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FREE

CBD

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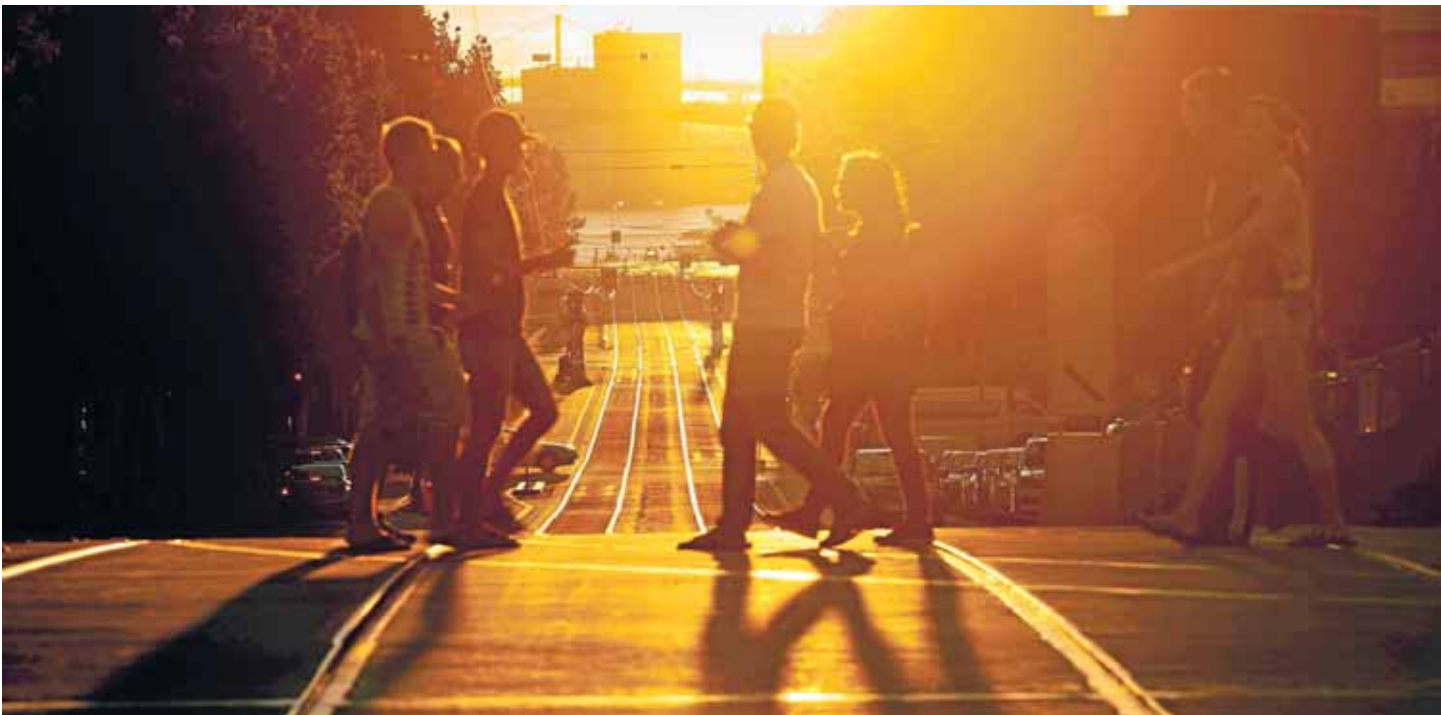
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Melbhenge

At about 8.30pm on Tuesday, February 7, the sunset lit up the east-west streets of our city.

In reference to the famous Manhattan event of the same nature, the spectacle was coined “Melbhenge”.

Our grid system, designed by Robert Hoddle in 1837, provided many a vantage point for Mother Nature’s show but perhaps the most impressive was William St, where Melbourne-based photographer David Brewster captured this spectacular photograph.

Photography: David Brewster Photography, www.david-brewsterphotography.com

Bold Metro Tunnel compensation bid

By Shane Scanlan

In an apparent audacious bid to boost compensation, the owners of a Swanston St property earmarked for compulsory acquisition have applied for permission to add seven storeys.

The owners of the KFC building at 27-29 Swanston St in October lodged a planning application with the City of Melbourne for 14 apartments above the three-storey building.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) in October 2015 made it known that the building was among those it was looking to acquire to build the CBD South Station.

The planning application comprises little more than architectural drawings, with the council still seeking essential details before it can properly assess the bid.

The council has advised the owners to speak with the MMRA. It originally said the bid would lapse if the missing details were not provided by January 24. It has now granted an extension until mid-April.

The planning application to the City of Melbourne estimates the cost of the planned works at \$12 million and it was accompanied

by a cheque for \$8189.80 from real estate agents Allard Shelton to cover the permit fee.

The owners are seeking council permission to build the extra seven floors, construct two apartments per floor and connect each of them direct into the heritage-protected Nicholas Building, which they also own.

In the process, all south-facing windows in the Nicholas Building would be lost.

The owners are also currently conducting an aggressive Allard Shelton drive to convert month-to-month tenants within the Nicholas Building to long-term leases.

The building is owned by a consortium of four companies, with the planning application being lodged by Myrgo Pty Ltd, a

company led by the Cohen family.

Myrgo Pty Ltd directors are: Trevor Cohen, Norman Kotzman, Natalie Kotzman, Heather Cohen, Tania Smorgon and Hannah Cohen.

The Cohens in 2014 bought the Block Arcade and soon lost many long-term tenants after a regime of Allard Shelton-led rent increases.

The other companies in the consortium are: Dymbro Nominees Pty Ltd, Adele Pty Ltd and Lynnlea Nominees Pty Ltd. Directorships include: Robert Davis, Myrna Goldsmith, Rohan Davis, Yvonne Fink, Bruce Davis, Rosalie Silverstein, Delysia Pahoff, Neville Southwick, Marilyn Faiman, Lea Woolf and Rose Samuel.

Continued on page 2.

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News* works for advertisers because
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in their neighbourhood.

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Bold Metro Tunnel compensation bid

Continued from page 1.

Myrgo Pty Ltd declined to answer CBD News's questioning of its motivation behind the planning application.

The three-story 27-29 Swanston St is known as the Nicholas Building's annexe and shares a basement. Melbourne Heritage Action argued last year to the planning panel assessing the environmental impacts of the Metro Tunnel project that it should be spared because of its architecturally distinctive design and association with architect Harry Norris.

The Nicholas Building itself also argued for the retention of the annexe, saying this would protect the building's south-facing windows, as well as maintain its commercial viability.

In its November 21 report, the planning panel agreed, saying: "The committee agrees that it would be preferable to retain 27-29 Swanston St above basement level because of its design and relationship with the Nicholas Building."

Allard Shelton was registered to make a submission to the planning panel but failed to do so.

The MMRA on February 3 sent formal notices of "intention to acquire" to the owners of six buildings in CBD South (including 27-29 Swanston St) and a further six around CBD North. The authority has said it intends to own most of the properties by the end of this year.

Under the Land Acquisition and



Looking south from the Nicholas Building.

Compensation Act 1986, compensation is based on the value of properties at the time of acquisition. In an information sheet prepared by the MMRA in 2015, the authority said: "Compensation recognises the value of improvements and renovations that add value to your property."

Owners and representatives of some other affected CBD South property owners argued against compulsory acquisition.

Owners of the Commonwealth Bank building and McDonalds objected to compulsory acquisition. CBA building owner Oscar Pty Ltd suggested it could be offered to the MMRA through a licence for temporary operation then redeveloped

into a 9-10 storey tower after the station was completed.

Similarly McDonalds wanted to retain its store and provide strata access below ground. Michelle Blackburn for McDonalds Australia told the hearing that the store was a family-run business and the most profitable McDonalds in the CBD.

Young & Jackson's, which is adjacent to the site but excluded from the project area, made a submission about access and the delivery of kegs.

Ms Michelle Quigley for the MMRA rejected submissions by McDonalds and the CBA building against being acquired.



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No progress on council vacancy

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne is no closer to having its 11th councillor following a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing into the matter on February 21.

VCAT President Greg Garde heard arguments from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on how votes should be counted but adjourned the case before hearing counter arguments from Cr Michael Caiafa and former councillor Stephen Mayne.

President Garde indicated that he was loath to rule on a voting counting method before the effects were known. However, he stopped short of ordering the VEC to run the numbers on its computer and he then retired to consider his position.

In what he called a “stepped” process, he said it was important that people affected by the counting method be able to make submissions to him.

It was unclear whether he will nominate his preferred vote counting method as well as how many vote counting scenarios he will ask the VEC to calculate. President Garde did not give himself a timeline but said a suggestion that he might do so by February 24 was “ambitious”.

The VEC prefers a “recount”, which is widely tipped to cost Cr Caiafa his position on council. Last December the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) determined that a

“count back” was the legal way to settle the matter, but the VEC appealed this decision to VCAT.

Apart from these two scenarios, former councillor Stephen Mayne proposed a third option that he believed would favour his re-election chances.

When this matter first came before VCAT for a directions hearing on December 19, Mr Mayne asked that the VEC be ordered to run various scenarios, a suggestion that the VEC successfully opposed.

On February 21, the VEC tried to persuade President Garde not to order any scenarios. VEC counsel Liam Brown contended that the president’s task was simply to determine the proper process by which the election could be finalised “and not selecting from a grab bag of options”.

However, it appears likely that President Garde will order the VEC to run at least the numbers to determine the effect of a “recount” before he reconvenes the case.

The city has had just 10 councillors since the October election, with observers noting that this had affected crucial decisions as well as council’s ability to maintain quorum.

The problem stems from the disqualification

of successful candidate Brooke Wandin who was found to be incorrectly enrolled. Electoral fraud charges against her and former councillor Richard Foster are before the courts.

The VCAT hearing heard that Ms Wandin’s running mate Nic Francis Gilley, previously thought to be uninterested, has had a change of heart and is now interested in accepting the position should it be offered.

Mr Mayne said since learning that Mr Francis Gilley was interested in serving on council, he was less interested in contesting the VCAT case.

Nevertheless, he said, he would like to know the effect on vote counting if both Mr Francis Gilley and Ms Wandin’s votes were excluded from a recount.

It is predicted that under the other two scenarios under consideration, Mr Francis Gilley will become a councillor.

Should the VEC win its case for a recount, it is predicted that Cr Caiafa will be replaced by former deputy lord mayor and Team Doyle member Susan Riley.

The VEC is putting a lot of time, effort and money contesting the case. Mr Brown

contended to President Garde that, although the legislation was silent on the specifics of this case, it should be determined on the basis of the “common law of elections”.

He presented a folder of case law to support his position that Magistrate Michael Smith had made the wrong decision at the MET on December 5.

The VEC contends that votes cast for Ms Wandin were “tainted” and need to be removed before a recount is conducted.

Mr Brown said VCAT’s role was to “give effect to the intentions of the electors” and order a recount.

“Any other method would frustrate the purpose of the Act,” he said.

In his December 5 decision, Magistrate Smith specifically rejected this method: “Once the poll has been declared the relevant provisions concerning the powers of a returning office upon the retirement of a candidate no longer apply. That candidate, eligible or otherwise has been declared elected. ... There is, moreover, a legislative basis in the Act for proceeding in accordance with sections 46(1)(a) and 46(3). Of the alternatives discussed I am clearly of the view that this is the better of them.”

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From left: Beverley Pinder, Natalie Abboud, Sam Crowther and Cameron Maher at William Angliss.

Inspirational

New William Angliss Institute students were inspired by four diverse, but complementary speakers on February 16.

PR executive and former City of Melbourne marketing chair Beverley Pinder headlined the orientation day speeches with personal anecdotes, reflections and encouragement for the 160 hospitality students.

She said the economic prosperity of the state was directly linked to the visitor economy and the students’ future prospects were extremely promising.

“You are positioned beautifully at the nexus between education and commerce,” she said.

Moreland City councillor Natalie Abboud’s personal journey highlighted to the students the importance of following their passions and taking advantage of opportunities.

This theme was reinforced by the story of former William Angliss student Cameron Maher who, in a few short years, has become assistant restaurant manager at Southbank’s Dinner by Heston.

Visit Victoria’s online product manager Sam Crowther told a similar tale to the students undertaking studies in Tourism and Hospitality Management; Culinary Management; Resort and Hotel Management; Events Management; and Food Studies.

Expert guides to managing a city

By Khiara Elliott

A conversation at MPavilion saw top minds discuss the relationship between community and city on February 10.

Influential urban architect Jan Gehl, chief executive officer of the City of Sydney Monica Barone and director of city design at City of Melbourne Rob Adams, came together for “A Tale of Three Cities”. Melbourne-based architect Shelley Penn managed the conversation.

All speakers agreed that for cities to become successful urban environments, their community must be considered during every step of the way.

Ms Barone said 18 months of public consultation would shape the way the Sustainable Sydney 2030 project would transform her city.

“The lesson is: you’ve got to go back to the people. It’s the citizens that have to determine what’s important in the city and it is the role of administrators to protect the public interest in that process,” she said.

According to Mr Gehl, Copenhagen’s community has been very involved with the city its early stages.

He said that since the 1960s, universities in Copenhagen were carefully studying the way that built form impacted the way people used the city.

This information was then presented to politicians to note how the city was developing through the eyes of its users.

“It’s about changing the mindset of leaders before you can change the cities,” he said.

Throughout his time as director of city design, Mr Adams said he had learned that changing a city takes a long time and that change is again, the result of a collaborative effort.

“The actions that take place slowly through the statutory planners, through the traffic engineers, through the people in parks and gardens are the actions that enrich our city over time,” he said.

Former Olympic athlete and chief commissioner of the City of Melbourne Kevan Gosper, spoke in February to Henley Club members about the principles he learnt through his career in athletics and how he applied them to his career in city management.

The first important principle Mr Gosper noted was recovery from defeat.

“I learnt that if you didn’t win a race, or you didn’t win a contract in business or you didn’t win an argument in diplomacy, you’d better get over it very quickly,” he said.



Jan Gehl gives his views at the February 10 event.

Melbourne drops in student ranking

By Sunny Liu

Melbourne is again ranked the best Australian city for students, but its world rank has fallen from the second to fifth.

The 2017 QS Best Student Cities Ranking places Melbourne the fifth-best student city around the world, Melbourne’s lowest ranking since 2014.

Six other Australian cities, including Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth and the Gold Coast, are among the world’s top 80 cities for students.

Montreal tops the list this year, followed by Paris, London and Seoul.

Australian cities obtained lower scores in the “Affordability” category due to the ever-increasing living costs and tuition fees, which also contributes to a year-on-year drop in rankings for Australia.

“Student View” is a new category in this year’s assessment. The scores are calculated based on qualitative responses on studying experiences from 18,000 students.

Melbourne scores well in the “Student View” category and boasts the highest mark in the “Student Mix” category with the most diverse student population in the world.

Melbourne’s “Desirability” score is also particularly high, an indicator of outstanding quality of life and intense popularity as a student destination.

In Melbourne, more students are employed after graduation compared with other Australian cities.

Melbourne’s “Employer Activity” rank remains a static seventh in the world.



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Where is the real power at Town Hall?

Stephen Mayne

In his first column with *CBD News*, former councillor Stephen Mayne exposes a common misconception



There is a great misconception out there that councillors hold the power at City of Melbourne. Alas, truth be told, it is the officers who are really in control.

Part-time councillors come and go but the highly paid full-time officers endure and, in the end, they usually win.

Under the Local Government Act, the only employee who councillors can hire is the CEO.

But once hired, the CEO is very much in charge of the organisation, controlling the meeting agendas, flow of information, deployment of staff and allocation of resources.

The capital works budget is arguably the best example of officer control. There is a Capital Works Committee chaired by Professor Rob Adams but it only comprises officers. As councillor chair of the finance and governance committee from 2012 until 2016, I was never invited to this committee and never saw any agendas or minutes leading up to the budget.

In 2016, the draft budget was only released to councillors a day before the media lock-up and the granularity on individual capital works projects remained sparse because officers had successfully resisted my push for disclosure of individual capital works projects over a 10-year period.

The enterprise agreement is another prime example of officer power. Negotiations on a new agreement are continuing but this four-year contract is literally the largest commitment of rate-payer money that City of Melbourne enters into, amounting to

more than \$500 million over a four-year council term.

Councillors may get to vote on dozens of tiddler contracts worth a few hundred thousand dollars (which, like the hundreds of grants dished out, are rarely changed from the officer recommendation), but we have no involvement in the enterprise agreement. It has been a succession of CEOs, not the councillors, who have made City of Melbourne employees the best paid local government workers in Australia. The 2015-16 annual report reveals City of Melbourne had a staggering 169 staff earning more than \$139,000.

All this largesse on the staff has squeezed council's capacity to deliver more capital works projects, such as fixing up Harbour Esplanade.

Achieving change is never easy as an individual councillor and often encounters resistance from the officers. Take reform of council's audit committee and internal audit function – a closed book if ever there was one.

Having arm-wrestled through a commitment at the start of the last four-year term for City of Melbourne to aspire to become Australia's most open and transparent council, it wasn't until year four that we finally turned our attention to the audit committee process.

However, when asked if there was a single change they would recommend

for increased public visibility of the audit function, the officers couldn't think of any, even though Tony Abbott's local council at Warringah was publicly releasing internal audit reports.

In the end, as often happened, the only way to ensure something got done was by way of councillor motion.



Councillors duly requested the audit committee to suggest changes and it came back with a raft of amendments which elevated the status of the audit committee, increased the ability of independent members to communicate directly with councillors and provided some public visibility on their excellent work.

The officers lost some control, but the sky hasn't fallen in.

hockingstuart



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High price for being cool

By Rhonda Dredge

A tour group has just arrived in the Cathedral Arcade to admire the inspiring glass ceiling.

The group could belong to any of 15 companies guiding visitors through the city’s arcades. Some companies take three groups a day, so that’s a lot of people attracted to this particular cultural site.

Above the arcade is the 10-storey Nicholas Building, an equally famous site for those who pine to work in a creative environment with cheap rents, original features and friendly tenants. There are poetry readings on a weekly basis, art openings and chats in the lifts with a diverse range of artisans and directors of bespoke companies.

On February 3 notices went out to the owners of buildings in Swanston St informing them that their properties would be compulsorily acquired for the Metro Tunnel project.

Although the Nicholas Building will not be acquired owing to its heritage listing, a three-storey annexe next door will soon become a 35-metre deep gaping hole, according to advice to tenants from Metro Rail.

Heritage groups recommended to an independent environmental hearing last year that the annexe, at 27-29 Swanston St, be preserved to protect the integrity of the Nicholas Building. Businesses along the south of the building will be vulnerable. These include galleries, architectural firms and an acting academy Aescetica, which is located within the annexe.

At this stage tenants are not sure how the project will impact their businesses in actual day-to-day terms, other than the noise and dust generated by the demolition, said Fiona Sweetman, director of Hidden Secrets Tours.

Ms Sweetman said: “We are still uncertain if



we will have to move office, or change tour itineraries.”

Hidden Secrets Tours is a walking tour business that has been a tenant of the Nicholas Building since 2006. The company takes small groups of up to eight people around the CBD.

Ms Sweetman is passionate about the building. “Many say the cultural value of the Nicholas Building is its tenants, and the longevity of these manually creative businesses,” she said.

Ms Sweetman and other tenants have formed a group to sift through the facts of the situation. There are two major issues for tenants – the impact of the tunnel project which will involve a year of demolition, two years of excavation and a possible five years of construction – and the tactics of the building’s agents, Allard Shelton.

The first meeting of the group was told that 10 tenants have had rent increases since the tunnel project was announced a year ago, with three forced to decide by this month if they are prepared to pay almost double. B-Grade office space without hot and cold water and air-conditioning commands about \$22 a square metre. Calculations by the

group suggest the increase is aimed at \$41 a square metre which would drive the building into the A-Grade category.

The reasons behind the rent increase are not entirely clear to tenants. Many pay on a monthly basis. Low rent occupiers are vulnerable. Some tenants pay as much for internal spaces without windows as those with views.

As one of 90 tenants with individual leases, it is difficult for any occupier to develop a whole-building point-of-view.

Sublets, storerooms, creative hubs, studios and shared office space are some of the models used by tenants to subsidise rents. Many like the anonymity of the building. Windows open onto laneways.

Until recently, homeless people slept in passages. Sparrows jump around on window ledges. “Getting a tenant’s union up and running would be like trying to organise alley cats,” said one tenant of the second floor.

When the *CBD News* went to press, tenants were planning another meeting. “Metro Link is telling us there will be no disruption,” said Mary Farrugia from the bead shop on the first floor. She finds this difficult to believe.

“We’ll be surrounded by rubble and trucks,” said Loretta Hemengsley of Collected Works, a bookshop of poetry and ideas. The shop depends on attracting customers to its poetry readings.

It won’t be known if tenants have rights to claim compensation until the project said, says Peta Olive, a lawyer with Aitken Partners, forcing them into a wait and see game.

The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, says the State Government is “acutely aware of the cultural and historic significance of the Nicholas Building” but the challenge for tenants is that, despite the potential suffering ahead there is no better location in Melbourne. People will pay top dollar to “slum” it in a cool place with wire glass windows, parquet floors and a reputation.

Footpath upgrade a waste of money

Approval for major construction will see a footpath upgrade on the corner of A’Beckett and Queen streets potentially become nothing but a waste of money.

The upgrade took the footpath from bitumen to bluestone and included works to the kerb, channel, footpaths, access ramps and tactile grounds surface indicators. In total, the upgrade cost \$178,102 and construction went for approximately three weeks.

Plans for twin 79-storey mixed-use skyscrapers, dubbed Queens Place, were approved in early 2016.

According to City of Melbourne spokespersons, the A’Beckett and Queen streets corner upgrade was approved before Queens Place.

One of the spokespersons said that the slip up occurred as a result of an outdated system used by council that could not check for approved maintenance orders. According to him, the system has now been updated to avoid future mistakes.

A complaint from a local resident prompted the spokesperson to apologise and agree that the project should not have gone ahead.

City of Melbourne told *CBD News*: “Any damage to surrounding roads and footpaths during construction – including the recently upgraded area – will be fixed at the developers expense.”

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Honouring a community leader

CBD resident and lawyer John Corcoran was on January 26 appointed as a member of the Order for Australia.

Mr Corcoran, who has been the chair of Russell Kennedy Lawyers on LaTrobe St since 2007 and partner since 1986, was recognised on Australia Day for his “significant service to the law, and to the legal profession, through a range of executive roles, and to the community”.

“They say it’s an honour, and it really is an honour to be recognised,” Mr Corcoran said.

Mr Corcoran has worked at Russell Kennedy Lawyers since 1982 and he and his wife moved into a Spring St apartment three years ago.

“I just love the life in the city,” he said. “Every night of the week is so vibrant. We live within walking distance to the gardens. You can walk to the theatre. Last night I walked to a function for Chinese New Year. The CBD is so much more exciting than it was when I started out as a lawyer.”

Mr Corcoran has had an impressive and extensive career in the law. He has held many positions including president and life member of the Law Institute of Victoria, president of the Law Council of Australia, councillor of the International Bar Association and director of Mercy Health.



John Corcoran relaxing at work.

Despite his many awards and achievements, Mr Corcoran remains humble in his recognition and says he’s accepting it on behalf of the people he has worked with.

“It’s not just for yourself – it’s for a whole lot of different people in your life,” he said.

“I’ve been fortunate to lead organisations like the Law Institute and the Law Council of Australia, but those organisations do so much for the community. Although there might be a president who’s the figurehead, there’s so much work done by so many for the betterment of our society, so you accept it for all of those people.”

Mr Corcoran lists heading up the law associations as career highlights.

“It’s really important that we have an independent legal profession, independent of government, particularly. It’s important that we have a body that is able to speak out on rule of law issues, promote the rule of law and speak out against any denials of access to justice,” he said.

“They do a lot of unsung work. They’ve got expert committees in every area of the law that assist the government write legislation and amend legislation and do things that are purely for the betterment of society.”

Short-stay rental ban

New York has joined a growing list of cities to ban short-stay accommodation in residential buildings.

Authorities there, and in other major global cities, have been motivated to close down short-stays because of their detrimental effect on rental affordability.

Short-stay rentals are still allowed when the householder is present. Hosts renting properties for less than 30 days now face US\$7500 fines.

Airbnb Inc immediately sued New York City and State after the ban was introduced but has now withdrawn its legal action.

More free Wi-Fi

Melbourne Citi Free Wi-Fi and Melbourne Metro Free Wi-Fi have extended their CBD coverage.

The services currently cover Elizabeth, Swanston, Russell, Bourke and Flinders streets and CBD stations and will next month include Franklin and Spencer streets and Queen Victoria Market.

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The sky's the limit for CBD education

By Khiara Elliott

Top education is now at our doorstep with Haileybury's fifth campus opened on King St.

The 10-storey school welcomed 234 students aged from junior school to year nine through its doors on January 31.

Principal Derek Scott has been in charge of all Haileybury's campuses for nine years.

He started researching the CBD five years ago and found that between 2006 and 2011 there was a significant growth in children aged 1 to 14 living here, but no growth in available education facilities.

"Melbourne is a great world city and it's a great education city, but it has been lacking school-level education facilities within the CBD, so we're incredibly excited to bring this to fruition," he said.



Principal Derek Scott with the 2017 preps at Haileybury's King St campus.

The school caters for children aged three and four at Haileybury's Early Learning Centre that was established on campus last year, all the way through to year 12. The first graduating class will complete their studies in 2020.

Darren Carnell Architects transformed the previous NAB call centre into a state-of-the-art learning facility.

Haileybury's classrooms face the front of

the building and include floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook Flagstaff Gardens and the city skyline, however Mr Scott says there's more to it than just a nice view.

"We want the curriculum here to reflect the fact that we're a part of this great city," he said. "The children's curriculum will be tying them in with the art galleries and the museums and the libraries and all of the city's facilities."

"I think there's a great connection between living in a vibrant and dynamic world city and having a curriculum that gives real life meaning to the things they'll be studying at the same time."

Some may wonder if Melbourne's first vertical school is lacking in outdoor space, but Haileybury has several terrace playgrounds throughout its 10 levels complete with climbing equipment, plenty of shade and even a garden where the junior students can tend to their own strawberries.

The rooftop is also being developed into another outdoor recreation area, and Haileybury's first floor already has 1000sqm dedicated to physical education, including an indoor running track.

Haileybury is also implementing its "parallel education" model at its King St campus. From ELC to year four, classes will be co-education. But from year five to year 12, classes are split into single genders.

STREET LIFE

2 pm. Swanston St.

Photo by Barry C. Douglas @BarryTakesPhotos.com

New home for the White Tower Melbourne

A gift from sister-city Thessaloniki has found a new home in the foyer of the Greek Centre on Lonsdale St.

The White Tower Melbourne was presented to the City of Melbourne by the Thessaloniki Association during the 32nd sister-city anniversary celebrations at Federation Square in November.

The artwork is a replica of the White Tower landmark in Thessaloniki.

Women in the local communities of Melbourne, Athens and Thessaloniki crocheted 8000 white laurels to decorate the replica. The laurels are a symbol of status, prosperity and fame.

The Greek Centre is the first stop on the tower's "tour of honour". It will travel to Melbourne schools and community halls before finding a permanent home.

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- 6:15pm-7:15pm

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www.smnthmelbourne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Denise Hussey **Phone: 93299206**

Sharing community stories

A new City Gallery exhibition, “City Songs”, captures the faces and voices of a single CBD block.

Photographer Zoe Ali and author Christos Tsiolkas used their six-month City of Melbourne arts residency to document the lives of people living, working and playing on the block bordered by Swanston, Bourke, Russell and Collins streets.

Ms Ali told *CBD News* there was no formal selection process when choosing their subjects. She and Mr Tsiolkas spent six months walking the streets of the block, approaching people who might be willing to share their story.

More than 50 people participated in the project, agreeing to have their black and white portrait put on display.

All text stories included in the exhibition are anonymous. Mr Tsiolkas transcribed some, but also included his fictional works.

All text stories included in the exhibition are anonymous. Mr Tsiolkas transcribed some, but included his fictional works too.

Ms Ali and Mr Tsiolkas also worked alongside University of Melbourne social historian Professor Andrew May to provide a look into the block’s history.

Through their collaboration, they were



Artist Zoe Ali at the City Gallery exhibition.

able to include portraits of the city’s 1892 councillors and black and white photographs of the block itself.

City of Melbourne arts, culture and heritage chair, Cr Rohan Leppert, praised *City Songs* and its telling of the past and present CBD community.

“*City Songs* offers the visitor an opportunity to ‘hear’ the music of contemporary city as well as the voices that formed its songs of the past,” he said.

Ms Ali said that the relationship between city and community, in her opinion, was very

important.

“The buildings and spaces of Melbourne and this block fascinates us but it is within the faces of those we photographed that the real vitality of our city comes alive,” she said.

Ms Ali said that capturing the multiculturalism of the CBD was not intentional but rather a natural progression during the photography phase of the project and was something to be celebrated.

“*City Songs: A symphony of experiences*” is available for viewing from now until Wednesday, April 19.

Night market celebrates singles

The Summer Night Market hosted Melbourne’s biggest singles party on Wednesday, February 15.

In celebration of Singles Awareness Day, the market encouraged singles to wear red to let people know they were currently unattached and ready to mingle.

Nova 100’s street team set up a designated “singles area” in E Shed. Here, the “Casanovas” set up a love swing for singles who just might have become a pair.

Those celebrating Singles Awareness Day in full force also had a heart-shaped piñata ready for a good whacking!



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Council slammed over homeless law

By Khiara Elliott

At the February 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, the City of Melbourne voted to potentially expand the definition of camping for rough sleepers in the CBD.

Currently, it is only illegal to camp in a public place if structures such as tents are used. Under the proposed amendment, local law enforcement officers will be able to remove any unattended items left by homeless people to allegedly protect public safety.

The number of people angered by the proposed amendment was seen at the meeting, as it was moved to Swanston Hall to accommodate a larger crowd.

Protests condemning the proposed amendment occurred prior to the meeting as critics held banners branding it as a “Band-Aid solution” in front of Town Hall.

The high emotion continued inside with an outstanding number of submissions being presented to council.

Members of the homeless community, former councillors and representatives of organisations who work alongside the homeless and in some cases, alongside the



Protestors outside Town Hall before the February 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

council were united in their stance against the proposed amendment.

Acting CEO of the Council to Homeless Persons Kate Colvin, urged council not to put the homeless in danger by supporting the amended local law.

“The proposal to expand the definition of camping will cause considerable harm to people who are homeless. It’s just simply too broad,” she said.

“This is meant to be the world’s most liveable city, not the world’s most vulnerable to the people in need,” said homeless person Rebecca Temple.

Manager and principal lawyer of Justice Connect Lucy Adams, started her

submission by commending the council on some of the collaborative projects conducted in the past in an effort to combat homelessness. However, she could not hide her aversion for the proposal.

“It is in that context of respect and collaboration that we must urge you to pause and not proceed any further with the proposed amendments this evening,” she said.

A request was made for a deaf interpreter to attend the meeting so that a deaf member of the homeless community could understand, however this was not met and no explanation was provided as to why – yet another stumble by the council in dealing with the homeless.

Interestingly, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle who had previously been quite vocal about his ever-changing stance on homelessness, remained relatively quiet throughout the proceedings.

The idea for the proposed amendment emerged in late January after chief commissioner of police Graham Ashton, called for a tougher approach on the homeless epidemic.

However, at the FMC meeting, despite there being a heavy police presence ready to act if tensions boiled over, not a single submission was made by a Victoria Police spokesperson. This was noted by Cr Rohan Leppert who voted against the amendment.

“I would have liked to have seen some written communication from the police as to why they believe their powers are not adequate to deal with this problem already. I know this is a council solution, not a police solution but I still think that would have helped this debate,” he said.

Perhaps the most embarrassing falter of the night was Tessa Sullivan’s attempt to assure submitters and those in attendance that council was losing sleep over the homeless problem, before likening the danger of rough sleeping to that of terrorism.

“I want to reiterate that this is about public safety and the very real fear that we have in the world we live in today that it is dangerous to leave unattended items,” she said.

Explorers to be removed, restored and returned

The Burke and Wills memorial will be removed from its City Square site and restored while Metro Tunnel is being built.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) gained City Square by compulsory acquisition last month and, consequently, the Burke and Wills memorial also.

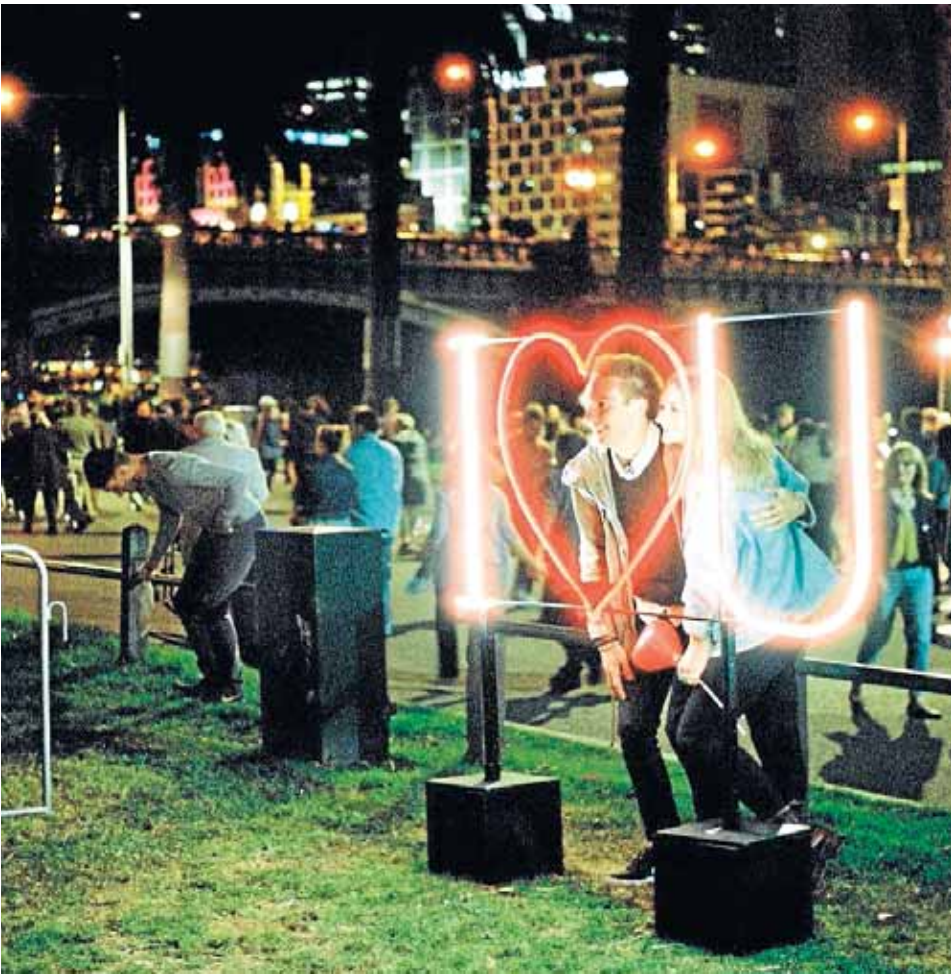
The Burke and Wills Historical Society and the Royal Society of Victoria requested the memorial be relocated to the site of the Royal Society of Victoria on LaTrobe St.

However, after submissions at the February 7 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) from David Dodd from the Burke and Wills Historical Society and Mike Flattley from the Royal Society of Victoria, the council resolved to temporarily store the memorial for up to eight years before returning it to its current location.

Council arts, culture and heritage portfolio chair, Rohan Leppert, said it was important to maintain the City Square as the site of the memorial to maintain the continuity of the CBD after Metro Tunnel works had been completed.

A magical transformation

White Night Melbourne transformed our city into an enchanted wonderland on February 18-19



A young couple celebrate their love at White Night Melbourne.

Photography by Marco Papageorgiou.



Crowds filled the streets surrounding Federation Square.



Light installations illuminated the CBD.



Colourful projections lit up Flinders St Station.

Award-winning help for the homeless

Chair of Youth Projects, Melanie Raymond, was awarded the Order of Australia on Australia Day in recognition for her work with Melbourne’s homeless and disadvantaged.

Despite feeling flattered by the award, Ms Raymond said recognition was not her focus.

“I’m really honoured to be on that list, but nothing could be further from my mind. Not-for-profit is not a sector to get into if accolades are what turn you on. In saying that, it is lovely when someone recognises your work,” she said.

Ms Raymond first became involved with Youth Projects 19 years ago. After running for local council in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, she was introduced to the organisation and was asked to join the board. Shortly after, she became its chair.

“There were lots of problems to solve at the time, but we came through that really well and have grown and prospered since,” she said.

Youth Projects extended its services to the CBD in 2002 when it opened “The Living Room” in Hosier Lane.

The Living Room is a primary health service that provides free healthcare and support to the homeless and disadvantaged.

“We opened The Living Room in response to a lot of issues surrounding homelessness and addiction in the CBD at the time. It’s a unique approach when you offer a wrap-around service in the one place. It’s difficult



Melanie Raymond at “home” in Hosier Lane.

work, but everyone we see has numerous needs so it makes it easier for them,” Ms Raymond said.

“We take a multi-disciplinary approach at the very front lines of homelessness. It really increases the impact of what we do if we can capture their needs at the moment they come through our doors.”

The Living Room has showers, laundry

services, doctors and mental health and drug counsellors on site for those in need of immediate help.

Computer and internet access is also available, as well as a safe common area, kitchens and meals.

“We put all the help in one place so people can find what they need in the one organisation,” Ms Raymond said.

Ms Raymond and Youth Projects aim to help their clients in all areas, from everyday support right through to helping them gain employment. Life-skill classes are regularly taught at Youth Projects where clients learn about cooking, nutrition and employment training.

Homelessness, in the CBD especially has currently become a hot topic of discussion. However, Ms Raymond told *CBD News* the crisis had been in plain sight for years.

“We know the numbers of homeless people are growing. We know that from all the data let alone what we can see with our own eyes,” she said.

Regarding the way homelessness has been addressed lately, Ms Raymond said there had been a lack of consistency in policy and response from different levels of government. She also noted the complexity of the issue.

“I certainly don’t believe there’s anything fun about being homeless or that providing people with basic human needs is encouraging homelessness,” she said. “Their needs are so much more complex, their lives and their stories are all individual and it’s wrong to categorise people who are homeless and at the lowest point in their lives in such negative terms.”

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City Songs

CURATED BY
Christos Tsiolkas
Zoe Ali
Prof. Andrew May

City Gallery
Melbourne Town Hall
90–120 Swanston Street
(enter via Halfix)

EXHIBITION DATES
9 February to 19 April 2017

VISIT
melbourne.vic.gov.au/citygallery

CITY OF MELBOURNE

Farewell to a touch of sparkle

After 166 years of trade, our famous Bourke St jewellery store, Kozminsky, has closed its doors.

Founded during the goldrush of 1851 by two Polish gentlemen named Simon and Isidor Kozminsky, the shop dealt in all kinds of precious objects, not just the fine jewellery that it had been known for during its last years.

Kozminsky held several locations around the CBD, including the Block Arcade in Collins St in 1910 to Little Collins St from the 1930s until the late 1970s.

It was during this time that a man named Kurt Albrecht started his employment. He was later to become Kozminsky's third proprietor. His daughter, Kirsten, worked in the shop from the age of 12 and took over the family business after the death of her father. She is the current owner of Kozminsky.

"I started when I was in school. Not full time, but I'd do holidays. I'd stand behind the counter and pretend like I knew what I was doing, but I really didn't," Ms Albrecht said.

During her time at Kozminsky, Ms Albrecht has seen a lot of change throughout the CBD, specifically within the retail sector.

"I've seen many businesses come and go. I saw Georges go, that was sad. I really loved Georges, as we all did," she said.

"I've also seen the face of retail change with a lot of the major international brands arrive, as they have."

Ms Albrecht also noted that she's seen a lot of Victorian-style buildings demolished. To her, they were a piece of our history and their loss is a sad one.

Many a celebrity has walked through the Kozminsky doors over the years including Cher, Sir Elton John, Tom Selleck and the late Gregory Peck.

Despite having numerous encounters with some of the most recognised names in the world, Ms Albrecht says her fondest memories are of serving the generations of



Kirsten Albrecht at the beloved Kozminsky store.

families that have made Kozminsky a part of their traditions.

"Oh gosh, my fondest memories are of the couples who were genuinely, truly in love with each other – when they came in and chose an engagement ring here," she said.

"And then they came in with their babies and bought something else and then when the babies grew into children, they started buying them gifts for their 18th and 21st birthdays."

Ms Albrecht said she noticed just how much these families valued Kozminsky during its last days in the middle of last month.

"People keep telling me Kozminsky is part of their family, that they come here because we're their family jeweller. I always felt that way in my heart but to have it reciprocated is very touching," she said.

A number of reasons prompted the closure, but it was the sudden death of Ms Albrecht's

husband that made her realise she needed a change.

"We've been at this location for 40 years now and our lease is up in May," she said, "My husband died very suddenly the year before this one and that made me very much reassess what I want to do with my life."

"I have two sons and two grandchildren in New York, as well as my sons and daughters here. I'd like the opportunity to be a bit freer. A retail store, not as an online store or as anything else – just a retail store – is a 24/7 commitment," she said.

As for the future of Kozminsky, Ms Albrecht said there might be potential for what she called a "leaner, meaner and tighter" presence.

Since announcing the closure, Ms Albrecht says she's had many people come forward with ideas on how to continue Kozminsky in the future.

Flinders St camp takes a violent turn

Tensions boiled over as Victoria Police moved in to clear the homeless camp outside Flinders St Station on February 1, resulting in five arrests.

It is alleged that violence ensued after the arrival of a group of protesters. One officer was punched in the back of the head while others were rammed by a man on a mobility scooter.

75 police officers lined Flinders St to stop protesters and the public from advancing. The area between Swanston and Elizabeth streets was blocked and public transport stopped as hundreds of onlookers swarmed the street.

The camp was cleared to make way for the long-planned Flinders St station restoration works.



A stand-off between police and protestors outside Flinders St Station.



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Radical preacher goes the distance

Progressive values to continue

By Shane Scanlan

Controversial CBD minister Francis Macnab retired last month, after 56 years at the helm of St Michaels Church in Collins St.

Dr Macnab has been a polarising figure during his time at St Michaels. His progressive approach to religion has attracted and inspired thousands. But some of his provocative views have equally generated criticism and even outrage.

The 85-year-old remembers his first Easter Sunday service attracted 105 worshipper. Last Easter more than 1000 attended – with many making the journey from the country.

Dr Macnab acknowledges that his particular brand of “secular” religion is unique, so many of his devotees were prepared to travel long distances.

Some years ago he “rewrote” the 10 Commandments.

“I said the 10 commandments needed to be looked at again. We put a big sign up in the street saying that the 10 commandments were a very negative way of approaching things. I wrote 10 more positive statements,” he told *CBD News*.

So how was that received? “Not well. But we stuck with it,” he said. “The church across the road put up an opposing view. The Uniting Church hierarchy told me to stop doing that, but we have continued.”

As well as being a church minister, Dr Macnab is also a psychologist and psychotherapist. He established the Cairnmillar Institute which is currently co-located at St Michaels. Cairnmillar is a degree-awarding education centre as well as a clinic for people in need.

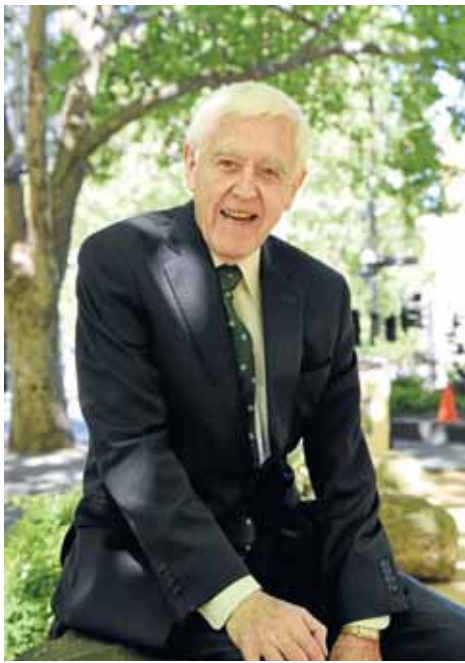
As executive director, Dr Macnab was instrumental in establishing a number of programs offering psychological as well as spiritual wellbeing. One of his favourites has been the “Big Tent”, which is aimed at kindergarten-aged children with issues.

“We took the view that if we could help these little kids in kindergarten cope with difficulties, then we would prevent a whole lot of problems later on,” he said.

At the other end of the scale, the institute also teaches people how to age successfully.

Another of his successes has been Mingary – “the quiet place” – which is a physical oasis of peace on Russell St and is also connected to a low-cost counselling service.

“People come there every day and just sit.



Dr Macnab

It’s a quiet place,” he said. “In a city where there are many stresses and troubles, there’s a place where people can sit, totally without religious connotation.”

He said progressive religion aimed to “reshaping religion for the modern age”.

“It is helping people see that religion, properly interpreted can contribute to a good life. A constructive life. A positive way to cope with the stresses of life,” he said.

“I belong to an international body which is called the International Scholars of the Jesus Seminar which is trying to establish what were the authentic sayings of Jesus.”

“What did Jesus say?” Dr Macnab asked. “Because some of the things we think he said he couldn’t have said.”

To make the scriptures more relevant, Dr Macnab has also rewritten 75 of the psalms.

“They’re marvelous writings, but they need to be put into language that you and I can understand,” he said.

With 25 books already under his belt, there’s more to come in retirement.

“In particular, I’m going to write about what we have been doing here. How we established Mingary as a presence in the City of Melbourne,” he said.

“The church needs to be part of the soul of the city. People want to feel there is something important that is contributing to their life and their human spirit in terms of the way they cope and how they live.”

He is already missing the role.

“One day you’re a rooster and the next you’re a feather duster. And the feather duster has lost its feathers,” he laughed. “But I’ll walk away with dignity.”

Fear not! The progressive approach to religion won’t be leaving St Michaels church in Collins St with the retirement of Dr Francis Macnab.

His replacement, Rev Ric Holland, seems at least as non-conformist – if not more – than Dr Macnab!

Rev Holland comes to the executive ministry role via a celebrated career as CEO of a string of not-for-profit social services, the most recent being Melbourne City Mission.

The last time he was based at a church was after being ordained a Methodist minister in Britain in the 1970s and being sent to the tough streets of Glasgow.

It was this experience that formed his view that the church gains relevancy by responding the environment that it finds itself in.

“We’ve got to be constantly looking at the environment into which we are placed,” he said. “And, as the environment is changing, so the church needs to change in its response.”

In terms of what this means for St Michaels, Rev Holland immensely values its “independent” tradition and also its various social services. But people should not expect a business-as-usual approach.

“There are some really good things that we will hold on to. But let’s take a look at how what we are doing can be improved, can grow, can change and can develop,” he said.

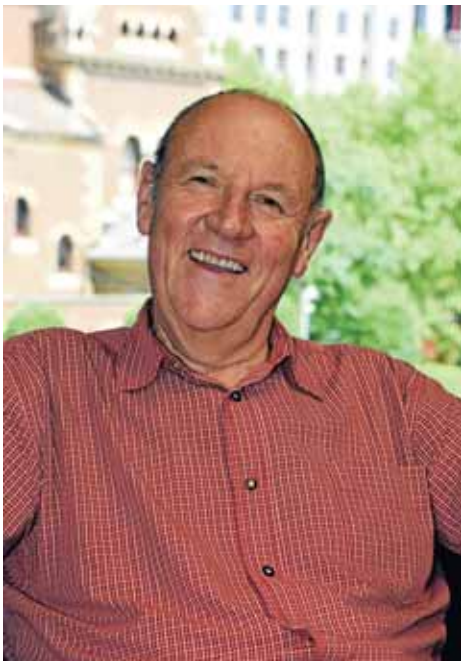
“The church should be a risk taker, which is not often how the church sees itself. As an example, I believe the church has got to take a really strong stance on marriage equality.”

“We should be a pressure group, a lobby group. We should be demonstrating, in my view, that all people are equal and LGBTI people have got just as much right to commit to each other in a marriage as straight people.”

In terms of theology, Rev Holland shares Dr Macnab’s academic, non-literal approach.

“In terms of interpretation of the Bible, of course it’s not a fundamentalist interpretation,” he said. “We acknowledge that the Bible has been compiled over thousands of years with a whole range of different influences. People ask ‘is the Bible true?’ Well, if by that question they are saying ‘is it factually accurate?’ Well, no it isn’t.”

“So, what does that then mean for a group of people who are in the church on a Sunday when they read the Bible, or any other spiritual writings for that matter?”



Rev Holland

“You can only reflect on them from the perspective of good, strong academic study and, at the same time, interpret what that means now. Because what it meant 3000 years ago in the old testament is completely different to what it means now.”

Rev Holland has a strong connection with the CBD and is relishing the opportunity to leverage the first-class facilities of St Michaels for wider community benefit.

One of his other roles, for example, is being a board member of the Committee for Melbourne.

He has worked in Glasgow, Manchester, Nottingham and Vancouver. “Big cities are in my DNA,” he said.

And, although he has not been practising from a church, Rev Holland has for the last four years been the president of the CBD-based Melbourne City Churches in Action.

“My new role puts me within the heart of the city within a church that is saying to me ‘we want to really to develop our role in the heart of the city.’ And that’s why they gave me the job presumably,” he said.

“As well as being the executive minister for the church, I’ve also got a responsibility for developing what the church calls community engagement in the city.”

“How can this organisation respond to the needs that it sees around it? How can we as a church play an important role in the life of this city and, at the same time, maintain a degree of independence?”

His message to local residents is: “Here is a church on your doorstep that will not tell you what to believe and will not dictate to you but will listen to what you’ve got to say and which looks at things authentically and intelligently.”

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LUNCH TIME — AFTER WORK — THE WEEKEND



LUNCH TIME

WORLDS GREATEST SHAVE

The Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave is back this year at Federation Square on March 17, from 11am – 6pm.

The iconic fundraiser is one of the largest in Australia, attempting each year to raise money to help beat blood cancer. This year's target is \$17 million, so head down to Federation Square and donate some cash and some locks.

People of all ages are invited to the Fed Square main stage to shave, colour or wax their head, chest or face. If you sign up at worldsgreatestshave.com, you can shave or colour for free.

Guys going for the shave are usually recommended to go down to a number one or number two, whereas girls mostly opt for a number three or four.

If you don't want to shave, spraying your hair with bright, temporary hair colours is also a fun (and perhaps most importantly, temporary) way to participate.

Neither of these options tickle your fancy? Don't fret, there's still more ways to get involved and help raise some money.

Ladies, some other ideas include getting creative with hair extensions, clips and hair ties to create your very own manic masterpiece atop your head, wearing a wig, or simply cutting your hair shorter.

Gentlemen, you can also shave your beard,



moustache or sideburns, wax your legs or chest, or use face paint to decorate your head if it's already bald.

Participants can create an online "shave page" with their photograph and story about why they're raising money and shaving their head. The Leukaemia Foundation has also created an app for iPhones and iPads called "My Shave". My Shave allows users to ask all of their contacts to donate in one go.

Those wanting to just donate can do so online using Visa or MasterCard, via BPAY or via direct debit. All banking details can be found at the World's Greatest Shave website.

If you want to know exactly what your money is going towards, the Leukaemia Foundation alerts participants with badges for each milestone reached.

For example, \$250 earns you a "Helping Hands" badge. This means you've raised enough money to enable a family to attend a support program related to their type of blood cancer.

\$560 is enough money to accommodate a regional family to stay close to treatment in the city for one week, and \$4800 will fund three months of laboratory costs for a research project dedicated to finding better treatments for blood cancer.

More than 60,000 Australians are living with blood cancer or disorders caused by blood cancer. Another 35 people are diagnosed every single day. Blood cancer is currently ranked the third most common cause of cancer related death in Australia and someone loses their battle with blood cancer every two hours.



WITH KHIARA ELLIOTT

khiara@cbdnews.com.au

To be featured in this section call 8689 7980

HIGHLIGHTS



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Melbourne-based designer Erstwilder produces collectable, limited edition brooches inspired by animals and all things vintage. Find the CBD's largest collection at Erika.

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Melbourne Fashion Adventure

This month is your last chance to explore Melbourne's hidden fashion boutiques on a tour guided by industry professionals.

Every Wednesday – Friday, 11am – 2pm.

Until March 31. City Square, 44 – 86

Swanston St \$89 per person.



Melbourne at a Glance

March is the final month of the Melbourne at a Glance Bike Tours! Ride through the arts precinct, sports precinct, Parliament House, Melbourne Town Hall and all the main CBD sights over two hours.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Until March 31. Federation Square. \$40. Minimum four guests.



Invisible Light Garden

An interactive art installation created by Mosster Studio and ArtPlay that allows visitors to grow their very own light garden and experiment with its elements.

Wednesday – Sunday, 10am – 4pm.

ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr, Batman Ave.

Free.



Pascale Bar & Grill

The Executive Pastry Chef at Pascale Bar & Grill, Youssef Aderdour, is known for his unusual edible inventions. Why don't you try his latest creation – a miniature, entirely edible chocolate stove?

Monday – Friday, 12pm – 2.30pm.

1/133 Russel St.



Meatmaiden

Voted one of the best barbecue spots of 2016, Meatmaiden is the daughter of barbecue heavyweight MeatMother. Head to the basement of the Georges Building on Little Collins and sink your teeth in.

Monday – Saturday, 12pm – 3pm.

195 Little Collins St.



MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL

The famous Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival (VAMFF) is back this year from March 1 – 19 and, while the runways take place at the Melbourne Museum, there’s a whole range of events you can attend around the CBD too!

Well Made Clothes and Ethical Clothing Australia have partnered up to present **A Good Evening: How Fashion Can Empower Women**. Join fashion experts such as author and renowned fashion journalist, Clare Press, Ethical Clothing Australia media and communications co-ordinator, Sigrid McCarthy, designer and owner of Kuwaii, Kristy Barber and co-founder of Freeset, Jeff Ward, for a discussion on how fashion can empower women.

All attendees receive a free, limited edition tote bag designed by artist Caroline Walls. Cocktails and finger food will also be available and all profits will be donated to Freeset, a fashion production company, which employs victims of Kolkata’s sex slavery industry. **Thursday, March 2, 7 – 9pm. Sunmoth, 28 Niagara Lane. Tickets from \$50.**

Sit back, relax, grab a drink and enjoy the best Australian and International fashion films as judged by the VAMFF judges at



the **Fashion Film Popcorn Screening**. The category winners of the Australian Fashion Film Awards will also be on show, and popcorn is free too. **Thursday, March 2, 6.30pm – 8.30pm, Federation Square. Free.**

Presented by The Social Studio (TSS), **Soxhibition** displays the woven sock works of established Victorian artists and TSS. Artists such as Alice Oehr, Amanda May and Jacob Coppedge utilised a range of mediums to create their pieces. Melbourne-based sock company Soxy Beast will also have its

designs on show. **Tuesday March 7, 5pm – 7pm. Fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane. Free.**

Visual storyteller Pam Davison has collaborated with couture designer Linda Britten to bring you **Memories Are The Fabric Of A Family**, a “full sensory experience” of photography, classical music and voice, ballet and a couture design. Beginning with an eight-year-old girl seeing her mother in a yellow gown, the installation explores the themes of memory and family.

Friday, March 10, 6.30pm – 9pm. Fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane. Free.

Celebrate our city’s multiculturalism with **A Stitch In Time, A Place Of Mine**, a show that uses city soundscapes and light manipulation to tell the story of our international students. Created by the Victorian Government’s Study Melbourne initiative and leading Victorian creative institutions. **Wednesday, March 15, 6pm – late, Queen Victoria Market. Free.**

HIGHLIGHTS



GAIA

In connection with International Women’s Day, **GAIA** is an exhibition that interprets and celebrates mother nature and our obligation to nurture our planet. **Opening night Thursday, March 2, 6.30pm. Magnet Galleries, Lvl 2, 640 Bourke St. Free.**



Sunset Series – The Tan

The third and final race of the Sunset Series. Choose between the 4km or 8km track up the Anderson St hill, then wind down with good food, drinks, a free yoga session and live music. **Wednesday, March 1, 6.50pm – 9pm The Tan Track, Royal Botanical Gardens. \$40 per person.**



Flow After Dark Silent Yoga Disco

A 90-minute Vinyasa-style yoga class where guests wear noise-cancelling headphones and really get in touch with their zen. **Tuesday, March 21, 7pm – 9pm Town Hall, 90-193 Swanston St \$53.19 per person.**



Craftemoons at City Library

Take advantage of the library’s sewing, needlework and craft materials and create something with the kids or for yourself. **Every Thursday, 5pm – 8pm City Library, 253 Flinders Lane Free.**



Good Beer Week Gala Showcase

The official launch of the Good Beer Week 2017 program will see breweries from Victoria and beyond showcase the best of their merchandise. **Thursday, March 16 – Friday, 17 March, 5pm – 9pm. The Atrium, Federation Square. \$50 per person.**



Crab Lab Comedy Lounge

Join the best comics from TV and radio as well as up and comers for a mid-week laugh. Previous acts have included the likes of Arj Barker and Fiona O’Loughlin. **Wednesdays, 7.30pm – 10.30pm Upstairs, House of Maximon, 16 Corrs Lane Free.**



THE WEEKEND

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL IS BACK

In celebration of Cultural Diversity Week, Victoria's Multicultural Festival once again makes a return to Federation Square on Saturday, March 25.

Proudly presented by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), this is the 15th annual celebration of our multiculturalism. The festival attracts more than 45,000 visitors every year, so come and be part of the party.

This year's theme is "Our journey, Our stories". 66 per cent of the CBD's residents were born overseas, and 55 per cent speak another language at home, but all of us are invited to attend the festival and share our stories of identity, ancestry and culture.

The festival kicks off at midday and a feast of international cuisine, music and dance will be on offer until 5pm. There'll be a bunch of activities and roving performances to keep the little ones busy too.

From 5pm – 7pm, a festival first will take place in the form of the VMC Film Festival. The Film Festival asks young Victorians to create a film based on their perspective and understanding of multiculturalism.

There are two competition categories, one for under 25s and one for over 25s. The theme is "Same, same but different: Is there more that unites us than divides us?"

The short films don't have to be made in a production studio, just pick up your phone or your video camera and start filming.

Finalists and judges' favourites will be shown at the Multicultural Festival. Visit www.culturaldiversityweek.vic.gov.au/get-involved for more information on how to enter.

7pm – 9pm is when the live music performances take place. Get up and dance to songs from all around the world.

Also in celebration of Cultural Diversity Week is the Premier's Gala Dinner on Saturday, March 18.

More than 1400 people will attend the official launch of Cultural Diversity Week and enjoy an array of Victoria's best multicultural musicians, dancers and cuisines.

Standard tickets are \$180 per person, however the VMC offers subsidised tickets for \$90 each. Subsidised prices are available to community organisations, seniors groups and members of new and emerging communities.

For more information on tickets and availability, visit www.culturaldiversityweek.vic.gov.au/whats-on/gala-dinner/

Another way to get involved with Cultural Diversity Week is to host your own event. The VMC encourages all Victorians to host a storytelling event. You don't need anything



fancy – just people and their stories. It could be during morning tea at work or at a community club night.

Suggestions for storytelling themes include "Unpack your suitcase", an opportunity for you to tell your story of migration to Victoria, beginning with what you packed in your suitcase.

Another suggested theme is "What's in a name?". This theme explores how a name can reflect the cultural and religious history of someone's family name and how that is a

part of their identity.

Lastly, "I remember" is a theme that allows people to share a special memory that symbolises cultural heritage. For example, you could speak about the rosary beads given to you by your grandmother or a traditional head dress passed on through generations. Whatever it is, share your story!

You can submit your event at www.culturaldiversityweek.vic.gov.au/get-involved/host-an-event/

HIGHLIGHTS



Once Upon a Tun

Use your magical music powers to save the forest from an evil giant! Featuring live music from the likes of Beethoven, Brahms, Shultz and Gould.

Saturdays, 10.30am – 11.15am.
City Library, 253 Flinders Lane.
Age 5+, free.



March Design Market

Over 75 stalls of Melbourne-made fashion. The March Design Market brings together the finest fashion from local designers for one day only.

Sunday, March 5, 10am – 5pm.
The Atrium, Federation Square.
Free.



CTF Curated

Shop for a unique and curated selection of local emerging labels, meet the designers and discover the best and newest fashion at this quarterly showcase.

Thursday March 9 – Sunday March 12.
524 Flinders St.
Free.



Lisa Waup x Verner

A collaborative exhibition by award-winning Gunditjmara and Torres Strait Islander artist Lisa Waup and Australian-based label Verner.

March 15 – April 15, all day.
CRAFT, 31 Flinders Lane.
Free.



Turkish Pazar Festival

See our beloved Queen Victoria Market transformed into a traditional Turkish bazaar. Experience the colours, sounds and tastes of Turkey.

Saturday, March 11, 9am – 3pm.
Sunday, March 12, 10am – 4pm.
Queen Victoria Market.
Free.



Vienna Therapy

A three-metre tall sculpture of Sigmund Freud created by Vienna street artist, Nychos will be on display at Fed Square for just under a week.

March 8 – 12, 8am – late, Wednesday – Friday, 9am – late, Saturday – Sunday.
Federation Square. Free.

3D printing vertical villages

At Melbourne’s Sustainability Festival in February, four RMIT students showcased their “green innovations”.

Arthur Georgalas presented his project on Turning the Tide which re-imagines recreational boating, courtesy of a lightweight venturi hull, constructed using naturally derived resins and hemp fibre composites.

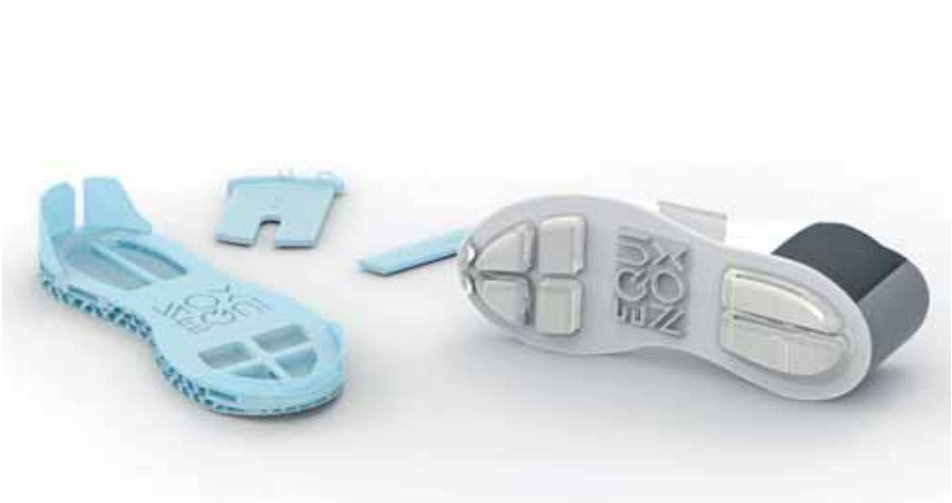
In a related vein, Finbar McCarthy spoke about his contribution to the future of recreational fishing where his Scales Project pairs a safe and practical landing net with a new smartphone app that simplifies the catch and release process.

The winner of the day, Ruby Chan, showcased Moducware™, a fully-compostable tableware alternative to take-away packaging. Being made entirely from plant-based material, including agricultural discards like cornhusks, discarded Moducware™ containers can “return to the earth as a bio-nutrient”.

And then there was Peter Hermez with Equinox – a new, sustainable footwear solution. This project addresses the challenge of the ever-growing footwear industry where current production methods mean that 80 per cent of material is wasted just in the pattern cutting stage.

Peter developed Equinox to eliminate this production wastage, which he achieves through his new manufacturing approach that needs no gluing or stitching. There are two further advantages of Equinox shoes – they are customisable, meaning consumers can have individualised footwear – and the shoes have a longer relative lifespan.

Perhaps you are wondering the link between Equinox and vertical living? There is, of course, the obvious benefit that a reduced number of shoes means a reduced demand for storage space (literally a smaller



"Equinox" - a sustainable shoe solution by Peter Hermez.

footprint!).

However, it is the technology used in Equinox that piqued interest – namely 3D printing and 3D knitting technologies. 3D printing, or additive manufacturing, is a process of putting down successive layers of material to make three-dimensional objects.

Instead of using printing ink, 3D printers use materials like flexible polyurethane and follow a set of digital instructions that guide the production of a growing range of tangible items. Already 3D printing has had an enormous impact in design-related businesses where prototype development can now go from idea to physical object within hours rather than weeks.

And more intriguing applications continue to emerge, such as the joint restoration project between the University of Warwick and the British Sugarcraft Guild, which are using 3D printing to restore the vandalised

1947 replica of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip's wedding cake.

As 3D printers shrink in size and price, they are making their way into more homes, where items both for fun and more practical purpose can be printed. One fast growing area is the ability to print obscure component parts that may no longer be available but are needed to repair broken appliances.

However, 3D-nirvana is not quite here. The ability to print these types of intricate components require two additional elements – the authorised instructions and the right material. A bit of know-how also wouldn't go astray as the Pandora Box of insurance is awaiting those who wantonly reproduce and use protected items.

This is one reason why new 3D user groups are emerging. In Victoria, for instance, artists needing to 3D print have access to

specialised services, materials and advice.

Returning to our vertical villages, 3D printing has several ready applications, most especially in terms of building management. The capacity to produce, in-house and on-demand, specialised parts (like that missing elevator component) eliminates wait times for deliveries coming from the other-side-of-the-world.

Similarly, authorised replacement parts can be printed and supplied direct to residents. As original fixtures age (like dishwashers) and parts become hard to find, supplying these components could significantly extend the life of standardised fittings.

In another vein, owners' corporation committees can greatly improve their communications with residents. For example, realistic models of proposed building modifications can be easily produced and displayed for comment.

There is also the possibility of offering services to residents on a pay-per-use basis so, in time to come, residents could order a pair of Equinox, picking them up in their building's foyer later that day – but this just might be a step too far for our building managers.

If you would like links to the RMIT Green Innovations mentioned, please visit and like @SkyPadLiving on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>



Heritage

Let’s not lose more lanes

While our experience of Melbourne’s laneways today is often as places for hidden bars, cafes, and canvases for our favourite street artists, a hidden history also lies in wait down many. Here’s just a small sample to prompt your own exploration.

Take St Johns Lane and St Patricks Alley, across from each other in the west end of Little Bourke St. They’re both unremarkable looking, but in 1846 they were sites of sectarian tension unimaginable to present generations of Melburnians.

In a move designed to incite reaction, Irish protestants hosted a banquet and hung banners celebrating the Battle of the Boyne at a pub on the corner of St Johns, opposite a Catholic pub facing St Patricks.

After a near riot outside and a brief exchange of gunshots, the Lord Mayor called redcoats in with bayonets fixed to end the fracas, restoring calm across the city only with a

reading of the riot act and martial law.

Coverlid Place further down Little Bourke St might not seem like much more than a seedy lane of bins and a pool hall now, but in 1889 it functioned as the rear entrance of the Golden Fleece Hotel, meeting place of political radicals and anarchists, many of whom had fled repression in Europe in the preceding decades.

Coincidentally, a former warehouse at the end of the lane, now painted blue and recently for sale, was built in the same year as the 1871 Paris Commune.

Howey Place, now home to a number of

upscale fashion stores and cafes, is a physical reminder of the extraordinary Coles Book Arcade that once spilled out onto it and under the cast iron roof put there by Coles in the late 1890s.

With its vast collection of books and ornaments from across the world, a policy of allowing people to read for as long as they liked without buying and pamphlets and lectures promoting world peace and equality, Coles championed the progressive outlook we now take for granted in our city.

While none of the lanes mentioned above are in immediate danger, almost a dozen others have been sold, or had their

destruction by developers approved in recent years by the City of Melbourne – most recently bluestone Griffin Lane in the storied Little Lon Precinct.

We can’t afford to lose any more of this tangible history from the map, or from the flaneural experience of our city, if we want to remember small stories that matter.



Tristan Davies
President
Melbourne Heritage Action

Hope for a better life

By Sunny Liu

It is not always easy for an 18-year-old to find a job to support themselves, especially if they are a foreign student who has just been in Australia for five months.

Xue Li was desperate to get onto her feet when she arrived in Melbourne from her hometown Zhengzhou, a highly-industrialised Chinese city, last August.

Coming from a relatively humble family background, Ms Li says she is different from some of her peers.

“So many other international students come from rich families and they wear expensive brands just to show off. But I’m not the same,” she said. “I want to earn my own money and cover my basic living expenses.”

But with her \$260 weekly rent for a windowless small room on Swanston St and \$40,000 annual tuition fees, it seems almost impossible for Ms Li to be financially independent.

After weeks of handing out her resumes

along nearly every single shop on Swanston St, Ms Li found a position at a fast food chain just before Christmas.

But before her excitement of getting a new job had worn off, she found out she was being underpaid and exploited.

“After a three-day trial period when I wasn’t paid, I realised my hourly pay was only \$12 per hour,” she said.

“When I went for the interview, the boss was very vague about the pay rate. He only said ‘the better you work, the more pay and hours you get,’” Ms Li said. “I was just so happy I finally found a job so I didn’t want to question him.”

“To be honest, I was quite satisfied with the pay because it was actually higher than some of my classmates, who only got \$10 an hour,” she said.

Ms Li says she does not want to complain too much because she just wants to have a job, despite working more than 70 hours a fortnight in the lead up to Christmas and not getting paid penalty rates on weekends and public holidays.

“I do think I deserve something better. But this is as good as I can get at the moment,” she said.



Ms Li looks forward to travelling around Melbourne.

Having been diligently looking for work and working ever since she arrived in Melbourne, Ms Li says she has not yet had the chance to have a proper tour around this popular tourist destination.

“Though I live in the centre of the city, my life is quite confined to the CBD area. I spend most of my time at school, work and home.”

“I would really love to see more places in Melbourne, but at the moment I just want to relieve some financial burden off my family,” she said.

Ms Li is hopeful that she will eventually find a job with higher pay and will have the time and money to travel around Melbourne.

Planning

Steady progress in the planning world

The last month hasn’t been the most active from a planning perspective, however there is still a considerable amount of construction activity in the city and further to come once the Melbourne Metro Rail Project and Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal programs begin to ramp up.

The Breathe Architecture-designed Market Garden Pavilion is currently at advertising as it seeks a permit to allow for its operation by October of this year. Its construction will allow for the decanting and temporary relocation of traders while works are undertaken on the QVM’s sheds as part of a grander \$250 million renewal of the market over the next five years.

Works on the site of the former Savoy Tavern on Spencer St are now well underway with the existing building on site making way for the Beyonce-inspired Premier Tower. With the site now cleared, head contractor Multiplex is forging ahead with construction on the 78-storey structure, targeting an

intended completion date of 2020.

Other projects along the CBD’s northern stretches continue with Mammoth’s Empire tower on Elizabeth St joining ICD Property’s Eq. Tower in topping out. Lighthouse appears next in line, while Victoria One’s core continues to race away from its floor slabs.

Elsewhere, Cbus Property has announced that W Hotels will be operating the 269 rooms within the hotel component of Collins Arch. This news comes as the cores begin to form on the dual 41-storey towers following excavation and retention works.

Just a little further down, demolition continues at Mirvac’s 477 Collins St project for Deloitte. With the existing parking structure all but gone, attention has now turned to demolishing the eight-storey office building while The Olderfleet Buildings will be retained and restored.

Directly opposite Olderfleet, work has commenced on the pencil-thin Collins House being built by Hickory. Utilising its own unique patented integrated structural system – Hickory Building System – will see the 61-storey apartment tower constructed in nearly half the time of traditional construction methods.

Finally, while not explicitly a project located within the Hoddle Grid, the recent



Breathe Architecture’s Market Garden Pavilion at the Queen Victoria Market.

approval of Crown Resorts’ 323m tall One Queensbridge Tower comes with the added benefit of a \$100 million public space contribution. \$15 million of this will be put towards the long-mooted transformation of Sandridge Bridge across the Yarra.

With an initial redevelopment occurring in time for the Commonwealth Games in 2006 which saw artist Nadim Karam commissioned to create 10 abstract sculptures as part of *The Travellers* along the eastern portion of the bridge, with the structure of the western half exposed as a temporary condition.

The City of Melbourne has previously expressed its desire to transform this western section into Melbourne’s own version of New York City’s High Line – a 178m linear park straddling the Yarra between Southbank and the Melbourne CBD. The \$15 million contribution will finally allow the City of Melbourne’s plans to come to fruition.



Laurence Dragomir

Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD urbanmelbourne.info

You live here? How well do you know your city?

Residents 3000 work closely with City Precinct, an active networking group comprising many of the city’s most innovative and interesting small businesses.

Residents 3000 is a community group in the full sense of the word. It is not just about meeting the neighbours. We like to connect our members with the outstanding small businesses that are an indispensable part of our vibrant environment.

Last year, with the help of a small grant from the City of Melbourne, we were able to hold five special walks around the city where our members learned about some bespoke gift shops, hidden-away bars, amazing gastronomical delights and, at the same time, were introduced to some of Melbourne’s history. We call our walks the “3000 Steps” reflecting on the CBD’s 3000 postcode. More walks are planned for this year.

Have you heard about the Festival of Steve?

City Precinct with support from the City of Melbourne hosts an annual celebration of Melbourne’s modern men. This year the event will be on Saturday, May 28 between 11am and 6pm. The festival gathers together designers, retailers, purveyors of classic merchandise, stylists and outfitters to rejoice in the world of the thoroughly modern gentleman.

The event brings together under one roof, local artisans, baristas and foodies, designers and merchants, stylists and entertainers who will be showcasing their beautifully crafted and designed products and services. There will also be local breweries and distilleries, showcasing their mastery by offering tastings of locally produced whisky, craft beer, wine and gin.

Steve is teaming up with ACMI for a round



Fiona Sweetman from Hidden Secrets Tours, shows residents and visitors Melbourne’s true charm.

of traditional “Steve talks” - a series of panel discussions featuring guests and personalities from a wide range of fields. Hosted by Steve Colquhoun, editor of *The Age’s* Executive Style, the theme this year

is Martin Scorsese – his life, films and influence on masculinity and men’s style.

Residents 3000 members – both the ladies and the gentlemen – are supporting this

unique event.

Coming up ...

We are holding a trivia night for our March meeting. This is where we test our members’ knowledge of their city – about the buildings, about its art and its secrets. (Residents 3000 meet at the Kelvin Club, 14-20 Melbourne Place, on the first Thursday of every month.)

In April we are having expert speakers help us understand the problem of homelessness in the city. What can we, as a society, do about this sad problem?

And in May, we will have several presenters who will talk about the real estate scene in Melbourne. Our sponsors, Hocking Stuart, tell us that property valuations and trends are not uniform throughout the city. We will learn about the characteristics of different precincts, the value people place on older established buildings versus newly-built buildings. How will all the new developments impact on property valuations? What about the city’s construction plans over the next 10 years?

To find out more, you may like to go to our web site at www.residents3000.com.au



Susan Saunders
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Critic

Clues from the street

Imagine if you could be the hero of an adventure. You have to solve puzzles in locations around the CBD and decide which path to take to find a missing girl called Salonie.

Salonie has been kidnapped at Federation Square. “The metal skyscrapers rise like shards. There are ochre tiles stretching out in all directions. Groups of words jumbled look like random thoughts in dreams.”

Chetna Prakash is one of three storytellers employed to enrich the city with words that can be downloaded to an app.

“It’s just another day out. People are milling around Fed Square but you’re on edge. You’re a newbie fresh-faced

private investigator. You have received an anonymous text from someone.”

This time a magician has been shot by an arrow and you are choosing between eight endings. You have moved from *Searching for Salonie* to *The Golden Deer* by Aparna Ananthuni.

Stories are weaving you into the landscape connecting you with Indian mythology and taking you back to the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880.

“In Delhi, before the British took over, the street sweepers were reciting poetry,” says Ms Ananthuni. “It was a classical culture.”

She reacts against the literal, anti-intellectual vernacular that is sometimes promoted here. Her writing is drawn from ancient gateways in Spain, Iberia and Istanbul and the aesthetic of non-English styles of representation.

“I grew up with storytelling, reading comics from the epics,” she said.

Ms Prakash is passionate about the way stories can emerge from ideas and places. She writes into what she calls an identity crisis between the public European culture here and her own private Indian self.

Her stories are often noir accounts of the way fears might project a writer into strange readings of a situation then pull her back at the last minute. Fiction allows her to turn an Uber driver into a bomber and to empathise with a bored salesgirl in a pop-up linen shop.

She is interested in exploring novel methods for delivering her stories to readers, including through gift cards. The stories are her way of trying to understand this place.

The writers were speaking at the Jaipur Writers’ Festival in Melbourne. The app can be downloaded from the Story City site, developed by the Melbourne UNESCO City



of Literature. The Melbourne Noir cards are available from the Paperback bookshop in Bourke St.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au

Fashion

Rewind to 1980

It’s time to raid your mum’s wardrobe or your local op shop, because 80s fashion has been named one of the biggest trends of 2017.

Thanks to designers like Jeremy Scott and Balmain, 80s motifs such as padded shoulders and bold colouring have made their return to the runways of New York and Paris fashion weeks.

The Jeremy Scott show, inspired by New York in the 80s was full of patent leather, checkered patterns, sequins and cat-eye sunglasses.

Before you reach for the teasing comb, hair spray and blue eye shadow, know this: the 80s trend will be seen in statement pieces, not entire outfits.

Padded and oversized shoulders, as well as big and bulky blazers will be the biggest nod to the 80s seen this year. Balmain is selling a double-breasted, shoulder padded blazer for \$2540, but you can pick up a very similar style at prettysmallthing.com for \$50.

The miniskirt of the 80s will be making its comeback too. Miniskirts may not be the most weather-appropriate choice as we come into the cooler months, so take advantage of the sun while you can. Style your statement mini with more casual pieces like slogan tees and trench coats to take you from day to night.

Also making a huge return will be the oh-so-eighties power suit. Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel brought the women’s power suit back with a 2017 twist for their Haute Couture Spring Summer show earlier this year.

The strong, tailored fit of the suit exudes dominance. Pair with a pastel colour to keep it feminine. Complete the look with an over-the-jacket belt to cinch the waist and define your form.

Smaller trends to invest in pay homage to the grunge of the decade. Embroidered denim that looks almost customised will be seen throughout the next few months.

Don’t have \$1504 for the Marc Jacobs embellished denim bomber? Invest in a plain denim jacket and sew or iron some patches on yourself! You can find thousands of music, animal, vintage, floral, beverage, religion and basically anything-and-everything-you-can-think-of inspired patches on Etsy, and all for less than \$10!

Although you can find an endless supply of 80s-inspired fashion online, we at *CBD News* recommend visiting your local thrift store. Chances are you’re going to find 10 pre-loved items for the price of a single brand



Erryn Wenzel, Aimee Barns and Khiara Elliott in their 80’s inspired denim.

new one online.

In fact, our Lifestyle and Fashion editor found an oversized, embroidered denim jacket for an easy \$7 at her closest Salvation Army store!



Khiara Elliott
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Pet's Corner

Well-trained CBD dogs frequent the office

By Monisha Iswaran

Long-time dog owner Anna has her dogs so well trained that they attend work with her regularly, causing no trouble at all.



Morgan, a nine-year-old Labradoodle and Radcliffe, a six-year-old spoodle, have been coming to their owner’s CBD office daily as of late, while she is having work done to her house.

The two dogs are enjoying this temporary change of routine and Anna’s workplace has warmly welcomed people-loving Morgan and Radcliffe.

“They’re very good with people. Both are very friendly and outgoing. They love a cuddle and they love to play,” she said.

Anna bought both the dogs when they were puppies and ensured they were taught how to behave early on.

“It’s a lot of work training them, but it’s definitely worth it,” she said.

She invested the time early on, both through training schools and working with the dogs herself, to get them to be the obedient pets they are today.

“I took them to puppy school and an obedience school so I didn’t do it just on

my own. There’s places you can go that will help you,” she said.

However, bringing the dogs to a school wasn’t enough on its own, and they required a firm hand at home to ensure they remembered what was taught.

“You learn the training techniques at the schools and then it’s all about practise at home – techniques like rewarding them when they do something good, ignoring them when they do something bad,” Anna said.

She noted that the techniques applied to training young pets could be likened to the process of bringing up children.

“It’s very similar to what you would do with a child in a lot of ways. It’s just positive reinforcement!” she said.

Street Art



23rd Key's tribute to British architect, Dame Zaha Mohammad Hadid.

Skills to pay the bills

On sitting down to chat with Jess (aka 23rd Key) I had to confess that, although I was aware of her work, I knew little about her.

So I was embarrassed to find out that this passionate, energetic and multi-talented stencil artist, has twice and justifiably so, won The Australian Stencil Art Prize – in 2011 and again in 2014 when it became the World Stencil Art Prize.

“I was a late-starter on the scene. This I partially put down to a Catholic all-girl’s school education and a lack of influences leading me towards creative outcomes,” she said. “If it had been otherwise, I may have entered the art scene a lot earlier. Sadly I was to miss Melbourne’s popular stencil boom by about five years.”

Her first encounter, around 2005, was to become a right-of-passage. “It started out as just something to do but quickly became the start of my career as a [street] artist,” she said. “Luckily the first one-colour stencil I ever painted on the street is still tucked away in a Collingwood laneway. I owe a lot to my brother who was into stencilling and it was his passion for the technique that inspired me. The rest is history!”

Jess’s intriguing alias, 23rd Key, is an amalgam of her birth date, a lucky number and a play on her surname.

Initially she saw stencilling as another trick-up-her-sleeve that could help folio-wise

if she decided to pursue a career in either graphic design or architecture.

“However, after my first solo exhibition in 2011, I decided to take my career as an artist more seriously. Why not pursue trying to do something you love full-time? That’s the real dream isn’t it?”

“I like to challenge myself, cutting very elaborate, detailed stencils, some of them depicting difficult texture, for example fur and hair.”

It’s this attention to detail and photorealistic style that has become Jess’s trademark. Pushing the boundaries, creating movement in what is essentially a static, rigid technique.

“Some of my early pieces took a long time to complete, but after 10 years I’ve built up speed. The detailed panel for the Banksy exhibition only took one to two weeks,” she said.

Issues with carpal tunnel have forced her to reassess her cutting methods and she has slightly changed her style as a result.

“My second exhibition at Juddy Roller in 2015, was more interactive, as I wanted to explain the stencil process,” she said.

“I framed the largest stencil I had for the show in acrylic so viewers could physically

walk between the layers and see how they fit together, but also de-construct them and focus on the detail that goes into each single layer rather than just the finished piece.”

Other projects to date are the Patterson Building (Royal Children’s Charity Auction), Preston Market, Women’s Refuge in Footscray, Wall to Wall in Benalla and the Banksy exhibition.

Last year Jess and her partner showcased street art through their Stockroom Gallery in Ringwood. She also conducts classes in stencil making.

“I’m keen to foster an interest and pass on my knowledge. Melbourne has such a rich history of stencilling and street art. It’s what originally inspired me, and it’s part of why I do what I do.”

The image chosen to accompany this article is Jess’s portrait of architect, Zaha Hadid, who sadly passed away last year. It was Jess’s contribution for the *Meeting of Styles* event in Blender Lane, Franklin St.

“I felt strongly that her death wasn’t given the recognition it deserved. She was a rock star in her own field of expertise and therefore needed to be honoured for the way she changed the nature of architecture,” she said.

“It’s interesting who society idolises and gives credibility to. I was studying full-time and crazy-busy, but with help from my partner and utilising a technique I’ve developed for large stencils, I managed to paint the piece between tutorials.”

Jess concluded by saying: “It’s taken people a long time to take street art seriously. It wasn’t until it started fetching large amounts at auction that most people really saw a value to it.”

“Even though it would have been cool to be a participant in the scene when it was first taking off, for the foreseeable future, my aim is to keep painting and inspiring the next generation by doing so.”

Jess has just announced her third solo show, *Keezus, the Second Coming*, at The Stockroom Gallery, in Ringwood from March 4.



Lorraine Ellis
If you are interested in Melbourne street art there is more on my Facebook page, **StreetsmART**

History

Equitable Building

The Equitable Building (also known as the Colonial Mutual Life Building), was for many years after its completion in 1896 the benchmark of commercial architecture in Melbourne.

It was built for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of America and sold to CML in 1923.

Designed by American architect, Edward Raht, it was built on a lavish scale with imported marble, elaborate plasterwork and fine timbers.

The exterior was clad in granite from Philip Island and Harcourt near Bendigo.

High ceilings in the offices gave them beautiful proportions but meant that the building had far less floor space than other structures of comparable height.

In 1959 CML decided to replace it with a more space-efficient building.

Pieces of the Equitable Building are dotted around Melbourne. The foundation stone is in the basement of the new (1960) building on the site.

Fragments of the granite facade are displayed on the forecourt of the Royal

Exhibition Building, near the Melbourne Museum.

The magnificent bronze statuary group, representing the “Equitable” protecting the “Family”, is in the gardens of the University of Melbourne, near the Baillieu Library.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is the peak body for local history in Victoria. It has a significant collection of library materials, photographs and manuscripts.

It holds a busy program of lectures, exhibitions and events. For further information: www.historyvictoria.org.au



Kate Prinsley

Kate Prinsley is executive officer of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria



Equitable Building, corner Collins and Elizabeth streets c.1890

We Live Here

Parliamentary inquiry into short-stays

The long anticipated Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 will start in March.

The inquiry is being conducted by the Environment and Planning Committee and its purpose is to:

- Undertake consultation with short-stay accommodation providers, individuals and owners' corporations about the contents of the Bill;
- Examine the impact of short-stay accommodation on residents and owners' corporations of apartment buildings; and
- Examine the adequacy of owners' corporation rules in managing the impact of short-stay accommodation.

The full terms of reference and the guide to making a submission can be found on the committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/inquiry/446, where you can also follow the progress of the inquiry.

This is an opportunity not to be missed and we encourage all residents – owners and tenants – and others who have a story to tell, to make a submission. This is an open inquiry and all submissions will be accepted until February 28.

The committee is due to report back to Parliament on May 11, 2017.

We need politicians from all sides of politics to sit up and take notice:

- That residents are not just concerned with unruly parties and bad behaviour as the Government seemed to think when introducing the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016. Owners' corporations already have the powers to deal with them!
- However concerns about unregulated short-stays taking over residential apartment buildings that are not properly designed and equipped for them, are being ignored; e.g. safety and security is being compromised;
- No compensation to owners' corporations for increased wear and tear, particularly for the shortened life of a lift, estimated to be about five years; and
- Very many owners purchased apartments in the belief that it was to be their home, but establishing communities has become almost impossible because one's neighbours come and go all the time.

This is not the “sharing economy” we were led to believe but it is the “taking economy”.

There needs to be a level playing field and now we have the opportunity to do something about it. Our homes and the future of our communities are at stake so we encourage as many of you as possible to become involved and HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Council

Find out what your elected City of Melbourne councillors are up to!

Do you have a burning issue which you would like to put to a councillor in person, or would you like to contribute a submission on a topic being debated in council, or even just go and listen to the councillors discussing some of the major issues of the day?

If so have you thought about attending a council or committee meeting?

Each month one council meeting and two Future Melbourne Committee meetings, involving all councillors, are held.

Members of the public are invited to attend both council and committee meetings and submissions on various topics can be made to both by following the relevant guidelines.

Questions without notice can also be put

to councillors at committee meetings (but not at council meetings) with 15 minutes allowed at the beginning and end of each meeting.

You can find out more at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/Pages/getting-involved-meetings.aspx

Finally, we welcome your comments and feedback and invite suggestions for topics you would like us to address in this column.

Like most not-for-profit organisations we operate on a shoe-string budget and donations from individuals and buildings are greatly appreciated.

Please send all correspondence to campaign@welivehere.net.au.

To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at www.welivehere.net



www.welivehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

The perfect massage blend

With two locations in the CBD, True Thai Massage is delivering exactly what it promises to the local community – a real Thai massage experience.

General manager, Tae Panuktong and marketing manager, Michael Wright travelled extensively around Thailand and Australia before realising that Melbourne was lacking in consistent, quality Thai massage.

“Our focus when we first opened really was to deliver a reliable, quality, customer-focused Thai massage service,” Mr Wright said.

“We wanted True Thai Massage to be transparent and family-friendly. It is somewhere you can bring your girlfriend, husband, or grandma to have a quality experience.”

Opening its first store in 2009 on Hardware St, True Thai Massage has expanded to four locations around Melbourne. Its third is on Spencer St.

To ensure their values are maintained throughout their brand, Messrs Panuktong and Wright manage all four branches. They say that the only thing that differs from each location is the aesthetic, as each is designed to reflect the community around it.

For example, the Spencer St location is joined to the Pensione Hotel where a lot of families stay, so the interior is warm and inviting with neutral colours and exposed red brick. In comparison, the Chapel St store is quite rustic and industrial.

Perfection is key for Messrs Panuktong and Wright, as they are very selective with

their branch locations. The same level of care is undertaken when selecting their practitioners. Messrs Panuktong and Wright are the first to admit they are very picky when choosing practitioners – so much so that they have built a reputation for their rigorous selection process within the massage industry.

“We don’t just take people in, train them and then throw them on customers. We only take practitioners who are qualified and experienced, then we bring them up to speed with our brand and then, after that training, they start working with our customers,” Mr Wright said.

“Again, it goes back to delivering consistency to our customers,” Mr Panuktong said.

Setting it apart from other massage spas that also offer cosmetic and beauty services, True Thai Massage focuses solely on massage.

“We want to do one thing and do it well – massage,” Mr Wright said. “So we offer just three different full-body massages: a traditional Thai, an oil and a fusion of both. That’s actually our most popular.”

Mr Panuktong told *CBD News* True Thai Massage was also now providing health rebates and remedial massage to clients with private health insurance, which are becoming very popular.

Tailoring to the busy CBD lifestyle of their customers, True Thai Massage also offers “express” packages. Mr Wright says these



Marketing manager Michael Wright and general manager Tae Panuktong at the Spencer St location.

quick massages (from 10 minutes) suit people wanting an escape on their lunch break or people walking by who might not have the time to stop for a full hour.

True Thai Massage also offers external services. Currently, therapists can visit offices around the CBD and perform neck and shoulder massages whilst staff are at their desk. True Thai Massage is also available for corporate and community events throughout the year.

Realising the value of supporting the local

community, True Thai Massage has set up what its named “True Partners”. It offers ongoing discounts and value packs to the staff of regular-visiting businesses and other CBD organisations. Businesses like Commonwealth Bank and Telstra are already utilising the partnership.

“We’re not just a walk in, have your massage and leave kind of business. We are really heavily involved in our community. We enjoy it, we give back and we gain from it as well. This is what we wanted from the beginning,” Mr Wright said.

VCAT Watch

An advertising sign no more?

Above the roof of the building at 500 Flinders St there is a large sign currently advertising a car.

The sign structure has been there since the 1970s (though it has not always displayed advertising signage). In a recent VCAT case, Octopus Media Pty Ltd v Melbourne CC [2016] VCAT 2101, the tribunal ruled the sign had no right to exist.

To erect certain types of advertising signs you need a planning permit. State government regulations govern advertising sign controls, though councils can have local policies to supplement the state government rules.

The types and sizes of signs allowed depend on the type of zone they are in. The rules are complex and confusing. A former planning minister appointed an advisory committee in 2008 to review the rules and it made recommendations to simplify them. But nothing was done.

The tribunal hearing about the 500 Flinders St sign was a very complex case that was heard by a deputy president of the tribunal

and leading planning barristers represented the council and permit applicant. This is an indication of the amount of revenue big advertising signs can generate.

The owners wanted to replace the existing structure with a new electronic sign. It was claimed they had an “existing use” right to display the sign and did not need a permit to make the minor works to convert it into an electronic sign. In case the tribunal did not agree, they said they would apply for a permit for the minor works.

The council was not only opposed to the new electronic sign but claimed that the permit for the original sign had expired.

The owners sought two outcomes from the tribunal hearing: firstly, a declaration that they had existing use rights and that the council could not compel the removal of the sign; and secondly, that council be required to grant the permit for the sign.

One of the laws to prove an existing use right is that there must be 15 years continuous use. This was a critical issue in this case.

On the first matter, the tribunal said that the onus of establishing the existing use right fell on the owners, not the council. It found that, on the balance of probabilities, it had failed to do so. That is, it failed to prove that the sign lawfully existed (at least beyond March, 2010).

Crucially it found that first, in December 2008, during the 15-year period, there were two letters from the council that clearly and unambiguously gave written direction for the display of the advertising sign to cease and for the structure to be removed.

Secondly, the use for the purpose of an advertising sign was not continuous through this period, given that no advertising was displayed from 2011 to 2015.

As to the application for a permit to undertake the works to convert the structure into an electronic advertising sign, the tribunal supported the council’s position that it has a clear local policy to avoid large-scale billboards and other forms of promotional signs on the Melbourne skyline when viewed from the Yarra River corridor.

The tribunal concluded the sign would be obtrusive in this viewline.

Some two months after the tribunal’s decision the sign still exists. It seems council will have to take enforcement action to get the sign removed.



Mark Marsden
Managing editor
Victorian Planning
Reports
mark@vprs.com.au

市政的 无家可 归法受 抨击

Khiara Elliott撰稿

在2月7日的墨尔本未来委员会(FMC)会议上，对在墨尔本市中心露营-这个潜在的扩大定义作出了投票，批评者说这一改变将危及露宿街头者。

目前，只有使用大型结构例如帐篷在公共场合露营是非法的。根据所提议的修正案，地方执法人员能够清除任何无家可归者留下的无人看管的物品，据称是保护公共安全。

在会议上有一些对提议修正案感到愤怒的人，当时会议转移到了斯旺斯顿(Swanston)会议厅以容纳更多的人群。

抗议者谴责这个提议修正案是在会议之前产生的，批评者在市政厅前拉出了横幅，称修正案为“权宜之计”。

在给市政议会提出的众多提议中可以看到持续高涨的情绪。

由于警察总监格兰姆·阿什顿(Graham Ashton)呼吁对无家可归者的蔓延采取更严厉的措施，1月下旬提出了此修正案。

然而在墨尔本未来委员会会上，尽管现场有很多警察以应付万一出现的紧张局势，但是维多利亚警察代言人却没有提出任何一项提议，对此市政议员罗汉·莱珀特(Rohan Leppert)也提到了这一点，他对修正案投反对票。

这个提议的修正案公布28天作为公众咨询，但这是在莱珀特议员成功地说服了他的同事-对议案增加额外的市政控制之后。

他的修改提议要求管理层起草一项政策，确保地方执法人员在执法时需由无家可归援助人员陪同。

大胆的规 划申请

Shane Scanlan撰稿

一个明显为提高补偿而提出的大胆申请，这位斯旺思顿(Swanston)街上的业主在他被强制收购的物业上申请增加七层的规划许可。

位于斯旺思顿街27-29号的肯塔基炸鸡店(KFC)于10月份向墨尔本市政提交了申请在原来的三层楼顶建造14个公寓房。

墨尔本地铁局(MMRA)于2015年10月就告知该楼房和其它物业将被建造为新的市中心地铁南站。

这个规划申请的内容仅有那些建筑设计的图纸，为此市政仍在寻求必要的细节，才能正确地评估该申请。

市政已经通知了业主让他们去跟墨尔本地铁局交涉，也告知规划申请者如果规划的详细内容在1月24日之前还没有提供的话，申请将会失效。但是现在已获得批准可延期至4月中旬。

提交墨尔本市政的规划申请估计所规划的工程费用是1200万，并附上地产中介阿拉德·谢

尔顿(Allard Shelton) \$8189.80的支票作为支付许可申请费。

业主们正在试图征得市政的同意以建造额外的7层楼，每层有2套公寓，还有直接通道进入旁边的尼古拉斯(Nicholas)大楼，该楼属于遗产保护建筑，也是他们拥有的。

在这个规划中，尼古拉斯大楼的全部朝南窗户将失去。

目前业主们正在积极地鼓动阿拉德·谢尔顿地产中介去动员尼古拉斯大楼里的租户把月租赁转为长期租赁。

位于斯旺思顿街27-29号的三层楼房据悉是尼古拉斯大楼的副楼并共享一个地下室。

墨尔本遗产行动组织去年就规划评审小组针对地铁隧道工程对环境影响的评估时有过争辩，由于格拉斯大楼有独特建筑设计以及和建筑师哈利·诺里斯(Harry Norris)的关系，该大楼应该得以保留。

然而尼古拉斯大楼业主也争辩要求保留其副楼，并提出这样就能保留尼古拉斯大楼南面的窗户，同时也能保持其商业的可行性。



摄影：David Brewster 摄影师 www.davidbrewsterphotography.com

墨尔本市区奇观

2月7日星期二晚上约8点半，夕阳的霞光照亮了我们市中心的东-西街道。

著名的曼哈顿(Manhattan)曾经发生过同样性质的情景，这个奇观创造了“墨尔本市区奇观”(“Melbhenge”)。

由罗伯特·霍德尔(Robert Hoddle)在1837年设计的墨尔本纵横交错的街道布局，为大自然的表演提供了许多有利的舞台，也许令人印象最为深刻的是威廉(William)街，这张壮观的照片由墨尔本的摄影师大卫·布鲁斯特(David Brewster)所拍摄。

墨尔本市政 的真正权力 在哪儿？

Stephen Mayne 撰稿

很多人都误解墨尔本市政议员享有权力。唉，说实话，实际是市政的官员掌握着真正的权力。

兼职的市政议员们来来去去，然而那些全职高薪的市政官员们却能持久任职，最终他们往往是赢家。

根据地方政府法，市政议员唯一能聘用的雇员是首席执行官(CEO)。

一旦聘用了，这位CEO就掌控了整个市政机构，控制所有会议的议程，信息的流向，工作人员的部署以及资源的分配。

基本工程预算可算是市政官员控制的最好例证。有这么一个由罗布·亚当斯(Rob Adams)教授主持的基本工程委员会，可所有成员都是市政官员。我在2012至2016年担任议员并主持财政和管理委员会期间，从未受邀参加这个基本工程委员会，也从未见过其有关预算的任何会议议程和记录。

2016年的那个预算草案只是在给媒体定稿的前一天公布给市政议员，而且草案中对每个基本工程项目的细节还是不够透明，他们成功地阻挡了我所提出的要求披露一个10年的基本工程项目的计划。

企业劳资协议是市政官员权力的又一主要例证。一个新劳资协议的协商正在进行，实际上这是墨尔本市政要花费纳税者的最大工作开销，在四年的任期中这笔费用将会超过5亿澳元。

市政议员可能会对几十个价值几十万的小项目合同进行表决(其中类似有几百项政府补助，很少会改变官员提出的建议)。可是我们不能介入这个劳资协议的协商。长期以来一直是CEO不是议员使得墨尔本市政府的雇员成为澳大利亚工资最优的政府工作人员。2015-2016的年度报告显示了令人吃惊的数据，墨尔本市政府有169个工作人员的工资超过了13.9万澳元。

所有这些大量的高薪工作人员挤压了市政议会很多主要工程项目的落实能力，如解决海滨大道(Harbour Esplanade)的问题。

要想改变这种状况，绝对不是某个别议员能实现的，而且经常会受到来自市政官员的抵制。要改革市政审计委员会和内部审计机制，就要改变这种关闭而不透明的状况。

WHAT'S ON
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB | **MAR** | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN

WEDNESDAYS 5.45PM-7PM
THE HUB, 80 HARBOUR ESPLANADE

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Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.

www.life.org.au/implac
or call Dianne 0425 140 981

7:20am for a 7:40am start, Tuesdays

ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE

Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne.

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

10.30am to 2pm Wednesday – Friday – Sunday

MEET UP WITH FRIENDS

Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for \$1.00 Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the church yard).

326 Lonsdale St, 9663 2495

11am - 5pm Saturdays @ Fed Square

BOOK MARKET

Join Melbourne's bibliophiles at the city's largest weekly book market, in The Atrium at Fed Square.

Fourth Monday of each month. Lunchtime @ St Peter's East Melbourne

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Contact: 9654 5120

Every Monday - Saturday

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Learn about the site's history, unique architecture and the engineering marvels that make Fed Square one of the city's great icons.

Meet outside Melbourne Visitor Centre at the flag, Fed Square, From 11am, Free



**RESIDENTS 3000
MELBOURNE**

Join our Events Drinks Night on the first Thursday of each month - 6pm at the Kelvin Club, 14 Melbourne Pl.

A community group that connects, supports and represents residents of Melbourne's CBD.

Events are posted on our web site at:
www.residents3000.com.au

Meets second Tuesday of the month
7pm - 8pm, Boyd Centre,
207 City Rd, Southbank

**MELBOURNE CITY
SOUTHBANK LIONS CLUB**

Contact: chengji1214@gmail.com

Sunday March 5 – Sunday March 26
St Michaels Gallery, 120 Collins St
9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

TEN THOUSAND MILES

Wendy Hickin's exhibition showcases her exploration of portraiture, capturing wisdom, understanding and knowledge in the eyes of her human subjects. Free entry

www.stmichaels.org.au/gallery

Friday 31 March, 11am. St Michael's Hall,
120 Collins St, behind the church.

HEALTHY AGEING SEMINAR

Non-denominational in nature and delivery, this seminar aims to provide psychological tools for coping with problems commonly associated with ageing, particularly clinical anxiety and depression. \$20 includes tea, coffee and sandwiches. Limited seating.

Contact: 9654 5120 or www.stmichaels.org.au



Third Tuesday of each month

EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB

Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed. 10am, Pomodoro Sardo Restaurant, 111 Lonsdale St.

eastendersinc@gmail.com

First Thursday of each month,
10am @ The Docklands Library

SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

Probus Clubs for over 50s. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities.

Contact Sue on 0418 562 181 or mspc.docklands@gmail.com

Every Sunday from 2:30pm @ The Hub,
506 Elizabeth St

FILM CLUB

Come along to our weekly film club at The Hub, opposite the QVM. We have some of the best film noir classics including 1962 French Classic and two time Cannes winner "Sundays and Cybelle". Admission is free, coffee provided.

Contact John on 0459 398 358

PRAYER TIMES

<p>St Michael's 120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000 Ph: 9654 5120 Church times: Sunday Service at 10.00am Free organ recitals at 1.00pm on Thursdays. For more information please contact the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).</p> <p>Chabad of Melbourne Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St Ph: 9525-9929 Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.</p>	<p>City on a Hill Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm. Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central</p> <p>Collins Street Baptist Church 174 Collins St Ph: 9650 1180 Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm</p> <p>Hillsong City Youth Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Holy Cross Orthodox Mission 261/265 Spring St www.australianorthodox.org</p>	<p>Scots' Church 156, Collins St Ph: 9650 9903 Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)</p> <p>St Francis' Church 326 Lonsdale St 9663 2495 Sunday: 7am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am (St Francis' Choir) and 12.30, 1.30, 4.30, 6.00 pm Filipino Community Mass: Second Sunday of the month at 2.30pm Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm</p>	<p>St Paul's Cathedral Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets Ph: 9653 4333 Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm (Choral Evensong)</p> <p>St. Augustine's Catholic Church 631 Bourke St. Melb Ph: 9614 1722 Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm Mon – Fri Mass: 1.05pm Mon – Fri Confessions: 12.30pm</p>
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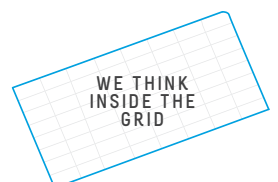
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CBD NEWS



'An Inconsistent Look'

From April 6 Magnet Galleries will host a wonderful exhibition of photography from three very different, yet somehow very connected, photographers.

Barry C. Douglas, Carlo Oggioni and Felipe Devoto all have a very individualised take on the things they see, with themes that focus on the uneasy and distract from the norm.

Using the medium of film photography Felipe's grainy and grungy black-and-white images offer a dream-like portrayal of life in Argentina; Carlos, also using film, shows a series of the bustling world of Melbourne

public transport, which he describes as a visual essay about commuting ... the mundane, solitary and robotic exercise we face perpetually in our everyday society. Barry C. Douglas is the only photographer in this exhibition who has solely used digital means in his collection.

Barry's work is about standing back and observing his environment and not letting himself be a factor in its outcome – a snapshot of someone else's moment.

The three photographers hope this show will get people discussing what our surroundings can actually mean when seen through someone else's eyes.

It encourages the viewer to talk to the person next to them and to walk away with a new found love of or disgust with what they may not have considered before.

All work will be available for purchase. The artists' work is online at:
Barry C. Douglas www.instagram.com/barry.takes.photos/
Carlo Oggioni www.instagram.com/behind_this_line/
Felipe Devoto www.theloop.com.au/felidevoto/portfolio/auto-opsy/258580

An Inconsistent Look will run until April 27.



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