

The voice of postcode 3000

CBD NEWS

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Philharmonic is facing extinction

Australia's oldest surviving cultural organisation, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic (RMP), is poised to close its doors at the end of the year because of local and state government indifference and neglect.

Musical director and conductor Andrew Wailes says the organisation is no longer appreciated by the Victorian Government and the City of Melbourne which, he says, are focused on avant-garde, trendy and experimental artistic expressions.

The State Government is refusing to guarantee the future of the group's home in the historic Drill Hall in A'Beckett St and the City of Melbourne last month did not renew its arts funding.

For Mr Wailes, missing out on a \$20,000 annual council grant was the final nail in the coffin of the group, which was established in 1853. The RMP was not on the list of 58 successful recipients who shared \$765,000 arts funding announced by the City of Melbourne on October 6.

"\$20,000 is not a lot of money but, for us, it is the difference between being able to continue or not," Mr Wailes said.

It is particularly galling for the organisation, which comprises hundreds of world-class volunteer choristers and part-time-paid classical musicians, that the council this year opted to fund a \$7000 tattoo on a woman's back.



Andrew Wailes in full flight at a Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Choir rehearsal at the Drill Hall.

"We are disappointed and frustrated that the cultural importance of the philharmonic is not appreciated," Mr Wailes said.

Mr Wailes said the mainstream cultural arts were somehow to survive on their own.

"I hate to use these words, but I think it's a cultural cringe that has prejudiced the funding panels," he said. "The people on these panels making these decisions are more interested in being fashionable and trendy."

"It's been like this for a long time now. This

city has lost so many of our classical arts and it looks like the oldest cultural group in Australia will be next to go."

He said the orchestra and choir touched thousands of Victorians each year and contributed constantly to public life in Melbourne through performing at public events such as the Melbourne Cup, Anzac Day, AFL grand finals and the like.

The State Government has refused to guarantee the future of the heritage-listed Drill Hall at 239 A'Beckett St beyond the end of the financial year.

The RMP is one of many cultural organisations housed at the Drill Hall and Mr Wailes says there is no other suitable venue within the City of Melbourne.

The hall is divided in two with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) using the western end and a collection of musical groups occupying the eastern end.

"This venue is used five nights and seven days a week by literally thousands of people," Mr Wailes said.

He said the eastern-end's primary tenant, the Victorian Concert Orchestra, was probably the least frequent user of the space. But, apart from the RMP, the hall was also used by the City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band, the May Downs School of Dance, the Australian Children's Choir, the Chamber Strings of Melbourne and the Melbourne University Choral Society.

Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico said his organisation was working closely with Museums Australia to explore ways of keeping the groups in the Drill Hall.

On September 30 the RHSV held a rally at the venue to gather support for long-term use of the venue. Executive officer Kate Prinsley said support had been pledged by former premier John Cain, federal MP Adam Bandt, state member Jennifer Kanis, Cr Jackie Watts as well as a host of history-based organisations.

Greens Melbourne candidate Ellen Sanders has also pledged support.

The Drill Hall's landlord, Planning Minister Matthew Guy, has refused to respond to *CBD News* on this issue.

Loving where she lives

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*You've got to love people who
love where they live – like the
CBD's Rhyll Dorrington who
is smitten by her west-end
location.*

Manhattan might have its acclaimed SoHo
district but, according to Rhyll, nothing
beats Melbourne's SoBo enclave (South of
Bourke)!

She bought her apartment on the corner
of Collins and Spencer streets in 2011 and
couldn't be happier with her purchase.

Apart from expecting great capital growth,
Rhyll is just excited by the emerging western
end of the city.

"There are so many cafes and restaurants
popping up everywhere," she said. "This end
of the city is coming alive."

"And no one seems to know what to call this
end of Collins St. I've heard it called the
Warsaw end, the Athens end, the Berlin end,
the New York end of Collins St."

"Shopping is so easy and I don't need a car
anymore," she said.

She said a share car service was located
nearby but she had only accessed the service
twice in the past 18 months.

Rhyll works in the western suburbs and it
was a strange experience to be leaving the
central city as the commuting public was
pouring in from the other direction.

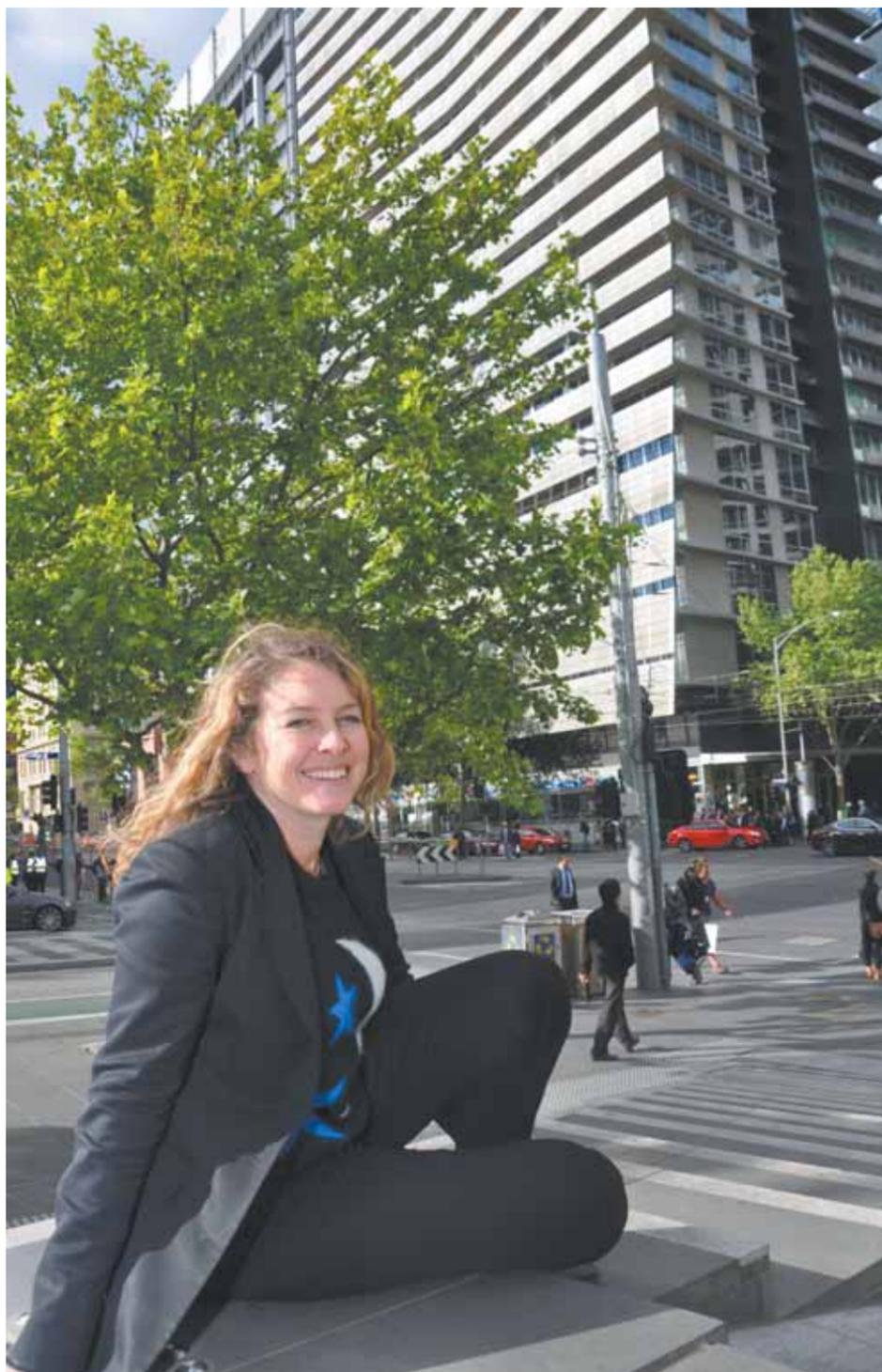
She looked to buy in the inner west after
returning to Melbourne after a decade in
London. Finding herself in the apartment
market (being priced out of free-standing
houses), she thought: "If I'm going to live in
a flat, I might as well live in the city."

She found a great deal and has not
looked back.

One of the best things about her new
location is how popular she has become
with visiting friends and relatives who all
love to stay over and experience the central
location for themselves.

And, she says, she also feels safer living in
a secure apartment tower than living in the
suburbs.

Rhyll noticed incredible change in the city



Rhyll Dorrington ... just loving where she lives.

during the 10 years she lived in London.

"Melbourne totally changed in that time.
With Fed Square and Docklands and the
explosion of bars in the city. It's amazing,"
she said.

"The bars here are better than in London. I

was totally shocked by the rapid change."

The best things for her about living in town
are proximity and amenity.

"It's the gigs and the nightlife, the restaurants
and the convenience for friends and family,"
she said. "I'd recommend it to anyone."

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Council ups the ante on Queen Victoria Market redevelopment

The City of Melbourne last month put its money where its mouth is by buying 6500sqm of land abutting the Queen Victoria Market.

The redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Market is the council's biggest project ever and the purchase of the land gives it many more options about how to go about it.

Explaining the \$76 million purchase on October 15, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the project all of a sudden had been extended to a whole precinct strategy because of the extra land.

He predicted that in 10 years, the area would have the same significance to the north of the city that Federation Square has in the south.

"It will have a different feel to Fed Square, but it will be a major gathering spot and a major activity hub for our city," he said. "This is the same sort of game-changer at the northerly end of the city."

Cr Doyle said the purchase also protected the market from inappropriate development on its eastern side and gave the council more flexibility when deciding how traders could continue to operate throughout the renovation.

"The reason we have secured this site is that it adds to the nearly 14,000 sqm we have up on Franklin St at the top end of the market and adds about 6500 sqm on this element of the market - around about 100 metres on Therry St and about 50 on Queen St and we'll now talk to traders about how they want to see that activated, what we might do, what uses it can be put to. It's a very, very exciting development for us," he said.



Robert Doyle announces the Munro site purchase.

He said people should look to the Queen Victoria Hospital and Boyd School

redevelopments to get a sense of how the council was likely to operate. In the case of

the Boyd School in Southbank, the council traded most of its land to developers in return for community outcomes.

He said the council's vision to turn the current asphalt market car park into green, open space was now more likely because of the purchase.

"I can't emphasise enough how important and strategic this acquisition is," he said.

"This is now a precinct plan about how we develop, how we enliven and activate this whole important part of our city, while retaining the jewel that is the Queen Victoria Market."

And the Lord Mayor praised the owners of the land, the Munro family, for agreeing to sell to the council despite it not offering the highest price.

"We were told that we were not the highest bidder but, to the very great credit of the family, I think they have made a decision to say 'we are a part of this precinct', 'we are part of the Queen Victoria history', 'we have a proud history on this site', 'we will make our contribution,'" he said.

"And I will certainly be talking to the family about ways that we can honour their heritage and their tradition on this site."

Cr Doyle said he did not expect the council to win the expression of interest bid.

"You can imagine my surprise and my delight when the CEO announced to me that the family had agreed at that price. I was knocked over because I was coming into this with a fairly pessimistic view," he said.

"It was like buying my first house. Remember that feeling? We've bought a 'fixer-upper' too haven't we? You have your heart in your mouth but it's kind of exciting as well."

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Council not convinced

The City of Melbourne is poised to refuse a street-trading permit to a company wishing to operate a fleet of pedicabs.

Green Monkey has asked the council to grant the permit, which is only necessary if money changed hands for the service.

Council officers have strong concerns that the operation by 20 pedicabs will disrupt the flow of bicycles in the CBD.

Engineering services manager Geoff Robinson told councillors on October 14 that putting strict conditions on the permit would not help as the city did not have to man-power to enforce the permit.

“Competition will drive non-compliance if we’re not there to enforce them,” he said. “There are more pedicabs proposed here than we have compliance officers.”

He said congestion and safety concerns led to a recommendation to refuse the permit.

Councillors voted to defer a decision until October 28, with the Cr Robert Doyle advising the company it needed to convince the officers that a permit should be granted.



AC/DC Lane anniversary

Cherry Bar owner James Young was in a celebratory mood to mark the 10th anniversary of AC/DC Lane on October 1.

His bouncer friends were also happy (on the inside) but felt it was unprofessional to smile for the camera.

The venue combined the anniversary

with a celebration also marking the introduction of “agent of change” regulations protecting established live music venues.

A lightning bolt, originally added by street artist Knifey, has been officially installed on the AC/DC Lane street sign.

Lonsdale St assault

Police are appealing for witnesses after a man was seriously assaulted in Lonsdale St on September 20.

Police have been told a 21-year-old man was with a group of friends walking east along Lonsdale St near Swanston Street just after 3am when a group of men got out of a dark blue Mitsubishi sedan parked nearby.

A man wearing a suit approached the victim from behind and punched him to the back of his head, causing him to fall, when a second offender kicked him in the face.

Both offenders, believed to be aged in their late 20s or early 30s, then fled the scene. The first offender is described as Caucasian in appearance and the second offender is perceived to be Middle Eastern in appearance. The victim was taken to hospital with serious facial injuries.

Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating and keen to speak to witnesses.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

A ‘motherhood statement’ on knowledge

By Shane Scanlan

In an era of government austerity, the City of Melbourne last month demonstrated its immunity to economic restraint by approving extra annual spending of \$776,000 for “Knowledge City” staffing and activities.

On October 7, councillors unanimously approved its Knowledge City Strategy – a collection of vague aspirations and statements affirming that a “knowledge

sector” comprising some 284,000 “knowledge workers” is good for the city.

Councillors approved \$336,000 annually for one and a half new jobs as well as \$440,000 annually for: “Showcasing” (\$40k); “Public dialogue” (\$30k); “Knowledge fellowships” (\$50k); “Understanding the knowledge sector” (\$30k); and “Support for start-ups” (\$50k).

This is over and above the council’s current annual spend of \$938,257 on the concept.

The strategy comprises 18 “target areas” with much activity devoted to self-justification of the idea as well as some practical outcomes such as contributing to free Wifi within the CBD, a website and a newsletter. Under the strategy, a further strategy (called *Smart City*) will be released next year.

The strategy elevates the use of “weasel words” to an artform with gems such as: “The City of Melbourne will communicate its research needs to the research sector and further streamline the process through which researchers find out about research priorities and express interest in partnering with the City of Melbourne.”

In moving to accept the strategy, Knowledge City chair, Cr Jackie Watts, said: “It demonstrates very clearly what the knowledge sector is and what we hope to do with it.”

However, it appears the council does not have a clear idea of who or what is actually included within the concept.

The strategy defines the “knowledge sector” as: “Creators, transferrers and intensive

users of knowledge and their activities and outputs – whether technical (engineering based), symbolic (art and culture based) or analytical (science based).”

But it then goes on to define a list of inclusions which resembles what ordinary people would call white-collar jobs.

“The knowledge sector contributes more than half of the City of Melbourne’s gross regional product, with the financial services industry being the largest contributor,” it says.

Cr Arron Wood, in speaking in support of the document, referred to “formal” and “informal” knowledge sectors.

The strategy says there was: “an under-appreciation of the value of the knowledge sector by the local community and policymakers at all levels of government.”



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Angelic mission

After a divine commute, these four angels were off to their day-job to add some colour and non-movement to an anti-climate change protest in Spencer St on October 9.

Some 60 protesters staged a sit-in at energy giant AGL's Melbourne operation, while the angels added a theatrical touch by blocking a revolving entrance.

Organisers say seven people were arrested for trespass and will face court by summons.

The angels are known as Climate Guardians and are one of a number of "acts" of ClimActs - a political theatre troupe which uses "spectacle and humour to draw attention to climate change".

Nightly truck procession to continue

Sleep-deprived CBD residents were offered little hope of respite from the hundreds of nightly trucks movements when the City of Melbourne discussed waste management last month.

Councillors on October 14 voted to continue to pursue a policy which has seen collection numbers reduced in three small areas where compactors have been installed.

In 2012 councillors were advised against attempting to mandate that the council be solely responsible for waste collection in the central city - fearing a backlash from the industry.

Every night some 30 waste and recycling companies send fleets of vehicles into the CBD resulting in a procession of trucks with reversing alarms lifting, emptying, banging, crashing and compacting all night.

There is a truck curfew between 11pm and 6 am in three small areas, but it is open slather in the rest of the city.

In 2012 councillors were given three options to consider but overlooked the option that would have resulted in a single collection service throughout the city.

Officers advised at the time that it would need the co-operation of the State Government to change legislation and that the industry would likely challenge such a move, on the basis that it would be anti-competitive.

At the time, councillors were told such a service would reduce congestion, noise and greenhouse gas emissions. "Universal service should lead to maximum efficiency of truck movements for waste collection," the officers' report said.

Last month councillors voted to continue to develop an "integrated waste management program" which has had some success in reducing the number of collections in the areas surrounding Kirks, Bullens and Lacey lanes.



Engineering services manager Geoff Robinson was careful to point out that the reduction in the collections from these areas was not the intention of the program. Rather, he said, the program was intended to reduce the amount of illegally dumped rubbish.

In speaking about the program, Cr Ken Ong acknowledged that: "private contractors were resisting this taking over of their space".

A technical group of industry stakeholders is going to be established to set targets and directions for the council's new waste strategy. The new program will be presented to councillors next April.

The city is proud that it has succeeded in having more items recycled but, for residents, the down-side of this is even more collection trucks at night.

Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico believes the solution to the amenity issue is to engineer a situation where each company has its own "territory".

"At least then, there would be a single collection in an area each night," Mr Dall'Amico said.

Cr Arron Wood said the council was working to alleviate the amenity issues by:

- Introducing large waste compactor bins in laneways to replace smaller rubbish bins in areas of high density;
- Introducing the restricted access zones;
- Getting businesses to store bins inside;
- Introducing communal recycling collections in designated areas;
- Working with businesses to get them to share bins and choose one waste collector for a laneway; and
- Stepping up education and enforcement efforts in laneways known for dumped rubbish.



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The pain of planes is with us again

CBD residents, workers and locals are again dealing with the debilitating effects of airborne plane-tree trichomes, which become lodged in the throat, causing choking sensations.

The trichomes are tiny hairs which grow on the back of plane tree leaves and can cause havoc to susceptible people on windy days at this time of year.

The issue is particularly concentrated in the CBD where London plane (*platanus*) trees are the dominant planting.

Not to be confused with hay fever or allergies, the inhalation of plane trichomes causes a physical irritation. Under a microscope, the trichomes can be seen as spikes, so their irritation when inhaled is not surprising.

Trees shed their trichomes as their leaves mature during spring, filling the air with large concentrations on windy days.

Some cities around the world (including New York) no longer use plane trees because of the irritation caused, but the species are still popular in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.

The City of Melbourne is trialling hormonal remedies on plane trees in Carlton. However, the council's efforts are concentrating on preventing the tree from bearing fruit and is focused on seed pods and not leaves.

Some believed that open seed-pods also release irritants, Melbourne University senior research associate Greg Moore said this was unlikely as the material dropped into atmosphere was too big.

Mr Moore said no species was going to be perfect in the role of street tree, but the planes were only a problem during a small time window each year.

"They are a very fine tree in very many ways,"

Mr Moore said. "It's unreasonable to expect a tree to be perfect in every way."

The council has made eight unsuccessful attempts to prevent the trees from flowering and bearing fruit.

It is trying again this year and has injected the surrounding soil with plant hormones and has sprayed the leaves of 18 plane trees in Lygon St, Carlton where complaints have been received from kerb-side café owners.

Last year it unsuccessfully trialled hormonal injections into the trunks of plane trees.

A spokesperson for the council said: "To date, we have trialled two naturally occurring plant hormones and four application methods."

"Advice from allergenic specialists indicates that the pollen from plane trees does not cause an allergic reaction for most people in Melbourne."

"Open seed pods and the fine hairs on the back of leaves on plane trees produce a physical irritant by getting into people's throats and eyes."

"We are trialling a naturally occurring plant hormone to inhibit flowering in the trees, and are in the second year of the current trial."

The spokesperson said plant hormones were used for fruit elimination in a variety of ornamental and productive trees in Australia and elsewhere in the world.

"If this trial is successful in decreasing fruit set we would move to expanded trials next year," the spokesperson said.



Paula learns the ropes from manager Nici Nicholson (centre) and Graeme Krause.

Emerging from her silent world

Being deaf is just a minor disability if you have what it takes to be a great employee.

16-year-old Paula Aprejado is doing work experience at the Mail Exchange Hotel in Bourke St and has already been earmarked as an employee.

She was born deaf but, according to hotel manager Nici Nicholson, has got more than enough drive and intuition to compensate.

"When you come across a young person who takes the initiative, you want to hang on to them," Ms Nicholson said. "Paula is amazing. Once she got over her first-day nerves, she was up and running."

Paula is in year 11 at the Victorian College for the Deaf in St Kilda Rd and wants to be a chef when she leaves school. She is working both front-of-house and back-of-house during her stint at the Mail Exchange.

Mail Exchange chef Graeme Krause introduced the Hospitality & Leisure

Management group to the deaf school. Mr Krause has been working with the school for eight years, preparing students for the workforce.

He said hospitality was just one area of work where deaf people could excel.

"We're looking for employers from all walks of life to give these kids a go," Mr Krause said.

In the case of deaf chefs, he said kitchens could be modified with strobe lights and vibrating pagers.

"Visual cues are the key," he said. "With a few simple modifications, there is nothing stopping deaf people in the work force," Mr Krause said.

Paula has a Cochlear implant and a hearing aid, but relies primarily on lip-reading to understand what is being said to her.

As you could imagine, this is a challenge when taking food orders for a table of diners.

Ms Nicholson said: "The response to Paula from customers has been unbelievable. And having her around has given our other staff another dimension."

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Koories on the move

The King St-based Koorie Heritage Trust is moving to Federation Square next year.

The State Government says it is providing \$2.1 million for the move and has spent \$8.7 million protecting Aboriginal culture since the last election.

The Koorie Heritage Trust celebrates its 30th anniversary next year.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tim Bull said the trust was better suited to the new Federation Square location.

"This move to a tourism precinct, where hundreds of thousands of people pass through each year, will greatly increase the profile of the Koorie Heritage Trust and our Aboriginal history, as well as providing a more convenient location for delivery of trust programs," Mr Bull said.



A map produced by Monash University's City Science research group showing five years of CBD bike crashes.

Inner Melbourne bike crashes mapped

By Chloe Strachan

Monash University's City Science research group has released a map of bike crashes over the last five years, between July 2008 and July 2013.

City Science applied VicRoad crash statistic to the Strava application, which bike riders use to map their riding progress. Using the Strava Global Heatmap as a background, the image shows over 200 billion data points from people using the application, which mapped out the popular riding spots over five years (seen in the map as the tiny blue dots).

As the image shows, red dots indicate where crashes occurred over the five-year period. Dark blue areas show the more popular riding tracks.

It is clear that over five years, Swanston St was a high crash area, particularly at intersections of Flinders St, Collins St and St Kilda Rd. One bike accident in the corner of Bourke and Swanston streets was fatal in 2008.

Incidents occurred all the way along St Kilda Road.

Serious injury accidents occurred along Elizabeth St, at the intersections of Lonsdale, Collins, Bourke and LaTrobe streets.

It appears as though the main areas for bike accidents occur in the main intersections of the CBD.

Swanston St, a pedestrian and tram-only street appears to have the most frequent bike accidents.

Data Sources: VicRoads CrashStats and Strava Global Heatmap: <http://labs.strava.com/heatmap/>

Police targeting bikes

CBD police are targeting all things bicycle this month, with an emphasis on safety and security.

Melbourne East Police Station commander Snr-Sgt Dale Huntington said Operation Omnium aimed to keep cyclists safe and also reduce the number of bicycle thefts.

Snr-Sgt Huntington said there had been an 8 per cent drop in bike rider injuries within the CBD in the past year.

"This equates to about 15 riders who are not injured this year, compared with last year. This is a great step forward for such a busy CBD centre, but we can do better," Snr-Sgt Huntington said.

He said police would be targeting cyclists not wearing helmets or running red lights.

"It's pretty obvious who is going to come off second best with a collision between a bike and a car or truck," Snr-Sgt Huntington said.

Snr-Sgt Huntington also encouraged cyclists to record details and photograph their bikes to assist recovery in the event of theft.

He said many bikes were recovered each month but their owners were unable to be found.



Cha-ching!

This humble apparatus on the corner of Flinders and Williams streets is the state's hardest-working revenue-raiser.

The camera snapped 27,138 infringements last financial year, raising \$6.63 million revenue for the state.

The camera averages 74 fines per day with an average take of \$246 adding up to \$18,186 per day.

Mapping city critters

CBD residents will have the chance to discover the amazing diversity of plants and animals that call our city home during a two-week survey of urban biodiversity.

From October 31 to November 15, ecologists and biodiversity experts will work alongside residents to produce a comprehensive list of species in Melbourne, identifying and mapping everything from minuscule plant life to the mighty powerful owl.

For more information visit: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/bioblitz

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Left will be right and right will be left

By Shane Scanlan

Stereo-typical political roles were reversed last month when Lord Mayor Robert Doyle debated Labor federal politician Kelvin Thompson over population growth.

Nominally conservative in political heritage, Cr Doyle adopted a forward-thinking “progressive” approach while the People’s Republic of Moreland’s man in Canberra, Mr Thompson, hankered for a return of the good old days of the ’60s and ’70s.

The pair debated the subject at Deakin Edge in Federation Square on October 13, an event organised by resident group coalition Planning Backlash.

The debate was at crossed-purposes however, with Cr Doyle speaking from his experience as the leader of a single inner-city municipality and Mr Thompson speaking from a national and even global perspective.

Gauging from the questions asked, the audience was staunchly suburban and highly reactive to urban densification.

Mr Thompson wants significant cuts made to migrant numbers, although he was careful to say that his position was not related to race.

He said high-rise living was an environmental anathema and he was cheered for his definition of the CBD as “cold, big and dysfunctional”.

It was left to Cr Doyle to champion the benefits of apartment living, saying Melbourne could easily cope with millions more people if the 6 per cent of the urban area along transport lines was developed.

In contrast, he said, 1000 new units on the edge of the city cost \$300 million more to develop than their inner-city counterparts.

He said future prosperity through a “knowledge economy” flowed through increased urban density which he called smart growth.



John Moore strikes a persuasive pose.

Meet your friendly neighbourhood superhero

It’s reassuring to know that the world champion stick-fighter lives in the neighbourhood. It’s a bit like having our own superhero!

John Moore, 36, has been fighting since he was 14 and has more medals, trophies and certificates than you can poke a stick at.

He’s expert in a long-list of martial arts – having started with karate as a kid and progressed through Wing Chun, Muay Thai, boxing and kick-boxing.

In the past seven years John has won four world titles, won four international championships and has finished third in the world in kick-boxing.

It’s also reassuring to know that John is a big softy, having moved to Melbourne from his native Adelaide for love. And, he really is

big. He tips the scales at 115 kg and wears size 15 shoes.

He met his fiancé Selene on a flight home from China and moved into a Franklin St apartment a year ago.

John simply loves the CBD – he loves the vibrancy, the constant change, the bustle and the fresh produce from the nearby Queen Victoria Market.

He and Selene both work from home – John as a finance broker and Selene as an interior concept designer. John is finding a niche financing local property purchases by international investors.

Homeless of Melbourne

By Chloe Strahan

Who would have known that attending a bike riding fundraiser in Cambodia last year would inspire strangers Nick Pearce and Marcus Crook to change the lives of others.

Meeting on a “Ride to Rescue” fundraiser in December 2013, the two young men hit it off, sharing a passion for storytelling.

They kept in contact after the trip to Cambodia, and soon found themselves teaming up to create their own Melbourne-based awareness project.

Homeless Of Melbourne is the product of writer Nick and freelance photographer Marcus’s passion for the unspoken word, and sharing the stories with others.

With a sole focus on homeless people in Melbourne, Nick and Marcus sit, chat and listen to the people they find on the streets. The stories they hear are remarkable, and they are shared via social media.

“Essentially it was Marcus’s brainchild,” said Nick, 21. “When we got back to Melbourne he suggested the idea to me. We were really enthusiastic about it, so we just went out one day and found Owen. We shared his story two months ago, and here we are now.”

They decided to start the project simply because they realised they could easily be in the same situation if it weren’t for their supportive families.

Nick is at the end of his professional communications degree at RMIT University, frequently going for walks through the CBD and along Swanston St to locate homeless people who are up for a chat.

“Because I am at uni studying in the city I can go out between classes and chat to people,” Nick said.

Nick explained that Marcus, 27, had travelled widely and had lots of involvement in AIDS work.

You can view the stories on the Homeless of Melbourne Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Homelessofmelbourne/>

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CBD's hidden treasures perfect for a hunt

By Marcus Tainsh

An enigmatic Melburnian and her team of 'elves' are building a reputation for placing gift vouchers around the city and tweeting clues about their location to a budding audience of amateur sleuths.

Combining her love for scavenger hunts, cryptic crosswords and the emerging online "geo-caching" craze, Dot, the founder of @HiddenGiftMel, said she started the hunts to put smiles on faces at a time of social tension and political turbulence.

"It was late-May, the winter clouds were gathering and I felt the disastrous federal budget was really straining our community," Dot said.

"We needed a release and when a friend told me about the growing 'Hidden Cash' movement in the US I thought 'that's perfect for Melbourne!'" she said.

Dot said the CBD's rich history, eclectic architecture and residents' willingness to

engage in something a little left of centre made it an ideal place for a treasure hunt.

"Melbourne is awash with history and culture," she said. "We really take for granted our hidden laneways, quirky buildings, terrific street art and historic monuments. I've learnt so much about the city and I hope our followers have too."

Although just one of Dot's treasures has disappeared without explanation, it has been a steep learning curve finding hiding places that challenged hunters, but won't be stumbled upon by random people.

"I quickly realised hiding something resembling a plastic drug baggy in St Kilda was not a great idea!" Dot said. "Another time I hid a treasure in the branches of a tree which council workers cut down the very next day."

Remaining strictly anonymous to all but a handful of confidants to keep separate her private life and role as "Chief Elf", Dot sometimes feels like she is living a double life.

"For four months my husband was completely unaware that I was running around the city hiding things in alley-ways and, to this day, my children remain none the wiser!" she said.



Dot hard at work in the city.

"A few times I've been having a drink with friends who've started talking about Hidden Gift and I've had to keep my mouth shut and resist the urge to reveal my alter-ego."

"I sometimes feel like a spy or secret agent. It's a bit of a thrill!"

Support for conversion

The City of Melbourne supports the conversion of a commercial building at 386-392 Lonsdale St to residential.

Councillors unanimously voted to issue a planning permit at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting of October 7.

The 12-storey building is to have six extra stories added but Fulcrum Urban Planning's Simon Martyn told councillors that any additional shadowing would be negligible.

He said one level of commercial would remain and would form a buffer between the nightclub in the basement of the building and the first residential floor.

Cr Stephen Mayne lamented the loss of a commercial building, which he said was, in part, due to the state land tax regime which exempts the principal place of residence.

"With the State Government budgeting a more than \$200 million increase in land tax to \$1.9 billion this year, with several hundred million coming out of the City of Melbourne, all of our commercial landlords are feeling the heat of excessive land tax hitting them and not hitting residential," Cr Mayne said.

"And one option for them is conversion to residential where all the new owners get the land tax holiday."



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LORD MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS

Recognising the survivors

By Shane Scanlan*

I don't get out much and I don't have a television but I love attending the annual Lord Mayor's Commendation Awards.

This terrific institution initiated by former lord mayor John So recognises the small business people who underpin the fabric and economy of the city.

It's not for the glamorous, the high-flyers, the self-promoters or the fly-by-nighters. It's an award for the survivors.

The awards recognise longevity in business within the City of Melbourne, starting with bronze

awards for 10 continuous years or more and peaking with "generational" awards.

These people don't boast or beat their chests. They quietly get on with it. And so the years pass and they're still standing.

Unless they've tried it for themselves, people who put their hand out for a pay-packet every fortnight simply cannot imagine the world of the self-employed.

For the most-part it's like crossing the ocean in a rowing boat - silly and dangerous but gratifying to be still afloat.

Their pride is intact because they answer only to themselves.

They are happy to be recognised though, and each year a new

group joins the growing ranks of recipients (now more than 450) in a simple ceremonial evening at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Whether deliberate or not, the photos of the recipients in their work places are some-what romanticised. On the night, they don't come in their aprons, gowns and other work-wear. They come in their "Sunday best" which is about as far away from Melbourne Spring Fashion Week as you can get.

Out come the 1970s leather jackets and the daggy ties. "Salt of the earth" springs to mind. The "fashion" would blend right in at the op shop.

The commendations are a reward for being real. And there is appreciation all round.

In his opening address at the October 1 awards, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle spoke sincerely about being humbled by the recipients. "You inspire me," he said.

Although requested to hold their applause to the end of the category, the friends and families of recipients cheer and clap for their heroes. There are cups of tea and nibbles and everyone goes home happy.

CBD-based small business people made up the vast majority of the 74 recipients at this year's awards. *CBD News* is proud to devote these two pages to honouring our local recipients.

**Shane Scanlan is a former recipient of a commendation award.*



GENERATIONAL



Konstandakopoulos Family **Stalactites Restaurant**

177-183 Lonsdale St • 9663 3316
anicole@stalactites.com.au • stalactites.com.au

Situated on the corner of Lonsdale and Russell Streets, Stalactites Restaurant has been an important part of Melbourne's Greek Precinct for over three decades. Operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week since the Konstandakopoulos family first opened the doors in 1978, the restaurant has maintained its traditional Greek core whilst embracing the 21st century. Today, Stalactites is part of Melbourne's culture, and has featured in television series, films and even led Australian rock band 'Weddings, Parties, Anything' to write a song called 'Stalactites, Stalactites'. The restaurant serves over 7000 customers every week and they eat over 6 tonnes of meat! Stalactites underwent major renovation in 2013 and is currently managed by third generation family member Nicole Papasavas (nee Konstandakopoulos).



PLATINUM



Tim Cecil

Henry Bucks

124 Russell St • 9650 9305
lewismusicstore.com.au

The name Henry Bucks is as synonymous with Melbourne as it is with quality men's wear. The business was established in 1890 by Henry Buck and it has continued under the ownership and management of the same family since that date.



Roger Lewis

Lewis' Music Store Pty Ltd

320 Collins St • 8330 1890
henrybucks.com.au

Roger joined his father Mick in the now demolished Barkley Theatre building at 139 Russell Street. In 1975 Lewis' Music Store moved to 124 Russell Street, where it provides sales, repair and advice on almost all types of musical instruments.

GOLD



John Beckwith AM RFD
Beckwith Cleverdon Rees
294 Collins St



Norma Cramer
Cecil Walker Cycles
294 Collins St



Gary Johnson
GR & WA Johnson Pty Ltd
294 Collins St



Sisto Malaspina
Pellegrini's Espresso Bar
66 Bourke St



Nino Pangrazio
Pellegrini's Espresso Bar
66 Bourke St

SILVER



John Annert
Flowers Round the Hours
Cnr Little Collins & Swanston



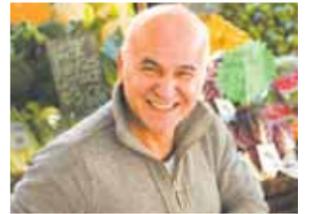
Marcia Baer
El Gringo trading as
Jeans World
Queen Victoria Market



Soul Baer
El Gringo trading as
Jeans World
Queen Victoria Market



Jim Baruta
Quists Coffee
166 Little Collins St



Agazio Bressi
G & C Fresh Produce
Queen Victoria Market



Carmel Bressi
G & C Fresh Produce
Queen Victoria Market



Xenia Charalambous
Shear Wool
Queen Victoria Market



Stephen Cooper
Melbourne City Meats
Queen Victoria Market



Saverio Fazio
Saff's Hairdressing
Shop 17, 228 Flinders St



Jacqui Fernandes
Jacqui Fernandes
Shop 7, 45 Collins St



Nubar Hosikian
Ararat Jewellery
Suite 908, 220 Collins St



John Jalowicki
Westend Optical Services
8/600 Collins St



Winfried (Vinni) Kohleppel
Living With Diamonds
Suite 505, 343 Little Collins St



Ross Lloyd
Perfect Setting
Suite 904A, 125 Swanston St



Dr Andrew Moulton
Jowett & Moulton Chiropractors
Level 2, 50 Market St



Julie Pham
Groov-E-Wear
Queen Victoria Market



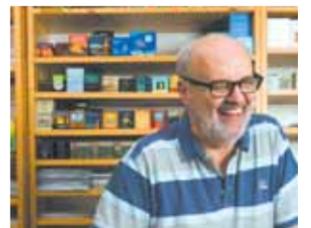
William Pham
Groov-E-Wear
Queen Victoria Market



Malcolm Riddle
Wordpower Co.
The Block Arcade



Joe Stolarek
Victoria Market Communications
Queen Victoria Market



Peter Strich
Peter Strich Stamps & Coins
Shop 5, 257 Collins St

BRONZE



Michael Anderson
Three Below
Shop 3, 44-86 Swanston St

Johanna Arendsen
Eyes On Queen Street
Shop 2/185-191 Queen St

Dr Graeme Baro
Doctors on Collins trading as
The Town Medical Centre
3/423 Bourke St

Peter Barrett
Peter Andrew Barrett Architectural
Conservation Consultant
Level 31, 120 Collins St

Adriano Carbone
Adriano Carbone Master Tailor
The Block Arcade, Shop 14

Fabio Costa
Coffea Coffee
521 Elizabeth St

Lisa Costa
Coffea Coffee
521 Elizabeth St

Michael Grounds
Grounds Jewellers
309 Little Collins St

Greg John
Abrecht Bird Jewellers
Suite 202, 227 Collins St

Gerard Kelly
Three Below
Melbourne City Square Shop 3, 44-
86 Swanston St

Vanessa Lucas
Vanessa Lucas
209/37 Swanston St

Vicken Nackashian
Vick Nackashian Fine Jewellery
Level 6, Suite 604, 220 Collins St

Loi Tien Nguyen
LTH Pty Ltd
Suite 714, 220 Collins St

Zokky Novak
Zokky
43 Bourke St

Julie Peers
Koorie Connections Altair
Queen Victoria Market

Matthew Smith
Westend Optical Services
8/600 Collins St

Dr Alistair Steel
Dental Health Care Associates
4/175 Collins St

Fiona Sweetman
Hidden Secrets Tours
The Nicholas Building

Jianfeng (Jan) Wang
Melbourne Senior Secondary
College
Level 6-8, 152 Elizabeth St



Back for its fifth big year, Melbourne Music Week's (MMW) 2014 program is bigger and bolder than ever.

MUSIC

MELBOURNE MUSIC WEEK

The 10-day curated music program is bursting with 110 dynamic events to be held morning, noon and night across 40 uniquely Melbourne locations.

From quirky music events in laneways, trams, power stations and elevators, to experiential performances at iconic Melbourne institutions, MMW's 2014 program celebrates the crossover between music, art, film, food and design in the country's cultural capital.

Chair of the City of Melbourne's Marketing Melbourne Committee, Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer said the City of Melbourne continued to work with the music industry to produce an event like no other.

"The city becomes the stage for this 10-day event which highlights the breadth of music in Melbourne. Melbourne is one of the world's great music cities and Melbourne Music Week absolutely highlights this," Cr



Pinder-Mortimer said.

This year MMW's flagship venue, Queen Victoria Market (QVM), will transform into a vibrant performance space with an impressive line-up of local and international acts. Midnight Juggernauts will debut the Melbourne premiere of their visual and musical installation, Aerials, celebrating their 10th anniversary on Saturday, November 22. Legendary Detroit techno collective Underground Resistance will present a night of jazz and techno music with visionary founder Mad Mike on Tuesday, November 18.

Chair of council's Arts and Culture Committee, Cr Rohan Leppert, said MMW celebrated local talent and worked with the industry in a distinctive co-production model.

The most popular night of the program in recent years, Live Music Safari, will once again awaken the city on Thursday, November 20 with 14 venues opening their

doors for a free night of local music. The program welcomes two new venues, The Hi-Fi and Kelvin Club, as well as expanding to nearby laneways.

MMW's Self-Made series will return with a new program of innovative events popping up throughout the city. With surprise performances in CBD elevators, daytime musical tennis matches, DJ roller raves, and parties with performances by yet-to-be-announced musical guests, the series supports the ingenuity and boundless talent of Melbourne's creative community.

The MMW program boasts a series of unique one-off concerts and artistic collaborations with NGV, MPavilion, Rooftop Cinema, SWELL and Residency that reinterpret public performance spaces and blur the line between art, film, design and music.

The full 2014 program and tickets available online at melbourne.vic.gov.au/mmw

HIGHLIGHTS



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Grasslands is a living installation that gathers over 10,000 indigenous plants that stretched over the library site before it was established in the mid-nineteenth century.

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Melbourne Central
9922 1100, zoe@undertowmedia.com



E-RESOURCES

Learn how to find in-depth information from home by accessing the Library's online catalogue.

State Library of Victoria
Mondays and Tuesdays; until November 18
8664 7099, inquiries@slv.vic.gov.au



HIGH TEA WALK

Start the chocoholics tour with some petite chocolate desserts in RuCo Bar at Grand Hyatt, and then to Haigh's Chocolates, Koko Black, Cocoa Lab and Tea Salon!

Every Friday until November 21
9686 4655, info@chocoholictours.com.au



AFTER WORK

TO BE FEATURED IN THIS SECTION CALL 8689 7980

Melbourne's original Night Market, Queen Victoria Market's Night Market is the place to meet every Wednesday night during summer.



SUM-MER

NIGHT MARKET RETURNS

More than just a market, the QVM Night Market offers a unique platform for emerging designers, artists, musicians and foodies to showcase their talent at one of Melbourne's favourite summer events. Set beneath the historic sheds, you will find limited edition pieces ranging from jewellery, fashion and accessories to homewares, ceramics, prints and more!

The Night Market also boasts one of Melbourne's most impressive food line-ups with over 60 foodies serving up street food from across the globe. Eat your way around the world as the sun sets with the renowned street food stalls - from Bossman Jamaican through to Afghani dumplings.

The Night Market will also be offering a full program of live music across three intimate

stages, showcasing some of Melbourne's best local talents.

Finally, shake off those mid-week blues! Wind down with a massage, some cleansing candles and get your fortunes told! Maybe good fortune is headed your way?

Running every Wednesday night from November 5 until March 25, 2015, you'll find a little bit of everything at the Melbourne Summer mid-week tradition.

HIGHLIGHTS



MUSIC NIGHT

Join Melbourne cabaret artist Natasha as she questions if she is merely a grape or a fine Merlot.

Carson Place, off Little Collins St
November 11-16, 9663 8107
www.thebutterflyclub.com



THE LADIES LOUNGE

Let your hair down and have a laugh with this all-female lineup delivering comedy acts.

The Athenaeum, 188 Collins St
November 7, 8pm
bevkillick@hotmail.com



SOUTHERN SKIES

See the roof of Melbourne Observatory rotate and open to view the amazing Australian night sky.

Royal Botanic Gardens
Until November 27, 9.30 - 10.30 pm
9252 2429, rbg@rbg.vic.gov.au
www.southerncrosslane.com.au



HAIR BRAIDING 101

From the fishtail to the waterfall, learn myriad ways to plait your hair.

Foolscap Studio, 75-77 Hardware Lane
November 25, 7pm - 8.15pm
theresa.winters@gmail.com
www.braidiance.com



CAPOEIRA ANGOLA

Indulge in dance fights set to Afro-Brazilian music and songs that describe life, country, community and players within a circle.

Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth St
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 0413 917 103
t.martinica@gmail.com



GROOVE DANCE

Bring your best moves and be part of the ultimate group dance experience! Classes are led by an experienced dance instructor.

St Paul's Court
Every Tuesday from November 11, 6-7pm
Free event



ARRIVAL OF THE VALKYRIES

The unforgettable 'Ride of the Valkyries' signifies the arrival of Wagner's epic Ring cycle in Melbourne, celebrated by massed brass bands and of course the Valkyries themselves on horseback, with a performance of Wagner's best-known piece.



FEDERATION SQUARE
NOVEMBER 16, 1PM (90 MINUTES)
FREE



The Valkyries are coming to Melbourne, in a blaze of brass and festival events. Artists from all over Melbourne are coming together this year to celebrate and explore Wagner's Ring cycle in all kinds of ways: irreverent spoofs, intellectual debates, film screenings, foodie lunches, art exhibitions and more.

Following a City of Melbourne welcome, the brass bands take to the Federation Square stage for a celebratory concert.

There's literally something for everyone. You don't have to be a student of Wagner's music to enjoy a mass of brass bands playing

the famous Ride of the Valkyries (you might know it from the movie *Apocalypse Now*).

Maybe you'd prefer to pack a picnic and listen to some of Opera Australia's stars singing opera highlights in Mazda's Opera in the Bowl? Or you can stretch your mind at a series of debates and talks looking at Wagner: the music and the man.

If you're not ready to face 15 hours of the Ring cycle in the theatre (or if you missed out on a ticket), the Ring Festival offers the perfect opportunity to get a taste of Wagner's world.

HIGHLIGHTS



NEPAL FESTIVAL

Be transported to the bustling, ancient city of Kathmandu and explore the traditions of Nepal through an array of cultural activities.

Federation Square, November 2, all day
www.nepalfestival.com.au
vic@nrn.org.au



ON BEING FREE

Greenpeace Australia Pacific CEO David Ritter will draw on the wisdom of Lady Gaga and Soren Kierkegaard, Steve Jobs and Julia Gillard to explore the limits of freedom.

Donkey Wheel House, 673 Bourke St
November 2, 3pm - 5pm



DIGGING HOMER

To illuminate their production of *Troy: Homer's Iliad*, Stork Theatre presents Literary Digs.

Old Treasury Building, 20-70 Spring St
November 23, 2pm - 4pm
helen@storktheatre.com.au



MAGNIFICAT

Polyphonic Voices performs with Voices New Zealand, Melbourne Polyphonic Players and the Australian Baroque Brass.

St Paul's Cathedral
November 15, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
[9653 4305, events@stpaulscathedral.org.au](mailto:96534305,events@stpaulscathedral.org.au)



DESIGN RIDE

Discover Melbourne's design and architectural secrets on this guided bicycle tour.

Melbourne Town Hall
November 1, 10.30 am - 1pm
www.thesqueakywheel.com.au



ART SHOW

An exhibition by artist Joseph Flynn that explores technology, mythology and iconography in a post-internet age.

Gallery One Three, 13 Somerset Place
Until November 9, 12pm - 5pm
0403 213 495,

TO BE FEATURED IN THIS SECTION CALL 8689 7980

DRACULA'S IS BRINGING SEXY BACK ...FROM THE '70S!

Dracula's Cabaret has been entertaining Melbourne visitors and locals alike for over three decades, and is renowned for creating shows that push cultural boundaries, eclipse technical improbabilities and never cease to amaze.

The shows, like the business itself, are created by the Newman family, now into their third Dracula's generation. With unique hand-made costumes, enormous technical props, and Dracula's signature razor-edge comedy, it's a night out that you have to experience at least once in your lifetime.

Their brand new show Retro Vampt is set to

take the stage from Halloween, October 31, and new and old fans are about to be taken on a triptotic journey of psychedelic variety acts. Yep, this new show is inspired by the 1970s, featuring acrobatic dance, mime, puppetry, stand-up comedy, live music, and mind-bending staging, all set to a funky '70s song list.

The fun starts as soon as you arrive, with guests shown to the Graveyard Cocktail Bar where unique horror movie memorabilia can be viewed and signature Dracula's cocktails can be consumed (the latest bar addition is Dracula's "O Negative" beer, brewed locally and sold exclusively at the venue - it's a must). Guests then board the Ghost Train, a short ride that will get the adrenalin pumping in preparation for a night full of dark twists and turns.

You are delivered to the Theatre of the Vampyre, where a delicious three-course meal is served, punctuated by the hilarious antics of the Draculettes (your deceased waiters for the night) and a live jazz set for



background music. The fast-paced variety show that follows is a complete departure from the typical bawdy theatre restaurant cliché, so make sure you leave all of your preconceptions at the door!

The party continues after the show back up at the Graveyard Cocktail Bar, where guests can rub shoulders with the cast and dance the night away.

Retro Vampt is sure to bring out your inner

hippy and, as the old saying goes, "don't knock it 'til you've tried it"! If Dracula's has survived for this long they must be doing something right ...

All tickets include a delicious three-course meal, a ride on a very unique Ghost Train, and the two-hour live comedy-cabaret show. Dracula's runs shows every Tuesday-Saturday night and bookings are essential. Phone: 9988 2503

Online: <https://draculas1-px.rtrk.com.au/>

What's on

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Business

Hotels still high on foreign buyers' lists

Melbourne's reputation as the events capital of Australia ensures strong occupancy rates for CBD hotels right throughout the year, leading to strong demand from offshore groups for either established hotels or hotel development sites.

With Melbourne playing host to yet another major international event, the International Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, and the resulting shortage of available hotel rooms, it is becoming clear that owning accommodation and hotels in Melbourne's CBD can be a lucrative business.

Whilst there has been much press coverage of the number of international property groups acquiring CBD residential development sites, there has been a quiet revolution in the ownership of our hotel industry.

Recent transactions include the property located at 472 Bourke St, known as Equity Chambers, which sold to a Chinese consortium for \$15 million last month. Whilst the previous owners, Malaysian owned DKLS and the owners before them, Williamson Properties, both planned residential developments, the new owners have indicated a hotel would be placed above the existing six-level building.

After acquiring the Jasper Hotel at 489 Elizabeth St from the YWCA, a private Malaysian family wasted no time in undertaking extensive renovations on the asset. Closing the hotel for five months and investing \$7 million on refurbishments has resulted in the addition of 31 new rooms plus a new restaurant and conference facilities adding much needed capacity to the northern end of the CBD. The new look hotel is scheduled to be launched on November 12.

Two other private Malaysian groups have also commenced hotel developments, one near the corner of Flinders and King streets and the other in Exhibition St.

Not to be outdone by their northern neighbours, Singaporean-listed hotel company, Fragrance Group, is now planning 300 hotel rooms in its recently-acquired development site at 555 Collins St.

Fragrance Group has also recently acquired the old Savoy Tavern on the corner of Bourke and Spencer streets which will make way for a 50-storey mixed used development which is understood to also include a hotel component.

The above transactions are just a small snapshot of the level of development currently being undertaken by international hotel

groups in recent months.

Looking to the future, it will be interesting to see if the Federal Government's introduction of the Significant Investor Visa will give rise to an increase in the level of hotels acquired by offshore investors.

Known as the 888 visa, migrants are provided a fast-tracked application process and no English test by making a qualifying investment. While a direct investment in most property is not considered a qualifying investment, it is possible for a hotel acquisition to qualify under the visa.

This has the potential to skew new investment towards hotels and away from other forms of property.



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

Fashion



Skorts from Zara

The key looks for S/S 14/15

By Laura Timberlake

Spring/summer is one of the greatest seasons to shop for. The increasingly-nice weather puts everyone in a good mood, and the holiday season looms just around the corner.

So, what are some of the key silhouettes to keep an eye out for this year?

A new, easy casual look this year is culottes. The shape is loose and flowing and the length sits between mid-thigh and mid-calf. You can find them at Topshop in a variety of prints.

Skorts are also an easy style that have made a big come back. If you don't have a pair of these, seriously consider it! They are elegant like a skirt, but the short underside prevents an ill wind from flashing your undies to the world. Forever New has some lovely styles to choose from.

Oversize tees and singlets are another wardrobe staple this summer. To create interest, many designers have added unusual prints or detailing to their garments. Sass and Bide have a beautiful range, or try Cotton On for a more affordable variety.

Sports de Luxe styles are also still going

strong, which is great news when it comes to comfy pants. Look for loose and fluid pant styles, in a wide leg or harem pant. Zara has plenty of styles to choose from.

The most exciting silhouettes are in the dress styles, though. Playsuits are still making an appearance, and are fabulously easy to dress up or down. (Check out the styles available at Dotti.)

Another fantastic trend is the tiered front/frilled top maxi dress. This style is a must-have for those 40 degree days where you just want to slip on something loose (preferably in a light cotton). The top picks are at Cotton On.

Chunky shoes are a final must-have for the season. Sandals with a wedge or platform are the comfiest day to night option, and the espadrille is a key flat shoe for the season. Windsor Smith offers a great twist on the classic espadrille - they have added a platform!

The best part about a lot of the key trends this season is that they are so comfortable. Stylish plus comfortable can only equal one thing - a great summer ahead!



Laura Timberlake is a fashion and lifestyle writer who enjoys hunting down the latest trends in Melbourne.

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Living the downtown life

Having moved into the CBD just four months ago from South Yarra, Priyanka Bhadauria loves her new life as a CBD local.

The city, with the lush green of Flagstaff Gardens, to the calming waters of the Yarra, to some of the best historic and urban architecture anywhere, the CBD neighborhood has it all, she says candidly.

"The best part is that I now live in the heart of the city and work is just three-minutes away. Winter blues are a thing of the past," she said with excitement.

Working as an account manager with an education solutions company, Priyanka remarked that the city had a lot of like-minded people.

"I am surrounded by people like me - young couples with a fast-paced lifestyle. Of course, not too many children around but this suits me just fine," she said.

She is thrilled with her move to the city as it helps the couple save a lot of money. "We save on transportation, gave up our gym membership as we have a pool and gym in the apartment which is free for the residents."

But living minutes away from Queen Victoria Market is a bonus for Priyanka.

"Fresh groceries at unbeatable prices make shopping in the market an enjoyable

experience. It's goodbye to supermarkets since our move here," she quipped.

With no booking policy in many of the restaurants in the CBD, Priyanka says living close to these places is matter of great convenience.

"We no longer have to lineup and wait for hours to get into a restaurant as we can go there at non-peak hours."

Besides with so many events, festivals, night markets among others, Priyanka says she is living the downtown lifestyle that she wanted.

While she agrees that there is a lot construction in the city, she says it doesn't personally affect her.

"We live on the 43rd floor with double-glazed windows to prevent noise from coming in and the skyline is not obstructed with anything, offering breathtaking views of the city," she said.



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Planning

Council market buy tops the list

October has been a busy month for planning and development news in the CBD headlined by City of Melbourne's purchase of the Munro site adjacent to Queen Victoria Market and the topping out ceremony for 567 Collins St.

On Wednesday the 15th, the City of Melbourne announced it was the successful bidder for a collection of individual land parcels bound by Queen and Therry streets, opposite the Queen Victoria Market.

Just one week prior to the announcement and during the expression of interest period, the council released design guidelines for the site outlining its expectations which included preferred podium heights of between 20 and 30 metres as well as minimum tower setback guidelines.

Perhaps the most insightful comments were delivered by Cr Stephen Maybe via Twitter where he stated a council debate on the Queen Victoria Market in August was pivotal in driving the \$76 million Munro site bid.

"Buying Munro allows council to convert existing at-grade car park into public open space and avoid a disruptive \$55 million underground car park. Melbourne's first cemetery under the existing ugly Queen Victoria Market at-grade car park makes redevelopment very difficult. [The] Munro site could take 400 spots," Cr Mayne said.

Elsewhere Investa and Leighton's 567 Collins St in the West End celebrated its "topping out" ceremony in recent days with Lord Mayor Robert Doyle presiding over the ceremony. 567 Collins St is a 26-level premium commercial building with 50,000 sqm of leasable space.

Jemena joins Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Leighton Contractors as tenants whilst the CBD's second Virgin Active Health Club

will be present over levels one and two upon completion due for August, 2015.

Urban Melbourne was on hand to tour two recently completed and now tenanted residential projects, namely MY80 on Elizabeth St and 199 William St. Formerly Communications House, 199 William St which sat dormant for years on end now provides private apartments and the CBD's first Wyndham. Both photographic tours are available to view on Urban Melbourne.

In planning news, 399 Little Lonsdale St sees a revised submission seeking a 199m tower containing apartments and two hotels totalling 447 rooms.

Likewise, check out Urban Melbourne where we analysed the masterplan for the former World Congress Centre at 7-23 Spencer St. Architects Elenberg Fraser have come up with a scheme of four individual angular towers of varying height between 20 and 29 levels.



The Lord Mayor announcing the Munro site purchase.



Alastair Taylor
Is a director of Urban Melbourne - www.urbanmelbourne.info

Street Art



Lucy Lucy's piece at Melbourne Central.

Voici Lucy

Lucy Lucy is a charming and stylish young women from Saint Maur, 15 minutes outside Paris.

She has been in Australia on and off for eight years, returning to France annually to catch up with family and to paint.

Initially, Lucy Lucy came to Australia to study, but a fortuitous meeting with the AWOL Crew (see Adnate, September CBD News column) caused her to change direction, opening her up to the potential of becoming a street artist, forcing her to think "outside the box" and going bigger, she executed her first wall in North Carlton in 2006.

Lucy Lucy, it should be noted, is another of the talented artists I've interviewed who doesn't come from an arts background but, through passion and persistence, has achieved a high level of excellence and recognition. It should also be noted that she first and foremost considers herself a painter.

In 2013, Lucy Lucy illustrated her first book - Fighting for Freedom - Nancy Wake - a collaboration with author Cassie Liberman and published by Brolly Books.

The panel pictured, is one of three

executed by Lucy Lucy in collaboration with Slicer for Art Hunt at Melbourne Central. Situated in busy Menzies Lane, it typifies the artist's techniques - brush for outline and detail, aerosol and stencils for pattern.

As for the future, she is working towards an exhibition in 2015. But for now, in what is a very busy schedule, there's a large wall with fellow Melbourne artist Kaff Eine and events, such as Strawberry Fields and Rainbow with AWOL.

instagram @lucylucyone

N.B. RONE, who was featured in the August column, has an exhibition opening on October 24 and running until November on Level 1, 109 Little Collins St. Hours: Thurs - Sun. 11am-5pm.



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



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Councillor Profile

Richard's a true believer

For a local councillor, Richard Foster speaks a lot like a politician.

Of course all councillors are politicians, but Cr Foster sounds like a "real" politician – the type you see on TV or hear on the radio being charming, but not really answering the questions.

This is not such a surprise when you understand how enamoured he is with the ALP. The former president of the Carlton branch says his values and the party's are aligned.

Therefore, he says, he can take decisions within the council based on his own personal beliefs as well as the party's values.

"I've very much felt at home there (the ALP) and I very much share the beliefs that it espouses. I don't agree with all its policies but I know that its core beliefs are sound," he said. "There's very little difference between my own and the party's values."

Cr Foster is also very much at home as chair of the council's "People City" portfolio, which roughly equates with what others might call human services.

After a career that started as a fraud investigator for a phone company, diverged into consumer advocacy before arriving in the welfare sector, Cr Foster is passionate about his brief.

He lists addressing disadvantage, community health and childcare as his three main priorities and is confident about making a real difference in the area of homelessness during his four-year term.

"We've engaged in a lot of band-aid solutions because we haven't really done the work to know any better," he said. "Our city is not the most liveable for everyone. I think we need to spread the benefits a little better."

In his current day-job, Cr Foster finds work placements for Monash University finance and business students within not-for-profit organisations such as community legal centres and welfare agencies.

He says former prime minister Paul Keating sparked his political interest when he was a teenager, but he didn't get seriously involved in the Labor Party until his late 20s.

"Being involved with a major party, your passion doesn't wane. It only tends to go the other way," he said.

So, can he be described as a "bleeding heart"?

"If you're asking whether I am socially aware and sympathetic to people less fortunate than me? Then, yes, absolutely," he said.

"But I'm very pragmatic about it. I'm not some loony-lefty racing out with, probably well-founded, but unachievable ideas."

"I'm very much of the school that believes that if you are seriously trying to achieve social change, then you need to bring people with you."

Cr Foster is coy about his future political ambitions.

"I'm very, very happy in local government.



Very, very happy at the council," he said.

"Yes, but you may still harbour ambition for the future?" CBD News suggested.

"Like I said, I'm very happy at the council," he responded.

Cr Foster had an accelerated path towards self-reliance as a child.

"I was born to a single mother. My mother flittered around through a lot of lowly-paid jobs when I was growing up. Her task was to make ends meet and she generally did that," he said.

At 14, he put himself into foster-care for the rest of his school years after his mum married a man he "didn't see eye-to-eye with".

"I think its fair to say that anyone who finds themselves in that position when they are in their teens is not going to have it too easy. But I don't think it's the worst story you will ever hear, but probably not the best either," he said.

"There's not one part of me that regrets that decision. In fact, I verily believe that if I had not taken that decision when I did, my life would be very different now and I don't think it would be for the better."

After finishing school in the Dandenongs, he supported himself initially working

night-shift in a service station before progressing to being a voice-over artist.

Returning to Melbourne, he lived in Prahran and Brunswick before settling in Kensington.

Cr Foster acknowledges that the opportunity for achievement within the council may be limited.

However, he says, the platform it offers outside of the council and capacity for advocacy should not be overlooked.

"Last year I called for 24-hour public transport and now it's part of the opposition's policy," he said. "It's those type of things you can achieve in local government even though you might not have the direct lever to pull yourself. You can make the right noises to the right people."

"You have to accept that you are not going to change the world in four years. You have to focus on what you think is important and concentrate on achieving those."



Next month's Councillor
Profile we look at
Cr Caty Oke

Food

Stone fruits arrive early this year

With spring upon us and summer rapidly approaching, it is the perfect time to try some of the offerings that the warmer season brings. Locally-grown stone fruits are one of my favorites.

The early season bounty is nearly upon us with peaches and nectarines from Queensland and northwestern Australia hitting the market shelves in November. This will be followed by an abundance of quality produce from right here in Victoria, with growers in the Goulburn district, Robinvale, Mildura, Renmark and Shepparton areas expecting good crops.

A tip when selecting your stone fruit is to firstly look for deeply and fully-colored fruit, with an al dente feel and a sweet, fragrant aroma. Also look at the labeling to ensure that it is local, rather than imported, and to ensure that they have not been atmospherically controlled in any way or form.

As we approach peak season, some fruit can be picked earlier than desirable, then stored to ripen – to extend their shelf life. However, this often destroys the flavour and juices that come with sun-drenched, fully-ripened fruit.

If you're thinking about using stone fruit for a salad, fresh puree or tart topping, purchase the freestone variety as it is much easier to release the flesh from the stone or kernel, as its name suggests. Clingstones are ideal for poaching the fruit whole and peeling afterwards.

The sweeter and riper the fruit, the less creative one should be. Fruit plucked straight from the tree should be eaten on the spot in the backyard or orchard. If you're not so lucky, poach stone fruit in a mix of cassis, sugar, water and citrus peel with the option of some cinnamon bark for spice or alternatively a small measure of orange blossom water for fragrance.

When cooking stone fruit always use stainless steel or enamel cookware, as they have high ascorbic acid content.

When making a stone fruit crumble, flavour a crème patissiere or custard with a liqueur such as kirsch or sauterne, or for a something different a mixture of grenadine, pomegranate juice and rosewater.

When making a relish or chutney from stone fruit, choose firm fruit, as they will be more resilient during cooking than soft fruit.

Lightly spice the recipe with cinnamon, cardamom and cloves for spice and use a sweet or fruit-based vinegar to assist the flavour development.

Your best chance of sourcing high quality stone fruit would be to venture down to the Queen Victoria Market, where they are in abundance.



Teage Ezard
Is the chef-owner of
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Health & Wellbeing

Next time take the stairs

We all know the benefits of taking the stairs to break up your work day, but have you thought about taking that to the next level? Australia's biggest vertical race, the annual Eureka Climb, presented by OsteoEze takes place on Sunday, November 15 and by joining in you can help rebuild young lives with their two charity partners, Whitelion and Interplast.

There's a special elite category, plus you'll see a big turn-out of policemen, firemen and ambos in their special emergency services category. Apparently three-time winner and race record-holder Mark Bourne can bound up the 88 floors in 7 minutes and 34 seconds. But if you can't leap tall buildings in a single bound, you may still be surprised to hear that the average time to complete the course is only around 30 minutes, making it something we can easily fit into our Sunday morning schedule.

So if you can spare half an hour to do some cardio, work those thighs to the tune of 1642 steps and support two amazing charities, register yourself at www.eurekaclimb.com.au today.

Or keep it on the flat

If your idea of exercise is to keep it at ground level, don your sneakers for annual Walk to Work Day on Friday, November 14.

Diabetes Australia and the Pedestrian Council of Australia are holding the event, now in its 17th year, to help raise awareness and money for the prevention and treatment of diabetes. Professor Greg Johnson, Diabetes Australia CEO, says that type 2 diabetes is one of the biggest threats to the health and productivity of all Australians.

In a large city like Melbourne, it isn't always possible to walk the entire journey so participants can walk to the station, or get off the train a few stops earlier. The organisers ask that we all pledge to walk at least a kilometre on our way to work on the 14th, which also marks World Diabetes Day.

Once you get to the city, look out for brekky-stands set up at Parliament House, Southbank pedestrian footbridge, Flinders St Station and Melbourne Central Stations. Check out www.walk.com.au

Avoid doing a Jack Trengove

Those who continue to follow the AFL during the off-season will have felt sympathy for Melbourne footballer Jack Trengove when it was revealed this week that his move to Richmond was put on hold after scans showed that stress fracture in the navicular bone in his foot had taken a turn for the worst.

Trengove played only two matches this season after the hotspot was noticed and his entire year has been spent in the frustrating no-man's-land waiting for it to heal. Just as the docs gave him the thumbs up to start running again it appears that the small crack has reappeared.

Stress fractures are not just the thing of elite athletes and in many cases, we are more likely to see them with social sportsmen and women due to the lack of professional advice on training loads and accessibility to scans. Many who've had a stress fracture would tell a similar story to Jack's so if you're training at high intensity or for a specific event, talk to your personal trainer or physio to make sure you avoid overloading.



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

Owners Corporation Law

Risks involved in providing gymnasiums

As developers and urban planners continue to create and build 'vertical communities', it stands to reason that there is need to provide services and amenities.

Common property gymnasiums have long been provided by owners' corporations as an amenity or service to residents.

However, it becomes tricky to manage and regulate access to all residents with tenants constantly moving in and out.

An induction briefing by a personal trainer or the building manager is considered essential and mandatory by many insurers of owners' corporations.

An owners' corporation is an unlimited liability entity in law. If a resident seriously injures themselves using gymnasium equipment, then the OC and all of its members could be sued for failing to reasonably safeguard against a foreseeable injury.

An insurer may cover the OC's liability, so long as the owners' corporation did its best to ensure that residents were briefed on safety matters, and otherwise maintained and cleaned and repaired the gymnasium area and equipment, and was not negligent in any aspect.

An owners' corporation should ensure it observes this checklist as a minimum:

- Pass a rule in the owners' corporation additional rules setting out the terms of use for the gymnasium;
- Introduce a rigorous induction policy and ensure that all permanent residents undergo the induction;
- Ensure that the induction is administered by a personal trainer (who holds indemnity insurance);
- Instruct cleaners to clean the gym and equipment at least daily;
- Engage a service provider to inspect, maintain and repair the gymnasium equipment several times per year;
- Engage a health and safety consultant to advise on potential hazards; and
- Enforce the induction policy.



Tom Bacon
is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers. tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

Pet's Corner

His regal highness Phil

Named after a prince but treated like a king, Prince Phillip is lucky enough to get three walks a day with owner Sofia.

"I walked him at 5.30am, then we normally get out again around 3.30pm when I finish work. I will probably take him out again after dinner," Sofia said.

Sofia rescued the seven-year-old Jack Russell from an animal shelter three years ago.

"He was already called Prince when I got him, but my mum added Phillip," she said.

Prince Phillip lacks no energy, as he sprints up and down Flagstaff Gardens chasing after his chew toy, even though he accidentally ate half a loaf of banana bread that day.

Sofia says that he is "toy obsessed," adding that tennis balls have a very short life span when introduced to Prince Phillip.

28-year-old Sofia is in the process of opening up a new café named Frances in Franklin St in the coming months.

Teaming up with her brother, the duo are following their parents' footsteps, who have previously owned restaurants in Melbourne.

"Prince Phillip occasionally gets to spend time with my parents up the coast at their house in Inverloch. He loves the bush and all the space he gets up there," Sophia said.

The café Frances will focus on making a great cup of coffee, and aims to use mostly local produce from the Victoria Market nearby.

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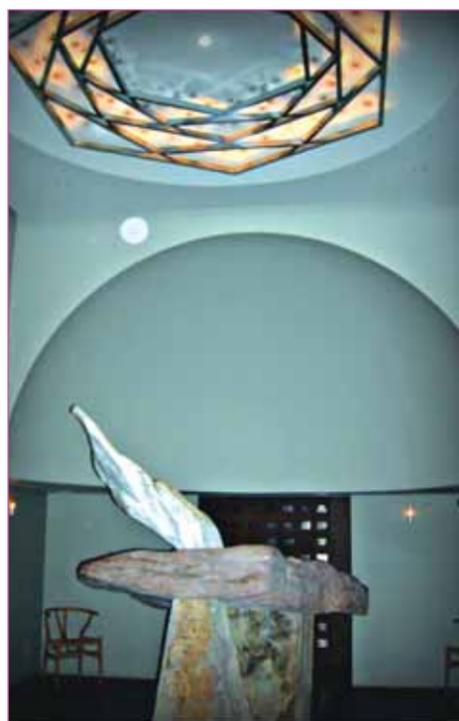
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