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City apartment affordability fears

Planning Minister Richard Wynne has started the long-anticipated debate on standards for apartment construction with the release last month of a discussion paper, 'Better Apartments.'

While most people agree on the need for standards relating to adequate natural light, ventilation and privacy, it is feared that mandated minimum size will adversely affect affordability.

The Property Industry Council estimates that a 50sqm apartment could cost \$90,000 more than a 40sqm inner city apartment.

The Property Council's Victorian executive director Jennifer Cunich said: "Disappointingly, the discussion paper barely mentions housing affordability which should be the Government's number one priority."

"Consideration of housing affordability must remain front and centre. A five square metre increase in size can add as much as \$45,000 to the price of an apartment."

According to the paper, another 480,000 apartments will be needed in Melbourne alone to accommodate a projected population of 7.7 million by 2051.

"Melbourne is set to house almost 100,000

new residents each year and we need to plan for that growth," Mr Wynne said.

Ms Cunich said the industry was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the standards but also warned that developers would not support the outcome unless they co-authored with other stakeholders the final standard.

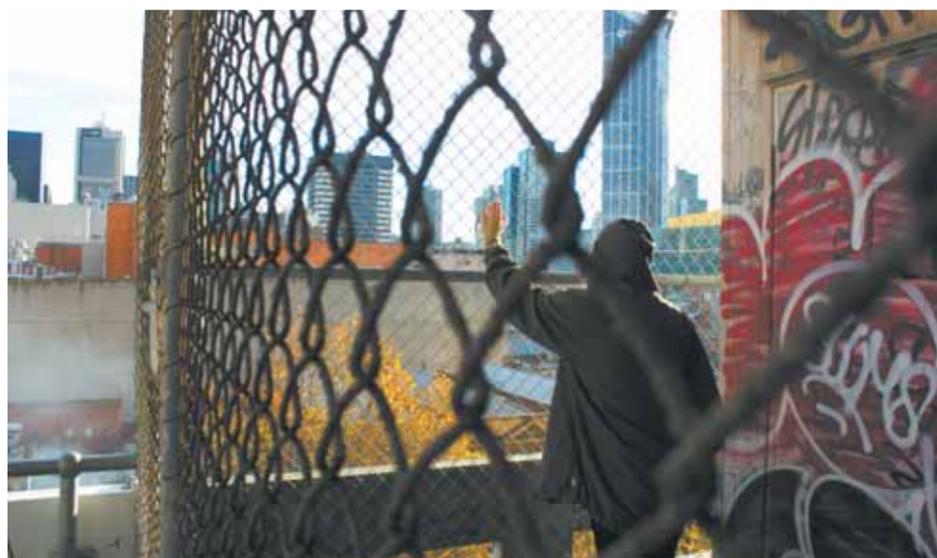
"History in this policy space has shown that design standards developed without industry support have failed to meet the expectations of their authors, facilitators or the broader community," she said.

Mr Wynne said: "This is more than establishing minimum standards, it's about keeping pace with how people want to live."

The *Better Apartments* discussion paper raises a number of issues relating to apartment design in Victoria, including: Lack of natural light; Apartments too small or poorly designed; Achieving a quality outlook for all apartments; Lack of natural ventilation; External noise; Access to outdoor space; and Long-term adaptability of apartment buildings.

Submissions on the discussion paper are due next month and community forums and industry roundtable events will also be held. Draft guidelines will be released in late 2015 and the final report will be handed to the Minister in mid 2016.

To view the *Better Apartments* discussion paper visit www.dewlp.vic.gov.au/better-apartments



Rooftop attraction – an explanation

By Clancy Scanlan

A sudden influx of daredevil youths to the rooftops of Melbourne's skyscrapers has caught the attention of many in recent months, including the evening news.

The young ragamuffins post photos taken from the top of some of Melbourne's most iconic buildings, as well as videos of their endeavours.

The videos show footage of fire escapes being broken into, limbs dangling off buildings, run-ins with security and any number of other risky acts. Some of these videos have been viewed tens of thousands of times

It's not as though there has been a sudden outburst of life-threatening behaviour in young adults, particularly young males, aged 16-25. The biggest difference between the

youth of today and the youth of yesterday is the coverage that risky behaviour can achieve.

Dare-devils now have several online platforms on which to display their stunts and potentially gain the admiration of their peers or the shock of their parents. These online platforms include Facebook, Instagram, Vine, Snapchat, Youtube and a variety of other forums.

What's more, it's possible to post photos or videos of illegal activity either with complete anonymity, or using an alias. But some teens choose to forgo anonymity and post photos directly to their Facebook pages, searching for "likes" not from strangers, but from their own friends and family.

It's almost a tradition for young men everywhere to do stupid things, it's just that now that we have Facebook, such acts are on display to a much wider audience. And not to sound clichéd but, yes, it is just a phase, and yes they will grow out of it, eventually.

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Should the federal government run its full term, CBD voters will have plenty of time to get to know endorsed Melbourne ALP candidate Sophie Ismail.

Ms Ismail, 37, beat a strong field of candidates last month for the right to represent the Labor Party as it attempts to wrest back from the Greens the federal seat of Melbourne.

While some observers have already noted that Ms Ismail's credentials out-muscle the Greens at their own game, she points out that there is more to her than her identity.

"People are very interested in my identity and I am proud of my identity as a gay woman from a mixed-race background and as a woman and proud feminist," she said. "But I'm also a lot more than that. And it's important not to allow yourself to be reduced to your identity."

"I'm putting my hand up because we need a strong, progressive voice on the national issues - marriage equality, refugees, renewable energy targets, sustainability issues - but we also need a member for Melbourne who can deliver for the community on the local issues that matter to Melburnians."

Ms Ismail is a lawyer with national and international experience in trade negotiations, labour law, human rights and discrimination. She identifies housing affordability, health and jobs as issue of importance to local people.

"I am concerned that people are missing out in Melbourne," she said. "I see the people who are slipping through the cracks and only a Labor government can deliver for those people. That's my motivation."

"I have nothing against the Greens. I am not intending to be negative about them. I haven't met Adam (Bandt) yet. I think he's well intentioned, but my concern is that there has to be a capacity to deliver. To me, that's what progressive politics is - that ability to make real change in real people's lives."

Ms Ismail grew up in Brisbane, the eldest of four children in a family which migrated



New kid in town, ALP candidate Sophie Ismail

from England in 1988. She came to Melbourne in 2009 seeking arts, culture and diversity.

"As a young, gay person growing up in Brisbane, I had some unpleasant experiences and I was looking for a community that was more welcoming of me," she said.

Ms Ismail admitted she did not know the specific local issues within her diverse electorate.

"I'm in a listening phase," she said. "I'm getting around to as many people as I can and finding out what is a concern to them. It's good to know what people want before starting to talk about their issues."

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John Contreras is a physiotherapist, Pilates Instructor and Strength and Conditioning Specialist and will be launching Viva Body Strong Classes on Tuesday nights in June.



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Council to profit from amendment

The City of Melbourne has proposed changes to planning law which gives itself financial advantage as it redevelops the Queen Victoria Market.

On May 12 councillors unanimously voted to request permission from Planning Minister Richard Wynne to prepare and exhibit its proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C245, Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal.

The proposed amendment is largely consistent with existing planning requirements, with an increase in the allowable heights of buildings being the major notable change.

This would have the effect of increasing the value of council-owned land, including the 6500sqm Munro site which the council purchased last October.

At the time of the purchase, building heights on the land parcel were restricted to prevent any shadow falling onto the neighbouring car park between 11am and 2pm at any time of the year.

Under the proposed amendment, the council is suggesting that over-shadowing be allowed if the responsible authority considered the impact would not "significantly prejudice" the amenity of the new public open space.

The council itself is the responsible authority for buildings of less than 25,000sqm.

Cr Stephen Mayne said the council was "very public" in terms of the guidelines it released when it was bidding for the Munro site.

"This is a fully transparent process," he said.

The council is proposing tougher development guidelines in relation to wind disturbance, tower separation and treatment of podiums and parapets.

The amendment defines how Franklin St will

be realigned, public open space is created on the current car parking area and also defines planning controls for the Munro site and the mixed use development site at the south of the market precinct.

Under the amendment, the market as a whole will be rezoned from capital city zone to "public use" and the new public open space will become a "public park and recreation" zone.

Existing heritage-protection will be retained and strengthened when Planning Scheme Amendment C198 is gazette. As a heritage-listed building, the market redevelopment will need permits from Heritage Victoria.

Cr Rohan Leppert said that, while the council was uncapping the allowable heights of future developments, it was being done in a way which "created a whole lot more nuance at the podium level".

"I'm not opposed to height per se, I'm just opposed the cheap density that can come with lifting heights without capturing an adequate amount of return to the community in terms of community infrastructure and good design, tower separation and adequate light and ventilation," he said.

"We have tower separating stronger than anything we can see in the Hoddle Grid and Southbank so that, in itself, is leading by example. In this instance, I absolutely support the uncapping of height."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle reacted angrily to suggestions from public presenters at the May 12 meeting who suggested the proposed amendment was rushed and ill-conceived, describing their comments as "nonsensical".



A little bit of Steve

By Kara Bertoncini

The third annual Festival of Steve took place last month at the Kelvin Club in laneway Melbourne Place.

The Kelvin Club was the perfect venue for this event, encompassing all that is luxurious, classic and old-worldly.

City Precinct, a small business association within the CBD, runs the festival.

City Precinct vice-president Carl Nave said the festival supported small businesses and catered to the everyday man.

"The Festival of Steve is a celebration of the modern man and caters to men's lifestyle, fashion, grooming, food and beverage. This is an event to bring men together in a non-threatening environment to shop," Mr Nave said.

While the name of the festival suggests a very male focus, Mr Nave insists women are more than welcome to attend saying that there was a bit of "Steve" in all of us.

"Women should definitely not be afraid. We encourage women to come as well.

Even to support their men. By celebrating their modern man, it's a great way for women to get their men to sample new things," he said.

"Steve is everyone. Steve is every man. Steve is me. Steve is Tyson. We all have a little bit of Steve in us. This is all about inclusion not exclusion. We're bringing together everything that men appreciate," Mr Nave said.

On offer were tailors, a barber, men's assorted accessories, home furnishings, men's apparel, leather goods, men's millinery, men's health products and services, a silent auction and open forums.

This was the first year forums were held and Mr Nave said it was a way to open up the dialogue between men.

"This is the first time we've introduced the forums. We have had presentations in the past but we wanted to open up the room a little bit more and get public engagement and questions as well. It went really well," he said.

Throughout the day, gold coin donations were collected and given to Beyond Blue in order to further highlight the importance of men's mental health.

"All gold coin donations go to Beyond Blue because we feel men don't talk about mental health enough and it's a very important thing that we address," Mr Nave said.

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.

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Spiritualism in the city is not dead yet

By Shane Scanlan

The departed have been officially communicating with the living longer in our CBD than anywhere in the world.

Tucked away under towering new apartment blocks in A'Beckett St is the home of the Victorian Spiritualists Union (VSU).

The organisation was established in 1870 and is a surviving relic of the Victorian era when spiritualism took the intellectual world by storm.

VSU secretary Alan Bennett explained that "back in the day", the organisation would pack town hall meetings with thousands of people and fierce public debate raged with the established orthodox religions.

Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle travelled to Melbourne as a guest speaker. And Australia's second prime

minister Alfred Deakin was three times the organisation's president.

These days the VSU has almost no public profile, but remains true to the philosophies, techniques and rituals from that era.

President Lorraine Lee Tet explained that the VSU remained more conservative and firmly focused than the relatively-recent upsurge of so-called "new age" practices and beliefs.

"They are reasonably light on when it comes to the philosophical stuff," she said.

Part religion and part philosophy, spiritualism is, at its core, a moral code on how to live a good life. The difference is that it relies for guidance on what the spirits of those who have died have to say.

But they don't just listen to any old spirit. Mr Bennett said highly-trained mediums learned to filter and hold back distressing information when forming a connection between the living and the dead.

"They learn how to validate whoever is trying to make contact," he said. "Is the conversation legitimate and does the spirit have something worthwhile to say?"

The VSU conducts church services every Sunday where the main event is a "demonstration" of the presence of spirits. Two guest clairvoyant mediums communicate between the dead and random attendees who are asked to attest to the accuracy of the messages from beyond the grave.

Mr Bennett explained that not all spirits making connection were influential on the wider guiding principles, but teachings of long-departed North American Indian Silver Birch were highly regarded.

"It's simply the truth," he said. "It's a philosophy from the spirit world on how to live a good life."

Mr Bennett said, as much as he understood people's scepticism, spiritualism was 100 per cent scientifically validated and it was



Healing session being conducted during a Sunday service by Margaret and Robert.

"tiresome having to prove it every day". He said the evidence was clear and could not be made up.

Victorian spiritualism started around 1848 in up-state New York in the hamlet of Hydesville when a local family was alerted by the spirit of a man who was murdered in their house and buried in the cellar.

From there, the movement spread globally and was popular in booming Melbourne in the latter half of the 19th century.

The VSU claims to be oldest longest, continuously operating spiritualist organisation in the world. When formed in 1870, it was called the Victorian Association of Progressive Spiritualists and became the VSU when it merged with the Melbourne Progressive Spiritualistic Lyceum in 1930.

The VSU has another branch in the suburbs but is unfortunately moving out of its CBD home next year.

It was the pressure of development and the physical pounding from the construction of skyscrapers around it (rather than spirits

from the other-side) that has been shaking the building to its foundations.

Valuable paintings have been removed from the walls lest they rattle off their hooks, and a marble statue at the top of the stairs looks a little odd without its top half (it too has been removed to prevent its breakage).

He said his committee attributed dropping attendances to reduced amenity and decided to sell up. The building was sold last month but, with a 12-month settlement, it will be business as usual in the interim.

"Regrettably, we cannot see ourselves still operating from the CBD as, wherever we go in the area, we will still be confronted with this current explosion of high rise development," Mr Bennett said.

In the meantime, however, the VSU welcomes everyone to its weekly sessions. A Sunday service is held at its premises at 71-73 A'Beckett St between 3pm and 4.30pm. These sessions are preceded by an hour of healing from 2pm.

For further information, see www.vsu.org.au



President Lorraine Lee Tet and secretary Alan Bennett outside the VSU's building in A'Beckett St.



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Mary is for Collins St

The new president of the Collins Street Precinct, Mary Poulakis, is one of those increasingly rare types of people who likes to contribute.

For Mary (pictured right), it's the second time around, having taken the reins some years ago and she is again stepping forward for the cause of maintaining and enhancing Collins St's preeminent position.

Her interwoven passions for Collins St and retailing make her the perfect ambassador for Australia's premier street.

For Mary, it's been a 20 year journey and her respect and affection for Collins St remains undiminished.

Retailing, she says, and Collins St, in particular, is the economic engine-room of the city.

She said retail was the job that people did while waiting for a break in their "real" careers as engineers or other professionals.

But opportunities in these more respected careers are disappearing and it's about time that people started respecting the role that retail plays in the national economy, she says.

These days, the Collins Street Precinct has a strong retail focus but, Mary says,

it wasn't always the case. The group was more corporate when she joined some 20 years ago and was more motivated by the challenge of preserving the street's rich heritage.

And, while it still plays a "guardian" role, it's prime objective is to make its members more successful in their businesses.

It does this through advocacy on relevant issues and via direct and indirect marketing.

"Collins St has it all," Ms Poulakis said. "It has heritage, culture, architecture as well as the absolute best retail. They are great marketing pillars."

"We like to combine what's good for the city with what's good for the street. Sometimes they marry up and sometimes they don't."

Ms Poulakis points to the attraction of the world's best brands to Collins St as an economic driver for the city.

"There's not another in the country with such a viable retail precinct," she said. "And this all feeds off the other things that Melbourne is known for."

Ms Poulakis first fell in love with Collins St when she joined her husband's business in the Rialto building. The couple opened a second store at 101 Collins St (before the existing tower was constructed) at the eastern end in 1994.

"We've watched the street develop and evolve over a long period of time," she said.



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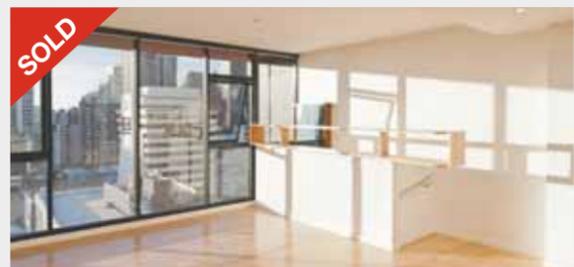
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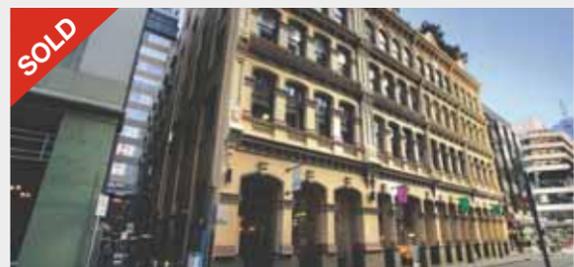
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A whole new world in the CBD

Geelong is only an hour down the road, but mature-age student Lizzie Black has found Melbourne's CBD different in so many ways.

Half-way through a diploma of community services at RMIT, Ms Black has thrived in her new environment.

Culture shock has been felt at many different levels, since the former stay-at-home mum extended herself by returning to study.

Being 30 years older than some of her fellow students was always going to be interesting. But Lizzie has been most thrilled by the ethnic diversity of her classmates.

"We've got people from all manner of places," she said. "We've got Sudanese, Burmese, Pakistanis, people from Turkey and two from South America."

Ms Black had imagined not having a lot of contact with her classmates. However, the opposite turned out to be true.

"We're together all day for classes so we all have lunch together and really enjoy each other's company," she said.

"It's been a great experience because I would not have otherwise met these people."

"My experience has been expanded and enriched and I have been exposed to ideas and concepts that I've never thought about before."



Ms Black is a trained nurse but did not want to return to nursing.

"I started the course because I had time on my hands and also wanted to use my brain," she said.

"Once I got into it I thought 'why didn't I do this years ago?'" she said.

She has no doubt that some of the new friendships she has made will endure long after the diploma has been completed.

Lizzie Black, second row left, with her new diploma of community services mates at RMIT.

Drivers are avoiding LaTrobe St since bike lanes went in

Thousands of drivers frustrated by 2013 lane closures in LaTrobe St are walking, riding or catching public transport, according to a new traffic study released in April.

The *Melbourne CBD North Edge Traffic Study*, commissioned by the City of Melbourne, found that 5500 fewer vehicles

were using LaTrobe St (counted at Elizabeth St) on an average weekday. The report, by consultants Movendo, says this represents a 23 per cent drop in traffic in LaTrobe St.

Movendo says some of these drivers have found an alternative route via Franklin St, but daily traffic volumes there have risen by only 1100 (11 per cent) since 2011.

The drivers aren't using Peel St either. Daily traffic volumes there between Victoria and Dudley streets have dropped by 3000 vehicles (8 per cent).

And Victoria St traffic volumes have remained static since 2011, prompting the report's authors to conclude that people are adopting different modes into the city.

The report points out that since 2013, peak hour bicycle numbers in LaTrobe St have more than doubled in the morning and tripled in the afternoon (measured between Swanston and Elizabeth streets).

It says that some 11,519 bicycles are entering the CBD everyday, a rise of 57 per cent since 2011. It also points out that public transport usage more widely is up 1.8 per cent.

"Whilst traffic volumes on La Trobe Street have reduced significantly (as a result of the reduction in traffic capacity associated with the installation of bike lanes in 2013) there is little evidence to suggest that this traffic has redistributed to other nearby east-west routes, other than a modest increase in daily traffic volume on Franklin St," the report says.

The report points out that traffic entering the city more generally (as measured by council at 22 locations) has reduced by 12,000 vehicles per day (5 per cent) since 2012.

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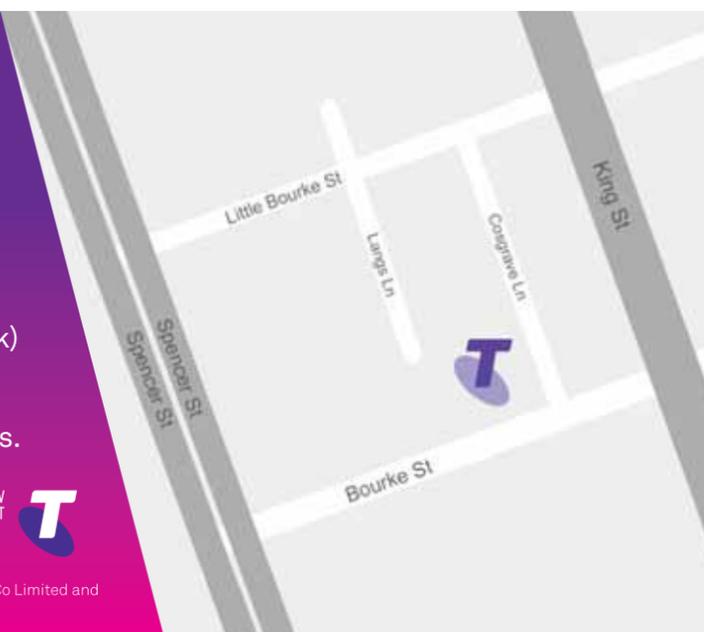
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Market renewal at the centre of council budget

The City of Melbourne has reaffirmed its commitment to the redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM), committing \$80.64 million in its draft budget last month.

Council's budget commitment includes \$76 million for the July 1 settlement of the Munro site it purchased last year and a further \$4.64 million towards the Queen Victoria Market renewal fund.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the QVM renewal project was the "cornerstone" of the 2015-16 budget.

"This underscores council's strong commitment to the largest project we have ever undertaken and our ability to deliver it," he said.

The council predicts underlying surpluses of \$42 million from the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets and has already committed these funds to the renewal project.

With the project tipped to cost up to \$250 million, the council says it is already preparing to allocate more than \$130 million of the required funds.

"This represents a significant down payment on the renewal and should give QVM traders, customers and the broader community confidence that council is committed to this major project," the Lord Mayor said.

"We have just completed our third round of community consultation on the market renewal and are in the process of incorporating the feedback from more than 4300 people."

According to the Lord Mayor, depending on the project scope, the QVM renewal project will result in up to 9000 new jobs at the market and thousands of construction jobs.

Other projects funded in the budget include \$200,000 towards Walking Plan projects to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity in the central city and \$1.6 million to upgrade streetlights to more energy-efficient

LED lights.

The council has also budgeted for a \$221,500 facility upgrade at the City Library.

The 2015-16 budget includes an underlying surplus of \$9.3 million, which council says will be achieved by containing operating costs while, at the same time, delivering an \$85.1 million capital works program, more than \$40.5 million in promotion and events and \$55.2 million in community services.

The budget also revealed a 3.6 per cent increase for ratepayers, which will generate an additional \$8.71 million for the council during the 2016-17 financial year.

According to Cr Stephen Mayne, the rate rise was one of the lowest in the state and was reasonable if Melbourne was to maintain its position as a liveable city.

"Well-functioning cities need strong investment," Cr Mayne said. "We're mindful of the impact rate rises have on our ratepayers and considerable deliberation goes into determining what we need, and how we spend what we have, to ensure we keep rate rises to a minimum."

"Despite the economic challenges of our time, we are keeping underlying cost increases contained to 1.7 per cent - significantly lower than the forecast 2015-16 inflation level of 2.75 per cent."

The City of Melbourne's Draft 2015-16 Annual Plan and Budget is available for inspection until June 5 at a range of locations including the Town Hall Administration Building and the City Library.

Submissions on the draft plan and budget can be submitted online at www.melbourne.vic.gov.au or mailed to the City of Melbourne's manager of governance.



Station commander Sen-Sgt Mick Wilmott outside the new Spencer St building.

New local cop shop

Local police will have an even greater presence in the CBD, after last month moving into their new Spencer St headquarters.

Officers from the Melbourne West Police Station, which oversees the western end of the CBD to Elizabeth St, moved into the new headquarters on May 12.

The east side of the CBD will continue to be covered by City East Police Station in Flinders Lane near Swanston St.

The branch had been based at the Victorian Police Centre on Flinders St since 1995 and, according to station commander, Sen-Sgt Mick Wilmott, the new station will provide greater accessibility for the public.

Sen-Sgt Wilmott said the ground floor 24-hour station would provide a more central location for residents and visitors to the city.

"Not only does the location of the new station make it easy to find for the community but it makes it a much more central location for our police covering the Melbourne West area," he said.

Apart from greater local accessibility, the built-to-purpose tower also has inbuilt security features including bollards, barriers at garage entrances and an elevated floor level making it impossible for anyone to drive up to the entrance to the building.

As well as the Melbourne West Police Station, the building will also house the state's largest Crime Investigation Unit, Crime Scene Services, the Divisional Intelligence Unit, the Divisional Response Unit, the Sexual Offences and Child Investigation Team and Bicycle Patrol Unit.

Motorcycle theft on the rise

More than 100 motorcycles have been stolen in the CBD since the start of the year.

Police currently want to speak with two men, who have been seen loading motorcycles into the back of a white van.

Police say most of the thefts have taken place at night and have occurred both from the street and from secure parking.

According to police, thefts of motorcycles

have also increased across Docklands, East Melbourne and North Melbourne.

Police have asked CBD locals to keep an eye out for people loitering or behaving suspiciously in apartment car parks.

They also ask people to keep a look out for suspicious activity and to take down registration numbers if you notice suspicious behaviour.

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Lane closure plan

The City of Melbourne is working on a plan to improve pedestrian safety at the top end of Exhibition St where left turning traffic takes a 'short cut' into Victoria St.

Acting on previous complaints from residents, council road safety engineer Linden Kruss revealed a draft plan to the EastEnders residents group on May 19.

Mr Kruss explained that council needed to consult with affected businesses and property owners but, if acceptable, the plan would block the "slip lane" to through traffic.

Residents had complained that traffic, and particularly taxis, sped through the narrow roadway endangering pedestrians.

Mr Kruss explained that nine years ago council reduced the width of the "slip lane" from 26 metres to six metres as a traffic-calming measure.

He said the lane was left open so buses could service the Mantra on the Park hotel.

Under the proposed traffic engineering plan, the lane would be blocked at the LaTrobe St end and space for buses would be provided on Exhibition St. This would result in a short walk for hotel guests arriving by bus.

Mr Kruss said taxis could still service the hotel, but they would have to enter from the Victoria St end.

Mr Kruss said that, if the plan was acceptable, he would seek funding to undertake the works in the 2016/17 financial year.

The EastEnders residents group meets monthly for a coffee morning and often has presentations from council officers.



Residents 3000 members with I'm Free tour guides (pictured in green). From left Artur Hajda, Flick Oliander, Steven Myrteza, Sue Saunders and Matt Phillips.

Explore your neighbourhood

CBD residents will soon be able to play tourist in their own neighbourhood by participating in walking tours of the city.

Residents 3000 and I'm Free Tours have partnered to offer the free tours to current and new members of the community group.

According to Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico, the tours will offer CBD residents a chance to explore their city and get to know other locals.

"We decided to introduce tours for people who became Residents 3000 members, to provide an induction into living in the CBD," Mr Dall'Amico said.

"Primarily, we thought it would be perfect for new residents moving into the CBD for the first time."

While new residents of the CBD may seem the obvious target for the tours, Mr Dall'Amico said existing CBD residents would get something out of the tours too.

"It can be difficult to meet new people when living in the CBD," he said.

"A walking tour seemed to be quite appropriate, residents can get out and about, get acquainted with their local community and meet other people living in their neighbourhood."

The Residents 3000 tours will be run by I'm Free Tours, which already offers tip-based tours daily in the CBD.

According to I'm Free Tours' Matt Phillips, the Residents 3000 tours will offer locals

a way to connect with their city "on the ground".

"When I've had locals on the tour they are blown away by the information they hear about Melbourne," Mr Phillips said.

Mr Phillips said I'm Free Tours' daily walking expeditions around the city covered plenty of Melbourne's history including European settlement, aboriginal history, the gold rush, the "Marvellous Melbourne" era and more contemporary aspects of Melbourne's culture.

"The tours we'll hold for residents will be tailored to locals," Mr Phillips said. "We'll cover the best of Melbourne and provide some really pertinent information."

Mr Phillips said the initiative would give his business a great opportunity to interact with locals and give back to the community.

"We have a lot of Melburnians on our tours, but they're mainly from the outer suburbs," Mr Phillips said. "We don't get the chance to interact with CBD locals very often, so it will be a good opportunity to get feedback on the tours and the information we provide."

Mr Dall'Amico and Mr Phillips said the Residents 3000 walking tours would be held regularly for CBD locals.

For more information about taking part in a walking tour of the city visit www.residents3000.com.au

New security committee

The new Melbourne East Safety and Security Committee gets underway this month, with police hoping for a broad representation from the CBD.

Sen Sgt Paul Henry said he hoped the new group would be more strategic than the previous Police and Community Consultative Committee, which wound up in March.

Sen Sgt Henry said the idea of the new group was to cover gaps in the local police's already-extensive consultative networks.

He said it was hoped the group would work collaboratively on prioritised strategic issues.

An initial meeting of some representatives met on May 21 to brainstorm, share information and identify key issues. Sen Sgt Henry said he was still looking to expand the group.

"But we are not looking to replicate work that we are already engaged and doing in other spheres," he said.

Motorcycle plan

Two wheels are better than four, according to a City of Melbourne plan to encourage more people to ride motorcycles in the CBD.

Endorsed by council last month, the Motorcycle Plan 2015-18 was developed in consultation with riding groups and aims to make the city safer and more attractive for motorcycle riders.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said motorcycles reduced traffic congestion and integrated well.

"Road space is one of our biggest challenges and we need to be smart about how to cater for more road users," he said.

INSPIRATION IN THE HEART OF MELBOURNE.

St Michael's is a unique church in the heart of the city. Dedicated to relevant, contemporary preaching that embraces inner wellbeing as its core message.

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St Michael's affirms and encourages the best expression of humanity, not only through morning service each Sunday at 10am but through inspirational wellbeing programs and a commitment to counselling and psychotherapy.

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\$20 including lunch.

Book at www.stmichaels.org.au or call 9654 5120

More smoke-free zones proposed

The smoke-free zone proposals are coming thick and fast now, with the City of Melbourne last month proposing the QV shopping precinct and City Square.

Early in the month, the council proposed the City Square be added to the already-declared The Causeway, Howey Place, Equitable Place and Block Place as permanently smoke-free zones.

Then on May 21, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle proposed QV Melbourne be added to the list - the largest area so far proposed by the council.

Cr Doyle said a smoking ban in QV Melbourne would benefit the large volume and mix of people who used or passed through the precinct every day. QV Melbourne spans an entire city block between Swanston and Russell streets and Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale streets.

"QV Melbourne is a hive of activity and is home to shops, cafes and restaurants, large corporate businesses, a supermarket, a gym and residential apartments, all connected

by a network of pedestrian laneways leading to an open central square," the Lord Mayor said.

Cr Richard Foster said the recent public response to bans in three busy city laneways was a strong indication that the public was largely in favour of more smoke-free areas across the city.

"We ran a thorough consultation over several months in Howey Place, Equitable Place and Block Place and an average of 85 per cent of the people and businesses told us they were in favour of smoking bans," Cr Foster said.

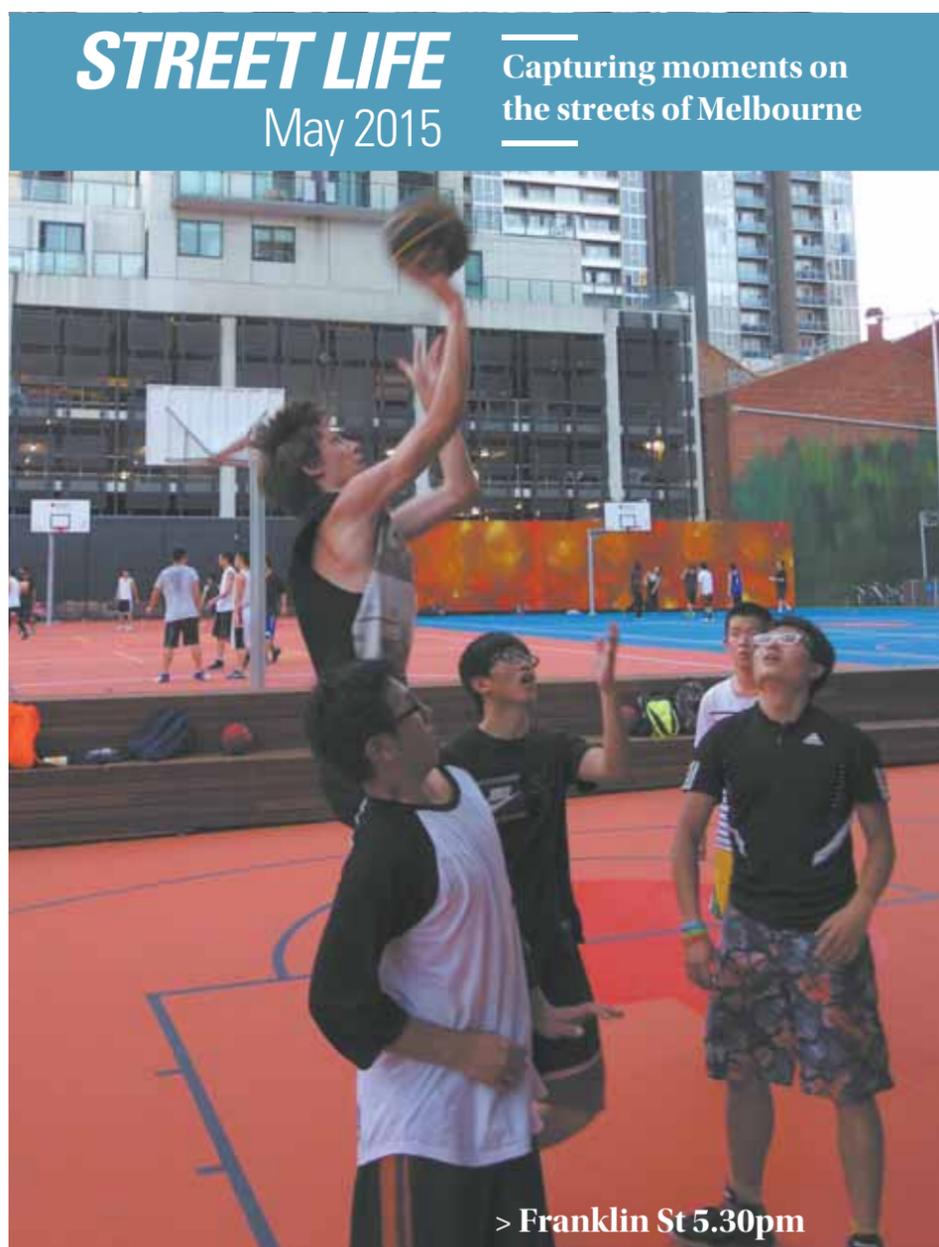
"Earlier this month, we also announced a consultation to make the iconic City Square a smoke-free area. We urge anyone who would be impacted by the introduction of smoking bans in these areas to let us know what they think."

Interested people can have their say about making QV Melbourne smoke-free until June 18.

The City Square consultation closed on May 29.

Visit the City of Melbourne's online engagement hub Participate Melbourne at participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Following consultation, a recommendation will be made to Council.



MELBOURNE AWARDS

DO YOU KNOW AN INSPIRATIONAL MELBURNIAN?

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2015 MELBOURNE AWARDS

The Melbourne Awards celebrate the inspirational people who dedicate their time and energy for the benefit of the city.

The awards are our city's highest accolade and recognise the outstanding achievements of organisations and individuals whose passion and commitment help enhance Melbourne's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

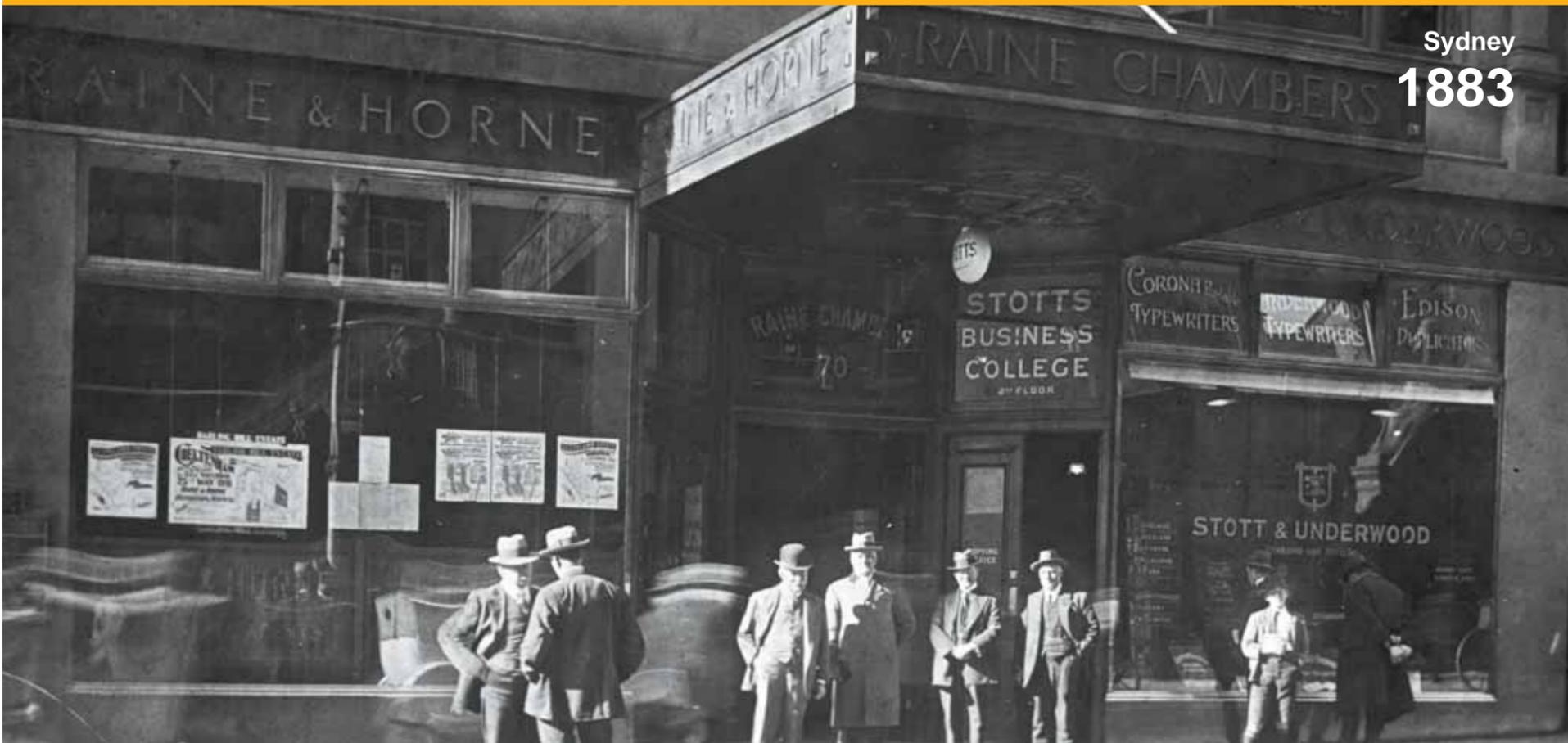
For over a decade, the awards have recognised contributions in the areas of environmental sustainability, community and profile.

WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE?

Nominations are open until Tuesday 9 June.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AWARDS AND TO NOMINATE, PLEASE VISIT melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards



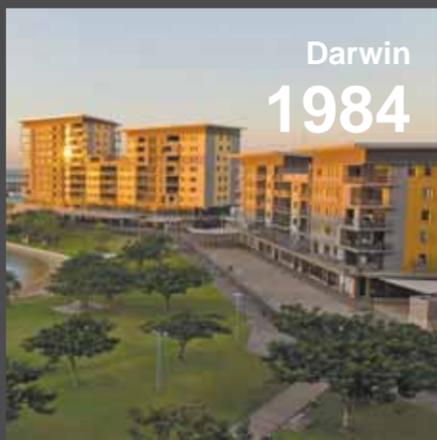


Sydney
1883

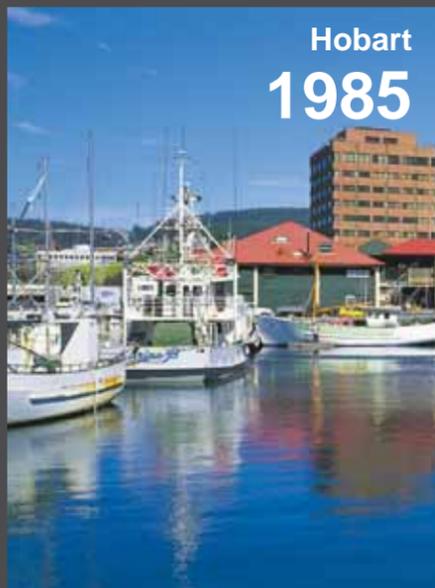
Your Local – Regional – National – International Real Estate Network



Brisbane
1977



Darwin
1984



Hobart
1985



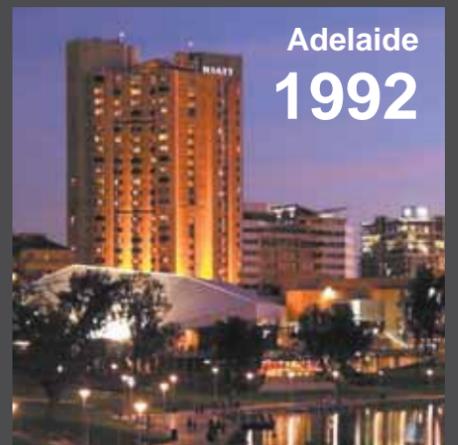
Perth
1987



Melbourne
1997



Hong Kong
1989



Adelaide
1992



Beijing
2014



India
1999



Malaysia
1998



Dubai
2015

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State Library set for major revamp

The State Library is set to be transformed by an \$83.1 million facelift, which will open up 40 per cent more of the iconic building to the public.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley announced the plans last month while visiting the library, which attracts 1.8 million visitors each year.

The 2015-16 State Budget has allocated \$55.4 million to the project, with the remaining funding to be sought by the library through philanthropic support.

“We’re making Victoria the education state and the State Library will be a centrepiece,” Mr Foley said.

“The library will be transformed, bringing its massive resources to our regions, helping teachers, educating kids and opening its doors to families more than ever before.”

“This project is one of the keys to enriching our creative industries and building the knowledge-economy future of our state.”

Staged over five-years, the revamp will see Queens Hall restored, including the creation of a rooftop garden terrace, and opened to

the public for the first time in more than 12 years.

The library’s Russell St entrance will also be reopened, creating a children and youth space, improving conference facilities and creating a centre for digital media.

As part of the project an E-town Hall will also be introduced, allowing the library to stream programs, meetings and events to Victoria’s regional and suburban libraries.

An innovation centre will also be established, providing hot-desks, collaborative spaces and programs focused on building entrepreneurship.

President of the Library Board of Victoria John Wylie said the board was grateful for the government’s contribution to the redevelopment.

“We want a building that fulfils its capabilities and are keen to make sure the library is reinvented and well configured for a modern community,” Mr Wylie said.

“This is not just a project for Melbourne, it’s a major transformation that will benefit all of Victoria.”

Detailed planning for the redevelopment has now started and works are scheduled to begin in 2016.



Sponsored by



From left: John Dall'Amico, Kevin Moore, Shelley Roberts, Leading Sen Constable Glenn McFarlane and Lynne Kramme.

Practical training for auditors

Local CBD residents participated in an on-site building security audit last month, in a bid to expand the service to more towers.

Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico said the training in Docklands was beneficial for volunteer auditors who would, with additional training and the continued support of the Victoria Police be able to help CBD-based owners' corporations (OC) improve their security and safety of residents.

“Until you get on the ground and start identifying the shortfalls that are present,

you can be quite blasé about where you live,” Mr Dall'Amico said.

Mr Dall'Amico said that a number of members were now keen to continue the training with the prospect of helping OCs undertake security audits.

“We’re not saying that living in the CBD is inherently unsafe. In fact we live in a very safe city, however,” Mr Dall'Amico said. “It’s just that vertical living presents specific challenges that people may not be aware of.”

The training was conducted by Leading Sen Constable Glenn McFarlane and supported by building manager Kevin Moore at the Yarra Point tower in Docklands on May 19.

OCs keen to learn more can email president@residents3000.com.au

Fast Turnaround

Visit Snap at any of our four locations, in the CBD

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180 Queen Street,
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

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Email melqueen@snap.com.au



Snap Melbourne, La Trobe St

Ground Floor, 171 La Trobe Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

Tel (03) 9663 5055

Email latrobe@snap.com.au



Snap Melbourne, Little Collins St

569 Little Collins Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

Tel (03) 9614 3757

Email melcollins@snap.com.au



Snap Melbourne, Flinders Lane

Basement, 133 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

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LUNCH TIME

TO BE FEATURED IN THIS SECTION CALL 8689 7980



LUNCH TIME, AFTER WORK AND THE WEEKEND WITH

Lifestyle editor Sarah Harrison

lifestyle@cbdnews.com.au

In a city in love with its burgers, fried chicken and donuts, it can be easy to lose sight of the important things in life - like your toes. Our cooler months leave us with larger appetites for the heartier meals so occasionally it's good to partake in something lighter.

GO GREEN THIS WINTER

Green smoothies have taken off in cafes around Melbourne offering a good dose of fibre and nutrients in one quick, convenient hit. With each smoothie averaging between 200 and 350 calories (a cronut will give you around 1000) your future summer bod will thank you for it. Here's our blend of green smoothies around town, all with their own unique style and offerings.

BEST VALUE - BAGEL WORKS

The raw superfood smoothies at Bagel Works on Little Collins St are thick, hearty and generous. The Greenie (\$7.90) comes with kale, spinach, cucumber, banana, dates, Brazil nuts and water - usually with a few gojis sprinkled on top for good measure. It's a cosy, warm space for a spot of work or friendly catch up and has what must be one of the best priced and value-for-money smoothies in town.

MOST CREATIVE - T-ROY BROWNS

Our Banana Alley resident caffeinator has added wholefood smoothies to his bow with

a focus on raw, non-dairy and superfoods.

There are a few ways to go green here: banana, mango, lime, mint, spinach and almond milk; peanut butter, banana, spinach, whey protein, yoghurt and almond milk; or, kale, spinach, banana, raspberries, dates and almond milk (our favourite). That said, design your own is also highly encouraged at T-Roy Browns.

\$8.50 a pop and \$1 extra for a 'life booster' of acai, chia, bee pollen or matcha.

THE PRETTIEST - HUNTERS' ROOTS

A relatively new café, Hunters' Roots has called on their organic food and fitness backgrounds to dish up a range of healthy options in The Archway on Flinders Lane. The green smoothie is refreshing and creamy all at once with a beautiful sprinkle of coconut over the top. Enjoy a blend of kale, cos, pineapple, banana, coconut water, coconut yoghurt and raw, fermented rice protein for \$10.50 as you soak up the Scandi fit out. Maybe squeeze in a raw foods caramel slice for guilt free indulgence.



T-Roy Browns green smoothie with bee pollen

THE FASTEST - PRESSED JUICES

Not just a pretty face for cold pressed, Pressed Juices also has a range of pre-bottled smoothies blended fresh and ready to grab 'n' go.

Their Smooth Clarity (\$8.50) is super zesty and very fibrous with kiwifruit, grape, spinach, cucumber, silverbeet and alkaline water. Smooth Energy (\$9.50) comes with coconut water, pineapple, banana, lettuce, cucumber, kale, avocado, lime. Find them down Howey Place or on Collins St.

With other green smoothies at Cupp on Collins, Five Plus Smoothies and Green Press, there's no excuse not to go green this winter. Think of your toes!

HIGHLIGHTS



BROW THEORY

Eyebrow shaping and threading experts, now offering "Lash Lifting" at our new CBD location. Lashes are lifted from the root and curled to the tip, creating a stunning result.

Shop 8, The Strand, 250 Elizabeth St, 9663 2140 | browtheory.com.au



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Brighten up your winter wardrobe with a dazzling brooch from Erika

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9642 5911 or
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Works from the New York studio of Op artist and illustrator John Vickery.

Vickery Room, 207 The Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St | r.dredge@hotmail.com



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AFTER WORK

THANKS TO LITTLEMISSMELBOURNE.COM

Don't race home and jump into the snuggly! Check out these ideas on what to do after work in June and shake off the winter blues.



Indulge with a Chocoholic Tour

THE CITY HAS A LOT TO OFFER THIS WINTER

BAR-HOPPING JUST GOT SERIOUS

It's a mandatory CBD activity to partake in the occasional bar hop, particularly if you have visitors in town. But if you're not a regular (and even if you are) it can be hard to stay on top of where to go, how to find it, and what to drink, given our hidden laneway culture.

Thanks to the hospo professionals behind new bar-hopping tour, Drink This City, this is a problem no more.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday evening from 6.30pm, launch into a world of whisky tastings, classic cocktails, absinthe

and nibbles across Melbourne's rooftops, laneways and tucked away venues. Rediscover the city with the young guns that know all the good places to go. \$89 per guest, book online at www.drinkthiscity.com.au



Bar hop with Drink This City

IS IT IMPOSSIBLE – OR MAGIC?

For a fun Friday with a twist, see the critically-acclaimed and widely popular magic show that is "Impossible Occurrences".

Master of magic, Luke Hocking, presents a show of illusion, magic and mind reading every Friday at the Essence on Exhibition within the Marriott.

Dinner and show packages are available from \$80 per person with two course meal, bottle of house wine and show tickets with priority seating. The menu features seasonal produce and dishes such as pumpkin gnocchi, oven roasted chicken breast and frangelico affogato for dessert. Visit

impossibleoccurrences.com.au or call 1300 762 344 to book.

PRIVATE CHOCOLATE TOURS

Calories don't count in winter (thank goodness for coats). Get a group together after work for a decadent treat touring Melbourne's top chocolate spots.

Chocoholic Tours can tailor a package to suit your tastebuds and introduce you to Fairtrade, dark and milk chocolates plus macaroon tastings, over two hours around Melbourne.

Available Monday to Sunday for \$49 per person, contact Chocoholic Tours on 9650 0795, or find them online.

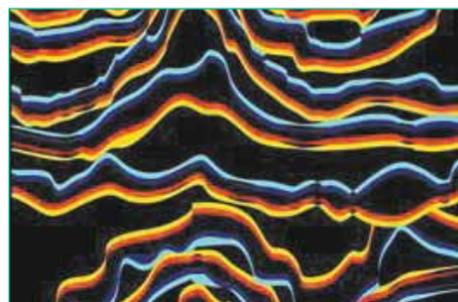
HIGHLIGHTS



DOUBLE HAPPY HOURS

Monday to Friday 5pm – 7pm we offer \$9 Stella Pints, \$5 basic spirits, \$5 bubbles and with even more specials on Thursday and Friday!

The Metropolitan Hotel
263 William St, cnr Lt Lonsdale St
Ph: 9670 1385 - themetropolitanhotel.com.au



XX-YX

Redefining our perceptions of androgyny, Eric Yvon's latest clothing line launches this month with an exceptional show including a stellar lineup of Melbourne musicians.

June 11, 7pm
Belleville, Globe Alley



BOOK CLUB

The June selection for Embiggen Books Last Wednesday Book Club is Karen Joy Fowler's excellent read We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves.

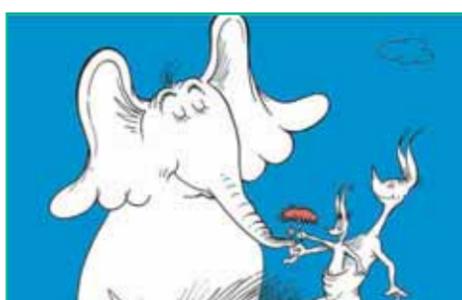
24 June | Embiggen Books
embiggenbooks.com



NIGHT MARKET

Kicking off on the first Wednesday of June, the Queen Victoria Winter Night Market is back again with the best of winter food, drinks and entertainment, including delicious smoky goodness from the legends at Burn City Smokers.

Wednesdays 5-10pm | qvm.com.au



THE ART OF DR SEUSS

Having opened six weeks ago this permanent exhibition has Dr Seuss works for sale from their stunning Block Arcade gallery - 'The Secret Art Collection' is a current highlight.

Trevor Victor Harvey Gallery | Block Arcade
drseuss.tvhgallery.com



CRACKING THE CODE

Leah Kaminsky's book has been described by Norman Swan as "a breathtaking example of how medicine can be transformed by the determination of ordinary people".

June 18 | RSVP essential
embiggenbooks.com



MAKE THE MOST OF JUNE

Melbourne is famous for its apparent poor weather, but we're pretty good at making the most out of it. Rug up and enjoy a few events happening on the weekends this June.



MU Building

DISCOVER MANCHESTER UNITY WITH 1932

The Manchester Unity Building in the heart of the city offers tours as part of Open House Melbourne in July. Given the popularity of the historic icon, curious admirers are now required to enter a ballot just for a chance of a look in. This June, you have the chance to well and truly get in first with 1932 Café & Restaurant.

Set inside and at the base of the Manchester Unity Building, 1932 is an art deco style café dishing up breakfast and lunch Monday to Saturday, which leaves Sunday free for their upcoming event on June 14.

Join them for a champagne breakfast or lunch and you'll also be treated to an exclusive, guided tour of the beautiful building above, including the "Famous Boardroom". The breakfast menu includes smashed avocado, English breakfast, or eggs benedict/royal, with dessert, coffee, tea and orange juice also included for \$59.

For \$69, the lunch set menu will offer a Sunday roast, chicken club burger or Caesar salad, plus a selection of handmade desserts, cakes, croissants and muffins. Both breakfast and lunch comes with champagne and nibbles on arrival, plus the tour. To book, just call 9663 5494 or find them on Facebook.



Pasta and truffles at the Secret Truffle Soiree

THE SECRET TRUFFLE SOIREE

How do canapes and prosecco on the rooftop of a beautiful Melbourne venue sound?

Followed by a four course Italian dinner featuring Western Australian black gold truffles with matched wines from the King Valley's Christmont Winery - finished with a grande finale dessert?

This is what you'll find at the Secret Truffle Soiree set to be held at an exclusive, hush-hush location in the city on June 27.

Join Daniel Tonin (aka Danny Pasta) the Truffle Queen herself, Rachel Truscott, chef Clinton Gresham and award-winning Pierrick Boyer as they team up to bring you a very special, highly unique evening that

you'll be hard pressed to find again.

Tickets are \$149, all inclusive, and are available by calling 1300 600 498 or at www.limeandtonic.com. Now - to try and guess where it is ...

COFFEE FEST

Head to the Immigration Museum for a taste of a Melbourne obsession with a hint of global flavour. The Coffee Fest is on June 14 from 11am to 4pm and will give you an insight into the role coffee plays in cuisine, culture and community from around the world.

Learn about cup readings, ceremonies, Melbourne's local coffee scene - or just enjoy a good brew. Tickets are \$15 on 13 11 02.

HIGHLIGHTS



IMMIGRANT UNION

Melbourne's masters of psychedelic folk and Laurel Canyon country Immigrant Union will be celebrating the Australian release their second studio album, Anyway.

13 June | The Kelvin Club
immigrant-unions-album-launch.eventbrite.com.au/



DESIGN MARKET

Federation Square's undercover carpark will be overflowing with design products as dozens of design businesses launch hundreds of new products at the market, making it a must for design-savvy shoppers.

21 June | Federation Square
melbournedesignmarket.com.au



THE LIGHT IN WINTER

This year the campfire will be bright with performances and talks at lunchtime and dusk in a fantastic lead-up to festival favourite, the Solstice Celebration.

1-21 June | Federation Square
fedsquare.com/events/solstice-celebration



MOVING BACKWARDS INTO THE FUTURE

Contemporary Indigenous art works exploring 130 years of Indigenous Australian history are on display at The Ian Potter Centre's latest exhibition

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia
Until 16 August | ngv.vic.gov.au



JAZZ FESTIVAL

This annual, world-class jazz festival was first held in 1998. The Festival takes place in concert halls, arts venues, jazz clubs and throughout the streets of Melbourne as the city comes alive with the spirit of jazz.

28 May-June 7 | Various venues
melbournejazz.com



IL BACARO

This Melbourne institution is a combination of exceptional food and wine, sophisticated Venetian-inspired good looks and old-school professional service - the perfect establishment for winter weekend dining.

168-170 Little Collins Street
ilbacaro.com.au

Councillor Profile

Behind every great lord mayor, there's . . .

By Shane Scanlan

Susan Riley's remarkable career as deputy lord mayor is a by-product of being driven to succeed.

Cr Riley says she never asked for the role but successive lord mayors John So and Robert Doyle have both enlisted her services.

She says she never imagined herself in the role nor aspired towards it. These qualities make her an ideal lieutenant. Loyal, trusted, down to earth and capable, she manages the internal relationships which allows the Lord Mayor to shine.

"I've never considered myself to be ambitious, but I've definitely a driven woman," she said.

Cr Riley is the eldest of five children, born into an inner city working class family. Leaving school at 15, she had already had a grounding in small-business accounting through working in a family cake shop.

It wasn't long before she had learned everything there was no know about publishing via myriad roles at Syme Community Newspapers in the 1980s. It wasn't too much longer before she started publishing for herself, starting her own commuter magazine as well as successful mastheads in St Kilda Rd and the CBD.

The business had taken a hit around the time that lord mayoral hopeful John So approached her to run as his deputy in 2001.

"At the time I didn't think it possible that Melbourne would elect a Chinese lord mayor and an unknown publisher," Cr Riley said.

When John So first approached her, Cr Riley saw an opportunity to sell magazine advertising to him.

"He said, you can have as much advertising as you want, but that's not why you are here," she recalled. "He said do you want to think about it? I was walking back to the car park and I thought 'what an opportunity'. I didn't even ring my husband. I rang him back and said John if you think that you and I can do this, then I will say yes."



She freely admits that she had no idea about council when she was first elected and had to learn "on the job".

"There was no job description for a deputy lord mayor we literally made it up as we went along," she said.

Cr Riley said her business suffered though, and she decided not to contest a second term.

Four years later, she was approached again to run as deputy - this time by Robert Doyle, whom she had never met.

"It was the 11th hour when Robert rang up one day and said 'I'm looking for a deputy, are you interested?' So I said: 'can we meet? I know who you are, but can we meet?'" she said.

"So we met and at the end of the discussion he said 'I think we'll be fine'.

He said 'who do you barrack for in the football' and I said Geelong. He said 'high five, we'll be fine'. So, we're both Geelong people and that was the start of the relationship," she said.

Melbourne has now had four terms of popularly-elected lord mayor and deputy and Cr Riley has been in office for three of them. Drawing on the lessons she learned during her first stint, she says she was able to help Robert Doyle make the transition from state politics to local government.

"In local government there's no power as such. There are 11 councillors and that power has to come as a united force," she said.

She says one of her major roles as deputy lord mayor has been to make sure the councillors stay together. She rings them all every week to sound them out on issues and

policies and then reports to the Lord Mayor.

"These are their thoughts. We need to go around them or we need to go with them," she said.

Cr Riley says she complements the lord mayor because she reads everything, meets everyone and is across the issues and potential issues.

"I could never, ever do what he does as the lord mayor. I think he has been a remarkable lord mayor. But he could never do what I do either," she said.

"That's why we work so well as a team. I can alert him to an issue that is growing and he can advise me on how to handle it. The trust that comes with that is something that you have to build and earn, remembering that six years ago we were total strangers."

Cr Riley says the current council is the best she's been associated with. She says its diversity and balance is the envy of surrounding municipalities.

"I think the way we work as a team is incredible. I know we're admired by other councils around us because they have a lot of in-house fighting, but we just don't have it. And I put it down to the fact that my door is always open and the councillors come in. I'm a good listener and you do need to listen," she said.

Her passions are small business and involving women in what happens at the town hall.

"My thought were how do I bring women into council. How do I bring the business women into this building and make them feel welcome?"

Since then, she says she has built a women's business network of 500 and has helped build Melbourne Spring Fashion, the Lord Mayor's Commendation Awards and the Melbourne Awards.



In next month's Councillor Profile we look at:
Cr Robert Doyle



Take your dreams to another level



Address: Level 2, 271-281 Bourke St, Melbourne 3000
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City slicker artists

By Kara Bertocini

Marco and Debra Luccio have been together for 17 years and from the very start both shared the same goal: to be professional artists.

Having spent a lot of time overseas, particularly in New York and Paris, Marco and Debra have come to realise how beautiful Melbourne is and how enriched with art our city is.

Marco's work focuses on landscapes and cityscapes and, ever since making his first image of Melbourne as a student at RMIT, he has been engaging with architects and builders.

"For 20-odd years, I've been getting on rooftops around Melbourne, so Melbourne's always been the focus of my work," he said.

"I've worked on site a lot with architects and so I've had a lot of interest in the architecture of Melbourne and that's been a really big thing for me," he said.

Marco and Debra live in Melbourne's CBD and are continually astonished about how amazing life is.

"We lived in the country for a few years after being in New York. We couldn't do it. We missed the pollution and being able to do things. It's so amazing living in the city when you have so much access to stuff," Debra said.

"I think there's something amazing about the CBD. Melbourne covers everything and there are still little pockets where you can get away," Marco said.

The married artists have witnessed the growth and change of Melbourne over the years and say that, as artists, they are constantly seeing the world in a different light.

"I think Melbourne has changed for the better over the years. I like all the different architecture. I think, overall, we have such a variety and I think it's one of the most beautiful cities because of that variety," Marco said.

"I love that we're artists because we get to see the world so differently. We are constantly seeing things that other people don't get to see, both visually and conceptually."

Debra said: "Some of our favourite buildings are still here but they're building and bringing in some new things that we like as well."

Throughout their highly acclaimed work Marco and Debra always stay true to their artistic integrity and always inspire each other to seek change and diversity.

"What tends to happen is that artists become settled and the idea is to keep challenging and maintaining integrity," Marco said.

"He really inspires me and vice versa. Artists tend to fear change but we just push each other. It's so important to just do it," Debra said.

Marco's upcoming exhibition *Respiro* will be showing at the Steps Gallery in Carlton from July 8.



CBD Local

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Photo credit: Fiona Hamilton Photography.

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Architecture

City planning – a view from the top

I recently managed to catch up with Roz Hansen about her thoughts on the direction of Melbourne's Central Activity District.

Roz is a highly experienced urban planner and she is chairing the re-convened Plan Melbourne Ministerial Advisory Committee – reporting to the Minister of Planning, Richard Wynne.

Her role on the committee started under the previous government – however, she resigned due to concerns about the changing directions and emphasis.

The committee is now back and her role is to advise the minister as to how to “refresh” the strategy with specific emphasis on housing, climate change and energy efficiency.

The focus of our discussion was around architecture in the city and the evolution of a new building type within the city centre.

Historically the starting point was the 40m height limit that applied to many buildings. It is a height that was determined as the maximum reach of fire ladders and this height limit was maintained until the ICI building at the top of Lonsdale St spectacularly broke this limit.

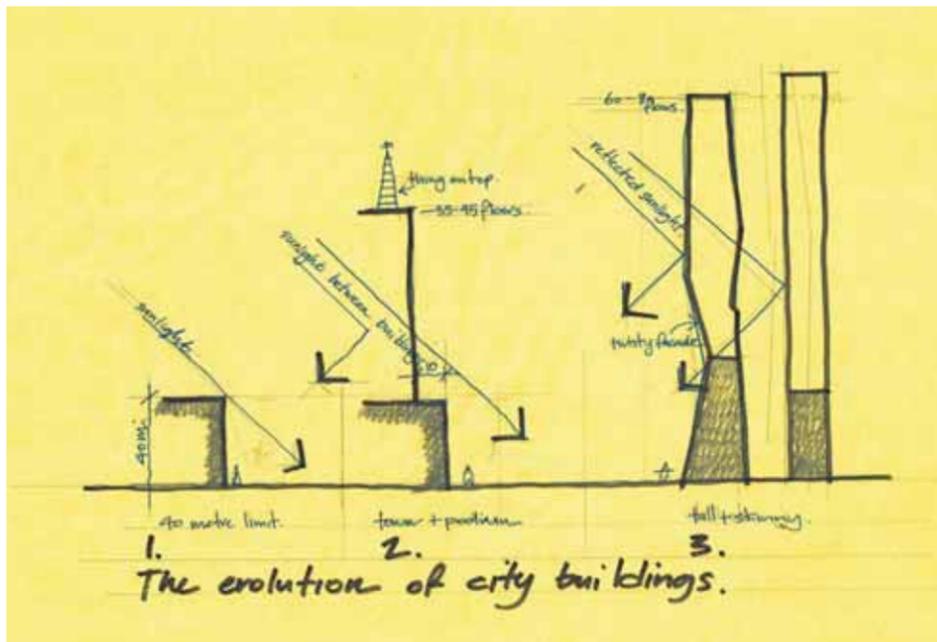
During the 80s and 90s the office-building model evolved into a form which consisted of a 40m high podium with taller towers above but set back about 10m from the street edge.

Under Evan Walker's plan height would be concentrated at the two ends of the city (western and eastern areas) being the higher land rising from the compact, highly-pedestrianised retail core in the valley.

Under the Walker plan the retail strip of Swanston and Elizabeth streets would largely retain the 40-metre height limit where high volumes of pedestrians occupied streets during the day.

This urban structure gave Melbourne a distinctive dish shaped skyline.

In recent times Roz explained that height



limits, upper level setbacks and plot ratios were no longer strictly applied and we have seen a proliferation of high-density tall buildings on small sites including in the little streets of the Hoddle Grid. The intensification is happening throughout the city and especially to the northwest parts.

Apartment buildings of 50-70 storeys with little or no setback to the street and in close proximity to each other are now the norm. Tall (with small footprint) apartment buildings are now creating a forest of buildings inside the city.

Whilst each application is viewed separately – it is the cumulative effect of these buildings which is dramatically changing the public realm at street level.

Roz's view is that the city has lost its urban structure and shape and that the intensification of new buildings means that

the city no longer has a clear strategic vision.

The new developer-led building type is highly efficient. However, they often compromise both the internal and external quality of spaces. A key consideration that Roz expressed over coffee was the lack of architectural innovation which results in bland, minimalist and somewhat drab elevations that have become the norm along streets such as Spencer Street. Clearly architects need to play their part here and education around sustainability and design related issues are key.

This “lost skill”, as Roz described it, is worrying.

The lack of place making and the protections for daylight amenity at street level from the built form contribution is also concerning.

The imposition of very tall, hard edge to the

street buildings is affecting public space design considerations and the enjoyment of that public space by pedestrians. Driven primarily by the economic returns, the trade off is becoming one-sided.

Roz envisages that the way this situation can be remedied is through a back-to-basics planning approach. Mandating height, setbacks and providing clearer guidelines for public and private interface needs to replace the current performance and discretionary system.

It is clear to her that the performance-based approach for the central city does not guarantee good design outcomes and a more robust “public benefit” approach is needed.

A vision for Melbourne needs to determine where height is best located and how to protect the urban precinct at ground level.

Melbourne, justifiably, has long prided itself as a place where culture matters. Architecture, urban design, arts and design all contribute to this reputation. Architects and urban designers possibly need to better educate clients on the value of design and sustainability so that the legacy of this building boom provides a positive legacy to future generations of Melburnians.

A vision for Melbourne is by no means easy to conjure up. However, at the same time as Melbourne is growing, the need to give shape and structure back to the city and protect amenity of public spaces such as our streets means the challenges are made even more difficult.



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However, even those who are not overweight should dedicate consistent time to their health. Research shows that purely by having a sedentary, desk-based job we are at higher risk of health issues later in life and so most CBD workers fall into this category.

Where should I start? Moving away from your desk is a good start. However, create some structure by doing 20 minutes of medium-intensity exercise each day such as a brisk walk at lunch time. The City of Melbourne has lots of great ideas as part of its "100 Ways to Move It" program.

Where to from here? Look for variety in your regime. Pounding on the treadmill is not the only way to stay healthy this winter. Try joining a dance class, a pilates class or a strength class to complement your more traditional exercise, cross-train your body and stay motivated!

www.fisicadancefit.com -
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World Blood Donor Day

Do you donate blood regularly? Have you ever thought of trying? Well this June might be a good opportunity to start, as June 14 is World Blood Donor Day, which serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

Did you know that different blood types are useful in different ways? For example, O-negative is known as the "universal blood type" which means that blood from the 8 per cent of the population who are O-negative can be donated to any other body. Those with AB blood group, however, have the least compatible blood but the most compatible plasma.

If you chose to donate blood for the first time, your blood will be tested and you will be advised on which type of donation is the most useful to the Blood Bank to save the most number of lives. If you are interested in trying it out, the Australian Red Cross Donor Centre is located on Bourke St, an easy walk for all city workers. www.donateblood.com.au

Four tips for dealing with neck pain

A curse of the city worker, neck pain is almost inevitable for those who work at a desk. Severity can range from general soreness to "wry" neck and headaches or migraines.

Being one of the most common conditions we treat at Viva, instead of waiting for your pain to deteriorate to the point of requiring treatment, I recommend the following tips:

- Get an ergonomic assessment. Many companies will provide these or alternatively you can ask your physio (many workplaces will pay, or you can get a rebate on your private health extras.);
- Move from your desk regularly. Breaking the postural stress of sitting and mouse-use can cure many forms of neck pain;
- Strengthen the muscles that are underused in a sitting job such as your hip and ab muscles. These are the biggest postural muscles in your body so keeping these strong reduces the stress on your neck; and

- Get a stand-up desk. Ultimately, breaking postural habits is the key, so speak to your office manager and provide a workspace which does the above for you!

vivaphysiotherapy.com/comedian-toby-halligan-highly-recommends-a-stand-up-desk/



Kathryn Anderson

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

The Nicholas Building – Tales & Legends

Prize position

By Rhonda Dredge

The rat on the second floor might have bitten off more than he could chew when he set himself up as a critic in the Nicholas Building.

Although a vivid afternoon sun sometimes created visual illusions on the windows to the west, the city exerted a pressure beyond the mass of its built form. Slow groans and high shrills, van doors closing, repetitive chirps, cries, clashes and taps echo from within, muffling the chimes of St Paul's.

Occasionally a man sleeps in the corner of the passage outside the critic's office. Management is installing CCTV cameras to record the man's dreams.

The other day the critic heard music come from behind a closed door. Soon words began pouring into his mind, prompting stray memories.

The rooms in the building have taken a serious slant on personal histories, he concluded, so that former functions are not forgotten and shapes reflect back on past glories.

More recently a sinuous art nouveau line has begun causing trouble with the delicate machinery of the critic's textuality. He had no choice but to leave the confines of his textual world and confront this pseudo-critic on its own turf.

The evening was cold and great steamy clouds were shooting out of the grates in the pavement when the critic got down to ground level, making the building look as if it was about to blast off.

He lost the scent of something profound in the moist air then picked it up again

as a poet climbed the stairs to the first floor. There was no use being critical. Any dubious off-the-cuff comments would be re-ordered and rearranged to make art.

On the seventh floor the scent grew stronger again, this time outside a room called Stella. The corridor was dark and the door closed but the critic sensed the presence of an elastic system for tying down meaning.

The words Brave Outsider had been chiselled by a master craftsman then scattered amongst his things so he had no expectations. At any moment rag-pickers would begin sifting through the debris of his mind in search of valuable fragments.

The door opened a crack while he was lurking. Out stepped a woman with an offer of tea. The building might have been trapped in an abstract grid called the city but perhaps a critic could re-invent himself, after all.

"Beetles and wasps are rare on Flinders Lane," the critic remarked as he settled.

His hostess agreed.

After a short while she looked him in the eye.

He thought she was going to chastise him for failing to mention the source of his entomological comment. He had been to the launch of the Peter Porter Poetry prize in the Collected Works bookshop and Judith Beverage had won with a poem about stings.

"What about strays?" she asked instead.

He didn't blink an eye.

"They belong here," he said, confidently crossing his ankles.

"Good," she replied, handing him a novel. "Emily Bitto has just won the Stella prize for The Strays."

He took the book and got the distinct feeling that it was a work aimed directly at creatures like him.

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Planning

New tower design is more acceptable

Chief amongst planning news in the CBD in May was the unveiling of a new design for 212-222 LaTrobe St.

Originally lodged with planning authorities in 2011, the previous proposal consisted of two towers with a combined number of dwellings numbering 296 with 100 car parks, ground floor retail and 1800 sqm of commercial space.

The original design drew criticism from the City of Melbourne citing lack of setbacks, lack of activation at street level and poor on-site amenity.

Fast forward to present day and a redesign by Jackson Clement Burrows (JCB) has been approved by VCAT. The JCB design features a tower of 54 levels on the 212-222 LaTrobe St site and a second tower of 39 levels located at street address 17-25 Little LaTrobe St.

Together, both towers yield 400 apartments and all units within the structures adhere to a minimum net floor area of 50 sqm (inclusive of balconies).

Unsurprisingly, after such a long time in the planning system, the sites are now up for sale and are being advertised by Savills.

Not to stray too far from LaTrobe St, RMIT University has published details on its "New Academic Street" project which aims to open up the lower levels of many of its existing academic buildings in order to create a more amenable experience.

The academic buildings fronting Swanston St - Building 8, Building 10, Building 12 and Building 14 each feature new entrances covered by protruding canopies. Building 14 on Franklin St is to get the same treatment.

According to RMIT, the "interventions", as they are dubbing them, will:

- Enhance the physical quality and character of the relevant streets;
- The transparent and open interventions will increase passive surveillance on Swanston and Franklin streets; and
- Create informal spaces - furthermore enhancing activity at street level.

Likewise, as part of the New Academic Street (NAS) project, the new entrances to the buildings will form part of a laneway network thus providing an enhanced wayfinding experience through the city campus.

To create a simple, clear and effective means of transforming the access and wayfinding into the campus, the design team proposes to create a new network of "laneways".

According to RMIT NAS's town planning report: "These laneways will be substantially open, operating on an extended-hours basis within the campus, and being partly undercover and partly 'open' to the sky."

I couldn't write this month's column without mentioning the *Better Apartments* discussion paper. Although I'm yet to find the time to read through the document entirely, many in the industry have.

The range of opinion from planners, architects, developers, marketers, building managers, sales agents, engineers - all the sub-sectors which make up what we at Urban Melbourne dub the "Urban Industry" - is incredibly diverse.

There's a lot of focus on the discussion paper not asking the right questions about costs and drawing parallels to NSW's State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) number 65 - which some sectors of the industry have said the *Better Apartments* paper is drawing too much inspiration from.

The idea that minimum sizes of apartments should be mandated is causing the most angst. Here's hoping this topic of discussion doesn't take up all the air time. Expect a fiery debate over the coming months.



Alastair Taylor

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

History

The first Exhibition Building

Melbourne's first Exhibition Building was built in 1854 on the present site of the Old Royal Mint in Williams St. It was modelled on the London Crystal Palace of 1851.



This building held exhibitions in 1854, 1861 and 1866. But by 1869 the building, which was constructed of glass over a wooden and iron frame, was in poor condition and it was demolished.

Designed by Samuel Merrett, it was 257 feet long, 90 feet wide and 59 feet high. Internally, it was a field of light - being filled with almost 200 large windows and a roof largely made of glass.

The first exhibition, in 1854, opened for 30 days and was visited by 40,000 people. The exhibition was mostly of local manufacturers and was designed to celebrate the achievements of the gold rush colony. *The Age* newspaper exhibited a steam printing machine and the first edition of the paper was printed at the exhibition on October 17, 1854.

The building was used for a number of community events such as balls, dinners and the Governor's receptions.

The building was also the setting for the first Melbourne Dog show in April 1864. The 381 entries were testimony to the new fashion of dogs being displayed and kept as pets rather than working animals.

The first "inter-colonial" exhibition was held at the State Library of Victoria in

1866 - the centrepiece was a huge pyramid depicting in scale the quantity of Victorian gold produced since 1851.

The holding of international exhibitions in the 19th century attracted considerable prestige, so much so, that the world heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton Gardens hosted exhibitions in 1880 and 1888.

This photograph is part of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's collection. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is open Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm at 239 A'Beckett St.

The RHSV is the peak body for local history in Victoria. It has an active program of exhibitions, monthly Tuesday night talks, a book shop specialising in the history Victoria, and collections for research.

Everybody is welcome: see our events at www.historyvictoria.org.au



Kate Prinsley

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

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Owners Corporation Law

Owners' corporations are a powerful democratic force – if only they knew.

I've said this before, and I'll say it again – it is well worthwhile and overdue for an in-depth analysis of owners' corporations from policy analysts in the government sector on the affordability, sustainability, amenity, privacy and livability of persons living in and communities living together in high-rise towers.

We have all seen the cranes around town, and the real estate advertisements in the papers – Melbourne has a glut of residential apartment buildings, with many more on the way.

For too long, the government policy in this area went too far in favour of developers, leading to the creation of those shoebox 30sqm apartments with

little or no natural light. In some extreme circumstances, developers would assign long-term management rights agreements to themselves, their friends or subsidiary companies they control and for un-commercial terms and remuneration.

We saw in the latest round of state elections late last year, that the City of Melbourne seat became a closely-run contest between Labor and the Greens. In the lead-up to that election, both candidates pledged sweeping reforms in key areas of concern for owners' corporations.

However, as is often the case, once governments are formed and agendas are set, things move fairly slowly. It is time for owners' corporations throughout Melbourne to form a cohesive, committed and effective lobbying group, and to open the lines of communication with the political sphere.

Take for example – the short-term letting issue in Victoria. There has been much media attention about an owner's right to let or license their apartment for short-term

stays. However, any reform in this area will take years – despite the recommendations that will come out of the working party formed for this inquiry.

In 2014, Airbnb, the giant accommodation service provider, raised \$800 million US in venture capital, the majority of which it has pledged to spend on securing and shoring up their business model. Airbnb will spend hundreds of millions this year on lobbyists, public relations firms, and on teams of lawyers whose sole aim will be to ensure that Airbnb is neither legislated against nor otherwise outlawed. In addition, the business giant will bombard the public with soft advertising campaigns, sponsorship deals, fundraising initiatives and other types of marketing in the UK, Europe, South America and Australia.

Any owner or resident living in a tower that struggles with the effects of short-term letting will shortly not have an effective and audible voice in this campaign, and

will not be able to raise their voice above the cacophony of the lobbyists and slick PR machines that Airbnb and others employ to scream at the policymakers and politicians.

The question is – can the owners' corporations of Victoria band together as a unified voice on this topic and others, and in time to make a difference?

As a single block of voters comprising may thousand residents, the owners' corporation 'vote' can and would make a difference to the outcome of any election in this state.

It is a pity there is not another election anytime soon.



Tom Bacon

Tom Bacon is the principal lawyer of Strata Title Lawyers.
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Street Art

Ha-Ha – Legend, alien theorist and oyster connoisseur

This gentle and quietly-spoken man is a pioneer of the Melbourne street art scene.

Originally from New Zealand, he was a practicing oil painter and an exponent of the "Stuckism" movement when he came to Melbourne in the late 90s. He exhibited these works in artist-run spaces. Around 2002, Ha-Ha burst on the street art scene.

Inspired by Psalm, he was part of the original wave of stencil artists and, along with Dlux and Sync, became a notorious and prolific stenciller.

These four were a cultural phenomenon and one could argue that they were 21st Century bushrangers!

It was a period of anti-Bush and Howard sentiment and a lot of their pieces were of a political nature. However, Ha-Ha doesn't see this as his motivation.

"We did what we did, purely in the name of art," he said.

During this period he created a single-colour stencil of Australia's most notorious bushranger, Ned Kelly, and it was with this iconic image he gained instant notoriety. He claims that the adrenaline rush from this illegal activity was better than sex!

The outlaw was to become a popular image for him: Ben Cousins, Squizzy Taylor and Chopper Read have all been under his scalpel. Two of Ha-Ha's Ned Kelly images remained until recently in ACDC Lane but, sadly, one was to fall foul of a souvenir hunter and the other is now capped. Obsessed with sci-fi, the robot was also a recurring theme and Ha-Ha, with a nod to Andy Warhol, would repeat and repeat an



image until the can ran out of paint.

In 2003, Dlux, Sync and Ha-Ha mounted *Cut it Out* at Hush Hush Gallery in Hosier Lane. It was Melbourne's first stencil exhibition. May 2014 saw these three artists reunite for their successful *Then and Now* exhibition, which showcased vintage stencils and current works.

With time, Ha-Ha's simple one-layer stencils progressed to complex ones of 40 layers or more. He taught himself to cut with both hands and documents how many cuts he makes with each hand per stencil. His current works are what he terms "fusion stencils", where portraits of two images are merged to form one.

In 2010, the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra showcased 40 pioneer street artists

in its *Space Invaders* exhibition. Several of Ha-Ha's stencils were featured and now form part of the permanent collection.

As a form of street art, the stencil peaked in 2004 but 2013 has seen it re-emerge, not with a political message but, this time as decorative imagery (see Akemi Ito in the October 2014 edition of *CBD News*).

The photo I've chosen is from August 2013 and shows Ha-Ha about to stencil his Marilyn Monroe portraits in Rutledge Lane. The lane had been recently buffed "Baby Nursery Blue" by Melbourne's other Doyle-the infamous Adrian. Creating a clean slate, it was controversial at the time.

Sadly, Ha-Ha's stencils including *The Aliens*, were capped before the paint was barely dry! However, some of his recent ones

still remain and can be seen around the CBD: in Blender Lane, Tattersalls Lane and Lovelands Lane.

Ha-Ha is currently in Singapore. The reason for this is two-fold – firstly, for a residency at the Australian International Art School, where he is making art and conducting workshops.

His second reason is to particulate in the "50 Bridges" program. Australia is contributing to Singapore's celebrations for its 50 years of independence. It is also the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

One of the elements of the "50 Bridges" program – 50 Walls – will bring public art to 50 heartland locations.

Along with Ha-Ha, the other Australian artists involved in this program are Tom Civil, Vexta, Adnate (See *CBD News* of September, 2014), Makatron, Yok and his Singaporean partner Shero. Also participating are local artists, Trase One and Zero.

It also should be noted that Ha-Ha has done similar workshops with adolescents in Malaysia and Senegal. The world, surely, is his oyster!



Lorraine Ellis

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

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Fashion on the streets of Melbourne



NAME: VERITY HAYWARD, 25

LOCATION: Bowen St, RMIT city campus.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING? I'm wearing a vintage dress from Savers. My sister altered it for me by cutting off the sleeves. My boots are from Wittner. I don't even know where my belt is from, somewhere in the depths of my wardrobe probably.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?

Probably these vintage brogues that I bought in New York recently.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CBD?

I work at RMIT, so I'm just here for work.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

I would just say anything that people feel comfortable in. It doesn't really matter what it is as long as you feel comfortable in what you're wearing.



NAME: HILLARY MCLEISH 23

LOCATION: LaTrobe St.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING? Shoes from Converse and my pants are from Zara. The rest I can't really remember to be honest, just random shops. I also have a bag from Widow, which is a local Melbourne brand.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?

Shoes. I think that shoes can really do a lot for an outfit. You can have a lot of fun with them.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CBD?

I'm here for class. I study at RMIT.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

I think it's how it's all put together. It's not really one piece. The most important thing is how it all works together.



NAME: GEORGIA KING 20

LOCATION: Swanston St.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING? So I actually really tried hard today. I've got my big bad girl boots on, they're Windsor Smith. I'm wearing a second-hand skirt which I think pairs really well with these boots. I'm also wearing a high-necked top which I got from Witchery. It was on sale but its pretty classy looking so I don't think people will know.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?

I've got to say these big bad girl boots. They make me feel powerful.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CBD?

I'm actually going on a date. Hence the effort, and the big bad girl boots.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT?

Glitter. I just wish it was more socially-acceptable to wear all the time.



Fashion and cosmetics collide

By Laura Timberlake

RetroStar Vintage Clothing is one of the largest vintage clothing stores in Australia. If you love vintage, it is one of the ultimate spots to visit in the Melbourne CBD for your dose of fashion.

RetroStar has now collaborated with Deanna Amato to add a new element to the store. Deanna is a talented make up artist, who has been working in the field for several years.

She has opened a studio called Tempeste - Speakeasy Salon in part of the RetroStar store, so that customers can have a vintage make up experience to match their new clothes.

Deanna also works at RetroStar, and she admits it is partly her love of vintage clothing that led to this new venture.

"For a long time I have been an avid vintage shopper... The opportunity to combine my love for vintage styling and provide hair and make up services was perfect," she said.

Deanna has done numerous advertising campaigns, weddings and shoots before she starting her new studio. I met Deanna when I commissioned her to do my wedding party's make up, and the entire party was awestruck by her talent.

She says it's the customers' excitement over their transformation that is the most rewarding moment for her.

"It motivates me to keep on creating and taking on new challenges," she said.

A good make up artist will make you feel good about yourself. A great one has the power to make a person question if it's really them in the mirror - and Deanna has that ability.

And the Tempeste - Speakeasy Salon is still growing. Deanna plans to offer workshops and parties, allowing people the chance to create their own vintage look.

RetroStar Vintage Clothing can be found at the first floor of the Nicholas building, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne.

For more information on bookings or quotes from Deanna please email her at deannajamato@gmail.com or visit the page [facebook/DeannaAmatoMakeupArtist](#)

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First Thursday of the month,
10am - The Docklands Library,
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Probus Clubs for men and women over 50. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities. Contact Joan on

rksalesaustptyltd@bigpond.com



Refugee Week celebration

10.30am 12.30pm
June 18, Multicultural Hub
506 Elizabeth St

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Ph: 9092 1500, kaura@ames.net.au



Where do I belong?

June 13, 20 and 27 11 am - 4 pm
Signal, Northbank, Flinders Walk

Work with illustrators Michael Fikaris and Sam Wallman to unpack this question and present answers in writing, drawing, ink and paint on paper. Works will be published as a collected digest and distributed with the Refugee Art Project.

Workshops will take place with young people at Signal and young asylum seekers in detention centres throughout Victoria.

Bookings: 8696 5400,
signal@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Using E-resources from Home

State Library, 328 Swanston St
June 6 - August 13

Victorian State Library members can enjoy online access to thousands of journals, databases, ebooks, music and more - all absolutely free.

Bookings available via Ph: 8664 7099,
inquiries@slv.vic.gov.au

Eastenders Coffee Club

Third Tuesday of the month

Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed.

10am, Pomodoro Sardo Restaurant, Cnr Lonsdale St and Jones Lane.

www.residents3000.com.au/2015/02/16/eastenders-coffee-club-2/



Writing workshop - Catherine Deveny

June 17, 6-8pm
City Library, 253 Flinders Lane

Writing Narrative Non-fiction with Catherine Deveny:
- How do you write a compelling true story?

Bookings: www.eventbrite.com.au

Nuclear Energy: Should it be Included in the Mix?

June 11, 7-8.15pm, The Royal Society of Victoria | 8 LaTrobe St

Free. Join the Royal Society of Victoria as we confront the contentious issue of nuclear energy - the science and the politics. Highly contested as a safe, clean alternative to fossil fuels, nuclear power has seen its share of controversy and tragedy over the past half-century with severe disasters at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Bookings: Ph: 9663 5259, rsv@sciencevictoria.com.au

National Seniors Productive Ageing Forum

June 23, 10.30am - 3pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Planning for a successful retirement? Hear from experts in the field at the National Seniors Productive Ageing Forum. The 2015 forum will host a range of interesting guest speakers including Leadership Victoria, Seniors Law, University of New South Wales, Municipal Association of Victoria, Melbourne School of Design and the Department of Human Services.

Bookings: 9650 6144, vicevents@nationalseniors.com.au

Penang Art Society

June 1-12, Space@Collins, Unit 10, Level 1, 278 Collins St

This year, Penang Art Society will showcase its first ever overseas art exhibition here in Melbourne.

Free. No bookings required.

PRAYER TIMES

St Michael's

120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000

Ph: 9654 5120

Church times:

Sunday Service at 10.00am

Free organ recitals at 1.00pm on Thursdays.

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

Chabad of Melbourne

Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St

Ph: 9525-9929

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

City on a Hill

Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm.

Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central

Collins Street Baptist Church

174 Collins St

Ph: 9650 1180

Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm

Hillsong City Youth

Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne

- Every Friday 7pm-9pm

Holy Cross Orthodox Mission

261/265 Spring St

Ph: 9639 0260

Scots' Church

156, Collins St

Ph: 9650 9903

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

St Francis' Church

326 Lonsdale St | 9663 2495

Sunday: 7, 8, 9, 11 am (St Francis' Choir) and 12.30, 1.30, 4.30, 6.00 pm

Filipino Community Mass: Second Sunday of the month at 2.30pm

Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm

St Paul's Cathedral

Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets

Ph: 9653 4333

Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm (Choral Evensong)

St. Augustine's Catholic Church

631 Bourke St. Melb.

Ph: 9614 1722

Sundays Mass 10.30am & 8.00pm

Mon-Fri Mass 1.05pm

Mon - Fri Confessions 12.30pm

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