

YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE MAGAZINE

MELBOURNE

SPRING 2024



**CELEBRATING A
CITY STORYWEAVER**

MEET FIONA FROM
HIDDEN SECRETS TOURS

**BOOSTING ACCESS
TO GREEN ENERGY**

COMMUNITY BATTERIES
SWITCHED ON

**KENSINGTON'S
CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

HOW MILK KEGS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

[MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au)



CITY OF MELBOURNE

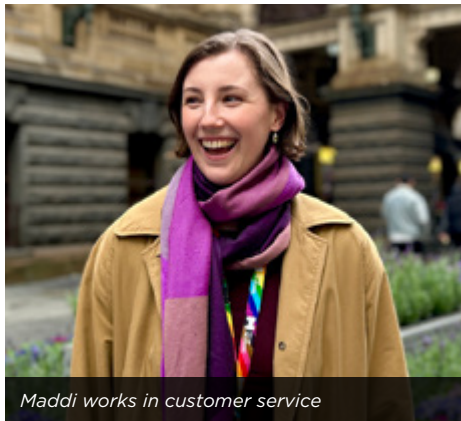
MESSAGE FROM TEAM MELBOURNE



Rob and Sharina are part of our Aboriginal Melbourne team



Wai-Han is the cook at our Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services Centre



Maddi works in customer service

Spring has sprung and there is so much to see and do in your city. Team Melbourne is here to make your experiences the best they can be.

The City of Melbourne is staffed by passionate specialists in many different fields. We have maternal and child health nurses making house calls by e-bike, business advisers helping startups shine, and urban designers shaping our future skyline.

On any given day, we also have park rangers taking care of lost pets, biodiversity experts sowing seeds to renew native wildflower meadows, and gym instructors helping local people stay strong with accessible workouts.

Whatever our individual roles, we all do what we do because we care about the community. We want to make your neighbourhood a great place to live, work and play.

To this end, we've recently released a new Customer Service Charter that includes tighter service commitments.

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.

Authorised by Alison Leighton, Chief Executive Officer, City of Melbourne, 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

If you have a query, we'll respond immediately on the phone, and within one day if you contact us through social media or email.

If customer service experts like Maddi (pictured) can't provide an answer to your question straight away, we will come back to you within three working days with an answer or a timeframe for resolution.

Our new website also makes it easier to pay your rates, apply for a permit, book a hard waste collection or register a pet. Check out the intuitive navigation and instant-translation feature at melbourne.vic.gov.au

As the weather warms up, take time to explore your local library, recreation centre and community hubs for affordable access to wellbeing and connection. And read on through this magazine to discover city-shaping projects, hidden gems in our laneways and epic events.

Team Melbourne

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Fiona Sweetman from Hidden Secrets Tours in Centre Place, wearing a dress by local designer, ELK



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Josefin Zernell and Kiril Shaginov founded Mörk Chocolate

Sweet victory: Mörk Chocolate named Small Business of the Year

Acclaimed local purveyors of hot chocolate and sweet baked treats have taken out top spot in this year's Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards.

Josefin Zernell co-founded Mörk Chocolate with her husband Kiril, and the pair were the recipients of a City of Melbourne Small Business Grant in 2014. Back then, the business was in its early days as a small, husband-and-wife operation.

Now, Mörk tempts customers with decadent hot chocolate, toasty marshmallows and pillowy Swedish cinnamon buns at multiple locations, including Errol Street in North Melbourne, Equitable Place and Centre Place in the central city, and the iconic Queen Victoria Market.

The company has its own chocolate factory and a growing line of baked goods. Operations even began in the United Kingdom in 2016 and Japan in 2019, putting another magnificent Melbourne brand on the world map.

The latest feather in its cap – being named Small Business of the Year.

“We started Mörk out of a wish to help form an Australian drinking chocolate culture,” Josefin said.

“Much of the drinking chocolate here at the time was built on European or American tradition, and we felt it was time to build a brand that suited our Australian drinking culture, based on strong values and highest quality.

“Twelve years later, we are so proud of our journey.”

One of the secret ingredients is ... Melbourne

The Mörk team loves operating amid the buzz of central Melbourne, and it has found a particularly passionate group of fans in the local student community.

“We started out as a young business with a product that was boldly dark, and a cafe that didn't serve coffee or food,” Josefin said.

“Being located in an area of universities, and the bustling food culture scene in the CBD, has helped bring curious minds to Mörk, for experiences that are unique and accessible.

“Running a business in inner Melbourne has been hugely important for our success. And the support that the City of Melbourne offered early on helped provide the confidence and trust that we had what it takes to make it.”

About the Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards

The Lord Mayor's Small Business Awards celebrate Melbourne's independent small businesses and the people who run them – people who make a significant contribution to the city's culture, economic prosperity and liveability. Learn more at [melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards](https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards)

CODING CLASSES FOR KIDS

STEM Birds received the Small Business Innovation Award. Run by Shalaka Ekbote, STEM Birds' mission is to create a fun and engaging platform where children not only learn to program but have opportunities to be creative using code.



Shalaka Ekbote



READ THE FULL STORY AT
news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

CITY FLASHBACK

This photograph of a young family at the Hochgurtel Fountain in Carlton Gardens was taken in the 1980s. It's one of more than 13,000 eclectic pieces preserved in our City Collection. Browse more images and artefacts at citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au or search for 'Art and Heritage Collection' at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au to book a tour.



MAKE ROOM: THE COUNCIL-OWNED BUILDING SET TO CHANGE LIVES

Our landmark Make Room project will open soon in the central city, offering 50 studio apartments and wraparound support for people experiencing homelessness. There'll also be dedicated support for women and groups that may experience exclusion, a rooftop garden and a social enterprise that offers employment and training.

A first-of-its-kind partnership between the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Government and philanthropic partners, Make Room has also been supported by public donations of more than \$7.1 million – a reminder of the power of people who care across the city. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/makeroom



A NEW CHAPTER

Our much-loved and freshly renovated City Library on Flinders Lane will re-open in spring 2024 with an exciting new look and feel. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

NEW COUNCIL WEBSITE LAUNCHED

It just got easier to pay your rates, apply for a permit, book a hard waste collection or register a pet with the launch of our new City of Melbourne website. Features include intuitive navigation, improved search and translation into 16 languages at the touch of a button. Visit us online at melbourne.vic.gov.au to check out the changes.



SPRING INTO WELLBEING

Get affordable access to top-notch gyms, pools and group fitness classes at our popular recreation centres in the CBD, Carlton and North Melbourne. Or browse our Active Melbourne directory to find more ways to move it your way, like team sports, tennis, tai chi, golf, skating, swordcraft and everything in between. melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne



MELBOURNE NEWS, YOUR WAY

Read the latest city-shaping news and celebrate community champions online at 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, please email 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

CAPPING OFF SIX YEARS IN THE CITY'S TOP JOB



Sally Capp AO reflects on her time as Lord Mayor of Melbourne

It was a Monday morning in May 2018 when Sally Capp breezed into Melbourne Town Hall for the first time, with her signature verve and vigor.

Three days earlier, she had been declared winner of the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayoral by-election.

Sally brought with her vast experience and a two-part platform – to better manage the issues of waste removal, safety, homelessness and delivery of the Queen Victoria Market Renewal Project, and the bold, aspirational ideas like the city-shaping Greenline Project.

“After winning the election on the Friday, I arrived on the Monday to get initial briefings from City of Melbourne officials. No one was brave enough to tell me I wasn’t meant to be there yet and to come back on the Thursday for the swearing-in ceremony.”

Sally Capp was sworn in as the 104th Lord Mayor of Melbourne on 24 May 2018.

“One of my very clear memories of that first morning is knocking on the doors of the magnificent Melbourne Town Hall and then security saying ‘there’s a strange lady here and she says she’s the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and wants to come in’.

“They opened the doors and I stood on the steps with the red carpet looking up at the marble tablets on the walls with the

names of 103 lord mayors chiseled into them. Whether it’s portraits or statues, plaques or name boards there’s a permanence that comes with them.

“I looked at those 103 names and thought ‘oh my gosh, my name is going on that board’. I realised there were only two women out of 103. Now there are three women out of 104 – and it’s just not good enough.”

As the first publicly elected female lord mayor, and third woman to hold the office, it quickly became evident Sally was a role model for women herself.

She spent the past six years speaking to crowds and crowds of women of all ages, demographics, careers and different lived experiences about “being what you can’t see”.

“Before I put my hand up in 2018, I hadn’t properly understood or recognised that simply putting your hand up has massive impact because other people may then also feel they can have a go,” Sally said.

As she threw herself in to work at Town Hall, Sally developed a deep appreciation for the work that goes on behind-the-scenes of the city.

“People from the outside looking in don’t realise just how much goes on at Town Hall. People see the representation roles, the advocacy and championing, but they don’t see underneath the breadth and

complexity that goes into ensuring the city is governed well and functions well.

“This role has made me a better person through the learning, a more responsible citizen through the engagement and a more activated person through the experiences.

“It’s been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Melbourne.”

To learn more about Sally’s experiences of leading through a pandemic and the many city-shaping projects she championed – like the Greenline Project, Make Room and Power Melbourne – read the full interview at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Upcoming elections

Sally Capp AO announced with mixed emotions that she would not contest the next local government election, which will take place in October.

To learn more about how to vote for the next leaders of the City of Melbourne, visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au



Fiona Sweetman guides visitors through Melbourne's iconic laneways

Hidden Secrets Tours: city storyweaver celebrates 20 years

Join an award-winning tour that spotlights small businesses in central Melbourne.

Hidden Secrets Tours has been running for 20 years – an impressive feat we've recognised with a Small Business Achievement Award.

Fiona Sweetman, Director of Hidden Secrets Tours, never tires of exploring the city – and she's armed with encyclopedic local knowledge.

"So much of the job is storyweaving," Fiona said.

"Even though we've walked pretty much exactly the same path for 20 years, every tour is different. We tweak it to find relevance for each visitor, whether they're from Europe or Bendigo.

"Our tours focus on Melbourne's entrepreneurial undertone, and most people don't know these histories – like the whys and wherefores of how gold and immigration have influenced the city."

During the tours, Fiona sees regular domestic travellers looking up for the first time, discovering stories behind beloved places, and seeing their first internationally recognised street art.

Many European visitors find the city both familiar and fascinating. While some other international travellers find it surprising to see so many small businesses, instead of chain stores, in the CBD.

"This is a big city with lots of small elements – how good is that? There's still a place for business owners who don't see themselves in a stereotypical CBD," Fiona said.

"These hole-in-the-wall offerings are quite unusual for an eight-block business centre, and we often take it for granted."

As Fiona walks from one end of the city to the other, she loves how each pocket has a distinct personality.

"If you stand on a corner, the types of people you see are perhaps the same as you would see in New York or London – but different too," Fiona said.

"Maybe there are students more in one area, others just in suits, and over there a queue of people ready to purchase some elusive show tickets or croissant.

"And, given the smaller population base, the diversity of people and places is quite fantastical.



Visitors peer into inviting windows in The Block Arcade

"People on our tours get excited about what else they can keep discovering. When they are confident about how to use the city, they're more likely to come back."

Discovering a generous business community

When Fiona first decided to launch Hidden Secrets, she'd never worked in local tourism or hospitality. Building connections helped her find the stories and support she needed.

"I'd been working in France for years as a bespoke dressmaker – which is a solitary way of life. I didn't really know how to make a business with staff," Fiona said.

"What I did know was that I wanted to find a community. I needed to find businesses I'd never heard of, engage with people across the precincts and start good conversations. A lot like the village I had found in France.

"This became my community, and I found that if you had a happy disposition you could find connections and collaboration opportunities.

"The encouragement that small businesses give to other small businesses is astounding. The generosity of the city has been a big part of what Hidden Secrets is about."

Fiona had soon formed connections across the city, including with the people behind beloved Melbourne fashion labels like Alice Euphemia and Genki.

This led Fiona to her first Hidden Secrets "office" – a little desk in the corner of a large cutting room with Genki in the historic Nicholas Building.

Falling in love with the laneways

Fast forward two decades and Fiona has seen Melbourne go through a lot of changes.

She's witnessed the coffee boom and the rise of bubble tea. She's seen businesses come and go, while others endure – like Section 8, for example, which opened as a pop-up and became an institution.

"When we started, the idea of Melbourne as a destination to wander around wasn't quite on the radar," Fiona said.

"You'd come to the city for events, theatre and fancy dining, but you wouldn't come to stay, per se. If people visited from overseas, they would head off down the Great Ocean Road or somewhere else.

"There were small businesses everywhere, but it still wasn't quite the destination that we all take for granted now. It's been a fascinating change."

Losing yourself in the laneways became a calling card for Melbourne's tourism brand in the same year that Fiona started – this was memorably captured in a 2000s TV commercial where a person unwound a giant ball of wool as they explored.

Just as Fiona helped deepen people's connection with these iconic routes, she's now helping visitors fall in love with new parts of the city – and brewing ideas for new above-awning adventures.

A new walking tour in the west end

The most popular Hidden Secrets tours are its flagship Laneways and Arcades tour and the Cafe Culture tour – both of which include refreshments in a laneway cafe or two. The team also offers an indulgent progressive dining tour.

And Hidden Secrets has just launched a new tour in the west end of Melbourne's CBD.

"The west end has a lot of service-oriented businesses, banks and office buildings, so visitors don't feel the need to explore. But that's exactly how people felt when we started our laneways tours 20 years ago," Fiona said.

"There's a rich, emerging life in the west end, with new developments and businesses, and this will only keep evolving. If you look closely, you can find 1960s sculpture, inspiring murals, artful lobbies, and historic buildings with stories relevant to today.

"And, in an old warehouse, the fourth generation of a family has restarted its original wine business."

Book a Hidden Secrets tour

Two dollars from every direct booking goes to StreetSmart Australia to help support people experiencing homelessness. Visit hiddensecretstours.com

Tales of endurance and evolution

As Melbourne morphs with new developments, capital works, new clusters of businesses, art installations and greening projects, the way we use the city continues to change.

"What I like to do is observe how urban planning impacts the way visitors move through space. I find the mix of old and new tantalising," Fiona said.

"I've particularly enjoyed seeing the Wesley Place precinct evolve on Lonsdale Street.

"There are so many stories to be discovered and shared in that area too – like the preservation of an ancient olive tree, the Little Lon Distillery, and why oyster shells were found during an archaeological dig."

Having her ear to the ground, Fiona also knows that the current conversations between business owners often find their way back to rent prices and building ownership.

"Rents are so much more part of the conversation these days. And landlords don't date back to the 1950s anymore – many building owners bought their properties in the last decade," Fiona said.

"But even through great change and challenges, it's always the people, the human connections and the pride of offering something unique amid the wider tapestry of the city that prevails."

Celebrating fellow small businesses

In the early days of Hidden Secrets, Fiona was chatting with iconic antiquarian bookseller Kay Craddock – whose business

was about to turn 40 – when Kay said there should be recognition for long-standing business owners.

This led Fiona – who was only just starting out – to be on the founding committee for the Lord Mayor's Commendations, now known as the Achievement Awards. It's only fitting that, years later, Fiona has herself been recognised in the awards.

Over the years, Fiona has also helped select laneway arts commissions, and sat on the judging panel for the Small Business of the Year and Small Business Innovation awards.

"It's wonderful to read applications from small businesses and see them present. It's inspiring to know that there are still people out there trying to do things differently," Fiona said.

"An observer might just see another cafe, but behind the scenes business owners are doing amazing things with sustainability, quirky offerings and even payment processing. People are always looking to innovate."



Fiona has connections with all kinds of small business owners



Even for Melbourne locals, there are stories to discover around every corner



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/smallbusinessawards



Artist Mysterious AI with the batteries on Russell Place

COLOURFUL BATTERIES BOOST ACCESS TO GREEN ENERGY

Community batteries covered in vibrant art are popping up around the city to help more people access affordable renewable energy.

Not everyone can install solar panels and batteries at their home. Particularly renters, small businesses, and the 83 per cent of Melburnians who live in apartments.

We want Melbourne to run on 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2040. To achieve this goal, everyone needs affordable access to renewable energy.

That's where our Power Melbourne program comes in.

Charging on with community batteries

We've been busy installing the first three Pixii Powershaper 2 community batteries in Russell Place in the CBD, outside Boyd Community Hub in Southbank, and on top of Library at The Dock.

Each battery unit is about the size of four single-door fridges, and together they'll provide 1.1 MWh storage capacity. That's equivalent to around 85 home batteries.

.....
When it's sunny, the batteries charge up from onsite solar panels. Then they release the renewable energy into the grid when it's needed most, which helps reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.
.....

During the pilot, revenue generated from these three batteries will support a fund for local renewable projects. After this, the battery network will be linked to a renewable electricity plan for residents and businesses.

Meet battery artist Mysterious AI

You can't miss the community batteries – they're covered in vibrant art by local creatives like Mysterious AI, whose work adorns the unit in Russell Place.

"I firmly believe that renewable energy is one of the areas Australia should be leading the world in, so it's an honour for me to be part of this great new project in the City of Melbourne," AI said.

AI is no stranger to exhibiting his art in unusual locations, with previous canvases including derelict warehouses, empty shopfronts and even a fairground ghost train.

His battery design evokes both urban and natural environments – with cyclone fencing motifs alongside florals.

"How cool is it that Melbourne can't just have a boring grey battery? I love that street art and contemporary art is a pillar of what makes up Melbourne," AI said.



Tall trees in Fitzroy Gardens

Planning for our future urban forest

A healthy urban forest is vital for the wellbeing of our community.

Our Urban Forest Strategy is underpinned by precinct plans for each neighbourhood.

Informed by community feedback, the precinct plans outline what street trees will be planted where, when and why over the next 10 years.

Over the last two years we have completed community engagement for East Melbourne, South Yarra, the central city, Carlton, Kensington, Docklands and North and West Melbourne. We thank everyone who has shared their ideas and feedback.

Here's some of what local people had to say about their vision for the future:

“Carlton’s future urban forest is a nature-filled paradise, a thriving ecosystem with a deep connection to its heritage (Indigenous and European). It’s a place where people engage with nature, enjoy safe walking and cycling, and experience a cooler, biodiverse environment with diverse edible plants, wildlife living in trees, understorey, green roofs and walls.”

“East Melbourne’s urban forest respects its heritage of avenues, closed canopies and deciduous trees while becoming more diverse and inclusive for native biodiversity, interactions with the river and food production.”

In 2025, community engagement is planned for Southbank, Parkville and Fishermans Bend.

Visit us online to find out about what we are doing in your neighbourhood.

For more information, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urban-forest

.....
“To be not only supported but recognised for my art in this way is wicked. I feel an enormous sense of pride and value in this piece. Melbourne is the best city in the world for artists.”

Power Melbourne is supported by the Australian Government’s Community Batteries for Household Solar Program, and by the Victorian Government through the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/power-melbourne

INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABILITY

MINI WASTE COMPACTORS

We’re expanding our network of waste and recycling hubs in the CBD to improve amenity and recycling by businesses. Working with a Victorian manufacturer, we’ve co-designed mini compactors that fit in small spaces in laneways. Emptying compactors in narrow laneways takes creative solutions – we’re using an electric side-loader forklift and an electric tug. It’s the first time these systems have been used in an urban environment anywhere in the world.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION GRANTS

Many young Melburnians care deeply about climate change and want to help create meaningful change. Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Youth Climate Action Fund, we’ve awarded grants to support projects like bee hotels, repair cafes, swap lounges and a youth climate summit.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/youth-climate-action-grants

OPEN INNOVATION COMPETITION

Adult innovators, entrepreneurs and community members have also presented ideas to accelerate Melbourne’s journey to a zero-carbon future. Top pitches have received cash, mentorships, resources and in-kind support. Discover their solutions for micromobility, air quality and retail energy storage on Melbourne News.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/openinnovationcompetition

FISHERMANS BEND INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the finalists who presented their ideas for how to use smart technology to create a more resilient and regenerative Fishermans Bend. The ideas include using AI and sound to monitor and attract wildlife, a digitally enabled worm composting design and a community waste checkpoint to enable a circular economy.

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/emerging-tech-testbed

WHAT'S ON IN MAGNETIC MELBOURNE



Event dates and details may change.
Check online for updates at
whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au



26 TO 27 OCTOBER

Victorian Festival of Diwali

FROM SEPTEMBER

SEASON 2 AT ARTS HOUSE

Experience contemporary art and performance designed to challenge, enlighten and uplift in North Melbourne. Curated with justice at its heart, the season explores what it means to create in fraught times, what it means for artists to speak directly to their communities, and what it means to see the world with humanity.
artshouse.com.au

6 TO 28 SEPTEMBER

AFL FINALS, FESTIVAL AND PARADE

Don't miss all the excitement of the Toyota AFL Finals Series at the MCG during September. As the Grand Final approaches, check out the free Footy Festival at Yarra Park from 25 to 28 September, featuring entertainment, player appearances, giveaways, and some of Melbourne's best food trucks and bars. Plus, grab a great vantage point for the Grand Final Parade on 27 September.
afl.com.au/finals

14 SEPTEMBER

ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL

Head to Fed Square to discover innovative ideas, actionable solutions and inspiration to tackle waste and consumption head-on. Enjoy inspiring talks, a clothes swap, a repair cafe and networking with like-minded people in a fun and interactive community environment.

1 TO 20 OCTOBER

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

Discover performances in all pockets of the city that spark joy, surprise and deep thought. This massive festival of independent art features more than 450 events. Various venues.

2 OCTOBER

BIG TOY SWAP

Bring toys to swap and refresh your child's toy box while teaching them the value of second-hand items. Then pop into the Earth Protectors session to learn how our choices can protect our planet and preserve biodiversity. For children aged 4 to 12. At The Edge, Fed Square.

5 TO 6 OCTOBER

MELBOURNE ITALIAN FESTA

Celebrate everything that makes Italy irresistibly charming. Expect more than 150 stalls, delicious street food, wine degustation, stages with live music, sports activations, art and fashion exhibitions. At Carlton's Royal Exhibition Building and Melbourne Museum Plaza.

6 TO 13 OCTOBER

VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

Take your pick from a packed program of events including Celebration Day at Fed Square, featuring a mass ukulele performance, the ACMI Seniors Film Festival, Club Broadway at Melbourne Town Hall, and various events at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Registrations essential. Victorian Seniors Card holders can enjoy free public transport during this period.
seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival

13 OCTOBER

MELBOURNE MARATHON FESTIVAL

Thousands of Australians are set to hit the pavement, taking on distances from 2.5 km to the full Nike Melbourne Marathon. Racegoers will start at Batman Avenue, pass iconic landmarks and finish among the roaring crowds of the Melbourne Cricket Ground – a moment like no other.

19 OCTOBER

QUEENSBERRY CUP

Your local billycart challenge is back! More than just a race, this event is a street festival that celebrates the diverse communities of North and West Melbourne. Head to Errol and Queensberry streets to enjoy creative and cultural activities.



Queensberry Cup

20 OCTOBER

MELBOURNE UNITED MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Melbourne United basketball team is hosting its multicultural festival at Melbourne Park's Grand Slam Oval ahead of a home game at John Cain Arena. The festival will include free basketball clinics, live event painting and cultural performances.

24 TO 27 OCTOBER

ASIA OASIS STREET FOOD FESTIVAL BY THE YARRA

Prepare to embark on a sensory journey through Asia's rich and diverse cultures as top food vendors entice you with more than 200 dishes. This inaugural event is set amid beautiful riverside gardens with hanging lanterns, bamboo structures and mesmerising performing arts.



22 TO 24 NOVEMBER

Arriba Mexican Festival



24 TO 27 OCTOBER

Asia Oasis Street Food Festival

21 TO 27 OCTOBER

MELBOURNE FASHION WEEK

This year M/FW returns to celebrate 30 years of showcasing Melbourne's thriving fashion community. Expect runways and fashion experiences in incredible locations and unexpected spaces, plus throwbacks to some iconic M/FW moments from over the years, with plenty of surprises along the way. Enjoy a full program of pop-ups, industry talks, exhibitions and more as we pull at the threads of curiosity, collaboration and creativity.



Melbourne Fashion Week

26 TO 27 OCTOBER

DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

Be transported to India as Fed Square transforms with colourful dances, live bands, workshops, street food and a bustling bazaar for the Victorian Festival of Diwali. Further Diwali celebrations will take place at Marvel Stadium Square in Docklands on 26 October.

2 TO 9 NOVEMBER

MELBOURNE CUP CARNIVAL

This year marks the 164th running of the 3200-metre horse race at Flemington Racecourse. Check closer to the date to find details of all the festivities.

10 NOVEMBER

POLISH FESTIVAL @ FED SQUARE

Indulge in a hearty serve of Polish culture, history and flavours as this festival celebrates 20 years. This feast for the senses will feature folk dancing, dumplings called pierogi and lots of multicultural pride.

15 TO 17 NOVEMBER

AFRICAN MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Celebrate the best of African culture through music, food, fashion, film, dance, and art. As the rhythms, sounds, and tastes of Africa spread across Fed Square, the electric atmosphere is guaranteed to make you feel good.

17 NOVEMBER

F@B SOUTHBANK

Head to Boyd Community Hub at 207 City Road for a community festival that showcases diversity, pre-loved and handmade treasures, entertainment, music, dance, sustainability, local activities and interest groups.

22 TO 24 NOVEMBER

ARRIBA MEXICAN FESTIVAL

Explore Mexican cuisine, folklore, dance, music, bright costumes and mariachi. Sit back and enjoy fajitas with guacamole, or your choice of delicious cuisine, as live music, dance and DJs entertain. At Tom's Block, Kings Domain.

6 DECEMBER

VICTORIAN DISABILITY SPORT AND RECREATION FESTIVAL

Held on International Day of People with Disability, this event promotes and celebrates physically active lifestyles for people with disability. Attendees can watch and try inclusive sports and meet Paralympians. Various venues.

COMMUNITY CORNER

CARLTON

TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE DISABLED PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Find a safe and supportive space to connect with others at Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre. Every Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm.

KENSINGTON

COMMUNITY FRESH FOOD MARKET

Come to Bellair Street Reserve to enjoy affordable food, grown in the neighbourhood – for free or by donation. On the first Saturday of each month from 10am to midday.

NORTH MELBOURNE

WOMEN'S ONLY FITNESS

Join a women's fitness session run by female instructors at North Melbourne Community Centre. Every Friday from 10am to 11am.

SOUTHBANK

TABLE TENNIS

Head to Boyd Community Hub and learn how to play table tennis with family or neighbours. Every Friday from 4pm to 5.30pm during term time.

SOUTH YARRA

LAST POST SERVICE

Head to the Shrine of Remembrance's northern forecourt to remember those who have served and sacrificed. Every Sunday at 4.45pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET OPEN AS USUAL AS WORKS CONTINUE



A sunny day in Queen Victoria Market's String Bean Alley

Our amazing traders are open and ready to welcome you as works to restore and revitalise the iconic Queen Victoria Market progress.

All your favourite fruit, veg, meat, fish, dairy, specialty goods and other merchandise vendors are open and ready for your visit. Not to mention the stunning narm ngarrgu Library and tempting Queens Food Hall.

So drop by Queen Victoria Market for your weekly shop, to see what's new and feel the buzz as we work on state-of-the-art facilities for traders and loads of new open space for events and relaxation.



Visit the new narm ngarrgu Library

Why market renewal matters

Queen Victoria Market is a beloved Melbourne icon. It opened way back in 1878, and it's now located in a rapidly growing part of the city.

Through the renewal of the market precinct, we are restoring heritage while delivering modern facilities to make the market work better for traders, customers and visitors.

Changes to Franklin Street

We've removed the roundabout and realigned Franklin Street between Queen and William streets. Safety and accessibility will also be improved at William Street with upgrades to the bike lane and bus stop.

These works help set the stage for the landmark Gurwora Place development, and new open space that connects the market to the new Metro Tunnel State Library Station.

We're also converting the market's open-air car park into Market Square - 1.8 hectares of open space for the community to enjoy.

As Franklin Street continues to change, and other works are underway in the

surrounding streets, it may take longer than usual when driving to the market.

To help make the most of your day out, be sure to plan ahead and follow signage in the area.

To learn more, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/transforming-franklin-street



Plan ahead for your weekly shop

Parking and trip planning

Plan your trip in advance to avoid delays and road closures due to nearby construction activities.



If you're coming on public transport, the market is close to Flagstaff and Melbourne Central train stations, and tram routes 19, 57, 58 and 59. There's also free parking for bikes and scooters.

If you're driving, take advantage of our 500-bay undercover car park on Queen Street. It's open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The car park offers charging stations, the same rates as the open-air car park, and free early-bird parking.

WHEN IS QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET OPEN?

- Tuesday 6am to 3pm
- Thursday 6am to 3pm
- Friday 6am to 3pm
- Saturday 6am to 4pm
- Sunday 9am to 4pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT qvm.com.au



Get set to exercise in style in 2025

Shaping next-level recreation in Kensington

Complex works are well-progressed to deliver the stunning new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The roof has recently been installed, and the centre will open in 2025.

The recreation centre will feature a fully accessible indoor pool, dedicated learn-to-swim pool and children's water play area, plus a huge gym with top-notch equipment and 24-hour access.

There'll also be three multipurpose sports courts, group fitness spaces for heart-pumping cardio and soothing yoga, a Changing Places facility, accessible change rooms and a cafe.

The building also has an environmentally sustainable design that runs entirely on renewable energy from rooftop solar and recovers wasted heat from air conditioning to warm the pool.

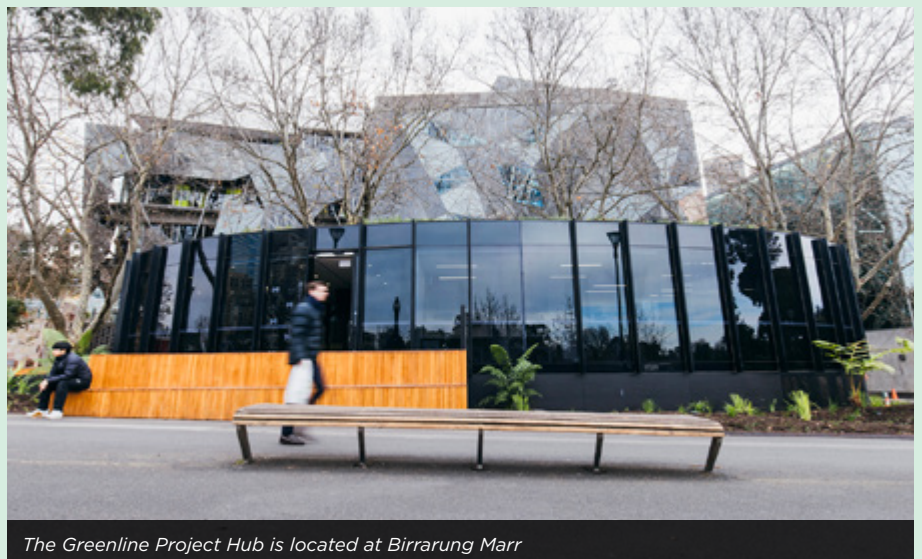
Explore all our local fitness offerings at melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne

Drop by the Greenline Project Hub

The Greenline Project will reimagine the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung with an interconnected series of new public spaces that will span four kilometres between Birrarung Marr and the Bolte Bridge.

Located on the lower terrace of Federation Square at Birrarung Marr, our Greenline Project Hub offers information and walking tours to help you visualise what's in store for this epic project.

To learn more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenline-project



The Greenline Project Hub is located at Birrarung Marr



MILK KEGS HELP KENSINGTON COFFEE LOVERS GO GREEN

Rollin 169's Loc Nguyen receives a delivery of fresh dairy milk in a sustainable keg from Kristian Thanas of Saint David Dairy

Kensington cafes are saving 45,000 plastic milk bottles from being sent to landfill each year by tapping into an innovative solution.

Using reusable milk kegs from The Udder Way, filled with fresh dairy milk delivered direct from Melbourne's only micro dairy, Saint David Dairy in Fitzroy, cafes are now using milk on tap, making for more sustainable operations.

Fresh milk kegs are delivered from the dairy twice weekly and refrigerated under countertop milk taps.

Baristas then use the milk-on-tap to create your coffee order, whether it be a flat white, latte or magic.

The system means customers can get their daily caffeine fix with fresh sustainably sourced local milk, while baristas can easily pour milk at the touch of a button and without the waste and clutter of plastic milk bottles.

Loc Nguyen, owner of Rollin 169 on Rankins Road, was one of the first to install The Udder Way milk-on-tap system in his cafe when he joined the City of Melbourne's Kensington Circular Economy Precinct.

The precinct is the first of its kind in Australia and supports businesses to reuse more and waste less.

Loc opened Rollin 169 in a small shopfront in August last year and the idea of the more compact and less wasteful system from The Udder Way appealed.

"I was interested in getting involved for several reasons. Reducing waste was my number one priority because I am conscious of sustainability and recycling within my business, but space was the other," Loc said.

"Our cafe is only six metres by four metres, so I don't have a lot of space to store all the empty milk bottles."

The City of Melbourne supported Loc to purchase and install the reusable milk keg system.

Each keg holds 18 litres of milk - the same volume a traditional milk crate holds - and has a lifespan of at least eight years before it is recycled and turned back into kegs.

This means cafes can eliminate an average of 9000 milk bottles each year.

It's a win for the dairy industry, hospitality sector and the environment.

Loc said the sustainable system was "working so well".

"We're always looking for ways to reduce our environmental footprint, so the decision to change to milk kegs was an easy one," he said.

"The kegs are easy to use, take up less space than milk bottles and create much less waste at the end of each day, which also saves me a lot of time."

"Kensington is a fairly progressive area so the response from customers has been really wonderful and positive."

Kensington was identified as the first circular economy precinct following a feasibility study and stakeholder engagement.

A grant from Sustainability Victoria enables the City of Melbourne to support businesses to take part in the program by covering the costs of implementing circular economy solutions.

Loc's plant-based cafe is one of 11 cafes, bakeries, breweries and distilleries who have already signed up.

The program extends beyond reducing waste from just milk bottles, with retail, hospitality and grocery store owners supported to eliminate other single-use plastics and coffee grounds.



Kurtis Tupangaia with The Udder Way's innovative milk keg



Loc serves up a meal at his cafe



Grab lunch in sustainable packaging

Huskee reusable coffee cups and RePlated reusable takeaway food containers are available for customers to purchase at participating businesses.

The program also provides access to hard-to-recycle streams such as soft plastics.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/creating-circular-economy to see the list of participating businesses. If your favourite cafe isn't on the list, they can register by emailing circulareconomy@melbourne.vic.gov.au

MORE THAN MILK

Kensington locals are making a positive impact on the environment in many ways.

The Kensington Compost Network has diverted more than 18.3 tonnes of organics from landfill since March.

Trouve Vintage on Bellair has turned a lockdown hobby of furniture restoration and clothing repair into a full-time business.

And the Kensington Repair Hub has helped fix heaps of household items to divert 216 kg of waste from landfill.

To learn more, search for 'circular economy' at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au



Adele Chasson from Trouve Vintage, a local business that gives new life to used clothing and furniture

NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY RESULTS: WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOUR COMMUNITY

What would you like to see in your neighbourhood? Is it better roads and public transport, or cleaner streets? Perhaps it's housing support, more trees and city greening, or more cultural events.

From North Melbourne to South Yarra, the most common response is affordable housing and homelessness support.

More than 4400 people from across the City of Melbourne took part in our neighbourhood survey, sharing the issues they want prioritised in their community.

It was a record response for community consultation by the City of Melbourne, demonstrating how much our communities care about the future of the neighbourhoods where they live, work, study and play.

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY

- 10 neighbourhoods
- 4424 respondents
- 130 engagement activities, including:
- 66 pop-ups at local places like parks and libraries across the city
- 28 visits to groups to reach targeted demographics
- 15 'business crawls' to hear from owners and workers
- 10 presentations to community organisations and residents associations
- 6 workshops with schools and older adults with limited English
- 5 stalls at events like Moomba and International Student Week

We ran the pulse-check survey in our 10 neighbourhoods to find out what matters most to each community – giving you the chance to help shape the future of your area and guide the council projects and services you and your neighbours value.

With cost-of-living pressures peaking, it's no surprise affordable housing and homelessness support were high on the list for people in the CBD, Carlton, East Melbourne, North Melbourne and South Yarra.

It's an issue we've long prioritised with housing projects like Make Room, which is set to provide transitional supported housing for up to 50 residents who've been experiencing homelessness.

Many people also told us that they wanted more plants, trees and open spaces in our neighbourhoods.

We're working hard to make this happen, through our Urban Forest Strategy, which is guiding us to increase tree canopy cover to 40 per cent by 2040 – and we know there's always more we can do.

You also want a bigger focus on cleaner streets, waste and graffiti removal, and better roads, paths, public transport and parking.



Some of the work already underway in this space includes 24/7 cleaning and graffiti removal, which is halving response times.

Plus, our Transport Strategy is delivering new bike infrastructure, neighbourhood pedestrian and road safety improvements, and we continue to implement the Parking and Kerbside Management Plan.

Knowing what's important to our neighbourhoods through the survey will help us continue to focus and evolve our efforts on these important services and projects.

We will use your priorities, ideas and feedback to inform Council's future budgets and the next four-year Council Plan.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods/community-consultation



Our neighbourhood partners have been busy gathering community feedback





The city-shaping redevelopment of Tianjin's Haihe River was master-planned by Melbourne urban designers, based on the Southbank model

Building strong relationships across the globe

International engagement supports a strong economy, innovation, sustainability, and resilient, thriving communities.

The City of Melbourne actively builds global connections that contribute to a better future for all, guided by our International Engagement Framework.

Through our international relationships, we share, learn and create partnerships that will improve all our cities, with areas of focus including sustainable urban design, water and waste management, and liveability.

Here are some of the ways we connect with people and partners around the world.



Dr Chaoyi Wei

Facilitating trade and investment through Melbourne Office Tianjin

We promote Melbourne's capabilities, create economic opportunities and share global best-practice through our satellite office in Tianjin. The office was led by Dr Chaoyi Wei for 24 years, until he recently handed the baton to Bonnie Shao.

"From early in my career I was firmly convinced – from both Tianjin and Melbourne perspectives – that the sister-city exchange and collaboration could not only enhance mutual understanding and friendship but also bring tangible benefits to both cities," Dr Wei said.

Sharing and growing through sister cities and international alliances

We have close relationships with cities around the world, including our sister cities: Osaka in Japan, Tianjin in China, Thessaloniki in Greece, Boston in the United States and Milan in Italy.

Our longest-standing relationship is with Osaka – we've been sister cities for 46 years.

Supporting businesses to start, grow, and go global

We support local startups as they journey from prototype to global impact, by equipping them with valuable networks and information.

It is our privilege to support inspiring entrepreneurs whose work includes

reducing emissions, building better neighbourhoods and finding treatments for challenging diseases.

Sparking creativity between children across the globe

A partnership between ArtPlay – the City of Melbourne's creative hub for children and families at Birrarung Marr – and South Korea's Jeonju Cultural Foundation is flourishing.

Over the years, ArtPlay has also been the starting post for many acclaimed creative works that have gone onto tour internationally, and it has inspired other world-class institutions like Art Ground in Singapore.

Creating a home-away-from-home for international students

Melbourne has been named Australia's best student city in the QS rankings for 10 years running, highlighting the city's unparalleled education opportunities, affordability and cultural diversity. Melbourne also ranks as the world's fifth-best student city in the world.

Visit us online to explore all the support and opportunities we offer international students.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL THESE INITIATIVES, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/news/globalrelationships

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERS

Each of the 10 unique neighbourhoods in the City of Melbourne has a dedicated neighbourhood partner to support the community. This award-winning team of people can help you join the dots across council processes and access grants to support community projects.

As City of Melbourne staff, neighbourhood partners have deep knowledge of the local issues going on

in your area. Their focus is to make sure council delivers on the priorities that matter to community members in each unique neighbourhood.

You can reach the partners through our neighbourhood portals – websites that feature local updates, events and grants, to support you to better connect to your community.

For more information, visit **participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods**



Nas Mohamud

Carlton and Parkville Neighbourhood Partner

nas.mohamud@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Melanie Del Monaco

Kensington Neighbourhood Partner

melanie.delmonaco@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Fadi Qunqar

Docklands Neighbourhood Partner

fadi.qunqar@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Corey Williams

North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Partner

corey.williams@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Kimberley Pierzchalski

East Melbourne and South Yarra Neighbourhood Partner

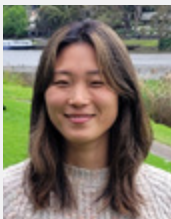
kimberley.pierzchalski@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Ash Lee

Southbank Neighbourhood Partner

ash.lee@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Rei Chin*

CBD Neighbourhood Partner

rei.chin@melbourne.vic.gov.au

*Mej Leonardo (mej.leonardo@melbourne.vic.gov.au) will be acting in this role until 18 October.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 3 September	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 17 September	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall

OCTOBER

Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 8 October	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 22 October	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall

NOVEMBER

Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 19 November	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 26 November	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall

Meeting dates may change during this period due to the election. Check the details at **melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil**

IN BRIEF

FOR FAMILIES WITH NEW BABIES

The free Victorian maternal and child health service provides support to families with young children, from birth until they start school. Keep an eye out for our nurses making house-calls by e-bike, or learn how we can help with sleep, settling, breastfeeding, parenting, wellbeing and more.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/maternal-and-child-health

FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Discover free and low-cost activities that promote healthy ageing, including tai chi, line dancing and a weekly program in our sensory garden. Get tech help with your mobile or computer and drop into our 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

NARRM NGARRGU

Explore narrm ngarrgu, our flagship library and family services centre in the heart of the Queen Victoria Market precinct. It's an oasis in our busy city with more than 30,000 books, artworks and creative spaces. Bookable spaces are free for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/news/your-guide-to-narrm-ngarrgu-library

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

We offer a wide range of grants and sponsorships to individuals, community organisations and businesses in the arts, recreation, events and business sectors. Applicants that reflect creativity, inclusion, sustainability, knowledge and economic prosperity are encouraged to apply.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/grants

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

PEOPLE WE MEET IN MELBOURNE



BRIAN SU

Business Concierge Officer

“My responsibility is to assist small businesses by helping them set up and through regular engagement. In one year, I have helped around 11 small businesses set up in the City of Melbourne.”

Former international student and volunteer student ambassador Brian Su now works in our Business Concierge team, supporting businesses large, small or just starting.



LINGSHUANG CHEN

PhD candidate at WEHI

“I owe my current exciting PhD journey in Melbourne, complete with amazing supervisors and research teams, to the InSPIRE program.”

Hailing from our sister city of Tianjin in China, Lingshuang Chen took part in InSPIRE program at Melbourne’s renowned Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. She’s studying cancer biology and stem cell research.



CHELSEA GOUGH

Co-director of e.g.etal

“It’s fantastic to see so many new businesses with plans to open around us: new hotels, restaurants and brands are springing up.”

Chelsea recently accepted a Lord Mayor’s Small Business Award on behalf of e.g.etal as the beloved jewellery gallery celebrates 20+ years in the city. We chatted to her about the journey so far.



To learn more about these inspiring local people, search for their names at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

CONTACT

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

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or 02 9334 3524.



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The Melbourne City Council elections

Held by postal vote
in October 2024.



Councils play a major role in delivering
services to residents and businesses.

Your vote makes a difference.



Scan the QR code for more information,
visit elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au
or call 1300 735 427.



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