

YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE MAGAZINE

MELBOURNE

WINTER 2025



**HIGHLIGHTS OF
OUR DRAFT BUDGET**

FIND OUT WHAT'S
IN IT FOR YOU

**DOCKLANDS GLOWS
WITH EPIC ART**

DON'T MISS
FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL

**BOOSTING ACCESS
TO LOCAL SPORT**

EXPLORE THE NEW
PARKVILLE PAVILION

MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU



CITY OF MELBOURNE



Lord Mayor Nick Reece

Curl up with this issue of *Melbourne Magazine* and enjoy a cheery winter of good times and great people.

In Melbourne, we are lucky to have a rolling series of mid-year festivities to lighten every heart. They include RISING for June, Firelight Festival for July, and in August a showcase of bold ideas and tech snappily named Now or Never. These events help us embrace the chill and feel happier. They bring people together. They do good work for the economy and keep Melbourne's unique vibe alive. For the full winter events calendar, head to page 10.

A beautiful way to warm up this winter is to get active in Royal Park. Discover the new inclusive facilities on offer at Ryder Pavilion by jogging over to page 12.

Having worked up a healthy appetite there, you might be in search of a warming winter feast – and there's no better place than the delicious eateries of Melbourne's Koreatown. The Healeys Lane area is now home to one of our newest (and most Instagrammable) landmarks.

On page 7, you'll find the intriguing story behind the jang seung carved by Master Jong-yeon Kim.

Also creating art in Melbourne this winter are Stacey Edwards and Thelma Beeton, the artists in residence at Boyd Studios.

Meet them on page 14, where you can also learn about our Creative Spaces program for artists.

What of the future? I am proud to say the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2025–26 is out. It takes us back to basics with cost-of-living relief and delivers a better Melbourne for everybody. Discover the Budget's main strengths on page 8.

Winter is a good time for growth – both in the garden and in our business community. If you run a business in Melbourne, or are turning your mind to starting one, check the page opposite for ways to grow it. Melbourne is set to expand for decades to come, meaning our city is the best long-term bet in the world.

Meanwhile, my imagination is still abuzz with the grand ideas for our city's long-term future put forward at the M2050 Summit. Learn about them online over the coming months at melbourne.vic.gov.au/m2050

This issue of *Melbourne Magazine* proves why Melbourne is the best place to be this winter.

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 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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HOW TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

An aerial view of Melbourne

Melbourne is a place where international businesses come to invest and grow – because of its atmosphere of innovation, endless pool of world-class talent, and raft of initiatives and grants.

Victoria's economy is worth more than \$500 billion, and Melbourne's population is seeing record growth, creating the perfect conditions to help businesses boom.

Many of the world's leading businesses headquarter their Australian operations in the City of Melbourne, making it a hub for leading sectors including biotech, sports tech, edtech, digital gaming and climate tech.

Key drawcards include the city's infrastructure, diverse workforce, accessibility, green spaces and opportunities to leverage data and technology. Not to mention its vibrant backdrop of arts, sport, dining and entertainment.

SUPPORT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The City of Melbourne's Invest Melbourne, International and Business Concierge teams are on hand to provide tailored support to help businesses start, grow and thrive. Meanwhile, our new Economic Development Strategy will set out a plan for a future powered by knowledge. The strategy has been developed through extensive consultation with industry, government and community stakeholders.

We are embracing new and exciting opportunities in the post-pandemic era to position Melbourne as the Asia-Pacific's top city for innovation, talent and liveability.

Want to know more? Read on to discover some of the many resources available to help support businesses with their expansion into Melbourne.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

The City of Melbourne offers a range of grants and sponsorships for businesses every year. Learn more and subscribe for updates at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

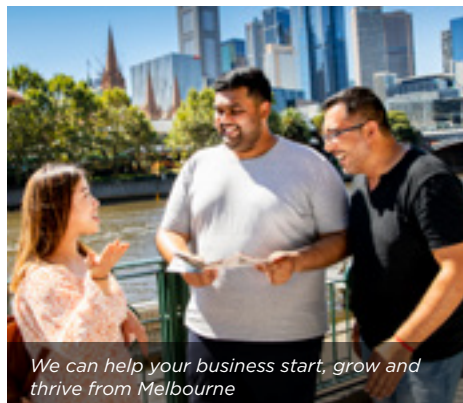
INVEST MELBOURNE LANDING PAD

Discover our new co-working space in the central city for international and interstate business investors. The Landing Pad includes dedicated support to assist with business enquiries.

Eligible investors can enjoy free hot desks for up to four weeks while they explore market opportunities and establish their operations – plus free wi-fi, printers, scanners and meeting rooms.

To learn more or register your interest, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/invest-melbourne-landing-pad

You can also follow Invest Melbourne on LinkedIn.



We can help your business start, grow and thrive from Melbourne

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TOOL

Find your ideal business space in the city with our handy new property-search tool, which provides an information hub for businesses to use to make informed decisions before signing a lease.

The Commercial Property Lookup tool is delivered in partnership with the City of Yarra and City of Port Phillip. To learn more, visit commercialpropertylookup.com.au

MAKING IT IN MELBOURNE PODCAST

Tune in to our podcast series that features inspiring conversations with migrant entrepreneurs who are transforming our city's business landscape.

The conversations traverse creative and social innovations, artificial intelligence, mental health and career changes. These are the stories of people who journeyed far from home to build something extraordinary.

Listen to the series wherever you get your podcasts, or learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/podcast-series-making-it-melbourne

SUBSCRIBE FOR BUSINESS NEWS



Sign up to our dedicated business newsletter for all the latest news and information. Out fortnightly, it features all you need to know to run a successful business in the city.



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

CITY FLASHBACK

This photograph shows Melbourne Town Hall in around 1945. 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.



MELBOURNE AWARDS

The Melbourne Awards celebrate the people who make a big contribution to our city and help shape its future.

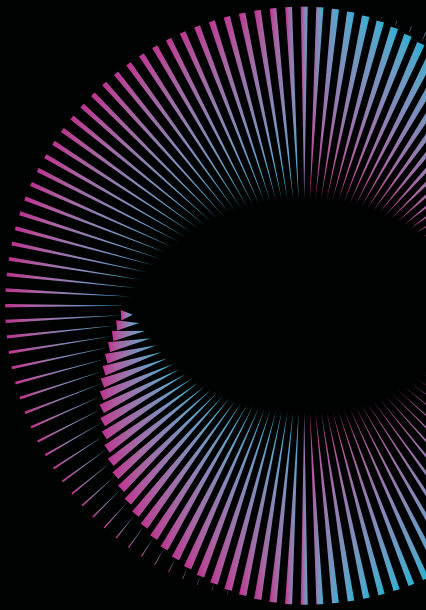
Are you ready to share your story? The Melbourne Awards are free to enter. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourne-awards. Applications close on 20 June.

M2050 VISION

In May, we collaborated with hundreds of passionate Melburnians to help shape the future of our great city at our M2050 Summit, and through our People's Panel.

Drawing all the feedback and ideas together, we will create a long-term, 25-year vision for Melbourne.

To find out more about the outcomes of the summit and People's Panel, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/m2050



FIND LOCAL CHILDCARE

The City of Melbourne's childcare centres provide high-quality early learning and family services in the inner city to suit the needs of your family. Locations include the Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services Centre and North Melbourne Children's Centre. To learn more and enquire about enrolment, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/childcare-centres, email parentingservices@melbourne.vic.gov.au or call 9340 1422.



PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST WINTER FLU

Immunisations play an important role in protecting our community against harmful infections and disease.

That's why the City of Melbourne provides immunisation services for those who live, work or study in the city.

These immunisations are administered by our fantastic team of registered nurses. To learn more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/immunisations



MELBOURNE NEWS, YOUR WAY

Read the latest city-shaping news and celebrate community champions online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/news 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

FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL FEATURES ENORMOUS INFLATABLE ART

Photo: Rami Saarikorpi

'Man' by Amanda Parer

Enjoy free entertainment when Melbourne's epic winter festival takes over Docklands for three fiery nights from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 July.

Featuring fire pits, flame jets, fire sculptures and arches, dazzling fire performers, live music, storytelling and roving entertainers – every moment at Firelight Festival celebrates fire and light.

As you roam the atmospheric harbourside, you can also feast on Melbourne's best wintry food and drink offerings – from hot choc and s'mores to sizzling street food.

One of the highlights of this year's Firelight Festival will be the Melbourne debut of two huge inflatable art installations by Amanda Parer.

Amanda started her career as a fine artist making large-scale paintings and later began putting giant rabbits in Australian landscapes to shine a light on

the dominance of feral species on natural ecosystems.

In 2014, she began to explore the stunning style that we're going to see at Firelight Festival.

"I discovered that I could use the inflatable medium to express three-dimensionally what I had created in my two-dimensional works," Amanda said.

"In my work, I aim to inspire a sense wonder, humour and humility. I really enjoy changing people's usual spaces with thought-provoking and fun art."

The two works that Amanda will exhibit at Firelight Festival are called *Man* and *Fantastic Planet*.

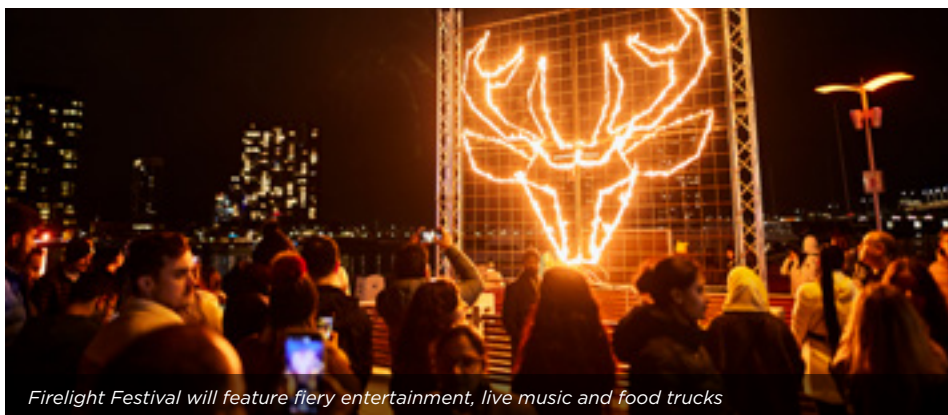
"*Man* is a contemporised version of Rodin's *The Thinker*," Amanda said.

"*Fantastic Planet* was inspired by a 1973 Czech / French animation about a man who lives in the distant future on a faraway

planet inhabited by giants. In my work, the giants have come down to visit and are observing us in a benign way.

"By wandering amongst my enormous, illuminated artworks, it is my hope that audiences will be inspired to delve deeper into their meaning, and also will be transported by the fantasy of the spectacle."

Amanda is kept busy managing the globe-trotting travels of her existing works, but she's also creating new works, including an interactive installation based on the wonders of bioluminescence in nature.



Firelight Festival will feature fiery entertainment, live music and food trucks

THERE'S MORE TO EXPLORE IN DOCKLANDS

Find waterfront restaurants and bars, exciting entertainment and experiences, shopping and special deals to round out your visit to Firelight Festival.



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

GET TO KNOW OUR COUNCILLORS

The City of Melbourne is the local government body responsible for the municipality of Melbourne. The Council consists of a Lord Mayor, a Deputy Lord Mayor, and nine councillors.

We'll introduce you to a few of the members in each edition of *Melbourne Magazine*. To read full articles about each councillor, search for their names at melbourne.vic.gov.au/news



DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ROSHENA CAMPBELL

Portfolio head for Planning. Deputy portfolio head for Tourism and Events

Deputy Lord Mayor Roshena Campbell is a barrister who is committed to using her experience listening to and fighting for people and communities to deliver for the residents and businesses of Melbourne.

"The number one thing I want to see is people feeling positive about the future of Melbourne," the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

"That starts with getting the basics right. We must be a safe and clean city. But I also want us to focus on city excellence – whether that is having the best sporting and cultural events, attracting new industries that propel our economic growth or being world-renowned for our liveability.

"The city took a lot of knocks over the Covid years and that was incredibly hard for the people who live and study here and for the city businesses, but we now have this incredibly exciting opportunity."

"We're not trying to bounce back, we're trying to go forward to create something even better."



COUNCILLOR
GLADYS LIU

Portfolio head for Community, Health and City Services. Deputy portfolio head for Safety and Cleaning

Councillor Liu is a fitness instructor and former member of the Australian Parliament. She cares about healthy ageing, and services for women and families.

"It is important to have more facilities for residents. We are working on expanding our services in Kensington and North Melbourne, because of the population growth there," Cr Liu said.

Motivated by her lived experience of disability, and by the loneliness she felt as an international student, she wants to build community connection and accessibility for people of all ages.

"I'm passionate about bringing people together and bringing happiness to their lives. I want people to fully participate in city life. We want to make sure facilities are accessible to all people," Cr Liu said.

"And it's not just informing people about what we do. I want to hear what people expect. I remind people that councillors are here to serve. We are here for you."



COUNCILLOR
MARK SCOTT

Portfolio head for Tourism and Events. Deputy portfolio head for Creative and Arts

Councillor Scott comes from a 30-year career in branding and marketing.

"Tourism is back and is driving Melbourne's economy," he said. "It's a rolling smorgasbord of great events. How we elevate those is really important in rejuvenating this great city.

"I understand the Melbourne brand, and how we'll shape the city we want Melbourne to be in the next 10 or 20 years."

Cr Scott also co-owns an all-Australian delicatessen and cheese business at Queen Victoria Market.

"It's an important time for small business to have a strong voice on Council because they are really the heartbeat of the city economy," Cr Scott said.

"Visiting my shop, residents like to tell me about the amenity of their neighbourhood. Joining Council is a way of amplifying residents' concerns and the challenges for small business owners, right across the municipality."



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

SCULPTURES WITH SOUL IN KOREATOWN

Koreatown in Healeys Lane

Melbourne has a new landmark in our growing Koreatown: sculptures carved by a master artisan.

Four newly carved Korean 'totem poles' now stand at the entrances to Koreatown, marking the official launch of our newest cultural precinct.

Featuring human-like faces, ornate designs and calligraphy, each sculpture was carved from wood by expert Korean artisan Master Jong-yeon Kim.

“The jang seung in Melbourne’s Koreatown will serve as guardians, protecting the Koreatown precinct,” Master Kim said.

He recently spent two weeks in Melbourne carving jang seung for Koreatown. The initiative was funded by the Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea in Melbourne, sponsors and donors.

Master Kim has dedicated more than 40 years to the art of jang seung, which are traditionally placed at the entries of communities to ward off evil spirits.

To become a master, the artist must understand the historical and spiritual significance of the jang seung.

They must also study sculpture and develop a keen eye for proportions,

facial expressions, and the overall aesthetic of the jang seung.

Master Kim aims to bring out the unique character in each piece of wood.

“The wood – shaped by its environment over time – has already completed more than half of the work on its own,” Master Kim said.

As a natural material, wood embodies life, growth and a connection to the natural world, aligning with the jang seung’s role as a protector and spiritual guardian.

“I believe the jang seung will also have a positive impact on the local community, bringing happiness to the residents and visitors,” Master Kim said.

Almost 25 Korean-run businesses – including restaurants, cafes and shops – are now clustered around Healeys Lane in Melbourne’s CBD.

The area has naturally grown into a destination for authentic Korean food and hospitality, events and festivals.

“I hope the jang seung will become a space for communication and connection between Australians and the Korean community, fostering a sense of joy and unity,” Master Kim said.

Koreans are among the City of Melbourne’s top 10 multicultural communities, with more than 2,500 Koreans living in the municipality and more than 25,000 at home across Victoria.



Master Kim carves jang seung for Melbourne

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



OUR DRAFT BUDGET: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

Our draft Budget will help shape a stronger and fairer Melbourne

The City of Melbourne has released its draft Budget 2025-26. Here's what's in it for you.

This year's surplus Budget invests in what Melburnians care about and supports the future needs of our community.

We will get back to basics – keeping our city clean, safe and welcoming for visitors and businesses. We will invest in a fair city – one where people are healthy, feel connected to their communities and can get the support they need.

Through our Neighbourhood Survey, more than 4,400 people shared what matters most to them and we've used their feedback to guide our decisions and deliver real outcomes.

We're excited to keep working alongside you to shape a stronger and fairer Melbourne that we can all be proud of.

FIVE HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DRAFT BUDGET

1. Easing the pressure on household budgets

We know every dollar counts. That's why we will add some breathing space to household budgets and keep more money in ratepayers' pockets at a time when they need it the most.

We'll give ratepayers a full rebate on the 3 per cent rate rise for 2025-26, saving the community more than \$10 million.

We're making it easier for people to stay active with free community fitness classes, and by waiving fees for exercise classes held in our public parks and gardens.

We'll help more Melburnians learn life-saving water safety skills, with 600 free

swimming courses and \$2 pool entry at selected pools on weekdays.

And by making pet registration free for a year, we're supporting 12,000 local pet owners to keep their furry friends safe and well cared for.

2. Making Melbourne streets safer and brighter

This draft Budget marks the biggest investment in safety in Council's history, with an extra \$4.5 million in new initiatives.

This will help everyone feel safer on our streets, support local traders and give our city workers the confidence to do their jobs knowing they're protected.

We will boost our frontline safety team and put more boots on the ground. More than 100 additional Safe City Network CCTV cameras will be activated across the CBD and neighbourhoods.



Our Business Concierge team has been expanded

We will also light up Melbourne, with a \$1 million investment to activate and illuminate our laneways after dark, while upgrading street lighting.

Keeping our city safe means keeping it clean. That's why we're investing \$59.8 million in round-the-clock graffiti removal, improved waste services for businesses, and fewer bins cluttering our laneways - helping the city look and feel its best every day.

3. Growing the garden city

In a busy city, green space isn't a luxury - it's a necessity.

That's why we're investing over \$44 million to deliver more open space, improve streetscapes and upgrade the parks and gardens Melburnians love.

We're fast-tracking work in Southbank, including the ACCA forecourt and upgrades to Southbank Boulevard and Promenade.

We're building on the success of pocket parks like Bedford Street in North Melbourne, while progressing stage two of the University Square redevelopment in Parkville, and creating new open spaces along Chelmsford Street in Kensington and at Normanby Road Park in Southbank.

We will also boost our Urban Forest Fund and aim to plant up to 3,000 new trees. Melbourne's greener future is already taking shape.

4. Making Melbourne a great place to visit and do business

We're strengthening our position as the nation's business capital - providing generous grants and making it easier than ever to do business in Melbourne.

With Australia's biggest Business Concierge team, we're here to support more local businesses across all our neighbourhoods.

We are also exploring new ways to activate and elevate our unique and diverse neighbourhoods. We've just launched Melbourne's first-ever Koreatown, and we're beginning work to establish a Little India precinct. We'll also explore a new seafood precinct, expand community markets, and offer business grants for festival decorations.

We also are set to deliver another blockbuster year of major events. Firelight Festival and Now or Never return to heat up the winter months, and we'll pursue how we can make the winter season even hotter next year.

5. Building spaces to bring our community together

We're building new neighbourhood facilities and public spaces to help our community feel proud, connected and supported.

This year, we'll start construction on a larger, modern library at the Boyd Community Hub in Southbank and begin transforming Southbank's Northern Undercroft into a vibrant new park.

We're also redeveloping the North Melbourne Community Centre - to deliver a new neighbourhood hub for locals.

Our major city-shaping projects are progressing too - with the first stage of the Greenline Project at Birrarung Marr nearing completion, and renewal works continuing at our beloved Queen Victoria Market.

This builds on the success of new public spaces like narm ngarrgu - a library and family services centre in the Queen Victoria Market precinct - and the soon-to-open Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre.



READ MORE ABOUT
OUR BUDGET
melbourne.vic.gov.au/budget

HAVE YOUR SAY

You know what matters most. That's why we're inviting you to have your say and help shape a Budget that meets our community's needs.

**Have your say before 5pm on
Monday 2 June.**

EVENTS CALENDAR

WHAT'S ON — ONLY IN THE CITY



Event dates and details may change.
For updates, visit @WhatsOnMelb or
whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

JUNE TO AUGUST

ARTS HOUSE

This winter, Arts House presents a powerful and significant new work of dance, an innovative and resonant evening of music, and an art party 20 years in the making. Browse the program at artshouse.com.au

4 TO 15 JUNE

RISING

Be part of a festival of new art, music and performance that spills out into city streets and iconic venues. It's a chance to connect with each other and ambitious artists with bold ideas.

8 JUNE

TASTE OF PORTUGAL

Savour a Portuguese custard tart made before your eyes, shop for colourful ceramics and Timorese tais scarves, dance to Brazilian samba and see live performances from across Portuguese-speaking communities. This free cultural festival is held at Queen Victoria Market.



Taste of Portugal



JUNE TO AUGUST

Winter program at Arts House

22 JUNE

AFRICAN FESTIVAL MELBOURNE

Step into a world of colour, rhythm and flavour at Queen Victoria Market. Expect delicious food, live music, dynamic dance, talented artisans at work, handcrafted goods and interactive workshops that celebrate Africa's rich traditions.



African Festival Melbourne

4 TO 6 JULY

FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL

Melbourne's epic winter festival returns to Docklands for three fiery nights of fun for the whole family, with free entertainment, dazzling fire performers and sizzling street food.

6 TO 13 JULY

NAIDOC WEEK

Learn about First Nations cultures and histories and join a celebration of the oldest, continuous living cultures on Earth. This year's theme is: "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy". The City of Melbourne is proud to support activities across the week. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/naidoc-week

7 TO 18 JULY

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT ARTPLAY AND SIGNAL

Come and get creative! We have two weeks of incredible arts programs designed by kids for kids at ArtPlay, alongside interactive craft and performance workshops for young people. Learn more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay and melbourne.vic.gov.au/signal

13 JULY

RUN MELBOURNE

Join Melbourne's favourite city run. Race along closed roads and past iconic landmarks, finishing at Melbourne Park for a day full of good vibes, personal achievements and loads of fun.

12 TO 13 JULY

BASTILLE DAY FRENCH FESTIVAL

Rendezvous at Queen Victoria Market, Sheds C and D, for a celebration of all things French and Francophone. It's the tenth anniversary of this beloved festival.



Bastille Day French Festival

MONOLITH by Joel Bray Dance, presented by Arts House and RISING.
Image by Tamarah Scott and Davey Simmons



4 TO 6 JULY

Firelight Festival



YOUR CITY OF MELBOURNE MAGAZINE

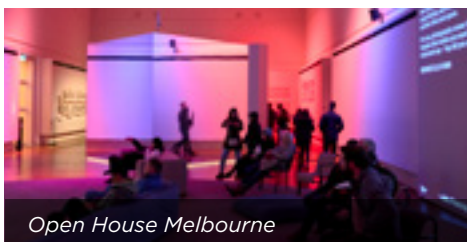
21 TO 31 AUGUST

Now or Never

26 TO 27 JULY

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

Get behind the scenes access to 200 buildings, places and spaces. Uncover the stories of our city, marvel at great design and take part in conversations with architects, building custodians and community organisations about the future of Melbourne.



Open House Melbourne

6 JUNE TO 5 OCTOBER

WINTER MASTERPIECES AT NGV

Immerse yourself in a major exhibition of French Impressionism developed by Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria. This event features paintings by many legendary artists including Monet, Renoir and Degas.

1 TO 10 AUGUST

THE ARTISTRY

Experience a festival celebrating creativity, innovation and culture. Look out for food crawls, music experiences and cultural activations across the city, culminating in The Artistry Live: a vibrant festival stage at Queen Victoria Market from 9 to 10 August.



The Artistry

8 TO 10 AUGUST

PICKLEPALOOZA

Celebrate all things pickleball with clinics, competitions, live entertainment, food and activities for all ages. Whether you're a seasoned player or just curious, this festival is your chance to experience the fastest-growing sport in the world.

14 TO 24 AUGUST

INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE

Attend film screenings, live performances, and industry talks. Now in its 16th year, this festival stands as the largest annual celebration of Indian cinema outside India, bringing together filmmakers, stars and audiences to celebrate the vibrant diversity of Indian storytelling.



Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

21 TO 31 AUGUST

NOW OR NEVER

Melbourne's festival of new dimensions will return with a city-wide program featuring immersive installations, boundary-pushing music, bold media art and mind-expanding discussions.



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

COMMUNITY CORNER

CARLTON

LOCAL LUNCH CLUB

Enjoy a delicious free lunch, play board games, hear live music, listen to short talks from local community groups, and get tech support. Monthly at Kathleen Syme Library.

CBD

LIBRARY CINEMA AT naarm ngarrgu

Watch contemporary, classic and documentary films on the big screen. And stay for snacks and a chat afterwards. Find out which movies are playing and when at What's On Melbourne.

EAST MELBOURNE

FITZROY GARDENS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Entertain the kids in the heritage-listed Fitzroy Gardens. Starting off at the Visitor Centre, kids will collect their map and then head off on their hunt to answer 12 questions around the gardens.

NORTH MELBOURNE

4, 5, 6 CLUB

Join this fortnightly club for 4- to 6-year-olds for an epic after-school adventure packed with stories, craft and games. Unleash your creativity, make new friends and dive into a world of fun at North Melbourne Library.



NEW RYDER PAVILION BOOSTS ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SPORTS

The new Ryder Pavilion in Royal Park, Parkville

Head to Royal Park to check out the new Ryder Pavilion – now bigger, better and more accessible.

This project furthers the City of Melbourne’s commitment to increase and upgrade inclusive spaces for women and girls in our sports facilities.

Before their redevelopment, Royal Park’s Ryder, Brens and Western pavilions hosted 375 community teams per week, including 90 women’s teams, playing sports like AFL, lacrosse, rugby and cricket.

The new pavilions will help meet growing demand, make community sport welcoming to all, and support community teams to flourish into the future.



A sausage sizzle at Ryder Pavilion

The redevelopment of Ryder Pavilion has delivered:

- six gender-neutral accessible change rooms (including toilet and shower facilities)
- two umpire change rooms
- first aid room
- modern interior with brand new fixtures, fittings and finishes
- improvements to the kitchen and social spaces
- landscaping upgrades for a refreshed outdoor space.

The redevelopment of Ryder Pavilion has been supported by the Victorian Government.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The design of the three pavilions is environmentally sustainable and aligns with our target of zero net emissions by 2040. The three buildings reduce energy costs and minimise greenhouse gas emissions through:

- building envelope efficiency (double glazing and enhanced insulation levels)
- rainwater collection to use for toilet flushing

- solar panels for electricity generation
- an all-electric design, with no gas connection
- hot water provided by electric heat pump technology
- energy efficient LED lighting
- water-efficient fixtures.



The new solar-powered kitchen at Ryder Pavilion

EXPLORE MORE PARKVILLE PAVILIONS

Ryder Pavilion is the last of three pavilions in Royal Park that we’ve redeveloped to provide the community with modern, accessible and inclusive sports facilities

The new Brens Pavilion, completed in 2023, features eight gender-neutral accessible change rooms, two umpire change rooms, a first aid room, and improvements to the kitchen and social spaces.



Pre-game briefing at Ryder Pavilion

The new Western Pavilion, completed in 2022, features a new social room and kitchen, four new gender-neutral change facilities, two umpire rooms, increased equipment and storage rooms, ambulant toilet cubicles, an accessible unisex toilet cubicle with accessible shower, and baby change facilities.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to the many local sports clubs who use the pavilions at Royal Park for their patience throughout these works.

MEET THE PLAYERS

Twenty-nine women's teams play at Royal Park, with Ryder Pavilion hosting the West Brunswick Amateur Football Club, Youlden Parkville Cricket Club, Brunswick Mudlarks and Brunswick Junior Football Club, and the Brunswick Zebras Football Club.

This year, the City of Melbourne awarded a Connected Neighbourhood Small Grant to the West Brunswick Amateur Football Club. The club is using the funds to expand its Westie Daycare Program at Ryder Pavilion, which offers a safe space for parents to leave their children while they are on the field. Club member Nakhita Wolfe said the program has been enormously valuable for the community, making it easier for parents to have much-needed time for self-care and wellbeing.

"We have a single parent who was ready to hang up the boots before she was ready, due to difficulties in managing logistics for her two daughters during footy commitments. She's now able to continue playing," Nakhita said.

"Two other players who met through footy and always had it as a shared experience recently had a bub and they were having to make decisions about who gets to play and train. The daycare program allows couples to maintain structured exercise without having to 'divide and conquer'.

"We're obviously biased, but the West Brunswick Amateur Football Club community is a really special one and we see its value for promoting healthy lifestyles and social inclusion."



A footy player gets medical support in the new Ryder Pavilion

GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SPORT

Move it your way in your neighbourhood with access to affordable top-notch gyms and pools with accessible facilities, group fitness classes, club sports, tranquil tracks for walking and cycling, welcoming skate parks and more.

Search our Active Melbourne directory to find team sports galore across the municipality, including basketball, cricket, touch football and volleyball. You can try your hand at martial arts, ultimate frisbee and dragon boating.

Did you know there are even regular Live Action Role Play sessions in the City of Melbourne with swordcraft battles? It's all in good fun, of course.

To browse all sorts of opportunities for sport and recreation near you, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/active-melbourne



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/pavilions-royal-park

FITTING OUT KENSINGTON'S NEW RECREATION CENTRE

We're putting the final touches on the new Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre, located in JJ Holland Park, before it opens. Building works have been completed and the fit-out continues to equip the top-notch facility with everything the community needs to work out, play team sports, swim and connect with neighbours.

Key features of Kensington Community Aquatic and Recreation Centre include:

- 25-metre indoor pool with 8 lanes
- learn-to-swim pool to help build essential swimming skills
- children's water-play area with spouts and fountains
- improved gym facilities with modern equipment and 24-hour access
- accessible change rooms, and a Changing Places facility funded by the Victorian Government
- 3 full-sized multipurpose courts
- health and wellness areas for an array of group fitness classes
- community meeting room
- cafe - open 7 days a week.

This Kensington community hub has long been beloved by local people, and the updates we've made have been shaped by community feedback. We look forward to announcing the opening date soon.

To stay up-to-date with the project, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/kensington-community-aquatic-and-recreation-centre-redevelopment



Studio photos: TJ Garvie

FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE AT BOYD STUDIOS

Artist Thelma Beeton

Stacey Edwards and Thelma Beeton are delving into themes of identity, heritage and healing as artists in residence at Boyd Studios in Southbank.

Creative Spaces is a City of Melbourne program providing affordable work and exhibition space to more than 150 artists across 7 venues, including Boyd Studios.

Our Creative Spaces program also partners with government and the private sector to identify, secure, develop and manage space across the municipality for creative use.

Like many of the artists who call our creative spaces home, Stacey and Thelma share a passion for storytelling, preserving cultural heritage and stoking important community conversations.

RECLAIMING CULTURE THROUGH ART

Stacey Edwards' art is a deeply personal exploration of identity and healing.

Her connection to the Taungurung and Boonwurrung peoples stretches back 6 generations but, as a grandchild of the Stolen Generations, much of her cultural heritage was lost along the way.

"Growing up, I didn't have the cultural connections I wanted," Stacey said.

"My grandfather and his siblings were removed under the Aboriginal Protection

Board, so traditional language and customs weren't passed down to me. It's been a long process of trying to reconnect with my roots."

Stacey's breakthrough came when she met an Elder while working at the Koorie Heritage Trust.

"It was like a light bulb went on," Stacey said.

"I realised my art didn't have to follow the traditional dot painting style - it could be something more personal to me, something tied to my own history and culture."

This realisation led Stacey to the diamond patterns that now feature prominently in her work, inspired by traditional shields and artefacts from south-eastern Australia.

"Finding the diamond patterns felt like coming home, it was a healing process. Instead of focusing on the trauma and loss from the past, I was able to embrace my culture in a new way," she said.

Stacey's creative process is organic and intuitive.

"I usually start with a colour - it's all about how I'm feeling in that moment, from there, the diamonds take shape, and the piece starts to come alive. It's all very instinctive," she said.

Stacey's use of bold, bright colours and strong geometric patterns reflects her family and her connection to her Country.

"My family is bold and vibrant, and that comes out in my work, I feel like I'm capturing that energy, as well as the healing power of reconnecting with my culture," she said.

Stacey's art isn't just about personal healing - it's also about addressing the larger issues facing First Nations people today.

"I use my work to highlight the ongoing struggles for Indigenous rights and the challenges that Indigenous women face, particularly in the justice system, art is a powerful way to start conversations about these issues," she said.

During her time at Boyd Studios, Stacey is excited to focus more on the professional side of her art.

"This residency gives me the time and space to take my practice more seriously, I'm hoping to explore new mediums, like lino printing, and really dive deeper into my work," she said.

Looking to the future, Stacey sees her art evolving even further.

"I imagine my work eventually moving into the digital world, through prints and licensing. I'm excited to see where this journey takes me," she said.



Thelma Beeton (left) and Stacey Edwards at Boyd Studios.

BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF THE TASMANIAN EMU

For Thelma Beeton, her connection to her totem – the Tasmanian emu – is at the core of her art. Her family history is deeply tied to Cape Barren Island and the Palawa people, and the Tasmanian emu has become a symbol of her heritage, guiding her artistic practice.

“The Tasmanian emu is like a spirit guide to me, it’s what gives my art focus and purpose. Almost everything I paint revolves around the emu, and it helps me stay grounded in my work,” Thelma said.

Thelma’s journey as an artist started early. Growing up in Swan Hill, Victoria, she was introduced to art through school competitions and cultural activities.

“My first painting was when I was nine, for an Aboriginal art competition, it was a picture of a river, trees, a kangaroo, and an emu. That painting ended up being exhibited in the Melbourne Museum, and it’s still there today,” she said.

Thelma started her career as a street artist, and her work has evolved to include bold, primary-coloured backgrounds and depictions of emus.

“The graffiti influence is still there, though, I use a lot of bright, multi-coloured backgrounds and cartoonish styles in my paintings. It’s part of who I am as an artist,” she said.

Recently, Thelma has started incorporating landscapes into her work, drawing inspiration from her memories of family outings.

“I like to paint what I know, for example, I’ve started painting beach landscapes because they remind me of trips I took with my Aunty. It’s all very personal,” she said.

Thelma’s art also serves as a way to teach others about her culture and heritage.

“I hope that by visiting my exhibitions, people will learn about the Tasmanian emu and Palawa culture,” she said.

“I want to show them that there’s so much more to learn about our history and traditions.”

One particularly powerful moment in Thelma’s career was her participation in the Dark Mofo festival in Tasmania.

“During the festival, an emu egg was found on the beach – something that hadn’t happened in 200 years,” Thelma said.

“People said that because I paint the Tasmanian emu, I’d brought its spirit back. It was a really emotional experience, and it was on the news. People were crying – it was incredible.”

At Boyd Studios, Thelma is focused on creating as much work as possible for her upcoming exhibitions.

“I’ve got an exhibition at Fitzroy Library that runs into July, and another one at Seventh Gallery in September,” she said.

“I’m also excited to experiment with new materials, like clay and plaster. My dream is to create a giant emu sculpture one day – a million-dollar emu!”

This article was originally written by Eduardo Sorrentino for Creative Spaces.

To read more stories about artists, visit creativespaces.net.au/articles



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/creative-spaces

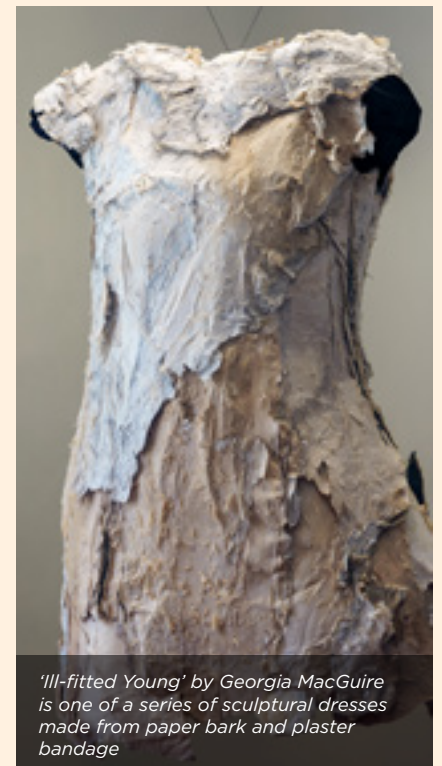
APPLY FOR FIRST NATIONS ARTS FUNDING

We’ve been providing dedicated funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists for 25 years.

Recipients have included Mutti Mutti singer-songwriter Kutcha Edwards, Wiradjuri dancer and choreographer Joel Bray, and Wurundjeri contemporary artist Georgia MacGuire.

The City of Melbourne is also providing multi-year arts funding to several Aboriginal organisations, including Ilbijerri Theatre Company, the Koorie Heritage Trust, and The Torch.

Applications for our next round of Aboriginal Arts Grants open on 1 August. To learn more, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-arts-grants



‘Ill-fitted Young’ by Georgia MacGuire is one of a series of sculptural dresses made from paper bark and plaster bandage

EMERGING WRITER TAKES TOP PRIZE



Award-winning writer Chris Ames with his wife Clara

Meet emerging writer Chris Ames, who took the top prize in our Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards.

Up-and-coming writer Chris Ames gets his stories down in stolen moments. Between meetings, on his lunch break, while his toddler naps. Even on the treadmill at the gym.

"I write in email drafts, notes on my phone, in Google Docs. Anything in the cloud that I can pull up and work on when I have a spare five minutes," Chris said.

"Emerging writers are a group of people who are pursuing their craft while juggling jobs, and children, and extreme self-doubt."

So when Chris recently won the Lord Mayor's Prize and the short story prize in the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards, he took it as a sign that the hustle was worth it.

"It's a rare thing, to find awards like these which invest in emerging writers," Chris said.

"When you're making something, especially in the beginning, you're fundamentally alone with your idea."

"Awards like the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards say you're not alone, which means the world when you're not sure if you should keep going."

His winning short story, *That is not a cat*, was described by the judges as a "skillful representation of our digital reality and how it connects with, obstructs, enhances our humanity".

"It will stay with the reader long after it's finished. Intriguing, refreshing, lively. As humorous as it is achingly lonely," the judges said.

Melbourne's strong literary culture is partly why this Californian chose to start a new life here five years ago with his South Australian wife.

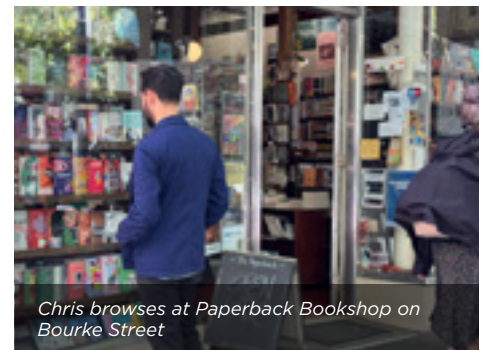
"Melbourne is a City of Literature. It's a place that celebrates all kinds of storytellers," Chris said.

As the second-ever city to be designated a UNESCO City of Literature, Melbourne is internationally recognised for its vast literary heritage and culture.

"It's hard to not be inspired by other writers, the architecture of the city itself," Chris said.

"I think the way Melbourne celebrates its writers and storytellers was a huge reason why I wanted to call this place home."

That is not a cat is included in a short story collection that recently won the prize for an unpublished manuscript in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2025



Chris browses at Paperback Bookshop on Bourke Street

Congratulations to all the category winners in the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards 2024.



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



How Ming Feng outside the Multicultural Hub

Gentle art of conversation inspires a life of volunteering

Get to know a shy international student who found his voice through English conversation classes at the Multicultural Hub. Now he runs the class.

It was an act of bravery for international student How Ming Feng to step into his first English conversation class.

How had already struggled through his first year of an arts degree at the University of Melbourne, feeling too shy to talk with his classmates or approach his tutors.

"I felt a sense of isolation. I'm not that confident with my English skills," How said.

Something needed to change.

After his end-of-year exams, How mustered the courage to join a free English conversation class at the Multicultural Hub near the Queen Victoria Market.

What happened next would inspire How to become a volunteer and build a rich life in Melbourne.

"I was a bit scared before my first time joining the English class," How said.

"My concerns soon vanished when the volunteer host and other students welcomed and comforted me.

This made me very relaxed and gradually I felt more confident."

"If I made a mistake, they gently pointed it out, unlike at school where a teacher might correct me in a harsh way."

Inspired by the gentle ways of the volunteer hosts and his fellow classmates, How returned to the Multicultural Hub every week.

"Suddenly I'm learning it's okay to make mistakes. I'm learning how to speak English and it's not as hard and scary as I thought," How said.

His conversation skills grew as fast as his confidence.

"I think it's the chance I had to practise English in these classes that made me

realise maybe I can do something as a volunteer," How said.

Soon, How was running his own weekly conversation classes at the Multicultural Hub.

"I interact with lots of people from different backgrounds. I've become more confident from volunteering, especially talking with many people," he said.

"I find it to be very meaningful. It gives me a sense of purpose."

After more than a year, How is still careful to create the same gentle conditions in the classroom that helped him overcome his shyness.

"We try to make it as casual as possible, talking about something relevant to their culture and daily life," How said.

"I also gain wisdom by learning from the older people who come to my class to learn English as retirees. It's a valuable lesson to keep learning, no matter how old you are. Just keep learning."



How with some of his class members



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

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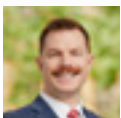
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IN BRIEF

KEEP FIT IN WINTER

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, including club sports, tennis, golf, skateboarding and everything in between.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne

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

VOLUNTEERING

We engage more than 1,000 volunteers each year in a wide range of roles and programs. Whether you're interested in helping tourists navigate the city, using your green thumb to plan wildlife-friendly gardens for residents, or helping behind-the-scenes at our premier events, we have a role for you.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/volunteer

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

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? You can 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

COUNCIL MEETINGS

JUNE

Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 3 June	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Future Melbourne Committee	Tuesday 17 June	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall
Council	Tuesday 24 June	5.30pm	Melbourne Town Hall



View all meeting dates and locations at melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

PEOPLE WE MEET IN MELBOURNE



AOIFE BILLINGS

Multimedia artist

“I began going to SIGNAL a long time ago, when I was a teenager. I’m still good friends with people I met in those early days. SIGNAL is so good at facilitating community.”

Aoife first came to SIGNAL – our creative studio for young people – for a sustainable fashion workshop. Many years later, SIGNAL is turning 15 and Aoife is teaching workshops, studying fine art and running her own creative studio.



CHRIS WILKINSON

Urban tree rescuer

“Trees of big, useful diameter and useful size, with a rich history, were being put into chippers and turned into nothing. We just saw the problem and decided to try and fix it.”

With care and craftsmanship, Operations Manager Chris and the team at Revival give old timber and materials a new life – winning the sustainability category of last year’s Melbourne Awards for their Urban Tree Recovery initiative.



BONNIE LU

Neighbourhood volunteer

“Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and make a meaningful impact. It also provides an opportunity to meet interesting people and build connections with those who share similar values.”

Bonnie works at Victoria University and represents Southbank on our neighbourhood volunteers team. The volunteers help build connections between Council and community.



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

CONTACT

melbourne.vic.gov.au/contactus
03 9658 9658

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Business hours, Monday to Friday

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Let's work together to
keep each other safe and
our city clean during this
year's Firelight Festival
and beyond.



You can report concerns in real time
about on-street amenity, dumped
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QR code.

