



The Socially Responsible Design Studio

# NEWSLETTER

July - August 2021

## LET'S TALK BUSINESS WITH FOODLAB

Our CEO, Vanessa Cullen, and Mark Sponberg Co-Founder of Dilectio Gourmet plant-based cheese, were 'grilled' by Jamie Loveday from Foodlab Sydney in a recent special interview evening. Mark and Vanessa were being interviewed as business mentee (Dilectio) and mentor (Vanessa), for the information of attendees from FoodLab's current and past student cohorts. There were lots of laughs and a great time was had by all. FoodLab is a wonderful initiative that gives anyone interested in starting a business or working in the food industry an invaluable practical education and fantastic network connections.



## TAKING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACH TO RETAIL FIT OUT DESIGN

In a recent RetailBiz article, Vanessa talks about circularity, its meaning, and how designers can apply it to the retail built environment. Taking a circular economy approach means shifting away from the linear process of taking raw materials out of the ground, manufacturing them into goods for use, then incinerating or sending to landfill at end of life (at worst) or recycled (at best). This insightful article provides retailers and designers with some helpful guidance on how to take a circular economy approach when designing or defitting retail spaces.

[Read more](#)

## REGULATION CHANGE: NSW LANDLORDS & TENANTS

New information on changing regulations has been released, affecting our NSW clients who are lessees or landlords of retail or commercial spaces. This most recent change pertains to renegotiation of the terms of the lease, including rent. Read more about the current regulatory changes.

[Read more](#)



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

On the 19th of August, we recognised all humanitarian personnel who are fighting against global injustices. Specifically, we wish to recognise Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). They are a pro bono client of FTD's, and we have been proud to support them. MSF delivers critical emergency aid to people affected by conflicts, epidemics, healthcare exclusion, and disasters. Check out the fantastic work they do by visiting their website.

[MSF's website](#)

## PKD AWARENESS DAY

PKD Awareness Day is happening on Saturday, 4th of September. Here at FTD, we support our founder Vanessa Cullen, who suffers from Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). PKD is an incurable, lifelong genetic disease that worsens over time, often causing kidney failure. PKD affects more than 25 thousand Australians and millions worldwide. Even though it is the most common life-limiting genetic disease, very few people have heard of it. Help us find a cure by donating to PKD Australia today.

[Donate today!](#)



Help find a  
cure for Polycystic  
Kidney Disease

#PKDAwarenessDay  
#endpkd

## NEW NSW DESIGN PRACTITIONER REGULATIONS

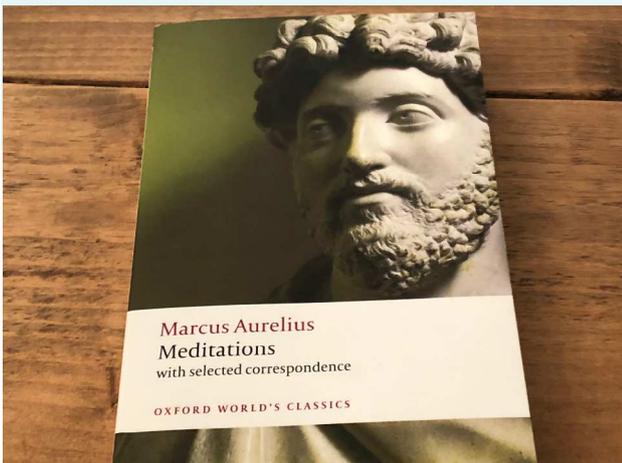
FTD has recently lodged a submission to the Parliament of NSW Public Accountability Committee to address the "Further inquiry into the regulation of building standards" pertaining to the new system of design practitioner registration that came into effect, for Class 2 Buildings, in July. Under the new system, only those with architect or building designer qualifications are eligible to register as design practitioners and lodge fitout design regulatory compliance documentation to Council and Certifiers. Our submission outlines our concerns that the new system has the unintended effect of restricting the trade of interior architecture professionals.

[Read more](#)

## BOOK OF THE MONTH!

Meditations by Marcus Aurelius (AD 121-180) offers a wide range of fascinating spiritual reflections and exercises developed, as this ancient leader struggled to understand himself and make sense of the universe.

[Buy here](#)



## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON & WHO WITH

- Two golf club building master plans in regional NSW
- Environmental impact reduction initiative for the interior fit-out industry Australia-wide
- Organic grocer development planning in Byron Bay, NSW
- Business Strategy with several food & hospitality providers across NSW & ACT.
- An interior design tertiary education research initiative with one of Australia's leading universities
- Office design for a national social housing charity

### Social Media

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