

Under embargo until Thursday 10 May, 10pm

Naomi Milgrom AO and Melbourne & Olympic Parks win 2018 Melbourne Achiever Award

The Committee for Melbourne's prestigious 2018 Melbourne Achiever Award recipients were tonight announced, honouring Naomi Milgrom AO and Melbourne & Olympic Parks for their outstanding contribution to Melbourne's reputation as the world's most liveable city.

The recipients accepted the award at the Committee's annual gala dinner on Thursday night at the Forum Melbourne in presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria and Committee for Melbourne Patron.

The Award celebrates contributions to Melbourne that will leave a lasting legacy.

Committee for Melbourne CEO Martine Letts applauded Ms Milgrom's significant role as an actively committed investor and thought leader to the world of arts, health, science, education and community life.

"Naomi is an inspirational Melburnian, she has enriched Australian cultural life particularly through the establishment of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and its landmark project the MPavilion, which gifts a brand new civic space to our city each year", said Ms Letts.

Naomi Milgrom AO founder of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and MPavilion, who has gifted four MPavilions to date commented: "Many partnerships, organisations and individuals have helped bring to life my ideas and projects that have enriched and enlivened our beautiful city, Melbourne. I proudly accept this award, not only for myself but for all of us: the business partners, designers, artists, teachers, philanthropists, politicians, and policy makers and also the gardeners, coffee makers, chefs, musicians, students, writers and volunteers, the people who have dug and planted, decorated and played music, walked the catwalk ... they are all here with me in this acknowledgement of my achievements", said Ms Milgrom.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter, who accepted the Melbourne Achiever Award on behalf of VicHealth last year, presented the award to Melbourne & Olympic Parks, recognising its crucial role in cementing Melbourne's brand as the sport and entertainment capital of the world.

"Despite going through a historical redevelopment which will benefit our city and ensure the Australian Open remains in Melbourne for many years to come, Melbourne & Olympic Parks has continued to operate and deliver its extensive calendar of events", noted Ms Letts.

Melbourne & Olympic Parks has evolved over the past century to become one of the best and most unique sports and entertainment precincts in the world, right on the doorstep of the CBD.

"We take great pride in delivering the Australian Open, world's best concerts and an unbeatable calendar of incredible sport across numerous codes. It's a privilege to be operating arguably the best sport and entertainment precinct in the world and we are delighted to accept this prestigious award honouring our contribution to the city of Melbourne, said Brian Morris, Melbourne & Olympic Parks Chief Executive accepting the award on behalf of his organisation.

Since 1993, Committee for Melbourne annually recognises and celebrates significant and sustained contributions to our city that will leave a lasting legacy. Previous winners include the late Dame Elizabeth Murdoch AC DBE and Ron Walker AC CBE, CSIRO Manufacturing Precinct, National Gallery of Victoria and VicHealth.

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About MPavilion

MPavilion is Australia's leading architectural commission and design event conceived and created by the Naomi Milgrom Foundation in 2014. At the end of each season MPavilion is gifted and moved to a permanent new home within Melbourne, creating an ongoing legacy for the city. Australian architect Sean Godsell designed MPavilion 2014 (now at the Hellenic Museum) and in 2015 MPavilion was designed by British architect Amanda Levete of AL_A (now in Collins Street, Docklands). Indian architect Bijoy Jain of Studio Mumbai designed MPavilion 2016 (Melbourne Zoo) and in 2017 it was designed by Dutch architects Rem Koolhaas and David Gianotten of OMA (recently relocated to Monash University). MPavilion 2018 will be the work of Spanish architect Carme Pinós of Estudio Carme Pinós and will open to the public in Queen Victoria Gardens on 8 October 2018.