"Our new accelerated All Aboard program offers updated tech, advanced coaches and more opportunities for progression in park and street styles – those are the two Olympic disciplines," Richard said.

"We can help skaters set tangible goals and access structured learning suitable for their skill level – from beginners to high-performance athletes."

## Skating for fun and friendship

No Olympic daydreams? No problem. For many people, heading to the park for a skate is a casual pastime.

"The skateboarding community is a really good group of friends and supportive of the next generation coming up. It's quite 'sticky' when you get into the scene," Richard said.

"We've done a lot of groundwork to show parents that they can bring their kids to the park and know that they are safe and welcome."

## Inclusive skateboarding lessons in your neighbourhood

The City of Melbourne supports skateboarding programs through grants and our Active Melbourne division to promote community wellbeing and connectedness.

Our support includes funding coach accreditation and dedicated sessions for women and girls.

The YMCA runs free All Aboard workshops for children and young people aged up to 25 at Kensington Skate Park every week, in collaboration with the Victorian Skateboarding Association. Adults are welcome to join in with their children. To book a session, visit [skatepark.ymca.org.au/all-aboard](http://skatepark.ymca.org.au/all-aboard)

Private lessons, a skate club and progression sessions for women and girls are also available at Riverslide Skate Park, on the banks of the river in the central city. To book a session, visit [riverslide.ymca.org.au](http://riverslide.ymca.org.au)

Head to our website to find out more and learn how to skate safe.

.....  
***"We've done a lot of groundwork to show parents that they can bring their kids to the park and know that they are safe and welcome."***  
.....



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



A sunny day at Riverslide Skate Park, on the banks of the Birrarung

# 40 YEARS OF SUPPORT: WIRE CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONE



WIRE volunteers

**In 1983, a group of remarkable Melburnian women were united by a single ambition: to empower women with information, resources and education to help them lead their best lives.**

Their “radical” vision of a free service run by women, for women became the Women’s Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE). The team trained volunteers and stocked phone rooms with information on racks of index cards.

Women contacted the service in droves with questions about major life choices and basic human rights. WIRE provided non-judgemental, rights-based support to help them find solutions.

Forty years later, the index cards have long been replaced by computers, but the service is still going strong.

Jane O’Hanlon, Service Delivery Coordinator, said WIRE is a safe place for women, non-binary and gender diverse people to talk about any issue they wish to share, including family violence, financial abuse and housing.

“You can access confidential and anonymous support through our phone line, web chat or in person at our walk-in centre on Bourke Street,” Jane said.

“I love that people can come to WIRE and get support finding information that meets their needs – that’s very empowering. Over the years, WIRE has been flexible in responding to the challenges and needs of the community.

“We are a small organisation but have a very big impact.”

Over the years, the City of Melbourne has supported WIRE to run important programs in the community and deepen its impact.

“WIRE has been calling the City of Melbourne home for the past 40 years. Even though we have moved offices multiple times, we have always stayed within the city,” Jane said.

“The City of Melbourne has been, and continues to be, a major supporter of WIRE by providing funding for our projects, in-kind services, and space for many of our events.”

If you need support, visit WIRE at 673 Bourke Street (Level 1 of Donkey Wheel House), call 1300 134 130 or visit [wire.org.au](http://wire.org.au)

.....  
***“You can access confidential and anonymous support through our phone line, web chat or in person at our walk-in centre on Bourke Street.”***  
 .....

## Helping Out guide

WIRE is one of the organisations featured in the City of Melbourne’s Helping Out guide, a comprehensive list of free and low-cost services in and around the city.

You can pick up a copy at local homelessness agencies or view it on our website at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/helpingout](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au/helpingout)

## 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

### POWER MELBOURNE

We're on a mission to power Melbourne with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030. Melburnians are strongly supportive of this goal, but not everyone can readily access or afford solar panels. This is especially true for renters and people who live in high-rise buildings. Our Power Melbourne neighbourhood batteries will offer a solution. Learn more on our website.

[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne)

### COFFEE WASTE

Enjoy cuppas from cafes that turn coffee waste into a valuable resource – nutrient-rich compost. Reground, a Melbourne Award-winning social enterprise, diverts coffee grounds and chaff from landfill and delivers them to local home gardeners and community gardens for free. Learn more from "binfluencer" Fiona Parsons on our news site.

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

### 120 YEARS OF EARLY LEARNING

Happy 120th birthday to North Melbourne Children's Centre. This beloved community hub has provided a caring learning environment since September 1903. The building entrance now features a new painting by Aboriginal artist Bushka. *My Grandmother's Totem* features a turtle that children love to greet as they arrive.

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

### FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Discover free and low-cost activities that promote healthy ageing, including art, line dancing and a weekly program in our sensory garden. Get tech help with your mobile or computer and drop into our new Chatty Café. Connect with other LGBTIQ+ older people at our upcoming events. Browse the program on our website, or phone 9658 9190.

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

### QUICK RESPONSE ARTS GRANTS

Apply for a grant of up to \$4000 for projects and development of new or unrepresented artwork. We're seeking applications from artists and small-to-medium arts organisations working in any art form and of all backgrounds and abilities. Apply by 1 October. Projects must be delivered by 30 June 2024.

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

#### Lord Mayor Sally Capp

Portfolio Lead, City Transport, Infrastructure and Operations, and Aboriginal Melbourne  
9658 9658  
[lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

#### Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

Portfolio Lead, City Planning  
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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

We hold meetings at Melbourne Town Hall and community locations across the municipality. This shines a light on the unique needs of each neighbourhood and makes it easier for local people to engage with councillors and staff.

SEPTEMBER			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 5 September	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 19 September	6pm	North Melbourne
Council	Tuesday 26 September	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
OCTOBER			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 3 October	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 24 October	6pm	Kensington
Council	Tuesday 31 October	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
NOVEMBER			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 14 November	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 21 November	6pm	Southbank
Council	Tuesday 28 November	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall

# PEOPLE WE MEET IN MELBOURNE



**CHRISTINA ZHAO**  
Precinct promoter

“I’ve always loved startups and innovation, and I’m good at bringing resources together, making the community better. Since I was a little girl, I’ve asked ‘how can I make the city better?’”

As President of the new Melbourne Chinatown Business Association, Christina seeks to inspire the new wave of visitors flocking to Chinatown for hidden bars and karaoke, while firmly respecting traditional Chinese culture.



**AHEDA AMRO NUMAN**  
Palestinian cook

“When you cook with love, it gives the food a different flavour. It touches the heart. I remember my mum and my grandmother with every dish I cook.”

Former refugee Aheda shares traditional Palestinian cuisine through her catering company. Earlier this year, she made the main course for AMES Australia’s annual Taste the Difference event, held during Refugee Week.



**AMIRA MOSHINSKY**  
Raingardens champion

“Raingardens will play a role in making Fishermans Bend liveable and sustainable into the future. They will add value to community in terms of climate resilience, biodiversity and ecosystem health.”

Look for secretly scientific raingardens in Fishermans Bend that use local waste and native plants to clean stormwater. We backed Amira’s Remix Raingardens project as part of our plan for a water-sensitive city.



To learn more about Christina, Aheda, Amira and many more community champions, visit [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

## FEEDBACK

To provide feedback, contact the  
City of Melbourne or email  
[melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

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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	All other languages





# SPRING INTO WELLBEING

Swim, skate, play team sport, join a group fitness class or work out in our state-of-the-art gyms as the weather warms up. Active Melbourne members get unlimited access to facilities at Melbourne City Baths, Carlton Baths and North Melbourne Recreation Centre.



Find out how to move it your way in your neighbourhood at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne](https://melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne)

**ACTIVE  
MELBOURNE**

