

YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE MAGAZINE

MELBOURNE

AUTUMN 2025



**MARVELLOUS MOOMBA:
FIVE MAGICAL DAYS**

JOIN THE FUN BY
THE RIVER'S EDGE

**NEW FIRST NATIONS
COMMITTEE**

MAKING PLANS FOR
SEVEN GENERATIONS

**FREE SUPPORT
FOR BUSINESSES**

BUSINESS CONCIERGE
SERVICE EXPANDED

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE



Lord Mayor Nick Reece with this year's Moomba Monarchs, comedy troupe Sooshi Mango

Make way for our Moomba Monarchs, Sooshi Mango!

Melbourne is Australia's entertainment capital. We're also a longtime home to a huge Italian community. So it's no surprise our Italian diaspora produced a screen sensation to rival *The Sopranos* and *Cinema Paradiso* in popularity (if not tone).

Our Monarchs are the embodiment of Moomba's mission statement: Let's get together and have fun!

In its 71st year, Moomba Festival offers more fun than ever. Gigantic puppets, free music, and frenzied leaping into the Yarra. Head to page six for your guide to this unique Melbourne tradition.

Want even more fun? Check out Melbourne's most challenging playgrounds. Try your hand at enormous climbing boulders and treetop towers, or whizz down a rocky escarpment.

Perhaps I'll see you there. As Lord Mayor, I'm lucky to meet a wonderful array of Melburnians from all walks of life. In every issue of *Melbourne Magazine*, you can too. On page five, I'm delighted you'll meet Zali Mifsud, the youngest member of our city's First Nations Committee. The Committee's long-term view will help guide our work with the Aboriginal community.

Meanwhile, on page 19, you'll meet a lifeguard, a civic events maestro, and a pair of distillers on a sustainability mission.

Autumn is a wonderful time to enjoy the rich reds and ochres of our gardens. We've always been good at gardens. Even in the 1840s, when Melburnians mostly grew fruit and vegetables – and cattle once ruined Reverend Thompson's prized cabbages after pranksters wrenched some palings off his frontyard fence at the corner of Bourke and William.

Today, the City of Melbourne is always finding new places for gorgeous gardens. But why restrict them to ground level? On page eight, discover a special plot growing atop 1 Treasury Place.

Also enjoying a transformation is City Square. Its 2025 makeover is far from the first. Take a trip through time on page 12 to see how the square evolved, featuring famous faces from British royalty to rock royalty.

Bursting with fun, nature and enterprise, this edition of *Melbourne Magazine* shows why Melbourne is the best place to be.

**Nick Reece
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 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.

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Angus (centre) with fellow Business Concierge team members

Get set for success with our supercharged Business Concierge

Our dedicated Business Concierge team has been providing free support and advice on how to start a business, grow it and keep it thriving for more than five years. Now, the service is expanding.

The Business Concierge team provides startups and existing businesses with a single point of contact – a 'one-stop shop' to help navigate council processes while they are setting up, growing and developing their operations within Melbourne.

But the scope of the support the team can offer doesn't stop there.

The team members are business gurus as well. They help with everything from providing information on legislative, permit and registration requirements to connecting new business owners with mentorship and networking opportunities.

Angus Adams, who has been a Business Concierge Officer for the past three years, said the concierge's goal is quite simply to support businesses in Melbourne.

"We have a plethora of resources and there's always something we can provide, so I encourage business owners to reach out to us. We're here to help," Angus said.

Business owners can contact the Business Concierge team at a point in their development that suits them, even before signing a lease.

"We know there can be so much to think about when starting or growing a business, and we can help make sure this exciting journey is as smooth as possible."

The Business Concierge service has broad-ranging knowledge and helps diverse sectors. To date, they have assisted businesses working in fields including hospitality, accommodation, retail, biomedicine, financial technology, professional services and training, to name a few.

Angus said that within his tenure he has "supported everything from home-based food startups to deep-tech entrepreneurs. Of course, we help a lot of retail and hospitality businesses but we really can help any business to start up or grow".

New businesses supported by the team are, on average, able to open within four months.

The service has engaged with businesses more than 12,300 times, supporting 181 new businesses in the past year alone. This helped create 513 new jobs and secured \$24.6 million in capital expenditure in Melbourne.

Our brilliant Business Concierge service is now being expanded to be bigger and better than ever.

Through this expansion, the team hopes to deliver 4000 more interactions with businesses on top of the support currently offered over the phone, through bookable sessions at local libraries, and through our online channels.

Each of our neighbourhoods will now have dedicated Business Concierge officers that complement the work of our neighbourhood partners and boost access to tailored, localised support.

"The expansion will allow us to work even more closely with businesses face-to-face, dealing with issues on the spot in some cases and also taking unique grassroots approaches in each of our neighbourhoods," Angus said.

How to get support

If you want to take advantage of any of these initiatives or get in touch with our Business Concierge service, complete the form on the Business Concierge webpage, email businessconcierge@melbourne.vic.gov.au or call **03 9658 9658**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

This photograph shows farmers in Kensington's Newmarket Saleyards around 1980. Taken by Andrew Chapman, 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' at whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au to book a tour.



CITY FLASHBACK

MOVING INTO MAKE ROOM

Make Room, the City of Melbourne's flagship supportive housing project, has begun welcoming its first residents. The building features 50 studio apartments with onsite wraparound support to create pathways out of homelessness for some of our community's most vulnerable people. This major project is delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government and Unison Housing. To learn more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/makeroom



LET'S TALK BUSINESS

Looking to start or grow your business? Book a free 30-minute session with one of our Business Concierge officers, who can guide you through the permit process, assist with Council matters or link you to other business resources.

These sessions are available to new or existing businesses in the City of Melbourne. Our free Business Concierge service has been expanded to help more local businesses. To learn more, or book your session, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/business



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 or visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/reportanissue

HELPING OUT GUIDE

Our updated Helping Out Guide is a comprehensive guide to free and low-cost housing, health and wellbeing support services from more than 90 organisations across Melbourne. You can pick up a free copy of the guide from community facilities across the city, like our libraries, Melbourne Town Hall and cohealth venues. Or download a copy from melbourne.vic.gov.au/helping-out-guide

MELBOURNE NEWS, YOUR WAY

Stay connected with what matters most in your neighbourhood 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

SEVENTH-GENERATION PRINCIPLE TO GUIDE FIRST NATIONS COMMITTEE



When Zali Mifsud steps into the room as the youngest member of the city's First Nations Committee, she is thinking ahead to her great, great, great, great, great grandchildren.

"We have a principle as Aboriginal people, which is the seventh-generation principle," Zali said.

"The decisions we make today are not for myself, or my children or my grandchildren. They're for seven times beyond us."

It's this type of future thinking – looking ahead more than 200 years rather than settling for quick fixes – that will help guide the City of Melbourne's work with the Aboriginal community through the First Nations Committee.

Zali comes eager to learn from the collective life experience of those alongside her, including co-chair Aunty Di Kerr, a respected Wurundjeri Elder and Traditional

Owner of the land where the committee meets in the City of Melbourne.

"We've got incredible Elders on the committee. So how can we support their knowledge and wisdom in a strategic way and for Council to then understand and support that?" Zali said.

"We are in a contemporary day today. One thing an Elder says might not be easily applied, so how do I translate that so we get that same outcome, just in a different language?"

A proud Peek, Kirrae and Djab Whurrong woman of the Maar Nation, Zali was given the tribal name Tirrike. Tirrike means 'happiness and hope' in Peek Whurrong language.

Her people are connected to Country more recently known as south-west Victoria, around Warrnambool.

Zali has built up five years of experience in local government, specialising in strategy, policy and community engagement.

She is the First Nations Lead at Banyule City Council, which recently became the third council in Victoria to endorse the Uluru Statement in full.

Under her guidance, Banyule has also recently endorsed its first-ever Aboriginal Self-Determination Strategy.

Zali's local government experience will be valuable to the committee.

"It's an exciting opportunity to really provide strategic advice to the committee, about how to place our recommendations in a way to make them easier to digest for Council," she said.

Looking ahead, some of Zali's key interests are getting more Aboriginal people doing business in the municipality, weaving self-determination into our Council Plan, and making sure First Nations voices are embedded in Council decision-making.

As well as Zali, our new First Nations Committee comprises people with broad skills, including engineering and infrastructure, investment management, health, social enterprise, arts, tourism and community advocacy.

To learn more about the committee, read our full interview with Zali at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginalmelbourne

MARVELLOUS MOOMBA: FIVE MAGICAL DAYS



Moomba Festival runs from 6 to 10 March 2025

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

Proudly owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne, Moomba has been enchanting Melburnians with free, family-friendly fun since 1955, making this the 71st year.

Join us from Thursday 6 to Monday 10 March for five joyful days of carnival rides, thrilling water sports, jetpack shows, food trucks, dance workshops, face painting, live music, skate competitions, kids' yoga and plenty more.

This year, Moomba Festival will once again deliver a carbon neutral certified event. Our organic waste collection alone will divert in excess of 4.5 tonnes of food waste, which is the equivalent of 450 watermelons or 22,500 curly potatoes. Plus, Alexandra Gardens will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity.



Riverside Skate Park



Moomba Parade



Moomba Carnival

MEET THE MANASIS DANCERS

On Monday 10 March, the beloved Moomba Parade will epitomise the diversity and multiculturalism that makes Melbourne great.

The parade captures hearts and inspires imaginations with epic floats,

dance troupes, community groups and performers.

Among the groups performing in 2025 will be Manasis School of Greek Dance and Culture, led by Director Dimosthenis Manasis, who also goes by Deon.

Deon said it's the first time the group has taken part in Moomba since the mid-1990s, so excitement is running high.

"It's really humbling to be able to participate in Moomba. We're not just there representing Manasis - we're representing the entire Greek community, which makes up a significant part of Victoria," Deon said.

"What we do looks like fun - and it is fun - but representing the community comes with a big responsibility, and it's something we take very seriously. It's all about preparation and mindset."



Colourful performers at last year's Moomba

Deon took over the directorship of Manasis 20 years ago, from his father, who founded the group in 1979.

The dance school runs weekly lessons at three bustling locations, plus event performances and workshops galore.

On any given weekend you can find Manasis dancers performing at everything from grassroots events at nursing homes and school fetes to major festivals and big corporate galas.

The group is in demand, but at the heart of it all is an energetic passion for culture and community service.

"Greeks are known for their philoxenia and hospitality. This extends beyond food into our psyche and being. We bring this into everything we do - into our dance, our culture, food and homes," Deon said.

"There's a famous Greek saying that translates simply to: 'Whoever joins in the dance circle ends up dancing'. We use this mindset a lot in our workshops, as it breaks down the awkwardness of people who feel like they don't know the steps or don't want to wreck the line. Everyone is welcome."



Photo: David Mullins

Manasis dancers

Attending a Manasis workshop or performance is a great way to learn about the diversity of Greek culture.

"Different parts of Greece have very distinct cultural identities - there are strong influences from the countries across our northern borders, and of course imperial rule had a heavy influence over time," Deon said.

"We're often dancing alongside people from countries like Turkey, Bulgaria and Albania - and we like to draw attention to our cultural similarities, rather than our divisions."

Deon said that the timing of Moomba also aligns well with significant times of cultural

observation for Greek people, in the lead-up to Orthodox Easter.

"The first part of the year is like a carnival season for the Greek community. It's a time where you get everything out of your system before Lent - which is a time to be pious, both in terms of food and thoughts," Deon said.

"During carnival season we can wear all our masquerades and bells and be jubilant. Then comes Greek National Day on 25 March. During March, you're likely to see us in different clothing - like our white kilts with pom-poms, and Evzones regalia.

"We'll be presenting a little bit of everything at Moomba - a spectacle of Greek culture."

In addition to appearing in the Moomba Parade this year, Manasis will also perform on stage at the Moomba Carnival.

Deon said the team is looking forward to presenting a showcase of choreographed dance, followed by 'what they do best' - audience engagement and interaction.

"After our showcase performance, the audience can join us for a party - whether they know the steps or not. We'll teach them the basics of the famous Zorba's dance, which starts slow and speeds up," Deon said.

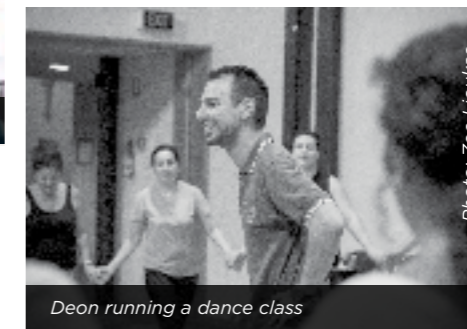


Photo: Zoe Lioukas

Deon running a dance class

After all that exertion, Deon joked that the audience might work up quite a sweat.

"We'll finish with an all-in mosh-pit Zorba's dance, and I think everyone will need to jump in the Yarra afterwards to cool off!"

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Moomba offers relaxed hours for people who are sensitive to bright or strobing lights, loud music and sounds on Friday 7 March from 4pm to 6pm.

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



Moomba Carnival

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

MOOMBA MASTERS

ALL WEEKEND

Stretch out on the grassy riverbanks and be amazed as elite Australian and international water ski and wakeboard athletes whizz by. Participants will be showing off their skills at slalom, tricks and jumps as they compete for the prestigious Moomba Masters title.

BIRDMAN RALLY

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

Cheer, laugh and hold your breath as big-hearted competitors launch into the Yarra wearing unique flying devices of their own making for charity. The popular Birdman Rally will begin at 11am.

PEACH PRC CONCERT

SUNDAY 9 MARCH

Watch a free open-air gig at Fed Square featuring international TikTok sensation and pop icon Peach PRC, who brings oodles of in-your-face bubblegum-punk-pop energy. Sydney-based singer-songwriter and producer Carla Wehbe and Adelaide-born indie-pop darling George Alice will also perform.

MOOMBA PARADE

MONDAY 10 MARCH

Be dazzled by extraordinary floats, multicultural dance and community groups galore as the iconic Moomba Parade weaves along Birdwood Avenue towards the Shrine of Remembrance. This year there'll be seven new floats and three groups of giant puppets, including new ladybugs. Entertainment begins from 10.30am before the parade starts at 11am. If you can't make it, tune in to Channel 9 from 1.30pm.

VIEW THE FULL PROGRAM AT melbourne.vic.gov.au/moomba



GREENING MORE CITY ROOFTOPS ACROSS MELBOURNE

An aerial view of the rooftop garden

A rooftop garden is growing on top of the premier's office at 1 Treasury Place in Melbourne, to provide a blueprint for more green rooftops across the city.

The Green Our Rooftop project is a partnership between the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government to nurture urban greening as our city grows and adapts to climate change.

The project aims to demonstrate and test different rooftop-greening approaches, educate the public, and quantify the environmental benefits of greening through high-quality research.

As part of this, we've worked closely with a team of local experts to create an environmental green rooftop at 1 Treasury Place.

The landscape design was a collaborative process led by Hassell, supported by Super Bloom and the University of Melbourne's Green Infrastructure Research Group.

Super Bloom helped curate the plant palette and the university researchers will monitor performance of the rooftop garden over the next two years.

Making green rooftops the norm

Green roofs are slowly popping up across the City of Melbourne, but there is still a lot of potential to integrate more greening.

The City of Melbourne owns less than one third of the city's land area, with more than two thirds owned by residents, businesses or the Victorian Government.

Seeing the benefit of secret gardens

Most rooftop gardens in Melbourne are accessible ones on apartment buildings. This leaves a lot of less-accessible rooftops as a blank canvas.

"Relative to the northern hemisphere, there are very few green roofs built for their environmental benefits," said Nick Williams, Professor of Urban Ecology and Urban Horticulture at the University of Melbourne.

"Future planning scheme changes are likely to encourage different types of green roofs so we need to understand how to cost-effectively build them, establish vegetation and maintain them."

Bryn Jones, Senior Landscape Architect at Hassell, agrees that while most gardens



Young plants on the urban rooftop

are created for human enjoyment, less-accessible spaces can shift our focus towards biodiversity outcomes, rather than only human-centric design outcomes.

"Projects like 1 Treasury Place change our perspectives and become solely about how we are contributing to a broader outcome, rather than a typical commercial outcome," Bryn said.

"It is a secret garden - one created by humans, but not for humans."

Researching replicable models

John Rayner, Associate Professor in Urban Horticulture at the University of Melbourne, said the Treasury Place project provides a unique opportunity to compare and evaluate green roof strategies.

The data collected will help building owners plan their own greening projects with greater ease, lower costs and more success.

"We will learn how different approaches to establishing and sustaining vegetation, such as planting, seeding and vegetation mats, as well as different types of green roof build-ups, can affect overall growth and performance," John said.

"This has not been done anywhere in Australia and for the 'green roof industry' to develop further and mature as it has elsewhere in the world, we need lower-cost solutions that can be readily replicated."

Adapting to a unique location

Many characteristics of the rooftop at 1 Treasury Place are just right for plants. It's flat and open, with few adjoining buildings that cast shadows onto the area.

However, building a green rooftop on a major CBD building can present challenges. The project team carefully considered elements including exposure, weightload and drainage.

Access was also a challenge to overcome, with the six-storey building having one service lift and limited parking.



The unique location posed some challenges

Designing the plant palette

Jac Semmler from Super Bloom played a key role in choosing the species to layer together into a resilient and economical garden, where plants are the heroes and there are minimal hard surfaces.

"It's a very exciting plant palette with four different mixes being tested on the roof, and we're looking at a range of plant traits suitable for the conditions - both indigenous flora native to the Melbourne region, but also other climate-compatible resilient species," Jac said.



A close-up of some of the rooftop plants

"There are local sticky everlastings and kangaroo grasses that are indigenous to the area, but also a diversity of succulents and perennials that really create an impact. We have plants that emerge at different times of the year, and others to provide structure."

Read the full story, with top tips for home gardeners, at melbourne.vic.gov.au/green-infrastructure

CREATING A GREENER, WILDER MELBOURNE

The Green Our Rooftop project is a key action from the City of Melbourne's Green Our City Strategic Action Plan, which sets out our vision for increasing green infrastructure.

Beyond our municipality, the research outcomes will also be used to help develop wider policies for the establishment and management of green roofs in greater Melbourne and across south-eastern Australia.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/green-infrastructure



Jac Semmler from Super Bloom

EVENTS CALENDAR

WHAT'S ON
IN MAGNETIC
MELBOURNE

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



6 TO 10 MARCH

Moomba Festival



29 TO 30 MARCH

Holi Festival Melbourne



2 TO 4 MAY

Buddha's Day and Multicultural Festival

MARCH TO MAY

ARTS HOUSE SEASON 1

Featuring dynamic performances, an immersive exhibition and 20th birthday celebrations, this season's program presents new and bold contemporary works from both emerging and celebrated creatives. Arts House is the City of Melbourne's contemporary performance space in North Melbourne. Learn more at artshouse.com.au

FROM 6 MARCH

FOOTY RETURNS

The MCG will host 47 matches of the 2025 AFL Premiership Season, including the traditional Round 1 clash between Richmond and Carlton, the moving ANZAC Day Eve and ANZAC Day clashes, Dreamtime at the 'G and The Big Freeze.

6 TO 10 MARCH

MOOMBA

Melbourne's favorite community festival returns to the banks of the Yarra River - Birrarung. Don't miss the iconic Moomba parade, carnival, Birdman Rally, family friendly entertainment and water-sport championships.



Moomba

13 TO 16 MARCH

AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

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

15 MARCH

NEPAL FESTIVAL

Experience the spirit of the Himalayas in the city. This vibrant, family-friendly celebration invites you to immerse yourself in Nepal's rich cultural tapestry. The event features traditional music and dance, contemporary performances, and authentic Nepali cuisine. Find the fun at Fed Square.

21 TO 30 MARCH

MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

This event brings the world's best food and drink to Victoria, and the best of Victorian food and drink to the world. Take your pick from more than 200 events, from intimate dinners with celebrity chefs to an epic pastry party called Baker's Dozen - featuring 20 of Australia's favourite bakers and cakers over two huge days at Fed Square.



Melbourne Food and Wine Festival

23 MARCH

MELBOURNE VIXENS FAN DAY

The Melbourne Vixens are getting ready for the Super Netball season, and they want all of their fans to join them for a festival of activities and entertainment at Fed Square. Fans will be able to meet their favourite Vixens, catch the dress presentation and get their merch signed. Melbourne Museum Plaza.

26 TO 30 MARCH

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

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

26 MARCH TO 20 APRIL

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

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

29 TO 30 MARCH

HOLI FESTIVAL MELBOURNE

Celebrate unity in diversity during Holi, the Festival of Colours. Enjoy two days and evenings of festivities featuring plant-based, non-toxic colours, song and dance, food and drinks, live music, DJs, multicultural performances and much more.

5 TO 17 APRIL

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT ARTPLAY

Come and get creative! Events include Endling, an interactive, installation-performance with puppetry that tackles climate anxiety.



Melbourne Vixens Fan Day

Endling offers hope through giving children agency to reimagine and contribute to environmental regeneration. Book online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay

5 TO 6 APRIL

EID AT QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

Created in Melbourne, SalamFest provides an opportunity for Victorians to celebrate, experience and enjoy the long-standing artistic offerings of Muslim culture and heritage.

6 APRIL

HERALD SUN / TRANSURBAN RUN FOR THE KIDS

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

8 APRIL TO 17 APRIL

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS AT SIGNAL

Calling all young artists aged 11 to 25 years old! Join us as we create some amazing artworks over multi-day workshops. For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/signal or follow us on Instagram @signalarts

9 TO 10 APRIL

LITTLE FOOD FESTIVAL

Experience Australia's first food festival created especially for kids. This free community event promotes health, wellbeing and sustainability education, focused on the food system. So, roll up your sleeves to plant seedlings, dive into the world of bush food, unleash your creativity in craft activities and master the art of preparing nutritious meals. From 10am to 4pm each day at Fed Square.

18 APRIL

KIDS DAY OUT

Bring the whole family for a day of amusement, activities and entertainment at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Enjoy a fun day out while helping raise funds for The Royal Children's Hospital's Good Friday Appeal.

25 APRIL

ANZAC DAY

Commemorate ANZAC Day at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance with a solemn Dawn Service from 5.30am to 7am. Then cheer on Australia's veterans their descendants, and current service members in the Commemorative March along St Kilda Road to the Shrine.

1 TO 11 MAY

YIRRAMBOI

A convergence of more than 400 First Nations creatives across 180 performances will activate more than 40 venues, cracking open the heart of Narm and revealing the hum of Country beneath. Will you hear it? Returning for its fifth iteration - and its most ambitious program to date - YIRRAMBOI will create space for expressions of culture, identity, unity, and truth through evolutionary and experimental practices. To learn more, visit yiramboi.com.au



Josh Mu, Kangaroo walking

2 TO 4 MAY

BUDDHA'S DAY AND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Head to Golden Square Car Park to experience arts, culture and mindfulness in the centre of the city. Discover serenity in the Mindfulness Forest, explore the Lotus Flower Sanctuary or partake in bathing the Buddha at the enchanting Lumbini Garden, while kids can learn the art of lion dancing, engage in giant bubble blowing and more.

11 MAY

MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

Walk or run for breast and ovarian cancer research on Mother's Day. The event begins at Alexandra Gardens.

COMMUNITY CORNER

CBD

RMIT PICKLEBALL CLUB

Curious about pickleball? Open to all skill levels, everyone is welcome to join the fun. The club meets on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the RMIT Multipurpose Court at 40 A'Beckett Street.

SOUTHBANK

OUTSIDE, SIDE BY SIDE

Join us to explore future community spaces in a fun scavenger hunt and unwind with karaoke on 29 March. It's a great way to spend your Saturday connecting with neighbours, sharing your voice, and helping shape our shared spaces. At Boyd Community Hub, 207 City Road, Southbank.



Learn more about local events at
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoods/

TRANSFORMED CITY SQUARE SET TO OPEN THIS YEAR



An artist's impression of the new City Square, across the road from Melbourne Town Hall

See what Melbourne's new City Square will look like before the iconic public space reopens in 2025.

City Square has been closed since 2017 to make way for Metro Tunnel works, which are being delivered by the Victorian Government. The place will be a key entrance to the new Town Hall train station – one of the city's five new state-of-the-art underground stations.

The latest artist impressions of the revamped City Square have been released, showing more spaces for events, retail and hospitality, along with new landscaping and artworks.

The new City Square has been developed in consultation with Wurundjeri Elders. There will be a permanent Smoking Ceremony dish, and Woiwurrung language and artwork will be etched into surrounding paving and throughout the square.

These elements are part of the Metro Tunnel's Connection to Country initiative, which celebrates the Traditional Owners of the lands where the five new metro stations are built.

Visitors to City Square can also enjoy an interactive, digital version of the much-loved Mockridge Fountain known as the 'water wall'. The LED installation will depict water flowing down the wall and respond to movements of people passing by.

The bronze sculpture *Beyond the Ocean of Existence* will also return.

At the Collins Street end of City Square, crews have started building the entrance to the new Town Hall Station. A glass canopy will arch above five escalators leading down into a two-tiered concourse, including retail spaces that will be accessible without passing through ticket gates.

New garden beds with native plantings and a widened pedestrian crossing at the Swanston and Collins Street intersection are also in the works.

Relocating the Burke and Wills Monument

As the site of the main entrance to the new Town Hall Station, City Square is set to be busier than ever.

When works started, the Burke and Wills Monument that many Melburnians remember from City Square was put into storage to make way for the work site.

Now with the new City Square designs confirmed, we're working on relocating Burke and Wills to the Royal Society of Victoria on La Trobe Street.

Unveiled in 1865, the Burke and Wills statue commemorates explorers Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills, who led an ill-fated expedition in 1860–61.

The group's goal was to travel from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria – the very top of Australia. But the journey was plagued with challenges and Burke and Wills died, along with seven other men.

The Burke and Wills expedition was organised by the Royal Society of Victoria, and when the monument is relocated the goal is to create interpretive landscaping and signage that better tells their story.

Designed with First Nations people, the place will also shine a light on the explorers' interactions with Aboriginal people – communities who offered the men great kindness, guidance and hospitality.

This will be the fifth time the Burke and Wills monument has been relocated as Melbourne has evolved.

In 1886, for example, it was moved from the corner of Collins and Russell streets to a reserve in Spring Street opposite Parliament House. Almost a century later, it was moved to City Square in 1979.

How has City Square evolved over the years?

City Square has taken many forms over many decades as city leaders pursued their visions to create a vibrant civic space in the CBD.

In the 1960s, City Square was little more than a temporary square of grass and some paving, but it gradually expanded into a larger plaza with water features, public art and eateries.

Some Melburnians recall Queen Elizabeth II officially opening City Square in the 1980s, watching people dancing to a live band there after Nelson Mandela's release, and eating ice cream by the fountain with first-loves.



City Square looking towards Swanston Street, circa 1966

City Square even had a brush with fame in 1976, when an AC/DC performance was filmed there for the *It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll)* music video. On the same day, the band gave its legendary performance on a flatbed truck travelling down Swanston Street.

The reopening of City Square after the Metro Tunnel Project works is the next step in the history of this iconic place.

What is the Metro Tunnel?

The Metro Tunnel Project is a major Victorian Government transport project that will enable our train network to cater for Melbourne's population growth.

The Metro Tunnel Project is the largest transformation of Melbourne's rail network since the City Loop opened in 1981.

It includes twin 9 km rail tunnels under Melbourne's CBD and five new underground stations: Arden, Parkville, State Library and Town Hall in the CBD and Anzac Station on St Kilda Road.

The City of Melbourne is working with the Metro Tunnel Project to support the successful planning and delivery of this major project, including helping to assess and manage impacts on the environment and community.

Such significant construction means there are disruptions to roads, pedestrian crossings and bike lanes. As works continue to improve the city for the future, we encourage you to plan ahead to ensure a smooth journey.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/metro-tunnel-project



Bon Scott from AC/DC performs at City Square in 1976



A child at City Square in 1980, photographed by Andrew Chapman



Photo: Alan Wilkinson

MELBOURNE'S BUSINESS SECTORS SHINE ON GLOBAL STAGE

An aerial view of Melbourne

Melbourne is Australia's largest and fastest-growing city. It's a great place to do business, work, study, visit and live.

The City of Melbourne is the municipal centre and the capital-city government. Across 40 square kilometres, the City of Melbourne has eight universities and more than 25 technology, engineering and medical facilities, alongside world-class arts, culture, tourism and sport.

We have a gross local product of more than \$114 billion, we offer a supportive environment for the Australian headquarters of countless global giants like CSL, Asahi and Mondelēz, and we are home to more than 1251 startups, including some unicorns – which are startups valued at over \$1 billion.

Diversity is central to Melbourne's success on the world stage, with more than 100 languages spoken here.

The City of Melbourne helps to advance inbound and outbound business interests through partnerships, trade missions, investment attraction and startup support. Through global partnerships, we also help find changemaking solutions to shared city challenges, such as responding to climate change, gender equality, health and wellbeing, and city safety.

With world-class research at your fingertips, low business costs, modern infrastructure, easy access into the Asia-Pacific, and support from the City of Melbourne, there are so many reasons to explore Melbourne for your next business venture.

Read on to get a quick overview about some of our strongest industry sectors, which make Melbourne an ideal destination for international business opportunities.



Boeing has a nearly 100-year history in Melbourne, employing a large number of engineers, researchers and aerospace technicians in Fishermans Bend

INDUSTRIES THAT THRIVE IN MELBOURNE

Advanced manufacturing

Melbourne is Australia's leader in advanced manufacturing and engineering, with capabilities in defence, aerospace and advanced carbon fibre material production, with key innovation precincts in Fishermans Bend and Parkville.

Creative economy

Our sophisticated arts and creative sector includes world-class filmmaking, visual and performing arts, publishing and design. We are one of the 180 cities in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Education

Melbourne has been ranked as Australia's best city for students, offering world-class education and excellent job opportunities. We have one of the most multicultural populations in the world, an exceptional standard of living and a welcoming study environment.

Financial services

Our competitive financial services sector is driven by a high-performing banking industry, a significant asset-management sector and a thriving startup community.

Green economy

Melbourne aims to be a city powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and reach zero net emissions by 2040. There are opportunities for growth and investment in circular-economy solutions, urban sustainability, clean energy and infrastructure projects.

Professional services

Local businesses have strong capabilities in accounting, architecture, computer system design, legal, management consulting and urban planning.



Melbourne architecture and design firm Denton Corker Marshall has designed more than 500 projects in 37 countries, including St Vincent Hospital's new Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (render above), which is opening soon

Life sciences and health tech

Melbourne is one of the leading health and life sciences centres in the world, with key strengths in stem cell research, cancer therapies, clinical trials, infectious disease research, aged care and medical devices.

Technology and innovation

Top technology companies flock to Melbourne due to its infrastructure, business environment, talent pool and lifestyle.

Tourism and events


International visitors come to Melbourne to enjoy major events, food and wine, eclectic shopping, urban nature, and artistic and cultural experiences.

INVEST MELBOURNE


Our Invest Melbourne team can help you unlock your business potential and join the many innovative and successful companies investing here in Melbourne. What you can expect:

Insights 


Assistance with market entry and business case validation.

Networking 

Introductions to relevant industry, education, research and development contacts.

Vantage 

Advice on sector ecosystems and precincts.

Expedite 

Support to help start or expand a business, including expedited business approvals.

Support 

Access to all levels of government, including government financial support.

Team 

Experienced advisers ready to help at every stage of the investment process.

Visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/investing-melbourne, call +61 3 9658 9658 or email investmelbourne@melbourne.vic.gov.au to request an appointment.

MELBOURNE GLOBALLY CONNECTED

We help Melbourne businesses by:

- introducing you to new international business opportunities through our city partnerships and networks
- facilitating inbound visits from foreign companies interested in Melbourne businesses
- conducting outbound trade missions to showcase your business to international buyers
- showcasing Melbourne industry and company capabilities to the world
- helping companies become ready for Asian markets
- working with and supporting Melbourne's diverse diaspora.

Want to learn more about Melbourne's value as an international business destination? Melbourne Globally Connected provides an overview of our industry capability, our global networks, and why the city is a great place to start a business or partnership. Read the full report at melbourne.vic.gov.au/international-connections

 FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/international-connections

GUIDE TO RISKY PLAYGROUNDS

Risky playgrounds are helping inner-city children test their limits, think for themselves and let their imaginations go wild.

Back when she was raising her kids in the 1990s, Cathy Kiss AM spent a lot of time in bleak playgrounds full of plastic equipment.

"I was spending time with my kids in playgrounds ordered out of a catalogue. Random bits of equipment installed without reflecting how families use the spaces or children's development," Cathy said.

So Cathy joined the playground industry association, and went on to spend 24 years with Play Australia. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2021 for her contribution to children's wellbeing.

When Cathy came to work for the City of Melbourne in 2005, she leapt at the chance to dream up the playgrounds she had craved for her own children. Nature Play in Royal Park is still her favourite. It went on to be awarded the nation's best playground.

"We wanted to cater for a range of ages and stages, with graduated challenges. Children are very good at self-assessing what they're capable of," Cathy said.

Cathy knows the importance of children having more time for play, not less, and she has been inspired by American psychology researcher Dr Peter Gray.

Gray's research looks at the relationship between children's declining access to unstructured play over the past 50 years, and the rise in depression and anxiety in children.

"We try to keep our children as safe as possible, but this can lead to a sort of learned helplessness that's impacting their wellbeing," Cathy said.

"By encouraging unstructured play, children develop physical and mental skills that build imagination, resilience and physical endurance."

Read the full story at news.melbourne.vic.gov.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/playgrounds



Cathy Kiss AM

TRY THESE RISKY PLAYGROUNDS

There are more than 40 playgrounds in the City of Melbourne, including these 'risky' play spaces:

Rocks on Wheels

Huge climbing rocks are playfully placed on fixed trolleys and connected by monkey bars, slides, ropes, nets and pipes. Located on the corner of Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh Street, Southbank.

Nature Play in Royal Park

An accessible, nature-based play space featuring a climbing forest, ropes and a rocky escarpment with slides, swings and water play. Located on the corner of Flemington Road and Gatehouse Street in Parkville.

Lincoln Square Playground

High towers in the treetops are connected by a rope bridge to a superfast slide. A rainforest floor walk, timber balance beams and more. Located at 138-142 Bouverie Street, Carlton.

Kensington Adventure Playground

A staffed playground offering supervised play for children aged 5 to 16. Located at The Venny, 85 Kensington Road, Kensington.



Lort Smith CEO Frances Mirabelli with therapy dog Ziggy

Leader of the pack: Lort Smith fetches top gong

Australia's largest not-for-profit animal hospital took out the Community category at the 2024 Melbourne Awards.

Tucked away on Villers Street in North Melbourne, behind the busy Parkville medical precinct, the Lort Smith Animal Hospital plays a crucial role in medical care access for our four-legged friends.

For nearly 90 years, Lort Smith has been an unwavering protector of animal welfare – offering veterinary services, emergency pet accommodation, and interest-free loans to help pet owners facing hardship, homelessness, or domestic violence access veterinary care.

In this fast-paced, all-hands-on-deck environment, there's no typical day. While one day might bring a significant number of emergency cases, quieter periods allow the team to coordinate the diverse range of services and initiatives on offer.

Receiving a Melbourne Award has been a well-deserved morale boost for staff, who work tirelessly behind the scenes and without fanfare – other than the occasional lick and cuddle from patients of course – to continue to do incredible work.

"We were thrilled," CEO Frances Mirabelli said. "It's fantastic to be recognised as an institution of Melbourne and for the contribution that we make."

"I think it's really easy to focus on humans and work in that area, so the fact that it was something to do with the human-animal bond really meant a lot to us."

While caring for animals who come into the hospital, Lort Smith also gives back to the wider community through its programs.

Lort Smith's Pet Therapy Program brings animals into hospitals, schools, and aged care facilities and youth justice programs to provide comfort and reduce anxiety. Having animals in these spaces can lead to a range of positive impacts, such as calming patient heart rates.

The hospital also takes in surrendered animals, works to rehome them, and provides emergency housing for pets of people experiencing domestic violence.

Almost two-thirds of Lort Smith's clients receive subsidised care, while the Emergency Diagnostics Program removes the cost of diagnostic tests for animals coming through their emergency services.

Being entirely funded through fundraising and donations, without any government support, presents additional challenges in ensuring they can continue to provide essential services.

"We all pitch in wherever we can to make sure the hospital runs as efficiently as possible and meets the needs of everything coming through the door," Frances said.



A Lort Smith staff member with a happy patient

ABOUT THE MELBOURNE AWARDS

Melbourne is a thriving city thanks to its diverse and ever-evolving community of people, organisations, projects and initiatives.

Since 2002, the Melbourne Awards has provided a platform to recognise the people who make our city an inclusive, creative and forward-thinking place.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards



Rocks on Wheels playground in Southbank

YOUR COUNCIL



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 Portfolio deputy for Tourism and Events
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COUNCIL MEETINGS

MARCH			
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 4 March	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 18 March	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 25 March	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall

Learn more and find future meeting dates at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

IN BRIEF

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

It takes courage to move across the world to pursue your dreams. But Melbourne is one of the safest and most welcoming places to study. Browse our website to discover events, friendship, wellbeing support and opportunities for volunteering and career-skills development.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/internationalstudents

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

We have a wide range of multicultural services to help you feel at home in Melbourne, including interpreter services, programs for international students, refugee services and our multicultural hub.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/multicultural-services

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

Disruptions can impact how you get from A to B, whether they are due to major construction works or events. To make your journey as easy as possible, we've compiled a list of what's happening across the central city and our neighbourhoods.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/getting-around-city

LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Access books, audiobooks, makerspaces, conversation clubs, meeting spaces and much more at our seven permanent libraries across the municipality. Library locations include the CBD, Carlton, Docklands, East Melbourne, North Melbourne, Southbank and narm ngarrgu Library and Family Services in the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

WORMS AT WORK: FOOD WASTE TO FRESH GROWTH

This community-led project is kicking off, and you're invited to help shape it. Join the 2024 Digital Innovation Challenge winners on Wednesday 19 March at 6.30pm to hear how public composting and worm farms can turn Fishermans Bend's food waste into nutrient-rich soil.

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

PEOPLE WE MEET IN MELBOURNE



OLIVIA LESAR
Lifeguard

"I think coming to Melbourne City Baths makes people feel less isolated. A lot of people who come in have moved here from another place, and this is where they get to interact and talk with others."

As a lifeguard and guest experience officer, Olivia focuses on keeping the pool area safe. She values the diversity of the baths community and aims to help everyone feel welcome and supported.



MATT AND ANDREW BAKER
Sustainability champions

"We love the village feel of Kensington and the neighbourly community we've created with our Kenzo Crawl partners and local vendors."

Brothers Matt and Andrew run Bakery Hill Distillery. They've teamed up with other local businesses to be part of Kensington's sustainable bar crawl - an initiative enabled by the Kensington Circular Economy Precinct.



ELEONORA GANCI
Civic events maestro

"It's a milestone moment for a lot of people. Their final step in becoming an Australian citizen is to attend one of these ceremonies. We ensure that it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them."

Eleonora is the city's Civic and Protocol Lead, welcoming people to Town Hall for everything from moving citizenship ceremonies to a visit from the Princess of Belgium.

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

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IN PERSON

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

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ONLY IN THE CITY



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL



BKK
Lonsdale St



WAX MUSIC LOUNGE
Flinders St



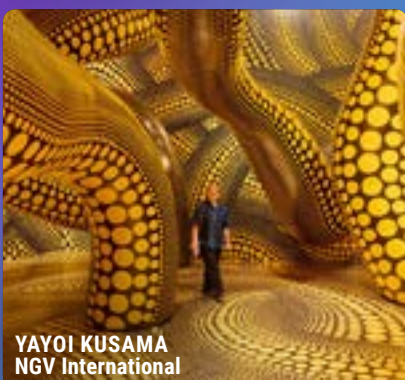
HAKATA GENSUKE
Russell St



MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL



MESA VERDE
Swanston St



YAYOI KUSAMA
NGV International



KAFENEION
Spring St



WURRDHA MARRA
The Ian Potter Centre



Scan to See
What's On



CITY OF MELBOURNE