

# Hanging out in the CBD

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge  
COMMUNITY

During the long shutdown, the owners of some of the CBD's most treasured hang-outs have turned inwards and reflected on their former prosperity.

Johnny Vakalis, proprietor of the city's most literary café, Journal, is one local who is re-thinking his model.

"Perhaps I was a little complacent," he said. "Now you have to calculate your bottom line."

The café in Flinders Lane closed for a while then opened for coffee, wine and toasties. Now there's a range of takeaway items for locals, even a Journal strawberry jam.

But like many of the most creative places in the city, Journal did not fit the click-and-collect model and was not equipped for home delivery.

"Your anxiety level does build up," Johnny said. "You feel guilty that other places are doing this and you're not."

What they were selling – atmosphere and conversation – just wasn't on the list of products that could be ordered at a distance. "Journal's a drop-in kind of place," he said.

There have been some low times during this period when council by-laws officers told Johnny to remove his sandwich board from the footpath even though he'd applied for a permit. "They've been here four times now," he said. "They said if you've put in an application we'll look for it but they can't track it down."

The Paris Cat Jazz Club is another hang-out that has been hard hit. While Johnny can foresee a future re-opening with a few tables out the front on the pavement, Liz Carnovale of Paris Cat said it would not be easy for them.

"Our venue is a ticketed event," she said. "You couldn't just move a musical out onto the street ... the risk of PAs, electrical equipment. Who would be paying for the public liability for these venues?"

She said the council's \$100 million recovery fund might be a quick fix for cafes for the



▲ Johnny Vakalis in Flinders Lane.

summer but for them "it's not a sustainable idea."

The Paris Cat was opened 15 years ago and they do 600 live shows a year with 100 musicians. Melbourne's music scene was really buzzing with a higher number of live music venues per capita than London or New York when the pandemic hit.

"We didn't see it coming in March," Liz said. "We want to re-open inside like they have interstate."

She said they've got a post-COVID model ready to launch with spaced tables and groups of four, cutting the capacity of the club down to a third.

The club, too, has had trouble with the council, which hasn't always been as receptive to moving outdoors.

"They wanted to charge us \$2500 for putting a carpet here," Serge Carnovale said, pointing at the place for a doormat.

Johnny Vakalis said it would be nice if council officers came to visit and chat about the needs of business. If the seven bicycle racks

were moved further up the street he could open for sit-down customers.

"I'm going to measure up," he said, looking towards the future. "If I could get 30 people out there."

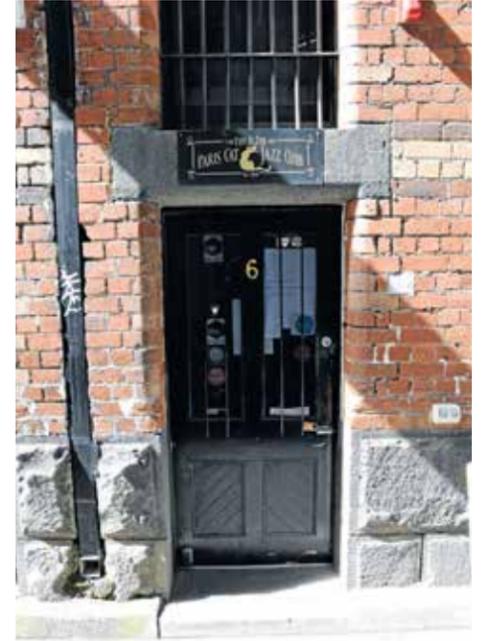
He says the city needs to work together. "I know [Lord Mayor] Sally [Capp] has a lot on her plate. Her heart's in the right place. I'm sure she can bring it back to life."

Support for live music  
On September 20, the state government announced a \$13 million grants program to support Victoria's live music scene.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley said more than 100 live music venues, including those in the CBD such as Loop, would share in grants totaling \$9 million in the program's first allocations.

The venues grants will also help offset costs associated with enforcing patron caps. A second round of cash allocations to other eligible venues will be announced in due course.

Under Victoria's roadmap to reopening, indoor live music venues can reopen at the Last



▲ The Paris Cat Jazz Club in Goldie Place.

Step with density quotas and patron caps in place. Patron caps will be lifted when the state moves to COVID normal.

A state-first planning policy will further protect Victoria's live music venues during the pandemic and beyond.

Proposed new permanent planning controls will allow councils across the state to identify significant live music precincts and consider the social, economic and cultural importance of live music venues as they make decisions on local planning permits.

This will mean that when a site that is home to a live music venue is slated for redevelopment, councils will have strengthened power to protect the music venue as part of any new proposal ●

**City of Melbourne Election 2020**

**MORGAN-WATTS TEAM:**

**Vote Lord Mayor 1**

# Gary Morgan

Your Melbourne Council will work with the State Government to:

- 1. Make Melbourne CBD Covid Stage 2 now:**
  - provide free plastic masks for workers in hospitality, sport, retail, etc.
  - ensure all CBD visitors and workers have a Covid App
  - introduce voluntary temperature & COVID checks for CBD visitors and workers.
- 2. Support Queen Victoria Market Traders:**
  - no 'safe injecting' rooms near Queen Victoria Market – locate near hospitals
  - retain present parking.
- 3. Relocate residents from State Govt. housing towers to COVID safe housing.**
- 4. Continue Homeless housing – add social programs.**
- 5. Protect our Heritage – stop 'selfish' destruction.**
- 6. Cut Melbourne rates – both business & residential.**

For details of **MORGAN-WATTS TEAM** proposed policies visit:  
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Written and authorised by Jackie Watts 15-17 Palmerston Place, Carlton. 3053

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▲ Philip Le Liu.



▲ Gary Morgan.



▲ The Socialist councillor hopeful Chris di Pasquale.



▲ Artemis Pattichi.

and students". Like many business owners, Russian has felt the devastation of COVID-19 and is putting his power and prestige to good use with a foray into local politics.

The team will focus on a number of key policy objectives, namely allowing residents to choose where 50 per cent of their rates could be invested, reenergising the night-time economy and "NO" to a safe injecting room in Melbourne.

Philip Le Liu has more than held his own during his four years on council having been elected in 2016 on Ken Ong's ticket. Having served as chair of the council's international engagement portfolio, his passion for international students and business has shone through.

On September 15, he called on the council to declare a business and jobs emergency in the City of Melbourne and he said his team would be putting the same pressure on the state government in the post-COVID recovery.

**businessresidentsstudents.melbourne**



**Back To Business - Jennifer Yang**

Labor Party member Jennifer Yang has vowed to become the "night-time" Lord Mayor if elected and is campaigning under the slogan "back to business".

The former Manningham Mayor and Lord Mayoral by-election candidate in 2018 where she came close to toppling Sally Capp, shouldn't present as so much of a threat in this election given the stacked nature of the field.

But she is understood to be backed by Labor's industrial left, which includes some unions, and her presence in the race does present some concern for Sally Capp as there will likely be some preference swapping with Arron Wood.

Her Deputy Lord Mayoral running mate is Block Arcade business owner Sandra Gee, while the councillor ticket features construction figure Elizabeth Doidge and businessman and former Manningham Mayor Charles Pick.

Ms Yang's greatest role in this election will undoubtedly be stirring up the anti-Sally Capp forces, but she will once again pose a considerable challenge.

"I know what business needs to get back on its feet after the COVID lockdown," Ms Yang said. "The city's traders, retailers and businesses need our Lord Mayor to be a strong voice, not a weak echo. Let's put the 'B' back into CBD with policies aimed at supporting our business community and a Lord Mayor who'll stand up for us, whether to the state government or to narrow interest groups."

"Back to Business" brings together retailers, traders, residents and the construction and business communities to give Melbourne the leadership it's been missing for two years".

**back-to-business.com.au**

**Team Morgan-Watts**

Pollster and chairman of Roy Morgan Research, Gary Morgan is no stranger to the City of Melbourne and he's going around once again largely to help get long-serving councillor Jackie Watts re-elected.

Friends of Queen Victoria Market (QVM) Mary-Lou Howie will run as his deputy under a campaign heavily focused on getting businesses in Melbourne out of lockdown, supporting QVM traders and relocating residents living in public housing towers.

"The Queen Victorian Market does not need the negative impacts of an active drug market in its area - on top of COVID," Mr Morgan said.

"The Morgan-Watts Team priority will be to relocate residents from state government housing towers to COVID-safe housing, continue homeless housing - with additional social programs, protect Melbourne's heritage - stop 'selfish' destruction, and cut Melbourne rates - both business and residential."

While Morgan has stated his intentions to support Sally Capp in terms of preference swapping, Morgan's former running mate Peter Clarke, who is running on Team Arron Wood, will receive his councillor preferences.

Either way, Labor Party member Jackie Watts looks likely to win another term on council and her community driven politics has found a practical voice during the past four years on issues such as maritime and knowledge.

The rest of the Morgan-Watts ticket consists of Liberal Party member and Coalition of Resident and Business Associations (CoRBA) president Michael Kennedy, logistics engineer Haya Al-Daghlas and Docklands academic Dr Dashi Zhang.



▲ Mary Lou-Howie.



▲ Jackie Watts.

**jackiewatts.com.au**

**Victorian Socialists**

As reported in the September edition of *CBD News*, the Victorian Socialists having formed a ticket for the election, spearheaded by Flinders Street Station worker Kath Larkin, Daniel Nair Dadich (deputy) and Chris di Pasquale in the first councillor spot.

While vowing to revolutionise the position of Lord Mayor and represent front line workers, Ms Larkin's major objective will be attempting to get di Pasquale, an ESL teacher working in the CBD, elected as a councillor.

While there are a number of left-leaning forces on this ticket, one isn't sure if there is enough to make that happen but the Socialists are up for the fight and it will be interesting to see how they fare.

Ms Larkin slammed current councillors for their failure to put the interests of city workers and residents above big business. She said constituents are struggling to be heard by a council that's hopelessly compromised by donations from developers and the top end of town.

**victoriansocialists.org.au/melbourne-city**

**Team Zorin**

*CBD News* also acknowledges the nomination of Team Zorin, led by Wayne Tseng and Gricol Yang as Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor candidates, respectively.

We weren't able to find out much about these candidates by time of publishing but we will endeavour to bring you more on their vision for Melbourne at [cbdnews.com.au](http://cbdnews.com.au) and in the October editions of our sister publications *Docklands News* and *Southbank News* in the coming weeks.



▲ Residents First: (left to right) Mary Masters, Janette Corcoran and Samantha Tran.

**Below the line ...**

While many of the 59 councillor nominees are splashed across team tickets outlined above, there are a handful of independents who will be hoping for as many locals to vote below the line for them as possible.

*CBD News* columnist and Docklands resident Janette Corcoran will lead a "Residents First" ticket, along with West Melbourne resident Mary Masters and Southbank resident Samantha Tran. You can find out more about their campaign at [residentsfirst.com.au](http://residentsfirst.com.au).

Southbank Sustainability Group founder and Melbourne Award winner Artemis Pattichi is also a highly respected candidate.

While she was close to joining Team Capp, she has ultimately chosen to enter her first council campaign as an independent and many councillors believe she would make a great asset to the City of Melbourne.

"I'm very interested in sustainability and the environment but I come from a business and corporate background," Artemis said. "The

council has been dealt a very difficult wildcard with COVID-19 but we have a unique opportunity in the rebuild to do things differently."

"If COVID has taught us anything, it's that we can shift habits and do things for the collective good." More at: [facebook.com/ArtemisPattichi4Council](https://facebook.com/ArtemisPattichi4Council).

Others include CBD business owner and former Collins Street Precinct president Mary Poulakis, who is understood to have been mentored by retiring councillor Susan Riley.

A number of Docklands locals are also running, including mother and son team Jamal and Safaa Hakim ([teamhakim.co](http://teamhakim.co)) and renowned local fitness guru and long-time resident Andrew Ward.

Luke Downing, who contested in the 2016 election, is running once again ●

*For more information on the upcoming elections visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) or read VEC voting information on page 8 of this edition.*



▲ Jamal and Safaa Hakim.



Sean Car  
EDITOR  
[SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU](mailto:SEAN@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU)

# Over the decades

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*  
HISTORY

Dr Andrew Lemon wrote two essays for the local history book *Melbourne's Twenty Decades* – one on the 1940s and one on the 1980s. Part of his family history helps to underline what he sees as the underlying factors behind the city's changes.

Presenting a talk on September 15 to a meeting of CBD residents, the East Enders, Mr Lemon explained, "my earliest memories of the CBD are of my father's business in one of those bluestone offices, long since demolished," he said.

Mr Lemon's father's business was in William St, opposite the Supreme Court. It was an importing business for raw materials for the manufacturing industry and had a warehouse on site.

"Isn't that a quaint, old-fashioned concept – in the middle of William St in Melbourne there was that sort of warehouse," he said.

"I think we forget why the CBD of Melbourne is where it is – historians will always tell you a geographical explanation of why a city develops in a particular place."

He outlined the proximity to the Victoria Docks, where Docklands sits now, and the old Spencer Street Railway Station – the two main places were goods were coming into the new settlement.

But by the time Mr Lemon was 10 years old, the nature of the CBD was changing. His father's business made the "far-sighted" decision to sell the city site and move to the outer suburbs – where land was cheaper and new freeways were connecting the growing city.

As shipping changed – moving into "containerisation" – Victoria Docks became too small and new docks were built in the Port of Melbourne.

And as for Dr Lemon's father's business – "it was floated as a public company and gobbled up by corporate asset strippers by the '80s".

"If you think about the period of the '80s you see a period where the Melbourne manufacturing industry, which is such a big part of the history of Melbourne up to that time, is very much eaten away in that period and its largely to do with federal policies that impact on Melbourne," Dr Lemon said.

He said that although "the '80s we tend to generalise as the decade of John Cain and the '90s are the decade of Jeff Kennett", much of what we think of as '90s-related began under Cain, and the narrative also neglects the role of federal politics."

Under the category of job losses in the '80s "forcing Melbourne to change its idea of the way it operated" Dr Lemon listed the Government Clothing Factory, created in 1912 and which relocated from South Melbourne to Coburg in the '70s, before moving to Bendigo and being privatised.

The period of "rationalisation and technological change" also saw Telecom becoming Telstra, "becoming corporate, had major job losses through outsourcing and eventually moving call centres overseas," he said.

And the role of the Hawke federal Labor



“

*I think we forget why the CBD of Melbourne is where it is.*

”

government.

"You start getting the Hawke Government bringing in reforms that were going to reduce jobs enormously across Melbourne through the car manufacturing industry being put on notice," Dr Lemon said.

"You're seeing staff reductions in transport through rationalisation, through deals with the unions, you get a lot of corporate takeovers going on, you start getting media job cuts."

Dr Lemon mentioned the tram strikes over the efforts to remove tram conductors, and the transformation of Southbank from what was an industrial precinct.

"The disappearance of the rag trade out of Flinders Lane and then out of Fitzroy, the chocolate factories moving out of the inner suburbs, cuts to the public service, the 1987 stock market crash led to a lot of jobs being lost in the stock-broking industry as well," he said.

And then the immense scale of privatisation under Kennett and the fast-tracking of development (like the Crown Casino) and "splash-making" investments like the Melbourne Museum.

One of the big picture results, according to Dr Lemon, is that Melbourne transformed in a way which "indelibly changes the idea of the city".

But looking forward, he believes the COVID-interruption we're living through now may mark another turning point.

"The COVID-interruption gives us a chance to ask how far we're prepared to lower our standard in terms of living conditions, housing conditions, what sort of minimal standards we should have," he said.

"We might rethink the spaces we take for granted and use every day and think 'do we have to do things in the same way?'" ●

# Awareness of voting rights for internationals questioned

WORDS BY *Wing Kuang*  
ELECTIONS

Having resided in Melbourne for over two years, Archit Agrawal, an international student at the University of Melbourne, believed he knew Melbourne well. But he didn't know he could vote in the upcoming council elections.

With COVID-19 restricting international travel, thousands of international students are still living in Melbourne. However, many of them are uninformed of their rights to vote at the City of Melbourne council election on October 24.

Under current Victorian electoral criteria, non-Australian citizens aged 18 and above who reside in Melbourne for at least a month are eligible to enrol for the elections. However, they were required to have enrolled with the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) by August 28 in order to participate in this election.

"Most international students, including myself, would not even assume that we would be allowed to vote in the Melbourne City Council election," Mr Agrawal said, who completed his term as the president of University of Melbourne Student Union's International Department in July.

"If we are given the opportunity, the first step to actually involve us is to raise awareness about how we can get involved."

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) said it had translated election information in 20 languages available online, while running a state-wide campaign to raise awareness of enrolment entitlement for non-Australian citizens eligible to vote in local council elections.

The City of Melbourne also said it had reached out to the Melbourne-based international communities to inform them of the upcoming election and their eligibility to vote.

But some campus-based international student communities, including UMSU International, and Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS), the largest Melbourne-based international student organisation, told *CBD News* they were unaware of the enrolment entitlement before it was due for registration.

Kalyana Vania, the president of AFIS who has lived in Melbourne since 2018, said the studying and living conditions of international students during COVID-19 might make them less interested in voting at the council election, as they had to prioritise their employment and studies ahead of their political rights in a foreign country.

However, both Vania and Agrawal stressed the importance of engaging international students voting in the student council, particularly at this extraordinary time.

"All these different demands that we have heard during the COVID-19 crisis, international students asking for the City of Melbourne to step up and do more things around supporting students housing ... the one thing that I have felt throughout the community, there's a

*"We shouldn't make it so hard for people to have the right to vote, and also to voice their opinion because that is what undermines democracy."*



disappointment their voice is not being heard," Mr Agrawal said.

"If international students want to involve themselves in an electoral process, they will feel that they have a role to play in how policies are made in this city," he said. "And they will not be just inherently disappointed in everything that is going on around them."

Mr Agrawal said having international students to vote at Melbourne City Council elections also contributed to improving Melbourne. "As an international student, when I came to Melbourne, I fell in love with not just the buildings and sunsets, but also the diversity that I saw around me," he said.

"Today, as a city, as a community, everyone who comes from different cultural backgrounds and assimilates themselves into the city contributes to the culture of the city," he said. "And it is only right and appropriate that international students and other people who call Melbourne their home, have a say in how the city is governed."

This was supported by Kalyana Vania. "There is [also] a correlation to their votes, their ability to vote and their sense of belonging," she said.

While all Victorians who had enrolled in the last state election automatically enrol in the local council elections, the City of Melbourne's chair of the international engagement portfolio Cr Philip Le Liu said the VEC and the Council should have a more active campaign to ensure the enrolment message was reached to international students and other groups that were eligible to vote.

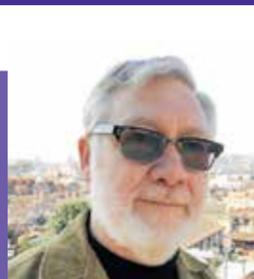
"This [the right to vote at local councils] is not new for people who are eligible and have been here for a long time," he said.

"We shouldn't make it so hard for people to have the right to vote, and also to voice their opinion because that is what undermines democracy." ●

## City of Melbourne Election 2020

### MORGAN-WATTS TEAM: Councillor Team

Vote 1 Re-Elect  
**Dr Jackie Watts OAM**



Michael Kennedy



Haya Al-Daghlas



Dashi Zhang

For details of **MORGAN-WATTS TEAM** proposed policies visit: [www.jackiewatts.com.au](http://www.jackiewatts.com.au), or call **0400 305 323**

Written and authorised by Jackie Watts 15-17 Palmerston Place, Carlton, 3053