ART BY DESIGN
DISCOVER YOUR CREATIVE CITY

FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL
WINTER FUN AT DOCKLANDS

TIME TRAVEL
AT ARTS HOUSE
There’s no doubt we’re experiencing a population explosion in the inner city and inner suburbs of Melbourne and why not? It’s the World’s Most Liveable City.

However, as density increases, the pressing need to find open space gets more and more difficult.

In the last 25 years, I’ve seen Southbank go from a wasteland of old factories and warehouses to Melbourne’s densest suburb. Southbank now has less open space than any other postcode in the municipality at just three square metres per resident.

Access to quality open space is integral to our quality of life and something that our forefather Charles La Trobe recognised at the time of Melbourne’s settlement when he set aside large parcels of land around the city for parks and open spaces which we enjoy to this day.

That’s why the City of Melbourne tries, wherever and whenever possible, to turn asphalt into more green open space in the inner city.

The most exciting of these projects in the city is Southbank Boulevard. We can, through an investment of $15 million, turn part of the road into a park that will be bigger than anything we have created since Birrarung Marr.

Traffic modelling indicates that the proposed changes would have minimal impact on parking and traffic in the area. In 1998, Southbank Boulevard carried 60,000 vehicles a day. The boulevard now carries 13,000 vehicles a day after direct access to the central city was closed following the construction of Queensbridge Square in 2001.

Some of the most exciting work we do is not on large scale projects such as this however, it is identifying the small, underused, no longer needed roadways that can be turned into the smallest of pocket parks. Indeed, the City of Melbourne has converted around 60 hectares of underutilised asphalt and other infrastructure into expanded public open space over the last 30 years.

Finally, of course, in the coming years the largest open space project the city will be involved in will be the conversion of 1.5 hectares of asphalt car park at the Queen Victoria Market – over the site of Melbourne’s first cemetery – into an open space.

This very large public open space adjacent to the Fitzroy Gardens could be used for dining, restaurants, events and just relaxation in a precinct where we expect to see 12,000 new residents in the next five to six years.

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Twenty-six African women have graduated from a special leadership course run by RMIT University, as part of the City of Melbourne’s Empowering Women Project.

Halima Mohamed, a former member of parliament in Somalia, said the participants came from diverse backgrounds and cultures, some highly educated and others with little or no formal education.

‘The City of Melbourne was keen to empower all of us, and now the women can go back into their communities and provide grass roots support to others,’ Halima said.

‘When you build the confidence of women, that’s when communities flourish.’

Zaieenb Mahmoud, president of the African Australian women’s council in Victoria, said migrant women show great courage in coming to Australia, however many lose confidence when they arrive and find it hard to integrate into society.

‘This is due to differences in culture and environment, and limited language skills can also make it hard for women to assist their children with their studies.’

‘The women love to study, work and do their best, but often find it hard to get employment,’ Zaieenb said.

‘This leadership education and recognition from RMIT is something respectable and valuable. It will help women generate sustainable income, create new social enterprise and do something which has value.’

‘It’s about being participants, not recipients, and it’s about dignity.’

Scientists from RMIT University have turned an insect research project into a children’s book called The Little Things That Run The City.

Creators Kate Cranney, Sarah Bekessy and Luis Mata hope the book will help people understand the important role that insects play in urban environments.

‘You could say that insects are Melbourne’s hardest workers.’

Insects spread seeds, pollinate flowers, produce honey, keep soil healthy, help control weeds, and are also food for other animals like lizards and birds,” Kate said.

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‘When you build the confidence of women, that’s when communities flourish.’

The graduates agree that the course has increased their confidence and team management skills through peer-to-peer empowerment.

Through empowering African women, they aim to empower the wider community, making Australia a fairer country for women.

‘I would like to see more women realise how wonderful and powerful they are,’ Zaieenb said.

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LETTER OF THE MONTH

‘Thank you for another fantastic Junior Rangers adventure in Royal Park. I have a seven year old daughter who has been a Junior Ranger several times now. Ranger Johnny was in his usual top form, perfectly pitched for the age range, and it was a privilege to have Uncle Bill join in and share so much of his distinctive historical and environmental insight. I genuinely hope this program runs until I am a grandmother.’

Kirsty

Share your thoughts with us at melbournemag@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Loving exploring the lanes of @cityofmelbourne today and finding some awesome street art
@MELBOURNEBOY

Statistics suggest there are 1200 retail spaces in the city, but today only 39 are vacant! @cityofmelbourne @ResilientMelb
@ernstic2017

Passed an interesting @cityofmelbourne initiative in Queensbridge Square this morning - encouraging pedestrians & cyclists to work together.
@GLOBALSTREETS

Every city should aspire to copy, steal, & adapt from @cityofmelbourne and activate your laneways #lanes #alleys #urbanart #walkablecities
@FSWEETMAN

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HOSPITALITY BOOM

For 10 years, the City of Melbourne has worked to grow Melbourne’s retail and hospitality industries, in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Councillor Susan Riley, Chair of the Small Business, Retail and Hospitality Portfolio, said the sectors are now thriving alongside employment, population and visitation growth.

‘We are working with the community to help small businesses capture new markets and harness new technologies. We also support city businesses through funding, seasonal marketing campaigns, events, tourism and business development initiatives,’ Cr Riley said.

‘Melbourne city is an exceptional retail area. It is vibrant and interesting.’

‘Key projects for the near future include
17 new designated food truck sites in the central city,
the renewal of Queen Victoria Market and building Melbourne’s first retail tech community.’

Melbourne fashion label Alpha60, a creative experiment that blossomed into a national retail enterprise, is also celebrating 10 years in business.

‘My sister Georgie and I made a shirt for me to wear out one night and a few friends wanted one, so we made five. Five turned into 10, 10 into 50 and so we began,’ Director Alex Cleary said.

‘The first couple of years were a love project, but gradually momentum gained and we decided to try and make it into a business.’

Georgie and Alex made a five year plan, hoping to eventually support themselves on their earnings, open a store and do a solo show at a fashion festival.

After achieving all this and more in just nine months, the next priority was to open more stores. However, in a changing retail landscape, Alpha60 had to be nimble.

‘In our 10 years of retailing we have seen the rise of internet shopping that has reshaped the retail landscape. Unfortunately this has seen the decline of the multi brand retailer, but it has seen the rise of single label stores,’ Alex said.

‘Melbourne city is an exceptional retail area. It is vibrant and interesting. There are lots of interesting shops and areas to explore.

‘We view our shops as showrooms for shoppers who shop later online and as a place where online shoppers can come and be involved with the product.’

After reaching their peak of stores in Australia, Georgie and Alex intend to expand overseas soon.

Between 2013 and 2018, retail and hospitality spending in the City of Melbourne by city workers, students and residents grew by 16 per cent to $3.03 billion. In July 2016 the retail vacancy rate was around 2.4 per cent, the lowest in five years.

The City of Melbourne has also recorded a six per cent increase in retail jobs and 800 new cafes and restaurants since 2006.

‘The Melbourne Retail and Hospitality Strategy includes more than 40 actions to make Melbourne a diverse, vibrant, globally sought-after destination,’ Cr Riley said.

‘The Victorian Government’s support of this strategy over 10 years recognises the importance of our retail and hospitality industry to the economic health of the wider economy.’

The year three report of the Melbourne Retail and Hospitality Strategy 2015-2017 is now available online.

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/retailhospitality

RETAIL AND HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE

Resilient Melbourne is inviting creative, feasible and powerful ideas to reduce traffic congestion, combat social isolation and make everyday travel more socially fulfilling. Submissions close Friday 23 June. Find out more at resilientmelbourne.com.au/citymart

The State Government has released the design for the West Gate Tunnel Project, which links the West Gate Freeway with the central city via a tunnel and elevated freeway. To find out more visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

WEST GATE TUNNEL

Citymart Challenge

Alphacity’s new store at Chapter House, next to St Paul’s Cathedral, will transform all night to host art, music, dance and events.
A nomination to add Queen Victoria Market to the National Heritage List is being considered by the Australian Heritage Council. Public comments are due by 14 July.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the City of Melbourne first proposed the market for National Heritage inclusion in 2015 and the listing would be a major milestone in the history of the site.

“The Queen Victoria Market is an irreplaceable link to the very foundation of our city,” the Lord Mayor said. “We are committed to preserving and protecting the site so it remains part of our city forever.”

The City of Melbourne has commissioned a number of heritage assessments into the physical fabric, social and economic importance of the market, including ethnographic research into its sights, sounds and atmosphere.

The National Heritage List recognises outstanding national heritage values, including physical elements as well as the stories, people or events connected to a place. Listing does not change land ownership or the management of a place, or restrict its normal day to day operations.

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“After the submission period the Australian Heritage Council will finalise its assessment and give this to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Energy to consider. The public consultation period is an important opportunity for those with an interest in the site, including owners, traders and Aboriginal groups, to have their say.”

“The marketplace in 1907, image courtesy Queen Victoria Market

The Burke and Wills monument has moved.

In keeping with Burke and Wills’ reputation as explorers, this isn’t the first time the monument has moved.

In November, Burke, Wills and two others — Charles Gray and John King — left the gourds at Cooper’s Creek, and travelled north, arriving at the Gulf of Carpentaria in early February 1861. The return journey was difficult, and Gray died.

“When Burke, Wills and King arrived at Cooper’s Creek they found the camp had been abandoned just hours earlier. Burke and Wills were to perish in the outback, attempting to travel south to Melbourne,” Kate said.

The Burke and Wills statue was carefully removed from Spring Street to City Square. The new CBD South station will relieve the commemorative space of its carparking and ticketing responsibilities, and the monument and adjacent lawns are due for the transformation of a green space into a public realm.

The Burke and Wills monument will be safely stored and undergo conservation assessment and treatment before it is returned to City Square, which will be an entrance point into the new CBD South station. Metro Tunnel works are underway across Melbourne, with full details available online.

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

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

TOUR THE TOWN HALL

Explore the treasures of Melbourne’s historic Town Hall on a free tour. Town Hall tour guide Jim McInerney has shared the stories of Melbourne with locals and visitors for 16 years.

“My favourite part of being a Town Hall guide is meeting people from all over the world, with so many different stories,” Jim said. “Visitors love seeing the Council Chambers, the main auditorium, the piano and Wills and King — left the gourds at Cooper’s Creek, and travelled north, arriving at the Gulf of Carpentaria in early February 1861. The return journey was difficult, and Gray died. ‘When Burke, Wills and King arrived at Cooper’s Creek they found the camp had been abandoned just hours earlier. Burke and Wills were to perish in the outback, attempting to travel south to Melbourne,’ Kate said. The bodies of Burke and Wills were recovered and returned to Melbourne where a state funeral was held in recognition of the men as colonial heroes. ‘A rescue party found King alive because he had accepted the assistance of local Aboriginal people.’ In keeping with Burke and Wills’ reputation as explorers, this isn’t the first time the monument has moved.

First located at the intersection of Collins and Russell Streets, the statue was moved to Spring Street when the Collins Street tram was installed, to Carlton Gardens when Parliament Station was built, and finally to City Square in 1979.

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Melbourne’s reputation as a destination for art and culture extends far beyond its concert halls, galleries and even its famous laneway murals.

Design is everywhere, from street furniture to bluestone paving and public art, each element contributing to a distinct sense of place.

‘Streets make up 80 per cent of the public realm, so if you design a good street you design a good city,’ said the City of Melbourne’s Principal Industrial Designer.

For many years our design team has thought of our streetscapes as a frame for the city, within which all the colourful activity and commerce that makes Melbourne tick can take place.

‘The frame should be attractive and complement the picture it holds, but not distract from or overwhelm the subject.’

In the early 1980s, councillors made a commitment to create an improved urban landscape, widening and activating footpaths to make the city more appealing and safe.

A key part of this was the incremental replacement of asphalt footpaths with basalt – widely known as bluestone. This hardy material from Victoria’s volcanic plains crosses Melbourne’s historic cobbled streets.

The City of Melbourne’s systematic roll out of sawn bluestone saw its use expand from a few discreet street sections in 1985, to almost 80 per cent of the central city. Bluestone pavements are now one of Melbourne’s most defining features.

To complete the picture, the City of Melbourne also began designing its own street furniture, including benches, bins, drinking fountains, fruit and flower stands and tram stop shelters.

Materials and forms have been refined over the decades to create a harmonious backdrop that is easy to install, maintain and replicate. Today, Melbourne’s iconic designs are licensed for use across the globe.

‘Our key materials are stainless steel, aluminium, granite and bluestone. These materials are quality and easy to maintain, so paying a little more at the outset pays dividends down the track,’ said the Principal Industrial Designer.

‘We had to work with the times, evolving the tops of rubbish bins when smoking was banned indoors and converting newspaper pillars into trading cylinders.

‘Even our lights are just vessels, so we can insert new technology as it evolves.’

‘Our design team has thought of our streetscapes as a frame for the city.’

La Petite Crêperie has been trading from a converted newspaper pillar since 2012, serving crépes in take away cones late into the evening.

Co-owner Patrizia Maselli said that staff and customers react to the tiny space with surprise and delight.

“We get many passers-by who are often surprised by our presence, still in awe of how they have stumbled across a ‘mini French kitchen’ on a busy Melbourne street,” Patrizia said.

‘Lux Populi’ lights up as a person passes by

‘Lux Populi is an interactive light screen turned on, including touching it - which is very different to a gallery space.

‘I was surprised to see how freely people interacted with the work once it was turned on, including touching it - which is very different to a gallery space.

‘Test Sites allowed me to experiment freely with a new idea.’

Previous participant Matthew de Moiser, who works with everyday objects to explore the way people view the world, created a laneway wonderland through coloured lights.

‘I am a Melbourne boy, so working in the laneways is top-notch to me,’ said Nick. ‘They are like rips in reality, where you can engage and then pop back out again, taking something with you. It’s great to be able to contribute to that.’

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

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

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

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

Art science collective Skunk Control, from Victoria University, has made Melbourne its canvas, captivating passers-by through glowing installations.

Founder and chemistry lecturer Nick Athanasiou said merging art with science brings magic to the urban landscape.

‘Kids create their own worlds under their beds or in their wardrobes. That goes away as we grow up, so we try to create an environment where you can recreate that magic,’ Nick said.

‘Having people ask “how does it work” is the best part. The process of asking questions, and challenging things – that’s where the crucible of knowledge begins.’

Artists who seek to test independent, courageous and experimental public art ideas on the streets of Melbourne are invited to apply for the Test Sites program.

Previous participant Matthew de Moiser, who works with everyday objects to explore the way people view the world, created a laneway wonderland through coloured lights.

‘The work allowed people passing by to paint the walls with light using just their hand and body movements.’

Test Sites offers artists seed funding, workshops and a central city canvas through which to explore and develop new ideas under the guidance of select mentors.

The trial artworks pop up unexpectedly around Melbourne, allowing the public to chance upon artists in action.

‘Even though I did a small test in my studio first, there was no way of knowing for sure if it would work, until all of the lights were actually installed,’ Matthew said.

‘Test Sites allowed me to experiment freely with a new idea.’

I was surprised to see how freely people interacted with the work once it was turned on, including touching it - which is very different to a gallery space.

‘Test Sites allowed me to experiment freely with a new idea and without the added pressure of it needing to succeed.’

Applications for the next round of seed funding open in July.

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‘Lux Populi’ lights up as a person passes by
A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITE THINGS

6 MAY TO 5 AUGUST
CENTRE: RECENT SISTERS

The latest City Gallery exhibition, curated by Kimnabary Koutou, shares the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female artists that recent ‘her-stories’, subverting patriarchal Australia from a sovereign woman’s point of view. This exhibition is presented as part of the Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival.

27 MAY TO 24 SEPTEMBER
LINDEN NEW ART POP-UP

Linden New Art is in residence at Domain House in the Royal Botanic Gardens while its St Kilda home is renovated. During this time, Linden New Art will present new exhibitions by Melbourne artists Sam Leach and Kylie Stiffman until 6 August, followed by new work by contemporary Aboriginal artists.

8 TO 12 JUNE
LITTLE BIG SHOTS

Discover Australia’s international film festival for kids at ACM. This year’s program includes films from twenty countries, by acclaimed professional and emerging filmmakers, and some by kids themselves.

10 JUNE
GAME OF RHONES

Head down to the Meat Market to be part of the ultimate celebration of the great grape varieties of the Rhone Valley. Game of Rhones is celebrating its fifth year.

10 June
A TASTE OF PORTUGAL

Savour a Portuguese custard tart, purchase colourful ceramics or Timorese tais scarves, dance to Brazilian rhythms, listen to traditional Fado singers, and learn about the tourism spots of Portugal at Queen Victoria Market.

11, 14-16, 18 JUNE
THE WIDOR PROJECT

Hear Joseph Nolan, world-renowned interpreter of symphonic works for organ, perform Charles Marie Widor’s ten organ symphonies over five huge days on the famous Grand Organ at Melbourne Town Hall. This event is presented by the City of Melbourne.

14 TO 23 JUNE
EMERGING WRITERS’ FESTIVAL

Discover Melbourne’s vibrant writers’ festival circuit with parties, performances, poetry slams, panels and networking events at various venues. The Emerging Writers’ Festival is Australia’s premier festival for new and emerging writers.

20 TO 23 JUNE
THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN

Celebrate the life and works of Jane Austen through a series of events at our libraries during Melbourne Rare Book Week, including an exhibition at Library at The Dock.

29 TO 30 JULY
OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

Melbourne will come alive after dark with undiscovered spaces. Curate your night or let ‘art navigators’ guide your way across the central city, with key sites at Flinders Lane and the University of Melbourne.

30 JUNE TO 9 JULY
THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN

Children and families are invited to explore the historic Cooks’ Cottage in the Fitzroy Gardens these school holidays to hunt for clues in a fun-filled and interactive adventure. Stick around for a special treat on completion.

JUNE
COOKS COTTAGE ACTIVITIES

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THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN

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EMERGING WRITERS’ FESTIVAL

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THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN

Australia’s premier writers’ festival.
Sethembile Msezane’s performance explores belonging and displacement.

For Sethembile, performance art can address repressed traumas and lingering social inequalities. It can also remind us of our mortality and interconnectedness. ‘Performance art can be a language that is emotive, provocative and familiar,’ Sethembile said. ‘It can remind us who we are, imagining empowered futures, or reflecting the ills that may collapse these futures.’

‘Performance art can be a language that is emotive, provocative and familiar.’

‘This work is a portal in time from the colonial era to the present.’ Sethembile’s African ancestral association with the land is emotive, provocative and familiar,’ Sethembile said.

‘This work has been a learning curve for me and changes each time it has been performed. The kind of energy audiences evoke becomes part of the performance.’

Councillor Rohan Leppert, Chair of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Portfolio, said that the artists featured in season two are unique responses to issues like forced migration and cultural dislocation.

‘I encourage everyone to wrap up and come out for something new at Docklands.’

‘It’s important to bring people together and to celebrate the seasons in a communal way.’

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

DOCKLANDS
FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL

Burning sculptures on the water, fiery foods and fireworks will be highlights of winter celebrations at Docklands.

Creative Director Gill Minervini said the new Firelight event will make people feel warm inside and out.

“Our vision is to create three nights of fire, food and music – something that will warm, excite and inspire our audiences to embrace winter and see Docklands in a new light,” Gill said.

“The event features lots of fire including the spectacular burning of large wooden sculptural effigies on the water by Melbourne artist, Christian Patton.

“There’ll also be great barbecue, bars, pop-up music and roving entertainment.”

Gill is no stranger to working with fire and water, having produced popular events at the Adelaide Festival, Tasmania’s Dark Mofo and beyond in recent years.

“I’m happy when I’m part of something that brings people together to share new experiences,” Gill said.

“It’s important to bring people together and to celebrate the seasons in a communal way – this has been happening for thousands of years.”

Winter celebrations in Docklands.
Melburnians are kick-starting their creative small business concepts with grants from the City of Melbourne. Applications for the next round are open from 10 July to 7 August.

Cycling enthusiasts Thijs van der Heijden and Kent Kavanagh secured funding to take their electric bike leasing company E-Stralian to the next level through a new website.

‘In the Netherlands, where I’m from, bike-riding is a way of life for everybody,’ Thijs said.

‘Here in Melbourne, we too need to encourage bicycling as a transport tool for young and old, not just people wearing Lycra. It’s faster, easier, healthier and reduces congestion.’

Many organisations offer employees car leasing through salary packaging. With the recent class ruling by the Australian Tax Office to include pedal-assist bicycles

E-Stralian strives to see e-bike packages offered too, including servicing and maintenance, route-finding help and refresher courses for riders.

‘Applying for a business grant is a great opportunity to focus your project and retell your story.’

Cycling enthusiasts Thijs van der Heijden and Kent Kavanagh received a small business grant in 2016.

Get stuck in at ArtPlay

Children and families are invited to co-create a giant artwork from colourful tape at ArtPlay, when the creative hub reopens after building improvements in late July.

Briony Barr, the artist behind Tape It said she first began exploring expanded drawing, working with tape as a line, during her masters studies.

‘When I started working at ArtPlay, it gave me access to large groups of people and an enormous space so suddenly the possibilities multiplied,’ Briony said.

‘People can expect an open and creative environment that’s about immersion and experimentation, rather than specific artistic skills.’

This latest edition of family favourite workshop Tape It will be called Tape Me Home, in celebration of Open House Melbourne. A giant cardboard house will be the centrepiece.

‘Towards the end of the project I run an “undrawing”. This part can be even more creative than the rest, and involves removing tape to construct an object,’ Briony said.

‘People have made cars, wearable spinal cords, tape socks, echidnas... you name it, they’ve made it. I’ve even seen dads taped to the floor and walls.’

As well as being lots of fun, Tape It is a social experiment that reveals the patterns of human interaction and how we inspire each other through collaboration.

‘The collaborative drawing process can be a reflection of life. Ideas spread. For example, once one person tries something new, then other people are more likely to do it,’ Briony said.

Two days of free, sticky fun, alongside an exhibition of portraits art-directed by kids, begins on Saturday 28 July. No bookings required.

Buskers dream big

Melbourne’s reputation as a creative city is epitomised by its vibrant community of musicians, jugglers, puppeteers, visual artists and more, who make the streets their stage.

Welsh pianist Gareth Wiecko studied music at Cardiff University before travelling the world, recording his first album in Byron Bay and finally settling in Melbourne where he busks for a living.

‘Busking in Melbourne has been a completely affirming experience. You never know who you’ll meet and every day is completely different to the next,’ Gareth said.

‘I’ve had visual artists sketch me as I play, flash mobs of people dancing and impromptu duets with incredible musicians. I’ve also had grieving members of the public who say that my music has helped them in some way. All of these connections I would never have dreamed of having if it wasn’t for my music.’

For some musicians, busking is a stepping stone to stardom, with popular acts like the Pierce Brothers and Tash Sultana achieving international success. Gareth hopes to follow in their footsteps.

‘My dream is to compose for film makers, game designers, contemporary dancers and other creators.

‘Melbourne is the perfect place to work because it’s full of artists. However, I don’t think I’m quite ready to step away from busking completely just yet.’

The buskers of Melbourne recently united for a special fundraiser to support the victims of the Bourke Street tragedy.

Gareth encourages anyone looking to share their art with the world to apply for a busking permit and join the close-knit community of artists.

‘Do it for the love, share your art and your experience with the world. Allow people to connect with you and what you do,’ Gareth said.

Busking in Melbourne has been a completely affirming experience. You never know who you’ll meet and every day is completely different to the next.’

‘Some days may be hard, the weather may be rough, and you may question your art. But always remember that you’re making somebody else’s day better through what you do.’

The City of Melbourne’s Busking Guidelines aim to encourage diverse artists to showcase their craft while considering the needs of buskers, workers, locals and visitors alike.

‘Busker in Melbourne has been a completely affirming experience. You never know who you’ll meet and every day is completely different to the next.’

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

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

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

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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

DIALOGUE IN THE DARK

A unique program, which allows people to experience life without sight, is coming to Harbour Town at Docklands.

Guide Dogs Victoria CEO Karen Hayes said Dialogue in the Dark is an exciting and immersive experience.

‘People can expect to feel exhilarated, inspired, empathetic, and often admiration for the guides,’ Judith said.

Academic and Dialogue in the Dark guide Francois Jacobs says the experience will be short but potentially life-changing.

‘The experience will help people discover their other senses again – how much we can tell from only hearing, smelling or touching something,’ Francois said.

‘There are many myths and misconceptions around blindness and low vision, and I believe Dialogue in the Dark offers a fun and effective way to bust at least some of them.’

MEN’S SHED SEEKS NEW MATES

Aboriginal artists Judith Young and her daughter Lyn-Al are sharing their creative practice with North Melbourne’s Melrose Art Group.

Judith said the Art For All Cultures program has united people from many backgrounds. ‘All the participants are Elders and come from many different countries,’ Judith said.

‘It’s been great to see their love for painting and how, through art, we can share and learn from each other about culture and family, while developing new techniques.’

Judith grew up watching her parents and grandfather create art, including boomerangs and other artifacts. She enjoys passing these traditions on through her children and the wider community.

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‘Through art, we can share and learn from each other about culture and family.’

ART FOR ALL CULTURES

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Judith grew up watching her parents and grandfather create art, including boomerangs and other artifacts. She enjoys passing these traditions on through her children and the wider community.

‘At the Melrose Art Group we have worked with watercolour, acrylic, pyrography or hot wire burning, and silk painting,’ Judith said.

‘Through art, we can share and learn from each other about culture and family.’

‘I use storytelling to talk about how we apply our markings, symbols and stories into our art. The participants are then asked to apply their own stories and symbols.

The group has really taken hold of this approach and it makes the transfer of skills and knowledge much more fluid and enjoyable as it creates an opportunity for them to tell their stories, and they like a yarn.

Judith hopes that the art program continues to grow, bringing together more artists from different cultures and resulting in a multi-cultural exhibition.

Art For All Cultures takes place at the Jean McLendry Neighbourhood Centre, supported by the City of Melbourne.

MELBOURNE MEN’S SHED SEEKS NEW MATES

The Melbourne Men’s Shed is located at level one of the Federation Square car park, accessible either by the carpark lift or via a doorway from Princes Walk, on the riverside at Birrarung Marr.

‘There are a lot of people living in apartments, looking at the four square walls or out at the city skyline. This is a place where you can come and do something creative,’ John said.

‘If you’ve got an interest in woodworking, cooking or socialising – or you’re just looking for a place to come for a change of scenery – come along and join us.

‘The more members we have, the richer the experience the Men’s Shed can offer. We’ll teach you and you’ll teach us. It’s a two way street,’ John said.

The Melbourne Men’s Shed was established with funding from the City of Melbourne and the State Government.

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‘The Men’s Shed is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm and Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 9pm.

The Melbourne Men’s Shed was established with funding from the City of Melbourne and the State Government.

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

THE ART OF SISTERHOOD

Kimberley Moulton - proud Yorta Yorta woman and Senior Curator at Museums Victoria - shares her passion for contemporary Indigenous art through a new exhibition at City Gallery, Recentre; sisters was launched as part of the Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival.

What was your inspiration for Recentre; sisters? I had been thinking for some time about the importance of sisterhood and matriarchy to healthy communities. As an Aboriginal woman living on Kulin country, having been mentored by many amazing women from across Australia, and having an incredible friendship circle of women – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – sisterhood is very important in my life.

IN BRIEF

BUSINESS BREAKFAST
Retail and hospitality businesses within the municipality are invited to attend Melbourne’s next Business Breakfast in July. This event is a great forum to network and find out about upcoming opportunities.

INDIA MISSION
City of Melbourne representatives have just returned from a mission to India to build networks and stimulate international business opportunities in key sectors, including urban design, clean technologies, and transport systems. The visit was part of the Council’s Doing Business Globally framework.

VICTORIA JIANGSU INCUBATOR
The City of Melbourne and a network of partners are launching an "incubator" project to provide Melbourne start-ups and entrepreneurs with market access and support to extend their businesses to China. Stay tuned for more details.

MELBOURNE AWARDS
Nominations are closing soon for the Melbourne Awards, which honour outstanding contributions to our community, environment, multiculturalism and profile. Registrations close in June, with submissions due by 11 July.

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS
Applications close on 31 August for the Lord Mayor’s Creative Writing Awards, which offer up to $12,000 for Melbourne’s building wordsmiths. Categories include short stories, poetry, novella, narrative non-fiction, and life writing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

COUNCIL MEETINGS
All committee meetings are held in Council Meeting room, Level 2, Melbourne Town Hall, Swanson Street, Melbourne.

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IN BRIEF

A still from Hannah Bronte’s 2016 video ‘Still I Rise’

For more information, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/citygallery

I hope to keep building on the idea of sisterhood and matriarchy in my next shows and keep working with more deadly women.

What is the theme of the exhibition? For a long time Aboriginal women’s roles have been written out of history, or at least pushed to the periphery. With Recentre; sisters, I wanted to bring together some new and existing artworks that voices the importance of our role in activism, healthy communities and cultural maintenance. In short, the exhibition aims to shine a spotlight on recente matriarchal narratives.

What types of artists are featured? The exhibition features a great mix of artists from across Australia. All the artworks embody resistance to historical patriarchal dominance through a space of female empowerment and assertion. For example, the video Still I Rise by Hannah Bronte is a super feminist, brightly coloured imagining of Australia’s future matriarchy, exploring what a parliament might look like if it were run by Aboriginal women and other women of colour.

How is the landscape of Aboriginal art changing? The artists featured in this exhibition are making serious waves, but art doesn’t have to fit into western ideologies of the contemporary canon for the work to be meaningful. Arts practice is also culture and it is fluid and ongoing; it can be of the past and it runs through us today. We’ve been making art since time immemorial and when it is placed in a white cube gallery, it can take on a whole new meaning. Galleries are improving their sense of blak matriarchy, the power of this project? What types of artists are featured? The exhibition features a great mix of artists from across Australia. All the artworks embody resistance to historical patriarchal dominance through a space of female empowerment and assertion. For example, the video Still I Rise by Hannah Bronte is a super feminist, brightly coloured imagining of Australia’s future matriarchy, exploring what a parliament might look like if it were run by Aboriginal women and other women of colour. How is the landscape of Aboriginal art changing? The artists featured in this exhibition are making serious waves, but art doesn’t have to fit into western ideologies of the contemporary canon for the work to be meaningful. Arts practice is also culture and it is fluid and ongoing; it can be of the past and it runs through us today. We’ve been making art since time immemorial and when it is placed in a white cube gallery, it can take on a whole new meaning. Galleries are improving their sense of blak matriarchy, the power of this project? What types of artists are featured? The exhibition features a great mix of artists from across Australia. All the artworks embody resistance to historical patriarchal dominance through a space of female empowerment and assertion. For example, the video Still I Rise by Hannah Bronte is a super feminist, brightly coloured imagining of Australia’s future matriarchy, exploring what a parliament might look like if it were run by Aboriginal women and other women of colour.
The decision to trade in his career as a seismologist to pursue meditation in India paid off tenfold for Mark Teahan. There, he discovered his love of gems and crystals, which prompted him to open new age gift shop Crystal Heart in Perth in 1986.

Four years later, he moved the business to Carlton where the store is still a tranquil oasis on busy Lygon Street. Inside is an Aladdin’s cave of rare gems, healing stones, aromatherapy, self-help books and gifts. There’s also a range of jewellery, much of it designed by Mark himself.

‘I love that Taoist saying that “a 1000-mile journey starts with the first step”. To me this means – make sure the first step is the right one,’ Mark said.

‘I still remember the day I sat in Perth jobless, with mouths to support, and asking myself one question: how can I make money, be my own boss, and yet help people?’

‘Crystal Heart was where my interests in geology, evolution, love, business and meditation all came together. The first step was the right one.’

After reading tarot in a market, Mark opened a small permanent stall selling crystals, tapes and self-help books. This really took off and was the genesis of Crystal Heart, which has since become the longest running single-owner business of its kind in Australia.

‘Every day, people enter this special space just to relax in the atmosphere here, get advice from my wonderful team, and enjoy the beautiful energy of our crystals and gemstones,’ Mark said.

‘I’m really proud that Crystal Heart survives alongside all the chain stores because it tells everyone passing by that the new age search for consciousness, change and self-development is a very real thing.’

For Mark, Crystal Heart is so much more than just a business.

‘People comment on how much determination and dedication I’ve displayed to keep the Heart going for over three decades, through good times and bad,’ Mark said.

‘But I don’t see it like that at all. I feel blessed because I’ve been given this opportunity to fulfill my life’s purpose.’

Mark’s business was recognised in the Lord Mayor’s Commendations, which celebrate the long-term commitment of the 13,000 independent small businesses in the City of Melbourne.

Mark Teahan
Crystal Heart

The businesses featured on this page are all recipients of Lord Mayor’s commendations. The commendations recognise the long-term commitment and contributions of Melbourne’s small business proprietors and family-run businesses to the City of Melbourne.