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— Stories of Toorak

*A collection of memories
from the people who live here*

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Lining the streets with gold

Welcome to *Stories of Toorak*
— a celebration of the suburb’s rich
history, as seen through the eyes of
those who live here.

A copy of this publication will be placed
inside the Toorak Village Time Capsule,
along with memorabilia submitted by local
residents, organisations and communities.
Representing the people of Toorak in
2019, it will be buried in the foundations
of 589 Toorak Road for 100 years.

When creating this publication, we heard
so many beautiful stories from the people
who live here. We hope that this publication
— and the time capsule — will be a fitting
homage to Toorak’s rich history.

Above all, thank you to everyone who
participated in its creation. We hope
that future residents will enjoy reading
your recollections as much as we loved
curating them.

**Fortis
Development
Group**



Cr Steve Stefanopoulos, Mayor of Stonnington, shares his past, present (and future) Toorak

Enduring pride in place

What people may not know about Toorak Village is that it wasn't developed for the wealthy who lived there at that time. Although there were huge mansions, it was actually developed for staff working 'behind the scenes' – very much like the television show *Downton Abbey*, where the 'downstairs' shopped locally and the owners spent elsewhere. It was only after WW1 when everyone started to return and shop locally that it gradually became what it is today.

I love it here. There's an intimate, cosmopolitan feel – that feeling of a little High Street shopping village we have in Melbourne that's so fantastic.

They're throughout the inner city, but Toorak Village is so concentrated and small. All the businesses support one another, and all the local residents love shopping here. It's a great destination spot, and so close to everything.

This is my second year as the Mayor of Stonnington. I live in Armadale, but grew up here. I know the city back-to-front, inside out. I conduct heritage tours and heritage walks throughout the City of Stonnington as a part-time hobby.

People often say to me, 'I live in such-and-such street', and I'll know where that is. I'll ask them,

'do you live in this [particular] house?', and they'll say yes. They ask me how I know, and I say I just know! It's great living here – it's got such a great atmosphere. The city isn't far away and you're not in the middle of the hustle and bustle. We have the high-end, inner-city component, but we also have great outdoor parks, historic parks and gardens. There's also wonderful historic architecture in our local streets – some amazing mock Tudor-style buildings at the end of the Village that are heritage-listed and preserved by the council.

'I think Toorak in 50 years will be even buzzier than it is now. I'm hoping we may have autonomous cars – less driving; more walking.'

I'm very proud of our events. We have Opera In The Park, Symphony Under The Stars, Jazz In The Park and the Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition. The latter has been held here for almost 20 years. Each year the council acquires a piece to put in the Village and it's a great legacy, part-funded by the council and the local businesses. It's a wonderful event, and I love that we band together and make it happen. On a personal note, I'm particularly proud of our Fashion Hall Of Fame. Each year, we induct a local designer who established their business in Stonnington. We have about 35 Australian designers to date. This year we inducted Helen O'Connor of Thurley.

What do I see Toorak Village looking like in 50 years? I think it will be even buzzier than it is now. I'm hoping we may have autonomous cars – less driving; more walking. And a lot more greenery. That was our main objective this year at council: we're spending \$250,000 on planting more trees in Stonnington for the environment's sake. A lot of the trees we're planting are natives to support the local biodiversity.

If I was to put one item in the time capsule, I'd put in a Stonnington badge. It represents the council, the mayor, and so on. It's something small and won't disintegrate or fall apart, so it will be there for another 50 or 100 years, and people will be able to pick it up and say, 'that's 'S' for Stonnington.'

01
Cr Steve Stefanopoulos,
Mayor of Stonnington.



01

Owner Ying Morrison recounts
the suburb's various chapters

Toorak's favourite tomes

The Novel Idea bookstore is the oldest of its kind in town. It's been here for 30 years, and I took over the ownership 15 years ago. A few other bookshops have come and gone during this time, but we have a lot of loyal customers who support us – that's why we're going strong, even though online shopping is affecting a lot of retail stores at the moment.

We provide what the internet can't: people can come in and see, touch, experience the quality of books and be inspired by our curation.

We specialise in coffee table books – fashion, photography, architecture, interior design, art and lifestyle. They're always very popular subjects. We also specialise in hard-to-find editions.

We're committed to delivering the highest quality and service, and our clients appreciate this. If they want something, we'll track it down. We get anything and everything for our customers. We also sell a lot of travel books. That's because many residents take off on annual holidays to Europe when it's winter

here, so we have a large, prominent Travel section at the front of the store.

When I think about what I'd put in the time capsule, there's one book that stands out in my mind: *The Toorak Jackpot* by Rosemary Macindoe. It's light-hearted and fun – a great read. And because it's set in Toorak, you'll find real places and landmarks throughout, all described in meticulous detail. Set in today's world, I think it would make an ideal addition for the Toorak of tomorrow.

'We provide what the internet can't. People can see, touch, experience the quality of books and be inspired by our curation.'

01
Ying Morrison,
owner of The Novel Idea.

Alexanders Cigar Merchants owner
John Alexander Maroudas talks all things tobacco

The tobacco aficionado

I've been here for 30 years. I love what I do. Thirteen years after our first Toorak shop opened, we needed bigger premises, so we bought the old Commonwealth Bank and renovated it. I spent a lot of money, but I wanted it to be a real experience, like the cigar shops in Europe. Today, people come to visit from around the world.

Back in 1987, we had a lot of competitors trying to compete with us. They were saying bad things about me. But now, 30 years later, they don't exist. I'm the only one still standing. We have a few other small shops, but not like this. This is a one-of-a-kind in Australasia – it's 250sqm of retail. I'd love to pass it on to my children, the next generation, but we'll see what happens.

Our customers are loyal. They come here regularly. We show them whatever they want and we teach them how to smoke cigars.

Because we have product here you can't buy anywhere else, they keep coming back. For years, back in the good old days, when there was no Facebook and no internet, people would come in here and sit down for a coffee and a cigar. It was different then. One-on-one. Now people buy a lot online.

Christmas is always good. It's a festival and customers buy a lot of gifts. Every day there's a different moment with different people. It's amazing. November and December are hectic – no one takes any holidays, and we've got about six or seven people working here. It's a big shop.

In 100 years' time, I'd say keep doing what we were doing 100 years ago. Keep working hard: it pays off one day. The more you put into it, the busier it becomes.



02



02
John Alexander Maroudas,
owner of Alexanders Cigar Merchants.

Florian Florist owner Leigh Clark recalls a career in full bloom

A fresh take on tradition

Before here, I was assistant to the famous society florist Kevin O'Neill for 15 years. I then had a 20-year hiatus. I did my own thing – a lot of event work. I knew the previous owner [of this shop], a lady by the name of Carmel. She was wanting to retire and rang me to see if I'd be interested in taking over the shop, and I thought it might be a good time for me to grow up! To put down some roots and have a base for my business.

I took over the shop in October 2018. We gave it a bit of an overhaul and

put some things out the front to give it a more personal stamp: mine, and the people who work for me. We still have dog treats in the shop – a little thing Carmel instilled, and Brooke and I have kept it going. The dogs can't go past without getting one!

Since we opened, we've been really nicely received. We've still got more to do, but we'll get to that as we go along. I've always been of the mindset that I'd like our work to speak for itself.

Our work is quite contemporary with a twist. Some of the older 'Toorakians' like tradition, but a lot of the younger crowd want to be more cutting-edge.

Many clients I now call long-term friends – some of whom I've been doing flowers for nearly 35 years. To be with the same clients after all those years is a good acknowledgement they're still happy with what I'm doing.



10

‘Some of the older ‘Toorakians’ like tradition, but a lot of the younger crowd want to be more cutting-edge.’

01
Leigh Clark, owner
of Florian Florist.

‘It’s such a community – everyone knows one another. It’s also the closest I’ve got to family here.’

02
Jordan Briggs, barista
at Grange Road Egg Shop.



02

Grange Road Egg Shop barista
Jordan Briggs sets the scene

Always a star performance

I've been here for about two years. I also live in the neighbourhood – about 10 minutes away. Most of the people who come to the café come every day or, if not, weekly. We've got a group of women here every Saturday. We've got a group of old guys every Tuesday and Saturday. You know their routine. You know exactly what they're going to order.

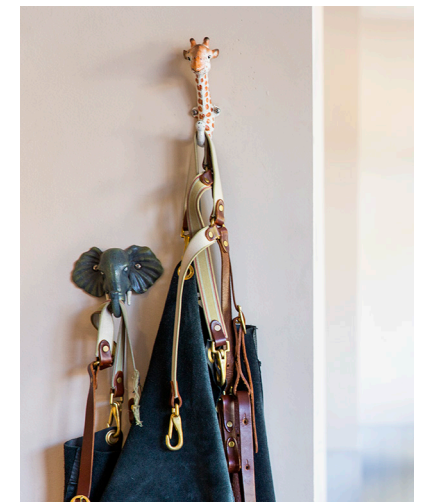
I love the people here. They're so relaxed – more than others might think. They really look after you. Last Christmas, a customer bought my flights home to Queensland because I couldn't afford it. They care about you, they're just lovely people.

My acting career is going well. I started in musical theatre, now I do film and plays. It's getting there. There are other successful actors in the neighbourhood, and I end up working

with them. And customers are really supportive. They'll say, 'Hey, I have contacts, I know networks.' The fact they're willing to help me out and introduce me to people is lovely.

Last Christmas and Halloween, the Toorak Village Association hired me to play The Grinch and Beetlejuice. I was a street performer in character: no one knew it was me. It was great fun. It's such a community – everyone knows one another. It's also the closest I've got to family here.

My advice in 100 years? Stay open. Be present. Have fun! I've made so many friends here. I've got their [phone] numbers and I hang out with them outside of work. Because I've formed that connection. Like any job, it's what you make of it. Enjoy it, and look what could happen.





Romeo's owner George Tannous continues a history of family pride

A recipe for success



Romeo's is a family business, originally owned by a fellow named Romeo in 1975. I think we're the fourth family owners. We bought it in 1985. I'd just turned 14 and was handy behind the coffee machine. That's how I started – making coffee and gelati for the kids. Now I run all the headaches. The joys of it all!

The locals are second to none. We have a lot of regulars who've been coming for 30 years and now bring their kids. People come in and say, 'We haven't been here for 20 years!' and, 'We came here on our first date!' It's like nostalgia for them.

Every day here, I've been proud. Especially working alongside my late uncle for the last 30-odd years. We ran the business together.

When we struggled for a few years, we had to buy my father out of the partnership. I decided to stay with my uncle on his journey. A 20-year-old kid making a life decision like that, that was a proud moment for me.

The last six years have been a new era, but one I've come to embrace and still enjoy. I have a young family of my own now. I'm going to work my backside off to make sure I can send them to a good school and not force them to come to work. Let them be children. I still want them to have a work ethic, so perhaps a job somewhere in the village.

As for here, in 50 years you'll come in here and say, 'It's still the same!' Romeo's won't change.

'Every day here, I've been proud. Especially working alongside my late uncle for the last 30-odd years.'

01
George Tannous, owner of Romeo's of Toorak.

Multi-media mogul Eddie McGuire imparts his love for the suburb

Toorak: home to a man of many talents

I've lived in Toorak for probably the best part of the last 20 years. I came here because it was a central location and central to all the work activities I had – close to Channel 9, the MCG and Collingwood. And [radio station] Triple M was in St. Kilda, so it was actually right in the middle of the area. It just suited me for a number of reasons.

Toorak Village is as it sounds: it's a village, and there are so many great shops. I always try to support them the best I can. We're so lucky here with supermarkets, old-fashioned shops and dry-cleaners.

Even the banks are small enough to have a relationship with the people there. And there are so many great restaurants, hairdressers – all sorts of places. You can get everything you need here. I like the idea of locals supporting local traders. It's a wonderful circle of success for everybody.

The demographics have changed over the years. It used to be a lot older, but now I see kids jumping off the trams. The Prahran Football Club around the corner has more teams than they've ever had. There's a young demographic coming through

the area again, so that brings renewed energy. More cafés are starting to spring up – it's an ever-evolving hub.

100 years ago my father was a young boy in Scotland, and he remembered seeing the first plane fly over the country, so a lot of things can change in 100 years! But what I think will remain is people's need to connect with each other. People say communities aren't as strong as they were. I think they're getting stronger.

'I think what will remain is people's need to connect with each other.'



02
Eddie McGuire, radio and television presenter, commentator, journalist, media businessman and sporting president.

Fells owners Sue Fell and Faye Shinewell
on four decades of style

40 years in fashion

We opened in the arcade in 1979. At that time, we couldn't afford to be on the main street. Ten years ago, we moved into where we are now.

When we were first here, we had a lot of competition which was good. We've seen a lot of change since then. People come and think they can just open up a shop, but it's not that easy. I think the secret to being in Toorak Village is to have a personalised business. We speak directly to our customers, and buy on behalf of them. Even our international show warehouses know our customers by name!

We have a great relationship. We met working for the same person. One day Faye rang me up about something, and I mentioned I was considering going out on my own. She said, 'Maybe we should go

together.' That's how we started. On a shoestring. And we'd never met face-to-face!

We opened March 5, 1979. By July, there would have been four things left. It had all been sold. I went to Sydney and bought pieces from an Italian company, and we had manufacturers making things... we just kept going.

I think we have good discipline. That's terribly important because it's not easy. I thought it would get easier as we got older, but it's not. When we have a successful season, it gives us a high. And pleasing people: the satisfaction we get from our customers when they say they're thrilled and getting so much wear out of something really gives us a buzz. It's a good place to be.

'We speak directly to our customers, and buy on behalf of them. Even our international show warehouses know our customers by name!'



01
Sue Fell and Faye Shinewell,
co-founders of Fells boutique.

'I'm a firm believer in the importance of continually trying to keep people interested in and coming to the area.'



IMP founder and owner Tony Fialides
shares his longstanding love of local art

Lining the streets with gold

My father was a barber in Hatton Garden, London, during the 1940s. It was, and still is, the centre of diamond trading in England. My father had numerous diamond merchants as clients and encouraged me to go into the jewellery business. I started apprenticing in my late teens, and in my early 30's I established IMP Jewellery.

I've owned the store for 45 years and design all the jewellery. I've lived here a long time and am involved in many cultural activities. I won Stonnington Citizen of The Year for arts/culture/education a few years ago, and I'm also president of the

Toorak Village Traders Association: an elected voluntary committee of Toorak Village business owners who market and promote Toorak.

I'm a firm believer in the importance of continually trying to keep people interested in and coming to the area. I helped initiate the annual Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition – this year is its eighteenth consecutive year. The original idea came from Xenia Holt and Kenneth Scarlett. I managed to get funding from Stonnington Council and jokingly told Xenia I'd asked for 10 times the amount she'd proposed. Xenia almost fell off her chair because it was far more than she expected!

While we didn't manage to get quite that amount, we got enough to get it up and running successfully. My favourite sculpture is *Echidna* by Moz Moresi (2016). I loved it so much, I requested a small version for my home.

I also run the Toorak Village Art Walk which takes place in October and November. It's a wonderful event, with original paintings, drawings and mixed media displayed on easels in the Toorak Village shop windows. There's always so much going on. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

02
Tony Fialides, founder and
owner of IMP Jewellery.



01

Four-legged and fabulous

While all Toorak pooches are winners, only a handful of paws made the cut to determine the suburb's 'Top Dog.'

Cyril Rioli

– Voted Toorak's Top Dog

A gorgeous Cavoodle, Cyril is owned by Tamara Gross and named after footballer Cyril Rioli. Four-legged Cyril actually met his two-legged counterpart at a book signing where they were introduced. Three years later, Rioli was interviewed by *The Age* and mentioned the interaction which was subsequently included in the article. Cyril has also been in a pet catalogue, but never lets his looks go to his head. A true role model for all the young pups out there.

Attila

A mischievous Toy Poodle, Attila is 'roomie' to sister Pupparazzi. Not one to shy from the limelight, his human parents are Vanessa and Steve Williams, founder of '80s super group Wa Wa Nee. Made for the stage, Attila has flexed his modelling paws in the pages of *Inside Out* magazine and is perfectly happy to strike a pose for snacks.

Tia

Tiny in stature, big on charm, Tia is a Red Toy Poodle residing 100m from Toorak Village. A rising social-media star, she's an avid Instagrammer with her own account (@tia.the.teddy), sleeps on an elephant bed, and loves her daily pick-me-up: a lactose-free 'puppucino' from Sezenas Café.

Jax

Loving and very excitable, Jax is a Jack Russell Terrier who boasts near-boundless energy. Rescued at six/seven months, he's now being brought up in a big Greek/Turkish family where he enjoys the five-star treatment. A keen talker, Jax loves to chat with everyone he meets and shares his adventures on @jax_cavalier_jackrussell.

Larry

A beautiful boy with a big heart, Larry has quite the reputation around town. Known as 'Larry the Lifter' and the 'Local Larrikin', he goes by several monikers and makes the most of every moment. A mascot for @fittoorak gym, Larry may be a Dozer by breed, but he sure shows no sign of slowing down.



02



03



04



05

01
Cyril Rioli the Cavoodle.

04
Jax the Jack Russell Terrier.

05
Attila the Toy Poodle with owner Vanessa Williams.

Men's hairdresser Peter Gilchrist recalls years of great friendship

A cut-above for generations

I've been cutting men's hair in Toorak Village since 1971, and have been at Jackson Street – my current location – for 40 years. I've been in the business for so long that my customers are all different ages. [For instance], I've known the Ernest family for 40 years and have cut the fathers', their sons', and now their grandsons' hair. I've literally cut hair for generations of families.

My customers are also my close friends. One I've known since he was a schoolboy: there's a 20-year age difference between us.

I introduced him to cycling and swimming, now we do that together which is great. I also went to a joint 60th and 30th birthday on the weekend. They're my son's friends and I knew everyone there – I used to coach these boys at their junior football club as eight-year-olds. Now they're 30.

I did wonder why my son Rennie was asking me such strange questions at the party. Now it makes sense. He kept asking, 'What do you think will happen to you once you retire?' and

'What will your customers do/think?' 'You will be so missed.' I said to him they'll probably throw a party once I'm gone.

I didn't know why he was asking me at the time, but now I do – because of this time capsule!

'I've known the Ernest family for 40 years and have cut the fathers', their sons', and now their grandsons' hair.'



01
Peter Gilchrist, owner of Gilchrist Men's Hairdresser.

'I want to kick the opening goal at the AFL Grand Final in front of 100,000 people!'



Introducing Luca Sgroi, a local schoolboy with his sights set firmly on the future – in his father's words.

Making his mark on the future

'Luca has been a student at Geelong Grammar School in Toorak since 2015. He started in the Early Learning Centre and is now in Grade 3. We moved to Toorak in August 2018.

Ever since he could talk, Luca has been obsessed with football and aeroplanes. In fact, when asked what he wanted to be when he was three years old, he'd say 'in a plane.' He's since firmed that up and wants to be a pilot.

When the Australian Boys Choir asked him to formally audition, he turned them down. He loves singing, but only in the surrounds of his own home. Luca's a bit of a George Ezra and Ed Sheeran fan, so I suggested that auditioning for the choir might lead him to become a famous singer one day – on stage at the MCG in front of 100,000 people. His response was, 'Dad, I don't want to be singing at the MCG in front of 100,000 people. I want to kick the opening goal at the AFL Grand Final in front of 100,000 people!'

He's currently playing on the Prahran football team where he's developed into a strong midfielder. A new favourite restaurant of his is Ciccio and Ciccio on Grange Road – a great place for a pizza or pasta. An afternoon snack at Haigh's Chocolates always hits the sweet spot – especially after a hard day at school.'

02
Luca Sgroi, student at Geelong Grammar School, Toorak.



01

Village Vet owner Rod Graham
tells all about animal instincts

Tales from the tail end

'I've been trained as a scientist, as a vet, but I think it's about the art of being a vet. It's the listening. I really hear some interesting things in this room.'

I used to be a horse vet in the Yarra Valley, now I'm a dog and cat vet in Toorak. My wife and I founded the clinic in about 1994, and we've been in our current location for about five years. When we moved into our street roughly 32 years ago, we were the youngest on the street. Now we're the oldest.

I love my job. I make a difference to animals – and people – every day. I think that's what sustains me. The pets are the easy part; the people are the interesting part.

I've been trained as a scientist, as a vet, but I think it's about the art of being a vet. It's the listening.

I really hear some interesting things in this room. Sometimes my work is a little bit more lateral.

One story that stands out is a couple I helped – let's call them Helen and Peter – whose dog, Matilda, became distressed and destructive after Helen was admitted to hospital for weeks. The advice that I gave Peter to settle Matilda down was to talk to her after every hospital visit, to tell her how Helen was; what they spoke about. Peter thought I was crazy, but he did it and the dog settled down.

01
Rod Graham, owner
of Village Vet, Toorak.

Local tennis player Adrienne Bishop
serves the love from centre court

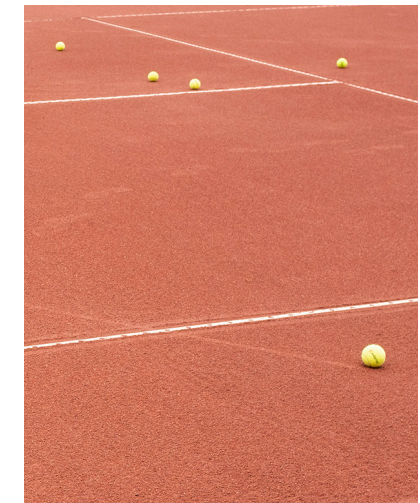
Playing for keeps

We play as a team at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club. It was established in 1884. In fact, the hedge you see in this photo has been there for 100 years, but sadly it might be removed as it's dying off. Everyone is very upset because it's been there for such a long time.

The ladies play every week. We then have lunch in the club rooms – that's what I play for! I also take friends to the club rooms on Sundays as the food is so good. It's members-only, but visitors are allowed.

We really enjoy playing here. We're all working mums, so it's died off a bit now that everyone's gone back to work. However, a few of us have Wednesdays off which is great.

We usually play on the porous courts, but recently there was a Presidents versus Captains Challenge so we played on the grass courts and absolutely loved it. Halfway through the tournament they brought out Pimm's and scones, and it was very nice!



'The ladies play every week. We then have lunch in the club rooms – that's what I play for!'



02
From left – right: Belinda Henry, Adrienne Bishop, Peta Kowalski
and Virginia Wallace, Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club.



Toorak postman Jason Arget delivers the word on the street

Keeping Toorak posted

I've been a postie for 13 years. It's the best job in the world. I love looking at the beautiful houses. I know the names of all the owners. Everyone is so nice – I consider many of them friends.

Sometimes I'll see them in the village and help. If they're carrying shopping, I'll take their bags and walk home with them. They're so generous, too. I don't drink, but at Christmas I have a full stock of wine as gifts from the people I deliver to. I got a \$50 tip once, too.

'I love looking at the beautiful houses. I know the names of all the owners. Everyone is so nice – I consider many of them friends.'



Toorak Bowling Club's Bill Green on why the game must go on

The club is over 100 years old – it still has original 1920's fixtures. Today, competition bowling across the country is declining. We used to have 44 men's teams and two ladies teams, but we're now struggling. Lots of younger people bowl socially on Sundays, but no one's committing to the Pennant competition for the season.

I've been working at the club for 42 years. It's a voluntary role. At first it was paid, but then we realised that in order for the club to get in the black, we couldn't be. I'm happy to volunteer: it's a great club with great people. After all these years, I still love what I do – and bowling, of course.

Rolling with the times

01
Jason Arget,
Toorak postman.

02
Bill Green, bar manager
at Toorak Bowling Club.



Toorak Opportunity Shop volunteer
Sass Castran shares her counter intelligence

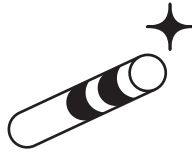
Where past meets present

I've been working as a volunteer here for two-and-a-half years. It's my first job in Toorak Village, and this shop's very busy. We have a lot of regulars who come in. We get a lot of clothes – all washed, ironed, dry-cleaned. By the door are the charities; all the little five churches joined together, so that's nice.

In 100 years, let's hope it's not going to be all roads here. Let's hope it's still going to have the village atmosphere – the individual little shops. The beauty of the little arcades. I like those.

'In 100 years... let's hope it's still going to have the village atmosphere – the individual little shops. The beauty of the little arcades.'

LIFESTYLE




One 'Cohiba Esplendidos' premium cuban cigar

\$127.50

Alexanders Cigar Merchants

FASHION




A pair of ladies leather boots

\$395

Nina Leon's Shoe Boutique

FOOD




Avocado

\$2.50

Woolworths

PROPERTY

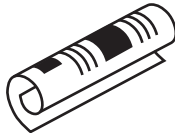


3-bedroom house in Toorak

\$2.52m

Median price, realestate.com

LOCAL PAPER




Stonnington Leader

\$0

News Corp

LIFESTYLE



One bunch of oriental lilies


\$35

Leigh Clark, Florian Florist

What does it cost?

A glimpse at the cost of living in 2019

ELECTRONICS




iPhone Xs

\$1,629

Apple, 5.8-inch Display (64GB)

TRAVEL




15 litres of petrol

\$32.70

BP

JEWELLERY

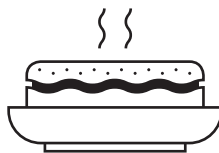


Self-designed ring

\$2,500

IMP Jewellery

EATING OUT




Main size lasagne

\$25

Romeo's of Toorak

WELLNESS




Men's haircut

\$40

Peter Gilchrist

EATING OUT



Takeaway coffee

\$3.50

Grange Road Egg Shop

What will tomorrow's Toorak be like? We asked some of those who live and work here to share their thoughts about the future of this great suburb. As for who's right, only time will tell...

Future musings

Amber L

In one hundred years' time, Toorak will be bold and vibrant – the essence of Melbourne. Ladies will be drinking champagne in boutiques while trying on exquisite dresses. Coffee shops will be open all night. The Arts culture will be more prominent with midnight film openings, photography and Impressionistic paintings.

Amber is a Toorak resident.

Michelle Carroll

In 1896, Founding Principal of St Catherine's School, Jeanie Hood, established a school that would enable students to be 'women of the future'. This enduring philosophy continues to be the cornerstone of our school in 2019, and I predict that in 100 years St. Catherine's women will continue to shape the society in which we live.

Michelle is the Principal of St Catherine's School.

Rosemary Macindoe

Toorak Village will be a place of technical innovation in a hundred years' time. Businesses will be solar-powered. Driverless electric cars will arrive at the shops – possibly staffed by robots and located underground because it's so hot due to global warming. Water in all forms will be the luxury drink because it will be scarce, and fruit will be the luxury food.

Rosemary is an author.

Tamara Gross

Having grown up in Toorak, I have always loved the beautiful tree-lined streets, parks, cafés, restaurants and retail. And not just as a resident: I'm also a commercial real-estate agent and have had the pleasure of selling and leasing retail properties in Toorak Village. Moving forward, I'm excited to see the continuing development of this beautiful suburb.

Tamara is the Head of Leasing/ Retail Specialist at Gross Waddell.

Marcus Chiminello

Toorak Village will absolutely thrive as a hub for living and lifestyle. Vertical density will dramatically increase, and every conceivable amenity will be available at residents' doorsteps. Toorak will remain as the most aspirational and affluent suburb in Melbourne.

Marcus is the Director of Marshall White & Co. Real Estate.

Kristina Granberg

The demands of today's Toorak residents will determine how future apartments take shape. These buildings will become micro, self-sufficient ecosystems that feed and fuel residents independently. Property value will not only be driven by location, but by its ability to provide essential resources without negatively impacting the greater environment.

Kristina is Head of Marketing at Fortis Development Group.

Janie R

A new generation will bring some much needed youth 'cred.' to this strip which has all the potential to thrive. Let's get the Village back on the map. Come on down retailers!

Janie is the owner of Petal and Rose.

Craig Lawson

Toorak fashion boutiques will have virtual showrooms where you can try on clothes and shoes without getting undressed. There will be flying solar-powered cars, so no need for the road: this will be turned into a 24-hour digital fashion runway showcasing the latest trends.

Craig is known as Melbourne's Mr. Fashion Man.

Rozanna Nazar

I predict more cafés with warm souls, wine cellars with delicious tapas and beautiful fresh produce. More car parks that work fluently like the Jackson St lhr carpark. All dog-friendly. Residents will never have to cross the river or Dandenong Road again.

Rozanna is a Toorak resident.