

The voice of postcode 3000

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The sky is NOT the limit. The sewer is!

The CBD's sewerage system can't cope with projected growth and will have to be upgraded.

City West Water says the current system could not deal with projected growth, but it will be working with the City of Melbourne and other relevant planning authorities to future-proof the ageing infrastructure.

The Hoddle Grid currently hosts 20,000 residential homes and a further 29,000 apartments are either under construction, applied for, approved or mooted.

The water authority says residential growth is only part of the equation.

"The Hoddle Grid is a complex section of the network because many buildings within Melbourne's CBD house a mix of both commercial and domestic (residential) tenants," a spokesperson said.

"This means that they use water and our sewer system in different ways. However, the number of dwellings is only one consideration in the sizing of infrastructure. Holding major events in the CBD needs to be built into considerations of capacity, as do the different seasons."

All of us can see the effects of population pressure on CBD traffic and pedestrian use. Some 800,000 people travel to the CBD on an average day.

And, with a finite amount of public space, there is a physical limit to growth.

So too, is there a physical limit on the subterranean services such as storm water, sewerage, potable water and, to a lesser degree, gas, electricity and telecommunications.

The complexity and extent of subterranean services was a major factor in the Metro Rail Authority's recent decision to opt for a deeper, more expensive, alignment for its rail tunnels under Swanston St. It was simply too hard to move the labyrinth of pipes, tunnels and cables.

City West Water points out that a large proportion of its water and sewerage system dates back to the 19th century. It stands to reason that, as the oldest part of Melbourne, the CBD has more than its fair share of ageing infrastructure.

A spokesperson said: "City West Water's water and sewerage system includes some of the oldest sewers in Melbourne, with a large portion constructed in the late 1800s."

"The existing sewers do not have sufficient capacity to service the ultimate growth outlined in the City of Melbourne's Development Activity Monitor and upgrade works will be required overtime."

"We will work with the City of Melbourne and relevant planning authorities to ensure future-proofing of our infrastructure and that it meets the needs of population growth."



Have an eggcellent Easter!

From Core Realty Team

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CBD NEWS Residents are a low priority for council election

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News* works for advertisers because
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By Shane Scanlan

***If you are a CBD resident,
the chances are you won't be
voting in the council election to
be held later this year, but your
landlord probably will.***

Fewer than a quarter of the CBD's residents appear to be enrolled to vote and, even then, there is little confidence in the accuracy of the roll.

According to the Victorian Electoral Commission, at the most recent count only 7316 locals were on the roll. No one knows how many people live in the CBD, but estimates range between 30,000 and 40,000 and we know that there are now 20,000 homes here.

Under the current rules, a resident must apply to be enrolled to vote. Property owners, on the other hand, are enrolled automatically via the City of Melbourne's rates data.

Critics of the current system say there are many ways it unfairly favours business

and non-resident landlord interests at the expense of local residents.

Business voters are actively pursued and council officers are currently surveying the municipality to ensure all eligible business occupiers are enrolled.

In a move that will somewhat address this imbalance, the council will later in the year write to residential addresses where it knows no one is enrolled.

But history shows that residents play only a small part in City of Melbourne elections.

In 2012, the municipality had a residential population of about 110,000 but only 43,789 were enrolled to vote at the council election that year. Residential representation made up only 40.3 per cent of the voter roll in 2012.

Also in 2012, less than 60 per cent of enrolled voters bothered to cast a ballot at all.

It has been estimated that only 16 per cent of the total enrolled voters in the City of Melbourne can these days be "door-knocked". These voters are generally residents living in the more-established residential areas such as Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington, East Melbourne and South Yarra.

In the CBD (and other urban renewal areas such as Southbank and Docklands), residential voters generally live in "gated" communities and also no longer use land-lines so they can't be contacted via the phone book.

Adding further to the disproportionate representation are entrenched transience and extremely high levels of overseas-born, language-challenged residents in urban renewal areas like the CBD.

Reaching these people and encouraging them to, firstly, enroll and then vote is increasingly difficult for residentially-focused candidates.

Expensive Australia Post delivered addressed mail is only really an option for the well-funded campaigns (did I hear anyone mention developer contributions?).

It also appears that hyper-local newspapers like this one are not on the radar of the advertising purchasing authorities.

For local residents, it is most likely that the October 22 City of Melbourne election will pass you by. You are too hard to reach for those who want your vote - which is exactly the way those who don't want you to vote would like it to stay.

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Pedestrian subway may re-open

The City of Melbourne has pledged \$750,000 to investigate the re-opening of a subway between Little Collins St and Southern Cross Station.

According to a council spokesperson, the tunnel formed part of the passenger subway through the former Spencer Street Station, before it was redeveloped as Southern Cross Station.

“Council has agreed to allocate funding in the current capital works budgets to investigate the feasibility of re-establishing a connection to an existing tunnel which runs under Spencer St and which could connect the station frontage to Little Collins St,” the spokesperson said.

One of the original entrances to the tunnel is still in place on Little Collins St, but is blocked off from entry.

According to the council spokesperson, the disused subway now supports a number of service and utility ducts for the station.

“This area of central Melbourne sees high and increasing volumes of pedestrian traffic and an additional way for pedestrians to cross Spencer St is seen as desirable, if it’s found to be feasible,” the spokesperson said.

Public Transport Users Association spokesperson Daniel Bowen said the organisation welcomed the City of Melbourne’s investigation.



The entrance to the former railway station pedestrian subway in Little Collins St.

“While we understand parts of the old subway are used for services, vehicles and storage, there does seem to be potential for a partial re-opening to pedestrians, so we welcome the City of Melbourne investigation into whether it is possible,” Mr Bowen said.

“There is regular congestion for pedestrians along Bourke and Collins streets waiting to cross Spencer St to enter the station, with people at times overflowing onto the road.”

“Adjustment of traffic light sequences could help, but re-opening at least the section of

the subway under the road would provide an alternative way into the station, in much the same way as the Degraves St subway provides an additional route into Flinders Street Station,” he said.

The council’s investigation will involve a street survey, geotechnical and utility investigations along with de-gassing works and is expected to be completed by mid-year.

Music event to be reviewed

Federation Square will review the soon-to-conclude Sunday afternoon season of Piknic Électronik before making a decision on its future.

The weekly musical event has generated complaints from people living in Flinders St towers adjacent to the “Paddock” area across the railway lines.

Federation Square CEO Ron Gauci told *CBD News* that a thorough review would be conducted before any decision on a future season would be considered.

Residents and Federation Square are in dispute about the actual sound levels generated by the event.

Mr Gauci said sound engineers had assured him that the noise was within acceptable limits, but he couldn’t say specifically what the decibel reading was.

108 Flinders St building manager Danny Gerrard said he measured the Sunday afternoon sound at more than 75 decibels outside the building during the event, but only 65 decibels was permitted.

A resident of 108 Flinders St said he would sell his home and move rather than endure another season of Piknic Électronik.

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Councillors prickly over accusations

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne is removing itself from the high-level decisions which will determine the viability of its Victoria Market redevelopment.

It voted on March 8 to refer its somewhat controversial planning amendment C245 to an independent panel, which, in turn, will make recommendations to Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The council wants to abolish building height restrictions around the market so it can cash in on its two large adjacent development sites. Should it not get what it wants, it stands to lose tens of millions of dollars.

The council has been surprised by the large number of criticisms of its proposed planning amendment. Some 156 submissions were received, with very few offering favourable feedback.

There were numerous categories of criticism. Traffic, heritage, density, height, amenity, parking – the usual suspects. The comments were unforgiving, but none were acknowledged by council management as meritorious and no changes will be made to the draft planning amendment to go before the expert panel.

The accusation that did get under councillors' skins was "conflict of interest", with many councillors lining up to defend their position at the March 8 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

They should not have been surprised by this charge. While their cynically-professional consultations asked people about a lot of the "feel good" issues, they have never asked the public how they felt about the council funding the development via land speculation resulting in reduced amenity for residents to the immediate south.

Submitter's responses to the proposed planning amendment were sanitised by council management before being included in the public report to the council on the matter.

However, it is clear that submitters such as Mary Lou Howie, Elizabeth Grgacic, Mick Brancatisano, Sarah Butterfield, Anna Epstein, Boo Radly (sic), Jillian Bamforth, Louis Christou, Richard Stevenson and the Friends of the Queen Victoria Market believe the council has a conflict of interest.



Aerial view of the Queen Victoria Market - image Google Earth

Ms Howie's submission was summarised as: "Development of council-owned land around the market is driving the proposed market 'renewal' rather than the reverse. Submitter has no faith in the motives for the changes. Donations from property developers to election campaign funds have muddied the waters somewhat and the submitter is suspicious of the council's drive for the changes proposed in the amendment."

The Friends of the Market said: "There is a conflict in that the council is the proponent for the market redevelopment as well as the amendment and is also the responsible authority for any future approvals."

At the March 8 meeting Queen St property owner Peter Papageorgiou asked: "Should the council be permitted to make these decisions seeing that it is the responsible authority and, at the same time, has a major interest in this site?"

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert articulated the councillors' response: "Under the Act it is very clear that council does not have a conflict of interest. We are not, by the way, acting as responsible

authority for any application. We're acting as the planning authority at the moment. Council, as a whole does not have a conflict of interest."

However, he acknowledged a clear perception of conflict.

"Certainly there's a perception of a conflict because we are changing the built form controls and two large sites in this area we own. And if you consider that we own the market itself, then it's more than two," he said.

"Officers have recommended that we give as much authority to the independent planning authority as possible to consider all submissions, to consider the council draft planning scheme amendment and to give us their very best advice as to whether or not council is going down the right path."

Cr Leppert also addressed the suggestion that council's rejection of all the arguments in the 156 submissions was evidence it was "railroading" through its own position.

"I don't think that's the case. I think that the stronger argument here is that it is fair that the independent planning panel considers

all submissions on their merits."

"There's a big theme coming through here that council needs to be very careful about perceptions of conflict. And we do," he said.

Finance chair, Cr Stephen Mayne, said: "We didn't own the Munro site when we first publicly articulated our vision for the changed height regime on that site. So we didn't control the fact that the private owner put it to market. We said we were an interested buyer and we publicly disclosed our vision for how controls might work on that site and then we won at a competitive auction. With the other site, we don't actually have title at the moment."

"It's not as if council had two long-term holdings abutting the market and said: 'right, this is how we do it'"

"We didn't own either and negotiated in both situations to improve our options to have greater control on development abutting the market and to help fund a \$250 million spend."

"If we didn't have some asset realisation from both those parcels, we'd be jacking the rates up a lot more and slugging ratepayers to deliver the biggest spending capital project in council's history."

"So it is a part of the financing plan, but we're very respectful of the controls that need to be there."

"You say we may have a conflict, but we are not the decision-maker. In my view, that perceived conflict is managed by referring to the panel for its independent advice and by having a separate decision maker."

Cr Jackie Watts offered: "This is a regrettable position that we find ourselves in that we have to defend ourselves to our constituents so long and hard. Do we have conflict? Don't we have conflict? This is a very fraught position in which we find ourselves."

Cr Arron Wood countered: "I feel extremely comfortable in the integrity and independence of the process and the role that council is playing on behalf of our ratepayers."

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Locals will be able to transact with VicRoads following the opening of a new office at 113 Exhibition St on March 21.

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A concierge will greet customers upon arrival and direct them to parts of the store based on the complexity of their transaction, such as the self serve or "fast lane" service areas.

Team members will be available to guide customers through transactions at the digital kiosk, equipping them with the knowledge and experience to complete their request online in future should they wish, saving them time and effort in travelling to a customer service centre.

There will be no vehicle inspections or drive tests at this location.

The hub@exhibition is estimated to serve up to 800 Victorians daily and will operate from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday to better suit the needs of customers.



When Irish eyes are smiling

These three "Colleens" were getting into the spirit of things when CBD News called into The Irish Times in Little Collins St on St Patrick's Day. Photo: Barry C Douglas.

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Reflections on VCAT and CBD residents' rights: the hearing on 109-111 Little Lonsdale St

By Bill Allan (Wesley Historic Precinct Action Group)

I attended the three-day (February 29 – March 2) VCAT hearing on the Brady Jones Pty Ltd application for review against the refusal by the City of Melbourne (CoM) to grant a permit for construction of a 20-storey residential hotel at 109-111 Little Lonsdale St.

RMIT research has shown that developers who are refused permits and take the case to VCAT have more than a 70 per cent chance of getting their permit approved. It is likely their chances are higher in the CBD.

The Brady hearing revealed much about why such a result remains likely under the present rules, but it also gave some hope that the overwhelming balance in favour of developers could (and certainly should) change in the future.

Three aspects of this hearing stood out. Firstly, both permitted parties (the council and the applicant) as well the (two-person) tribunal showed a high degree of professional competence throughout. Secondly, the council presented a strong case that took into account discussions of concerns with residents of Regency Towers. Thirdly, however, the process, as well as its inherent bias against city residents, seemed a very inefficient way of managing a complex array of planning information and concerns.

The applicant's counsel, supported by four expert witnesses, was extremely experienced and very familiar with Brady Group proposals, including the VCAT approved

permit for the adjacent site on the adjoining 113-115 Lonsdale St site.

The applicant's case depended heavily on precedents set by earlier tribunal decisions with regard to CBD residential amenities. These were presented as effectively defining very low standards for outlook amenity expectations for city apartments. Counsel cited from the tribunal decision with respect to its decision on 113-115 Little Lonsdale St:

Para 28: "We acknowledge that some north facing apartments in Regency Towers will experience a loss of views as a consequence of (its construction). The views, however, will not be obliterated"... (because the relevant apartments also face west).

Para 31: "We accept Ms Hansen's evidence that the affected apartments will continue to receive a level of daylight which is acceptable in a central city context."

These and other decisions were interpreted by counsel as setting a de facto standard for outlook of close to zero, which could then be described as acceptable for CBD residents.

Applicant's counsel also strenuously denied any application of Amendment C262, the amendment to the Melbourne Planning Scheme (MPS) introduced in September 2015. He was undoubtedly correct in denying full application of prescribed podium heights and setbacks.

However, earlier tribunal decisions regarding acceptable levels of outlook amenity were matters of tribunal judgement, which it could be argued, should be opened to fresh examination in the light of the intentions of Amendment C262.

The council's case against the applicant was very ably presented and gave much more weight to the need to define residents' rights than in the past. The opening case was made using the city's Geographic Information System (GIS) 3D mapping tool – the imagery provided an overview including other

buildings proposed in the area. It showed the 109-111 proposal in the context of the already approved permit for 113-115 Little Lonsdale, as well as a 39-storey, mixed-use building proposed by the Wesley Uniting Church which would run the entire length of Jones Lane, only 7.5 to 10 metres away from the western side of Regency Towers.

This latter building is still subject to decision and is outside the scope of the hearing, but the GIS showed clearly the need for the amenity impact of individual applications to be examined in the context of overall neighbourhood development.

The need to apply existing policy in the context of the site and its neighbours was central to the council's case. With regard to interface with the northern side of Regency Towers the development was argued as being simply too close to the boundary and would reduce outlook and light into existing apartments unacceptably.

In the case of 113-115, it had been argued that the need for offsetting was lessened where habitable rooms do not directly face one another. But no offsetting was proposed for 109-111 – habitable rooms would directly face one another with only six metres separation, even less (4.5 metres) between the new tower and north-facing balconies.

Neither the existing MPS nor C262 define amenity rights, but C262 certainly opens both the need to define such rights clearly and the possibility of doing so. Past tribunal judgements, based only on opinion, can thus be questioned. The tribunal will decide on the basis of these and other detailed arguments and supporting documentation.

My third point, however, is that the process of presenting and contesting evidence to the tribunal was extremely cumbersome and depended heavily on rapid perusal of a wide range of printed building plan diagrams, not all of which corresponded to the latest agreed plan.

In contrast, the GIS presentation, while not yet fully developed, allowed a three-dimensional overview of all proposed and existing buildings in the area and showed the relationships of buildings and streetscapes from any chosen perspective.

It does not, at present, incorporate all building form data from the plans, but these can and should be incorporated. Virtually all disagreements between parties in this case could have been illustrated by a more complete GIS presentation, likely with less possibility of dispute and savings in time.

In principle, therefore, the City of Melbourne in conjunction with state planning could establish its GIS as a database incorporating the latest approved plans by developers. Its use could be made a compulsory part of permit applications and, in the event of disagreement between developers and the CoM, these data could be reviewed in their entirety by VCAT tribunals to give a clear oversight of the merits of each case.

Such a development could very substantially improve the efficiency of VCAT hearings and the reliability of information put before VCAT. Possibly VCAT itself could demand that all disputed development plans should be presented in this way.

Residents should also have access to GIS information when development plans are submitted for approval. The CoM, developers, and residents could then develop a shared vision for future Melbourne based on a clear picture of the collective impact of developers proposals and their relation to city planning objectives.

CBD residents surely should not continue to be shut out of this process. All resident groups should therefore continue to press for greater access to planning information and demand a clear definition of amenity rights for present and future CBD residents as part of completing the CBD Built Form planning process associated with amendment C262.

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Moving pictures arrive in the CBD

By Ella Gibson

Sit back and let the cinema come to you, or hop on a bike and travel with it.

Projector Bike – a concept executed by Joseph Norster and Lee Ramseyer-Bache and run by These Are The Projects We Do Together – is a custom-designed three wheeled cargo bicycle complete with a high-powered projector and stereo system, which enables images and films to be shown in locations around the city.

Operating on the last Friday of every month, and in various festivals and events throughout the year, the mobile cinema screens emerging films.

Projector Bike tends to stick to the arts district, or stop in locations like Argyle Square, but occasionally rides through the CBD. In February it screened in Federation Square after riding up along the river.

The February screening coincided with the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival and so were decidedly food themed, with titles including *I Am Pasta* and *Odin's Afterbirth*.

As they are incredibly mobile, it can be difficult maintaining audience numbers.



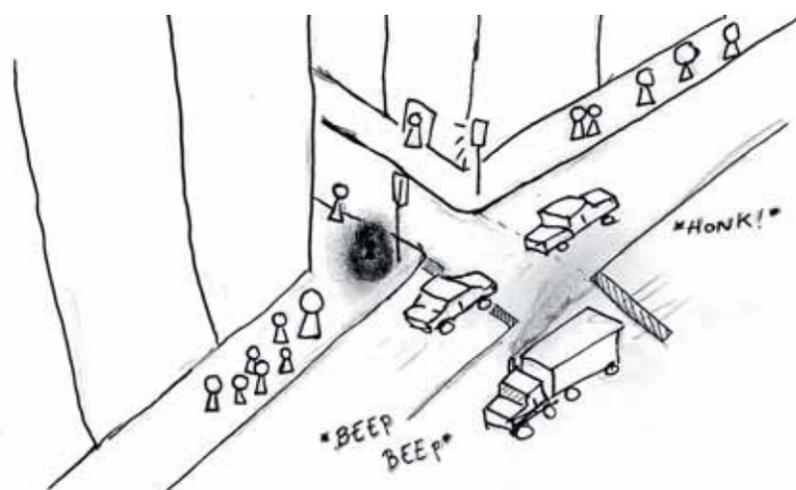
They mostly rely on a combination of word of mouth and social media, preferring to use Twitter for location updates.

"It's very much a gamble, a lot of it is word of mouth," Mr Ramseyer-Bache said. "We don't advertise. The work that we do with local council and arts festivals helps to build our audience. It can be 20 people one week, 50 the next."

However, the mobility of the project means that they can, literally, seek new audiences.

Mr Norster, who works as a lighting designer, is interested in using the concept of utilising lighting to occupy public space and explore how we interact with our environment.

"We became interested in trying to reoccupy space using film, and in taking back public space and challenging what that is," Mr Ramseyer-Bache said.



Out of place

By Rhonda Dredge

Budding urban artist Shimon Shoul visited the CBD last month to record his impressions in black ink.

He got himself lost for an hour near Melbourne Central and discovered what it was like to feel out of place.

"Here I am, on a street corner in the city, alone and helpless," he wrote. "I don't know where I'm going. Cars and trucks are booming across the streets. My friends have run off to the movies."

Instead of panicking, Shimon imagines how he looks from above and returns

home to create a mysterious presence that is more like a smudge than a human. While other pedestrians lock into their predictable grids like pieces on a chess board, Shimon could be a portal into another world.

The 13-year-old student from Richmond uses his illustrations as prompts for his narratives. His representation of the city is an imaginative recreation of how he felt while trying to find his way back home.

The city is a highly structured place that he resists. Lights flash, cars beep, trucks spew out smoke and buildings tower above him. Only those with a purpose are offered an entrance.

A student at EduKingdom College in Richmond, Shimon takes photographs and does sketches from corners of the city for assignments in visual communication.

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Your local comedy festival guide

By Michael Burke

Don't just throw your hands in the air and yell "forget it!"

Take a chance and try out a new show, something you haven't heard of before. There are some wonderful venues around town to try, my favourite independent venue is Tuxedo Cat. There you will find exciting independent shows with my favourite vibe all festival.

Paring this list down to a few names is very difficult. There are about 400 Australians playing the festival, and numerous internationals. If a friend recommends a show this festival, go see it. If they don't, I have some sneaky recommendations of shows that you mightn't have heard of, but definitely need to.

(Eight shows in eight venues, in no particular order)

Laura Davis: Marco. Polo. 9.30pm (8.30pm, Sundays) ACMI. March 24 - April 17. \$20-\$25

Laura Won the Golden Gibbo in 2015 (for Best Independent Show). It was an absolute favourite of mine, combining wonderfully dark comedy and thought to perfection. A show about trust and finding connection in people.

For: *Lovers of stand-up with a thoughtful twist. Must see.*



The Doug Anthony All Stars launch the 2016 on March 21.

Juan Vesuvius Calypso Nights: Juan, Two? 9.45pm (8.45pm, Sundays) Roxanne. March 24 - April 17. \$21-\$27

Calypso Nights was one of my top five shows of 2015. You find yourself delving into the depths of calypso music with Juan. Absurd character comedy combined with DJing will have you dancing. Very fun, great for anyone who loves a party.

For: *Those who love music and character comedy.*

Mike Goldstein: Does Words Good. 10pm. Fort Delta. March 23 - April 16. \$20

Mike has toured all over Australia with his stand-up. Brash and blunt comedy. Part American part Australian comedian. Jokes you'll want to steal and to tell your friends.

For: *Those who want solid no frills stand-up. Not for those who get easily offended.*

Ben Russell and Xavier Michelides: Nö Shöw. 11.15pm. Imperial Hotel. March 23 - April 17. \$15-\$20

Ben and Xavier are two wonderfully absurd character comics. Ben won critics hearts in 2015 with his hit show *Tokyo Hotel* that travelled to Edinburgh. Xavier is part skit part stand-up. Madness, despair and failure are all themes here.

For: *Those who want sketch and brilliant laughter, but also want to think.*

Impromptunes: The Completely Improvised Musical. 7pm (6pm Sunday). Trades Hall. March 24 - April 3. \$20-\$24

The Impromptunes show that having an idea is simple. Give them a name of show that has never been seen before, and they will make an improvised musical from it. Hilarious and wonderfully clever. A tight group of performers. I hate musicals and I loved it.

For: *Those wanting to see some improv comedy and musical theatre, for anyone.*

Penny Greenhalgh Piranha Banana: Llamarama. 9.45pm (8.45pm Sunday). Forum Theatre. April 5 - April 17. \$15-\$20

I saw Penny at Adelaide Fringe 2015, since then she has been nominated for and won many awards. She is a Gaulier-school-trained clown. Really physical comedy, excited to see what her second show brings.

For: *Those looking for physical comedy, with a twist.*

Neal Portenza: Tracey. 9.30pm (8.30pm Sundays). Melbourne Town Hall. March 24 - April 17. \$18-\$24.

Every single one of Neal's shows is the most psychotic experience I have ever endured. Don't go into this show as a passive observer. You are the show. Prepare for potentially the most exhilarating show of the festival ... or the most confusing.

For: *Those who want to be active participants (really active participants).*

Clara Cupcakes: Hot Patootie. Butterfly Club. 8.30pm. March 22 - April 3. \$25-\$32.

A choose your own adventure show. Nominated for the Golden Gibbo in 2015. It is burlesque, it is costumes, it is comedy, it is fun. The Butterfly Club is also a venue to see, if you haven't been there.

For: *Those wanting comedy on the side of burlesque. A real treat.*



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#lmcommendations



Frank commended for his bravery

Long-serving Bourke St security guard Frank Nesci was honoured by the Governor-General last month for his bravery.

His Commendation for Brave Conduct was in recognition for picking up a petrol bomb which was thrown into Kosminsky jewellery store on December 17 in 2013.

Mr Nesci said he was standing inside the store at about 3.30pm on the day when a Molotov cocktail was hurled into the store.

"I just heard this 'whoosh' sound and saw flames," he said.

The long-neck, beer-bottle bomb crashed against a store counter, narrowly missing a customer but, luckily did not break.

"I just knew I had to get it outside, so picked it up," he said.

Flaming petrol then burned his hand, but he managed to throw the bottle towards the door. He completed the task by kicking the bomb into the street and proceeded to douse the flames with a store fire extinguisher.

Mr Nesci's commendation was one of 59 awards announced by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove on March 17.

Mr Nesci said he was honoured by the commendation. "It's great to see people working in security being awarded for such actions," he said.

Mr Nesci is well known in Bourke St, where he has spent the last 21 years watching out for the store. No one was ever charged over the offence and the motivation of the bomber remains a mystery.

His employer Kristen Albrecht and her late husband John Lonergan nominated Mr Nesci.

The Australian Bravery Decorations date from the establishment of the Australian honours system, and recognise acts of bravery in other than warlike situations, by people who put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

Nominations are considered by the Australian Bravery Decorations Council, which is an independent advisory body that meets twice a year to consider nominations and make recommendations to the Governor-General for awards. The council, chaired by Dr Penny Flett AO, also recommends the level of awards.



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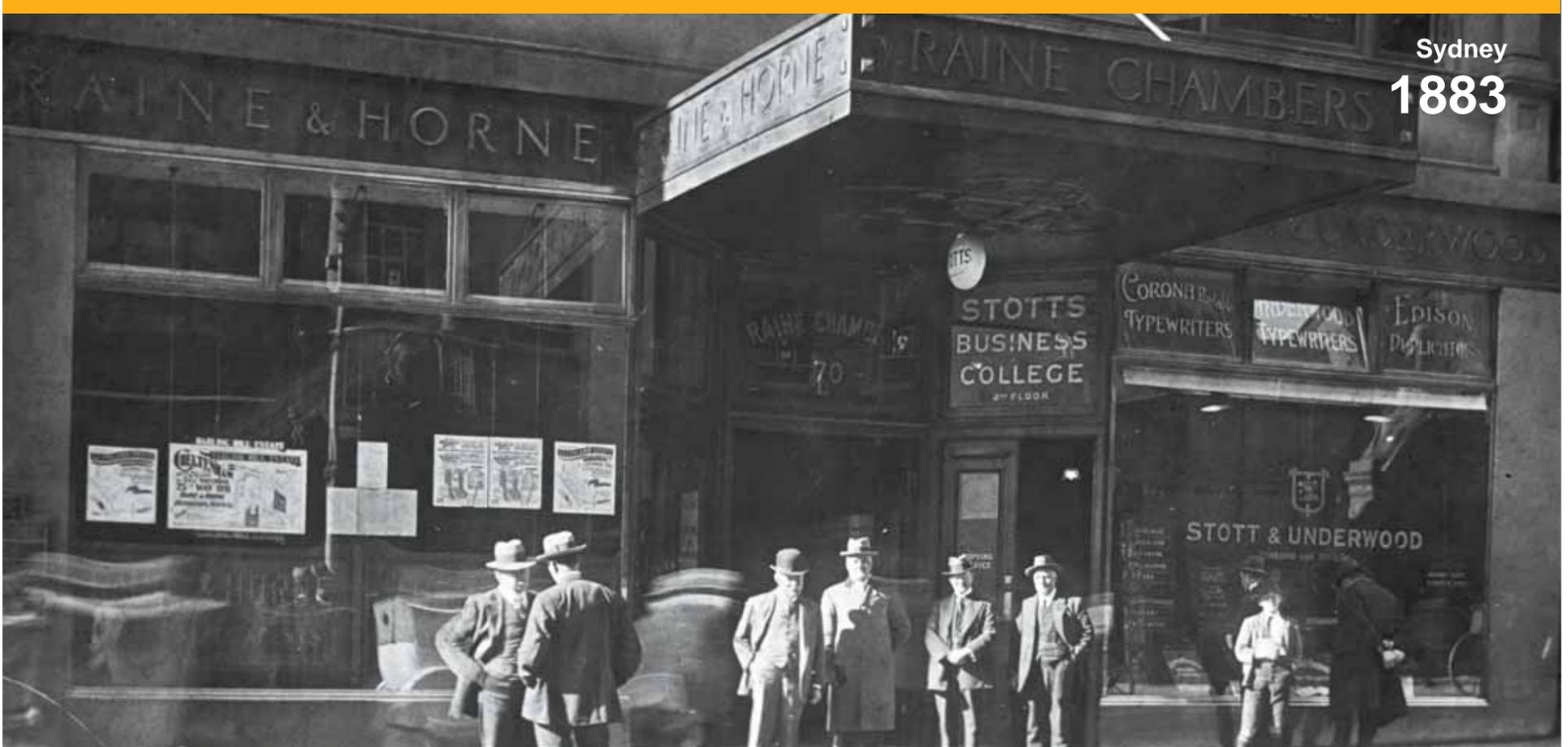
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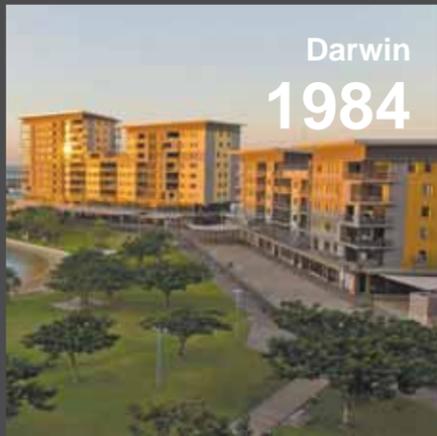


Sydney
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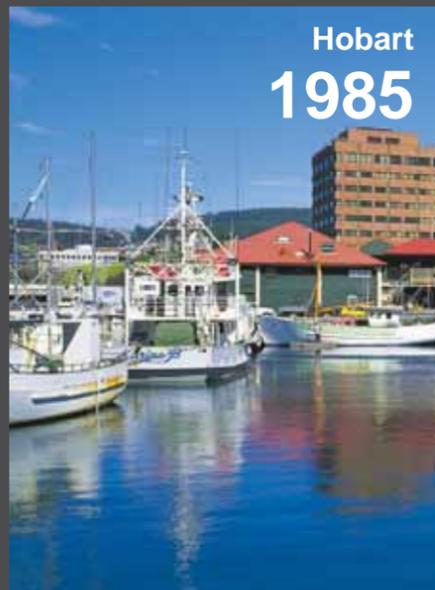
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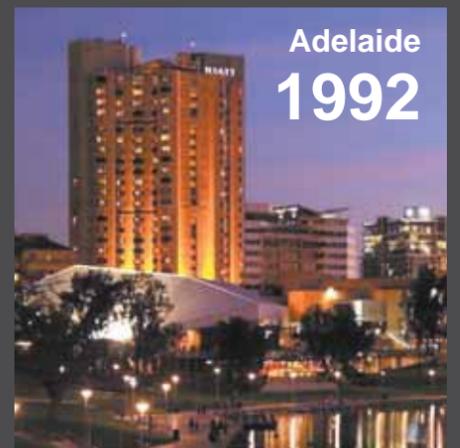
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1997



Hong Kong
1989



Malaysia
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More consolidation proposed

Police presence in the CBD's west looks set to grow, with the State Government considering a plan for a new Victoria Police Centre on Spencer St.

The proposed building at 311 Spencer St would neighbour the existing City West Police Complex at 313 Spencer St.

The proposal, from Australia Post and CBUS Property was put forward under the Government's Market-Led Proposal Guidelines.

If the government agrees to the proposal for the new building, it would replace Victoria Police's current headquarters at the World Trade Centre on Flinders St, the lease for which expires in 2020.

The government has confirmed the proposal has proceeded to stage four (of five) of the market-led proposal process and exclusive negotiation will now commence to determine whether an acceptable agreement can be reached between the parties.

The Valuer-General of Victoria will also consider the proposal throughout stage four to ensure it offers value for money for Victorians.

Property crime drives local statistics higher

The crime rate within the City of Melbourne has risen slightly since the last quarter.

The quarterly release of crime statistics on March 17 shows an overall increase in total crime in the Melbourne Local Government Area from 32,747 to 33,334 offences.

According to Melbourne West Local Area Commander, Inspector Simon Stevens, the increase was driven by the property crime category, which includes property damage, theft and burglary.

"Although these offences are sometimes viewed as 'victimless' crimes, they do have considerable impacts when it comes to feelings and perceptions of safety," Inspector Stevens said.

On the other hand, the category "crimes against the person" has remained stable over the past 12 months.

"While it's pleasing not to see an increase in this area, there's more work to be done to reduce assaults, robberies and other forms of threatening behaviour," Inspector Stevens said.

"The shared vision of a 24-hour city without violence is achievable if we

can change community acceptance. We'll continue to work with our partners and stakeholders every day to adapt to new trends and risks. But the community plays a role in this too and if we look after each other we can create a safe and enjoyable city."

"I'd also like to touch briefly on the violent acts that played out on our streets in the CBD during Moomba."

"This behaviour was unwelcome to say the very least. No person has the right to create feelings of fear - as many did on that Saturday night."

"Police work hard to create a safe community for those who live, work and visit our great city. We are determined to prevent this activity and those involved from destroying the peace that is Melbourne."

"A taskforce has been established to investigate these incidents and I look forward to seeing the outcome of that investigation."

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LUNCH TIME

LUNCH TIME

AFTER WORK

THE WEEKEND



ACTIVE IN APRIL

We're well versed in how detrimental sitting at a desk all day can be on our physical health. Stepping out of the office for a walk around the block at midday seems like a plausible idea at the start of the day, but before you know it 3 o'clock has rolled around and you've had lunch al desko yet again.

This month, make the commitment to stick to those plans and get out and about for some exercise during the day to complete the Premier's Active April Challenge.

Every day in April, the Premier is encouraging Victorians to get out, get active and enjoy the benefits that come from increased physical activity. Now in its eighth year, Premier's Active April challenges Victorians to step up the amount of physical activity in their lives and get more active, more often. And all it takes is 30 minutes a day.

Over 100,000 Victorians participated in Premier's Active April in 2015 and that number is set grow in 2016. The initiative is part of the Victorian Government's



commitment to promote healthy and active lifestyles. Just by registering to take part in Premier's Active April, entrants receive 10 free passes to a participating YMCA, one hour free tennis court hire at Melbourne Park, one free Get into Cardio Tennis session and a selection of discounts and ticket offers from participating businesses.

Stay motivated by getting your work colleagues on board and starting a workplace team. With special prizes up for grabs for the most active workplace, the more team members you can recruit the better! Registered workplace teams also receive a 30 per cent discount offer from Nutrition Australia on their Lunch 'n' Learn sessions.

Organise a calendar of lunchtime group activities for staff to keep motivation levels high and provide easy and accessible ways to

achieve the daily 30-minute goal. The Active April events calendar, accessible via the website, is a great resource to discover local activities close to your workplace. You can also submit your own events to be included on the website, encouraging others to attend.

Be sure to have an indoor option in the event of wet weather. A stair or pedometer challenge is a good alternative for a rainy day and also appeals to the competitive amongst us! Laps of the car park anyone?

Get started by signing up online and log in to the Activity Tracker app to monitor your progress throughout the month. Register your workplace, start recruiting team members and get that running or walking club you've been meaning to start off the ground. Say farewell to lunch al desko and have a successful Active April!

www.activeapril.vic.gov.au



WITH JACQUI MOCEK

lifestyle@cbdnews.com.au
To be featured in this section call 8689 7980

HIGHLIGHTS



River + Stones

Become a traveller, fold a paper boat, carry a stone and contribute your story in this interactive installation developed by artist Rea Dennis.

Open daily from 10am, until April 4.
Immigration Museum, 400-424 Flinders St, tickets \$14, 13 11 02



Reawakenings

Join experts to learn about the revival of Victorian Aboriginal Languages and the impact these programs hold in maintaining the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

2pm - 3pm, Thursday, April 14. State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston St, free, 8664 7099



Imagining Victory

Australian artist Richard Bell seeks to expose how racism can be passed on to future generations in this solo exhibition featuring recent video projects.

11am - 5pm, Monday to Friday, until April 23. RMIT Gallery, 344 Swanston St, free, 9925 1717



PANDA Annual Lunch

Join Matt Tilley, Miki Perkins and panel for lunch and honest conversation to speak the unspeakable about perinatal anxiety and depression.

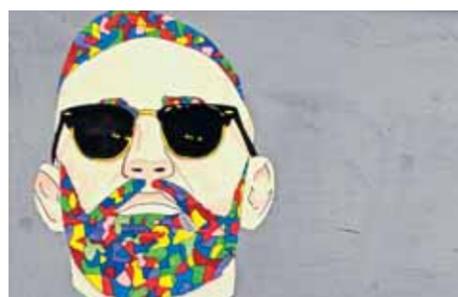
12pm - 2.15pm, Friday, April 15.
Zinc, Federation Square, tickets \$125, info@panda.org.au



StArtUp

StArtUp: Top Arts 2016 presents exceptional works by students who completed Art or Studio Arts for the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

Open daily 10am - 5pm, until July 1.
Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square, free, www.ngv.vic.gov.au



Urban Scrawl

Explore the city's rich street art scene with knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guides. Learn the stories behind the works and artists.

Tours daily 11am - 1pm, from April 10.
Federation Square, tickets \$35, www.urbanscrawl.com.au



DATE NIGHT REIMAGINED

April is as good a time as ever to expand your horizons so why not swap out your local tried-and-tested for something a little different on date night this month?



From the farm to the CBD.



Melt the stress away



Catch a viewing at the Queer Film Festival.



Don't worry, only you can hear the music.

Think of it as an opportunity to tick off the unfailing “try something new” annotation on your new year resolution list.

Instead of dinner and a movie, why not try channelling your inner peace at an Asthanga yoga class or (silent) dancing your way through the CBD? Our city plays host to an array of eclectic events that are bound to satisfy all types and tastes, from the culture vulture to the gastronome to the forever curious. To whet your appetite and open your mind to the possibilities, here's a selection of what's happening around town this month.

Farmers' Markets

For foodies and Masterchef enthusiasts,

the Goldsbrough Lane and CK Farmers' Markets are a sure-fire winner and a feast for the senses. The CK Farmers' Market at The Grand Hyatt is about to wrap up – catch it before it finishes up on April 6 – but the Goldsbrough Lane Market is running weekly until December. Pick up your produce direct from the farm and stay in for a home cooked feast! Goldsbrough Lane Market www.goldsbroughlane.com.au

CK Farmers' Market
www.melbourne.grand.hyatt.com

Yoga in the City

Feel the stress and anxiety of the work day melt away as you relax into an Asthanga yoga class led by Jennifer Castillo at the

Multicultural Hub. Entry by gold coin donation, this economical date night option will improve your flexibility, wellbeing and is a great way to de-stress at the end of the day. Don't forget to bring your own mat and water. Multicultural Hub Melbourne, **9092 1500**.

Melbourne Queer Film Festival

Catch a flick at Australia's largest and longest-running LGBTI-themed film event this month at the 26th annual Melbourne Queer Film Festival. The MQFF presents more than 100 films over 12 days at ACMI in Federation Square. The festival showcases the best in LGBTI features, shorts and documentaries from across the world.

www.mqff.com.au

Guru Dudu's Silent Disco

Don a pair of supplied headphones and follow Guru Dudu on a silent disco through the CBD to a soundtrack of uplifting tunes from the 70s, 80s and 90s combined with hilarious commentary. With spontaneous flash mobbing, interpretive grooving and eccentric improvisation guaranteed, this will be the most liberating and enjoyable walking (dancing) tour you've ever been on.

www.gurududu.org/gigs

With something different happening every night of the week, the only problem you'll encounter now is narrowing down the shortlist!

HIGHLIGHTS



Weekend Wind Down

Friday night drinks. Two happy hours from 5pm with \$5 basic spirits and \$8 select craft beer pints and \$10 pizzas all night! Or choose from the 10 craft beers and ciders on tap and full a la carte menu.

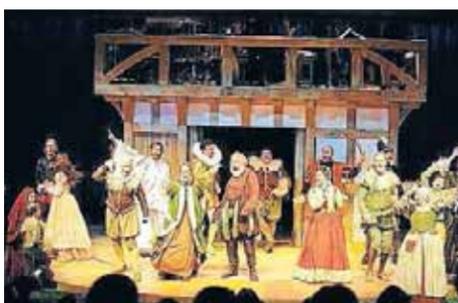
The Metropolitan Hotel, 263 William St
www.metropolitan.melbourne - 9670 1385



Existentialist Society Lecture

Dr Lola Jones presents the Existentialist Society's free public lecture this month, entitled Sex and Lies in Neo-Liberal Times.

8pm - 10pm, Tuesday, April 5.
Unitarian Hall, 110 Grey St,
East Melbourne, free, www.existentialismelbourne.org



Merry Wives of Windsor

Nothing but Roaring presents this classic Shakespeare farce of love, lust and jealousy as part of the worldwide celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death.

7.30pm - 9.45pm, Tuesday to Saturday,
from April 19. Fortyfivedownstairs Inc,
Basement 45 Flinders Ln, tickets \$28 - \$38,
www.fortyfivedownstairs.com



Mundo Lingo

The Mundo Lingo Language and Culture Exchange is a free get-together for language practice and learning with over 350 participants from all corners of the globe.

7pm, Wednesday, until December 28.
European Bier Cafe, 120 Exhibition St,
free, www.mundoling.org/melbourne



Melbourne Queer Film Festival

Now in its 26th year, the Melbourne Queer Film Festival showcases the best of queer cinema from Australia and around the world.

From March 31 until April 11.

ACMI, Federation Square,
www.mqff.com.au



Melbourne Ghost Walk

Explore the CBD's history of haunting and murder and see the city in a different light. This is not your average walking tour!

7pm - 8.45pm, Thursday, until April 15.

Old Treasury Building, 20-70 Spring St,
free, www.m3tours.com.au



THE WEEKEND

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN THE CBD

The city will come alive with activities and events for the young and young at heart alike this month, as we celebrate the culmination of another school term for the little people in our lives. There are a range of free and affordable activities happening around town, and something to keep everyone enthused and entertained.

Federation Square is a one-stop-shop for children of all ages with a packed program of family entertainment planned for the autumn school holidays. There will be dedicated programs running throughout the holidays as well as a rolling Big Screen feature including children's content from ACMI, Australian Teachers of Media and the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

Most of the events are free and will feature a series of dance and drum performances showcasing traditional dance and music from the Pacific Islands, and a collection of giant-sized games in the Square, including Connect Four, Chess and Jenga. www.fedsquare.com/events/school-holidays

ACMI will be hosting their Kids' Flicks series until April 25, and will be screening a selection of children's films at the family friendly ticket price of \$7. Highlights include



ArtPlay involves getting dirty.

Moomins on the Riviera (PG) and Oscar-nominated Song of the Sea (unclassified all ages). www.acmi.net.au/film/kids-flicks

For creative types, ArtPlay at Birrarung Marr is hosting a range of arty and inventive events over the school holiday period. ArtPlay is a space for children of all ages, from babies to 12 year olds, where creativity comes alive and imaginations are encouraged to run wild.

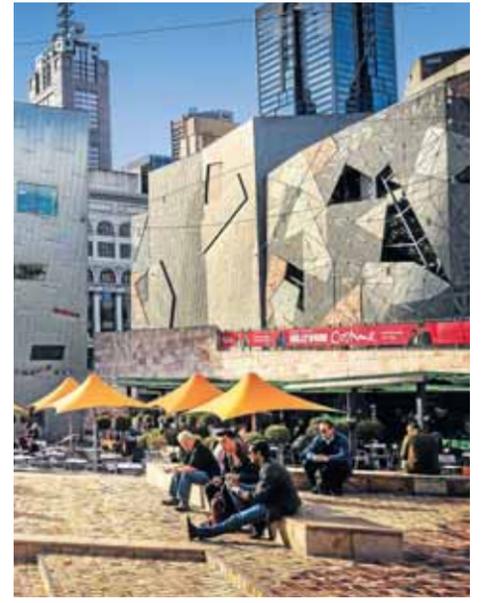
The ArtPlay Autumn school holiday program includes the MSO Ensemble workshop, where children have the opportunity to



You never know who you'll meet at the aquarium.

collaborate with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra to create a new piece of music, and Kitchen Art, which sees the contents of the kitchen cupboard become everyday art materials in this workshop led by artist Chaco Kato. www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/artplay

The Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium has invited some friends to visit during the school holidays and they're pretty cute! The adorable king penguin chicks, Derrick and Arthur, have been dubbed "Melbourne's coolest chicks" and are keeping their parents on their toes as they find their feet on the ice.



Catch the holiday activities at Federation Square.

www.melbourneaquarium.com.au

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival has a selection of family friendly entertainment on offer throughout the holidays, as well as dedicated children's content, including #Improvilicious: The Improvised Guide to the Internet, a 50 minute crash course in all things internet related for tweens and teens. www.comedyfestival.com.au

Pack the snacks, remember to slip, slop, slap and head into the CBD to make the most of the autumn school holidays!

HIGHLIGHTS



Improvilicious

A 50-minute crash course in social media for tweens and teens, #Improvilicious: The Improvised Guide to the Internet is both educational and hilarious.

Daily 12.15pm, except Monday, until April 10. The Powder Room, Melbourne Town Hall, tickets from \$15, www.improvilicious.com.au



Diversity Expo

The Diversity Expo is Australia's first expo for the LGBTI community and brings together businesses and organisations servicing members, friends and family of the community.

10am - 4pm, April 16 and 17. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, tickets \$24, www.diversityexpos.com.au



All that Jazz

Speakeasy HQ presents All that Jazz, a tribute to the legendary musical Chicago, featuring accomplished cabaret and musical artists performed at Australia's only Vaudeville Theatre.

3pm - 5pm, Sunday, from April 3 until April 24. Speakeasy HQ, 377 Little Bourke St, tickets \$25, www.speakeasy-HQ.com



Deadly Funny Final

The Final of the Deadly competition is set to showcase the best new Indigenous talent from around the country who will battle it out for the grand prize.

4pm - 5.30pm, Saturday, April 16. Forum Theatre, Flinders St, tickets from \$15, www.comedyfestival.com.au



Melbourne by Bike

See the city on two wheels using Melbourne's Bikeshare bikes in these small tour groups. With a personalised itinerary, you get to decide where the tour takes you.

Tours daily 10am - 3pm. Federation Square, tickets \$109, www.melbournebybike.com



Improv Against Humanity

Be part of the action in this interactive comedy show that features the popular party game Cards Against Humanity. A must for fans of satire.

9pm - 10pm, Saturday, until April 16. Improv Conspiracy Theatre, L1 19 Meyers Pl, tickets \$20, www.improvconspiracy.com/shows

天空无边无际 公共设施有限

市中心的排水系统无法适应预期增长的需求，将不得不进行升级。

城市西水务局(City West Water)表示，现今的排水系统应付不了预期的增长需求，但是可以和墨尔本市政以及其他相关的规划机构一起工作来面对老化的基础设施。

霍德尔路网(Hoddle Grid)目前已包括2万户居民住宅，另外还将有2.9万户公寓住宅正在建设中、已经申请、已批准或者还在酝酿中。

该水务局表示，住宅增长只是这个网络的其中一部分。

一位发言人说：“霍德尔路网的网络很复杂，因为墨尔本市中心的很多大楼是商用和民用(住宅)租户混合的”。

“这意味着他们的用水和我们的排水系统的方式不同。然而居民住户的数量仅是基础设施规模的一个考量。而市中心在不同的季节举办大型活动的需要也应在考量之中”。

我们都能看到人口增长压力直接影响到对市中心交通和人行道的

的使用。每天平均有80万人来市中心。

由于公共空间有限，所以实际增长也是有限的。

同样，一些地下服务设施，如雨水、排水、饮用水、以及天然气、电力和电信，其实际增长也是有限的。

由于地下设施的规模和复杂因素，导致地铁轨道管理局最近决定选择更深，更昂贵地建造一条与斯旺思顿街(Swanston St)并行的地铁隧道，因为移动像地下迷宫一样的管道，隧道和电缆实在太难了。



市中心居民在市政议会选举中没有优先权

沙恩·斯坎伦 (Shane Scanlan) 撰稿

如果您是市中心(CBD)的居民，您很有可能不会参加今年晚些时候举行的市政议会选举投票，可是您的业主可能会参加。

目前只有不到四分之一的CBD居民注册参加选举投票，即使如此，对这个注册人数的准确性还是缺乏信心的。

据维多利亚州选举委员会最近的统计，只有7316个当地居民注册。没有人知道到底有多少人居住在CBD，但估计在3万至4万人左右。我们知道目前在CBD已有2万家庭住户。

根据现行规定，每个居民必须申请投票注册。然而，业主会通过墨尔本市政费缴纳的数据而自动注册。

对现行制度的批评者说，目前

有很多做法都是不公平的，有利于商家和非居住的物主，而有损于当地居民的利益。

然而，对商家选民却进行积极的倡导，目前市政官员正在调查市区情况，以确保所有符合条件的商家租户注册。

为了在某种程度上解决这种不平衡，市政将在今年晚些时候，对那些还没有人注册的居民住址发信。

历史表明，墨尔本市政议会的历次选举中当地居民只起到了一小部分作用。

2012年，全市大约有11万人口，但只有4.3789万人注册了当年的市政议会选举投票。2012年的选举注册中，居民住户代表仅占40.3%。

弗兰克(Frank)勇敢行动受表彰

上个月，长期任职伯克街(Bourke St)的保安员弗兰克·乃西(Frank Nesci)，由于他的勇敢行动受到了总督的表彰。

2013年12月17日，他勇敢地捡起了一颗被扔进Kosminsky珠宝店的汽油炸弹瓶。

乃西先生说，那天下午3点30分，一枚自制燃烧弹被扔进店铺时，他正好就在店内。

他说：“我当时就听到这个‘嗖’的声音，并看到了火焰。”

这个长颈啤酒瓶炸弹撞到了商铺柜子，差点砸到一个客户，但幸运的是没有被打破。

他说：“我知道我必须把它拿出去，所以就捡起了它”。

已经在燃烧的汽油瓶烧到了他的手，但他还是将炸弹瓶子朝门口扔去，然后将炸弹瓶踢到街上并用商店里的灭火器将火焰扑灭。

对乃西先生的表彰是总督彼得·科斯格罗夫(Peter Cosgrove)



爵士在3月17日宣布的59个奖项之一。

乃西先生说，他很荣幸能受到如此表彰。他说：“作为我们服务于保安行业的人，能为此行动获得如此表彰感到荣耀”。

乃西先生在伯克街享有盛名，他在那儿为商家店铺干了21年的保安工作。这起事件目前还没有提起指控，而且这个扔炸弹的动机至今还是个谜。

市政议员反驳对维多利亚市场重建规划的指责

沙恩·斯坎伦 (Shane Scanlan) 撰稿

墨尔本市政正在转移它对维多利亚市场重建规划可行性的高层决策。

在3月8日的会议上投票决定将其有争议的C245修订规划交由一个独立的专家工作组，然后再向规划厅厅长理查德·怀恩(Richard Wynne)提交修改建议。

市政希望废除在维多利亚市场周围的建筑高度限制，由此可以套现它的两大相邻的开发用地。如果不能如愿以偿，那将意味着会失去数千万澳元的损失。

对此修订规划的大量批评指责，市政已经感到很惊讶。收到了约156份意见书，其中只有极少数意见反馈是好评的。

真正触动了市政议员的指责是“利益冲突”，使得他们在3月8日的未来墨尔本发展委员会会议上纷纷站出来捍卫他们的立场。

意见书提交者玛丽·露·豪维(Mary Lou Howie)、伊丽莎白·格伽赛克(Elizabeth Grgacic)、米克·布兰凯提萨诺(Mick Brancatisano)、莎拉·巴特菲尔德(Sarah Butterfield)、安娜·爱珀斯坦(Anna Epstein)、布·莱得

雷(Boo Radly)(科学家)、吉利安·班佛斯(Jillian Bamforth)、路易·克里斯托(Louis Christou)、理查德·史蒂文森(Richard Stevenson)以及维多利亚女王市场之友会都认为，市政对此有利益冲突。

豪维女士的陈述概括为：“在维多利亚市场周围，市政拥有的土地开发是驱动该市场“重建”的主要因素，而不是相反。意见书提交者已经对这重建的动机没有信心了。原来竞选中捐过款的房地产开发商某种程度上已经搅浑了水，意见书提交者怀疑市政对修正规划作出修改的动因。”

规划厅副厅长罗翰·莱珀特(Rohan Leppert)议员阐述了市政议员的回应：“根据有关法律，很清楚市政没有利益冲突。顺便说一句，我们不是提交申请的主管部门，我们现在只是作为规划部门。市政作为一个整体并没有利益冲突。”

莱珀特议员还阐述了该市政拒绝所有156份提交的意见书中有关这一切都是通过自己的位置来“达到其目的”的指证。

“我不认为是这样的。我认为现在比较公平的是，让一个独立的规划工作组根据所提交的具体案情来处理。”

Spencer街地下人行隧道可能重新开放

墨尔本市政已经承诺出资75万澳元着手调查重新开放Little Collins街和南十字星(Southern Cross)火车站之间的地下人行隧道。

据市政发言人说，该隧道是原Spencer街火车站乘客地下通道的一部分，这个车站后来重建为南十字星火车站。

该市政发言人说：“市政已经同意在目前资金预算中拨出一

定的款项，用于对Spencer街下面现有的人行隧道重新开放的可行性调查，此人行隧道将连接南十字星火车站正门与Little Collins街。”

人行隧道原先的一个入口处仍然在Little Collins街上，但已被封闭。

据市政发言人说，未被使用的地下人行隧道现在还提供车站的部分服务和公共管道。

For Ian, Melbourne is the one and only

By Ella Gibson

Having lived in the CBD for the past 22 years, Ian Taylor has seen his fair share of change.

“It was a very different place,” he said. “The weekends were absolutely quiet. The department stores were not open on a Sunday and, from memory, were only open Saturday morning. There wasn’t a supermarket in the CBD – 7/11 didn’t exist.”

Mr Taylor works as an owners’ corporation manager and has managed a large number of buildings in the CBD.

“When I moved into the city I did some research and, at that stage, there were 650 residences approximately in the CBD, which was virtually nothing ... now look at how many there are.”

He said seeing some of the older buildings disappear was disappointing.

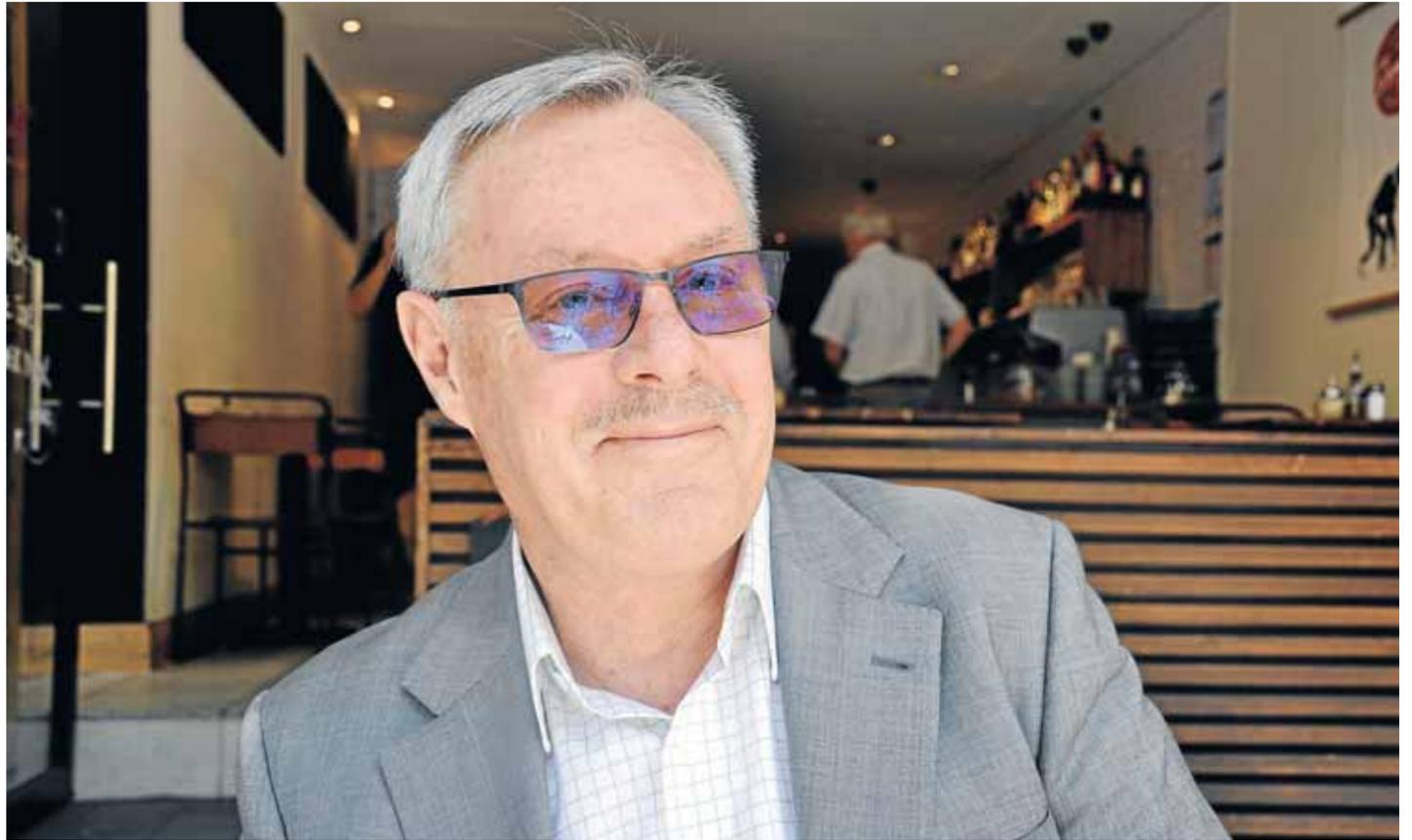
“There are some lovely older buildings that have been taken down. They added to the atmosphere and the character of the city,” he said.

Although busy cities often run the risk of becoming isolating, Ian said the CBD encouraged a broader community.

“I’ve maintained friendships with people that have lived in the city over that 20-year period. You don’t see them every day of the week but you bump into them and you stop and have a coffee, or sit and have a drink and catch up.”

He finds that living alone in a city as busy as Melbourne is quite liberating. One of the perks is never getting bored.

“There is so much to do now – there can be some weeks where the greatest trip out of the



CBD is to the South Melbourne Market!” he said.

Living in the city also comes with downsides. In Mr Taylor’s opinion, one of the worst is the increasing number of people sleeping rough on the streets.

“We encourage a lot of tourists and people to come into the city, and for them to have to be constantly confronted (with this) I find objectionable. One can’t object to those people and their situation, of course,” he said, adding: “There has got to be something that our authorities, our council or our state government can do to assist to encourage these people to move to shelters. There’s got to be a better life for them.”

When it all gets too much, Ian said that it was nice to retreat to the country. “I like having weekends out in the country in absolute silence, because there’s never silence in the city!” he said. “Whether it’s building works or machinery or trams. You tend to turn off to that, I don’t hear it or worry about it any more.”

His favourite sightseeing spots include the Eureka Tower, but “not on the Edge ... I’m not overly good with heights,” he admitted.

“I certainly wouldn’t take visitors to the Melbourne Star. It’s in the wrong spot. I’d take people to some of the cafes in the laneways, and I’d go to the banks of the Yarra and Southbank – there are some nice views

of the city from there.”

Given the option to live anywhere else in the world, he’d choose Melbourne every time.

“I have no desire or interest to live overseas – I love visiting, but Melbourne’s the one,” he said.

“Convenience has got a lot to do with it. Melbourne has a brilliant transport system compared with some other cities in the world. The variety of food that’s available, the variety of entertainment that’s available – it’s all top-notch ... and you can’t get a good coffee anywhere else.”

Critic

Small discoveries

By Rhonda Dredge

A romantic artist connects the viewer to something that is not quite visible. It might be a lighthouse just over the next hill or an exhibition down a small flight of stairs.

Two painters at Fort Delta in the Capitol Arcade have included philosophical prompts as platforms for their work. Gervaise Netherway has shown eight paintings in a free-form lyrical style that have no particular starting points.

The destination has been the completion of the series. It is up to the viewer to pick this final resting place.

The other painter Ieuan Weinman has shown four depictions of the same scene, a railway cutting near the zoo. Scenes are meticulously painted in a grid from photographs. A reference from Zizek is provided.

Two copies of Zizek’s 2014 book are freely available on the shelves of Melbourne Uni for the determined art-lover. How can the connections be made?

Zizek’s writing is lucid and his ideas wide-ranging. He provides a definition of an event as a moment when a shift in knowledge occurs.

A critic looks for flaws in an argument. One is found in the cited chapter from *Absolute*

Recoil. The metaphor has been wrongly coupled with tragedy when it belongs to romance.

References for the urban artist are more likely to be baroque ceilings, European philosophical treatises or perspective shifts on the internet than recognisable places from life.

A work can connect viewers with these global spaces, opening up meaning, or it can turn them off. It can have a joke at viewers’ expense by playing with expectations or invite them into the process of art-making.

These artists have bravely attempted the latter feat in an exhibition that provides small discoveries for those who like more than visual data in their art.



Gervaise Netherway and Ieuan Weinman are showing at Fort Delta, Capitol Arcade, until March 26.

Pet's Corner

The accidental spread of joy

By Evan Garnes

On a sunny day in Flagstaff Gardens, we came across 18-month-year-old Maruko and her owner Kitman Ho.

The samoyed was extra eager to get into the park and make new friends, but stopped briefly to say hello.

"She is always ready to run up to people to give them a friendly hello and get to know them," Kitman said.

It was never Kitman's plan to get a dog while being a student but, when she laid eyes on Maruko, she couldn't resist.

"Originally it was my friend who had decided to get a puppy, but the guy she bought it from bought two. When I saw Maruko I knew

I had to give her a home," she said.

Kitman is a student at Victoria University and, while she attends classes, Maruko is patiently waiting at home in their CBD apartment.

As we are talking another dog walks by and Maruko is quick to make another friend. As the pair is playfully running around each other, Kitman said: "She really is more like a child, she is so caring and lively."

Just as we finish our conversation Maruko eagerly lets us know that she is now ready to bounce further into Flagstaff Gardens and keep on playing.



Planning



Melbourne's heritage – Saved or not?

Last edition, we looked at eight unprotected heritage buildings in the CBD/Southbank threatened by apartment developments.

And the most common response we've had to that has been "in this day and age, how is it possible Melbourne is still knocking over its 19th century heritage?"

Heritage protection in Melbourne had a fitful start. The destruction of one of the planet's finest Victorian-era cities through the sixties and seventies is well enough documented. As a result of growing community concern, in 1982 about 150 buildings within the Melbourne CBD were declared "Notable" and given strong protection.

In 1999, this system, which was based on an A-D grading of individual buildings was overhauled to create formal heritage overlays within the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

This notionally gave buildings within an overlay a more formal level of protection, but was accompanied by other changes including the replacement of Melbourne City Council's detailed Heritage Guidelines (which largely prohibited any major demolition) with a two-page document more accommodating of partial demolition, facadism and inappropriate additions.

In the almost 30 years between 1982 and 2011, Melbourne City Council listed virtually no further buildings and conducted no major heritage surveys. This

was remedied in 2011 when a review of unprotected CBD heritage recommended 98 places, including 12 interiors be granted protection.

The then Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, accepted the recommended listing of 87 pre-World War II buildings, but referred all the more recent buildings to the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure and Heritage Victoria for further consideration.

That was in 2013, and as at March 2016, nothing further has been heard from this process.

MHA has identified around 200 structures within the CBD and Southbank that were graded in the original 1982 heritage survey, but which have never had a heritage overlay applied to them.

While a review of Southbank is slated for later this year, the City of Melbourne needs to urgently conduct a similarly comprehensive heritage survey of the CBD with a view to listing these 200 structures that at present have no protection in law.

Adam Ford



Melbourne Heritage Action
<http://melbourneheritage.org.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneHeritageAction>

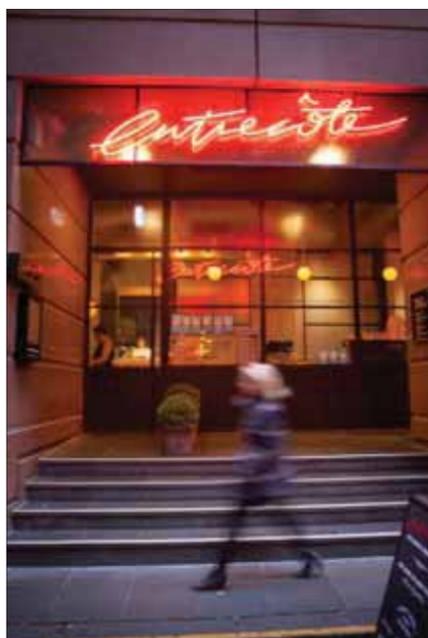
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Residents 3000

Snap Send Solve - the app for incident reporting explained

All it takes is a keen eye, a little caring and a smart phone.

President John F Kennedy, in his famous inaugural address on January 20, 1961, said: *"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."*

As a resident or person who works in the city there are things you can do to help in maintaining the amenity of our beautiful city. ("Amenity" - the pleasantness or attractiveness of a place.)

One of those "things" is to become familiar with an app called Snap Send Solve available from the App Store or Google Play.

How does Snap, Send, Solve work?

Imagine that you are walking the dog early in the morning and come across a sprinkler that has a lost its nozzle and is producing a fountain of water.

Stop. Grab your smart phone, open your app, take a photo. The app will record your exact location. Next step - choose a problem category from the list provided (Trees - as it is to do with park maintenance), type in a message if you want and then send.

In the CBD the alert that you have sent goes to the City of Melbourne. They then redirect your complaint to the appropriate department. No standing in queues, no email, no procrastination (I'll do it tomorrow). Deal with the problem on the spot.

A bit later, you will receive an email telling you that the incident has been recorded and how long it is expected to take to fix the problem. A while later someone will call to say the problem has been fixed or they will send you an email. Problem solved!

Snap Send Solve covers areas such as animals, general, graffiti, hard waste, litter, noise, parking, pavement, playground equipment, road, street cleaning and trees.

But the idea should be expanded ...

Snap Send Solve could have more utilities such as VicRoads, Australia Post, CityWide, CitiPower who could be part of the reporting system. In addition the list of problem categories could be expanded.

By using technology, city people who move about and observe, can play a role in alerting authorities about incidents as and when they see them. People whose responsibility it is to maintain the city cannot know all that happens day to day in every corner of our large and complex city. Citizens can help.

What if there is a more immediate problem?

Say you see a street rubbish bin on fire. Just call 000 and describe the emergency. This ensures that the right authority is alerted and urgent action taken - e.g. call the fire brigade.

Keep up to date with happenings at Residents 3000 via our web site, www.residents3000.com.au



Susan Saunders

vice president
Ph: 0412 566 606
email: sue@residents3000.com.au



Street Art

The medium is his message

Phoenix is the thinking woman's paste-up street artist!

In our interview, I made the point that he's the only artist putting up work with any frequency that has a message. Everything else on the street tends to be decorative.

To which Phoenix responded: "I think my work is political without it being about partisan politics. It's a commentary really: a bigger sort of theme, that over time has gradually crystallised. My politics is about naturalism and synergy: about politics which empowers people."

"It's about co-operation, collaboration, and mutuality. There are lots of ways that you can express these viewpoints that aren't activism - essentially building and moving towards a world that makes more sense."

Phoenix is working on increasing the scale of his paste-ups to mural size. "This hopefully means a broader message gets out there. With my *Silent Heart* series, for example, I wanted people to think about the heart and setting it free. That's what it boils down to."

"This is what my politics are about: something more spiritually-oriented. In this sense, I don't think that any of the political parties, and certainly not the major ones, are doing anything towards this at all."

"We need to engage in a politics that restores nature's worth. Things survive because they fit together as a win/win synergy: 'You look after me, I'll look after you.'"

"With my *Voice of the Blue Earth* series; like the brain piece (as illustrated), it's an attempt to speak, to use the world and the



A Phoenix piece from his *Voice of the Blue Earth* series.

metaphors of the world as vehicles with which to express the message."

"But whether this message will get through or not and make people change, who knows? This is what I am doing with the Blue Earth series: depicting the ironies of our behaviour."

Phoenix has been a collage/photocopy artist since the mid '80s. At this time he considered pursuing it full-time but chose another career path. His work was composed from found objects, pamphlets and magazines. Fascinated with the relationship of same and yet different. Playing around with different combinations and permutations.

In March 2004, due to a fault in a power board, his whole studio went up in flames. A massive inferno! All that paper! However, it was out of this fire and what he was able to salvage, that Phoenix was born.

The years 2004-2009 were ones of recovery - rebuilding his studio, playing music, writing songs and poetry and even a flirtation with stand-up comedy.

In 2009, a Melbourne Street Art Tour with the infamous Doyle from Blender Studios, inspired Phoenix and saw him embark on his journey to become the prolific paste-up street artist he is today.

"I saw that people were putting art up on walls and thought: I could collage onto those walls!"

So he gave it a go and the rest is Melbourne street art history!

In terms of his studio and collage system it is a 1000 times better than it was before the fire. He feels that he had to go through this stage and that the fire was an essential part of it.

He has also started to generate his own

images, producing some very fine pen drawings that have become the essential elements in the Phoenix message.

"I've always liked science books with disembodied hands doing things. This kind of iconography," he said.

With his Blue Earth series, Phoenix began developing his collage, photocopying and layering techniques. It is much more satisfying for him to use his own drawings, as it enables him to flip and manipulate elements. He has more than 1000 undeveloped ideas for this series.

Unlike a lot of fellow street artists he hasn't given up on Hosier Lane. He places his paste-ups high enough to avoid the out-of-control vandalism that is so prevalent in the lane.

And, although he may be interested in the trend and flow with it, he also tends to lean against it and do something different.

"It's becoming largely about 'muralism' and although the ones being produced are wonderful, they have a sameness to them. I like the idea of quirky," he said.

Asked about the future, Phoenix says: "I'll never stop! Won't stop! Street is such a creative adventure for me and I'm happy to be part of it. It's such fun to wander and paste. I like the idea of public art - it's out there and a wonderful way to deliver a message."



Lorraine Ellis

If you are interested in Melbourne street art there is more on my Facebook page, [StreetsmART](https://www.facebook.com/streetsmart)

Watch out for our petition

In a few weeks the We Live Here movement will be launching a campaign in the form of a petition via change.org to gather support for the regulation of short-term letting in residential buildings. We are hoping for a massive response and encourage you all to get involved.

Short-term letting in residential buildings is not being adequately addressed by any level of government.

High-rise Class 2 residential apartment buildings are springing up without much thought given to the residents who will live there.

It is all about the planners and developers, along with others with vested interests such as short-stay operators, AirBnB, etc who are being heard and considered before the residents have a chance to have a say.

We are fast becoming a taking economy for opportunists and not a sharing economy for communities.

This is now going to change with the launch, in a few weeks, of a petition for the regulation of short-term letting in residential buildings to 30 days or more in line with residential tenancy agreements.

This would exclude hotel-style operations in

residential buildings that are not designed for them.

Cities around the world, including New York, London, San Francisco, Vancouver and Barcelona have been grappling with this problem. Now it is Melbourne's turn.

Why short-term letting MUST be banned for minimum stays of less than 30 days in residential buildings:

- They are a haven for short-stay operators who run hotel-style Class 3 operations without paying commercial rates and taxes, including GST;
- They do not contribute to the cost of wear and tear of the building brought about by their operations. This is borne by the owners through increased levies;
- Residential Class 2 buildings are not designed for Class 3 hotel-style operations as they are non-compliant with Fire Safety Regulations and OH&S requirements for disability access;
- They are an increased insurance and security risk;
- No owner or long term resident is safe from having a hotel room "pop up" near them; and

- Community-building is impossible if one has to share with people who stay for a short time and are gone.

We need YOU to help ensure governments sit up and take notice.

It is time we, the residents, had a voice.

Details of how to sign the petition will be provided in the next We Live Here column, and via our website. All current subscribers will also be mailed directly. If you haven't already registered please do so now at www.welivehere.net

Owners Corporations Act 2006

Consumer Affairs Victoria has released an issues paper on the Owners Corporation Act 2006 and is seeking submissions from all interested parties by April 29.

For more information visit www.consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-education/legislation/public-consultations-and-reviews/consumer-property-law-review/issues-paper-2-owners-corporations

This will be discussed in more detail in next month's column. Please use the time to consider the issues you are most passionate about and let us know so we can include them in the discussion.

Tram Bridge across the Yarra stopped by passionate residents

This column is delighted to report that at a recent public forum on the urban renewal of Fisherman's Bend, the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne announced that the proposed tram bridge across the river from Yarra's Edge, previously approved by the former Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, would not go ahead.

This is a major victory for the residents of Yarra's Edge, led by Phil Spender, and demonstrates how community groups, if passionate enough, can make their voices heard.

Please contact us at campaign@welivehere.net if you have issues you would like to have addressed or we can publicise in this column. We also welcome and encourage input and contributions from YOU on the issues that affect YOU.



www.welinehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

Planning

Much to talk about

March was a fairly active month with regard to a couple of significant high-rise approvals by the Minister for Planning within the CBD. First cab off the rank was the twin tower Queens Place development, located at 350 Queen St.

Queens Place is a twin, 79-level, 246m tower development located in the CBD annex north of LaTrobe St. A joint design involving Cox Architecture and Fender Katsalidis, the development includes a mix of one, two, three and four-bedroom units and the approval comes with a condition that both buildings are to be set back at least 4.5 metres from the street.

The Planning Minister Richard Wynne was quoted as saying "good design that responds to the streetscape and provides for good amenity is critical and I'm pleased to clear the way for this project to proceed. This is a well-designed development that will provide new apartments for our growing city as well as new services to support that population."

Next along, 295 King St was designed by Plus Architecture for Farinia Pty Ltd and first profiled on Urban Melbourne back in February 2015, and has been approved at a height of 208.3 metres. The project's podium is of a similar height to the adjacent Hotel Sophia on the other side of Little Lonsdale St and the playfulness is contained within the tower itself – from cylindrical near the podium flaring out to a more square-like floor plate in the upper levels. The project will contain 431 apartments in total.

Since the project was first profiled on Urban



Queens Place (left) and 295 King St (right).

Melbourne, there has been a reduction in overall height (from 81 to 65 levels) and a reduction in total car park numbers from 124 to 115. The project includes 381 sqm of ground floor retail space and 669 sqm of residential common area space on level 10.

Meanwhile details of another Plus Architecture designed tower within the CBD have emerged. Located at 96-102 Franklin St, the residential development has been proposed by developer Burbank Australia on the site that has acted as its inner city office for some years.

Reaching 177 metres, the 57-level building will hold a total of 270 apartments split between a number of living options. Some 10 heritage apartments are designed into the tower's lower levels with 129 one-bedroom, 109 two-bedroom and 22 three-bedroom/penthouses sky-homes rounding out the tower. Some 186 bicycle spaces and 86 vehicle bays have also been included, with a regeneration of the existing Franklin St facade also expected.

According to the architects, the tower interfaces have been designed to interface

with the existing heritage building via a timber punctuation that has a direct dialogue with Fulton Lane opposite with its timber planters that articulate its façade. Additionally, the existing floors of the heritage building and as much of the existing internal cast iron columns as possible will be retained.

And, finally, a development site at 308 Exhibition St is set to be divested by Telstra in the wake of the telco's move to shy away from developing a new commercial complex onsite. Telstra's non-move will be a developer's gain, with the 4100 sqm site capable of handling multiple towers.

CBRE City Sales is running the campaign for the site which has 138 metres of frontage and is perched above Carlton Gardens. A mixed-use development looks likely with indicative designs prepared by architects Bates Smart suggesting massive dual towers as a likely outcome for 308 Exhibition St.



Laurence Dragomir

Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD urbanmelbourne.info

Colouring in



Illustration from 'Melbourne A Love Affair Colouring Book' by Matt Irwin © Matt Irwin Photography.

Colouring in Melbourne

Matt Irwin presents Melbourne Drawn, from Melbourne: A Love Affair Colouring Book.

Now in his 26th year of capturing and publishing iconic and evocative imagery of Melbourne in art books, journals and calendars, Matt has released a colouring book based on his works.

Over the coming months *CBD News* will publish one new image from the just-released book.

The colouring book can be found at great Melbourne bookshops and gifts stores for \$24.99.

For more on Matt Irwin, ring 9596 8226 or visit www.mattirwin.com



Original image 'Stealth' © Matt Irwin Photography

Fashion

A walk in the fashion lane

By Kara Bertoncini

As we transition into the cooler temperatures it can feel like a bit of a jab to the soul and start to be a real mood killer.

While Melbourne is known for its four seasons in one day, it does seem that we are getting a little more sunshine than we bargained for at this time of year.

So to celebrate this brighter change into the beauty of autumn, why not hit the pavement and take a walk in the fashion lane – quite literally.

Walking Tours of Melbourne is a great way to immerse yourself into the cultural footprint of Melbourne's rich and illustrious history, not only in reference to our fine city's architecture, but also to the fashion.

Even though it may still be up for debate, I think we can all agree that Melbourne really has become the fashion capital of Australia, thanks to independent designers, fashion festivals and bloggers.

Melbourne laneways house some of the most incredible boutiques and vintage stores filled with local and international designers and have become the first point of shopping for Melburnians and tourists alike.

What we know today as Flinders Lane, was for 100 years called The Lane, and also known as the centre of Australia's textile manufacturing and tailoring industries.

The Lanes Tour is a perfect way to unravel the story behind some of Melbourne's most iconic laneways and arcades, including Campbell Arcade, Cathedral Arcade, Royal Arcade, Centreway Arcade and Howie Place. Not only is the tour a great lesson in history, but also a great way to do a spot of retail therapy.

No matter what walk of life you come from, a walk in the fashion lane will never go astray. Do something outside of your comfort zone, be hungry to learn something new and feel good about the fact that you are supporting local designers in the process.

To sign up to a fashion walk around Melbourne's laneways, head to www.melbournwalks.com.au/boutique-fashion-shops-in-the-lanes.



WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Friday, April 1, 11am – 12pm
THE POSSUM HUNT PUPPET SHOW – STORYTELLING AND MAKING
 Join Annette Sax (Taungurung) in this workshop sharing Koorie culture. Location: Level 3 Koorie Heritage Trust. Age: 5 - 10, Cost: \$10

6pm, Thursday 7 April
PROFESSOR CAMILLERI LECTURE
 Will terrorism and the 'war of terror' ever end? Professor Camilleri OAM will discuss what lies behind the killing and how best to respond. Tickets \$15 (includes refreshments)
More information at www.stmichaels.org.au or call 03 9654 5120



Friday, April 8, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Location: Level 3 Koorie Heritage Trust
CREATE YOUR OWN WOOD-BURNED WANGIM (BOOMERANG)
 Join artist Mick Harding (Taungurung) to design and then wood-burn your own unique Wangim design.
 Age: 12 -16, Cost: \$10

Saturday, April 9, 6.30pm
TRIVIA FOR A CAUSE
 Enjoy an evening of trivia with the PNET Cancer Foundation to test your general knowledge skills and raise funds for childhood brain cancer. Xavier College, 135 Barkers Rd Hawthorn, tickets \$30.
www.pnetcancerfoundation.com



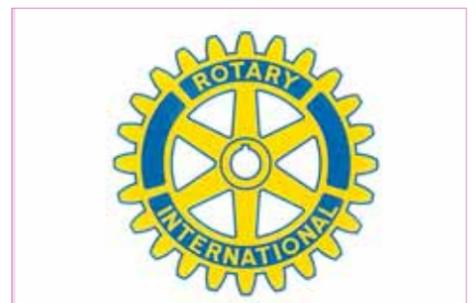
INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB
 Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.
www.life.org.au/imlac or call Carolyn on 9696 1090

7:20am for a 7:40am Start Tuesdays
ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE
 Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne.
rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

5:30-7pm Wednesdays @ Flinders St Ampitheatre, Fed Square
NIKE+ RUN CLUB
 Nike+ Run Club is one of the largest free training run clubs held globally.

10.30am to 2pm Wednesday – Friday – Sunday
MEET UP WITH FRIENDS
 Instants coffee or tea with a biscuit for \$1.00 Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the church yard)
326 Lonsdale St, 9663 2495

11am - 5pm Saturdays @ Fed Square
BOOK MARKET
 Join Melbourne's bibliophiles at the city's largest weekly book market, in The Atrium at Fed Square



Meets second Tuesday of the month
7pm - 8pm, Boyd Centre, 207 City Rd, Southbank
MELBOURNE CITY SOUTHBANK LIONS CLUB
Contact: chengji1214@gmail.com



8am - 9am Fridays @ Fed Square
HEALTH QIGONG
 Exercise your mind, body and soul with free Qigong classes.
 (The Atrium in wet weather).

Third Tuesday of each month
EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB
 Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed. 10am, Pomodoro Sardo Restaurant, Cnr Lonsdale St and Jones Lane.
eastendersinc@gmail.com

7.30am - 8.30am Tuesdays @ Fed Square
TAI CHI
 Start each week feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and energised with free Tai Chi, the Chinese martial art that promotes health and relaxation. at Fed Square (or The Atrium in wet weather).

First Thursday of each month, 10am @ The Docklands Library
SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB
Probus Clubs for over 50s. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities.
Contact Sue on 0418 562 181 or weddsuzanne@gmail.com



11am - 4pm, Saturday, until June 25.
SIGNAL MEDIA ARTISTS
 Sign up for these free lab-style workshop for budding young artists, aged from 13 to 25, interested in 3D printing, mechanisms and media art.
 Signal, Northbank, Flinders Walk, free.
signal@melbourne.vic.gov.au

✚ 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.
 For more information please contact the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).
Chabad of Melbourne
 Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St
 Ph: 9525-9929
 Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.

City on a Hill
 Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm.
 Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central
Collins Street Baptist Church
 174 Collins St
 Ph: 9650 1180
 Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm
Hillsong City Youth
 Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane,
 Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm
Holy Cross Orthodox Mission
 261/265 Spring St
www.australianorthodox.org

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: 7am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am (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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