

The voice of postcode 3000

CBD NEWS

Food Events Nightlife



LUNCH TIME 12

AFTER WORK 13

THE WEEKEND 14

FOODIE'S PARADISE

page 2



GIRL POWER

page 4



PALACE PROTEST

page 5



CEO REFLECTS

page 7



Little action on demolition dust

By Shine Dighe

The construction of Melbourne's largest-ever residential development on the former Age newspaper site in Spencer St is causing serious disruptions and health problems to residents and businesses.

Residents are frustrated that no one is taking responsibility for the air quality and it appears the authorities are passing the buck.

Residents, restaurants, shops and even bus shelters are all bearing the brunt of the dust.

Echoing their problems, 270 King St building manager Terry McKenzie, said: "We are suffering from sore throats, dry eyes and other respiratory problems. Some of the residents have started wearing dust masks."

The residents approached the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the City of Melbourne and local federal MP Adam Bandt hoping to find a solution.

Mr Bandt summed up the problem succinctly: "It has not been clear who has the responsibility to let residents know what is happening or to clean their homes."

"The different groups are currently shirking their responsibility to maintain and enforce a safe worksite. This is not good enough. Residents deserve for the air around their homes to be clean and safe."

The problem started around September 4, when residents noticed dust emanating from the demolition of 250 Spencer St.



Frustrated residents (from left) Victor Duarte, Terry McKenzie, Jenny and Jason Cameron

They complained about the air quality and that the dust was impacting their health. They also needed to clean their windows every day.

Convenience store owner Victor Duarte said: "We are busy cleaning the store instead of focusing on the business."

He showed *CBD News* a bucket filled with dirt he said was collected after just two hours of cleaning his shop. He said that, by the time he finished cleaning, his products were covered with dust again.

"We are losing business and I am afraid that, by the time the building is up, I will have to

shut doors," he said.

Although the EPA has acknowledged there was violation of construction guidelines (as the dust was leaving the area because it was not watered down) it washed its hands of the problem saying it was not within its jurisdiction.

The residents were ultimately told it was the council's responsibility because it was a construction site, and that council should involve its environmental health officers.

Mr Bandt's constituent liaison officer, Rebecca Tench, contacted site services at the City of Melbourne, which immediately

undertook a site visit and confirmed there was excessive dust.

The demolition company, Guilfoyles, accepted this and agreed to get more hoses for the site. She again called site services on September 9 and made a further complaint, and was informed that a notice to comply would be issued, though it was never issued.

She said council told her it did not have an environmental health team and that this was the responsibility of the EPA.

Guilfoyles does not intend to contact local residents to arrange a clean-up of their properties until the construction is completed.

Ms Tench contacted Guilfoyles requesting that it arrange regular cleaning until the demolition was completed but it has not done so.

Mr Bandt's office has also asked the council for substantive compliance responses on a number of occasions and for information about what action its environmental health officers have taken (as recommended by the EPA).

While an environmental health officer attended the site on November 14 and, despite being assured it would receive a response by Wednesday, November 19, nothing has come through.

With six Bates Smart-designed towers between 39 and 63 storeys, the Industry Superannuation Property Trust plans to build 2994 apartments on the 11,755sqm site over eight to 12 years.

The eastern portion of the 250 Spencer St site was sold in April 2010 to Central Equity.

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Living next to the Queen Victoria Market is paradise for a foodie like Marisa Raniolo Wilkins.

The 67-year-old has written two cookbooks,
one of which is being re-released this month.

Ms Wilkins is a passionate Sicilian, despite
spending limited time there.

She explained that her Sicilian parents met in
northern Italy, returning to the island only for
holidays and, importantly, for Marisa's birth.

The family emigrated to Adelaide in 1959
and Marisa and husband Bob Evans moved
to Melbourne 13 years ago.

Ms Wilkin's expertise is seafood and is
surprised Australians don't eat more of it.

She said, rural Sicilians were largely meat
eaters but her family had always been city
dwellers and, therefore, focused on fish.
Another by-product of European city life is
apartment-dwelling which is why she feels
so at home in the CBD.

She and Bob have a car but use it only rarely.
Mostly, they get around the city on foot and
via public transport. She'd always wanted to
write a cookery book but didn't get a chance
until she gave up teaching.

Eight years later, she finished the manuscript
for Sicilian Seafood Cooking and, finally, in
2011 had it published.

The publisher provided a photographer and
a food stylist for the occasion and Marisa
cooked 75 meals over a four-day period.

"I was so pleased my neighbours were away
so I could use their fridge," she laughed.

Marisa says the community spirit within her
building and beyond is strong.

"I have a terrific relationship with the stall
holders at the market so I always get the best
quality food."



Charity gets a paint make-over

When 17 Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of
Central Melbourne-Sunrise and Melbourne
Park agreed to paint the fence at McAuley
House, North Melbourne, they didn't expect
the job would need 30 litres of paint.

That's what it took to paint 60 metres of
pickets and palings last month.

McAuley House accommodates about 20
homeless women, typically aged 30-50.

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Season's greetings

Dear reader ...

Thanks for your kind words and encouragement during our first five months of operation.

As this is our final publication for the year, we would like to extend our thanks and best wishes for the holiday season.

Like the little girl in awe of the Myer window (pictured right) may you find peace and happiness with family and friends at Christmas.

Stay safe, recharge, celebrate in moderation and come back refreshed and invigorated in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Shine Dighe and Shane Scanlan
Publishers.



Council compromised by donations

City of Melbourne councillors were unable to consider a planning application last month because too many of them had received election campaign contributions from the developer.

On November 11, the Future Melbourne Committee was left without a quorum and was, therefore, unable to consider a Southbank planning matter relating to developer Central Equity.

Central Equity already has a planning permit for the site at 199 City Rd but has asked

the Minister for Planning for permission to increase the height of the building from 105m to 148m and the number of apartments from 382 to 557. The site falls within a 100m discretionary height zone.

The Minister has asked the council for its view on the application but councillors were unable to consider the matter because four of the eight councillors present declared a conflict of interest and left the room.

Councillors declaring a conflict were Cr Ken Ong, Cr Susan Riley, Cr Kevin Louey and Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer.

In the absence of a direction from councillors, council officers will respond the Minister on Central Equity's application.

Of the four affected councillors, only Cr

Riley responded to a question from *CBD News* on whether or not, in hindsight, it was appropriate to accept developer contributions.

"I think at the time we were, I won't say misinformed, but I think we were unaware of the consequences of the team taking donations," Cr Riley said.

"I don't think any of us realised the consequences such as what happened tonight."

Cr Cathy Oke disagreed saying that, at the last election, The Greens were fully aware that donations accepted by a team would apply to all members.

"It has always been clear," Cr Oke said.

Greens councillor Rohan Leppert said: "We

were unable to conduct business today so, whether or not the current law is being adhered to, the point needs to be made that the current law can result in quorum being lost and in decisions not being made and that, in and of itself, is proof that the current system needs to be reviewed."

Cr Stephen Mayne said that, despite supporting a ban on developer contributions, he defended the affected councillors saying a "conservative opinion" had been provided as to the breadth of the conflict.

He pointed out that the same discipline was not expected of state MPs.

"I don't think it's a major issue of loss of governance or loss of process in the City of Melbourne," Cr Mayne said. "I don't think it's a major problem."

southgate

Add a break back into your weekday lunch

Make the most of your lunch break and admire the city from the Southgate side of the river.

Dine in over an express restaurant lunch menu, or enjoy a quick bite at Melbourne's bustling riverside food court.

Fresh air and spectacular city views are on the house.



New mega taxi rank

The City of Melbourne is trialling until the end of January a new late-night mega taxi rank on Bourke St.

On Friday and Saturday nights, a section of Bourke St between Russell St and Royal Place will become a dedicated hub for people to safely and easily catch a taxi. Like the successful Queen St mega taxi rank, the Bourke St rank will operate from midnight until 5am.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the new Bourke St rank was supported by passenger queuing controls, security marshals, CCTV cameras, regular police patrols, the Salvation Army food and coffee van and an on-site public toilet.

"This new taxi rank will provide a safe and convenient place for people to get a taxi home after a night out," Cr Doyle said.

"Bourke St is a logical location for our newest mega taxi rank: it is one of the city's busiest precincts and home to many licensed venues and fast-food outlets."

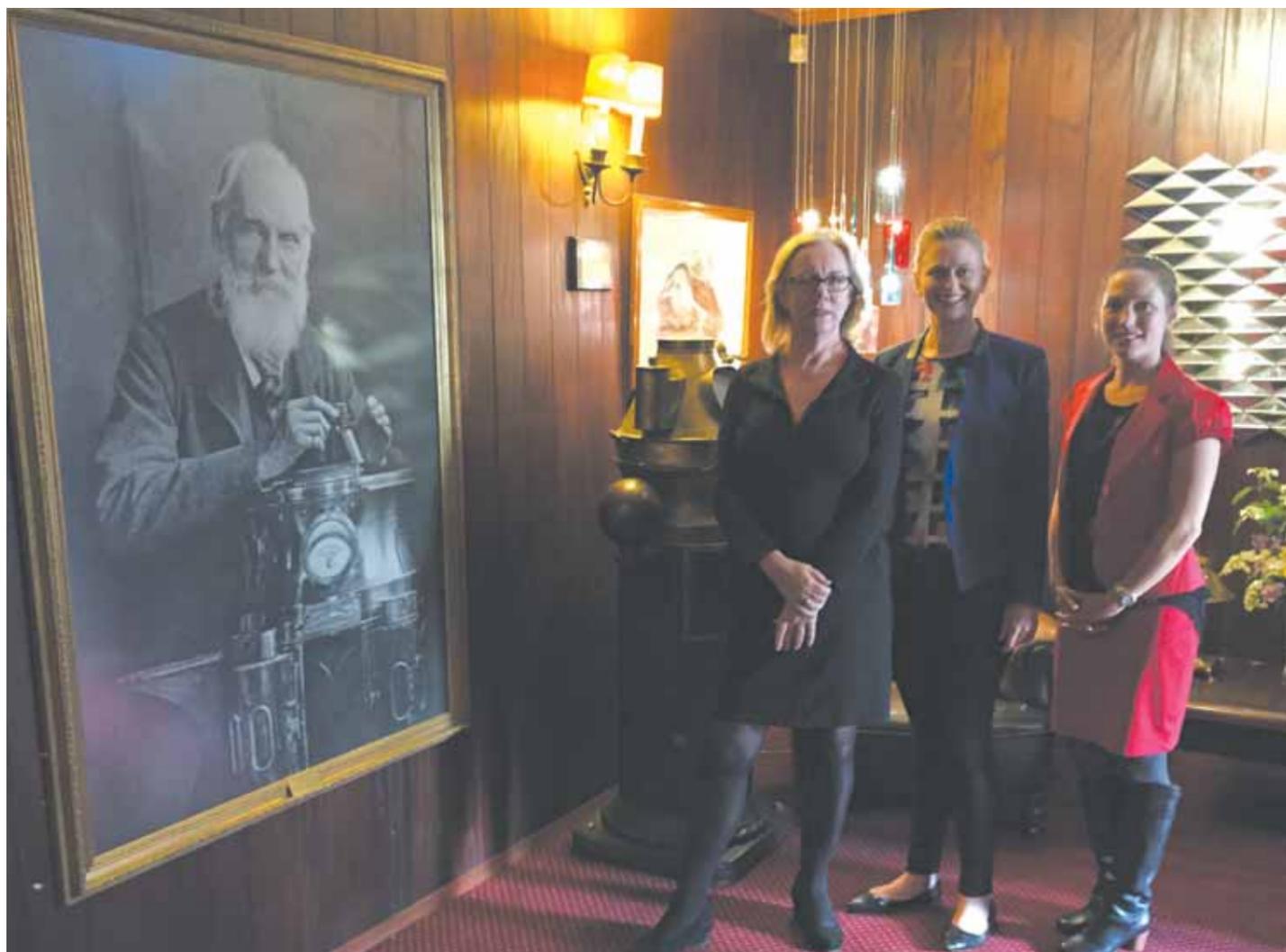
At the Queen St mega taxi rank, the presence of security marshals, police and the Salvation Army has helped diffuse tensions caused by hailing and waiting for taxis on the street.

Cr Richard Foster, chair of council's People City portfolio, said the trial of the new mega taxi rank was just one in a suite of safety initiatives outlined in the City of Melbourne Beyond the Safe City Strategy 2014-17.

"We know that safety in public places can often be increased simply by changing how a space is used, including good lighting, street activity and public amenities," Cr Foster said.

"Our Beyond the Safe City Strategy proposes a range of preventative measures to increase safety in the city, and the introduction of mega taxi ranks is a good example of an initiative that can prevent crime from occurring in the first place."

"Late-night transport is key to a safe city. If we can assist people to conveniently and safely get home after a night out, we can minimise late-night safety issues from arising."



(From left) Su Baker, Esther Gretton and Lauren Broomhall under the watchful gaze of Lord Kelvin, after whom the club was named.

Old club gets some girl power

Melbourne's Kelvin Club continues its evolution from exclusion to inclusion with the election last month of three women to its board.

The club is 150-years-old next year and was one of the first of Melbourne's "gentlemen's clubs" to admit women back in 1995.

And the club is also breaching the generational divide with two of the new female committee members aged around 30.

For club president, John Dall'Amico, the election result was pleasing. But he is uncomfortable with gender and age-related tags and is just thankful for the new thinking that the women bring to the table.

"I like to tell people that it is a progressive, traditional club," he said. "I don't see it as a private club but, rather, a space for the community to participate in."

Su Baker, 59, has been a Kelvin Club committee member for most of the many years she has been a club member. But newcomers Esther Gretton, 31, and Lauren Broomhall, 29, have been elected to the committee in their first year of membership.

Ms Baker said the gender balance was merely a reflection of the renewal that was sweeping the CBD more generally.

"The new club poses no contradiction with the traditions of the Kelvin Club of the past," she said.

She pointed out that, in the past, professional men would lunch at the club and then return to the suburbs after hours. The club now comes to life at night because the city has

become such a vibrant place to live.

Ms Gretton said social connection contributed to "wellness" and it was natural for the club to evolve towards a community focus.

"These days we are viewing diversity as normal," she said.

Ms Broomhall said it was fabulous to see a conscious shift towards inclusion in the club.

Her appointment is particularly relevant as her great-grandfather and grandfather had both been past-presidents of the club.

She said she always knew of the club but had considered it irrelevant because she was a girl.

"The vibrancy of what is going on here is a reflection of what is happening more generally throughout the city," she said. "The Kelvin Club ticks all of the Melbourne boxes."



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Members of Save the Palace gathered on November 23 to protest the removal interior fittings.

Protest against removal of Palace interior

Passionate supporters of the Palace Theatre gathered on November 23 to protest the removal of interior fittings by developer Jinshan Investments.

A member of the Save the Palace Committee discovered a large skip at the rear of the site in Amphlett Lane on November 21. Upon inspection, large chunks of interior plaster mouldings, smashed internal doors, a lot of rubble and a large number of 1912 tiles from a side Bourke St stairwell were discovered.

The site's developer issued a statement defending its action, claiming the interior of the building "held little heritage value".

In the media release entitled "Jinshan Investments operating within its rights", the developer said all work carried out at the venue was lawful.

"The developer is undertaking works to improve site safety, which had become compromised in the period following the departure of the former music venue tenant," the statement said.

It also argued: "Over the past 100 years, it has been dramatically altered, with much of its original features and history stripped

by previous owners, including the Metro Nightclub which added steel staircases and galleries that dramatically transformed the interior in the 1980s."

Further, Jinshan said that Heritage Victoria had ruled on two occasions that the venue did not hold sufficient cultural value to be protected. However, the statement failed to note that the Heritage Council also found the theatre potentially had social and historical values at a "local" level.

After the discovery, the City of Melbourne applied for interim heritage protection for the interior of the building.

The council was considering whether the

Palace deserved heritage protection when workers began stripping the venue.

On October 7, the Future Melbourne Committee voted to ask council staff to assess the site's internal and external heritage significance.

The final section of a three-part motion: "Requests management to provide for the assessment of the significance of the external and internal components of the site, and present to this committee by 18 November 2014 a draft planning scheme amendment which creates a new schedule to the Heritage Overlay to recognise the Palace Theatre as a site of local significance."

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Discover the CBD by bike

The City of Melbourne and Pop Up Playground are inviting people to take part in a new interactive game that will change the way they see the city.

Using a smartphone, a blue Melbourne Bike Share cycle and a helmet, the interactive game *1000 Cities* turns the CBD into a mythical adventure where riders will fight monsters, collect treasure and explore hidden parts.

The council's arts chair Cr Rohan Leppert said the arts participation project highlighted council's dedication to contributing to a creative city.

Once participants visit the *1000 Cities* site on a smartphone, they will be prompted to take out a bike at Federation Square. From there, the game takes riders through a series of tasks that will unlock hidden secrets about the city.

Rob Reid from Pop Up Playground said *1000 Cities* was based on Joseph Campbell's book, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

"*1000 Cities* is your invitation to open doors that you may have not thought were there. Participants will be the hero of their own epic adventure. We are inviting international students to take part in the game, as this is a great way to get to know the city - but the game is open to anyone that would like to play," Mr Reid said.

A group of Melbourne-based international students worked closely with the council and Pop Up Playground to develop the game.

When: 2 - 28 February 2015

Where: Start from the Federation Square Melbourne Bike Share pod outside the Melbourne Visitor's Centre

Cost: Free to play. You will need to have a credit card to unlock the bike.

Details: melbourne.vic.gov.au/1000Cities

Not 'just' a book launch

By Shine Dighe

I walked into the Reader's Feast Bookstore on Collins St prepared to cover a book launch.

I did a double take as I approached the function area... did I miss the note on the dress code for the evening? The ladies in their beautiful dresses accessorised with pearls, hats and gloves and men in their stylish suits and shiny shoes, surely this was not *just* a book launch.

The special event was the book launch of Annette Cooper's *Remembering Georges*. The book captures the heritage and history of Georges, Melbourne's most fashionable department store that traded for 115 years before it closed doors in 1995. The book is rich with images from Georges, examples of its marketing material and wonderful anecdotes from former employees, clients and customers.

Conversations were punctuated with nostalgia as champagne flowed freely and sandwiches were passed around. Former employees greeted each other with excitement as they exclaimed, "I am in the book."

"It did have a very calm and elegant feel about it," Ms Cooper said. "It wasn't cluttered or noisy like some other department stores and maybe that made people feel a little bit uncomfortable."

Mary Dalmau, the owner of Reader's Feast shared: "I have my own memories of my mother and grandmother 'window-shopping' in the glove department of Georges, never imagining we would locate our bookstore in this lovely building."

Calling himself the Collins St Kid, Michael Shmith recalled the times when the top end was "unsullied by the ridiculous sobriquet 'the Paris end' to which Barry Humphries cheerfully added 'the Melbourne end of Perth'."

Former Georges accessories buyer Christine Barro remembered that the store had flown her, age 22, to Italy to buy Fendi and Prada handbags.

"When I wanted to bring in Fendi, the buying office in Italy didn't know who they were," she said. "I remember the first time I talked with a journalist about Prada, they had no idea what all this nylon stuff was about."

Another staff member reminisced how she missed Audrey Hepburn by minutes when she took a "never-before and never-after" long lunch break. Legendary stories such as a red carpet being rolled out for the late society queen Sheila Scotter, and camaraderie among staff were shared.

Stay safe, say police

CBD police have reminded people to know their limitations so everyone can enjoy the festive season.

City East Police Station commander Snr-Sgt Dale Huntington said there were three main factors to consider: Planning a night out, staying safe and being wary of excessive alcohol.

Snr-Sgt Huntington advised people to plan how they were getting home before

they went out. "Don't turn a night out into a nightmare," he said.

He said friends needed to keep an eye out for each other as there were many dangerous situations, which needed to be avoided.

"Throughout summer extra police will be designated for Operation Safe Streets on Friday and Saturday nights, patrolling streets and around licensed venues and transport hubs," Snr-Sgt Huntington said.

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Melbourne CEO reflects on seven years at the top

By Shane Scanlan



After seven years in the top job, the city's top bureaucrat moves on this month at a time of unprecedented tensions around population growth within the CBD.

City of Melbourne CEO Kathy Alexander retires on December 3, her 60th birthday.

State Government approvals will likely see tens of thousands of new residents call the CBD home in the next few years, but it's the city that will be expected to provide the required community infrastructure.

Dr Alexander couches her responses with the skilled diplomacy which saw her appointed in the first place to the top job in April 2008. But it is obviously frustrating for the city to be expected to provide for growth it has no direct control over.

"The issue is the sheer volume," she said. "From my point of view, it can't just be the city that has to accommodate that volume. The volume really is something that needs to be worked out across the whole state. It's a political question that has to be worked out."

The most obvious tension is the law which sees the Planning Minister determining applications above 25,000sqm - which equates, these days, to any building of a reasonable size. And, whereas 25 years ago the CBD was a place to come to work, today it is rapidly transforming into a place to live.

Dr Alexander said: "I'm not surprised that the growth of population has happened. But if the CBD is not going to be like it has been in the past in terms of its commercial predominance, then we need the same sort of community plans that we need for City North, Southbank, Docklands and so on. It requires a lot of thinking."

"If the population is going to grow, then a lot of community amenity will be required. Yes, we've got libraries, health services and all of these things here but what does population

growth mean in terms of parks, in terms of maternal and child-health care, youth services, etc?"

Dr Alexander said the city was working on a community infrastructure plan for the CBD but agreement with the state was paramount to its success.

"The state will look at the city from the state's perspective. We will look at things from the community's perspective," she said.

"We know we're running a capital city and we have state-wide responsibilities, therefore the relationship between the State Government and the capital city council is fundamentally important to what happens in Melbourne."

Dr Alexander said her time at the helm had been simplified because of the council's consistent adherence to the "Future Melbourne" plan and principles which were first suggested by the John So council in 2008.

"I've had a pretty clear path to follow in those seven years," she said. "For the past six years the council has been working on a very solid set of directions around those major (Future Melbourne) community goals."

So, how does she rate her performance?

"I don't like to appraise my own performance, but the fact that I keep getting my contract signed is a good sign," she said.

"I can certainly see huge progress being made in the directions that council wanted."

"I've always been able to report that the plan's been implemented and always ahead of budget and, if you look at the international recognition that the City of Melbourne has had for the projects that it has run and the programs that it implements and the directions that it has been taking, there's no doubt that our excellence in those endeavours has been recognised."

Dr Alexander said her task as CEO had also been made easier by the alignment and commitment of her staff.

"It's a great organisation. The organisation itself is fundamentally committed to the City of Melbourne," she said. "We've done culture surveys amongst the staff and the thing that gets them up in the morning to come to work is the city."

"Making Melbourne a bold, inspirational city is on everyone's mind."

And, while Dr Alexander will miss the role, she won't miss the 12-hour days and the burden of reading all the council's papers every Sunday. She also says her retirement is a good opportunity for the organisation to introduce new energy and new thinking at the top.

She said a health scare for her daughter and grandson last year was a contributing factor to her decision to retire.

"She had a very difficult pregnancy and it was touch and go for both herself and the baby," she said. "Trying to 'fit in' my family, rather than focus on them, was an interesting time in my life."

"And also I'm 60 and things start to happen after 60 and I'm fit and healthy. Do I want to wait until I'm 70 or 65 when maybe I'm not so healthy?"

Dr Alexander said she would pursue some board positions where she would be able to continue to contribute to organisations at a strategic level rather than at the operational level.

Residents find voice on planning

As the city population swells, CBD residents are beginning to find voice on development.

Last month residents' group EastEnders flagged becoming more involved and Melbourne councillors are looking at the merits of reinstating notification rights.

Resident Bill Allan presented a strategy advocating activism to the EastEnders' annual general meeting on November 11. President Karin Dixon vowed that the new committee would consider becoming more involved in planning.

Residents 3000 president John Dall'amico went further suggesting that his CBD-wide umbrella organisation may be a better vehicle for such action.

Mr Allan advocated a model which he called "neighbourhood-based development" and suggested the battle over the Wesley property in Lonsdale St and surrounds become a pilot example.

He said residents in his building were facing being built-out by towers less than four metres away. He said this was plainly absurd and that planning scheme amendments were required to enshrine minimum standards of apartment size, quality and separation.

He suggested closer ties with the City of Melbourne and better data being available on city-wide development.

Earlier in the month Cr Rohan Leppert successfully convinced a narrow majority of his fellow councillors of the merits of further examining the reintroduction of notification rights.

The council is seeking advice from its officers and will have another look at the issue on December 9.

Cr Leppert said it was a fundamental residential right to be notified whenever a neighbouring property was either demolished or redeveloped.

"The principle is that those affected by a proposal have a right to be aware of that proposal," Cr Leppert said.

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This myth is busted

It is often thought that the CBD is mainly populated with young urban professionals and hipsters.

But 93-year-old Bernie Greene who calls CBD home since 1996 busts this myth. And when he narrates his reasons for choosing to live in an apartment in the city, one can't but feel nostalgic and warm.

Holding dear memories – his wedding to his wife Isobel at the St Augustine's Church in 1945 and his career with the Victorian Railways at the old Spencer St railway station (now the Southern Cross station) – Bernie decided to get a place in the city so he could have his past, present in his everyday life.

"Most things are forgotten over time. We're so caught up in our everyday lives that events of the past are no longer in orbit around our minds. But still, there are some things we can never assign to oblivion," says Bernie.

"I inspected a few apartments and almost gave up on living here. On the last day before heading back to Ballarat, I attended the mass at the St Augustine's Church and as I came out I saw the apartment and it was like it was a sign – I had found home," he says emotionally.

Bernie is a proud railwayman who joined the Victorian Railway to achieve his boyhood dream of operating the express passenger steam locomotives of the time.

He worked as a fireman on the S class Pacifics, hauling the famous Spirit of Progress between Melbourne and Albury. "What a sensational feeling it was being in charge of all that power and speed. The sound of the whistle and the rush of air were a real thrill. In those days we always outran the cars trying to keep pace with us on the Hume Highway and it was great fun waving goodbye to them as we blocked them off at the crossings."

However, he regrets the destruction of the four S class locomotives. "It was an utter tragedy, it was almost inconceivable that the pride of Victoria could be so callously



discarded. It's such a shame that we can't go to a museum and see one," he said.

Born on Christmas Day, Bernie loves being in the city. "I am in the best place. Everybody comes to see me as I am right in the heart of the city. I couldn't wish for more – trams, trains, dining and shopping – all just a short stroll away makes things very easy for me," he says.

"I can get a good meal for \$10, so I can't be bothered cooking. But I am not a big fan of salads that are served these days – just twigs and leaves with no flavor. But I do love my cakes and tea," he confides.

Bernie also points out that he feels quite safe living in the city. "The security in the apartment is marvelous." He is also on Facebook but "not sure I need it though." He is an ardent Richmond fan but bemoans that the team has not given him a reason to cheer for a while now.

From growing up in the farming district of Bungaree (about 15km from Ballarat) to Melbourne CBD, it has been an exciting ride for Bernie. With five children, 16 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, the journey has been a one big party for him.



Fancy a rickshaw ride?

Come December and rickshaws will be a familiar sight in the city.

The City of Melbourne has granted a three-month trial permit to Green Monkey Pedicabs to operate 20 pedicabs in the city.

Despite safety concerns such as potential for traffic congestion on busy carriageways and safety of cyclists overtaking slower pedicabs in bicycle lanes, the council granted the seasonal permit.

It was satisfied that a selection of the criteria outlined in the Street Activity Policy like environmental sustainability, the offer of an alternative city transport mode and adding to the city's vitality and attractiveness was addressed.

Under the plan, there would be nine pedicab ranks across the city, including Federation Square, Bourke St Mall, Queen Victoria Market, Southern Cross Station and Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

The council also noted that any subsequent applications (a second company Bike Cabs

has also applied for permit) for pedicab operations would not be considered until the outcomes of the trial permit period are assessed.

Further, decision on the future operations will be decided after a report on the trial with recommendations is provided to the Future Melbourne Committee in April 2015.

Green Monkey is the brainchild of Epping-based Luqman Nazzal and husband and wife team Warren and Judy Gatt. Targetted at tourists and local alike, the fleet of 20 environmentally-friendly pedicabs will start operations from December 5.

"We are excited and confident that tourists and locals alike will embrace the service," Mrs Gatt said. "It's not a taxi service, it's a short-trip experience – a unique way for tourists to see the city and also a way for locals to get from A to B," she said.

The trio started the company in November last year, and has tested its fleet of pedicabs on Moreland roads, including Sydney Rd in Brunswick.

Fares would start from \$5 per person and cost another \$1 per minute thereafter, with drivers taking credit cards as well as cash.

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1ST JANUARY NEW YEAR'S DAY: 10AM – 1AM



Monumental occasion for Docklands

The stunning Monument Park is being unveiled this month in NewQuay in Docklands.

The \$3 million, 2000sqm sculptural park binds together seven sculptures by award-winning artist Callum Morton. Each is based on a significant City of Melbourne monument, including the “yellow peril”

(Vault), Burke and Wills and the Marquis of Linlithgow.

A concrete facsimile of the Hoddle Grid is draped across the various monuments and forms the base of the park.

According to Mr Morton, the ground plane is imagined as a carpet – rising and falling as it covers the various monuments.

“Critically, we wanted to emphasise the idea

that Docklands should be regarded not as an isolated precinct but rather as an extension, and integral part of the city,” he said.

“The forms are broken open in sections to reveal new colourful worlds for sheltering in, exploring, playing amongst and enjoying.”

“There are abundant green areas that appear through holes created in the surface of the carpet. The plantings appear as if literally erupting from the ground below to colonise

this fantasy city.”

The project is funded by Places Victoria and MAB Corporation, the developer of Docklands’ NewQuay precinct. Docklands developers are required to spend 1 per cent of the value of their projects on public art.

Joining Mr Morton in creating the concept were landscape architecture studio, Oculus, and architects for the adjacent The Quays residential building, McBride Charles Ryan.

Art for art's sake



Michael Buxton

Monument Park is our most ambitious art project. MAB’s approach to public art is to create engaging and welcoming pieces. We always envisage people interacting with the art rather than just observing it.

Art in the community is an integral component in the creation of a sense of place and MAB is committed to delivering art and green spaces to NewQuay. By designing a unique landscape setting with great public art enables us to deliver a truly distinctive space for the NewQuay community and our thousands of visitors.

The beauty of Monument Park is its evolving nature. By integrating the sculptures with landscaping elements, it provides a new dimension. It will continue to evolve as the plants grow.

Whilst there is a strong story behind the sculptures, the beauty of art is subject to interpretation. It will create discussion; some people will love it and some won’t. The best art pieces always create debate.



Elma Crosbie thinks Monument Park is just fantastic.

Park is simply ‘fantastic’

Docklands resident Elma Crosbie thinks Monument Park is ‘fantastic’.

“It’s fantastic because there’s been nothing in this area like it,” Elma said.

“I don’t know too much about it, but as far as I can see, it also honours people who helped Australia develop in the first place.”

Ms Crosbie lives in the neighbouring Conder tower. She said NewQuay had needed additional features to draw visitors.

“I’ve been watching it being built downstairs there for months now. It’s great to see it finally coming together and all the various colours being added,” she said.

“I’ve been pleasantly surprised by how its shaping up. It’s great for the area.”

Ms Crosbie has watched NewQuay develop since moving to Docklands six years ago. The views and proximity to public transport are what first attracted her to the area.

Commitment to Docklands



Andrew Buxton

Monument Park is the next key step in the revitalisation of NewQuay. What was once a concrete plaza is being transformed into a space for people to relax, grab a coffee and enjoy life on the water.

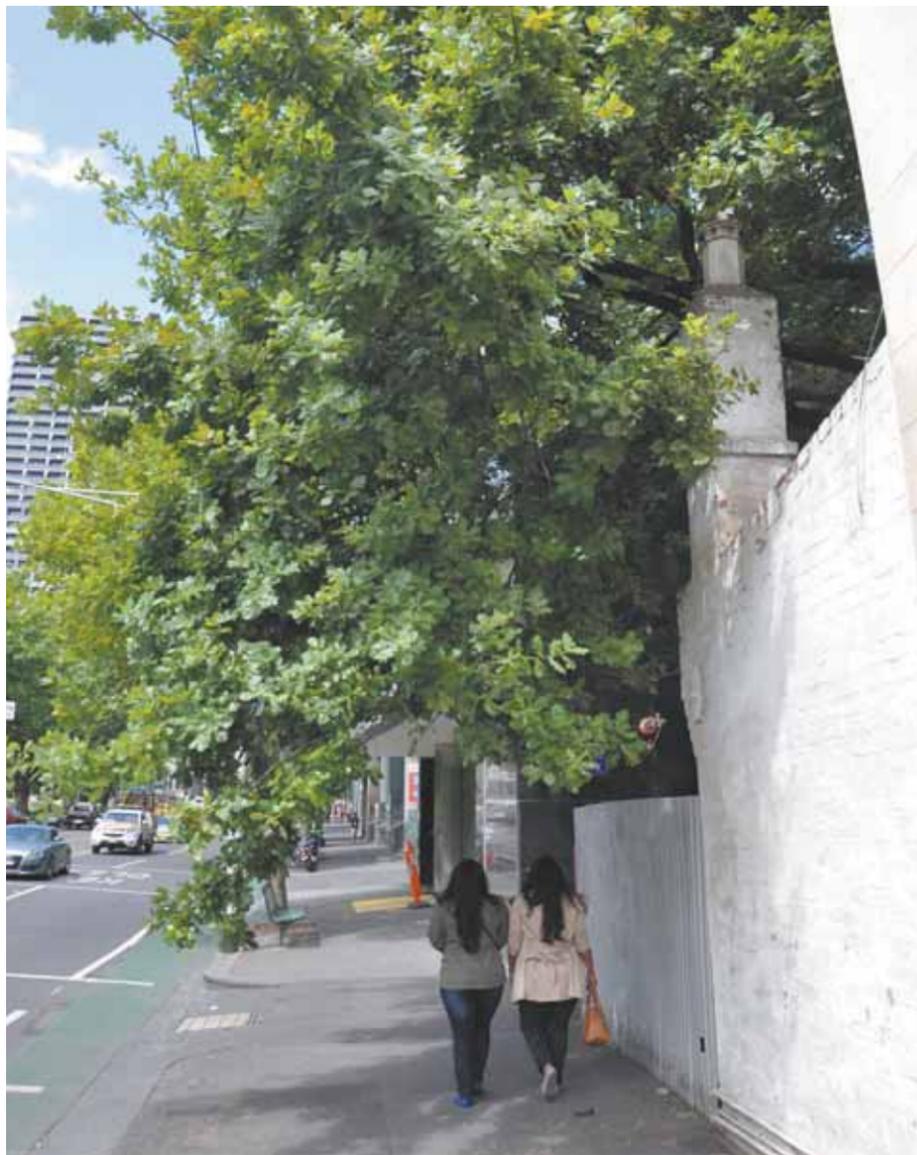
MAB’s vision is to set a new benchmark for art and public spaces in Melbourne. Each member of our design team is a multi-award winner in their field.

NewQuay has evolved significantly in recent months, from welcoming new residents to The Quays through to the creation of Monument Park as well as introducing exciting new businesses. In 2015, NewQuay will continue to progress with the completion of the Ron Barassi Senior Park - Melbourne’s newest park and sporting facility in Docklands.

The start of construction of MAB’s Aquil Promenade apartments early next year will provide another opportunity for people to enjoy living at NewQuay.

MONUMENT PARK
Opening December 2014





Exceptional trees protected

This English oak tree is one of eight on private land in the CBD to be included on a new Exceptional Tree Register.

The register came about at the instigation of Cr Cathy Oke who, in 2008, was asked to assist some South Yarra residents who were concerned about the potential loss of some neighbourhood trees.

Cr Oke told the November 11 Future Melbourne Committee that, at that time, there was no planning mechanism to protect trees on private property.

“Now at least we can respond when asked what are we doing to preserve trees on private property – that we do have an Exceptional Tree Register,” Cr Oke said.

An amendment to the Melbourne Planning Scheme (C212) is likely to be approved by the Minister for Planning to protect the trees following an extensive examination by a special panel of 288 nominated trees throughout the municipality.

Trees were adjudged “exceptional” on 13 broad criteria including environmental and heritage factors. In all, 132 trees made it onto the register.

The newly-listed oak tree is at the rear of the heritage-listed shop at the corner of King and LaTrobe streets.

While the owner of the property shared no opinion with the planning panel, a neighbour objected to the listing, fearing that it would make it more difficult to develop their land in the future.

In a submission to the panel, Sophie Gioutlou and Co Lawyers claimed the tree’s proximity to Flagstaff Gardens mitigated any environmental significance it may have.

The neighbour also said the tree had caused and continued to cause substantial damage to its property.

The panel rejected these arguments and recommended the tree be added to the register. The panel advised the neighbour: “Pruning of overhanging branches and cleaning gutters is normal practice in maintaining any property.”

Other CBD trees to be added are:

- A honey locust at 607 Bourke St;
- A pear tree at 621-633 Bourke St;
- Three plane trees at 36 Collins St;
- A frangipani at 116 Ltl Lonsdale St; and
- A European olive at 118 Lonsdale St.

Green light for spending

Melbourne’s “people’s panel” has given a green light to the City of Melbourne to increase rates, sell assets, borrow money, spend more on “green initiatives”, maintain community services and cut capital works spending.

In May, the City of Melbourne determined to bring together a representative group of 43 people to help guide the development of its 10-year financial plan.

The panel’s report was submitted to a special meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee on November 17.

In its report, the panel also cautioned the council on over-spending on the Queen Victoria Market redevelopment and said it

wanted motorcycles off footpaths.

The panel presented a list of issues it wants the council to advocate on, including:

- Improved public transport;
- More schools;
- Higher congestion taxes on cars in the central city;
- Higher open space contributions, developers levies and more control of development for the city; and
- More state-based welfare.

The panel met six times between August 23 and November 8 to determine its position. At its fifth meeting, it engaged with councillors and presented its report to councillors at the meeting on November 11. Councillors were expected to formally respond on November 25.

At the November 17 meeting, councillors engaged with a number of panelists selected to present the elements of their reports.

A panelist's perspective

When I received the invitation to register for the City of Melbourne’s Peoples Panel part of the New Democracy, I registered more out of curiosity to see what the process would be and as an opportunity to extend my business network.



Gerard Kelly

When I was selected to be a member of the 47 people selected to participate and received the first booklet of information I was excited about the possibility of what may be able to be achieved.

On meeting the fellow panellists and listening to the first day’s information, I became very concerned about how such a random selection of individuals with various degrees of understanding of the information that was being provided would ever be able to come to a unanimous or purposeful decision and to be able to present a concise document to the City of Melbourne on our recommendations.

Over six Saturdays, we were provided unlimited access to information ranging from financials to hearing from councillors and asset managers – at times the information was overwhelming and I found some members were perhaps getting weighed down by small incidental issues.

The facilitators did well keeping members focussed and reminding us of our goal, our remit and the need for clarity of intent.

As we approached the final sessions, I was astounded by the passion all the members were displaying for Melbourne and the task at hand. It led to some very robust discussions between panel members on what we should include in our report and these were debated and voted on to create the basis of our report.

A concern that myself and a number of other panellists had was that the Peoples Panel was just window dressing or a goodwill gesture from the City of Melbourne.

However, during the sessions that councillors, the Lord Mayor and asset managers attended there was a real sense that they believed in the process and that they wanted us to challenge them and put forward a report of well thought out responsible ideas.

I thoroughly enjoyed the process and I know myself and a number of other panellists put other important personal aspects of our lives on hold to attend the sessions as well as working on the report outside of the sessions.

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Melburnian of the Year

Elizabeth St researcher Prof. Sharon Lewin has been named the 2014 Melburnian of the Year.

The Doherty Institute director was honoured for her contribution to Melbourne's globally-respected medical research sector and her role as co-chair of the recent AIDS 2014 conference.

On November 15, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle announced the award.

"It gives me great pleasure to bestow the honour of 2014 Melburnian of the Year to Prof. Sharon Lewin who is one of the world's most influential campaigners and researchers working towards a cure for HIV," Cr Doyle said.

In response, Prof. Lewin said: "To be singled out for this accolade is a wonderful honour and something I'm extremely proud of"

Prof. Lewin was joined by nine other individuals, corporations and community organisations, who were each recognised for their contribution to the wider-city's success as part of the Melbourne Awards program.

Judging of the Melbourne Awards involved a panel of more than 50 business and community leaders across a range of industry sectors, choosing winners and finalists through a thorough application and interview process.



Prof. Sharon Lewin is the Melburnian of the Year.

Happy birthday Athenaeum

The Athenaeum Library turned 175 years old last month.

The library, an inner-city haven in the heart of Collins St, is one of Melbourne's oldest institutions, alongside the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Victoria's oldest subscription library, it has about 700 members, of which more than 150 live in the City of Melbourne.

"The 175th birthday offers a wonderful

opportunity to celebrate the library's history and achievements, including the commitment of our loyal members," said Sue Westwood, the library's business manager.

Annual membership is \$99 (\$89 concession) and gift memberships are available by visiting the library at Level 1, 188 Collins St, Melbourne or by phoning **9650 3100**.

Developer's request the 'most arrogant'

A developer with the rights to build Australia's biggest tower at 555 Collins St and over-shadow the Yarra is not satisfied and wants conditions over its form and quality removed.

Fragrance Mel-Vic (Collins) Pty Ltd has asked the State Government for the removal of three conditions that were imposed last year in an incorporated document to the planning scheme.

In discussing the City of Melbourne's response to the planning department on the request on November 11, Cr Rohan Leppert labeled the application: "possibly the most arrogant request that we have ever looked at".

Councillors were appalled last year when the Planning Minister Matthew Guy granted permission to build a 400m tower which would over-shadow Southbank almost to City Rd.

Since then, Fragrance bought the site but now wants the three conditions specified in the incorporated document removed.

One of the conditions was that the building had to be for commercial use but Fragrance now wants a mixed-use development to include residential.

Condition one reads: "The building must be iconic in nature and design, demonstrate a high degree of architectural merit, provide excellent

public realm outcomes, and deliver high quality economic and environmentally sustainable offices."

Cr Leppert said: "The request to change the incorporated document conditions are an absolute nonsense and our officers have gone one step further to recommend, just as we did back in early 2013, that this incorporated document be removed from the planning scheme entirely. It should never have been put there in the first place."

Councillors voted unanimously to reject the request and, taking the matter further, also requested the removal of the over-shadowing exemption.

Cr Stephen Mayne said he had some sympathy for the developer should the rules be changed after the purchase but, he said, it should not have happened in the first place.

"There are a range of parties with a lot of questions to answer and I hope that the next planning minister will release some information so we can have a serious inquiry into how the hell this happened," he said.

"And I certainly hope that the next minister takes our advice and withdraws the incorporated document, although I flag the obvious sovereign risk issue of an international investor who suddenly has the rules of the game changed on them."

"This has been a sordid chapter the likes of which I hope we never see again," he said.

The council's planning chair, Cr Ken Ong, said the lesson for developers was to speak with the council and do their "due diligence".

He said he could understand developers be confused with agents telling them that almost anything goes in Melbourne.

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BlackBall

China Town

Located on Bourke St in Chinatown, BlackBall bring the taste of authentic Taiwanese desserts and teas to Melbourne. There is an impressive range of exotic and unusual teas to choose from at BlackBall.

Cacao Green

285 Swanston St

Cacao Green's frozen yoghurt has no artificial colours, flavours, preservatives, additives or high-fructose corn syrup, and is freshly prepared daily.

Elles Natural Ice Cream

Melbourne Central

Using fresh and natural ingredients, Elle's Natural Ice Cream make a delicious range of juices, smoothies, ice-cream, coffee and cakes.

Gelateria Primavera

157 Spring St

Gelateria Primavera's artisanal gelato is influenced by Massimo Bidin's years of experience making gelato in Italy, his overseas travels and an open attitude to new spices and flavours.

Passionflower

168-174 Bourke St

Passionflower serves sweet-lovers unique and exotic Asian-style ice creams, desserts, waffles, pancakes and crepes. Try the signature ice-cream flavours: black sesame, sticky rice, Japanese green tea, durian, lychee rose, pandan, jackfruit and taro.

The Lab Nitrogen Gelato

188 Bourke St

Inspired by Heston Blumenthal's mad creations, as well as gelato around Italy, New York and Hong Kong, the Lab uses nitrogen to add a cool effect to sorbet/ice cream.

Nitrogen, being a lot colder than usual, amps up the flavours and lowers the chance of ice cream crystallising.

HIGHLIGHTS



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THE SEA, THE SHORE

Meg Cowell's exhibition presents a series of large-scale photographic works that illustrate a ritual shift from garment to artefact.

Flinders Lane Gallery
Ground 137-139 Flinders Lane
9654 3332, info@flg.com.au



LIGHTSCAPES

Material Interruptions, showcases the work of 13 RMIT School of Art students..

Melbourne Central
Until February 10
Free event



ASIAN INSIGHT

Swimming in Sand; Growing Rice under an Umbrella is an exhibition of artworks by eight artists from Southeast Asia.

No Vacancy Gallery, 34-40 Jane Bell Lane
Until December 7, 0402 067070
anita@anitaarcherfineart.com.au



ART EXHIBITION

Slipping Away is a solo exhibition of new works by Polish-Australian artist Dorota Connellan.

Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery
141 Queen St,
Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 5.00pm



LIGHT UP THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND BIG BUCKS TO USHER IN THE NEW YEAR. HEAD TO THE VENUES LISTED BELOW FOR FREE MUSIC FROM SOME OF MELBOURNE'S BEST DJs, AND A LARGE MULTI-MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT "NEST", COMPLETE WITH MUSIC, VISUALS AND PYROTECHNIC EFFECTS.

And at midnight, the spectacular fireworks will light up the city skyline in a dazzling display of colour and light.



New Year's Eve explodes into light.

Federation Square

Time: 8pm - 1am

Reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Melbourne, the square will illuminate in a kaleidoscope of colour. Wear your brightest colours or crystal whites so you illuminate under a canopy of ultraviolet lights installed exclusively for the celebration.

Experience the big beats of Lamine Sonko and African Intelligence as they guide you through easy dance steps that, on the stroke of midnight, will coalesce in an en-masse dance to their popular track, Light and Shine. The entertainment lineup also includes Sounds of Polynesia, Marawa the Amazing, Ethiopian Circus Trio, Maracatu Estrela do Mar featuring Neda Rahmani and Samba Dancers, Wassawumba and Congo Tardis #1.

Treasury Gardens

Time: 9pm - 1am

Transport: Train - Parliament Station

Walk: Located just east of the CBD, between Spring and Lansdowne streets

Kings Domain

Time: 9pm - 1am

Transport: Train - Flinders St Station

Walk: Located just south of the CBD, between St Kilda Rd and Alexandra Ave

Docklands

Time: 9pm - 1am

Transport: Train - Southern Cross Station

Walk: Located west of the CBD, behind Etihad Stadium, surrounding Victoria Harbour

Flagstaff Gardens

Time: 9pm - 1am

Transport: Train - Flagstaff Station

Walk: Located just north of the CBD, between LaTrobe and King streets

HIGHLIGHTS



EPIDEMIC 2.0

Underground Cinema presents a live experience and screening of the classic cult film 28 Days Later.

December 4-7
Secret venue will be revealed with booking info@undergroundcinema.com.au



NIGHT RIDE

Grab your bike and your love of film and ride along, stopping at screening locations to watch a range of short films and video clips.

Testing Grounds, 1 City Rd
Last Friday of every month
0422 221 072, info@projectorbike.com.au



ARTISTS' MARKET

Discover stalls selling a wide assortment of merchandise including art, illustration, craft, design, textile and jewellery.

10 Franklin St
Every Wednesday, 5pm - 10pm
www.theblendermarket.com



BETWEEN CRACKS

An evening with the tyrannical Yana Alana and ouise Goh baring all through song, eccentric dance, poetry and tantrums.

Basement 45 Flinders Lane
December 16- 21, 9662 9966
info@fortyfivedownstairs.com



READER'S FEAST

Meet celebrated author Thomas Keneally as he celebrates 50 years as a published author

Reader's Feast Bookstore, 162 Collins St
December 1, 6.15pm - 8pm
9662 4699, readers@readersfeast.com.au



ALBUM LAUNCH

Sydney's Gay Paris are launching their new album, The Dark Arts with Don Fernando and the Dukes of Deliciousness.

Cherry Bar, 103 Flinders Lane
December 5, 8pm - late
9639 8122, jamesyoung@cherryrock.com.au



FAIR TRADE, WHO CARES?

MELBOURNE-BASED ORGANISATION, MORAL FAIRGROUND, IS RUNNING ITS SIXTH ANNUAL FAIR@SQUARE FESTIVAL IN EARLY DECEMBER.



Caring shoppers get among the bargains at a previous festival.

The festival was designed by Melbourne banker, Susanna Bevilacqua, to promote fair trade, conscious consumerism and corporate social responsibility.

"Consumers increasingly demand to know the footprint behind the products they are purchasing. Many businesses have accepted this growing trend and now ethical enterprises in Australia are booming, with conservative figures placing the number of social enterprises at around 20,000," said Bevilacqua, CEO of Moral Fairground. "So clearly, many Australians care."

The City of Melbourne is proud to support the event. Ethical businesses Australian Ethical, Ecostore and One Water are also proud supporters of the event.

Lara Shannon, Founder of Ecochick.com and Ambassador of Moral Fairground, believes the Fair@Square festival is a perfect reminder for consumers to be conscious of their purchasing choices. "Every purchase choice matters. Choosing conscious products, who we buy from and where materials are sourced contributes towards a better and fairer society."

Noelene Marchwicki, 2013 *Masterchef* contestant, is also a proud Ambassador for Moral Fairground. "Being an ambassador for Moral Fairground has given me an extra voice to encourage everyone in their endeavours to use fresh produce, to know what you are buying, cook simply and support your local producers and industries. Visit regional areas, enjoy the natural beauty of the area, travel the food trails, purchase the beautiful fabrics, stop and smell the roses in the public and private gardens."

Chair of Marketing Melbourne, Cr Beverley

Pinder-Mortimer, said the City of Melbourne supported local fair trade initiatives, and commended the event for raising awareness about making informed choices.

There will be live cooking shows, markets, fashion shows, seminars, live music, art exhibition, delicious food, and activities for the kids.

WHERE: FEDERATION SQUARE

WHEN: DECEMBER 6 - 7

HIGHLIGHTS



DRACULAS

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



CHINA UP CLOSE

Explores Chinese moving image art and cinema through a rich program of exhibitions, talks, live events and film.

ACMI, Federation Square
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8663 2583, info@acmi.net.au



BOOK SALE

The library's store room is bursting with books to sell, so browse the bargain books, both fiction and non-fiction, for just a dollar.

City Library, 253 Flinders Lane
December 6, 11am - 3pm



JAZZ FESTIVAL

Enjoy balmy evenings with the Melbourne International Jazz Festival Summer sessions program.

Bennetts Lane Jazz Club, 25 Bennetts Lane
January 15 - 29
info@melbournejazz.com



DANCE BATTLE

One of Australia's largest freestyle arts event. the grand final features a crowd-judged 2 vs 2 dance battle.

Section 8 Bar, 27 Tattersalls Lane
December 6, 2pm - 5 pm
9188 3681, www.multiculturalarts.com.au



STRICTLY BALLROOM

Get ready for the musical that is sure to get you up and dancing.

Her Majestys Theatre
219 Exhibition St
From January 15
Tickets through Tick-e-tek

Loving the dramatic city light

Recently there has been considerable media attention on over-shadowing by tall buildings on places in the city that we consider to be sacrosanct.

Just recently, it was reported that the high-rise buildings in Southbank would cast a shadow at certain times of the year on the Shrine of Remembrance. The State Library forecourt is under renewed threat from overshadowing from new buildings being planned to its north-west.

As well, the banks of the Yarra will also be in shadow at certain times from tall buildings that are planned for the western end of the city.

Daylight access is an important public health issue.

The approval of new tall buildings without due consideration is a concern and it means there will be more places of importance, more streets and more gardens in shadow.

Daylight in the CBD is in scarce supply and every ray of light that reaches the ground plane is an opportunity for nature to thrive and for people to feel connected to the simple pleasures of time, weather and season.

Those many people who work in artificially lit and air-conditioned office in the city need access to daylight.

This short piece about daylight celebrates those places in the city where daylight contributes something special to the experience. It should never be taken for granted and, whilst daylight in the city is complex, changing and transient, we should not simply trade it away for more new high-rise buildings that limit our enjoyment of this wonderful city.

So for all the daylight-lovers out there – here is my top 12 daylight inspired places of Melbourne.

State Library forecourt

There is always lots to watch from the grass embankments. The forecourt is Melbourne's version of an Italian piazza – art and architecture and, to top it all, trees and grass for people to sink their hands and toes into.

Latrobe Reading Room – State Library of Victoria

People feed off the generous scholarly atmosphere that is the Latrobe Reading Room. The lantern gives beautiful, diffuse light – a perfect place to study, read or write the next great Australian novel.



Photo courtesy of Matt Irwin.

Deakin Edge, Federation Square

The view of the Yarra makes this auditorium a joy to be in. Be it day or night, watching a great performance whilst having contact with natural light and such a view is rare in these types of performance and lecture spaces.

Atrium of 171 Collins St

This beautifully-designed atrium is shrouded with an inclining glass curtain on four sides that plays with the light from above.

Collins Place Plaza

The late 1970s space-frame-canopy spans this magnificent space and the tall office buildings to the north protect it from the harsh effects of the sun during the middle of the day.

St Patrick's Cathedral

The amber glass of the cathedral interior creates a beautiful light in this gothic revival church. Putting religion to one side, walking through this magnificent gothic-revival cathedral when the sun is setting is a truly uplifting experience.

Hosier Lane

Natural light is the best light to experience art and in Hosier Lane we are treated to a constantly-changing art display that is big bold and always unusual.

Great Hall ceiling, National Gallery of Victoria

The Great Hall is a modern cathedral – where Leonard French's stained-glass masterpiece is on the horizontal plane. The beautiful, slender steel columns and modern proportions of the space are a treat for kids who lie on the floor and gaze up to the kaleidoscopic-coloured roof.

Manchester Unity tower

When the sun is setting in the west, there are times when the tower on this Melbourne icon shines like a beacon as the sun passes through the top level windows. The view of the tower from the top of Collins St is something to behold.

The banks of the Yarra in front of the rowing pavilions

If you can wake up early, the banks of the Yarra are a great vantage point to enjoy the city skyline. Joggers, rowers, the occasional hot air balloon and, if you're lucky, the early morning mist drifts of the river.

Terraced steps, Federation Square

On a Friday night, with the sun setting, the terraced steps of Federation Square is a great spot to welcome the weekend. The setting sun, tall buildings to the west, the end of a working week and Federation Square becomes a great place to welcome the weekend.

GPO steps

The sandstone, neo-classical facade is beautiful in bright sunshine. The steps are a great place to sit and enjoy the warmth on a cold winter's day and watch a performance from buskers. It's a great place where architecture and people get to play on one of our most impressive buildings.

Daylight in the city is dramatic and occasionally surprising.

Write in and tell us your favourite daylight place in the city. news@cbdnews.com.au



Antony Di Mase

is a practising architect at Di Mase Architects. He is currently completing a masters of lighting design at QUT with a focus on daylight design in the built environment. **9482 5144**, antony@dimasearchitects.com.au

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FASHION ON THE STREETS



MARJORIE SIERRA
ACCOUNTANT

LOCATION: Emporium.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING: Jacket from Zara; jeans from Guess; top from H&M; necklace from Lovisa and shoes are a gift from dad.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CITY: Meet-up with my friends.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: Originally from Peru.

FAVOURITE CLOTHING ITEM: My jeans.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: Mix and match to reflect your individuality.

TRENDING NOW: Furry vests and mini playsuits.



Print one piece bikinis from Island State.

Swimwear galore

Swimsuits are possibly the worst item of clothing to shop for. Unless you have the perfect body, the experience can often be harrowing and uncomfortable.

The stores always seem to have harsh fluorescent lighting that accentuate any flaws and hide the flattering aspects that a pair of bathers might have.

But it shouldn't be such an ordeal. Rather than focusing on your imperfections, it helps to pick styles that work with your body shape and highlight the best parts.

After all, there is no point trying on a string bikini if you hate your bottom. That's just depressing.

So, what are the best styles to look for? This is a brief overview of styles that can hide flaws and help you feel your best.

For all the curvy ladies: Vintage styles are the way to go. Think high-waisted styles or add a ruffle or sheath to a one-piece like they did in the 1950s. The sheath might be slightly out-dated, but it looks like you are wearing a sexy shift to the beach. Another option to consider is a suit with rushing detail – the gathering in the suit often hides any bulgy bits!

Hide that belly: It's sad but true that the majority of us carry a bit of an extra tyre around our middle. How do you hide it? With ruffles of course! A layered ruffle one-piece hides most flaws. If you love your legs, pick a high-cut style. Similarly, pick a deep V-neck to highlight the bust area.

Straight up and down: Women who have slim-line figures can also use detailing to create a fuller body image. It's all in the detailing! An oversized ruffle on the bust makes it look fuller, just as fringes around the legs can add some depth to the hips.

Basic rule: Add detail to where you want to draw attention. Cut out or ripped detailing may leave you feeling exposed, but can also create a curvy shape where none existed before. (Just beware of unusual tan lines!)

Best spots to shop:

- The greatest vintage togs can be found at American Rag. The sales staff are awesome, and the best bit: no harsh fluorescent lighting to make you cringe! Visit www.americanragmelbourne.com.au for city locations and details.
- There is an amazing variety of bathers available at H&M. If you are looking for cheap and cheerful, these babies range from \$9.95 onwards. Located at 350 Bourke St, Melbourne.
- Do you like to support home grown labels? Island State offers styles for all body types. Visit www.island-state.com for details and styling.
- And finally: for the more adventurous. A label called 2nd Skin Bikinis offers cheeky styles for anyone who is comfortable with their body and loves to flaunt it! Check out their ranges at www.2ndskinbikinis.com



ELLIE MAI
STUDENT

LOCATION: Melbourne Central.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING: Jacket from Glue, shorts from Supre and shoes from Tony Bianco.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CITY: Shopping.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: LaTrobe University.

FAVOURITE CLOTHING ITEM: A classic pencil skirt.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: Keep it simple but add a dash of colour.

TRENDING NOW: Get ready for summer with pastel colours.



JEMMA KARWOSHIA
WAITRESS

LOCATION: Lonsdale St.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING: Top from an op-shop, jeans from General Pants and boots from Tony Bianco.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CITY: Shopping.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: Broadmeadows.

FAVOURITE CLOTHING ITEM: My summer shorts.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT: Looking and feeling good but not necessarily with expensive clothing.

TRENDING NOW: Blue washes in denim.



Laura Timberlake

Laura is a fashion and lifestyle writer who enjoys hunting down the latest trends in Melbourne to share them with the world.

Health & Wellbeing

Open water swimming

With the 34th Lorne Pier to Pub coming up in January, many of us will be thinking of starting some open water miles. As most of us city workers are confined to pool miles during the winter months, it's important to take the time to consider how to prepare your body before jumping in the ocean:

The temperature: consider the difference between our indoor city pools and the Antarctic current of Victoria's beaches. Be well aware of the risk of hypothermia and make sure you wear a wetsuit until you acclimatise. The Pier to Pub in fact, recommend that all entrants under 14-years-old wear one for the event.

The endurance: unlike in the open water, when swimming in a pool, you're always a minimum of 25 metres away from a fixed surface. Therefore, bear that in mind when making your choice of how far to swim.

The technique: the unpredictable nature of the ocean means we need to extra energy and propulsion to deal with currents. Train your body for maximum efficiency in the water by training muscle groups such as abs, gluts and hamstrings on land. See <http://vivaphysiotherapy.com/preventing-swimming-injuries/> for more info.

* Thanks to Tina from the Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club and Dr Kevin Moriarty (Pier to Pub medical expert) for their advice.



Wiggle your hips

If you prefer sensible shoes to the wheeled variety, then the Salsa Foundation's intro classes might be more up your alley! As a dance company which is "dedicated to teaching you how to love dancing" the Salsa Foundation has opened its doors to the open air from November to right through to March.

Jai Villagonzalo, co-founder and teacher at the foundation, describes their passion for opening the studio where the trend of most Salsa schools is to produce only performers and competition dancers. Together with

Angela Fayth, current Australian Salsa champion, the studio at 600 Little Collins St was then born out of a passion to bring the world of Salsa dancing to everyday people.

These free lessons will be held in St Paul's Court or Flinders St Amphitheatre fortnightly from 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm on Fridays. No experience is necessary and you can either come as a group or on your own. You'll be in expert hands with Angela recently coming fourth in the world championships in Columbia. For more information, contact info@thesalsafoundation.com.au

Skate, scoot or ride

We've all walked past it 100 times on the way to the Tan or the MCG, but have you ever thought about donning some wheels and having a go at the Riverside Skate Park? Well the opportunity is there for those brave enough - Riverside is holding daily skateboard, BMX and scooter lessons during the school holidays for as little as \$17.50 per hour.

The program's primary participants are kids aged 6-12 but the manager Ryan Harbottle tells me they've had kids as young as 2 or 4 involved and even a couple in their 50s joining in. Many of us would generally see skateboarding as a lifestyle activity for teenagers, but don't forget that you can also improve your flexibility, balance, coordination, muscle strength and endurance all while burning a high number of calories!

Riverside is also holding its annual "Go Skateboarding Australia Day Event" this January 26 which is a free event including cash prizes for the best trick, so you still have eight weeks to get practising and get involved! See skatepark.ymca.org.au for further details.



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

Pet's Corner

Reasons to smile

By Chloe Strahan

Michelle treats her two rescue dogs Kyha and Cody to several walks around the CBD each day.

"I am very lucky to have them," said owner Michelle, 42.

The trio frequently visit Flagstaff Gardens for a stroll multiple times a day.

"We have a small apartment so I take them for a walk here a few times a day. Sometimes I bring other people's dogs along too," Michelle said.

Six-year-old English Staffy Kyha is visibly content with her lifestyle, which is evident from her beaming grin that she is constantly showing off.

"Kyha always has a grin on her face. She is always smiling," she said.

18-year-old Maltese-cross-pomeranian, Cody is more timid, but it didn't take long for him to warm to our reporter, begging for more pats.

After returning from a trip visiting her mother in Adelaide, Michelle was happy to come home to the CBD to see her two pals.

"Mum breeds dogs like Cody. But I bought Cody from a rescue dogs home after a lucky night at the casino," she said.

"If Cody runs off Kyha will go chase him. She is funny. They get along really well."

Michelle has grown up in difficult situations, living on the streets when she was 12 and being the first girl at St Augustine Boys Home in Geelong when she was nine-years-old.

However, she is grateful that things have turned around for her and that she can help others around the CBD who are having a tough time.

"Sometimes you need to help people out. Often I see people around the food vans near the Queen Victoria Market who need shelter from the rain and I like to help them out with a place to stay for the night," she said.



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A case study in international property expansion

Malaysian listed development group, UEM Sunrise Bhd (“UEMS”), one of Malaysia’s leading property developers has marked its first venture in Australia with the acquisition of two development sites in Melbourne’s central business district.

Acquiring sites at 224 LaTrobe St and 23 Mackenzie St for a combined \$65 million, UEMS plans to join an ever increasing number of Malaysian developers delivering some of Australia’s largest residential towers.

Enticed by our sound political, legal and financial systems, and the fact we are home to three of the top 10 most liveable cities in the world, Melbourne was the next logical step in the group’s international expansions following successful international ventures in Vancouver and Singapore.

224 LaTrobe St, home to the recently launched Aurora Melbourne Central development, will be Melbourne’s tallest residential building. Aurora Melbourne Central is an integrated mixed-use development comprising 941 residential apartments, 208 serviced apartments/hotel, commercial offices and retail. Aurora will be UEMS’s first project in Australia. 23 Mackenzie St is set to follow Aurora, delivering almost 500 apartments over 37 levels.

But developing property in a new country can be fraught with danger. Different laws, different markets and different customs can trip up many new entrants. Much can be learned from observing the way UEMS have entered this new market.

Key lessons to be learned.

Lesson 1 - Listen to the locals:

UEMS identified from the outset the importance of local knowhow. Avoiding the mistake many new entrants make, UEMS appointed an entirely local team of consultants, including local project managers, architects, engineers etc. Having a highly experienced Australian team has

ensured all major risks are anticipated and resolved before they become an issue.

Lesson 2 - Listen to your customers:

Selecting a location for your next development can be largely driven by market demand. Expanding into a particular region, just because your competitors are, is not an adequate reason. Knowing what your customers want and finding the right property is paramount.

UEMS has clearly listened to the market in launching its first development, Aurora Melbourne Central. Sales have been achieved at a record breaking pace with 182 units of the 200 units snapped up within three days of the exclusive preview launch in Kuala Lumpur.

Lesson 3 - Know your location:

The development team at UEMS spent a considerable amount of time observing the Melbourne market and reviewing properties before committing to its first acquisition. This involved several trips to Melbourne as well as seeking the guidance of experienced valuers and consultants. Too often, we see new entrants commit to a site without understanding the market and the key risks of a particular development.

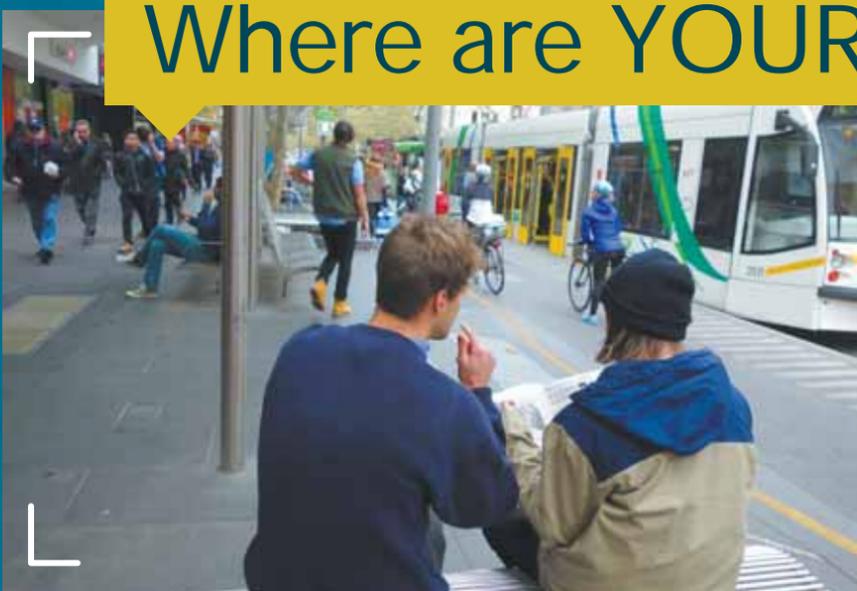
As an experienced international developer, UEMS has been able to avoid many of the pitfalls suffered by new entrants to Australia thereby ensuring they enjoy a long and successful future in our city.



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



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Real Estate

Northern apartment buying

Watch out for the neighbours in Melbourne's CBD North apartment or they could be watching you – from a very close range.

Melbourne's "uni belt" apartment market is about to be hit by a wave of new development with eight new towers in a 500 metre radius of Franklin and Elizabeth streets with some so close to one another that light and views will be a major problem.

Three of major towers planned are Victoria Point, Lighthouse (607 apartments) and Vision are all over 60 levels and will add more than 1200 apartments to a predicted supply or as much as 4000 apartments by 2017/18.

Harcourt's City Residential senior sales consultant Stuart Kennett said, although there will be up to 3000-4000 new apartments in the region in the four years, there are opportunities for buyers of established stock – but it will require a call to council to find out where your neighbours will be.

He said, while some of the best apartment towers in the CBD are in the north area, it pays to be very careful when venturing into the market.

Mr Kennett said the biggest threat to people living in the area, stretching from LaTrobe St across to Melbourne University and down to the Victoria Market, was new buildings blocking views and light.

With mandated setbacks of just 10m-15m between towers, buyers need to be very careful about which tower is going up and where.

In one celebrated case, a building at 31 A'Beckett St had a tower built so close to it in Lt LaTrobe St that the residents could almost touch one another and 20 storeys of views and light were destroyed wiping \$30,000-\$50,000 off the values.

Interestingly, while there will some downward pressure on prices, the existing stock is reselling for 2012 levels which is about \$3000 per sqm less than the new stock coming into the market – and it is much larger.

Existing prime two-bedroom apartments with a car space, two bathrooms and a secure aspect will be around 75-95 sqm in size and sell for around \$6500-\$9000 per sqm.

New two-bedroom stock is 50-65 sqm and sells for \$9000-\$12,000 per sqm. So they cost roughly the same. But an established apartment will be in much smaller apartment block and 50 per cent larger – and a better long-term resale proposition.

Mr Kennett said the landmark buildings in the north were Franklin Lofts at 87 Franklin St (the CBD's only split-level development) and the Milano/Verve twin towers at 8 Franklin St and 480 Swanston St.



Grant Müller

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

CBD Local



The word on the street

By Chloe Strahan

After 15 years of teaching English as a second language overseas, Bruce Matthews has settled back down in Melbourne to continue this work locally.

It takes a lot of patience to teach English as a second language, but Bruce says that he is good at what he does.

"I work six days a week. Baxter Institute has a campus in Flinders St where I work on the weekends. The other four days are at campuses around the Melbourne suburbs," he said.

As an ex-student of CBD College in Melbourne, Bruce has since gained a lot of experience teaching English to the huge number of foreigners living in Melbourne.

"About 90 per cent of my students are Vietnamese. One of my students told me that she is studying English so that she can speak to her children. They grew up in Australian schools and she can only speak Vietnamese. So she is learning to communicate with her kids."

Bruce and his wife Lingwenlan currently reside in Spencer St, however the move was only recent. The couple have spent nine years in China where they married.

"We spent three years living in a modern town called Shenzhen which is in the Guangdong province next to Hong Kong. My wife and I moved back to Melbourne when she got a residence visa."

Bruce explains that Shenzhen was originally a fishing town 35 years ago, and is now a high-rise city with six million people. Compared with Shenzhen, Bruce says that the Melbourne CBD living is what his wife is used to.

"We live in a 36-story building. We are on level 27 with a great view. My balcony looks out over the bay. It is great especially at night when it is all lit up; it looks really nice."

As well as living in China for nine years, Bruce taught English in Turkey

for another four years before moving back to Melbourne. He explains that he developed a great love of Chinese and Turkish cuisine.

"One thing I have always liked about Melbourne is the variety of eating. If you pick a cuisine you will probably have a restaurant somewhere close by. I really love Turkish food," he said.

Not a huge fan of the trendy new bars around the CBD, Bruce says that his favourite social spot is a pub called the Golden Age.

"It is one of the very few pubs in the city that still has a pool table!" Bruce said.

Although Bruce agrees that the standard of living in Melbourne is way better than the countries that many of his students migrate from, he does have some criticisms about life in the CBD.

"Public transport in Melbourne could use some serious work. Our public transport is not good. Trains and buses and trams are often delayed or cancelled," Bruce said.

However Bruce is very happy that living in the CBD means that he does not need to use his car, parking his at a mate's house in the suburbs.

Despite the move to his high rise location in Melbourne, this world traveller does not want to stay in one city for too long.

"My wife and I both love travelling. I would personally move back to Turkey in a heartbeat. But for a lot of people moving to Melbourne is better than where they come from," he said.



CBD Local

If you know someone who you think is a CBD Local let us know, news@cbdnews.com.au

Owners Corporation Law

Short-term stay solution

San Francisco's Air BnB law ought to be considered by lawmakers here.

In San Francisco, the city passed a new ordinance into law in October to better regulate the renting out of rooms and apartment dwellings to short-term stay travellers and tourists.

It had always been unlawful in many US cities – including San Francisco and New York – for landlords and lessees to let their apartments out for periods of less than 30 days to any one person or group of persons.

Under the proposed new ordinance in San Francisco it will still be unlawful for landlords and lessees to let their apartments out for less than 30 days. However the new ordinance provides the flexibility for people to rent their dwellings out through sites such as Air BnB for three months in any given year.

In addition, the landlords and lessees must register with the city, and sign a declaration under threat of perjury to comply with the limits imposed under the ordinance. Ultimately, the owners must also pay commercial rates or "hotel" rates on the dwellings during the short-term stays.

This is the type of law that should be welcomed to Australian shores and adopted by Australian lawmakers, particularly in Victoria.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy promised law reform in this area for Docklands 18 months ago, however no progress has been made with the ministry since then.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has an outstanding opportunity to legislate on the back of this precedent set in San Francisco, a move which has been welcomed by the short-term stay industry itself, Air BnB included.

A 30-day minimum stay rule ought to be imposed on all dwellings in the metropolitan areas, and the local councils would benefit from increased rate revenue from the commercial rates imposed on those who would seek to short-term let their apartments.

The issue of short-term stays currently divides the city, and the issue is crying out to be resolved by clear and unambiguous legislation. The current practice of leaving owners' corporations to litigate in the courts and tribunals is cumbersome and expensive for all concerned, and it ought to cease.

There exists an opportunity to strike a legislative balance between the rights to enjoy one's own property in quiet peace and enjoyment versus the right to lease and let one's own property to others with reasonable flexibility.

San Francisco has got it right. It's time for Melbourne to follow suit.



Tom Bacon

is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers. tom@stratattitlelawyers.com.au

Planning



Victoria One is another residential skyscraper ready to start construction.

The rise and rise of the residential towers

Headlining news within Melbourne's CBD this month has been the approval of Aurora Melbourne Central. The Elenberg Fraser-designed edifice encompasses 941 apartments and 208 services apartments over 92 levels will tower 271 metres above LaTrobe St.

Developer UEM Sunrise has engaged Colliers to run its campaign with sales now available.

A hop, skip and a jump up Elizabeth St, Victoria One – the 241 metre tower designed by the indomitable Elenberg Fraser – has started construction with the removal of the display suite well underway.

We have also spied some movement onsite at Light House located opposite Victoria One.

In scenes that have only been observed during the 1990s commercial skyscraper boom – when 120 Collins St, 101 Collins St, Melbourne Central, Telstra, Casselden Place, 530 Collins St and Bourke Place all rose in quick succession – Victoria One and Light House will be two of four residential towers over 200 metres in height to start construction within months of one another.

Next cab off the rank to start construction

will likely be ICD Property's EQ Tower on A'Beckett St with the recommencement of works at Tower Melbourne on the corner of Bourke and Queen streets also expected shortly.

Nearby to Victoria One, Light House and EQ Tower, Malaysian-based SP Setia's dual tower Fulton Lane development has topped out with a ceremony to mark the occasion held in late October.

In VCAT news, 338 Queen St – a super-skinny 36-level tower on a site measuring 290 square metres – has been rejected. "It is self-evident that the proposal does not adopt the typology preferred in policy and has no scope to do so," the associated order stated.

Last month the City of Melbourne gave notice to support a CBUS proposal measuring 295 metres located at 447 Collins Street.

Notwithstanding the height of the tower, the proposal is noteworthy given it would overshadow the southern bank of the Yarra during the equinox. Yet council supported the proposal given a large chunk of public space fronting Collins St would have been developed by CBUS in return.

In late October, the Planning Minister rejected the proposal on overshadowing grounds.



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

Councillor Profile

If you love it, it's not a chore

By Shane Scanlan

If Cathy Oke was an elite athlete, and not a politician, you'd want her drug-tested.

She's half-way through her second term as a Melbourne city councillor with an impossible work-load, including being a new mum, but shows no sign of burn-out or disinterest.

Everyone knows town hall politics is a bruising environment but there is not a hint of cynicism about her. It's all surprisingly positive, up-lifting, genuine.

She is certainly idealistic. But the "looney" label that can come with being a Green doesn't stick.

Cr Oke remains unaffected because she is doing something that she loves.

"I feel we are making a difference," she said. "Especially in the sustainability space."

What makes Cr Oke different from what you might expect of an inner-city Greens councillor is the grounding in grass-roots community politics she got at her kitchen table growing up in a staunch ALP family in North Melbourne.

The electoral rules have changed now but, "back in the day", town hall politics was largely decided around similar kitchen tables in West Melbourne, Flemington and Carlton.

Her fanaticism for the North Melbourne Football Club also sets her apart from her peers.

"I'm not your usual greenie in that sense," she said. Adding that she really enjoyed the three years she spent with deep-sea fishermen while she researched a PhD thesis on the genetics of orange roughy.

Cr Oke's parents remain actively involved in local community life. The family allegiance has shifted to the Greens, one suspects, because of the purity of its ideals, particularly in relation to social justice issues.

It's easy to imagine Cr Oke as an absolute joy to her parents – high achieving at school, respectful and well-behaved ("Goody two-shoes" is the term she uses). She studied marine biology which led on to community activism around marine national parks and voluntary work with the Surfrider Foundation.

Sun, sand and surf. Does it get more wholesome? Cr Oke carries a bit of that golden sunset idealism with her into the council chamber.

Party politics came much later than community activism for Cr Oke.

She said she was very careful in choosing the Greens but had first voted



for the party over its stance on asylum seekers during the "children overboard" controversies of the Howard Government years.

She's now a seasoned councillor and points to achievements in sustainability and transport. She points out that, on some routes, bicycle use is now almost at the council's stretch target of 16 per cent of "mode use".

She says the next bicycle plan will turn its attention to short trips within the municipality with safer infrastructure and lower speed limits.

The council is due to release its final "walking plan" later this year and Cr Oke is keen to get some outcomes.

"We all know that a plan is just a plan and that you actually have to do it," she said. "I'll be concentrating on getting some to the actions enacted over the next two years."

She's also excited by an urban ecology strategy, which she hopes will draw solid connections between nature and the economy of a functioning, liveable city.

She says she hasn't decided what her political future will be. She needs to see what happens in her private life, career and political life during the remaining two years of her term.

At the moment, though, she shows no signs of slowing down.

"I've found you can actually make a lot of difference being in the political process," she said. "It's a big commitment and there are a lot of hours and you don't get recompensed as you perhaps should but you actually get to make a difference."



In next month's Councillor Profile we look at: Cr Ken Ong

Street Art

No rules

Word has it that when Heesco picked up an aerosol can for the first time his peers were awestruck, such was his skill!

Since then he's gone from strength to strength, developing his unique painting style.

Originally from Mongolia, he has been in Australia for 15 years, first settling in Sydney, where he studied fine art, and then moving to Melbourne in 2011. This move south has been our good fortune. It was also around this time that he became a member of Blender Studios, Blender Lane, off Franklin St in the CBD.

Heesco is one of the few street artists who makes a political comment with his work, depicting controversial people in less-than-flattering, hyper realistic portraits e.g. Gina Rinehart (in the above-mentioned Blender Lane), Citizen Murdoch and the current prime minister, a particular favourite!

Heesco's philosophy is that it's not creative unless there's a message - without which, it's just illustration! Not one to go in for labels, like that of "street artist", which he resists, Heesco insists that there should be "no rules"! Although primarily a painter, he also draws, graffs, takes photos and makes videos.

In October, he exhibited his work at Tate Galleries in Glebe. The canvases and drawings were a combination of brush and spray can (acrylic).



September saw two sensational collaborative walls with GRIMO, a pioneer and much-respected Melbourne graffer. A Footscray piece was an anti-tagging commission for the council. The other was a make-over of Mo Vida in Hosier Lane. It features Heesco's portrait of friend and fellow graffiti artist, Hawaiian-born, WOES.

The photograph featured is at Section 8, a bar in Tattersalls Lane. It took Heesco two and a

half days to paint and it is a fine example of his unique style, which is one of discovery, exploration and constant evolution. The other artists represented at the venue are RAD and Otis. Section 8 is a great spot for an after-work drink with 'Sheepy'!

Heesco is currently in New York working on a commissioned mural for a cafe in Manhattan. After this, he will return to grace our streets with more awe-inspiring pieces!



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

Food

Get ready for the tropical fruits

In Australia, we are blessed with the ability to grow amazing quality tropical fruits, synonymous with south-east Asia, Africa and South America. With summer ever so quickly approaching and sunshine in abundance, these delights will soon be at our disposal.

With farms spanning from the Northern Territory, across the east, to far north Queensland and down to northern New South Wales tropical fruits including mangoes, lychees, longan, papaya and pineapples become readily available and are of premium quality due to the dry tropical to temperate climates within these areas.

When the rich aroma of ripe mangoes fills my kitchen I am always reminded that summer is here; all of the good things that

come with it, sun, holidays, good times shared with friends and the great Australian barbecue.

When attempting to choose the perfect mango, look for colour, turning from green to a bright orange or rosy red. Its skin should have a little give - firm not soft, as this is a sign of an overripe product. Its scent should be sweet and fragrant.

When purchasing mangoes, remember they are best eaten at the peak of their ripeness. Select the fruit by hand and always purchase in small quantities for optimum freshness, aroma and flavour.

If you plan on keeping it for a few days then best to pick a slightly firmer mango and store out of the refrigerator between 18-20 degrees.

Lychees are another favourite of mine, with their tangy, juicy, sweet jelly-like flesh. Native to southern China, they were introduced to Australia during the gold rush periods and the Chinese consider them to be a symbol of romance or as a sign of good luck for the coming New Year.



Always look for locally grown lychees rather than imported products.

The Queen Victoria Market at this time of the year is full of many market stalls offering tropical fruit now in season, you may like to ring Chris from Fresh Generation on **0438 223 007** stall location I63-66 or Duy Dinh on **0413 529 541** located at I67-70. Lastly, Ben Vitalone at stall H1 -2 can be contacted on **0425 708 905**.



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

Letters to the Editor

Can't sleep

After some serious life and medical issues, I was excited last year to get the chance to be part of this wonderful city.

All that has changed in this past year. I live on the eighth floor in Therry St and have not had a good night's sleep in over 10 months due to the constant construction works at the Brady site (500 Elizabeth St).

The authorities want people to live here but refuse to hear our voice.

Building works are only allowed between the hours of Monday to Friday 7am - 7pm and Saturdays between 8am and 3pm. I have recorded many times Brady Construction has operated outside of these times.

As this type of residential construction is to continue, why can't they do the right thing and adhere to operating hours?

Name and address withheld

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Featuring top Melbourne artists as well as young emerging talent, in a family-friendly, sing-along variety concert.

DECORATIONS

Pick up a Christmas decorations map from the Melbourne Visitor Centre, Melbourne Town Hall or the Melbourne Visitor Booth and discover the decorations in the city.

44-86 SWANSTON ST
NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS SQUARE

Christmas Square will be transformed into a magical forest offering festive fun for families and children. By day, discover nut-cracker soldiers, interactive candy canes, enjoy Christmas buskers and free photos with Santa. By night, visit Santa on Friday nights, and experience daily sound and light shows from 9.30pm to 11.30pm.

90-130 SWANSTON ST
NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 25

TOWNHALL PROJECTIONS

By night, the Melbourne Town Hall becomes a dramatic facade for a spellbinding light projection with a festive flavour. Screening from dusk till 11pm, from world-class projection designers, Electric Canvas.

FEDERATION SQUARE
JANUARY 4, 9670 6369
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CHOOSE HAPPINESS

Join teacher and Buddhist nun, Gen-la Kelsang Dekyong for a free public talk on happiness.

CITY OF MELBOURNE BOWLING CLUB
FLAGSTAFF GARDENS
FEBRUARY 15, 2015; 12PM - 4PM

FUN BOWLS DAY

CoMBC is located in the beautiful Flagstaff Gardens on the corner of Dudley and William streets. A BBQ will be provided and bar facilities will be available throughout the afternoon so come along for a roll on the greens.

CONTACT TRYBOWLS@CITYBOWLS.NET



KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST,
DECEMBER 8, 2014 - FEBRUARY 27, 2015
KOORIE ART SHOW 2014

The show presents the work of more than 50 artists ranging from emerging to senior, Koorie and Victorian based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.



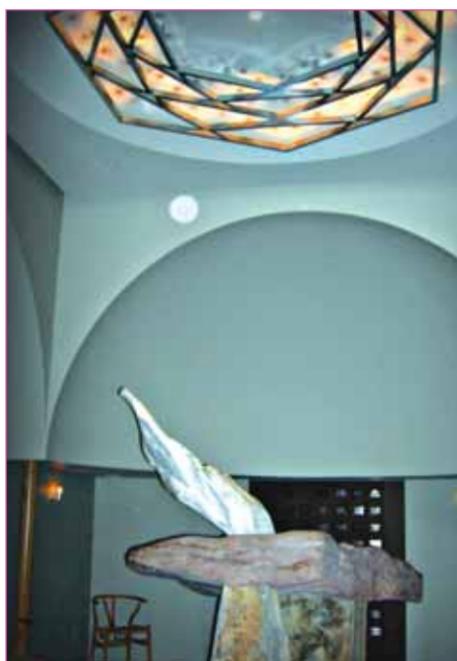
Koorie Heritage Trust

'Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki'

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10AM
MELBOURNE SUNRISE
PROBUS CLUB

The Docklands Library, Dock Square Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities.

Joan on rksalesaustptyltd@bigpond.com



OPEN 8.00AM TO 5.00PM WEEKDAYS
8.00AM TO 1.00PM SUNDAYS
RUSSELL ST SIDE OF ST MICHAEL'S

MINGARY – THE QUIET PLACE

Mingary is a non-denominational sanctuary that has been developed as a place for personal reflection and offers a peaceful escape from the hectic demands of city life. It offers a haven where people may restore a sense of strength and vitality following trauma and tragedy.

PRAYER TIMES

CHABAD OF MELBOURNE CBD
Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St
9525-9929

Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunch-time 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
9650 1180 | www.csbc.org.au
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
9639 0260 | http://australianorthodox.org

SCOTS' CHURCH
156, Collins St
9650 9903 | www.scotschurch.com
Sundays
10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional)
and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH
326 Lonsdale St | 9663 2495
Sunday: 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 11.00 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
9653 4333
Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm (Choral Evensong)

WESLEY CHURCH
148, Lonsdale St
Weekly 9.15am (Gospel Hall, Cantonese/Mandarin Service), 11.00am, 7.00pm

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