



OUT on the town

Pictures: ANDREW TAUBER, RON WELLS, BELINDA O'NEILL, JOE MANN

THE HIGH LIFE



MARQUIS OF LORNE

Marquis of Lorne

411 George St, Fitzroy
Ph: 9415 9904
This backstreet favourite always needed a beer garden, but with apartments squeezing it from both sides, they've had to go up in the world, building a new rooftop deck a few months ago. There are no views to speak of, besides the stars and sky directly above, but this small yet cosy space adds another dimension to an old-school classic pub that has remained "the preferred local" for decades.

Mother's Milk

17 Chapel St, Windsor.
The thin long outdoor space at Mother's Milk that occupies the first floor at the back of the property resembles the kind of new patio extension you'd see on one of those home-improvement shows. Though the view of the back alley might not be the most scenic of landscapes, there is a certain secluded feeling that would be perfect for parties.



STAR BAR HOTEL

Red Hummingbird

Level 1, 246 Russell St, city
Ph: 9654 2266.
New on the scene, and yet to appear on the radar of many, the rooftop deck of the Red Hummingbird will undoubtedly be the place to be come summer.

Star Bar Hotel

160 Clarendon St, South Melbourne
Ph: 9810 0054
As if this designated party spot and AFL hangout wasn't popular enough. The Star Bar has just spent \$500,000 on a new rooftop deck that offers a bit of respite for those wanting to escape the crowd downstairs. Part beer garden, part lounge and predictably part dance floor as the night creeps on, this iconic South Melbourne late-nighter will undoubtedly attract even more of the masses.

Where there's smoke, there are new beer gardens. The smoke-free inner sanctums of Melbourne's bars and pubs have been a breath of fresh air to many since indoor smoking bans were introduced in July, but some venues have responded by building outdoor areas to accommodate the smokers. Not to be left out, non-smokers have followed them outside and are enjoying the elements as well. With summer on the way and daylight saving fast approaching, CHRIS CANTY visits some new outdoor spaces destined to be filled with smokers and non-smokers alike

SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT



POLLY

Polly

401 Brunswick St, Fitzroy
Ph: 9417 0880.
It was quite obvious that a venue as decadent as Polly, with its red velvet stools, rich brown leather couches and sexy chandelier, wouldn't be building any ordinary smoking space. Instead they brought in a designer and artist to create the Peacock Room at the front of the venue. With large ferns, a water fountain, and walls covered in images of peacocks, it has an Indiana Jones meets Cleopatra-type feel.

The George

139 Cecil St, South Melbourne
Ph: 9686 5655
At first glance the new footpath tables across the road from the South Melbourne Market might be the obvious choice for the smoker or outdoor drinker, but head inside and you'll discover something better. Two weeks ago management converted an 80-year-old garage behind the pub into an intimate space, equipped with a few long beer tables, which has already proved popular with groups of friends wanting privacy.

ON THE STREET



LOOP

Loop

23 Meyers Place, city
Ph: 9654 0500.
The only downside to the new beer garden at the front of Loop is that it will make the venue easier to find, especially for those walking on Bourke St who glance down the alleyway. The few tables under the heat of the overhanging lamps offer a film noir attraction that only drinking in an alley can achieve. For the smokers, management has adapted an alcove at the side of the building, splashed with an assortment of ferns and greenery.

Prince Alfred Hotel

355 Bay St, Port Melbourne
Ph: 9646 6006
When manager Cam Smith says he tried to make the best of what space he had, he wasn't kidding. With barely any room to work with, he gained permission in July to add four tables on the footpath that have brought in new clientele and become a real drawcard for the pub. Bordered by jarrah wood planter boxes, it offers the perfect place for the Port Melburnians to do what they do best - look at each other.

TRUSTY BEER GARDENS

Richmond Club Hotel

100 Swan St, Richmond
Ph: 9428 6722
From the inconspicuous blackboard scribble in the front bar reading "New Beer Garden", you wouldn't know that down a little passageway, out the back, is one of the best outdoor drinking spaces around. Long wooden tables, placed around landscaped plants, under seven overhanging heated lamps, offer the patrons a bit of inner-suburban solitude. Despite being open for just a few weeks, it's already been included as a permanent fixture for future "MCG and surrounds" pub crawls.

The Glasshouse

51 Gipps St, Collingwood
Ph: 9419 4748
A shout of joy went up around Collingwood when the under-utilised Glasshouse Hotel awoke from its slumber mid-year as new tenants set out to fix the old girl. High on the agenda was to restore the beer garden out the back, cuddled in between the industrial landscape of Collingwood's laneways. With three big black beer tables, a few ferns and a tempting yet unused barbecue in the corner that is sure to come to life in summer, the Glasshouse is a welcome edition to an area in need of rejuvenation.



BLVD BAR

Blvd Bar

6 Queensbridge Square, Southbank
Ph: 9686 6610.
It's not often that the best views are reserved for the smokers, but that's the case here at this popular after-work bar. Set on the first floor and tiny in size, with only two tables and limited standing room, the real drawcard of the smoking room is the river views in front of a city skyline. Large grill windows open easily to let in the sea breeze at night and whiff away any lingering smoke.