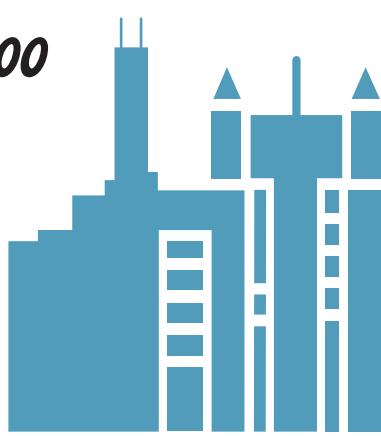


The voice of postcode 3000

CBD NEWS



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Market graves still in limbo

By Shane Scanlan

The bones of an estimated 7500 of the CBD's first European residents remain in the City of Melbourne's too-hard-basket after nearly a century of disrespect.

The human remains lie buried under the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) and the issue has again come to prominence with the council's recently-announced market re-development plans.

The council hasn't yet worked out what it will do with any bodies excavated to make way for the re-alignment of Franklin St and the construction of a mixed-use development on the Franklin Street Stores site at the southern end of the precinct.

The development site will require significant excavation in the most densely populated areas of the Old Melbourne Cemetery.

Apart from a small section at the northern end of the market, most of the QVM site sits above the cemetery which was the main burial ground during Melbourne's first 20 years of development.

When a small-scale market was first built in 1877, the council cleared all affected graves from the northern end of the cemetery.

But when the market was expanded in the 1920s, less than 1000 bodies were moved, leaving behind an estimated 7500 souls - some of whom lie only 36 cm below the asphalt.

In 1922 only graves that were marked with headstones were moved before the area was in 1928 cleared of vegetation, ploughed and prepared for construction of an expanded market. Scant regard for the remaining graves has been shown ever since.

Historical photos show a steam shovel ripping into the most densely populated Church of England and Presbyterian sections of the cemetery to construct the Franklin Street Stores in 1930. This is the same area now proposed for a mixed use development.

A 2013 report to the City of Melbourne says: "Soil was removed from the site during these excavations with only limited examination for bones taking place."

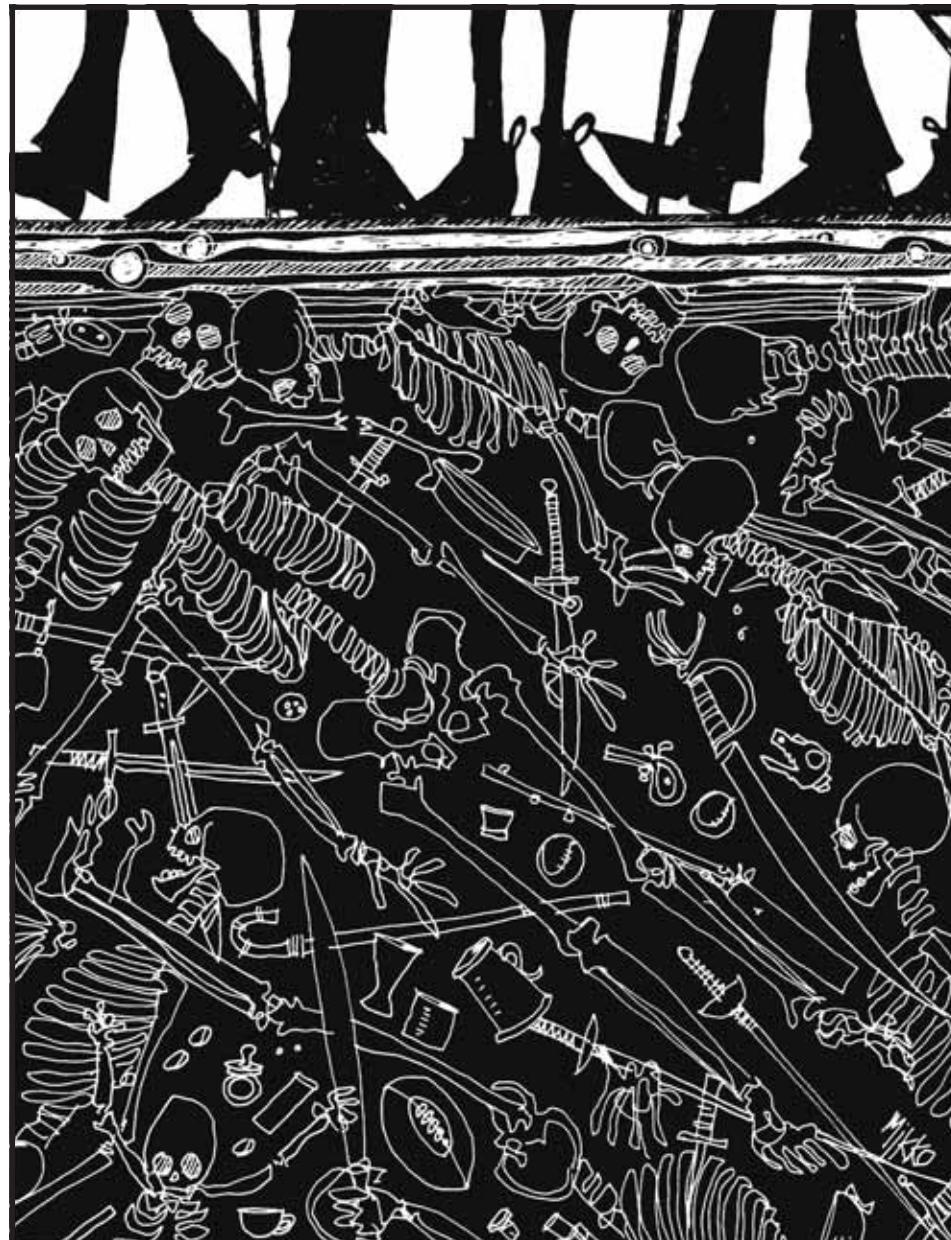
The report by consultants Godden Mackay Logan says bones were stored in boxes and were supposed to be re-buried in Fawkner Cemetery. *The Argus* newspaper of January 28, 1937 reported that bones excavated for market expansion were found in a "spoil heap" near the Parkville Presbyterian Church.

Disruption to burials has continued. In 1990 two bodies were found when a fire hydrant was installed in an alley near Shed F. Two years later 150 bodies were discovered during construction of Shed J.

In 1999 the remains of five children were unearthed during testing around the Franklin Street Stores and, as recently as 2011, three bodies were found near Shed M during excavation for a sewer line.

A fire in 1864 destroyed cemetery records, so it is generally accepted that the identities of the remaining bodies are unknown.

Continued page 5



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Welcome to the first edition of 'CBD News'

**Shane
Scanlan**
CO-OWNER



**Shine
Dighé**
CO-OWNER



Here we are ...

And so, the CBD gets its latest newspaper.

Elsewhere in this inaugural edition is reproduced the words that John Pascoe Fawkner used to introduce the CBD's first paper in 1838 (see page 17).

"A very small degree of support, timely afforded, will establish a newspaper here," he wrote 176 years ago.

I connected immediately on reading this paragraph.

The mega-print-media companies have been smashed by the internet and have all but retreated from the CBD over recent years.

No one is doing CBD-specific content anymore and, even if they did, print is the best medium in a small, geographically specific area. It's there in the letterbox or at the supermarket, cafe or bar. So it's picked up and, usually, read cover-to-cover.

We haven't covered our costs in our first edition but, because we are running such a lean operation and the sheer scale of the CBD, Fawkner's words ring true: "A very small degree of support, timely afforded will establish a newspaper here."

We have already established robust and well-regarded, hyper-local newspapers both in Docklands and Southbank where, by definition, there is only a "very small degree of support" available. These fledgling communities have embraced and supported both the *Docklands News* and the *Southbank Local News*.

In time, I trust that the CBD community of residents, workers and visitors will also connect with our independent, but supportive, reporting of news and events relating specifically to postcode 3000.

Right now, it's humbling to know so little about this community and, in some ways, overwhelming as it is so much bigger than where we have come from. But in coming months and years, we will become more and more familiar with this new area. Our reporting will become stronger and more authoritative.

Please accept *CBD News* into your community. We'll be doing our best to make this newspaper work for everyone. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Welcome to 'CBD News' your community newspaper that captures news, events, features and stories relevant to you - who are living, working and visiting the Melbourne CBD.

I don't remember the first thing that got me on board *CBD News* but what fascinated me were the potential levels of engagement with the readers and the currency of relevancy.

I liked the sound of a participatory, approachable and accessible news organisation where ordinary people could walk into our office and voice their concerns and opinions.

Here, I echo Warren Buffet's explanation on the importance of community newspapers: "Wherever there is a pervasive sense of community, a paper that serves the special informational needs of that community will remain indispensable to a significant portion of its residents."

Paying no heed to the "people-don't-care-about-local-news" critics, I believe that in a fractured online news world, people care and want to read stories that reflect their immediate surrounds and concerns.

Multiple platforms deliver international, national or state-based news but if you want to know what's going in the street next to yours or the opening of a new childcare care centre in your area, your best bet would be to turn to a local newspaper. This is our strength, our function.

"We'd like to see *CBD News* flourish. Please consider supporting them," wrote a resident to a city-based restaurant and that email helped us get an advertisement for this issue. I was buoyed beyond words when I read this email of support and it sure strengthened our resolve to keep going.

CBD News is free, and is sustained by keeping our costs low and through the support of advertisers. Of course, marketers will agree that the future of advertising lies in the creation of hyper-local brand activation which allows for better and compelling messaging. As we embark on this journey, I seek the support of both the readers and advertisers to help grow *CBD News*.

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More people sleeping rough in city

The number of people sleeping rough on Melbourne's street has significantly increased over the past year, according to the annual StreetCount survey.

In most years since 2008, the City of Melbourne has co-ordinated the "point-in-time" survey, with volunteer observers taking to the inner city streets this year on Tuesday, June 3.

This year, 142 people were recorded – an increase of 40 per cent since the last count in 2012. 60 per cent were observed in the CBD.

And, while the numbers across the municipality are up, the overall percentage of rough sleepers found in the CBD has fallen for the third year in a row. The report suggests that more and more rough sleepers are kipping down in East Melbourne.

Big Umbrella founder Justin Dickenson believes homeless numbers have increased only marginally in the CBD over the past two years. His charity operates food kitchens at Flinders St Station and dispenses 600 meals over three nights each week.

Mr Dickenson's biggest frustration is the self-perpetuating nature of the homelessness problem. He says he sees the same old faces and there is very little structural capacity to break the cycle.

"We've assisted six people to integrate back into main stream society," he said. "But the system is like a revolving door."

He said people being released from prison, in particular, mostly had no where to go and ended up back on the streets.

Travis Moloney has been in jail nine times since in the past 17 years. The 35-year-old celebrated a one-year anniversary of being heroin-free on July 22 and is determined to stay clean and out of jail.

Mr Moloney mostly manages to avoid sleeping rough because of the generosity of passers by who respond to his sign asking for a contribution to accommodation costs. But he says he has to start early in the day to save the \$77 nightly motel fee.

Food, on the other hand, is readily available and, between hand-outs from people in the street and food kitchens around the city, he says no-one goes hungry in Melbourne.

"I am constantly amazed by the generosity of people in Melbourne," he said.

Mr Moloney said he was classified as a low priority by service providers who were more concerned about women, young people and indigenous Australians.

The 2014 StreetCount survey found that, compared with the wider homeless population, rough sleepers were most likely to be male, single and Australian born.



Travis Moloney respectfully requests donations towards his nightly accommodation from Elizabeth St pedestrians.

Despite limitations, its authors say it is fair to assume that there is a group of at least 40 to 50 long-term homeless single men who sleep in and around the inner city.

In other findings, the report concluded:

- Around a third of the people counted sleeping openly on the street and over a quarter in parks and gardens;
- Most people sleep in one place or move between two or three places in a month;
- Most are in touch with the "system", but mainly for meals and emergency relief;
- Most are not on the public housing waiting list; and
- StreetCount appears to record different individuals each year.

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Frank Tisher



Rowland (Roly) Ball

Gongs for CBD lawyers

The CBD was represented in this year's Queens Birthday Honours list with two retired lawyers receiving the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia, General Division.

Frank Tisher and Rowland (Roly) Ball were awarded the OAM but their stories are in no way similar.

Mr Tisher was awarded for services to aged care, cultural and sporting organisations. Specifically, his service to aged care was as board member, vice-president and president of the Emmy Monash Home for the Aged.

His cultural connections were as a committee member of the National Gallery Society of Victoria and a foundation committee member of the Lorne Sculpture Committee. In a sporting sense, he has been president of both the Maccabi Tennis Club and Ajax Ski Club.

Mr Tisher has maintained a CBD office address since setting up his own practice in Market St in 1970. A series of mergers and moves later now sees the firm Tisher Liner FC Law located in LaTrobe St.

"The practice has always been in the CBD. We consider it important to be in the CBD because it is in the centre of the business district, easily accessible by public transport, offers parking options and is near the Titles Office, the courts and the barristers," Mr Tisher said.

"I am particularly proud of my award because it recognises my dedication to aged care. I am a past president of six years of Emmy Monash Aged Care and have been on its board of directors since 1993 (and am still a director)."

In stark contrast, Mr Ball is not particularly proud of his award, commenting that he thought it was "ridiculous", "a waste of time" and "vastly over-rated".

The self-effacing 80-year-old was scornful of

the institutions which had written letters of congratulations to him since receiving the OAM.

"It appears there is a whole industry built around this," he said. "And some of them are now claiming me as a member of their alumni."

He was awarded the OAM for services to the law, to tertiary education and to professional organisations. He was the founding chair of Victorian Legal Aid, a Monash University lecturer and deputy president of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

And while he is a critic of the award system, Mr Ball is a great fan of the CBD, having moved into the Hero building in Russell St with his wife in 2009.

His wife died in 2010 and Mr Ball downsized to a smaller apartment in the same building and just loves living with close proximity to everything.

"It suits me fine," he said. "I hardly drive the car and walk everywhere or take the tram or train."

Like Mr Tisher, Mr Ball is also a skier and regularly travels to Japan for the best snow. He has taken up trombone in retirement and believes his apartment is sound-proof because he has not had any complaints from neighbours.

He plays "badly" in the "Squawkestra" community orchestra based in Northcote and has appeared on *Spics and Specs*.

All in all, life is good for Mr Ball. Apart from regular trips to the Greek Islands, Mr Ball reflects that he has never been out of work nor has he ever had to go to war.

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Damnation is coming for illegal signs

Bicycles used as advertising signage could soon become a thing of the past, with the City of Melbourne planning a crack-down on the practice.

A council spokesperson told *CBD News*: "We are aware that this is a growing trend and we are investigating how we might address the issue through enforcement, changes to the local law or by other means."

The council's compliance manager Dean Robertson told a recent East Enders residents group meeting that bikes unable to be ridden would likely be targeted.

A spokesperson for the council later said: "The issue is when does a bicycle cease to be a bicycle and become a portable advertising sign? This will depend on the specific circumstances of each case."

"The City of Melbourne is aware that bicycles are being parked in bike racks at various

locations around the city that refer to businesses," the spokesperson said.

However, the spokesperson said the council already had powers to act against illegal signage under its 2009 Council Activities Local Law.

"In each instance, it is relevant for the City of Melbourne to consider whether:

The reference to a business attached to a bicycle constitutes a portable advertising sign (clause 4.6);

The amenity of the public place is being adversely affected (clause 2.1); and

People are being obstructed (clause 2.1)," the spokesperson said.

"It's often a question of degree. For example, if a normal, operating, commuter bicycle has a business name painted on the body of it or a sign attached, it is considered to be bike, not a portable advertising sign."

"In this respect, bikes are generally considered in the same way as cars with attached advertising, that are parked or drive around the city."



Push for motorbike ban

Victoria Walks executive officer Ben Rossiter wants motorbike parking banned from footpaths in some areas of the city.

Speaking at the City of Melbourne forum on June 26, Mr Rossiter said his organisation was advocating that the council look at banning the practice.

"Some bright spark at VicRoads had an

idea 20 years ago to change the law to allow motorbikes to park on footpaths and we're now dealing with it," Mr Rossiter said.

"We're advocating for the city to start looking at areas where they ban motorbike parking," he said.

"Presently they can park anywhere and there are lots of area where they shouldn't be."



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Unleash the CBD hounds

An increasing CBD population has resulted in hundreds of dogs living in the Hoddle Grid, but there is currently nowhere close by for them to run free off-the-leash.

Residents 3000 member Sue Saunders has taken up the issue and has a couple of locations in mind.

Ms Saunders says there is a good spot on the other side of the river near the boatsheds and also an ideal area within Birrarung Marr.

She says her 10-year-old poodle/fox terrier cross Sancho loves running free of the lead but the nearest available area is beyond the MCG.

"It would be a six or seven kilometre walk there and back and takes too long," she said.

Ms Saunders estimates that there are hundreds, if not thousands of dogs in the CBD and that other owners she has spoken to would also like an area to exercise their animals off-the-lead.

"It would just let them be dogs," she said. "And it lets them have a little independence. They like to run around and it gives owners an opportunity to interact and throw the ball, etc."

"If an designated and fenced area was big



Sue Saunders and Sancho enjoying some fresh air at Birrarung Marr.

enough, it might also attract an obedience instructor or an agility school."

"Well trained dogs would be a bonus for the city and a great opportunity to help build community."

"The City of Melbourne wants dogs to be well behaved. That's one of the reasons they insist on them being on leads."

She said the council had not said no to a request from Residents 3000, but had said an off-the-leash area was not a priority.

A city of Melbourne spokesperson said:

"There are currently eight off-leash dog areas, totalling an area in excess of 15 ha across the City of Melbourne municipality. The closest off-leash dog areas to the Docklands and the CDB are Royal Park, North Melbourne Recreation Reserve, Gosches Paddock and Yarra Park."

"Provision of dog-off-leash areas within existing and proposed open space need to be carefully planned to ensure it is compatible and appropriate."

Market graves still in limbo

Continued from page 1.

In its recent consultation about the proposed market redevelopment, the council's Participate Melbourne consultative website referenced burials only in relation to an underground car park which is proposed for the northern edge of the market - an area outside of the old cemetery boundary. It correctly states that it is unlikely to involve disruption to burials. But it does not talk about the burials due for disruption at the southern end of the site.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said: "The archaeological heritage of the Old Melbourne Cemetery is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and any proposals will be subject to a number of statutory approvals and of course staged and managed with the utmost care, with a focus on minimising disturbance to existing burials."

"Where this is not possible to achieve, we will work with Heritage Victoria, archaeologists, stakeholders and the broader community to determine the appropriate approach. It is expected that for the most part, burials will remain in situ or be reburied at a cemetery."

"One of the main reasons why market sheds A, B and C has been proposed for a below ground area - potentially incorporating a customer car park - is that it is outside the footprint of the former Old Melbourne Cemetery."

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The emerging politics of graffiti

By Shane Scanlan

A recent forum of Melbourne residents revealed interesting insights into the evolving politics of graffiti in the city.

Pro-graffiti speakers dominated the panel of six at a Residents 3000 forum exploring the City of Melbourne's new graffiti management

plan, held at the Kelvin Club on May 22.

The council's new management plan further liberalises its approach from a position a

decade ago of zero tolerance.

In its latest plan, the council has abandoned its permit system and will also now wait for requests from property owners to remove graffiti rather than actively seeking their permission.

Prevention has been removed from the policy, which also further acknowledges the value to the city of "street art".

However, for the majority of panel members, the council's softened stance did not go far enough, with a number of speakers suggesting the council was wasting the \$900,000 it spends each year removing graffiti.

Hosier Inc president Luke McManus and resident Kerry Butcher both said it was pointless trying to combat tagging.

Ms Butcher said: "The longer I live in a laneway, the more I think it doesn't need to be fixed."

Mr McManus said, while there were some part of the plan he did not agree with, he commended it as being "very progressive" and a "fantastic step ahead for Melbourne".

Street artist Fletcher Anderson attempted during his presentation to "educate" the audience into understanding that all graffiti

was art worthy of protection, including tagging, which he contended was a form of calligraphy.

In explaining the plan, council engineering team leader Gordon Harrison said the council last year removed 35,000sqm of graffiti.

Although the policy makes a distinction between vandalism and street art, Mr Harrison said the council would remove all graffiti if requested by property owners.

He said the council aimed to remove graffiti within 24 hours within the CBD and some high-traffic surrounding strips and within five working days in other areas.

He said in the future, more lanes would be earmarked "more formally" as areas where street art would be encouraged. He suggested Hayward Lane, Stevenson Lane and Turner Alley offered such potential as did VicRoads signal boxes.

Mr Harrison said tagging made the city look "unmanaged" which led to people feeling unsafe.

While acknowledging the difficulty in determining which was vandalism and which was art, Mr Harrison said: "We want a city of street art but we don't want a city of tagging."



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Kathy Alexander resigns

Kathy Alexander has resigned as City of Melbourne CEO after more than six years in the role.

Her last day in office will be her 60th birthday, December 3. A replacement is expected to be in position at this time.

Dr Alexander said she was resigning to pursue new directions and spend more time with her family.

"It is also a good time for me to take a new direction in my life and career, pursue opportunities as a non-executive director and, importantly, spend more time with my

family," Dr Alexander said.

"I have always felt privileged to work at the City of Melbourne with such an innovative group of staff and three very committed elected councils."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle expressed regret at Dr Alexander's announcement but said he completely understood and fully supported the reasons for her decision.

"Kathy Alexander has been an outstanding

leader at the City of Melbourne and should feel proud of the contribution she has made to the world's most liveable city.

"On a personal note, I will miss Kathy's passion, good humour and even the occasional argument!"

"She's an exemplary leader and a strong role model for young women aspiring to CEO positions," Cr Doyle said.

Right: Melbourne CEO Dr Kathy Alexander



Roadside dining space is extremely lucrative

Every square metre of dining space in the CBD is worth \$25,000 of revenue to businesses, according to consultant Knowles Tivendale.

Speaking at a City of Melbourne forum on June 26, Mr Tivendale said space for an extra table at an up-market venue could earn an extra \$100,000 for the business.

In making a case for more shared roadways in the city, the Phillip Boyle and Associates consultant told the forum that the closure

of DeGraves St to traffic for 60 per cent of the day had resulted in \$4 million extra annual revenue to local businesses.

He said there were already 21 shared zones in the city which were "successful in increasing the economic activity of the finite space that we have in the CBD."

The forum on the council's draft walking plan heard that it was proposed to transform another 30 CBD laneways into shared zones.

"There is a suggestion in the plan for another 30 laneways where you can generate that sort of benefit," Mr Tivendale said,

"The space is more efficient. We get to use

the space for multiple things and you can generate a lot more benefit out of your local economy. High-value employment is worth a lot more if they are all near each other and people can talk to each other," he said.

Mr Tivendale said the draft plan had priorities and suggestions for the CBD's remaining 165 laneways.

It recommends removing cars from:

- Spring St, between the Princess Theatre and Lonsdale St;
- Queen and Therry streets by the market;
- Little Bourke St, between Russell and Swanston streets;

- The top of Market St, near Collins St; and
- Flinders Lane, between Swanston and Elizabeth streets.

The plan proposes "walking streets" where cars are limited for:

- Little Bourke St, between Swanston and Queen streets;
- Little Collins St, between Elizabeth and Queen and between Russell and Swanston streets;
- Flinders Lanes between Elizabeth and Queen streets; and
- Elizabeth St between Flinders Lane and Flinders St.

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Where are the jobs?

This map shows where most jobs are concentrated within the city.

It was prepared by Terry Rawnsley of SGS Economics and Planning as an element of research for the City of Melbourne's draft walking plan.

Mr Rawnsley presented the map to a public forum about the walking plan at the Melbourne Town Hall on June 26.

He said the research fed into a calculation of "effective job density" which helped planners understand how long it took people to walk to others jobs.

"Connecting with other jobs is really what drives the economy," he said. "If you are an

employer, you want to make sure there are lots of other employees around where you are located."

"It's very important for businesses, for knowledge firms in particular, to be able to connect with each other. So they want to locate in areas where it is easy for them to walk to see their clients."

Mr Rawnsley predicted that the City of Melbourne would add another 80,000 jobs over the next decade as the state economy continued to change from manufacturing-based to knowledge-based.

Congestion tax unlikely

Melbourne is unlikely to get a congestion tax on motor vehicles, according to City of Melbourne planning and sustainability manager David Mayes.

Speaking at a public forum on June 26, Mr Mayes said: "We're not really finding that congestion is such a pressing issue."

"We are finding congestion in other modes, such as trams. So it's a matter of managing all those modes to reduce that," he said.

Consultant Knowles Tivendale said in other part of the world congestion taxes benefitted those who had an opportunity to vote for it and disadvantaged those who did not.

Mr Tivendale said only Stockholm had less congestion than Melbourne among the world's major cities.

"It's a long way off. We just don't have very much congestion," he said.

Aspiration and reality collide

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne believes government should intervene in the housing market if low and moderate income earners are to continue to live in the municipality.

In its recently-released 70-page draft housing strategy, the council says: "If current market trends continue, virtually all low and many moderate income households will not be able to afford to live in our municipality."

The council says it wants cheaper housing, but the strategy recommends a series of measures that would actually add costs.

It wants greater developer contributions, bigger and better-built apartments, less density, more open space and at least 15 per cent of new developments reserved for "affordable housing" (to paid for by others).

On the cost-savings side of the development equation, the council suggests cutting out car parking, pools and gymnasiums.

"Housing affordability could potentially be improved by reducing the amount of car parking and expensive communal facilities such as gyms and swimming pools within new housing developments," it says.

The strategy confines itself to the urban renewal areas of municipality, which are the same areas in which the City of Melbourne has limited actual powers in its own right. In these areas, which include the CBD, Southbank and Docklands, the State Government controls all developments over 25,000 sqm.

In the strategy the council acknowledges its impotence and confines its goals and actions largely to influencing, leading and informing.

"We will continue to proactively engage with the community to help shape planning scheme amendments and structure plans and to help increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of good quality

urban renewal and the need for socially mixed, sustainable neighbourhoods," the strategy says.

"We are committed to continue to show leadership, provide direction and work collaboratively with all stakeholders and the broader community to help achieve better housing outcomes for the City of Melbourne."

The authors of the strategy struggle to reconcile the realities of the market with their desire for social outcomes.

On acknowledging that developer levies increase the cost of housing, the strategy says: "They are, however, crucial to help retain the liveability of the city and build successful and sustainable neighbourhoods."

The strategy says that 13,000 households in the municipality are currently considered to be in "housing stress".

But the strategy rails against increasing densities and smaller apartments as a solution to affordability. And the council doesn't like the type of resident that these developments attract.

"High levels of housing supply isn't delivering a good housing mix and social diversity in the community," it says.

"A diversity of housing choices can foster a community which is inclusive of different household needs and circumstances, including family size, household composition, income and health. It can help to address social exclusion and avoid issues with gentrification and social polarisation."

"The expectation that a development can have more, smaller dwellings can increase land value which in turn promotes even smaller dwellings. Given the need to create balanced communities, however, this is not a formula for the long-term social sustainability of Melbourne."

Neither do the strategy's authors have much time for property investors:

"85 per cent of apartments purchased in the municipality as a financial product, not as a home for the purchaser," it says.



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Walkable city grows chabad

As the members of Chabad of Melbourne prepare to observe Tisha B'Av on the ninth day of the month of Av (August 5), 'CBD News' caught up with Rabbi Chaim Herzog for a chat on how the community was preparing for this event.

It is a day of mourning to remember events such as the destruction of the first temple and second temple in Jerusalem. In the three weeks of mourning leading up to Tisha B'Av, members are expected not listen to music, weddings and parties are not permitted, and refrain from cutting their hair.

"Melbourne has significantly higher proportion of converts to Judaism than anywhere else in Australia," stated Rabbi Herzog.

The city facilitates conversions with ease and the primary reason for this is the infrastructure of the city. For example, one is not allowed to drive on sabbath and the city with its trams, trains and buses enables this with ease.

In addition, the person considering conversion must pray all seven days. The location of Chabad of Melbourne on Elizabeth St makes it easier to fulfill this requirement. Besides the availability of Kosher food in city enhanced this kind of



Rabbi Chaim Herzog. His community has more converts than anywhere else in the nation.

lifestyle. Also, to enable a proper conversion to Judaism, it must be done through Orthodox Rabbis and Orthodoxy is strong in Melbourne, he highlighted.

The Chabad of Melbourne with over 400 members is the only community allowed to celebrate Chanukkah – the festival of lights in the Parliament House. When quizzed about this Rabbi Herzog answered: "We are the only community based in the City of Melbourne, have the demographics and invite wider Melbourne to participate."

When asked about his definition of the messiah and when the messiah was expected, Rabbi Herzog said, "The messiah will be a human and will be heralded in the third temple built by David or a disciple of David."

The messiah will ensure that there will be no wars, no sickness and people would be subservient to each other, he added. But on the question of the arrival of the messiah, Rabbi Herzog claimed that it would not happen as long as they were hostilities and warring factions in the world.

On modern day interpretation of sabbath that included not using Facebook or going to the footy, Rabbi Herzog stressed that members were encouraged to rest up and socialise in the real world as opposed to the online one. With regards to the ongoing Israeli and Palestinian conflict, he said: "It is a difficult situation to please everybody. We are holding regular prayer sessions and there has been an increase in charity in aid of Israel."

Council to wait and see on music noise

The City of Melbourne is awaiting the outcomes of two State Government reviews before considering further planning changes relating to noise from music venues.

The council recently looked at how its own and the State Government's planning frameworks were assisting the development of the live music scene.

One of its policies is to: "develop a planning policy to encourage the development and operation of live music venues".

In a report called "*A review of the regulatory framework related to live music venues in the City of Melbourne*", the council concluded that it needed to wait until the State Government had completed two reviews.

It recognised that the state had far greater powers than itself when it came to policies affecting live music venues.

In particular, the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) State Environment Protection Policy No N-2 (Control of Music Noise from Public Premises), known as SEPP N-2, was most influential.

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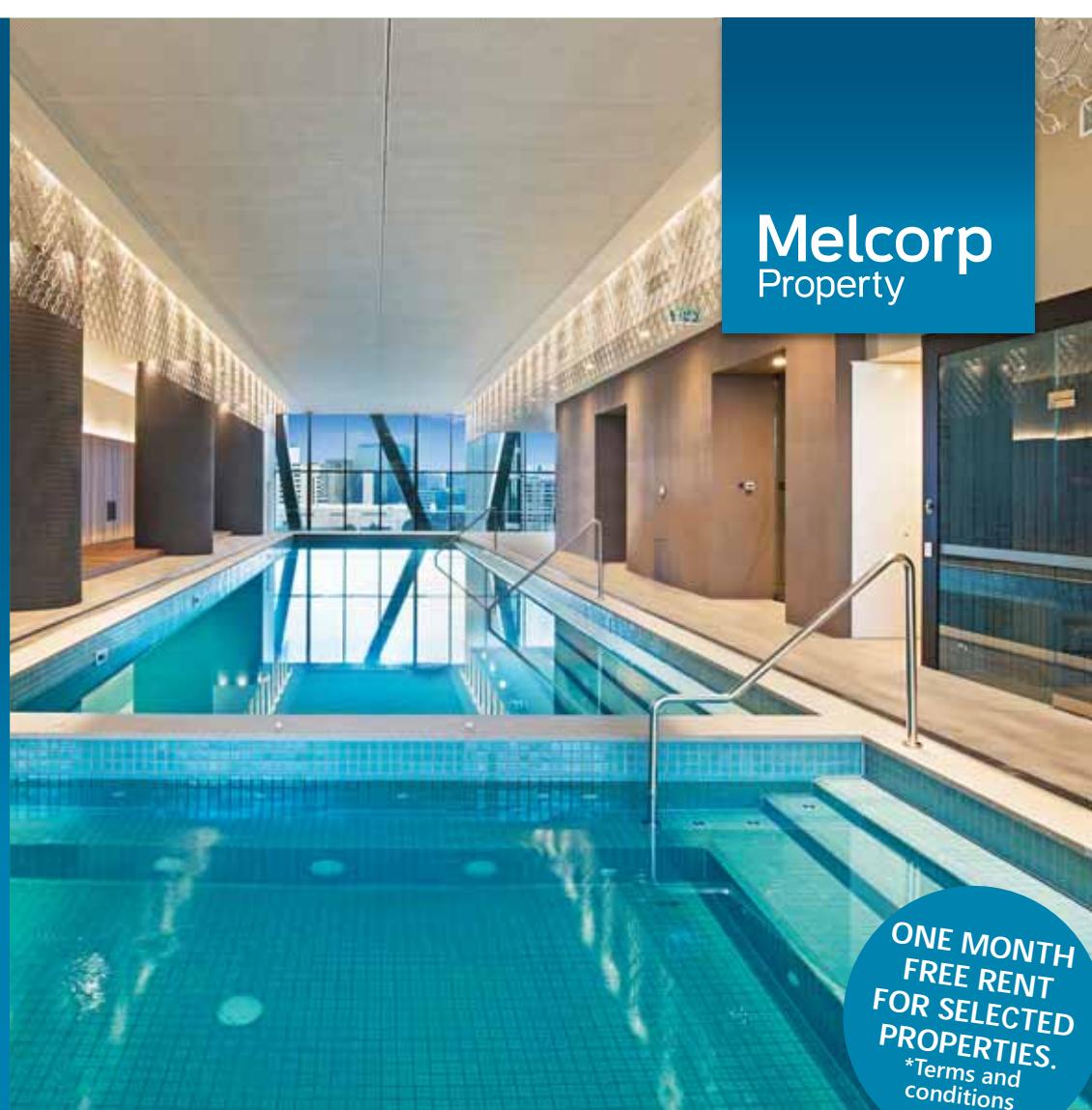
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CBD crime update

Melbourne Embona Task Force detectives are investigating an armed robbery which occurred at a convenience store in Elizabeth St on Friday, July 18.

Police have been told that a man entered the store at 257 Elizabeth St around 4.50am.

The man picked up a pair of scissors, threatened the attendant and demanded that he hand over cash and cigarettes. The attendant handed over a packet of cigarettes and nothing else.

The offender then reached over the counter and attempted to open the till but was unsuccessful. He then left the store and was last seen running along Elizabeth St.

Investigators have been told that the offender is perceived to be caucasian, 30-40 years-old and with short brown hair.

At the time of the offence, he was wearing a blue hooded top with white squares.

Police have released still images and CCTV footage of a man that they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries. Contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Police are also investigating a break-in at the Flagstaff Gardens caretaker's cottage on July 10.

They say a person was asleep in the house at the time and that a wallet and cash were stolen.



CCTV vision from the July 18 armed robbery.

Anyone who witnessed suspicious activity at around 6.40 pm on that day should report it to police.

Police also report that a thief stole from a convenience store at 26 King St on three separate occasions on July 11 – each time taking cans of drink and food items.

On Friday, July 18 police say a man was assaulted by a group of men in Elizabeth St near the GPO building. Police are looking for a suspect they say kicked a man in the face. He is described as "islander" in appearance and was wearing shorts and a basketball shirt with the number 24.

They report that another man was assaulted on a tram in Flinders St at 12.30 am on July 20.

In other CBD-related crime news last month, police reported two burglaries and an attempted burglary.

In the attempted burglary at the Doxa Social Club's Meeting Place at 315 Elizabeth St, a woman attempted to steal cash from a till at 5.30pm on July 9.

Police said the woman leaned across a bar but was disturbed before she could steal any cash. She fled empty-handed, but police are seeking witnesses.

A more successful burglar stole a laptop computer from a Brandon Capital's office at 278 Collins St overnight on July 14. Police said staff reported the theft when they arrived for work on July 15.

And a resident at 200 Spencer St was surprised to find his apartment unlocked when upon returning home at 9.30 am on July 17. Police said there were no signs of forced entry and that items of clothing had been stolen.

Nine new CCTV cameras

Nine more closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras have been installed in the city, bringing the number to 63.

The City of Melbourne has operated CCTV cameras in the city since 1995 and recently received \$250,000 State Government funding to install the nine new cameras.

According to the Government, six new locations are:

- Clarendon Street at Batman Park;
- Etihad Stadium footbridge;
- Corner of William and Flinders streets;
- Northbank of the Yarra;
- Southbank at Southbank Hut; and
- Corner of Flinders Lane and George St.

The Government did not respond to *CBD News'* questioning of the accuracy of three of the above "locations".

The City of Melbourne employs staff to monitor the cameras and pass on to police suspicious incidents they observe.

Council audit documents show that in 2013 nearly 3000 incidents were processed. No "major incidents" were recorded and most cases were characterised as "public order" incidents. Other recorded incidents involved violence including abduction, assaults, robbery, stabbings and sexual assaults.

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The top section of the proposed development at 97-111 Franklin St.

Councillors are truly smitten

City of Melbourne councillors are in love with a proposed new development at 97-111 Franklin St.

The 63-level, mixed use building from Artemis Hotel Group comprises 511 apartments, 160 car parks, 490 sqm of retail and 490 sqm of office space.

When discussing the merits of the building last month, Cr Rohan Leppert said: "I love it. It's completely mad, and yet it works."

"It ticks all the boxes in our planning scheme with a few minor tweaks ... I think the Minister should approve this application and I support it," he said.

Planning chair Cr Ken Ong described the design as "Lego building blocks" while Cr Stephen Mayne called it "extraordinary" and "Dubai meets Melbourne".

"It's incredible. This will be the most unusual-looking building in Melbourne," Cr Mayne said.

"It just goes to show that we are not full of 'Dr Nos' here at the City of Melbourne and when we get something that is innovative and different, we are happy to say 'go for your lives,'" Cr Mayne said.

Cr Arron Wood said: "This shows that you can still provide open space as part of a development."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said: "With the right riding instructions, the right architect can give you the right solution for the right space."

Big tick for development

The City of Melbourne has given its conditional blessing to a proposed 51-storey, 402 apartment building at 605-613 Lonsdale St.

In commenting to the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI), councillors last month endorsed the project, subject to 36 conditions.

The council's assessment of the proposal was: "The proposed tower setback from Lonsdale Street of between 6000 mm and 6735 mm, together with a relatively low

podium height will result in a building which will not overwhelm the pedestrian. It will not be unreasonably intrusive or dominant over the public realm."

Planning chair Cr Ken Ong said the project was an example of successful collaboration between all interested parties.

He encouraged future investors to speak with the council before applying for a permit to facilitate a positive outcome.

"They should talk to the City of Melbourne before they purchase the land, pay too much and then try to build something that is too big," Cr Ong said.

"There are some from other shores who are encouraged not to do due diligence and, as a result, we have the problem to resolve that."



The proposed 51-storey, 402 apartment building at 605-613 Lonsdale St



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LUNCH TIME

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GET YOUR SLURP ON

One can barely walk a block in the CBD without coming across an eatery that does not serve pho (pronounced fuh).

Pho is a Vietnamese rice noodle soup typically served with chicken, beef or seafood and can be personalised with mint leaves, Vietnamese basil, bean sprouts, scallions, cilantro, fresh chilli and lime.

Up until recently, one had to make a trip to Victoria St, Footscray or Preston to grab a bowl but now pho is available for lunch or dinner in many places in the city. With a price range of \$8.00 - \$11.50, it is also an affordable option.

Craig Birchall who owns Pho 24 on Little Bourke St attributes pho's popularity to the use of simple ingredients that lead to delicious flavours. "It is a healthy alternative to sandwiches, chips, sushi among others," he said. Craig believes it is a food trend that is here to stay especially with Vietnam

being a popular travel destination. At Pho 24, the cooking method used is sous vide (under vacuum) for 24 hours with pho spices making the soup delicious.

Pho is also a perfect hearty winter soup that combines proteins, carbohydrates and fresh herbs – an all in one meal. Jerry Mai who has set up Pho Nom in the Emporium shares that the essence of good pho is in the broth. "We cook 140 litres stock for 20-24 hours and reduce it to 70-80 litres. The aromatic stock is made from Warialda beef bones and marrow." What distinguishes a good pho from a not so good one is the produce that goes into the broth, time it is simmered for and the seasoning. Jerry emphasises that the pho at her eatery didn't use MSG and therefore did not compensate on flavours. No prizes for guessing Jerry's favourite pho – its the one that her mom makes.

I love Pho on Victoria St, Pho & Co on Russell St, Misschu on Exhibition St, Mekong Pho on Swanston St, Pho 102 Saigon on Little Collins St, Roll'd on William St, are some of other venues in the CBD that offer the comfort soup for the soul.

HIGHLIGHTS



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PHO 24

Pho 24 is a quick service restaurant that offers a fast and healthy twist on the old classic Vietnamese pho meal.

**656 Little Bourke St, Melbourne
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www.pho24.net.au**



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CELEBRATING THE NIGHT TIME

Beat the winter chills and head to Luna 1878.

This is the annual winter market where visitors can treat themselves to exciting street food, browse works of the craftiest

artisans and enjoy live performances.

Cocooned within the historic sheds of Queen Victoria Market, the night market features street food offerings from around the world. From Hungarian street food to Nepalese stews, Brazilian sausages to Eastern European traditional foods like

borsht and pierogi (dumplings), Vietnamese banh bao to winter soups in a bread bowl – there are over 20 food vendors to cater to everyone's taste buds. With heaters to gather around, the market offers a perfect setting for city workers to unwind after work.

Sipping the warm mulled wine, one can't

help but be entranced with performers and cabaret-style entertainment. Local artisan stores with their creative products like grain filled heat pads with aromatic scents, sustainable products created using bicycle chain cufflinks, visual prints, jewellery using recyclable products, soy candles and so much more vie for attention.

HIGHLIGHTS



SQUIRES LOFT

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RUE & CO

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The exhibition Identity: yours, mine, ours, at the Immigration Museum attempts to find answers to timeless questions like who we are, who others think we are, and what it means to belong and not belong in Australia.



It offers the viewer an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be part of various communities in the 21st century.

The exhibition focuses on how cultural heritage, languages, beliefs, and family connections have, and do, influence our self-perceptions and our perceptions of others.

Engaging personal stories, intriguing objects, compelling images and interactive multimedia experiences invite visitors to find connections with others, as well as challenge the assumptions we make about each other every day.

The exhibition brings together an array of objects to explain popular culture, racist and

anti-racist ephemera, religious and sporting items, Aboriginal history and contemporary cultural material and an eclectic mix of artworks are combined and interpreted creatively to challenge visitors beyond conventional stories of migration. Visitors are encouraged to share their stories, affirm their identities and celebrate diversity in our community.

HIGHLIGHTS



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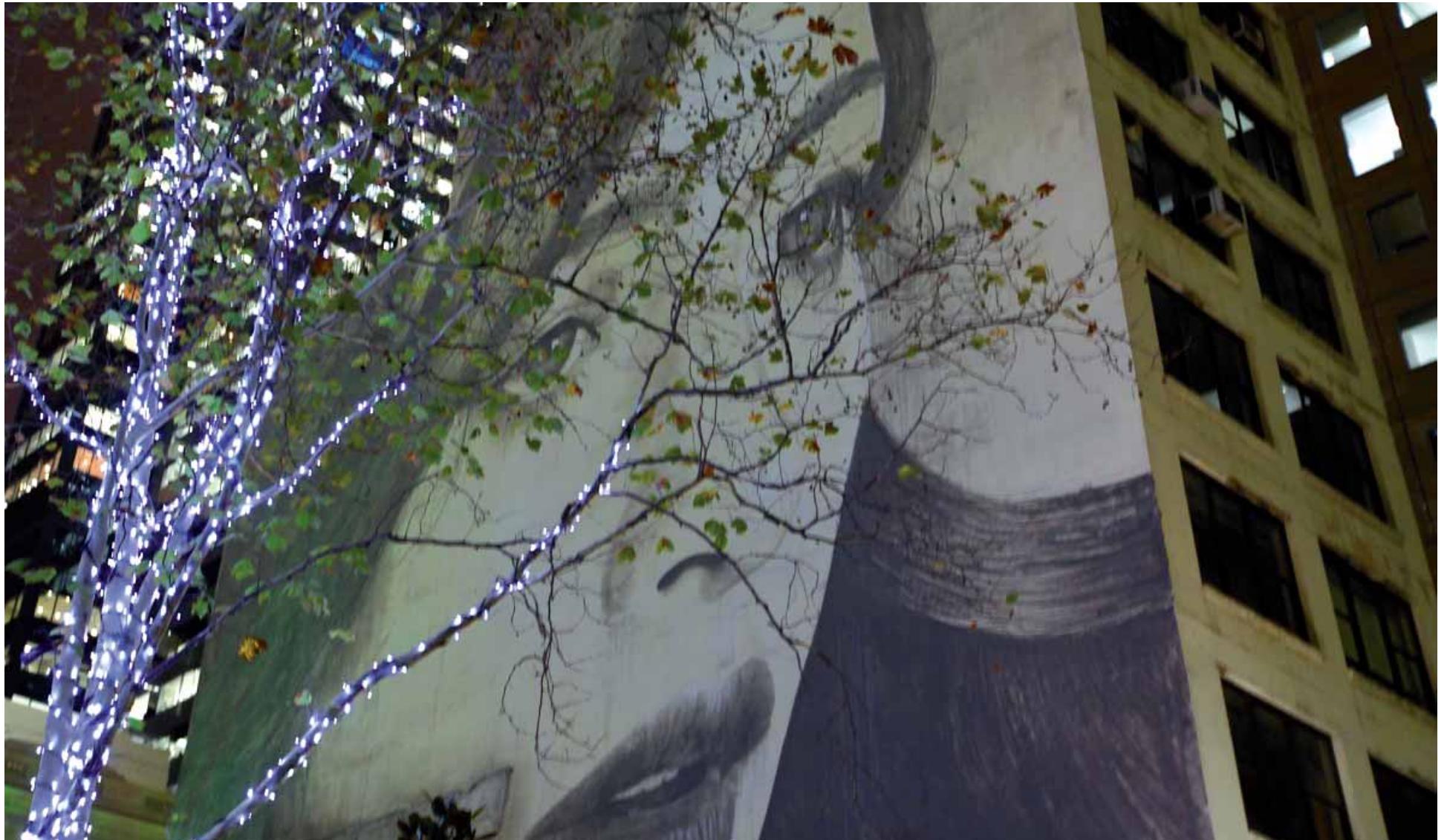


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Street Art



'The Unknown Girl of Collins Street'

L'Inconnue De la Rue, the Unknown Girl of the Street, is unknown no longer!

For high above the corner of Exhibition and Collins streets, at the "Paris End" of the CBD, towers what is reputedly the southern hemisphere's largest and most photographed piece of street art.

With model Teresa Oman as his muse, and using a paint roller and brushes, it took Melbourne street artist RONE seven days to execute the 28 by 24 metre wall.

Developer QIC's original plan was for a much smaller mural. However, once RONE sighted the location, it's potential opened up to him.

Working from a "sort of grid" and perched high above the city on a cherry picker, RONE's starting point was with the eyes and a logical choice of a monochromatic palette.

Originally from Geelong, RONE is a founding member of Everfresh, a Collingwood-based studio of nine artists, who have worked together for 10 years.

Sadly, because of international commitments, they rarely paint as a "crew" these days.

RONE, a trained graphic designer, initially

juggled his "day job" creating designs for T-shirts and skateboards, with a nocturnal "street" one of putting up large stencils and paste ups.

Except for the occasional exhibition in Australia, RONE spends most of his year traveling and painting. Locally his murals can be found in Brunswick, Fitzroy and Collingwood and internationally, London, Paris, Berlin, Miami and New Zealand.

When I spoke to RONE he was about to head off to POW WOW Taiwan, an event that would bring together international artists, to

paint, make music and generally have a good time!

More of RONE's art can be found at r-o-n-e.com or on Instagram @R_O_N_E



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

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Street Fashion



Fashion on the Streets of Melbourne

LIANA T

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING:

Jumper from Sass & Bide; jumper from Witchery; jeans from Topshop and shoes from Senso.

LOCATION: Bourke St.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CBD:

Shopping.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: Perth.

WHAT DO YOU DO: Merchandising manager.

FAVOURITE CLOTHING ITEM:
Biker's jacket.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Something that is comfortable. Being stylish does not have to be painful.

WHAT IS TRENDING: Cropped tops and sliders are making a comeback. Crops can look stunning paired with casual or formal pieces alike.

OILVIA PING

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING:

Jacket from Green with Envy; tee from Glue; shoes from Windsor Smith.

LOCATION: Melbourne Central.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CBD:

Shopping.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM:

Maribyrnong.

WHAT DO YOU DO: Accountant.

FAVOURITE CLOTHING ITEM:
Little black dress is a must have in every girl's wardrobe. It doesn't have to be branded but the fit should be perfect and sexy.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Something that reflects your personal attitude.

WHAT IS TRENDING: Roshe Run shoes from Reebok.

GEORGINA TAGLIAFERRI

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING:

Jumper from Topshop; jacket from Topshop; pants from H&M and shoes from the online store Iconic.

LOCATION: Bourke St.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CBD:

Shopping.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: Perth.

WHAT DO YOU DO: Manage a hotel.

FAVOURITE CLOTHING ITEM:

My Witchery black pants. They are my go-to pants when I need to look presentable but don't want to think hard about it.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

The finishing with good accessories and makeup.

WHAT IS TRENDING: Bold eyebrows and bright lipsticks.

5 Winter essentials

We are squarely in the middle of winter but this does not mean that your fashion quotient has to plummet like the temperature.

So, we put together a list of everyday winter wearables that also rank high on the fashion scale.

1 COCOON JACKET

This jacket is making a comeback this season. Perfect for all body shapes, make sure the layers on the inside are not bulky to disrupt the shape of the "cocoon". To give it a dramatic twist, use a belt to focus on cinching the waists.

2 BLANKET SCARF

Rug up with these oversized scarves. They are warm, cozy and can completely transform any look (and best of all, one size fits all).

3 KNEE-HIGH BOOTS

A favourite on the street style crowd, knee-high boots are being worn in every shade of black, grey, cream and camel thinkable and in every heel height from flat to sky-high.

4 ANIMAL PRINTS

The sassy animal print that just won't go away – think leopard, tigers, python and zebra. Hit the spot in small doses if you are not confident of the whole look or accessorise with animal prints.

5 PUFFER JACKETS

Shiny, unbelievably light and warm, puffer jackets are easy to wear. They are can be used in multiple ways – as comfortable to the footy or hiking through mountains.



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Historical

Melbourne's first newspaper

By John Pascoe Fawkner

Melbourne Advertiser, January 1838. Courtesy State Library of Victoria

We opine that Melbourne cannot reasonably remain longer marked on the chart of advancing civilization without its Advertiser ...

Such being our imperial Fiat we do intend therefore by means of this our advertiser to throw the resplendent light of Publicity upon all the affairs of this New Colony Whether of commerce of Agriculture or of the arts and mysteries of the Grazier

All these patent roads to wealth are thrown open to the Adventurous Port Phillipians all these sources of riches are about to (or already are) become accessible to each adventurous Colonist of Nous

The future fortunes of the rising Melbournians will be much accelerated by the dissemination of intelligence consequent upon The Press being thrown open here

But until the arrival of the printing material we will by means of the Humble pen diffuse Such intelligence as may be found expedient or as may arise ...

The energies of the present population of this rapidly rising district have never been exceeded in any of the Colonies of Britain ...

Its giant like Strides have filled with

astonishment the minds of all the neighbouring states. The Sons of Britian languish when debarred the use of that mighty Engine the Press

A very Small degree of Support timely afforded will establish a newspaper here

But until Some further arrangements are made it will be merely an advertising Sheet and will be given away to Householders



Pets Corner

Sports-canine Pico

Pico is a five-and-a-half-year-old pure-bred kelpie who loves sports.

According to her owner Hayden Carmichael she is good at footy and basketball but is excellent at soccer. True to the nature of the breed, Pico is very active and intelligent. Hayden says with pride that Pico is a very fine dog and completes his family. When Pico thinks something needs doing, there is no stopping her, he says with a smile.

Inspired by his wife's Polish heritage, all their dogs' names are influenced by Polish sciences. For instance, pico is a very small unit of measurement of the chemical element radium.

Along with his son Czary, they enjoy their Saturday morning at the Flagstaff Gardens with a kick of the football. It was quite amusing to see Pico unhappy as her game time was interrupted while Hayden and Czary spoke to *CBD News*. She was keen to get the game restarted.

Hayden stressed on the importance of gardens in the CBD.

"We should ensure council has a clear understanding of how important they are to making Melbourne liveable and accessible. Gardens are fundamental aspects of modern inner city living," he said.

Real Estate

City and city workers the winners

No matter what you might think about the merits of Melbourne's apartment boom it will be city renters and retailers who are the winners.

With thousands of new apartments coming into the market every week the downward pressure on rents is growing enormously so the winners (in the short term) will be the tenants and the amazing new levels of life they will bring to an already bubbling city.

In the next 18 months the City of Melbourne has estimated there will be around 12,000 new apartments in the CBD. In the 1980s, the number of apartment buildings in the city could be counted on one hand.

This transformation of the CBD is profound and has happened at staggering speed but it will find its own level and the city will be better for it in the long run.

The population of Melbourne's CBD has doubled in the past nine years, climbing from 13,000 to 30,000 with round 5400 of those new residents arrived in the past year.

Leading real estate group Oliver Hume Research has found there have been 60 applications for apartment towers in the City of Melbourne that will add 16,400 units to the supply. Another 16,500 units are waiting in the wings.

Oliver Hume found the average size building is 213 units at 22 storeys -

many offering apartments with one to two bedrooms that are perfect for a busy inner city lifestyle that is socially focused on being out and about.

This vibrant and exciting CBD full of young people living in cheap apartments (for a couple of years anyway) and a new boom in retailing and the cafe and restaurant culture fuelled by this activity.

Every booming social area of Melbourne has started off with cheap property - believe it or not it was Carlton, then Fitzroy, Collingwood and now Northcote that became pricey after their resurgence was driven initially by affordability.

It is now the turn of the CBD which is about to go through a cyclical downturn caused by oversupply before rents and prices recover in several years.

The fundamentals of a recovery are valid with a rapidly rising population and demand for new homes of all shapes and sizes and for a much broader population requirement.

In 2003 Melbourne underwent an apartment boom where thousands of apartments were added and the market stopped dead in its tracks for five years before prices started to exceed construction costs.



Grant Müller
Grant has been reporting on the property market for more years than he would care to admit.



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Food

It's the season for quinces

This time of the year we start to see at the markets winter fruits such as quinces, local citrus fruits, pears and apples.

One of the most popular fruits used at this time of the year is the quince. At this point in the season we see the best quince coming from Renmark in South Australia, also there are some filtering through to the markets from the Shepparton area.

The best fruit is picked when it is bright yellow and fragrant, before the fruit ages and becomes a golden and copper colour. The one thing to remember when choosing quinces is that it is extremely difficult to have choice of region or variety, as they are all classed under the one grade and are quite often part of a collective of growers.

Ensure quinces are bright yellow, firm, sweetly fragrant and have no signs of bruising, soft skin or insect activity. The size or shape of the fruit will have no bearing on the quality.

Before you trek out to purchase your quinces, you may give some quick thought as to what cooking application you wish to achieve with them.

If you want to prepare a jam or jelly you will need to purchase quinces high in pectin.

These can be identified by their colour. Choose ones that have a slight green colour to them. These are generally more readily available at the beginning of the season which is now. I visit market stall 21-25 at the Queen Victoria Market, to purchase my quinces.

If you are thinking of baking, roasting, frying or my favourite, poaching, choose nice ripe yellow ones. Prepare quinces for roasting by slicing them into segments and cook as you would a root vegetable. These may be finished off with a drizzle of honey and cinnamon to accompany game or pork dishes. If you prefer the baking option, prepare the quinces whole, by wrapping them in foil and placing them in the oven on a bed of rock salt and baking until they are soft. Preparing quince this way, will make a terrific accompaniment to soft cheese and toasted walnut bread.

But my favourite way is to poach quinces in sugar and spice. Wash, peel and cut quinces into segments. Reserve the peelings. Clean the quince segments of seed and core and place into a saucepan of equal quantity



sugar and water. Add some whole clove, cinnamon, star anise and dried mandarin peel. Tie the peelings in a muslin, place into the saucepan and cook long and slow until quinces turn ruby red. Accompany with thick cream, ice cream or custard.



Teage Ezard is the chef-owner of Ezard and Gingerboy.

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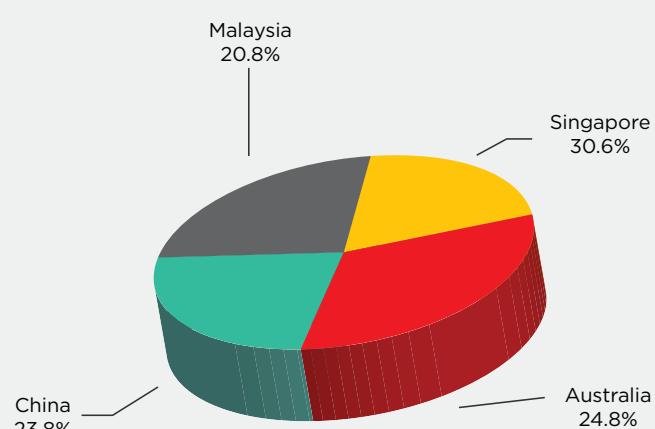
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Foreign Investment

CBD now on the global development stage

Melbourne's CBD is set to undergo a major transformation over the next five years as international property development groups compete to secure parcels of land with development potential.

Development Site Acquisitions by Value From January 2013 to June 2014



Source: m3property research

Major development groups from Singapore, hampered by their government's property cooling measures, have recognised that they must look to diversify their development activities outside of their home country.

Malaysian and Chinese groups also see geographical diversification as critical to maintaining a stable and profitable development pipeline.

Melbourne, with its stable economy, strong property market and ease of doing business has now become the key focus for property development groups from Asia.

Data provided by M3Property Research highlights the significant influx of foreign capital in the past 18 months. Australian companies now make up less than one quarter of all development site purchasers.

Demand predominantly lies in residential development sites as offshore investors are keen on the Australian apartment market.

In the past 12 months, notable global developers to enter the Melbourne CBD include:

- UEM Sunrise – A Malaysian-listed group planning major developments on LaTrobe St and Mackenzie St;
- Hiap Hoe Ltd – A Singapore-listed group which acquired the retail centre at 206 Bourke St along with a large Lonsdale St office and car park building late last year;
- Aspial Ltd – Through its World Class Land division has recently acquired development sites in King St, A'Beckett St and Southbank; and
- Singapore Group, Chip Eng Seng Ltd – via its Australian subsidiary, CEL, will soon commence construction of Tower Melbourne at the corner of Queen and Bourke streets.

All these developers are substantial groups with a proven track record of delivering quality buildings.

So what does this mean for those of us working and living in the CBD? We can expect Melbourne's skyline to be transformed with a bevy of new apartment towers offering accommodation for all levels of the market. Accompanying these apartment towers will be a number of hotels and retail centres.

This all points to a vibrant and diverse Melbourne buoyed by the influx of residents in the apartments, tourists in the new hotels and daily visitors to the major retail centres. Activity in the CBD will increase significantly, particularly on weekends providing a much-needed boost to retailers, restaurants and cafes.

The development activity these major projects generate will not only create employment for the construction industry and ultimately the retail and hospitality industries, it will also provide a host of opportunities for a range of service providers such as lawyers, architects, valuers and surveyors.

With Asia's appetite for Melbourne property showing no signs of abating, it begs the question, which industry will be next?



Andrew Clugston
is a partner in the business advisory and assurance division of Pitcher Partners, Melbourne.

CBD Local



Trading off space for place

For young scientist Kenneth Chung, CBD is where he lives, works and socialises.

Kenneth arrived from Hong Kong to Melbourne 10 years ago to study sciences at Monash University. After university, Kenneth moved into the CBD about four-years ago and has never considered moving elsewhere since then.

"What attracts me to the city is the convenience," he said. "I walk from home to work which is a huge incentive for me to stay here."

"Walking along side the parks and great old buildings makes my walk to work delightful," he adds.

But on a cold and rainy day, which Melbourne has quite a lot of, being in the centre of the transport network is very helpful, with transport being a "piece of cake" (buses, trams, trains).

Kenneth points out that with the influx of people living in the city, services like supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, dry cleaners, salons have sprung up.

The city is no longer the wasteland it used to be, especially on the weekends with relaxed trading hours with some of the restaurants operating 24 hours.

In terms of CBD housing affordability, Kenneth admits that, while he may be able to rent a bigger place in the suburbs: "It's a trade-off space for place. I save on transport as I'm in the centre of all the action."

This is particularly important to someone like him who lives alone as the rest of his family is back in Hong Kong. Also, Kenneth likes hanging out in the Chinatown area, which is in the heart of the city.

Compared with Hong Kong, Kenneth gives plus points to Melbourne for being much less congested and crowded.

In the short term, he envisions that he would continue to live in the CBD but if he decided to move, it would still be to an inner-city suburb.



Rebel possum

What do you mean 'don't feed the wildlife'?

Our furry friend is incredulous that anyone should even consider not feeding him/her.

The possums of Melbourne's parks have grown extremely bold over many generations of mis-placed kindness shown to them.

It's better for all concerned – possums and people – if possums are left to fend for themselves.

A better way: Incentivising owners to pay on time

6.09 per cent is the magic number.

Taken from the Strata Community Australia (SCA) Benchmarking Survey, 6.09 per cent is the Victorian average of strata owners that have their levies in arrears for greater than 30 days.

While this may not seem like a large number – what this does mean is that, in any given building in Melbourne, owners' corporations ought to be setting budgets that are in excess of 100 per cent of planned expenditure, to account for late payers and the prospects of paying (sometimes substantial) legal professional fees to chase the late payers in VCAT and the courts.

It can take between six to 12 months to obtain a judgment for levy arrears in VCAT, and to enforce that judgment via the Sheriff's office (for individuals) or via the

Federal Court (for companies).

However, it occurs to me that owners' corporations could be doing more to incentivise lot owners to pay their fees and levies as they fall due and payable. Apart from setting budgets at 110 per cent of actual planned expenditure, an owners' corporation could adopt a discount for those that pay on or before the due date. Similar to the methods employed by utility companies for gas and electricity bills, a prompt payment discount would reward those owners that do the right thing and pay their fees on time.

The other message is for the owners that do fall behind on their levies: the most common reason for non-payment of fees on time is because lot owners don't receive a

copy of the quarterly levies in the post. Not surprisingly, this is no defence for not paying the fees, and if the owners' corporation has incurred fee collection charges for sending letters of demand and final fee notices, then the owner will need to pay those charges and any interest in addition to the levy amounts. So, if you change address, ensure that the owners' corporation manager is given notice of the new contact details.

And if owners know that they don't have sufficient funds to pay the levies, the best thing to do is to pick up the phone and tell the owners' corporation manager, so that a payment plan can be drafted. There is no shame in admitting that you can't pay on time. All of us experience cash flow issues at various times in our lives.

An agreement to catch up the quarterly levy by paying a few hundred dollars per month will mean both the owner and the owners' corporation can avoid incurring the late payment collection fees charged by many management companies and law firms.



Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
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Councillor Profile

Beverley adds heart to councillor team

by Shane Scanlan

Coming up to the half-way point of her term as a Melbourne city councillor, Beverley Pinder-Mortimer is starting to get the hang of how the town hall operates.



work with a focus on family and community," she said.

While she says council life is tough, she doesn't consider it a sacrifice in any way.

"I am learning so much and getting so much back through the role, that I certainly don't begrudge the extra 35 or 40 hours a week devoted to the job," she said.

Cr Pinder-Mortimer "fell into" the public relations industry after winning in 1978 the beauty pageant Miss Universe Australia.

She says she learned from the best and has been in business for herself for nearly 30 years.

As the only girl and middle child of an immigrant family, she arrived in Australia from her native Sri Lanka as a highly-motivated teenager.

"I remember arriving on the tarmac at Essendon Airport and seeing that great big sky and all that space and saying to myself 'Yes, I've arrived,'" she said.

Growing up in and around St Kilda (with a brief stint in the outer suburbs), Cr Pinder-Mortimer is still in love with Melbourne and St Kilda Rd.

She is realistic about how much a city councillor can actually achieve and likes to talk about "advocacy" rather than "change".

She said it has been an eye-opening experience to see the way councillors and council staff work together to make things happen. "Getting the balance right in terms of my role and council officers is a challenge and I'm always learning," she said.

"There is no shortage of advice on our responsibilities, particularly statutory obligations and those relating to conflict of interest."

"I'm learning as I go but I really would prefer to just pitch in and get things done," she said. "Politics is part of the landscape here but I'm a straight-shooter and am more interested in getting the job done."

No doubt Cr Pinder-Mortimer will be more effective if she is returned for a second term. At this stage she says she has no aspirations in this regard but, looking at how much fun she is having, don't be surprised to see this most unlikely of politicians lining up again in 2016.

 Next month 'Councillor Profile' looks at Cr Rohan Leppert

"I am so much not a politician and I really knew very little of how local government works," she said.

But despite these challenges, Cr Pinder-Mortimer is thriving in the role and is loving every minute of it.

The current team of councillors is a well-balanced group of disparate individuals with a broad range of capacities, interests and intellects.

Cr Pinder-Mortimer says she contributes a "soft-centre" and a "warm heart" to this balance and, in return, is well supported by her colleagues.

"All of my colleagues are so good to me. I am learning so much about life and, in particular, people," she said.

Despite being elected to office in late 2012 on the "Team Doyle" juggernaut which stopped just one seat short of an absolute majority, Cr Pinder-Mortimer says there are really no factions within the council.

"We seem share a common vision on many issues, but when it comes to making decisions, everyone's view is important and respected. We each have one vote and you'll find that on many occasions this council will reach a unanimous decision," she said.

She said she had reached a point in her life when she wanted to start giving back to the community when the Lord Mayor, Cr Robert Doyle, first approached her to run for office.

"I didn't need much convincing. I was very honoured and said yes there and then," she said.

"For me, this is very much about community. I am such a passionate Melburnian that the opportunity to serve as a councillor is priceless."

As the council's marketing portfolio chair, Cr Pinder-Mortimer has been given the chance to indulge her passion for promotions, tourism, events and retail.

She said her other major interest within council was in helping the less fortunate members of the community.

"I guess this matches with who I am - first and foremost a compassionate person who believes in humanity, humility and hard

Health

Get moving, get healthy



Now that's active!

Looking to run, walk, ride, surf, bowl, climb or swim this weekend?

If you're looking for inspiration to exercise, VicHealth have come to the rescue with a cool new app called Team Up.

The app is location-sensitive and gives the user a list of sporty opportunities such as archery lessons, zumba classes or even postings looking for an extra player on a basketball team.

To calm your jitters about your own physical skill, the app shows whether the level of the activity in question is for the beginner, intermediate or more advanced person. In addition, you can click through for a map, age group advice and to get in touch directly with the advertiser.

"I'm a 7-8km min per km runner and am looking for a running partner who doesn't mind keeping me accountable" posts one user. Or, perhaps a 24-hour charity basketball shoot out in Albert Park might be more your style.

Whatever your interest in physical activity, this app breaks down the barriers that many of us have to exercise. Our friends at VicHealth should be congratulated!

www.teamup.com.au

Are you running Melbourne?

If you're a keen runner, you'll know that July and October are two big dates on the running calendar for Melburnians. Many people use the 10km and half-marathon distances in Run Melbourne in July as a platform in training for the 21km or 42km Melbourne Marathon distances in October.

At Viva Physiotherapy, we are starting to see some of the overuse injuries that are common to these events. These include ITB friction syndrome, patella-femoral pain, plantar fasciitis or hip joint pain. Any or all of these can seriously hamper your running ambitions. Want to know how to avoid them?

The first bit of advice we give to all runners - new and experienced - is to do your body a favour by planning ahead. Download a training program off the internet and take

a systematic approach to building up your kilometres. Many think that running a marathon is about cardio fitness but many runners will know that training sessions are also about conditioning your muscles and joints to the repetitive motion of running.

Good luck for any of you running. It's still not too late to sign up!

www.rundemelbourne.com.au or
www.melbournemarathon.com.au

Green Light, Eat Right

With the amazing range of foods available to us, it can be tricky to know what is healthy and what's not. The City of Melbourne has developed an innovative program, *Green Light, Eat Right*, to give consumers a helping hand on making healthy choices.

What does it look like?

The scheme runs on a traffic-light classification system with green, amber and red lights guiding the health content of food.

Where will I see it?

After an initial pilot in QV Urban Market with a number of participating food outlets, the program has now been rolled out in City of Melbourne leisure and aquatic facilities with food in kiosks and even vending machines are labelled according to the traffic light system.

The program is looking to expand with the YMCA Victoria to roll out the GLER program more broadly across the state.

How can I become involved?

As a consumer, look for the traffic lights to guide your food choices. If you own a business in the Melbourne CBD, please get in touch with the council to register your interest.



Kathryn Anderson is the principal of Viva Physiotherapy, Flinders Lane. Ph: 9663 2043 www.vivaphysiotherapy.com

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



A GREAT BIG WORLD CONCERT

AUGUST 3, 8PM

170 Russell St, Melbourne
Catch American singers and songwriters Ian Axel and Chad Vaccarino in concert

WORLD RANGER DAY MUSICAL FUNDRAISER

AUGUST 1, 6.30PM - 11.30PM

Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston St 8680 2103
greenlinegrooves.eventbrite.com.au
Cost: \$80 to \$100

This fundraising musical extravaganza celebrates World Ranger Day and the work rangers do around the world to protect wildlife and significant areas. Performing on the night are Nicky Bomba, Gotye, Tex Perkins, Tinpan Orange, Makana (Hawaii), Damien Howard and more.



CHAOZ CON

AUGUST 23 – 24

Wilson Hall, Melbourne University
Celebrate cosplaying, hobbies and artistry in their various forms

MIDWINTER CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY POLYPHONIC VOICES

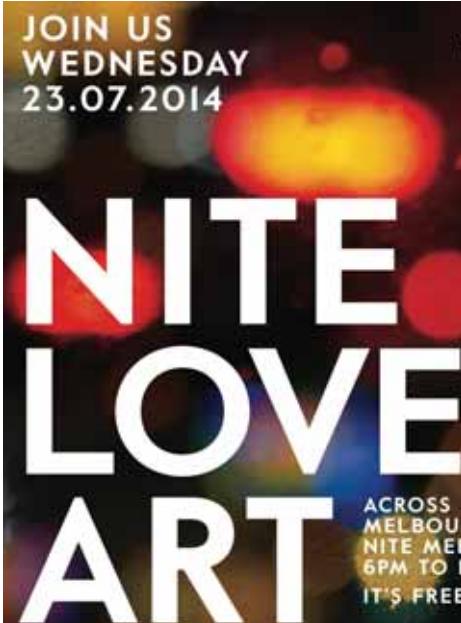
AUGUST 8, 6.30PM FOR 7.30PM

The Chapter House, 197 Flinders Lane

SPIRITUALITY AS WE AGE

AUGUST 15, 11AM

St Michael's, Collins St
Seminars exploring the powerful relationship between spirituality and mental health by professor Lisa J. Miller. Seminars are free, bookings are essential.



IMPROVE YOUR PUBLIC SPEAKING

AUGUST 7, 6PM TO 8PM

Melbourne Multicultural Hub, Elizabeth St
Practice your presentation skills, clearly articulate your ideas and improve your self-confidence.

MUSICAL COMES ALIVE

UNTIL AUGUST 17

136100 Princess Theatre, 163 Spring St, Melbourne. Cost: \$100-\$145
The musical returns with acclaimed actors Lisa McCune and Lou Diamond Phillips as the King of Siam for Melbourne season.

HARP IN THE GARDENS

EVERY SUNDAY IN AUGUST, 2PM – 3PM

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
The Royal Botanical Gardens' resident harpist, Michael Johnson, performs an intimate concert of inspiring and uplifting music composed in the Gardens.



BOB BROWN ON OPTIMISM

AUGUST 5, 6.30PM - 7.30PM

Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston St, Melbourne

GOURMET CHEESE MAKING

AUGUST 8, 6PM – 8PM

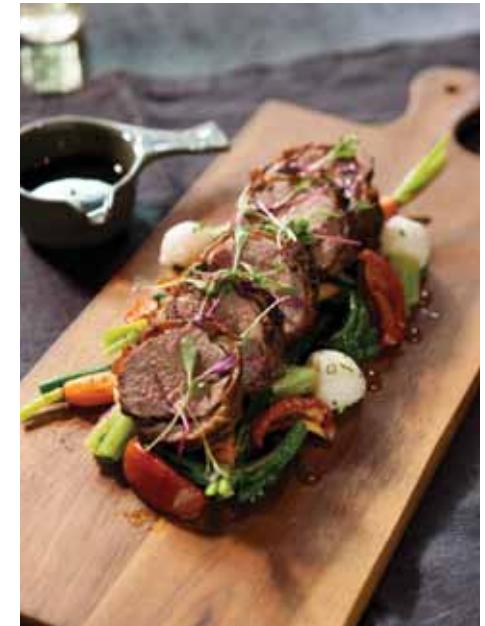
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AUGUST 22

Melbourne Recital Centre
31 Sturt St, Southbank
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FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM

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SAILING INTO MELBOURNE

SUNDAY TO FRIDAY (CLOSED SATURDAYS), 10AM – 4PM

Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring St, Public Record Office Victoria is showcasing an impressive display of memorabilia in this exhibition showcasing maritime history.

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