

The voice of postcode 3000

# CBD NEWS

Food Events Nightlife



LUNCH TIME 12

AFTER WORK 14

THE WEEKEND 15

**DOYLE'S CYCLE 'BANS'**

page 2

**SPRAY IT UP**

page 3

**FLOWER POWER**

page 6

**ADVICE FROM CEO**

page 7



## Tram relocations to stay in CBD

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He said it was yet to be determined which Swanston St trams would permanently remain routed up either Elizabeth, William or Spencer streets.

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However, the roadway between Flinders and Collins streets and LaTrobe and Lonsdale streets would be open-cut holes for "years".

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The briefing was told it was hoped that at least one side of Swanston St would remain open for pedestrians at any one time.

Mr Tattersall said there were, similarly, no decisions yet made about what becomes of the undisturbed tram-less and cycle-less sections of Swanston St between Collins and Lonsdale streets during the construction period.

Mr Tattersall said the contractors constructing the underground stations would first have to indicate their preferred routes for trucking out the significant amounts of soil from the excavations.

He said the two CBD stations, CBD North and CBD South, would be constructed at the same time. Of all the "critical assets", the two stations would take the longest to construct.

Mr Tattersall said specific timelines were yet to be determined, but relocation of tram services were due to start in 2017, with major construction scheduled for 2018.

The Metro Rail project is due for completion in 2026, but Mr Tattersall cautioned that it could be brought forward because of the promise of relief to the existing stressed rail network.

Asked about the biggest challenge the project presented, Mr Tattersall said protecting the amenity of the city during construction was the hardest part of the project.

He said the project presented many other challenges, including:

- How to locate services above the City Loop which, in some instances, was only 20 metres below the surface; and
- How to cross the Yarra River.



## First sign of spring

**It may feel cold but you can tell spring is coming when promotion starts for Melbourne Spring Fashion Week.**

This year, ambassador Ashley Hart returns to warm things up with her infectious smile and impeccable dress sense.

See *CBD News* Lifestyle Editor Laura Timberlake's overview of the festival on page 16.



**YEAR 7 INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY SCHOLARSHIPS 2016**

Applications close Friday 28 August. Call 9816 7901 or visit [preshil.vic.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships](http://preshil.vic.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships)



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# CBD NEWS When is a "ban", not a ban?

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## Editorial comment by Shane Scanlan

*In an intriguing media circus last month, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle managed to build a storm around a proposal to "ban" cyclists from three CBD streets without, apparently, using the word.*

Far from protesting that he was misquoted by the *Herald Sun* and distancing himself from the suggestion, Cr Doyle used the opportunity to suggest that VicRoads consider banning cyclists in Flinders, King and Lonsdale streets.

In a classic "bet each way", Cr Doyle said: "I'm not suggesting we 'ban' anything. Let's take that off the table. We don't have the power to do that anyway."

But he then went on to say: "If VicRoads wants to take that next step (banning) then I would certainly welcome that."

"I didn't use the word ban. I didn't talk about fines," he said. "At the moment you can ride absolutely anywhere with impunity. I think we need to have a conversation to say should that that really be the case?"

He said the proposal was based on safety concerns and cited a 2008 Swanston St fatality as evidence. At the time of the accident, Swanston St was a City of Melbourne-recommended cycle route (marked "informal" on the TravelSmart map of the day).

He rejected a suggestion that cyclists should be able to make their own decisions about the relative safety of the routes they choose.



Herald Sun headline writers were happy to use the word "ban" on an otherwise non-story.



In a promotion selling online subscriptions, the *Herald Sun* was surprisingly candid and revealing about its motivation for its collaboration with Cr Doyle as well as its attitude towards cyclists: "Is this the moment cyclist haters have been waiting for?" it asked.

"Cyclists would be banned from riding along three CBD thoroughfares under a bold plan by Melbourne's Lord Mayor to make the city safer."

Despite being told to the contrary, Melbourne's major news outlets joined in the feeding frenzy, perpetuating the inaccuracy that Cr Doyle had called for a ban.

Even SBS was happy to attribute the ban proposal to Cr Doyle.

While claiming he just wanted to keep cyclists safe, by engaging in this exercise, Cr Doyle managed to feed a News Corporation/3AW anti-cyclist agenda while remaining "innocent" in the eyes of his pro-cyclist councillor colleagues.

If Cr Doyle was at all concerned about cyclist safety, he would not encourage the sort of prejudices that embolden a certain class of motor vehicle driver to further harass, maim and even kill cyclists.



Cr Doyle tells the media how he wants to talk about whether cyclists should be allowed in three CBD streets.

## LAURA HAM ANSWERS YOUR PHYSIO QUESTIONS.

**Q** I get tight through the front of my hips after I run. How can I manage this?

**A** It sounds like you are describing tightness through your hip flexors - this is a common problem and can be attributed to a number of factors! Firstly, there are a few things you can try to ease off the muscular stiffness, including hip flexor stretches and trigger point release with a foam roller or spiky ball. Secondly, it would be beneficial to figure out why you are experiencing these symptoms. Often it can be attributed to a weakness of your core and hip stabiliser muscles, in which case commencing a specific core or Pilates program would help. Sometimes it may also occur after changing your training intensity or distance too quickly, and thus managing your running load becomes more important. However, sometimes persistent hip flexor overactivity can be due to internal hip joint issues, which may require scans. Before it gets too serious make sure you have a chat with your physiotherapist about your options!

Laura Ham is a physiotherapist and Pilates Instructor at Viva Physiotherapy, a sports, spinal, ergonomic and Pilates clinic based in Flinders Lane.



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# Doubt on council green credentials

*The City of Melbourne's environmental credentials have been called into question over the way it has handled a review of its treatment of the share-car industry.*

After three years successfully nurturing three start-up share-car companies, councillors are facing a difficult dilemma – how much should they subsidise private enterprises which result in a green outcome?

At their Future Melbourne Committee meeting on July 14, all but one councillor voted to disappoint share-car industry representatives and customers.

The matter is coming before the full council on July 28 (after publication of the August *CBD News*), so positions might change.

But, if they don't, councillors have been told that they will be damaging the future expansion of the share car phenomenon.

Representatives of Melbourne's car share operators told councillors that the city's conditions surrounding giving up a further 390 valuable on-street parking spaces to accommodate share car growth was inconsistent with the council's transport policies.

They said both a proposed modified fee structure and a requirement that they must first source two private spaces from commercial operators before being eligible for an on-street council space would damage their businesses and, in one case, send them broke.

Flexi Car's Greg Giraud argued that the "two-for-one" policy was unrealistic and that a suggestion that car share companies should compensate council for forgone parking revenue was "absurd".

"Rail, bus, tramway and taxi operators do not pay rates for their use of public land," he said.

"Tonight you are not just voting on the future of car share in the City of Melbourne, you are voting on the threat of an additional 16,000 residential vehicles by 2021."

Sahil Bhasin, of Green Share Car, said: "Your decision tonight could force us to cease our operations entirely."

Mr Bhasin predicted that if the car share issue was handled within a sustainability council department and not within engineering, as is the case at Melbourne, there would have been a different recommendation to councillors.

"Engineering services is in charge of parking meter revenue," he said. "This service should fall within sustainability, who would have a completely different view of the actual tangible outcomes of this service."

He said his business was losing \$180,000 per year on the car share scheme.

Go Get's Justin Passaportis said any loss of parking revenue would more than be made up via increased social and economic benefit. He pointed out that should the scheme successfully expand within Melbourne to 2000 vehicles by 2021, the net economic benefit would be at least \$45 million.

"Why should local residents who choose to give up their cars and share instead be penalised by additional charges effectively imposed by their own council?" he asked.

Cr Stephen Mayne was the only councillor to vote against a slightly modified motion before the committee, saying he'd been extremely impressed by the arguments put forward by the industry and its supporters.



## Paint mates spray it up

*Brothers Peter (left) and Paddy Holmes (right) and mate Ryan Scanlan (back) took advantage of a commercial opportunity to indulge their passion last month.*

The Adina Hotel in Flinders St engaged the crew to decorate the back entrance to the hotel with iconic Melbourne imagery.

Paddy explained that a tram, Flinders St Station and Luna Park would be the central images, supported by the word "Melbourne" and silhouetted palm trees in a sunset.

Peter said the job came up via a Facebook post which he and Paddy's sister replied to.

"The receptionist here is a mutual friend," Peter said. "We made contact, one thing led to another and here we are."

The friends hope to do such an impressive job that it will lead to more murals for other hotels in the chain.

southgate

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# Short-stays are here to stay

**Owners' corporations (OC) hoping to ban short-stay tenants from residential buildings have suffered a setback with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) ruling on June 29 that their ability to make rules is limited.**

In another test case centred on the Watergate building in Docklands, VCAT member Linda Rowland found that the OC did not have the power to make a rule prohibiting stays of less than 30 days.

The VCAT decision paves the way for short-stay operators throughout the state as it means OCs can't make rules preventing short-term letting.

"The decision now effectively means that owners' corporations do not have the power to make rules that prohibit short-term letting in residential buildings," Watergate OC solicitor Tom Bacon said.

"The decision impacts on all owners' corporations throughout Victoria and affects all rules of this type made under either the 1988 or 2006 legislation," Mr Bacon said.

Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico said the best response for CBD residents was to be aware of the increased security and safety risks. Mr Dall'Amico said it seemed clear that short-stays in residential buildings were here to stay and that OCs needed to adjust to the new reality or at least continue their push to have them banned.

"Whereas in the past there may have been 10 sets of eyes watching out on a floor, this number is diminishing with short-term

holiday makers replacing local residents," Mr Dall'Amico said.

And, he said, short-stay visitors lacked the opportunity to become familiar with the safety and security issues facing the building, which posed a risk to themselves and others.

"It's unlikely that they will be properly inducted into the building, compared to hotels which have safety and emergency procedures in place as routine."

The Watergate OC is yet to decide whether it will appeal the decision at the Supreme Court. Watergate OC deputy chair Rus Littleton said the committee was disappointed by the decision and said it favoured opportunists in the short-stay industry.

"We are most concerned that apartment property values throughout the state will suffer because of this decision. It is effectively an open invitation to opportunists to exploit legal loopholes," Mr Littleton said.

"The short-stay industry is unregulated – any outfit can start up, hold an apartment building to ransom and damage its reputation. The State Government needs to make changes to look after residents and their investments."

The Building Appeals Board, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and VCAT, have now all tested the issue of short-term letting of apartments. Having been tested across a range of courts and tribunals, it now appears that the only other option would be the introduction of new legislation by the State Government.

In February, Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garret appointed a panel to look at the impact of short-stay accommodation in residential buildings and make recommendations to herself and Planning Minister Richard Wynne.



Former Seeker Athol Guy speaks from the heart.

## As good as it gets

**The musical theatre industry came together with local businesses on July 1 to explore ways of leveraging upcoming opportunities.**

The City of Melbourne-hosted business breakfast heard that Melbourne was about to experience the best line-up of musical theatre ever.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle encouraged retailers to make the most of the opportunity by working with the industry.

He said collaboration was inbuilt within the DNA of the city. "It's how we do things in Melbourne," he said.

Representatives from upcoming productions addressed the breakfast, suggesting ways of working together. The function heard:

- Craig Gordon speak about *Jekyll and Hyde* (Princess Theatre from December 12) (since "postponed") and *Sound of Music* (Regent Theatre from May 2016);

- Lyndell Pond speak about *Singin' in the Rain* (Her Majesty's from May 2016) and *Cats* (Regent December 18 until January 10, 2016); and

- Dennis Smith speak about *Georgy Girl* (Her Majesty's from December 22).

Original Seekers band member Athol Guy spoke about the significance of Melbourne being the location of the world premiere of *Georgy Girl*.

He said the band had achieved many milestones over 50 years, but the culmination of the new musical being performed in their home town was the pinnacle.

"You can't get any better than that," Mr Guy said.

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# Council treads softly on apartment standards

**The City of Melbourne has made a high-level response to the State Government's Better Apartments discussion paper, without making any specific recommendations.**

The council's response, which was endorsed by its Future Melbourne Committee on July 7, outlines a number of principles it considers important but couches its ideas in neutral language.

The strongest recommendation is that the standards which apply in NSW could be "considered" as a starting point for Victoria.

In NSW one-bedroom apartments are mandated to be at least 50sqm but in Melbourne, some 40 per cent of apartments are said to be smaller than this.

"We recommend consideration be given to the performance criteria in the NSW Apartment Design Guide as a starting point to develop relevant performance criteria/objectives for the Melbourne context," the council's submission says.

The council's submission suggest responses "could include" separation distances between buildings, communal space requirements, minimum apartment sizes, maximum building/apartment depths, ceiling heights and levels of sunlight.

But the submission fails to quantify its claims. Rather, it talks about "appropriate" residential densities, "adequate" separation between buildings, "well designed" common areas, "appropriate" sunlight, "efficient" environmental design and "functional" outdoor space.

The council also calls for flexibility in the application of any apartment standards. It recommends that, in "limited circumstances" the Government could provide "deemed-to-comply standards".

The council notes that Victoria has no density controls and suggests that each apartment should be considered in a wider context.

"In light of the lack of density controls, consideration should be given to provisions which directly relate to the amenity of each apartment and contextual factors which significantly impact the amenity of apartments such as such as site layout and building orientation, separation and built

form," the submission says.

On the question of affordability, the council argues that bigger does not necessarily mean more costly. And, in any event, it says standards should not be compromised.

"The quality of new residential development, however, should not be reduced to the lowest common denominator in pursuit of affordability," it says.

It admits that some very small apartments are good but says they are rare in the current market.

"Very small apartments which offer good levels of amenity can and do exist, but they rely on clever, integrated and often bespoke design and tend to be the exception in the current market," the submission says.

"Affordability is not necessarily improved by building smaller homes. The conjunction of increasing sale prices with decreasing apartment sizes is now evident within the municipality with the price of the apartments remaining the same or even increasing despite size."

## Street begging crackdown

**CBD police will be cracking down on street begging this month.**

Acting Snr-Sgt Lisa Prentice-Evans said operation Minta would be conducted with the Salvation Army and the City of Melbourne.

She said "begging alms" was a summary offence in Victoria but she fully expected most offenders would be directed into welfare support programs.

She said money raised by beggars would not be confiscated and that only those refusing to establish their identities would be arrested and brought into custody.

Otherwise, she said, offenders would be summonsed to appear in court where their situation would be assessed against available welfare programs.

Acting Snr-Sgt Prentice-Evans said only a small proportion of city beggars were demanding or aggressive with most being content to sit in the streets displaying signs asking for support.

She said it was important to get these people off the streets and into appropriate care.

"We encourage people not to give them money," she said. "Giving them money is not addressing the underlying issues."

**hockingstuart**

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# Flower power to help business

*They say good things come to those who wait so, after two years, Collins St traders are excited about achieving a 12-month trial installation of floral planter boxes.*

Collins St Precinct vice-president Alister Reid raised the idea with the City of Melbourne in 2013 and is delighted that it has germinated and blossomed.

Mr Reid said the planter boxes were good for business as it encouraged pedestrians to slow down and "smell the roses". As a result, he said, they were more likely to engage with the businesses along the street.

"It softens the streetscape, makes people slow down and results in a safer environment," he said.

Under the arrangement, the council has agreed to change the configuration of the planter boxes each season and an assessment will be made on the success of the program next year.

So far, the southern side of the block between Russell and Exhibition streets has been treated with 19 new planter boxes.

Mr Reid said he expected the program to be hailed a success and hoped it would be extended to the rest of Collins St.

"It bring benefits to both the traders and the public," he said. "And, at the same time, it enhances Melbourne's reputation as an international city."



*(From left) Collins St Precinct executive members Alycia French, Alister Reid, Jodie Coall and president Mary Poulakis "stop to the smell the roses"*

# 'Ask the people' on wages

*Melbourne councillor Stephen Mayne wants local citizens to provide independent advice to council ahead of formal negotiations for the next Enterprise Agreement for more than 1000 staff.*

Cr Mayne told a business lunch at South Wharf on July 17 that a "people's panel" would ideally be involved in providing a community perspective on wages and conditions at council before the next agreement comes into force on July 1, 2016.

He said the success of the council's first use of a people's panel in advising on the council's 10-year financial plan showed the technique was ideal for further applications.

"As councillors, we are excluded from the negotiations with employees, but a people's panel would be an ideal inclusion to represent the interests of the community," Cr Mayne said.

Cr Mayne said the City of Melbourne had "great" staff but they were more generously remunerated than their local government peers with the 2013-14 annual report disclosing 153 staff received more than \$130,000.

He said the EBA was riddled with quirky historical anomalies, which belonged to a bygone era.

"For instance, librarians are working 35 hours a week, while the rest of the staff are working 38," Cr Mayne said.

He said minimum staff levels were mandated in some council departments and for those staff who were on a nine-day fortnight in 2001, this cannot be taken away.



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# 'Work with us on market'

**Councillors reacted with passion to suggestions made at the Future Melbourne Committee on July 14 that consultation around plans for the Queen Victoria Market renewal was flawed.**

Trader and community representatives said that, despite voicing their opinions, their views were not represented in the final master plan, which was unanimously endorsed by councillors.

Cr Arron Wood pleaded with the community to work with the council on the market redevelopment.

"We want to get this right just as much as you do," he said. "At this stage, what it (the master plan) should show you is that, by not nailing every single car park down to a post is that we are still open to listening."

"Keep on making your viewpoints made, but work with us on this. Don't see us as an adversary," he said.

Cr Ken Ong accused critics of having a "not-invented-here" mindset. "If it's not invent by me, it's not good enough," he said.

"If we have to put up with various blockages along the way, that will just extend the project. Many of us have looked at the history of the previous attempts (to renew the market). The blockages killed them."

Lower-market representative Catherine Underhill said to the meeting: "The language around the plans for the lower market is wishy-washy and vague, leaving the intended outcomes completely immune from scrutiny."

"Is this mirk intentional or is it a genuine reflection of the state of play?" she asked.

"There are difference in language and purpose between the draft and the final plan which begs these questions."

Ms Underhill accused the council of excluding traders from the planning process.

"There is a sense that the big end of town is a gathering force ready to push us aside to make way for a development and a future that they see and we don't," she said. "If this

is not the case, then they should include us in the planning."

"The lower-market traders should be included in the planning at the formative stage. We should have funding and advice to allow us to participate fully and we should have full access to the reports and documents that inform decisions."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle reacted angrily, saying: "You ask to be included in the planning. Where have you been for the three years that we have been talking to those traders?"

Ms Underhill replied: "Talking to (us) yes, but coming to (us) with plans and not asking for input on the advice side of it. Often what we say and what comes back seems to have no relationship."

The Lord Mayor muttered under his breath: "Good heavens."

Cr Doyle also accused submitter Miriam Faine of being opposed to the market redevelopment.

"I'm not against a redevelopment of the market. I'm against the kind of redevelopment that has been proposed," she answered. "I believe you have not listened to the market community."

"We feel that our voice has also not been heard in the consultation process. We've made comments. We've been to meetings. And we've been to everything we've been invited to. But somehow, the points we've made - our input - has not made it into the final plan and it has not made it into the reports on feedback."

Trader representative Greg Smith said lack of detail in the master plan was fueling concerns.

"There is great uncertainty, concern and anxiety," he said.



City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer tells CBD residents to be ready for rapid change.

## CEO says hang on for the ride

**City of Melbourne CEO Ben Rimmer has told CBD residents to hang on for a fast and furious technological wave of change.**

Speaking to the EastEnders residents group at the Kelvin Club on July 2, Mr Rimmer predicted driverless cars would make up a "significant proportion" of CBD traffic within 10 years.

He said the council needed to think about how it was going to replace the \$80 million it currently generates from parking if driverless vehicles left the city to be parked elsewhere.

"I am convinced that the 10 years will bring even more change and technical and sustainability opportunities than we have encountered in the last period," Mr Rimmer said.

Mr Rimmer said there was no reason to think of municipal councils as slow lumbering bureaucracies and pledged that, under his direction, the council would test and trial new ideas and adapt rapidly to new challenges.

He spoke of a prosperous future for the inner

city and pointed out that the CBD was a major economic contributor to the national economy.

He said that, as a globally-connected city, Melbourne had more in common with Boston and Shanghai than it did with Adelaide.

However, he also cautioned residents that growth was a double-edged sword and that they needed to adjust their expectations around noise and other amenity issues.

He acknowledged the tension between inner-city urban redevelopment and amenity but said it was necessary to avoid urban sprawl in places like Donnybrook. He said outer fringe development cost \$120 billion more per million people settled in infrastructure costs than urban redevelopment.

"Yes, noise needs to be managed," he said. "But, in all honesty, I can't say it will reduce. It will increase."

In particular, Mr Rimmer spoke of a six to eight year construction period for the Metro Rail project when there would be a 40 metre hole between Flinders and Collins streets.

"But the final product will result in a significant increase in transport capacity and will set the city up for the next 10 years of economic growth," Mr Rimmer said.

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# THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN THE MELBOURNE CBD?

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0411 273 746  
[josh.rutman@cbre.com.au](mailto:josh.rutman@cbre.com.au)

**CBRE**  
**CITY SALES**  
Level 34, 8 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Tom Tuxworth  
0410 988 960  
[tom.tuxworth@cbre.com.au](mailto:tom.tuxworth@cbre.com.au)

## Pro-active policing

**Local police are still concerned about the number of thefts of valuable from cars as well as bicycles being stolen within the CBD.**

Acting Snr-Sgt Lisa Prentice-Evans, of Melbourne East Police Station, said police Operation Multi continued to target multi-storey public and residential car parks within the CBD. She said about 30 vehicles owners were being written to at the end of each eight-hour shift as a result of valuables being seen in their cars.

"We're writing to vehicle owners to warn them of the consequences of leaving valuables in sight in their cars," she said.

As a result, she said, the number of reported thefts from vehicles had reduced dramatically.

"To have only four or five of these thefts being reported in the city each week is great result for us," she said.

Acting Snr-Sgt Prentice-Evans said police were also targeting graffiti and were working closely with stakeholders around Melbourne Central and the Queen Victoria Centre.

She said police from outside the city had also joined in to boost the effort against criminal damage. Young offenders, she said, were typically offered a diversion program.

## Emergency intercoms

**Emergency intercoms were installed at Queen St and King St taxi ranks last month.**

The federally-funded technology was launched on July 2.

When pushed, the emergency intercom buttons connect to the City of Melbourne's CCTV control room and capture images of the person who pressed the button.

# CBD has the highest wages

**Docklands and CBD workers are the highest paid in the state, according to a new Federal Government report.**

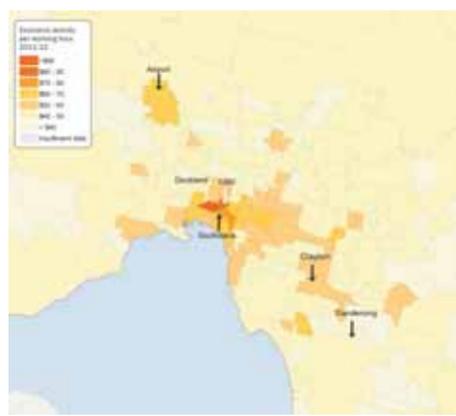
The *State of Australian Cities 2014-2014* report, which was published in July, includes a map showing the highest hourly rates in the state are being paid in postcodes 3008, 3000 and 3006 (Southbank).

It reports that between 2011 and 2012 Docklands' workers are paid more than \$90 per hour, while the figure in the CBD was between \$80 and \$90 per hour. Southbank workers earned between \$70 and \$80 per hour.

The report concludes that these small but high-performing areas need to be protected because they are so important to the national economy.

"Ensuring that Australia's most productive regions – the inner areas of its cities – remain unconstrained, efficient and productive is critical," it concluded. "With such dense economic activity occurring within these relatively small areas, even minor inefficiencies can have a major impact on Australia's national economy and remedying those inefficiencies can reap large economic benefits."

Population growth in inner Melbourne is also occurring at a faster rate than in other capital cities. The report says: "Between 2012 and 2013, the two inner city areas in Australia with the largest



The map of Melbourne shows the economic activity per capita by suburb between 2011 and 2012. It uses different shades to identify dollar wages per hour. Docklands has the highest wages above \$90, followed by the CBD with average wages between \$80 and \$90 per hour.

population increases were both in inner Melbourne: the SA2 areas of Melbourne and Southbank grew by 5400 and 2100 additional people respectively over the year."

But inner city growth and wealth has a flipside – a growing social divide between the inner and the outer metropolitan areas.

As the local economy evolves from a largely manufacturing base to business and other service industries, the inner city is thriving at the expense of the suburbs.

Housing affordability is another measure of growing social inequality, with the report publishing a telling map charting the

affordability of housing across Melbourne between 1981 and 2006.

In 1981, most housing across Melbourne was affordable to low to moderate income earners. By 2006, this phenomenon had been turned on its head with only the outer extremities remaining affordable.

"In terms of the built form of cities, this price premium is having ramifications for the type of urban development that is occurring," the report says. "Marked increases in density are occurring where price premiums are highest. This price premium is also facilitating substantial changes in the type of dwellings that are being provided."

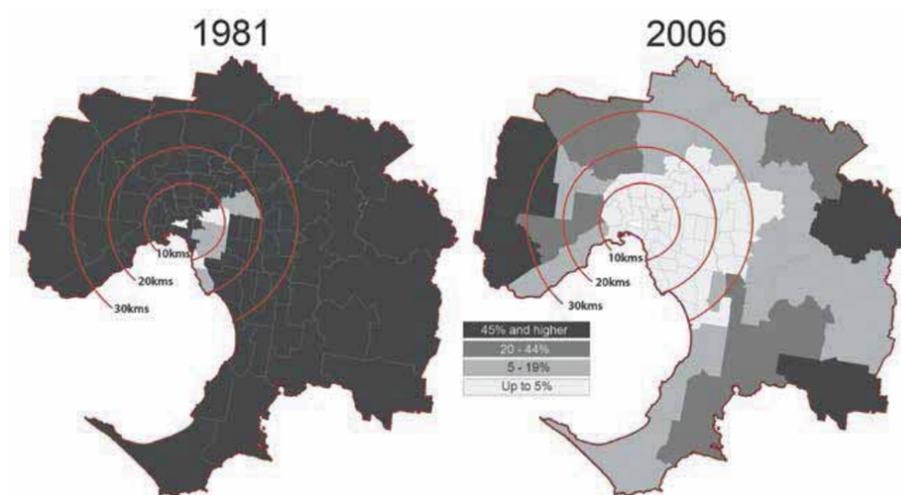
"Australia's cities are now increasingly characterised by the significant spatial divide between areas of highly productive jobs and the areas of population based services, reflected through the price premiums associated with houses that have better access to the city centre."

The same inequities show up in a study of distance between home and work, with the outer suburban dwellers facing significantly longer times in traffic.

While not advocating any suggested solutions, the report notes growing concern of the consequences of the growing social divide.

"There are concerns held by researchers, state governments and local councils that while land release on the urban fringe may have once been a valid strategy for boosting the supply of affordable housing, this approach may be increasingly problematic," the report says.

"Recent research undertaken by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) concluded for those cities under study, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, that clusters of social disadvantage were increasingly being pushed further towards city peripheries over the period 2001-11. The report notes that the outward movement of social disadvantage is being driven by housing affordability factors and it poses new challenges, because these areas are already poorly resourced in terms of accessible jobs, transport, facilities and services."



In 1981 almost all of Melbourne was affordable to low and moderate income earners. The landscape had changed drastically by 2006. The dark areas on the city's edges remained affordable.

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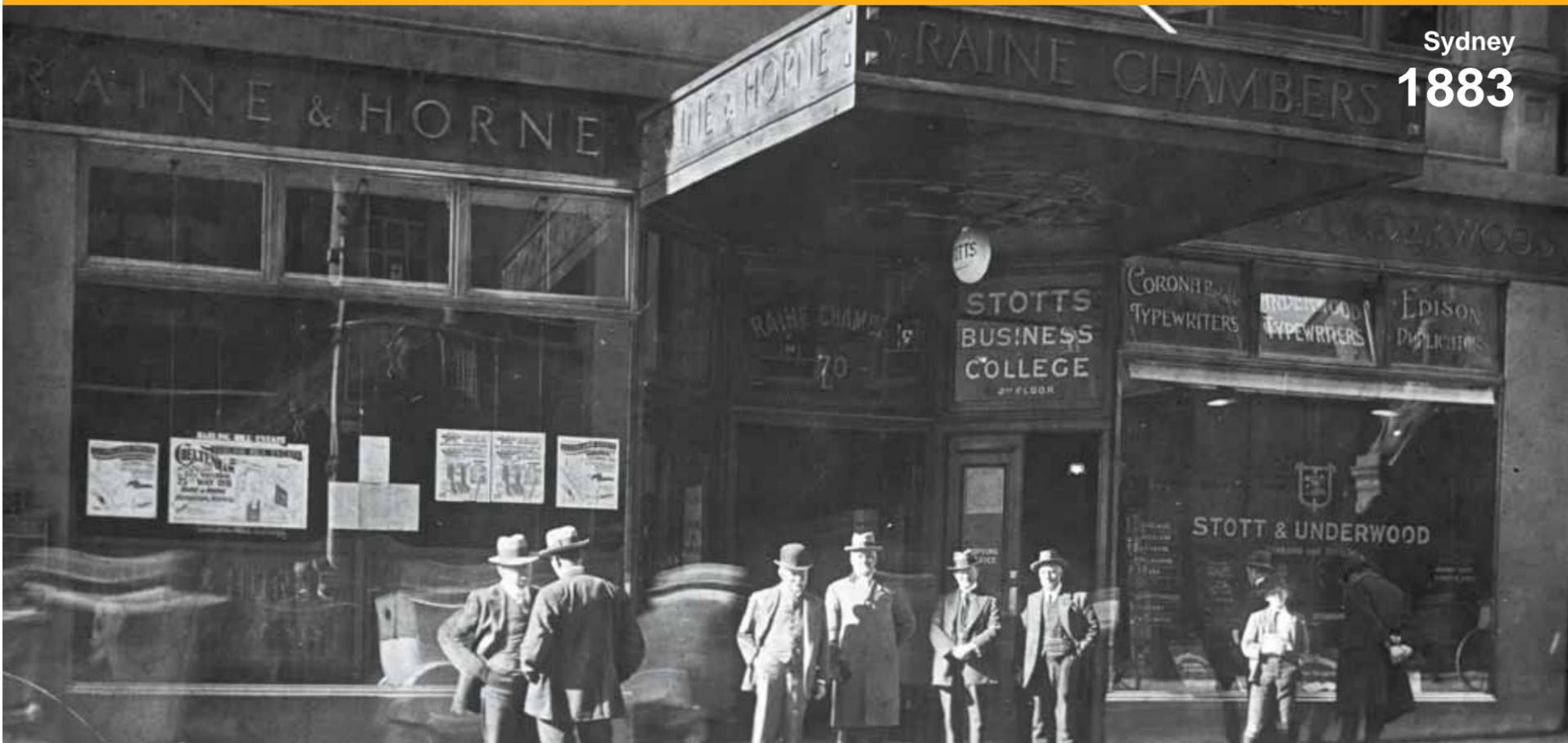
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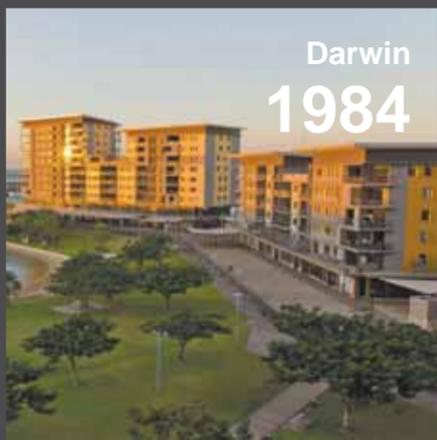


Sydney  
1883

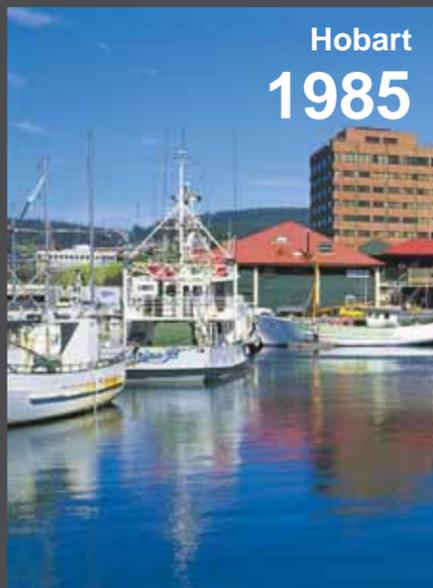
## Your Local – Regional – National – International Real Estate Network



Brisbane  
1977



Darwin  
1984



Hobart  
1985



Perth  
1987



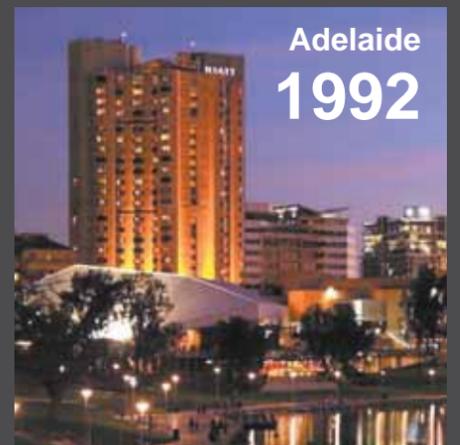
Melbourne  
1997



Hong Kong  
1989



Malaysia  
1998



Adelaide  
1992



Beijing  
2014



India  
1999



Dubai  
2015

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# Councillors consistently compromised

**City of Melbourne councillors were unable to assess two CBD planning applications last month because too many of them had received election campaign donations from a party linked to the developments.**

Planning applications for a residential tower at 278 Little Lonsdale St and a mixed-use tower at 280 Queen St were listed for consideration at the July 7 Future Melbourne Committee Meeting.

However, the quorum was lost when four councillors declared an indirect conflict of interest.

It's not the first time councillors have been unable to reach quorum due to conflicts of interest relating to election donations.

The council was unable to consider Central Equity proposals in December 2014 and May this year.

And in May, the Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchins gave six councillors an exemption to vote on the city's Melbourne Open Space Strategy, after they were unable to vote due to conflicts of interest over campaign donations.

Cr Rohan Leppert estimated there had been at least 10 incidents of failing to reach quorum on planning matters due to conflicts of interest.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley, Cr Arron Wood and Cr Kevin Louey all declared conflicts of interest over the CBD applications.

The Lord Mayor explained that Team Doyle had receive donations from Pethica Proprietary Limited, a company employed by the Brady Group, which owns the subject property.

Councillor Kevin Louey said by declaring conflicts councillors avoided any issues of bias. "It (accepting donations) is allowable and it was declared as per the legislation," Cr Louey said.

Cr Louey said the failure to reach quorum didn't stifle public debate around planning matters because written submissions were still accepted and taken into account by planning officers who would make the recommendation under delegation.

Alongside the CBD applications, the four councillors and Cr Ken Ong also declared conflicts of interest over a Docklands planning application, due to election campaign donations.

As a result council officers will now provide a recommendation on all three planning applications to Planning Minister Richard Wynne under delegation.

Council officers' reports to the Future Melbourne Committee recommended objecting to both CBD proposals.

Cr Rohan Leppert said he felt frustrated every time the council was unable to reach quorum due to conflicts of interest over donations.

"It stops us from being able to express an opinion, even as councillors without a conflict," he said. "We're unable to fulfil the duties we were elected to fulfil."

Cr Leppert said none of the conflicted councillors had done anything wrong but, in his opinion, it was the Act itself that needed to change.

According to Cr Leppert, Victoria should follow NSW's lead and ban developer donations altogether.

"If the State Government needs proof of why the Act needs to change then this is the perfect example," he said.

Cr Stephen Mayne said, while he agreed it would be better if developer donations were banned, criminalising donations from one category would be difficult and had caused issues in NSW.

According to Cr Mayne, the fact a quorum wasn't achieved at the July 7 meeting "hasn't stopped the wheels of government or stopped the process of council".

"It's far better to have a good conflict of interest regime than to have councillors

voting on donor matters," Cr Mayne said.

Cr Mayne said none of the agenda items where a quorum wasn't reached were for planning applications where council was the responsible authority.

He said the outcome would have been the same in terms of the recommendation made to the planning minister whether a quorum had been reached or not as 99 per cent of the time councillors agree with officer recommendations.

"The Minister will still get a report expressing council's view."

Cr Mayne noted that for the two CBD applications a quorum would have been reached had Cr Foster not been overseas at the time.

The CBD proposals council was unable to consider at the July 7 meeting related to 278 Little Lonsdale and 280 Queen St.

The Little Lonsdale application proposed the partial demolition of the existing three-storey building on the site, commonly referred to as the Phillips Shirt Factory, and construction of a 59-storey residential tower.

At 186 metres high, the tower would comprise 314 apartments and 158 sqm of ground floor retail.

Council officers' report on the proposal stated the tower was an "overdevelopment of the site", "adds nothing of value to the Melbourne skyline" and objected to the proposal.

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WITH LAURA TIMBERLAKE  
lifestyle@cbdnews.com.au

LUNCH TIME

# LUXURY AT LUNCH

*Luxury fashion has never been this affordable*

Fancy a lunchtime adventure to explore two of the best Melbourne luxury consignment stores?

The number 8 tram will take you to South Yarra where you will find Mio Tesoro and Secondo where even the most prestigious designer garments and accessories can be purchased at affordable prices.

But what is a consignment store and how does it work? A consignment store is a business that pays its suppliers a percentage of an item's sale price.

Elaine Yeow, owner of Mio Tesoro, has owned her store for 10 years. She specialises in selling luxury handbags.

Elaine started her business after working at Louis Vuitton, when she realised her clients were looking for a reputable business to sell their preloved items.

"The business works solely on consignment but I do offer to buy outright on sought after items," Elaine said.

"I respect the seller's and buyer's privacy, so private appointments are set up where they feel at ease and they do appreciate the extra service and attention."

Secondo has been operating for 27 years and specialises in a variety of high-end international and Australian designer labels (such as Marni, Gucci, Prada, Dries van Noten and many more).

"It's a great way to earn some money back on clothes that are just sitting in your wardrobe,"



owner Elisabet Cheung said.

Unfortunately for those expecting a large return, garments and accessories are like cars – they lose much of their value as soon as they leave the retail shop. And like in the auto world, some brands hold their value better than others.

For example, a Chanel hand bag will hold its value better because Chanel never has sales and increases its prices every year. Elaine said Chanel and Hermès hand bags were her top sellers.

Worried about the authenticity? Don't be. The staff at Secondo are trained to check everything closely, and Mio Tesoro provides a product authentication service to

customers and clients.

Each store is very selective about what they accept from current and prospective clients. It is preferred that items are in good condition, clean and relatively current.

The reason why you can expect high quality garments at these stores is because the staff meticulously examine items before they hit the shop floor. Any defects on a product will be listed on the swing tag.

Consignment stores offer a variety of high-end fashion items that can seem unattainable in the retail environment. The garments and accessories are also a better investment than fast fashion items – after all, quality always lasts longer than quantity.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### CLASSY VINTAGE I

Secondo is Melbourne's leading consignment store of pre-loved garments, accessories and luxury vintage items. Visit the home of Melbourne's premier recycle and consignment boutique of pre-loved garments and accessories.

**Secondo | 2/286 Toorak Rd, South Yarra 9827 8907, www.secondo.com.au**



### AUST SKETCHBOOK

Colonial life and the art of ST Gill provides a window onto everyday life on the goldfields and in the bush, cities and towns of 19th-century Australia.

**Until October 25, Keith Murdoch Gallery, State Library of Victoria, Swanston St**



### CLASSY VINTAGE II

Why pay for brand new when you can get quality fashion brand items that are pre-loved? Come and browse the best of high-end international and Australian designer labels.

**Mio Tesoro 6/299 Toorak Rd, South Yarra 9826 0136, www.miotesorovintage.com**



### WANDERING ARCHIVE

Wandering Archive brings together the works of four artists that engage with the concept of the archive in personal, and often playful, ways. Jessica Hood, Karla Marchesi, Clare Rae, Melanie Jayne Taylor

**July 29 - August 15 Blindside, Lvl 7, Rm 14, 37 Swanston St www.blindside.org.au**



### GODS, HEROES & CLOWNS

Gods, Heroes and Clowns: Performance and Narrative in South and Southeast Asian Art explores visual and performance art inspired by the many narratives that pervade South and Southeast Asia.

**May 1 - October 4, 10am-5pm, (closed Tue) NGV International, Level 1 Mezzanine**



### FEDERATION BELLS

Compose your own tune on your lunch break. The Federation Bells are located on the Middle Terrace of Birrarung Marr.

**www.federationbells.com.au**

TO BE FEATURED IN THIS SECTION CALL 8689 7980

# TAKE AWAY FOR FOODIES

*The Daily Kitchen at 353 Little Collins St completes the picture for sophisticated Melburnians with its food to go.*



Karen Jackson (third from left) with Anneke, Lori and Amy have the highest quality food to go.

Founder Karen Jackson explains that the city has its brilliant restaurants and cafes but, until now, has been let down at the fast food end of the market.

“London and New York offer great takeaway and grab & go options but it has been sadly lacking in Melbourne,” she said.

Coming from a five-star hotel background and running Artistic Catering since 1998, the business is Ms Jackson’s latest contribution to Melbourne’s international reputation. A second outlet is opening at Chadstone.

“Our team of qualified chefs at The Daily Kitchen check every ingredient for quality and freshness, even going as far as to hand sort the spinach leaves,” she said.

Cooked daily at 4am, the cuisine is as fresh as it gets.

Slow-roasted Peking duck wrap with cucumber, coriander and Hoisin. Modern-day prawn cocktail salad with nine-minute boiled egg, quinoa, crunchy mix of nuts and seeds and Marie Rose dressing. Seared salmon tataki

with sushi rice, Japanese seaweed, pickled radish and shiso salad.

Not just the ingredients are fresh, The Daily Kitchen’s ever changing menu is full of fresh ideas too.

But don’t worry, you’ll still find a chicken and avocado sandwich on the shelf alongside the classic egg and mayo and other favourites, all bursting with fillings.

The health conscious can grab a carb-free “protein box” and dietary requirements are catered for as standard, with vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, paleo and even fruitarian offerings tempting the taste buds.

The difference is in the quality – a quality which has resulted in 80 per cent repeat business and booming word-of-mouth referrals since opening late last year.

The Daily Kitchen is worth your daily walk from at least five blocks away or, even better, they’ll deliver it directly to you!

Check out their catering menu: [dailykitchen.com.au](http://dailykitchen.com.au) or call 9223 7070.

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- Servcorp New Business Award
- International Award
- Social Enterprise Award
- Small Business Victoria Sustainability Award

TO NOMINATE OR TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE VISIT [WWW.B3000.ORG.AU](http://WWW.B3000.ORG.AU) OR CONTACT THE OFFICE AT [ADMIN@B3000.ORG.AU](mailto:ADMIN@B3000.ORG.AU)

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**CBD NEWS**



# YOUR RIDE HOME

*What is the story behind ride-sharing company Uber?*

Uber officially launched in Australia in Sydney in 2012. The company is basically a ride-sharing car service. Smart phone users can book a driver using their phone's GPS, and watch as a driver comes to pick them up.

An Uber transaction takes place entirely through the app. The cashless transactions are one of the reasons Uber is so popular. Customers can also view a fare estimate before they book.

Senior communications associate Caspar Nixon said that since uberX (private ride-sharing vehicles) launched in April 2014, Australians have rapidly embraced ride-sharing.

Uber places a lot of emphasis on both rider and driver safety. Riders can see their

driver's profile on the app, and can rate the driver after a ride. (Drivers are also able to rate a passenger.)

Driver-partners also undergo criminal background and driving history checks before they can provide any rides.

Uber offers three services in Melbourne – uberX ride-sharing (in private vehicles), uberASSIST (a service for people with disabilities) and uberBLACK (a more prestigious service).

According to Mr Nixon, Uber has nearly 3000 driver-partners in Melbourne.

"We have... made a commitment to create 20,000 new jobs in Australia by the end of the year, in partnership with governments," he said.

Mr Nixon does not believe that ride-sharing has decreased the demand for traditional taxi services.

"UberX is a ride-sharing platform that better utilises existing private cars to provide rides. While ride-sharing competes with the taxi industry, ride-sharing is not a taxi service," he said.

"Notably, ride-sharing trips are not anonymous, cannot be hailed on the street or picked up at a rank, do not have taximeters and uberX driver-partners cannot accept cash."

He also said that in more mature markets, the availability of ride-sharing had actually increased the demand for drivers in general.

Is it cheaper than taking a taxi? That is perhaps the million-dollar question.

Uber adds what is called "surge pricing" in times of high demand. This generally makes it more expensive during those times, and it varies the rest of the time.

Uber might be a company surrounded by controversy, but it now operates in 57 countries and is rapidly expanding.

Mr Nixon said that hundreds of thousands of Australians had signed up to use the Uber platform (or "Uber it", to use the slang). Their growing popularity is undeniable.

So, how will you be getting home this weekend?

## HIGHLIGHTS



### ROLLING RENO'S

We are excited to announce our "Rolling Reno's" which will see our venue physically transformed as well as a whole new sharing focused menu, spanky new wine list and new 10 tap beer line including Two Birds, 4 Pines and Stone & Wood.

[themetropolitanhotel.com.au](http://themetropolitanhotel.com.au)



### MIFF

Catch a flick at the Film Festival.

**July 30 - August 16.**  
Buy online, call the MIFF Box Office on 8660 4898, or in person at The Forum Theatre, 154 Flinders St. [www.miff.com.au](http://www.miff.com.au)



### NATIONAL OP SHOP WEEK

Spring clean your wardrobe to make a difference.

[www.dosomethingnearyou.com.au/national-op-shop-week](http://www.dosomethingnearyou.com.au/national-op-shop-week)



### NIGHT MARKET

Cocooned within the historic sheds of Queen Victoria Market, the Winter Night Market runs every Wednesday night until August 26. Enjoy Melbourne's finest artisans, food vendors, artists and entertainers.

[www.qvm.com.au/night-market/](http://www.qvm.com.au/night-market/)



### THE LABORASTORY

In an evening dedicated to the stories of science, five scientists from diverse backgrounds will share remarkable insights into the heroes of their field.

**\$20. Wednesday, August 19, 7pm - 8.30pm**  
St Michael's Uniting Church, 120 Collins St  
9654 5120



### FITNESS AT FED SQUARE

Join the free workouts led by health coaches and fitness instructors from Healthy Lifestyle Lounge.

[www.fedsquare.com/events/fitness-at-fed-square](http://www.fedsquare.com/events/fitness-at-fed-square)

# FESTIVALS AND FRIVOLITIES

The “not to miss” events happening in August



## Melbourne Day

Did you know Melbourne is turning 180 this year? A group of settlers aboard the Enterprize originally founded Melbourne on August 30, 1835. They sailed over from Tasmania – or Van Dieman’s Land, as it was then known.

The Melbourne Day Committee has a day of festivities planned to celebrate the anniversary.

Melburnians can enjoy a range of activities on offer. The day will kick off with the official flag raising Ceremony at 10.30am at Enterprize Park, followed by a free

Melbourne Day Concert (featuring Daryl Braithwaite and Russell Morris).

The concert starts at 1.30pm and includes live entertainment, food stalls and a variety of activities throughout the Docklands precinct.

Maritime enthusiasts can also view the Melbourne Day Regatta at Victoria Harbour at 11.30am. Amongst a host of water-based activities is a special “Blessing of the Fleet”, together with a sail past of a large flotilla of vessels. A replica of The Enterprize will be leading the fleet.

For more information, visit [www.melbourneday.com.au](http://www.melbourneday.com.au)

## Melbourne Writers Festival

Calling everyone who loves the written word! The Melbourne Writers Festival is taking place from Thursday, August 20 to Sunday, August 30.

It is a celebration for writers, readers and thinkers. The festival includes a dynamic program of storytelling, conversation and discussion, intellectual debate, educational programs, live performance, music and art events.

Melbourne is the second designated UNESCO City of Literature in the world – an acknowledgement of the success of its literary culture.

Festival director Lisa Dempster said this year’s program was a feast, with more than 400 writers and thinkers taking part.

This year the event is being opened with a keynote address by Louis de Bernières, the writer behind global sensation *Captain Corelli’s Mandolin* and Australian blockbuster *Red Dog*.

For ticket and event information, visit <http://mwf.com.au/>



## National Op Shop Week

National Op Shop Week will take place from Sunday, August 23 to Sunday, August 30. It’s a great chance to spring clean your wardrobe!

National Op Shop Week is a campaign run by Do Something Near You. They make it easier for Australians to get involved in community volunteering and charity events.

Do Something director Jon Dee says that you can help your local charity op shops in three ways: by donating unwanted clothes or goods, volunteering at a shop or by buying their goods to help raise funds.

Find out more by visiting [www.dosomethingnearyou.com.au/national-op-shop-week](http://www.dosomethingnearyou.com.au/national-op-shop-week)

## HIGHLIGHTS



## FASHION WEEK

Get your fashion fix at Melbourne Spring Fashion Week.

August 28 – 4 September 4  
[www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/msfw](http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/msfw)



## A WALK IN THE PARK

Join A Walk in the Park from Fed Square and help to create positive change for people living with Parkinson’s.

Sunday, August 30. 9am – 1.30pm  
Walk commences at 11am  
[www.fedsquare.com/events/a-walk-in-the-park-2015](http://www.fedsquare.com/events/a-walk-in-the-park-2015)



## DAVID BOWIE IS

Prepare for unprecedented access to objects from the David Bowie Archive that tells the enthralling story of the boy from Brixton who became an international cultural icon.

Until November 1  
Australian Centre for the Moving Image,  
Federation Square  
[www.acmi.net.au/exhibitions/bowie/](http://www.acmi.net.au/exhibitions/bowie/)



## ARAB FILM FESTIVAL

From the raucous comedy road trip movie, *From A to B*, to Ghadi a beautiful film from Lebanon about small town miracles, the program reflects the unique stories emerging from the region.

Cinema Nova  
Until August 23  
9347 5331, [www.arabfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.arabfilmfestival.com.au)



## GOLDEN SONGS

Making her debut appearance at the Paris Cat, jazz vocalist and guitarist Erica Bramham presents a collection of songs and stories from the golden age of cinema.

The Paris Cat, 6 Goldie Place  
From 6.30pm, August 15  
\$20, 9642 4711. [info@pariscat.com.au](mailto:info@pariscat.com.au)



## ANTIPODEAN PALETTE

The Antipodean Palette annual art exhibition aims to support visual arts in the community by showcasing a variety of works by practicing Greek Australian artists.

August 13 to August 23, Sat and Sun 10-4pm  
[www.onlymelbourne.com.au/antipodean-palette](http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/antipodean-palette)

## Fashion



# The best free events at MSFW

by Laura Timberlake

Melbourne Spring Fashion Week (MSFW) has rolled around again. We might still be shivering in our coats, but it's time to start planning our spring/summer wardrobes.

MSFW has a variety of events on between August 28 – September 4. And plenty of them are free!

A lot of designers and retailers are holding free runway events to show their new collections. Here are some that are open to the public:

#### David Jones Runway to Raceday

MSFW: Hub  
August 31, 12pm - 12.30pm  
August 31, 1pm - 1.30pm

#### Forever New Runway

MSFW: Hub  
September 1, 5pm - 5.30pm  
September 1, 6pm - 6.30pm

#### Ted Baker Runway

MSFW: Hub  
September 2, 5.45pm - 6.15pm

#### Once Was Runway

MSFW: Hub  
September 4, 5pm - 5.30pm  
September 4, 6pm - 6.30pm

#### Emporium Runway

Located at 279 Little Bourke St  
August 28, 6.30pm - 7pm

There are also free events for those who prefer hair and make up:

#### Kevin Murphy Style Bar

This will be available throughout MSFW at the Hub – visit [thatmelbourne.com.au/msfw](http://thatmelbourne.com.au/msfw) for times.

#### Hair and Makeup Workshop

MSFW: Hub

August 31, 6.30pm - 7.30pm

If you prefer to shop rather than sit at a runway, the following events may be more of interest:

#### Emerging Designer Market

MSFW: Hub  
August 30  
10am - 5pm

#### The Dapper Guide to Vertical Melbourne

(this one's for the chaps!)  
Lord Coconut  
Carlou House - Level 4, 289 Flinders Lane  
September 2, 6.30pm - 9.45pm

Note: this is a free event but guests must register at the Lord Coconut website.

Vogue has also partnered with MSFW to bring Vogue Fashion's Night Out (VFNO) to Melbourne on Friday, August 28. VFNO will debut at MSFW: Shop the City, which will take place across Melbourne from August 28 – August 30.

Or enjoy some of the free, curated events:

#### Theatre in Fashion: Ophelia Reimagined

Southbank Melbourne  
3 Southgate Ave, Southbank  
August 28, 7am - 10pm

#### A Mad Makers Exhibition and Cocktail Party

176 Elgin St, Carlton  
September 3, 7pm - 9.30pm

#### Orry-Kelly: Dressing Hollywood

Australian Centre for the Moving Image  
Federation Square  
August 21, 10am - 5pm

#### JASONGRECH Behind the Seams

JASONGRECH  
29-31 Little Leveson St, North Melbourne  
August 31, 1pm - 6pm

Whatever takes your fancy, there are a variety of events for everyone to enjoy! Visit [thatmelbourne.com.au/msfw](http://thatmelbourne.com.au/msfw) for further information.

## Planning

# A big month in planning

Another month and another slew of planning applications have made their way on to Urban Melbourne's radar – most notably 200m+ towers at 293-303 LaTrobe St and 350 Queen St.

The Duke of Kent site at 293-303 LaTrobe St would become Figtree Holdings Limited's first foray into Melbourne. Designed by DKO Architecture, the 66-storey, 213m tower would replace the current pub with 370 apartments.

DKO has employed a visually unique and highly interesting ground level interface to the site's three frontages, namely LaTrobe St, Sutherland St and Flanigan Lane. To avoid creating a "choke point" of sorts by building to the site's boundaries, the lower level has been arched inwards so as to improve the pedestrian experience to both Sutherland St and Flanigan Lane.

With a nominal value of \$750 million, the project at 350 Queen St, to be formally known as Queens Place, will see an expansive five-level podium topped with two towers terminating at 246 m in height. The site owner's 3L Alliance engaged Cox Architecture and Fender Katsalidis as joint project architects following a limited design competition.

The sheer size of the development will see the residential towers delivered over two stages, with the current planning application seeking approval for Towers 1 and 2, with Tower 2's building envelope subject to further detailed development plans which will be provided by the development team for assessment at a future point.

The end of June also saw a host of planning applications submitted throughout the city which sought to avoid the financial imposition of the Metropolitan Planning Levy, which

sees all planning permit applications for developments in metropolitan Melbourne with an estimated development cost of over \$1 million attract a \$1.30 levy for every \$1000 of the estimated cost of the development. The new levy has now come into effect.

Within the City of Melbourne, the lone application was Besgate Group's 85-storey mixed-use tower scheme. Expected to deliver a total of 989 apartments, the tower at 640 Bourke St replaces an earlier 42-level scheme of 563 apartments.

Applications considered by the City of Melbourne's Future (Planning) Committee within the Hoddle Grid included a 38-storey residential tower at 9-27 Downie St, 274-278 Little Lonsdale St (59-storeys, 314 apartments) and 280 Queen St (77-storeys, 589 apartments) neither of which found favour with CoM, who have recommended that the Minister for Planning reject the applications.

And finally, rounding out this month's planning news, is Fragrance Group's Premier Tower on Spencer St which has become the talk of the town both locally and internationally making global headlines due to its Beyonce-esque form.

Citing Bey's *Ghost* music video as their source of inspiration, architects Elenberg Fraser have created a marketer's dream which has seen apartment sales for the building tick over 60 per cent.



**Laurence Dragomir**

Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD  
[urbanmelbourne.info](http://urbanmelbourne.info)



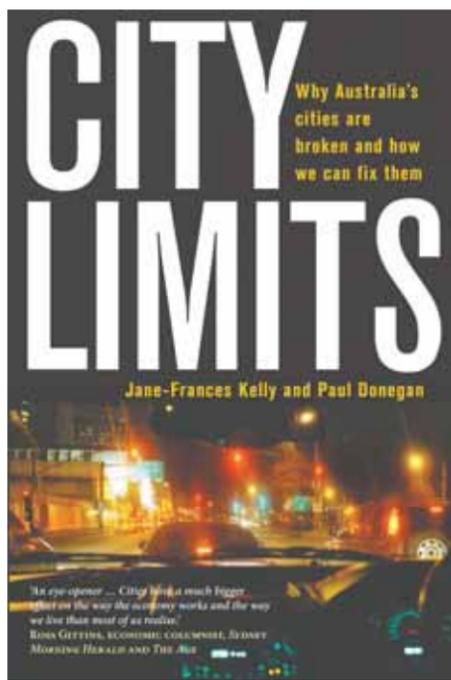
Another month and another slew of planning applications have made their way on to Urban Melbourne's radar.

## Book Review

# 'City Limits', a missed opportunity

Book review by Shane Scanlan

As residents of inner-city urban renewal areas, we are generally ahead in our understanding of how big cities like Melbourne work and how they don't work.



## City Limits

*Why Australia's Cities Are Broken and How We Can Fix Them*

By Jane-Frances Kelly & Paul Donegan

RRP Print: \$32.99

Melbourne University Publishing

After all, we have already made the decision to locate ourselves in the centre, ditch the car, and generally leverage the other available benefits.

So looking for greater wisdom as promised in a new book by Grattan Institute academics Jane-Frances Kelly and Paul Donegan is a disappointing experience.

*City Limits* holds out the promise on its cover: "Why Australia's cities are broken and how we can fix them".

But Kelly and Donegan are good at describing the dysfunction but not so good at suggesting solutions.

They rightly point out the fragmented decision-making, political resistance to change and a resulting public failure to see and engage in the wider context.

They do offer some piecemeal solutions such as central changes to negative gearing, capital gains taxation and the introduction of congestion taxes.

And they correctly resist calling for wholesale organisational restructure, saying: "There is no single kind of structural change that would work for all Australian cities".

Instead, they call for genuine, widespread and serious community engagement as our best chance of fixing our dysfunctional cities. They point to some North American examples where proper public consultation has achieved outcomes.

And, given the democratic political structures (restrictions) we are working within in this country, perhaps this suggestion is the best we can hope for?

But you would have to have an extremely optimistic (naïve?) faith in society to expect this is going to happen.

In somewhat of a contradiction, the authors point out the flaws of letting communities preserve their self-interest in planning and transport matters. But they then go on to recommend an extension of community involvement as the solution to political paralysis.

"All of the overseas cities in the study had a

different story to tell. But a recurring theme was early, sophisticated, sustained and deep engagement with the community. This was especially the case in cities that seem to make hard decisions and did so successfully. Engagement seems to make tough decisions possible and to make them stick," the book says.

The authors go on to acknowledge that: "Too often in Australia, governments 'consult' residents to provide a veneer of respectability to a pre-determined outcome, rather than genuinely respond to residents' priorities."

In my view, this is certainly the case here in the City of Melbourne where council officers have become more and more sophisticated at claiming public support for their pre-determined outcomes (and, sadly, being recognised as leaders in their field for such manipulation!).

The authors say engagement has to happen early, before decision-makers' minds are made up. Further, they advocate that such engagement needs to be conducted by an "organisation" which operates at arm's length from government itself.

"The organisation need not be completely outside government, but should at least be at arm's length from the political process, not subject to direction from a government minister," they say.

They say government should be happy to accept "results they wouldn't have favoured".

As I said earlier, this is a very optimistic position to be taking.

In my view, the book misses an opportunity to put forward a more realistic way forward.

It dances around the fact that our cities are our new national economic engine-rooms but never quite nails the argument. It even points out how lucky we are to be so urbanised compared with other countries.

"The future of our cities will shape everything from national prosperity to the quality of everyday life. Yet, there is little appreciation of the hard choices we face. The fate of cities barely registers on the agendas of our politicians. This book seeks to change that,

in order to give cities their rightful place in the Australian story," the authors say in their opening chapter.

But it fails to go and suggest how to get the debate onto the national agenda. It fails to suggest how the politicians can be educated.

And it fails to point out the reality of our global competition with the other cities of the world and how they are operating to their advantage.

As Melburnians we are acutely aware of the Chinese money flooding into our property market. We see its affects all too clearly, but we fail to reflect on how this wealth was generated in the first place.

If we stopped and reflected, we would see how the cities of Asia have become the engine-rooms of the world economy. The Chinese understand the purpose of urbanisation. But, by and large, we don't.

The publication of *City Limits* helps us understand cities better. But this greater understanding has happened almost by accident. It fails to capitalise on the opportunity to suggest ways of educating our political classes and the wider community about the new economic forces.

The Emirate of Dubai has generated eye-watering wealth for its citizens in the blink of an eye simply by building a city. It is obvious more complicated than this, but they had no oil reserves and no exports to start with. They had a barren desert to work with but had a strategic location.

They have created wealth simply via political policy settings and an unrestricted ability to make those policy settings.

Would I prefer to live in Melbourne rather than Beijing or Dubai? Absolutely. And is our flawed democracy better than the alternative? Of course.

Even if Kelly and Donegan are right in saying that community engagement is the way forward, let's get to the heart of the matter and start talking about how cities work and why we need them rather than tinkering with planning codes and taxation settings.

Each month The Laborastory brings together five scientists to share stories of science: the heroes, the egos, the breakthroughs and the mistakes.

Join us for an extra-special National Science Week show this August. Hear the tales of the men and women who made science their passion, leaving legacies of ground-breaking discoveries that inspire the scientists of today.

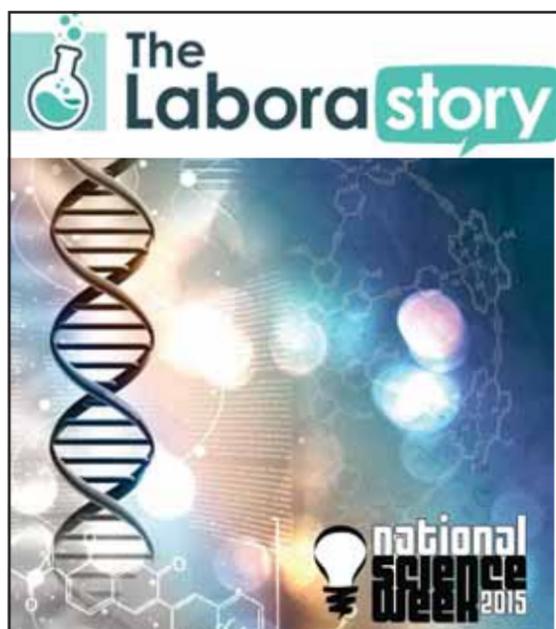
*"Existing at a point where science meets storytelling. Sometimes serious but often funny, this different take on storytelling will switch on your scientific brain and you might even learn something!"* —Broadsheet

WHERE: St Michael's on Collins - 120 Collins Street, Melbourne

WHEN: 7pm, Wednesday 19 August

TICKETS: \$15 / \$20

BOOKINGS: [www.thelaborastory.com](http://www.thelaborastory.com)



## Pieces

## State Library of Victoria, Swanston St



Introducing Pieces, a creation of Kalani Robinson. Each month, follow the adventures of Pieces and his 15-year-old inventor Kalani here in *CBD News*. See our story on page 20 for a better understanding.

Hi there ladies and gentlemen, Pieces is the name and my mission is to show you the best possible spots in Melbourne's CBD.

First up on our tour is an iconic Melbourne location, that's right its the State Library. The library first opened in 1856 and now houses over 2 million books. And for those

not looking to study too hard, why not play some giant chess on the lawn in front of this wonderful building. Hope you enjoyed this and if you're looking for more pictures like this check out my Instagram page:

 [instagram/Citylifeofpieces](https://www.instagram.com/Citylifeofpieces)

## Health &amp; Wellbeing

**Fast for the hungry**

Remember those weekends as a teenager, surviving on nothing but barley sugar and water? Cast your mind back to your teen years and the words "40 Hour Famine" might conjure up fun weekends raising money for World Vision and this year marks its 40th anniversary.

To raise awareness of global hunger, World Vision is asking us to go without something for 40 hours. Instead of just food, participants these days can choose to go without technology, food, talking or even furniture - anything that means something to you.

World Vision will use the funds to support its projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, Laos, Malawi, Nepal, Swaziland and Uganda. The brilliant thing about World Vision is it gets to the grassroots of hunger issues by providing education where it will benefit communities for the long term by directing funding into nutrition training for parents, child health services and better agricultural practices.

So if you want to help with this world-wide problem then crack open the barley sugar or put your phone in flight-mode and sign up at [www.40hourfamine.com.au/](http://www.40hourfamine.com.au/)

**Get running for the marathon**

You already know how much we love running at Viva and this year is no different with excitement starting to ripple through the clinic with the upcoming Melbourne Marathon.

August is when we start to see the marathon niggles trickle in the door with most entrants getting to the 20km mark in their training. But even if you're not starting to hurt, follow these simple tips to not only keep the niggles at bay, but improve your running efficiency and cut valuable seconds off your time.

Get a foam roller; they are a runner's best friend and can be used on your ITB, quads,

calves and your back.

Strengthen your gluts - the single most important muscle group to propel you the 42 (or 21) km to the finish line.

Do hill training to help you with glut strength and improve your muscle power and fast twitch response, giving you the extra speed you need to when the rest of you starts to hurt.

Good luck for all those who are training and we look forward to seeing you cross the line on the day!

**Striving for your best bones**

For those of you who follow our column, you'll remember an article we ran about bone health and why we should all invest in our future bone-health from an early age. It's time then to take action and sign up to Health Bones Action Week from August 3-9.

Did you know that nine out of 10 women aged 19-49 years don't consume enough dairy-rich foods to maintain healthy bones?

Get involved and take part in the challenge to improve your bone health by having four "serves" daily of dairy, Vitamin D and weight-bearing exercise. By signing up to the "Fit, Fab and 50" Challenge and pledging your commitment you could win one of 70 \$100 supermarket vouchers or a Michael Kors handbag. Dairy Australia encourages everyone, regardless of age and gender to take part as we'll all remember that the bones we build in our 20s, 30s and 40s are the bones we have with us for life.

Sign up at [www.healthybones.com.au](http://www.healthybones.com.au) or jump online to read facts about calcium intake and recipe inspiration or read the blog at [www.vivaphysiotherapy.com/bone-health/](http://www.vivaphysiotherapy.com/bone-health/)



**Kathryn Anderson**

Is the principal of Viva Physiotherapy, Flinders Lane. Ph: 9663 2043 [vivaphysiotherapy.com](http://vivaphysiotherapy.com)

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Street Art



# Craft imitates art

In April/May of this year, Sayraphim Lothian had her first exhibition in seven years.

*Craffiti* was a direct translation of street art, representing it in as many types of craft as possible.

The artists' whose work she was inspired to pay homage to in this marrying of craft with street art, were all very supportive, collaborative and overwhelmingly positive about the project.

Sayraphim says of *Craffiti*, that it was an interesting and intellectual challenge to work out how to make something that's 2D, in 3D. Street Art is "cool" but craft can be seen as "daggy". So putting them together challenges assumptions and creates a new art form.

What she likes about street art, politics aside, is that it's a very democratic style of art and is also participatory. "I'm all for participatory!" she said. "As street art allows you to personalise and add colour to a very grey space."

There are many threads to this young women's canvas. She moved to Melbourne from Canberra in 1999 and shortly after graduated with honours in fine art

photography from LaTrobe University, Bendigo.

She has been a puppet maker, constructed sets for the theatre and a games designer. She's worked with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on Pop Up Playground for kids and the Bell Shakespeare Company.

With this move to Melbourne, she noticed and found it awesome to see women making art on the streets.

"This is one thing that I can do, even though I can't paint or draw. I can be part of this female presence through craft," she said.

She cites Suki's work as an example that depicts women doing normal, everyday motherly things.

Sayraphim sees herself as a public artist, not a street one, and neither does she consider herself to be a yarn bomber. However, she feels that yarn bombing is a "valid low level entry into participation in the street art scene".

"It can change our environment for the better, giving one a sense of pride. Not everyone can

attain the levels of some artists but anyone can participate and leave their mark by sticking something on a wall," she said.

"It's important for humans to feel that they've made a difference. People need to know that they've been heard and made a ripple in the world."

Sayraphim is an internationally-recognised exponent of Craftivism, a world-wide movement that uses craft as a tool for gentle activism, where one can be creative and altruistic at the same time, was motivated to translate Peter Drew's poster *Real Australians Say Welcome* into a piece of knitting.

Placing it in the "very public" Hosier Lane, it lasted a fortnight before being stolen. She is quite philosophical about this: "Once you put art in a public place, you have to be 'cool' with what happens to it!"

If you wish to indulge in some DIY, the pattern can be found on Sayraphim's Facebook page.

Peter Drew, an Adelaide street artist,

spent three months traveling the country, visiting eight capital cities to paste up his silk-screened poster *Real Australians Say Welcome*. A thousand in total, this epic effort culminated in the last one being pasted on the wall of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection in Canberra, to coincide with National Refugee Day.

Peter was inspired by the second verse of *Advance Australia Fair*: "For those who've come across the seas; We've boundless plains to share; With courage let us all combine to Advance Australia Fair."

It was a mostly-positive experience for him that met with little resistance. And some council's, notably Dandenong, the most multi-cultural in Victoria, agreed with the message and went out of its way to preserve the poster.



**Lorraine Ellis**

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

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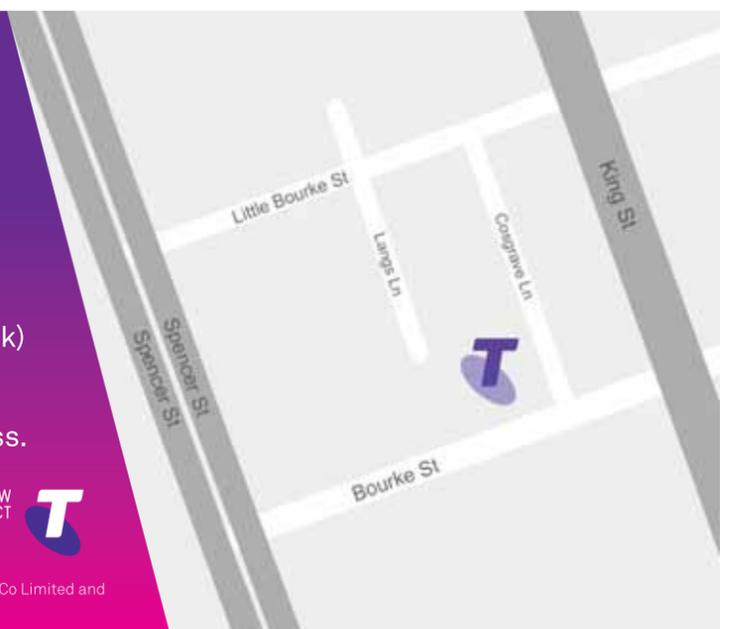
If you run a business in Melbourne and want help growing your business, contact your local experts. We can help with:

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 Suite 09, Ground Floor, 628 Bourke Street ☎ 1300 781 711



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# A Lego piece of Melbourne

By Kara Bertoncini



Kalani and Pieces indulge in a delicious hot chocolate at Grain Store on Flinders Street.

Photo: Kara Bertoncini

Kalani Robison is not your average 15-year-old. In fact, this budding filmmaker is taking Melbourne by storm and all thanks to a piece of Lego.

Some 21 weeks ago, Robison started an Instagram profile called @citylifeofpieces, which follows Pieces, a Lego man, wandering around Melbourne bringing his hundreds of followers a fresh perspective to our beautiful city.

The inspiration behind Kalani's idea is simple really - he wanted to give an insider's view of Melbourne.

"I'm living in Melbourne, such an iconic city with such iconic things everywhere. I thought, what if I take a little Lego man, because you always see photos of everyone taking selfies, and what if I turned that into something more interesting to look at," he said.

Essentially, Pieces represents Kalani and both are in the know of what's good in Melbourne. Kalani considers himself a street sleuth, even finding the best places for a hot chocolate.

"There's this little alleyway across from my house on Collins St and there's a bunch of cafes. That's where I go for my hot chocolates every morning before school. Pieces is definitely a fan. The laneway is called Equitable Place. I haven't quit on it yet. Sorry that was a bad joke," Kalani laughed.

Kalani and his father explore the Hoddle Grid, getting lost down the various alleyways every night taking photos of Pieces.

The beauty of walking down alleyways they've never found before is what excites Kalani most about living in Melbourne. He recommends that everyone "find those alleyways, find those little cafes you never knew existed and just have a coffee or a hot chocolate."

Over the years, Kalani has moved house a lot but finally moved to the CBD in 2013.

"It's ironic because each house gradually moved closer to the CBD. I've lived in Brunswick, Thornbury, Collingwood, Fitzroy and now finally we're in the CBD. Every weekend I would always catch a tram into the city. I just love the city so much. So finally living in it is amazing," he said.

While Pieces is a Lego man, his adventures appeal to all generations. Kalani even shared that most of his followers were adults.

Be sure to keep an eye on this teen in the near future, as his filmmaking dreams become a reality.

Kalani won the top prize at Trop Junior last year for his film *Chance* and has high hopes of either becoming a director or an actor.

As for Pieces, you can keep updated right here each month to see where he's been and what's going on in Melbourne. He will help you create your own city adventure.



#### CBD Local

If you know someone who you think is a CBD Local let us know, [news@cbdnews.com.au](mailto:news@cbdnews.com.au)

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## History



## Federal Coffee Palace

Corner Collins & King Streets, Melbourne c.1888

By Kate Prinsley executive officer, with assistance from Volkan Ozcoban and Lukas Matovinovic students from Kew High School.

Located on the corner of King and Collins Streets and completed in 1888, the Federal Coffee Palace was at the time the largest hotel in Australia. Built as a temperance hotel, a hotel which refused to sell alcohol, it was one of a number of temperance hotels in Melbourne, known as coffee palaces.

(The Grand in Spring St, now the Windsor Hotel was similarly a temperance hotel). It was built by James Mirams and James Munro – the latter who was a politician, property tycoon and temperance leader. By 1888 there were more than 50 coffee palaces in Melbourne.

The architects were Ellerker and Kilburn. It cost ninety thousand pounds to build and twenty thousand pounds to furnish. It had seven floors, with 370 bedrooms, two dining rooms, a café, shops, two drawing rooms, smoking, reading, writing and reception rooms and two billiard rooms. It was built with six “accident proof” lifts, gaslights, electric service bells, and an ice making plant in the basement to keep kitchen supplies fresh, and to cool the lemonade and ginger beer. When it was completed in 1888, it was the largest and tallest building in Melbourne.

The interiors were ornate in a high Victorian style. It was entered through a magnificent arched lobby running through four floors

with a glass roof and an ornately balustrade white and red marble staircase.

Coffee palaces were generally much grander than hotels, as the temperance movement in Victoria coincided with the city's boom years. The Federal Coffee Palace was built with speculative funds from banks and building societies, and as the financial failures of the 1890s set in – the “bust years” – and with the decline of interest in the temperance movement, Mirams and Munro sold the hotel in the early 1890s. By 1897 it had been granted a liquor license and traded as the Federal Palace Hotel.

The building continued as a popular hotel, a focal point for Melbourne society gatherings, until it was demolished in 1972.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is the peak body for local history in Victoria. Visitors are welcome Monday – Friday 10.00 – 4.00.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St Melbourne  
[www.historyvictoria.org.au](http://www.historyvictoria.org.au)



**Kate Prinsley**

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

## Tales &amp; Legends

# The CBD reader

By Rhonda Dredge

The CBD reader is an elusive creature who finds space within the chattering masses of Melbourne's literary culture to hang out.



This little convert won't be seen at book launches in the city nor in heavily-promoted sessions at the Writers' Festival next month. Forget about comparing notes at book clubs or boasting loudly about finding a new author.

This particular species likes to keep good finds to itself.

The only way of tapping into the sub-culture is by good old footwork because the CBD reader prefers to remain anonymous while relaxing at a table with a novel next to his or her heart.

No one knows where the CBD reader comes from nor where he or she is going. A friendly tide has washed the reader up from the port and there, like a golden trevally, luxuriates in the shallows of the arcades and laneways south of Bourke St.

Only other members of the sub-culture will pick up the titles against the bright

lights of the city. Then barriers will break down and a story of daring moves takes over, transporting the introvert to another, less taxing, land.

“I don't think you can define what appeals to CBD readers,” says Megan Quinlan, manager of the Stella Prize for Australian literature, who has recently moved into the Flinders Quarter.

Ms Quinlan says that readers don't necessarily want novels set in the CBD.

“If you are coming in to work in the city you might read for a different experience,” she said.

Titles spotted in the arcades include *Footsteps* by Pramodya Ananta Toer, Kim Gordon's memoir *A Girl in a Band*, *The Dead of the Night* by John Marsden, *The Ruins of Gorlam* by John Flanagan, *Jonathon Strange & Mr Norrel* by Suzanna Clarke and *The Temporary* by Rachel Cusk.

## STREET LIFE

August 2015

Capturing moments on the streets of Melbourne



Melbourne Central Station.

Photo: Clancy Scanlan

# WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



## TRIVIA FOR TOILETS



### Melbourne Sunrise Probus Club

Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact membership officer Sue at [weddsuzanne@gmail.com](mailto:weddsuzanne@gmail.com)  
Mob: 0418 562 181

**First Thursday of the month, 10am - The Docklands Library, Dock Square**

### Eastenders Coffee Club

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

**Third Tuesday of the month**  
[eastendersinc@gmail.com](mailto:eastendersinc@gmail.com)

### Rotary Club of Central Melbourne - Sunrise

Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast  
We meet: Tuesday 7.20am for 7.40am

**Venue: RACV City Club**  
501 Bourke St  
[www.rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au](http://www.rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au)

### Trivia for Toilets

Come and test your knowledge at this fun night of games, great music, food and drinks, all in the name of raising money to build toilets for schools in Tanzania. With catering from Konjo Ethiopian restaurant, plus lots of prizes to be won.

**August 6, 6pm - 9.30pm**  
Multicultural Hub, 26 Therry St  
0423 259 940 - [www.ndotoafrika.org](http://www.ndotoafrika.org)

## PRAYER TIMES

### 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.

If these times are not convenient, you can call the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).

### Chabad of Melbourne

Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St

Ph: 9525-9929

Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.

### City on a Hill

Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm.

Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central

### Collins Street Baptist Church

174 Collins St

Ph: 9650 1180

Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm

### Hillsong City Youth

Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne

- Every Friday 7pm-9pm

### Holy Cross Orthodox Mission

261/265 Spring St

[www.australianorthodox.org](http://www.australianorthodox.org)

### Scots' Church

156, Collins St

Ph: 9650 9903

Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)

### St Francis' Church

326 Lonsdale St | 9663 2495

Sunday: 7, 8, 9, 11 am (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

### St Paul's Cathedral

Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets

Ph: 9653 4333

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