

The voice of postcode 3000

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FREE CBD TOWN NEWS

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Photo courtesy of Barry C Douglas.

ANZAC legend lives on

Veteran Anthony Preston and his son Robert braved the rain to pay tribute to fallen soldiers on ANZAC Day.

The Prestons were among the thousands who gathered in the pre-dawn CBD to march to the Shrine of Remembrance on April 25.

More than 26,000 Australian soldiers have served in Afghanistan since 2001. Some 42 have died on active service.

Residents could rule at town hall

By Shane Scanlan

Residential interests may dominate the next Melbourne City Council if the Coalition wins the 2018 state election.

On April 1, the Victorian Liberal Party's State Council called on a future Coalition government to "adopt in full" Petro Georgiou's 2014 recommendations for local government reform.

Most significantly for the City of Melbourne, Mr Georgiou's Local Government Electoral Review report recommended:

- 22.01 -An end to a gerrymander, which awards two votes to businesses while residents get a single vote; and
- An election donation cap of \$1000 per team member.

Many candidates at last October's Melbourne municipal election reported no electoral donations while, at the other end of the scale, the victorious, nine-member Team Doyle reported receiving \$314,400 (about \$35,000 per team member).

Former councillor Ken Ong's Together Melbourne team reported donations equivalent to \$15,482 per team member and Phil Cleary's team received \$12,650 per team member. The Greens reported donations of \$15,067.09 (or \$2152 for each of its seven-member team).

The current Melbourne City Council can be roughly characterised as having seven

business councillors (six Team Doyle plus Cr Philip Le Liu) versus four community councillors (two Greens, Cr Jackie Watts and Cr Nicholas Frances Gilley).

At the moment, residents have about 42 per cent of the vote within the City of Melbourne, with non-residents enjoying the lion's share with 58 per cent.

Of the non-resident number, about 43 per cent are landlords and 15 per cent are businesses. Both of these groups can be granted two votes each under the current system - automatically in the case of businesses and also in cases of dual ownership of non-resident property.

It is highly likely that the resident/non-residential voting mix could swing in favour of residents if the Georgiou reforms were adopted, however his recommendations support giving voting rights to multiple owners of individual properties.

But the more significant reform would be to limit election donations - as this would severely dent the advantage held by well-funded campaigns. Currently, the only way to communicate with the significant (and growing) non-resident landlord group of voters is via post.

Continued page 2

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is Thursday, May 19.

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CBD News is published by Shane
Scanlan (shane@cbdnews.com.au).

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khiara@cbdnews.com.au

20,000 copies are printed and
distributed exclusively within
Melbourne's CBD each month. *CBD
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***A collection of 100 maps
documenting geotags has
revealed that the most
photographed spot in the CBD
is the intersection of Swanston
and Flinders streets.***

The collection is called *The Geotaggers World Atlas* and includes maps of cities from all over the world. The album is displayed on photo sharing website, Flickr.

The maps are ordered by the total number of photos taken in the centre of each city. Melbourne took out the 29th place.

Each map is to the same scale of a square measuring just over 24km each side.

Locations were determined through the public Flickr and Picasa search functions.

Southbank was also documented as a highly photographed spot on the map.

Where is your favourite CBD spot to photograph?

Let us know at news@cbdnews.com.au



Residents could rule at town hall

Continued from page 1

At last year's election, non-resident landlords were allocated 57,323 votes. So, at Australia Post prices, a single mail-out could, for the first time, be beyond even the budgets of the best-funded teams in 2020.

Liberal Party local government spokesperson David Davis downplayed the State Council resolution, saying the party would firstly wait and see what came out of the government's current local government review.

But Cr Jackie Watts did not hold back, saying: "The current electoral system is unrepresentative, unreliable and undemocratic. All that is needed is

the political will to reform it by making municipal elections consistent across the state."

She called for an end to postal-voting-only at Melbourne elections, to better align with state and federal elections.

Cr Watts also criticised the performance of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) in conducting the election.

"The 2016 election clearly indicated that the VEC conduct of the election demonstrates a lack of expertise and rigour," she said.

"There needs to be a comprehensive, comparative and objective evaluation of the VEC, for example, software systems and

verification processes."

Mr Georgiou's report said: (1.43) "The entitlements of corporations would be brought in line with how the franchise is applied to other 'persons'. Just as individuals are given only one vote in each municipality, corporations would have the ability to nominate one representative in a municipality to exercise their entitlement. This would apply to the City of Melbourne, where currently companies are able to appoint two voting representatives, despite the vote being derived from one legal entity."

On election campaign donations, the report said: (2.103) "It is anomalous that candidates are permitted to receive campaign donations

without limit when the act of accepting the campaign donation will prevent them from discharging their responsibilities as councillors with respect to council issues involving donors of more than \$500."

"The issue, however, goes beyond the consequences for individual councillors. The combination of unlimited campaign donations and the conflict of interest provisions is central to the functioning of councils as a whole in considering important strategic decisions. This is most notable when sufficient numbers of councillors have received campaign donations that prevent the council from forming a quorum."

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Getting to the heart of the city

The most popular reason that people choose to live in the CBD is its variety and closeness to social and cultural activities.

The latest survey of residents by Residents 3000 shows that 57 per cent of respondents chose this as a factor which influenced their decision to live in the CBD.

Other popular reasons for living in the city include: Proximity to work – 44 per cent; Location – 43 per cent; Access to public transport – 32 per cent; Convenience – 31 per cent; and Proximity to services – 25 per cent.

Some 71 CBD residents responded to the survey, held during early April.

Asked to rate their overall experience of CBD living, on a scale of -5 to +5, the average response was +3.

Asked what things about the city they most liked, the most popular response was “restaurants, bars and cafes”, with 67 per cent of respondents ticking this box. Other popular responses were: Entertainment – 55 per cent; Green areas and parks – 53 per cent; Availability and proximity to services – 45 per cent; Architecture – 41 per cent; and Cultural diversity – 39 per cent.

One respondent commented: “The overall vibrancy of living in an international, 24 hour city with so much to offer socially and culturally.”

And, while there are plenty things that residents like about living here, there are also



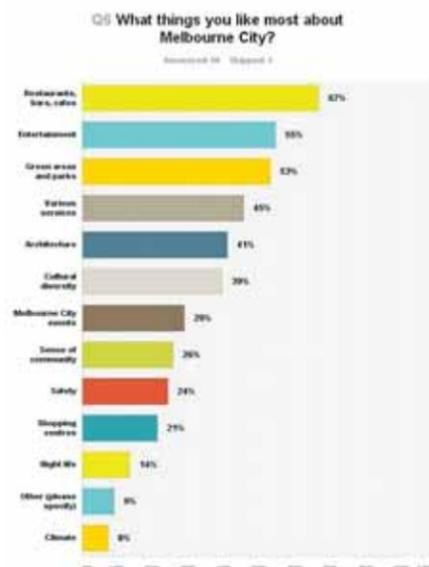
Charts showing what residents like most about the CBD.

plenty of things they don't like.

Topping the list are beggars, the homeless, smokers, construction zones, cleanliness and graffiti.

A year ago, when Residents 3000 last surveyed residents, the most popular complaint was noise. In 2017 only 23 per cent said noise was a concern.

Overtaking it is “Beggars in the street”, which 67 per cent of respondents complained about. Coming closely behind was



“Homeless persons and rough sleepers” – 65 per cent and “Smokers in the streets” – 50 per cent.

In the comments section, respondents also took aim at amplified busking, loud motorcycles, drunks, rubbish and the perennial issue of multiple garbage trucks roaring around at night. “Euro backpackers” were also singled out for roting charity systems designed to support the homeless.

Lack of third-party planning appeal rights

and short-term rentals were also mentioned.

And if you think some respondents are fond of complaining, you are right. Some 68 per cent admitted to contacting the relevant authorities with their concerns in the past 12 months. Most remain unfulfilled however, with 51 per cent saying that nothing had been done about their concerns.

In response to an open question about how the city could become more liveable, the following positive suggestions were contributed: More bike paths; More hidden little nooks with gardens; Providing accommodation for the homeless; More say for residents; More trees; and Better heritage protection.

The list of things residents wanted banned included: Cars; Leaf-blowers; Hoons; Graffiti; Non-commercial traffic; Convenience stores; High rise residential buildings; and Over-crowded apartments.

One resident wrote: “The increasing trend to over-occupying in apartments has lowered the value of properties. I’ve seen my newish building go from funky and excellent to unsellable and slum-like.”

Another said: “For a 24/7 city, we don't have council providing a 24/7 service ... our local laws, environmental/litter, parking and building enforcement/compliance officers.”

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

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QVM heritage assessment

The Australian Heritage Council is looking for public comments about the City of Melbourne's nomination of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) for national heritage status.

Comments can be provided in writing to the Australian Heritage Council by 5pm, Friday, July 14.

Announcing the call for public comments on April 21, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the council was committed to preserving and protecting the site "so it remains part of our city forever".

Information about the nomination and public consultation is available via www.environment.gov.au/topics/heritage/heritage-places

Robots help with drain repairs

By Melissa Chung

City of Melbourne has spent \$1.35 million improving the CBD's drains and water storage using robots.

The tiny robots are capable of relining almost a kilometre of drains in three to four days. Pipe replacement would normally take four to six weeks.

"We can much more effectively send down these manually operated robots to carry out all the inspection and repair works," Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said.

The drain robot is equipped with CCTV cameras. It maneuvers a 5-8mm thick fibreglass liner into the concrete pipes, which reacts with UV to create a hard lining.



Rev Ric Holland leads the Way of the Cross walk through the city. Photo by Sarah Walker.

CBD walks the Way of the Cross

On Good Friday, 2500 people from different denominations walked "The Way of the Cross" – a pilgrimage throughout the CBD to celebrate togetherness.

Beginning at St Francis' Church on the corner of Lonsdale and Elizabeth streets, the Way of the Cross stopped at 14 "stations", including Wesley Uniting Church on Lonsdale St, St Michael's Uniting Church on Collins St and St Paul's Cathedral on Swanston St.

Stations were marked by bronze sculptures depicting Jesus's journey from the last supper to resurrection, created by Melbourne artist Anna Meszaros.

The crowd stopped at each sculpture and paused for prayer, readings and hymns.

The pilgrimage was first developed in 1998 by the Melbourne City Churches in Action (MCCIA), an organisation made up of

representatives from each CBD church.

Reverend Ric Holland of St Michael's church is president of MCCIA and told *CBD News* about its conscious effort to honour the Easter tradition and to better engage with the city.

"There are many churches in the city and they are all very different. St Michael's is probably the most different. Even though we are different, nevertheless and, particularly on Good Friday, we come together because we share this moment," he said.

Participants carried a statue of the cross for the entirety of the walk, signifying all the CBD churches being connected through their shared theology.

The Way of the Cross took about three hours on Good Friday and resumed on Easter Sunday morning before concluding with a shared meal at St Paul's Cathedral at 1pm.

"The walk signifies that on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, all differences aside, we come together to say we are one and we identify with each other as sisters and brothers," Rev Holland said.

24/7 transport to continue

All night public transport on weekends will become a permanent feature of the CBD.

Announcing the decision to continue the Night Networking trial beyond June 30, Transport Minister Jacinta Allan said: "Night Network is part of what keeps Melbourne the world's most liveable city and it's here to stay."

"It provides a safe, easy and affordable way to get home – whether you're out for the night or work late for a living. Thousands now rely on the Night Network and it's not going anywhere."

The 2017/18 State Budget provides funding to continue delivering this safe, affordable and convenient service for people out for the night or working late.

More than two million trips have been taken on overnight trains, trams, buses and regional coaches since the start of last year.

Alleged dog killer fails to appear

A young Chinese man accused of killing a dog failed to appear in court in March and a warrant has been issued for his arrest, according to the RSPCA.

CBD News believes the man last October beat the dog, put it inside a suitcase and dumped the suitcase inside a bin room at Upper West Side apartments.

The alleged dog killer was temporarily caring for the dog while the dog's owner was on holiday in China.



Recentre; sisters presents the work of eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women artists: Paola Balla, Hannah Bronte, Tara-Rose Butterworth-Gonebale, Lorraine Connelly-Northey, Destiny Deacon, Lee Darroch, Hannah Gutchen and Kimba Thompson.

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A full financial history of the QVM investment

By Stephen
Mayne



As we await Planning Minister Wynne's decision on Queen Victoria Market (QVM) planning controls, it is worth revisiting the full financial history of the City of Melbourne's biggest ever investment.

It is important to note that, over the past 20 years, the council has milked the market of more than \$100 million in cash.

Few people realise that QVM has been the most profitable market in the world for its owner. And, until a couple of years ago, the annual return of about \$5 million was not specifically disclosed.

This was because QVM itself was not releasing audited financial statements and the vast majority of council's return was derived from so-called "licence payments" by traders, which were billed as a cost in the QVM accounts and still aren't itemised in the City of Melbourne budget or accounts.

Calling it "rent from traders" and allowing the QVM corporate entity to book the income and then pay a \$5 million dividend to council would be more transparent.

Anyway, having milked more than \$100 million out of a declining market since 1996, it was clearly time for the City of Melbourne

to invest, but where did this figure of "up to \$250 million" come from?

As chair of the Finance and Governance Committee for four years until October last year, the first time I heard it was in the press reports accompanying the joint announcement of a major overhaul by Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and then Premier Dennis Napthine in October 2013.

This was a good deal for council because the State Government effectively gifted the land on the southern boundary, which council should be able to sell for more than \$50 million once it has satisfied the key condition of constructing Franklin St.

The Lord Mayor successfully persuaded then assistant treasurer Gordon Rich-Phillips to go with the land deal, even though Treasury hated it. However, it also meant there was no turning back, especially given a \$10 million penalty payment if the deal isn't completed.

The language in the Doyle-Napthine announcement also included a 10-year investment time frame but the Lord Mayor's idea at the time was to "under-promise and over-deliver". In other words, invest significantly less than \$250 million and get the job done in less than 10 years.

I was worried that we were all talking about doing a once-in-a-century investment but weren't actually doing much to ensure it would be responsibly financed, so a motion was put to the council in April 2014, establishing the "QVM Renewal Fund".

There wasn't support for putting all licence fees directly into the fund because this would substantially reduced the claimed "budget surplus" that council announces each year.

Despite the resolution, nothing much happened with the QVM Renewal Fund for more than a year. It was nowhere to be seen when we councillors agreed in September 2014 to pay \$76 million for the Munro site.

Buying Munro should have left the QVM Renewal Fund with a negative balance of about \$70 million. It also meant there was no turning back and the gross expenditure would probably exceed \$250 million.

However, when buying Munro, the plan was to partially recoup the investment by quickly flicking part of the site to a high rise developer. At the time, there was talk of three towers and 1800 apartments. With a 20 metre height limit, council took a lot of risk on Munro and the permissive former Minister Matthew Guy was replaced by Labor's Dick Wynne just a few weeks after the purchase.

Eight months after the change of government, council remained optimistic as can be seen in its 10-year financial plan adopted as part of the 2015-16 budget. Page 38 assumes a cash receipt of \$56 million to arrive in the 2016-17 financial year.

Alas, reality dawned on council over the next 12 months and, rather than receiving \$56 million from the partial sale of Munro, after an exhaustive competitive tender process councillors voted to do a joint venture

with developer PDG which would see a further \$50 million council investment on Munro, potentially rising to \$80 million if Dick Wynne didn't sign off on a proposed 600-apartment, single residential tower.

The multi-storey car park will allow a magnificent, flexible event space on the existing car park, plus more than \$30 million of community facilities featuring everything from an art space to a large child care facility.

But it will also stretch the "up to \$250 million", which will now rely on netting \$60 million-plus from at least three associated land sales, including a couple of child care sites and the southern development parcel.

We are yet to see a comprehensive, multi-year budget for the QVM renewal, partly because the enormous complexities and sensitivities make it hard to be precise.

One question not resolved is the sort of return council is looking for.

When all is said and done, an annual return of \$7-8 million would be appropriate and can hopefully be achieved without jacking up daily licence fees but instead by adopting the "market of markets" approach with greater utilisation of the space across seven days.

It remains to be seen just how much the council is proposing to spend. In gross terms, it will certainly be more than \$300 million.

And it would be nice to get some more details in the upcoming budget.

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Council elections: Who cares?

By Shane Scanlan

Municipal voters in the CBD and Southbank are the most disinterested within the City of Melbourne, recently-released data has shown.

At the request of *CBD News*, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has revealed by postcode where voters did not participate in last October's municipal election in which Team Doyle was returned with a majority of councillors.

The Melbourne municipality had one of the worst voter turnouts in the state, with only 55 per cent of voters participating.

But in CBD (postcode 3000) and Southbank (postcode 3006), the situation is even worse, with more than half of eligible voters failing to vote in the poll.

But the data shows that is not so much local residents who are failing to participate. Rather, it shows that absentee landlords are the culprits, with only 43.67 per cent of the "non-resident owner (automatic entitlement)" class of voters casting a ballot in the CBD.

In Southbank, the figure for engaged absentee landlords was even less, with only 38.75 per cent bothering to return their postal ballot – the lowest percentage for any category of voters in the municipality.

Residential turnout within the CBD was a relatively healthy 57.02 per cent (or 4938 people) but, as *CBD News* has pointed out before, only a very small percentage of local residents are actually enrolled to vote.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates some 36,000 people live in the CBD, but only 8660 are enrolled to vote.

In Southbank, enrolled residents are also far more engaged in local democracy than their absentee landlord counterparts, with 59.30

per cent (4420) participating in the October election.

By contrast, voters in Flemington, Kensington and East Melbourne are the most engaged. Figures show that overall participating is nearly 70 per cent in these suburbs.

In these postcodes, even the absentee landlords are involved, with 66.32 per cent (1217) voting in East Melbourne and 61.33 per cent (1326) voting in postcode 3031 (Flemington and Kensington).

And, while most CBD absentee landlords avoided the poll, those that did vote made up the largest voting group, with 10,149 participating.

This group, combined with corporations, outvoted CBD residents by a factor of three, making up about three quarters of the 20,977 votes cast within postcode 3000.

The CBD has 41,972 eligible voters – broken down as: "state elector", 8660; "non-resident owner – automatic entitlement", 23,238; "corporation (owner) application", 2811; "occupier ratepayer application", 108; and "corporation occupier application", 7155.

While 66.13 per cent of business owners voted, the percentage for larger group of business occupiers (7155) who voted was only 55.26 per cent.

Under the rules governing City of Melbourne elections, these classes of voters are award two votes. This contentious anomaly is under review and could be changed before the next municipal election in 2020 (see our story on page 1).



FYA community manager Aun Ngo at the Somerset Place co-working space.

Encouraging future leaders

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) has helped launch social enterprises tackling social problems that affect people within the CBD.

The free co-working space in Somerset Place has nurtured projects created by 18 to 30-year-olds around issues such as homelessness and communication for international students.

Crepes for Change is a youth-led not-for-profit food truck enterprise that donates a portion of its proceeds towards finding a solution for youth homelessness.

More recently, *Crepes for Change* has launched *The Coffee Cart Changing Lives*. Co-founder Natalie Klenner is an FYA member.

The coffee cart runs on the same not-for-profit model and also donates towards finding a sustainable solution for youth homelessness.

FYA community manager Aun Ngo told

CBD News that the traditional workplace was changing and young Australians needed to know how to navigate that change.

"Our research is showing that there's a lot of changes happening globally and locally around the areas of globalisation, automation and more flexible work hours. We try to teach the next generation of young people how to tackle these changes that are coming," Mr Ngo said.

Meld magazine began almost 10 years ago after founder Karen Poh and co-founders, including Mr Ngo noticed a lack of hard news for international students within the CBD and Carlton areas.

"We found that a lot of news available to international students was very commercial. It was trying to sell them accommodation or education services, so we created an online news outlet with lifestyle stories and real issues that impacted the international student community," Mr Ngo said.

The *Meld* editorial team now works from the FYA building two days a week and has partnered with the City of Melbourne to run the annual Melbourne International Student Conference.

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Sebastian takes to the street

In 1966 Sebastian Maimone was the first barber to work out of a Melbourne department store and now he is the last.

After 51 years attracting dream male shoppers into CBD menswear departments, he was last month shown the door.

He believes David Jones has been short-sighted but he is not bitter about his treatment. Rather, he has simply moved across Little Collins St and down Carson Place where he has found space for himself and his three staff at Ab's Barber Shop.

At 73, Mr Maimone is just warming up. After all, when he started his apprenticeship, the youngest barber in the business was 81.

"I have a lovely clientele. I love talking with them and there is still a living to be made," he said.

He explained that his client list contained the cream of Melbourne's society - including governors, judges, captains of industry and high-ranking bureaucrats.

Mr Maimone said that, at its peak, the competition among men's wear retailers to attract the best barbers into their stores was fierce. In fact, the Buckley and Nunn floor manager who first offered him his first business opportunity poached him from Peter Jackson.



New drug court for CBD

By Melissa Chung

The State Government has launched a new \$32 million Drug Court in the heart of CBD as Stage 2 of the Ice Action Plan established in 2015.

The Melbourne Drug Court offers opportunities for 170 ice users to combat their drug dependency instead of direct imprisonment that often leads to more re-offending.

"The lack of effective sentencing options for serious drug related offences has resulted in increased imprisonment rates, increased re-offending and a failure to address the underlying causes of addiction," said Attorney-General Martin Pakula.

The new court was created after the success of Dandenong Drug Court, which has proven its success in reducing the two-year recidivism rate - 34 per cent lower than the mainstream justice system.

The government says it has delivered more than \$100 million to expand drug treatment services, family support and additional resources for Victorian Police through its Ice Action Plan.

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A scoop for the CBD

By Rhonda Dredge

Consumers can now travel to the CBD for special events without fear of hefty fines by Myki inspectors if they forget to touch on in the excitement of the chase.



On-the-spot fines, known as penalty fares, were scrapped by the Government on January 1 after reports of intimidation were investigated by the Public Transport Ombudsman.

Businesses are already benefitting from the move to a more sympathetic approach to fare enforcement.

Global ice-cream vendor Ben & Jerry's attracted a large crowd to its Flinders Lane store for its Free Cone day in April.

The company still doesn't know how many scoops it gave away but the queue extended all the way from Swanston St to the Central Arcade.

The queue began forming an hour before the birthday celebrations were due to begin. Most of the hopefuls were under 30 and they would have been vulnerable under the old penalty fare regime.

Penalty fares became a complex bargaining tool wielded by teams of officers more attuned to revenue protection and nabbing fare evaders than dealing with individual circumstances.

One girl who failed to clock on at RMIT just before the tram free zone was threatened with arrest when she tried to phone her boyfriend so she could pay the \$75 up-front fine.

Her case was one of 743 complaints received by the PTO last year, most of them concerning travel to and within the CBD. Authorised officers were a major source of complaint, as were fines.

Officers, who operate in teams of three on the rail network, have been known to surround citizens, force them to produce identification, order them off trains and generally intimidate lone female travellers.

Passengers have felt pressured into paying

penalty fares even when they thought they had touched on.

The issue of intimidation has been raised by complainants, says Ombudsman Treasure Jennings, but the officer culture is shifting. "There has been a broadening of skills to listen and understand the circumstances of the individual," she said.

On-the-spot fines discriminated against low-income earners. Those who could not afford to pay up-front often became entangled in disputes with inspectors.

Figures just released by the Ombudsman show that complaints about authorised officer behaviour and infringement notices fell by 25 per cent last year, from 965 in 2015.

Ms Jennings has been arguing for a rethink of penalty fares and the role of authorised officers for two years.

"I have been pleased to see a review by the government and a renewed focus by PTV and operators on supporting the authorised officer role with clearer guidelines and training," she said.

Businesses are seeing the benefits. The Free Cone promotion generated the largest spontaneous outbreak of queuing seen in Flinders Lane, according to witnesses. One observed the queue double in 10 minutes.

About 100 consumers were lined up by noon on April 4. Despite the hype and the more lenient transport regime, there were still a few doubters.

Brian from New Jersey was about 13th in line. He said he didn't mind waiting because he didn't have anything better to do that day.

Travellers can contact the Ombudsman on 1800 466 865.



City Square traffic disruptions

"CBD News" has the latest information on when and where construction trucks will be travelling to the City Square area during the early works of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project.

Members from the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) and early works contractor John Holland told small business owners of their plans to minimise traffic disruption in an information session hosted by City Precinct and Collins Street Precinct on April 19.

John Holland is currently working at the CBD South site to remove surface artworks and the Brunetti restaurant structure before

starting the demolition of the underground Westin Hotel car park.

John Holland spokesperson Vesna Newman said construction trucks were under strict timelines of when they were able to travel to and from the site.

These hours are before 7.30am, 10-11.30am, 1-2.30pm and after 6pm.

Trucks currently approach the site from the west via Collins St, enter and exit via Swanston St before turning east on Collins St.

Ms Newman said John Holland was working with Yarra Trams and VicRoads to find adequate staging for trucks to avoid traffic congestion.

"Part of our planning at the moment is looking at our staging, where our vehicles go when they're not in the CBD because we don't want to keep them around the corner," she said.

Annual arts grants open

Artists can apply for the City of Melbourne's 2018 arts grants from Monday, May 1.

The program offers anyone with artistic ideas looking for a residency the opportunity to apply for funding.

2017 CBD-based grants recipients include Urban Seed, for its *Urban Seed RAP Art* program, and Radiant Pavilion for an event.

Theatre and live art company, Field Theory also received a share of the \$900,000 that was invested into the grants last year.

Applications close Monday, May 29. See www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Every kid deserves a chance

Host Catherine McGregor AM, Writer and Broadcaster on Politics and Cricket in aid of supporting the education of 17 students from less privileged backgrounds.

Our special guest, student, Moira Apiti-Civcic, who is currently studying a double degree in Law and Maori and Pacific Development (how's that for over achieving!) will speak on her transformation through the extraordinary efforts of the Father Bob Maguire Foundation Scholarship Fund.

And from the man himself, Father Bob Maguire...

Angliss Bistro
555 Latrobe Street, Melbourne
Friday 5 May 2017 commencing at 12noon
Tickets \$60 per head or Corporate Tables of 10 at \$550

RSVP: Andrea Cafnik
T: 0437 071 860 E: acafnik@gmail.com

You can help with a Date with Cate and Father Bob



FR BOB MAGUIRE FOUNDATION



The Swanston Hotel
Melbourne
Grand Mercure

MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET LUNCH

14 May 2017 | 12pm – 3pm | \$75 per adult | \$25 per child
Upgrade to our drinks package for just an extra \$20 per adult
Includes unlimited sparkling, red & white wine, beer & soft drinks

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Phone: 03 8662 1395 (M-F) | Email: h3028-fb08@accor.com
195 Swanston St, Melbourne Vic 3000

Child price based between ages 5 to 12. Children under 5 free of charge.
All mums will receive a glass of sparkling and a box of chocolates

Nature in the city a step closer

By Meg Hill

The City of Melbourne is set to become a lot greener over the next 10 years with the council's "Nature in the City Strategy" moving ahead after a 10-month online community consultation period.

The strategy contains 23 "actions" designed to create a more diverse, connected and resilient natural environment; connect people to nature; and demonstrate local and global leadership.

Nature in the City has a relatively short 10-year timeline to reflect the rapidly evolving nature of environmental developments.

The council's 2017-18 draft capital budget included \$220,000 for projects to be implemented in the first year.

One of the main facets of *Nature in the City* is the engagement of the private sector in nature-friendly projects and biodiversity conservation. This includes encouraging and guiding businesses to utilise "green

infrastructure" like Medibank did with its Docklands building. Ten per cent of the building's surface area is covered with plants - 11,600 in total and 72 species.

The encouragement will involve biodiversity-specific guidelines that prioritise outcomes in "hard to grow places" like laneways, under bridges and in compacted or polluted soils.

The strategy also involves a large focus on "Caring for Country" in an urban context, planning to create a symbiotic partnership with local Aboriginal communities whilst also working with philanthropic groups.

Spaces and resources will be created for indigenous people to celebrate customs and engage with elders.

Another aspect will focus on initiatives that celebrate the cultural and environmental significance of the Yarra River.

Other notable actions in *Nature in the City* involve enhancing Melbourne's reputation as a creative city through "art and urban nature" projects and the establishment of a collection of under-storey plant species that "reflect and define Melbourne's unique character and support biodiversity".

By 2027, at the very least, Melbourne should be a more ecologically connected city than it is now.

An open and shut case

A planning application for roller shutters has sparked discussion on whether or not such facades belong in our city.

The application for roller shutters to be installed over the windows of the ground floor of 163-169 Russell St was submitted in February and was rejected by the City of Melbourne in early April.

A council spokesperson said the application was rejected because shutters were specifically banned under the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Local resident and president of EastEnders Inc, Jenny Eltham, had earlier expressed her concerns about the planning application and its potential on visitors to the CBD.

"Roller shutters add nothing to the ambience of a city. There are infinitely more attractive options that could be considered," she said.

Ms Eltham praised the council's decision. "The decision to deny the window shutters has been a good outcome. Roller shutters are not visually pleasing nor do they enhance the local environment. In fact, they downgrade the area and give CBD visitors the impression that security in the CBD is an issue."



One might immediately think of the laneway of roller shutters in Centre Place (above), where almost every shopfront is hidden away at the end of each day.

According to a council spokesperson, the roller shutters in Centre Place are exempt from the current rulings as they were installed before the current policies were put into play.

The spokesperson said: "The shutters in Centre Place were installed before the implementation of the Melbourne Planning Scheme, so were not affected by the new policies."

The relevant parts of the planning scheme are:

- 22.01 - 4 Facades: Solid roller shutters should not be used on shopfronts. Open mesh security or transparent grills may be used and should be mounted internal to the shopfront; and
- 22.01-8 Public Spaces: Shopfronts fronting public spaces should be attractive and secure when they shops are closed. Roller shutters should not be used.

CBD News contacted the applicant but he declined to comment.

CBD crime wrap



Downie St burglary and theft

Police are searching for a man who allegedly stole \$500 worth of items an apartment complex on Downie Street (below).

The incident took place on January 23 between 11:50am and 2:00pm.

The man is about 180cm tall, between 20 and 30-years-old with a thin build, goatee beard and short crew-cut hair.

Bourke St handbag theft

Police are searching for a man who allegedly stole a woman's handbag from her place of work on December 27 (above).

The incident took place between 8:10pm and 8:15pm at a shopping complex on Bourke St.

The man was perceived to be Caucasian. He was wearing a dark-coloured hoodie with tan pants.



Burglary and deception II

Police are searching for a man and woman who allegedly stole a backpack with a wallet from an unlocked office building on Franklin St (below).

The pair allegedly later used stolen credit cards in Richmond and at a service station on Hoddle St.

The woman is approximately 170cm tall and is perceived to be Caucasian with long dark hair. She wore a grey coloured dress on the date of incident.

The man is approximately 180cm tall and perceived to be a medium-built Caucasian with dark hair. He wore a black singlet and black shorts.



Burglary and deception I

Police are searching for a man who allegedly stole several items including two credit cards from a cafe on Little Lonsdale St (above).

The incident took place on November 20 between 2:00pm and 5:00pm.

The man allegedly used these credit cards at several metropolitan locations.

The man is aged between 20 and 30-years-old with long dark hair tied back and a thin build. He carried a dark-coloured backpack and wore a blue Adidas hoodie, dark pants and sport shoes.

With any information, please report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Council faces “moral outrage”

By Khiara Elliott

The public consultation phase of the local law amendment on rough sleeping has closed and the results were, unsurprisingly and unwaveringly, not in council's favour.

The proposed amendment dictates a change in the definition of camping and allows council officers to remove any unattended belongings of rough sleepers, as well as charge them \$388 to retrieve their possessions.

The idea that someone with no steady income can afford almost \$400 to retrieve their petty possessions is impossible to fathom, especially when the sum is probably higher than the total cost of these items if purchased brand new.

The City of Melbourne (CoM) received an overwhelming number of submissions, including 717 formal submissions, 1637 responses to the online survey and 202 face-to-face responses from rough sleepers, advisory committees and disability groups.

Of the total 2556 submissions received, almost 90 per cent opposed the amendment and 98 per cent opposed the proposed fine.

According to a report released on March 30, there was a consistent view amongst submitters that the proposed amendment would not help or change the homeless epidemic and was an “informal referendum on homelessness”.

Responses to the amendment expressed “moral outrage” against the council, with many calling for more compassionate leadership.

Many submissions from homeless people and advisory committees warned of increased crime and suicide rates.

“It will cause crime, a lot of angry poor people will lose their composure as they have absolutely nothing to lose, including their freedom as jail will be heaven – e.g. bed, three meals a day, work, pay packet, gymnasium etc,” one submitter said.

“Homeless people – a lot of them will

commit suicide,” another said.

When people are considering jail as “heaven”, we know that our leaders have failed our homeless community.

The consensus among submitters was that council rushed into proposing the amendment and lacked sufficient evidence, thinking and policy support in creating the proposal.

There was also a shared view that the amendment would criminalise the homeless rather than helping them.

On April 6, the submissions committee resolved to adjourn its meeting until 3pm, Wednesday, May 24 to ensure adequate time to consider all submissions received.

With its back against the wall, council's next steps are crucial.

Proceed with the amendment and it faces an even larger uproar. Or, listen to the community it claims to serve, admit defeat and drop the amendment.

Facing such an overwhelming resistance, it would be ill-advised for council to go ahead with the proposed amendment.

As an outside party, it is uncomfortable to watch council barge and bash its way through dealing with the homelessness epidemic, but one can only hope it realises the impact the proposed amendment will have on not only the homeless community, but also community of the CBD and its faith in its leaders.

The homeless epidemic is a situation that needs to be treated with diplomacy and compassion – qualities that our community feels have been missing from council as of late.



Resident 3000 committee members and key speakers at the April 6 event.

A different look at homelessness

Community group Residents 3000 hosted a discussion with three key speakers on homelessness in the CBD on April 6 at the Kelvin Club.

City of Melbourne (CoM) manager of social investment Dean Griggs, Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle and Monash Health doctor, Stewart Saunders presented varying looks at the multi-faceted problem, including causes of homelessness.

Mr Griggs explained that two leading causes of homelessness were people leaving institutional care or exiting prison.

According to him, some children who are wards of the state become homeless when they turn 18 and the state no longer provides care for them.

“There are a whole range of reasons why people are homeless and there's a lot of complexity associated with it, but these are some of the biggest triggers,” he said.

Major Nottle said the property boom was another reason people were becoming

homeless.

“Another thing that's been overlooked is that over the last 12 to 18 months, a significant number of really cheap accommodation options have closed,” he said.

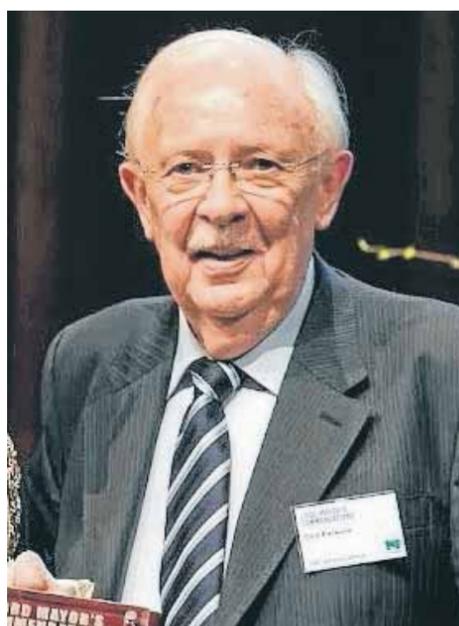
One of the more notable sales was the notorious Gatwick Hotel in St Kilda. Two rooming houses on King St have also recently closed.

“It's this whole issue of the property boom taking place in Melbourne. You've got people that own large properties cashing in on it and unfortunately they're properties where homeless people felt they could easily find accommodation,” Major Nottle said.

Dr Saunders has worked in a secure extended care unit in Dandenong where he treated schizophrenia – a prominent mental illness among homeless people.

Symptoms of schizophrenia include delusions, auditory hallucinations, thought delusions and even catatonia. Emotional expression can also be blunted.

“What I want to say to you is: imagine what would happen to your life if even some of those symptoms occurred to you and they weren't properly treated,” Dr Saunders said.



Vale Don Parsons - local legend

By William Arnott

Local legend Don Parsons passed away suddenly in his Greensborough home on April 22.

Mr Parsons was a pillar in the Melbourne community and received a special Lord Mayor's Commendation in 2015 for his involvement in retail in the city for more than 50 years. He was on the commendations advisory committee for 20 years.

He became the centre manager of the Block Arcade in 1993 and was the president of the Collins Street Precinct.

Community was very important for Mr Parsons, who was never afraid to put in the hard yards to solve a problem. He chaired the Police and Community Consultative Committee (PCCC) for over two decades.

His work helped to bring out the very best in people, especially his involvement with the Father's Day Council. Mr Parsons chaired the organisation that supports and recognises positive male role models.

He was also a member of the Coalition of Residents and Business Associations and

was a supporter of the Royal Children's Hospital foundation

Cr Jackie Watts knew Mr Parsons and said he was always remarkably energetic and supportive of the community.

“He brought out the very best in people.” Cr Watts said. “He managed to generate good will in people through his organisations.”

Kevin Chamberlin knew Mr Parsons for more than 30 years said his passing was a great loss for the City of Melbourne.

“He was always prepared to become a part of the solution,” Mr Chamberlin said. “He understood the city and knew how the retail core ticked.”

UniLodge pays for its mistakes

UniLodge Australia Pty Ltd will pay almost \$90,000 to the Residential Tenancies Fund and Victorian Consumer Law Fund following an investigation which found its A'Beckett St location breached tenancy and consumer laws.

The investigation began after a complaint from a resident in November 2014, alleging that residents were asked to pay their bonds directly to UniLodge instead of to the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority (RTBA).

The complaint alleged that UniLodge told students it did not lodge bonds with the RTBA for the A'Beckett St property that holds 109 hostel beds and 77 self-serviced apartments.

CAV also found that occupancy agreements provided by UniLodge "contained some terms which misrepresented the rights and remedies that were available to the company and to tenants of the property".

The terms included UniLodge having unrestricted access to rooms or apartments while a student was leasing them, although the document also stated "no tenant suffered a disadvantage by the use of the occupancy agreements".

UniLodge said it incorrectly thought it was exempt from the RTA because its building was associated with an educational institution before it was purchased.

CAV has since received a formal pledge from UniLodge stating that it will contribute \$47,024.90 to the Residential Tenancies Fund within 60 days from the date the formal pledge was made.

The sum equates to a repayment of all interest on bonds earned by UniLodge from July 9, 2008 when it first acquired the property until February 20, 2015 when it first became aware of its violations.

UniLodge has also promised to contribute an additional \$40,000 to the Victorian Consumer Law Fund "to address its failure to comply with consumer and tenancy laws", also within 60 days.

CBD security slow to start up

By William Arnott

With an increase in the amount of vehicular attacks in populated areas, new security measures are being planned for Melbourne's CBD in the wake of the Bourke St murders.

Premier Daniel Andrews said the State Government was working with the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police to implement "everything from bollards, planter boxes ... then of course sirens and other warning devices".

The measures could cost more than \$10 million to potentially save lives in future incidents. However, any new measures are still a long way from being implemented.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said on 3AW: "Some of these ideas were at a very early stage."

"But for instance when I said to police, 'who's got the best practice?' They couldn't tell me," he said. "I don't want to create fortress Melbourne."

Terrorism expert at Victoria University Ramón Spaaij said the trade-off between public safety and liveability of public spaces was a delicate balance which could end up with people feeling less safe.

"The more of these measures you put in place, the more people start to feel unsafe," he said. "People start noticing the increased security and start assessing the possible risks and threats."

He said bollards could protect some targets, but did not mean attacks would not happen.

"They can help by diverting attacks away, simply because these lone individuals may not have the ability to overcome these barriers," Mr Spaaij said.

"Then the problem is target displacement. They may target softer targets - crowded areas like sports stadiums, shopping malls. Festivals like Moomba and parades are hard to secure."

The rarity of these attacks makes it difficult to perform a proper cost/benefit

analysis. And the move to secure the CBD has political motivations behind it too.

"If something like this happened again, it would look really bad for the Victorian Government. There are already people questioning whether it could have been prevented," Mr Spaaij said.

Melbourne East Police Station commander Snr Sgt Adam Tanner said decisions like these would require a lot of consultation between police, council, security agencies and the State Government.

"I think the great thing about any of these decisions is that there's a lot of consultation," he said.

"There'll certainly be a lot of consultation with emergency services, transport authorities to ensure that access to the city and the response to any emergency incident, or alternatively public transport system, is not impacted."

"With any decision of that nature, there's always the balancing act in relation to the balancing of security as opposed to the movement of people and access to parts of the city," Snr Sgt Tanner said.

The local community is also important to stopping attacks before they happen.

"Everyone has a role to play in security," he said. "The community is a whole set of eyes and ears and they certainly hear and see things that police don't."

Director of security company GK Solutions Gavin Queit said the measures being talked about would help keep Melbourne safe and reduce the effects of any vehicle attacks.

"These are helpful not only from a terrorist point of view but even protects from regular vehicle accidents," he said.

Survey reveals most unsafe places

A public survey has revealed that 73 per cent of 2000 people feel unsafe in the CBD.

According to the survey's findings, Elizabeth, King and Flinders streets are among the worst spots for feeling safe within the city.

Flinders Street Station and Swanston St were voted the worst, with 162 and 169 people admitting they actively avoid these areas.

The survey comes after data from the Crime Statistics Agency showed that violent street crimes have increased an alarming 30 per cent in the last year.

A similar survey named "Free to Be" was conducted in November last year.

The Free to Be campaign invited women between the ages of 15 and 19 to mark on an interactive map where they felt "happy" or "sad" based on their experiences in that spot.

Flinders Street Station and Elizabeth St were also marked as unsafe last year.

"Flinders Street Station and along Elizabeth St feels very dangerous at night, with little presence of security and PSO patrols," wrote map participant, Cass.

CBD News contacted Melbourne East Police Station commander, Snr Sgt Adam Tanner to ask whether the survey results rang true.

"I won't speak about specific locations because it's probably a far wider issue than just a couple of locations," he said.

However Sen Sgt Tanner said public order and offensive behaviour issues occurred in the CBD on Friday and Saturday nights, particularly when alcohol is involved.

Despite the current concerns, Sen Sgt Tanner still encouraged people to visit the CBD.

"It's a great environment. There's a lot of entertainment activities," he said.

"The community has a role in relation to alerting Victoria Police in relation to activities that may be dangerous or criminal behaviour via 000 or crime stoppers to ensure that we have the information and intelligence so that we can act on it and intervene."

MELBOURNE AWARDS

DO YOU KNOW AN INSPIRATIONAL MELBURNIAN?

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2017 MELBOURNE AWARDS

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

The awards recognise contributions in the areas of environmental sustainability, community, multiculturalism and profile.

WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE?

Nominations are open until Monday 5 June.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AWARDS AND TO NOMINATE, VISIT MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU/MELBOURNEAWARDS





LUNCH TIME

LUNCH TIME AFTER WORK THE WEEKEND



WITH KHIARA ELLIOTT

khiara@cbdnews.com.au

To be featured in this section call
8689 7980

Melbourne Knowledge Week 2017 focuses on the theme “Know. Now. Next.” – taking what we know, acting now and preparing for the future.

The brightest local and international minds will come together for one week to lead discussions on shaping our city’s evolution. This year’s hub is the State Library, but you can learn, interact and create with innovative thinkers at over 70 events all around the CBD.

Proudly presented by GiveGet, *Six Ways To Change The World* is a choose-your-own-adventure style workshop focused on economic, social, political and technological system designs.

Hear from leaders across the “future thought” sector before picking which workshop inspires you the most to tackle key challenges of the 21st century.

Six Ways To Change The World will be held on Monday, May 1 from 11am - 2.15pm. Tickets are by donation, head to the Melbourne Knowledge Week website for more details.

Join the conversation at *Co-design Symposium* – a skill-sharing event on all things co-design, design thinking and human centred-design on Thursday, May 4 from 10am - 4pm.

Co-design Symposium will ask the question: How might we raise the integrity of co-design in the public purpose sector? The workshop will generate discussion on



how to “strengthen the value and promise of co-design in a time of declining public trust”. *Co-design Symposium* will be held at the State Library Victoria Conference Centre. Tickets are \$88 and can be purchased online at www.mkw.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ Interested in artisan culture? Listen to local creatives and makers tell their stories at *Bespoke At Scale*.

This talk will see a panel of artists discuss how they are reinventing manufacturing by putting a personal touch on their crafts and working against the one-size-fits-all method of mass production.

Bespoke at Scale is a free talk on Thursday, May 4 from 12.30pm - 1.30pm at Experimedia at the State Library, although you still need to book online.

Food lovers, get down to the William Angliss

Institute at 555 LaTrobe St for *Food, Glorious Food*.

This interactive workshop tackles the issue of food wastage and how we can help local producers and consumers.

Join industry experts and design a solution on Thursday, May 4 from 11.30am - 2.45pm. This is a free event, but online bookings are essential.

Delve past the millennial stereotype of an internet-surfing, kickstarter-business-starting, digital-nomad at *What Do Grown-Ups Do All Day?*

Eight individuals will each have less than seven minutes to present their unique stories of working in the 21st century.

What Do Grown-Ups Do All Day? is a free event on Friday, May 5 at Experimedia. Bookings are essential.

HIGHLIGHTS



Brooches at Erika

Buzz into Erika this Mother’s Day and spoil the queen bee in your life!

437 Little Collins St.

9642 5911.

www.erikaboutique.com.au



Weaving The Waterways: Women and Fishing

An exhibition detailing the techniques associated with river life and fishing, passed down through generations of Aboriginal women.

Until May 5. 10am – 5pm.

Koorie Heritage Trust Inc.



LawWeek

Go behind the scenes at the courts, engage in debates and mock-court trials and learn about where to find the right legal advice all week long.

May 15 – 21. 8am – 6pm.

Federation Square.



No Woman Is An Island

A group exhibition of Australian artists focusing on female experience through the “female gaze”.

May 10 – 27. 12pm – 6pm.

Blindside Gallery.



Long Table Lunch

Celebrate women and the work Taralye do for deaf children at this afternoon of food, friendship and inspiration.

May 19, 12 – 3pm.

Myer Mural Hall.

\$135.



Peace Education Program

Developed by the Prem Rawat Foundation, these workshops help develop positive life skills, inner strengths and personal peace.

Every Wednesday until May 10.

12pm – 1pm.

Centre for Adult Education.



AFTER WORK

FOOD AND BEER LOVERS UNITE!

Melbourne Good Beer Week is back from Friday May 12 – Sunday 21 and with a huge program of drinks, food and fun-filled events, there's sure to be something for everyone.

This year's program has been broken down into four streams: Beer Lover, Foodie, Beer Geek and Good Times. So whether you want to grab a drink, a bite to eat, learn something new or just have a bit of fun, you'll find the right event for you in the CBD.

Kick off the celebrations with Good Beer Week's Opening Night Party. Held at this year's hub, Beer Deluxe at Federation Square will be providing drink specials, a line up of the festival's beer selection and The Tarantinos – a band inspired by Quentin Tarantino's film soundtracks – will really be getting the party started.

The opening night Party starts at 6pm on Friday, May 12 and the best part is, it's free! If you've ever struggled to find the perfect beer to match your meal, you might enjoy Cut, Contrast and Complement, Good Beer Week's beer matching class!

Learn from experts Matthew Houghton, founder of Boatrocker Brewing Co and Rob Kabboord, chef of Merricote, as they show you how to pair flavours and textures or how to find the right contrast in tastes. School is in session on Monday, May 15 from 4pm - 5.30pm, also at the festival hub. Tickets are an easy \$15 and can be purchased from www.goodbeerweek.com.au



Laneway bar Belleville Melbourne is proudly bringing you Blood, Sweat & Beers: The Brew Off.

Two of Australia's best independent breweries, Dainton and Hargreaves Hill will fight for the heavyweight title and invite you to be part of the action.

The two competitors will be pouring their best brews from nine taps, matched with a special four-course Belleville menu.

The battle is taking place on Tuesday, May 16 from 8pm - late. Tickets can be purchased online for \$69.

Here's another one for you foodies! Your friends at Fancy Hank's are putting on an IPA-matched barbecue dinner on Wednesday, May 17.

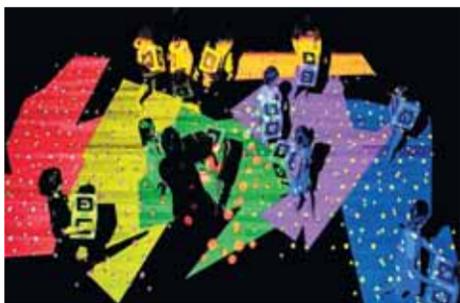
Five different India Pale Ale's from Fixation Brewing, Wolf of the Willows Brewing Co and New Belgium brewing will be paired with a

selection of Fancy Hank's signature low and slow cooked barbecue, as well as canapés, smoked meats and desserts.

The evening starts at 6pm and finishes at 9pm. Tickets are available online for \$100.

There are countless more events happening all over the CBD, so head to www.goodbeerweek.com.au for the full program on what to do, eat and drink.

HIGHLIGHTS



Designing with Kids and Tech

Learn the process of developing interactive art installations and create a wonderland in your very own back yard.

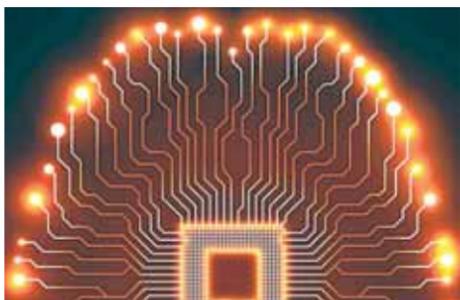
May 2, 5.30pm - 7pm. ArtPlay. Free.



Youth Crime, Youth Justice

Presented by Sentencing Advisory Council, an expert panel will lead a discussion on a hypothetical case study of youth offending.

May 15, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Village Roadshow Theatre. State Library of Victoria. Free.



Machines That Read Your Mind

Come along for an evening of discussion and demonstration on technology's increasing power to read the human mind.

May 3, 6pm - 8pm. Deakin Edge, Federation Square. Free.



Harvester Revisited

In honour of its 110th anniversary and the introduction of Australia's first minimum wage in 1920, the Fair Work Commission is presenting a mock hearing of the Harvester case.

May 15, 5.30pm - 7.15pm. Supreme Court of Victoria.



Utopian Foods

What will food look like in 50 year's time? Attend this five-course sit-down dinner party and find out.

May 4, 7pm - 10pm. Drill Hall, 26 Therry St. \$150 per person.



Meet the Locals Dinner

The food and friendship social network is meeting once again at Touche Hombre. Tickets include a welcome drink and delicious Mexican share plates.

May 31, 7pm - 10pm. 233 Lonsdale St. lorretta@letsmeetat.com.au \$65.78 per person.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BUDDHA!

The annual celebration of Buddha's Day and Multicultural Festival is back and is once again being held in Federation Square.

This is the 22nd year that the city commemorates the Buddha's birthday and celebrate Melbourne's multicultural and multi-faith community.

Organised by Fo Guang Shan Melbourne and Buddha's Light International Association of Victoria (BLIAV), the festival will run for two days on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21. There will be a variety of events on offer over the weekend for all ages to enjoy, including the Baby Blessing Ceremony on Sunday from 1pm - 3pm at Deakin Edge.

Children under six are eligible to take part in the ceremony where Venerables of the International Buddhist College of Victoria Inc will bless them under the protection and guidance of Buddha.

The Baby Blessing Ceremony will be followed by the Future Within Thy Hands ceremony, a special highlight event this year. The Future Within Thy Hands Ceremony is based on a traditional Chinese custom where children are presented with an assortment of items and are asked to pick the one that piques their interest the most.

It is believed this item can determine the child's future interests, capabilities and career path.

The Baby Blessing Ceremony costs \$25.

The Future Within Thy Hands Ceremony is optional and comes at a cost of \$10. All

families wanting to participate must register their children online at www.buddhaday.org.au

Take part in a tradition that dates back to the Three Kingdoms Period of 220 - 280 AD with Bathing The Buddha.

As tradition dictates, a flower garden is arranged to represent the Garden of Lumbini, Buddha's birth-place.

Participants must kneel before the altar, fill the ladle with purified water and pour it over a small statue of Buddha three times. With the first pour, participants must chant "May I eliminate all evil thoughts", with the second, "May I cultivate good deeds" and with the third, "May I help save all living beings". Bathing The Buddha will be held for the entirety of the festival, from 10am - 7pm Saturday and 10am - 5pm on Sunday at the Buddha Stage in the square.

To celebrate the multiculturalism of our fine city, the Harmony Under One Sky stage will showcase music, song, dance and performances from a range of cultures. Aboriginal, West African drum, traditional Indonesian dance, Melbourne gospel choir and Southern Flamenco performances are just some of the acts taking place over both days from 12pm onwards.

Relax and prepare yourself for the coming week with **Guided Buddhist Ch'an Meditation**.

The session will teach you core meditation techniques as well as the basics of sitting and walking meditation.

Guided Buddhist Ch'an Meditation will be held on Sunday, May 21 from 4pm - 5pm.



HIGHLIGHTS



RECENTRE; sisters

An exhibition sharing the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female artists around cultural revival, activism and healing. **Opening day, Saturday, May 6. City Gallery. Free.**



Hip Hops Block Party

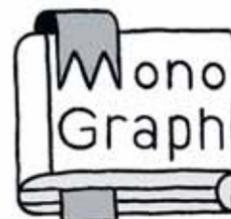
Experience the fun and feel of Manhattan as Collins Quarter is transformed into a New York style block party. **Saturday, May 13, 4.30pm - 7.30pm. 86 Collins St. \$75.**



Fiesta Malaysia

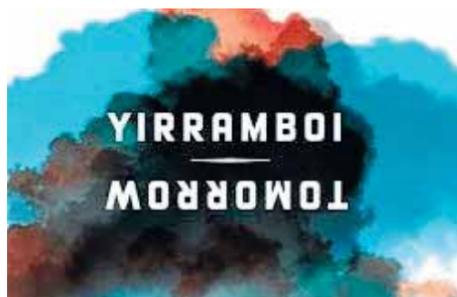
Experience Malaysia in Melbourne with a variety of traditional cuisines, performances, exhibitions and games.

Saturday, May 6. 11am - 5.30pm. Federation Square.



MONOGRAPH Reading Circle

Join MONOGRAPH for a special feminist edition reading circle. Bring along a recent book you've read with particular reference to feminist text and authors and discuss! **Saturday, May 13. 2pm. BLINDSIDE Gallery.**



Yirramboi Festival

An Australian Aboriginal musical journey of settlements, missions and reserves across Australia.

Sunday, May 5-14. Various locations in the CBD. Mostly free.



Kaiju! Beer & board games

End your weekend with board games, beers from Kaiju! Beer and matched Japanese food from the Izakaya Chuji kitchen.

Sunday, May 14, 5.30pm. 165 Lonsdale St. \$55.



THE WEEKEND

A TASTE OF PARIS

Experience the luxury and decadence of Paris without having to leave our city at the new Sheraton Melbourne Hotel Parisian Afternoon Tea.

The newly-launched afternoon tea treats guests and their tastebuds to the romance and refinery of Paris with a modern, stylish twist.

Head chef Achim Herterich has been in the business for more than 30 years, bringing a wealth of knowledge and an eye for perfection to the new menu. Leading a culinary team of Sheraton cuisine “specialists”, chef Herterich manages the process from ingredient selection to plate presentation with extreme precision, ensuring Sheraton Melbourne guests receive only the very best.

“The whole team focuses very much on the fine, finished product,” he said.

Master patissier Louise MK Lee from The Crux & Co will be preparing a delectable array of the best eclairs, macarons and opera slices in Melbourne, all made exclusively for the Sheraton High Tea.

Those without a sweet tooth needn't worry. The savoury selection is just as delectable and guests will be spoilt for choice. Come along and try the asparagus and ricotta quiche tartlet. Or perhaps the smoked pork and pickled kraut canape with red pepper coulis will be more to your liking? Although the entire menu has been

beautifully crafted, the real “pièce de résistance” is the crepe suzette station. Sheraton Melbourne guests can enjoy fresh to order, custom crepes prepared right in front of their eyes.

What is an afternoon of extravagance without champagne? Guests of the Sheraton Melbourne are also invited to indulge in a glass of bubbly upon arrival!

A selection of bubbles is available and is included in your afternoon tea buffet experience. Choose from the non-vintage champagne Bollinger package for \$89 per person or the Australian sparkling wine package for \$69 per person. For those who would prefer a non-vintage Bollinger Rose option, it is available by the glass for \$35. La Maison Du Thé loose-leaf teas served in stunning Guy Degrenne tea pots will also be available for guests looking to unwind.

“We want our guests to enjoy the seasonal fruits and local flavours with our modern Parisian twist, in a beautiful Melbourne hotel,” said chef Herterich.

Treat yourself to a lavish afternoon buffet affair at the Sheraton Melbourne Parisian Afternoon Tea on Saturdays and Sundays from 3pm - 5pm. The iconic afternoon tea tower stands are also available for guests during the week from 3pm - 5pm.

For further information and booking details, visit the friendly staff at the Sheraton Melbourne Hotel, Level 1, 27 Little Collins St, **9290 1000** or make a reservation at www.sheratonmelbourne.com/parisianafternoontea



CBD Local

Little Miss Melbourne spreads positivity in the CBD

By **Melissa Chung**

CBD resident, business owner and lifestyle blogger Sarah Harrison supports local businesses and hopes that the CBD community can live harmoniously together.

Sarah moved to Melbourne from Perth in 2010, spending most of her time living in the CBD.

She also spent time living with her friends in Flemington when she first came, which became the catalyst for her to move into the city.

“I was on the train from Newmarket station to the city – it’s a beautiful perspective of the CBD. At that time, I knew that I don’t want to go into it everyday. I want to be there all the time,” she said.

After moving into the CBD, Sarah was taken by the varieties of bars, cafes and restaurants the city offers. She decided to share her experiences with her friends and families through Facebook which later morphed into her lifestyle blog.

“No matter where I travel, I will always miss the food here in the city. Always,” Sarah said. Sarah thinks it is important to support local businesses because they build the city. She also enjoys it when local business owners greet her as she walks along the street. “They feed me when I’m hungry,” she said. When it comes to the convenience to travel from CBD to the other suburbs, she giggled: “I don’t leave the city other than to go to other cities.”

She added that it was easy for her to move around because she was completely location independent and mobile – her office is in her handbag.

Sarah believes that the CBD has matched her work and life perfectly despite sometimes feeling unsafe.

“It doesn’t feel as safe as it used to and the homeless situation has become more visible, which is a concern as a city resident and a city business owner,” she said.

“I think we need to have a solution that suits everyone. One that suits the city, suits the people who live on the street and the police. Everyone has to come together to find a solution living harmoniously together, because that’s not happening,” she said. With an optimistic personality, she said people should not be scared. “If you avoid somewhere because of some sort of active



The CBD lifestyle was the inspiration behind Ms Harrison's blogging business.

terror or some sort of organised crime, they’re winning,” she said.

“Just be cautious. Be weary. But don’t stop,” she said.

Not only does Sarah show positivity towards CBD safety problems, but also towards her life. She handles stress through doing body balance such as Yoga, Tai Chi and Pilates.

On top of that, her passion for her job makes her feel therapeutic while working. “Even when I have a lot of deadline, I find that really nice and calming,” she said. Sarah believes that as long as you live your life well with integrity, you can be the best version of yourself.

We Live Here

Short-term letting must be regulated

The NSW government has swept aside the recommendations of a parliamentary report and announced a new consultative process to decide how short-stays will be regulated.

The discarded report had recommended a massive increase in short-term holiday rentals in apartment buildings. But the NSW Minister for Planning and Regulation and the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, in a joint statement announced on Thursday, April 20, said that "broader engagement with the industry and the community was needed", and that they were "focused on finding a common ground that effectively addresses the concerns with everyone involved."

The ministers said: "The rights of residents who live near these properties must be considered too."

We hope that the Victorian Government will now follow suit.

Since We Live Here was founded 16 months ago we have been advocating for a level playing field for all the stakeholders involved in the short-stay debate.

But the Victorian Government's "Mickey Mouse" Bill introduced last year protected the rights of short-stay operators at the expense of residents who have chosen to make apartment living their lifestyle.

After intense lobbying by We Live Here and recognition by opposition parties that residents were being ignored in the debate the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-Stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 was defeated in the Upper House.

It is now the subject of a parliamentary enquiry, currently being conducted by the Environment and Planning Committee.

Two public hearings (March 24 and April 13) were held and about 100 written submissions were received. The parties invited to attend the public hearings as witnesses were:

Airbnb, Brent Thomas; Australian Hotels Association, Paddy O'Sullivan; Boutique Stays, Bev Constable; City of Melbourne; St Bedes Owners Corporation, Henk van Leeuwen; Holiday Rental Industry Association, Trevor Atherton; Matrix Apartments, Bronwyn McAsey and Neil Ackerman; OC Pride, Antoinette Hall; Southbank Residents Association, Tracey Allen and Dan O'Keeffe; Stayz, Michelle Chaing; Strata Community Australia (VIC), Sharon Lameris, Michael Nugent and Gregor Evans; Tourism Accommodation Australia (Victorian Branch), Dougal Hollis; Victorian Accommodation Industry Association, Paul Salter; and We Live Here, Barbara Francis, Marshall Delves and Tom Bacon.

All stakeholders were represented and had equal time to present their cases.

The committee is required to report back to Parliament by May 11. The government will then have six months to respond.

Transcripts are available at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc/article/3191

Snapshots from the hearings:

Trevor Atherton and Paul Salter each promoted the self-styled Holiday Rental Code of Conduct, which has been in place for five years without any measurable effect. The Parliamentary panel did not appear satisfied with the lack of any data supporting the "code".

Brent Thomas from Airbnb caused a stir when he disparaged apartment-dwellers as people who "could not afford to buy a house". Mr Thomas was also asked how many multi-listing operators used his Airbnb platform but could not answer. A Matrix Apartments (Southbank) director then testified that it operated more than 20 listings on Airbnb.

Tom Bacon from We Live Here presented a volume of hard data about the positive effect of short-stay regulation on tourism. Since San Francisco, London, Paris and New York introduced regulation, tourism numbers and total spend have risen substantially.

All these major international cities have introduced minimum stays of between 30 and 120 days as well as "one-host-one-home" regulations. Mr Bacon argued strongly in favour of regulation to protect and enhance the tourism sector in Victoria.

Similar views were also expressed by Tourism Accommodation Australia. Tourism and Transport Forum Australia made a written submission in support of Tourism Accommodation Australia asking the government to empower owners' corporations to regulate short-stays.

Our submission included graphic video evidence of the enormous, costly impact on wear and tear of short stay business operations, including:

- Moving 80 tonnes of short-stay laundry through lifts;
 - 50,000 suitcases in lifts every year; and
 - Double the use of doors and lifts by short-stay guests.
- We are calling on Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz and Planning Minister Richard Wynne to:
- Note the lead taken by NSW;
 - Follow the evidence that is being presented at the inquiry; and
 - Start listening to all stakeholders, including the 200 buildings represented by We Live Here.

So far, the Victorian Government has only thought about the issue of unruly guests and hasn't offered any workable solutions for that. However, the much bigger issues of community, amenity and unfair wear and tear costs have been ignored.

We encourage as many of you as possible to become involved and: HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



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

Fashion



Top five street style trends

The Autumn Winter Fashion Weeks have given us insight on which street styles are in and which ones are out.

Here are five of the top street style trends picked out by fashion heavyweights *Vogue*, *Elle* and *InStyle*.

1. Fishnet stockings

Personally, I feel that the fishnet trend is a little done but it seems the style isn't going anywhere with designers stepping it up a notch with fishnet socks and shirts.

Try something different and go for a larger

gap style stocking to really draw the eye.

2. Sports luxe

Dubbed "athleisure", the cross over between comfortable and stylish will continue to dominate throughout the cooler months.

The next big staple piece is set to be stripes – think the big stripes down the button down track pants of your youth. They're making a comeback.

3. Wide belts

Another style that was big almost a decade ago is returning in 2017 – the wide, wrap around belt. Cinching is a trend that will never die and the return of the wide, tie up belt is a testament to this. The corset waist is on the way out to make way for a more modest way of accentuating the figure.

4. Fur coats

Here at *CBD News*, we are all about the faux. Firstly for the protection of animals, secondly because faux is a whole lot more affordable! Find a coat reminiscent of old Hollywood and make your winter glamorous. I picked one up for \$30 from H&M!

5. Mules

Another trend that seems to be here to stay, but this one I'm not mad at. The mule is a simple and elegant shoe that can be paired with almost anything. Whether they're for work or just to chuck on with your jeans, stock up again this season on a staple pair.



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Not just droning on !

Last month a resident's letter was published on drones in Docklands, raising concerns over privacy and safety.

As many depictions of our high-rise future involve drones delivering and picking up packages from our vertical villages, it seemed timely to look at the local state of play (or flight!).

Regarding safety, research conducted by Dr Wild and Dr Baxter (both from RMIT's School of Engineering) and John Murray (Edith Cowan University) looked at over 150 reported civil incidents involving drones (or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems - RPAS). Their finding was that technical problems, rather than operator errors, underpinned the majority of drone accidents. Broken communications links between the pilot and the RPAS were the most common cause of incidents, leading these researchers to call for the introduction of commercial aircraft-type regulations to govern the communications systems. Even more challenging would seem to be the use of unmanned air vehicles (UAVS) which can be used in activities such as search and rescue, agriculture, mapping and surveying, security and surveillance and unmanned cargo systems.

Working in this area are researchers Dr He, Dr Donough and Dr Pingkarawat, (Australia Advanced Aerospace Technologies and RMIT) who are developing two types of aircraft - one with a 25kg payload intended for uses such as agricultural crop spraying,



Local resident Ryan Saville with his drone.

power-line stringing and external pipeline inspection, and the second one having an eight-hour endurance, meaning it can be deployed for surveillance, reconnaissance or data gathering and communication. In another and, unfortunately, increasingly needed area, drones are also being trialled to reduce the risk of shark attacks on our beaches. Research being conducted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and Southern Cross University (SCU) has demonstrated that drones can fly autonomously over beaches and reliably detect sharks through image recognition software.

However, these researchers list five major challenges that need to be overcome (interestingly, including the two raised by our letter writer): public safety and the need to minimise the risk of injury from drone failure; public privacy and the need

to incorporate community values; reliable hardware and need for routine maintenance and upgrades; purpose-designed software and the need to communicate both with other drones and relevant authorities; and, finally, civil aviation regulations which determine where, when and how drones can fly.

And keeping on top of these regulations is something that local resident and experienced drone operator, Ryan Saville, takes seriously.

As a digital marketer, Ryan is keenly aware of the power of the visual in communications and sees his drone as an invaluable tool for capturing footage, as it adds an extra dimension to his videos. In being able to so capture his experiences, Ryan believes that people can become more involved in what he sees - and having just spent three months in the Himalayas helping

local communities, the footage captured by his drone has helped engage people both there and in Australasia.

As regards concerns over drones in our high rise precincts, Ryan points out that one feature of the drone world is digital barriers which, in effect, stop a drone and mean that it cannot fly in blocked areas such as airports. Ryan believes we will not see a future where roads can go anywhere. Rather, we will have "digital roads in the sky" which will be pathways that drones must follow, adhering to associated protocols including whose drone has priority.

And it may well be that this digital road infrastructure will be the sticking point for the rise of the drones, as already an Australian start-up, Flirtey, has used drones to deliver textbooks in Australia, auto parts in New Zealand and has successfully conducted the first FAA-approved drone deliveries in America, beating the likes of Amazon.

But for those vertical dwellers who just want Flirtey to rollout its much publicised pizza delivery by drone, we may have finally found a use for our micro balconies - as drone delivery and docking stations!

If you would like links to the research or organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>

SKYPAD
LIVING

Business

Service stands the test of time

Digiworld Australia is one of the longest-standing computer technology companies in the CBD, all thanks to its understanding of customer needs.

Established in 1995 at its first retail shop on LaTrobe St, Digiworld has been catering to the technology needs of CBD businesses for 22 years.

Now located at 459 Collins St, Digiworld is one of the few CBD technology companies left with a physical presence.

While most of its competitors chose to move online in 2010, Digiworld took a chance and went against the trend. The company closed down its website and focused all of its energy into its CBD presence and business customers.

General manager Sayed Wehbe understood that CBD businesses needed a more specialised service compared with what is available online.



General manager Sayed Wehbe (middle) and the Digiworld Australia team.

"The challenge for businesses when shopping online for technology is finding the right product for their specific needs ... you look for different things than you would when buying a single use home or home/office computer," he said.

"This requires solid IT knowledge and the time to expertly assess the multitude of offers. The intense online competition can

often lead to information overload."

It is when businesses are looking for expert guidance that Digiworld steps in. Offering a personalised service, Digiworld and its extensive IT product knowledge does the research for you and finds the best products available to suit your business's needs.

"We provide everything - not just laptops

or desktops. Anything you need that's IT related, we provide it," Mr Wehbe said.

However Digiworld's service doesn't end with the sale. It also handles maintenance enquiries, upgrades and repairs.

Even if your product has a warranty with the product vendor rather than Digiworld, Mr Wehbe and his team are happy to utilise their long-standing relationships with all major technology brands and handle the communication and repair on your behalf. It is this level of personal care that Digiworld prides itself on and what sets it apart from all competitors. Mr Wehbe has been a part of the Digiworld team for 10 years, while repairs and logistics co-ordinator Joe Zabaneh has been with the company for 20. "When a customer calls us, they'll be speaking to the same person they spoke to three, four, five years ago," Mr Wehbe said. "We know our customers and we know their requirements. I think that makes a difference. It's almost like a turnkey from the day we sell them everything right through until the end of life of the product."

Digiworld is located on the South tower ground floor of 459 Collins St. Visit or call them today on **9663 6699**.

For love of the trees ...

Trees make our CBD a beautiful place to live. How can residents show their love?

Trees are an important part of the ecosystem. Whether they are in a jungle, the bush, gardens and parks or in the city streets. Their leafy crowns provide shade from the beating summer sun and they offer shelter, protection and food for various birds and other small animals.

Trees convert carbon dioxide (CO₂), which comes from burning fossil fuels, into oxygen. Yes - carbon dioxide is the gas generally attributed to global warming and trees help reduce its concentration in the atmosphere. And yes - oxygen is the gas necessary for all animals and humans to sustain life. It takes seven to eight mature trees to produce enough oxygen for one person. Think about it!

The City of Melbourne (CoM) cares about our trees. It has a website that shows a grand plan for the development of our urban forest. Go to this link or just type in "Urban Forest Visual" and you will find the site. Planting map: <http://melbourneurbanforestvisual.com.au/plantingmap.html>

However, the most amazing thing is that every tree has been identified, categorised by type and its life span noted. Every tree in the CBD has an email address. What does this mean?

As a resident of the city, when you walk around and see a tree in trouble, you can find that particular tree on the CoM's website and send it an email. (Of course, the email goes to the carers of the Urban Forest and they can take the necessary action.) Here is the web site link.

Map with tree

IDs: melbourneurbanforestvisual.com.au/#mapexplore

Take my own story. The summer before last, I was walking my dog down Collins St. It was really hot and we had not had rain for weeks. A poor young plane tree was showing stress. It obviously needed water desperately. What could I do? Well, I went into the nearest



The trees along Little Collins St will soon be removed.



A newly planted Plane tree on Collins St.



Yarn Corner coats will keep our trees warm.

coffee shop and asked for some water. The owner said, that each night, instead of throwing their customer drinking water down the drain they would give it to the tree.

The tree survived and is now much stronger. If I had known about the CoM's website, I could have emailed the tree asking for it to be watered!

There is real evidence that people love our trees. Look at the adjacent photo. The trees have been given attractive, warm coats for winter. These lucky trees have been visited by Melbourne's famous Yarn Corner craft group whose motto is "Covering the Town in Yarn". See their web site at: www.yarncorner.com.au/#

Become a citizen urban forester

The City of Melbourne is seeking volunteers to help create resilient, healthy and diverse urban landscapes for the future. Citizen foresters are trained and empowered to grow the urban forest and improve urban ecology by carrying out essential advocacy, monitoring and research tasks. More information is available from this link: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citizenforester

Trees come and go ...

It is with great sadness that we see all the trees in the City Square taken out to allow for the construction of the CBD South metro tunnel station. In addition, the beautiful trees on Little Collins St between Exhibition and Russell street shown in the adjacent photo are to be removed for a construction project.

Why the gantries cannot be modified to go around the trees is a puzzle. This has successfully been accomplished for the same construction site around the corner in Collins St.

Welcome the newbies on the block ...

As you walk around the city you will see quite a large number of beautiful new trees recently planted. An example is shown in the photo. A brand-new plane tree in Collins St.

Some of these newbies have a difficult time getting established. This is where residents can play a role.

If you see a tree struggling or having branches damaged, send the tree an email! A caring CoM forester will attend to the problem. If you do not help, the CoM foresters who care for 70,000 trees may not know and the tree may die.

Come on residents of postcode 3000, you have an important role to play in loving and caring for our precious trees. Be proactive and communicate with the trees.

Trees make our Melbourne CBD a beautiful place to live. Show your love!



Susan Saunders

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



Critic

Broke and bodiless

At Dymocks in Collins St someone had left a stray novel amongst those listed for the much-publicised Stella Prize for women's writing.

The novel has just been released and possibly missed the deadline for the prize. Otherwise, it might have qualified, for the author is an Australian woman, although looks can be deceptive.

An Uncertain Grace explores gender definitions. The driving intelligence is a woman who makes up stories to deal with those exploited. In one story, a 130-year-old narrator inhabits the body of a young

prostitute to find love. In another, a robot boy is used to cure pedophiles.

Krissy Kneen writes sexually explicit stories that view gender as a continuum, more influenced by identity than biology, which can be manipulated by a range of medical procedures and technologies.

Could the Stella Prize therefore be won by a man? Quite possibly, if this novel's premise is accepted. Transition from one gender to another is becoming an increasingly popular and compelling way of finding a community of like-minded people.

Text Publishing is known for its provocative titles. The William St publishing house has released several French novels that deal with predatory males who make light of their appetites by the use of clever arguments. Kneen, to her credit, manages to find humour in the highly-politicised arena of

sexual difference by reversing the typical seduction scenario.

The 130-year-old woman who is the intelligence behind this speculative novel is still chasing sexual pleasure even after she has died and is prepared to pay for it. Liv's brain is being kept alive because of its storytelling skills and is still earning her money, enabling her to transfer funds to the prostitute from her bank account using a chip.

In exchange for the online transfer, Liv is allowed to direct the prostitute by mental telepathy. They go together to a bar where the young woman's physical beauty soon attracts admirers.

But when Liv falls in love with a young male, the prostitute claims their time is up, forcing the intelligence from beyond the grave to pay double the money for an extra hour.

Eventually Liv finds another young female body to inhabit and comes clean to her beau Anthony about her subterfuge. Anthony admits that he has fallen in love with the voice inside the body for its powers of visualisation.

Kneen is pushing readers into an imagined place that feels more comfortable than the more hackneyed one in her set-up, in which a male creative writing professor seduces his young female student.

The novel, like the previous works published by Text, is aimed at writers as well as readers. Kneen manages to play with omniscience while remaining faithful to first person present tense.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au

Planning



Beulah International's revised scheme for the former Celtic Club.

Here comes Paragon

The Celtic Club's development at 316-320 Queen St looks poised to proceed as "Paragon", with developer Beulah International seeking to capitalise on an existing planning permit approved under previous planning controls.

To say this development has been a point of contention for many is an understatement. The development has had to clear a number of hurdles in not only receiving planning approval, but stretching as far back as 2013, contending with inner-club politics, which resulted in club members voting against plans to proceed with a multi-level residential tower.

Beulah International eventually purchased the site last year for \$25.6 million after playing a patient waiting game, which involved a series of further member-votes on the fate of the club. The site's permit extension granted by Planning Minister Richard Wynne is due to expire in October, meaning Beulah International will likely move to launch the 48-level apartment tower shortly.

Encompassing a 3000sqm site, much of the Celtic Club will make way for the tower, which was approved to include 256 apartments, although this number will almost certainly change as the developer rebalances the project's apartment schedule to meet current market conditions.

The revised scheme by Fender Katsalidis Architects replaces an earlier design by Peddle Thorp Architects and sees the tower's exterior redesigned with a stretched diagrid pattern over a golden facade reminiscent of New York's Hearst Tower.

In other news, the race to deliver the five stations and twin 9km tunnels of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project is down to three consortia comprising Australian, Spanish, French and Italian construction giants and specialists. The three consortia are Continuum Victoria, Cross Yarra Partnership, and Moving Melbourne Together.

The three consortia's proposals "include more than 100,000 pages of detailed plans to build the nine-kilometre Metro Tunnel and five new underground stations at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain." The winning bidder and contract signing is expected to be complete by the end of the year with major works kicking off in 2018.

As part of the early works package which is already underway City Square has now temporarily closed - for up to five years - to

allow for construction to kick off at the southern end of the CBD.

The first order of business after securing the site will be to demolish the three existing levels of car parking for the Westin Hotel that currently sit under the square. A deeper shaft will then be excavated, which will enable heavy construction equipment to be launched that will be used for the construction of the station platforms, mezzanine levels and underground adits connecting to Flinders St and Federation Square as well as the tunnel between both Flinders St and Melbourne Central stations. Acoustic sheds will be erected over the station pit opening to minimise visual and audible noise during the construction period.

It is expected that City Square will be returned to the City of Melbourne as public open space by 2022 including an entrance to the station underneath. And lastly, the State Library of Victoria is set to undergo further transformation as part of the library's \$88.1 million 2020 Vision. The Ian Potter Queen's Hall and a number of gallery spaces are set to be reopened to the public as multi-functional spaces after many years behind closed doors.

The designs for the project by Architectus in association with Denmark's Schmidt Hammer Lassen will reintroduce 40 per cent more space to the public, including the significant historic refurbishment and reconfiguration of the Queen's Hall and the Russell St entrance.

The Victorian Government is providing \$60.4 million worth of funding towards the project with the remaining \$27.7 million to be raised through philanthropic support. Already the library has raised \$21 million with \$3 million from Maria and Allan Myers QC, \$8 million from the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation and \$10 million from the Ian Potter Foundation.



Laurence Dragomir

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

Heritage

D for demolition?

It's about to get lot harder to justify the demolition of heritage buildings in the city due to the adoption of new heritage policies by the City of Melbourne.

The policies replace an inadequate and outdated grading system which ranked heritage places in order from A to D, often resulting in a "D for demolition" mindset, whereby developers often argued successfully and decision makers like VCAT often agreed that the lowest letter must mean a lack of importance.

But changes now mean any A and B graded places will move to a "significant" status, and those of C or D grade will now be considered "contributory", with some previously C-graded places moved to "significant" on a case by case basis.

The decades-old definitions of A, B, C and D are too arcane to be talked about in detail in this column and, indeed, to a layperson may clearly but incorrectly seem to mean a ranking with D being barely worth defending. But the meanings of "significant" and "contributory" heritage should be much more apparent not only to readers, but to the

public, property owners and developers. The importance of the changes, long lobbied for by Melbourne Heritage Action and their long overdue status, were made even clearer when the Planning Minister recently told council he'd refuse to sign onto any new planning scheme changes asked for by the council unless they urgently upgraded to the best practice and fairer system long used across every other municipality in Victoria. Despite falling behind other councils previously, the new grading system is heralding a lot of new work on heritage in the next few years, with updated statements of significance for every inner suburb, beefier guidelines for extensions and development on heritage sites, comprehensive reviews of the CBD, Southbank, Fishermans Bend and West Melbourne and specific heritage protection for our iconic laneway precincts around Guildford and Hardware lanes, which was voted for unanimously in mid-April - efforts that show the City of Melbourne is finally making a significant stride towards being a leader of heritage protection across the state.



Tristan Davies

President
Melbourne Heritage
Action

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MELBOURNE CBD

Júlia Both: a jewel in the urban landscape

Júlia Both, although she has contributed to many collaborations, doesn't consider herself a street artist, but as an artist/illustrator who occasionally works in public.

This vivacious and talented young woman of Brazilian descent, has lived in Australia for seven years.

She studied visual communication and design in Brisbane but love and the compatibility of their ideals brought Júlia and her partner to Melbourne.

They both wanted to be artists that created works about nature, so they made the move to start a new life and follow their dreams together.

"Although we wanted to be artists, we went into design as we felt that something practical, more commercial, would be sensible," Júlia said. "This has worked out well for us as a lot of the skills acquired have been useful in our projects. It also stimulated me to think about the images we were creating and the effect/impact they had on society – to create something more meaningful."

Even though her preference is for small works and, although their scale can be daunting, Júlia also enjoys the larger collaborative walls.

"I do the designing and it's this part of a collaboration that I'm most passionate about. I do a lot of research and take into account the location, the theme and how people are going to interact with it," she said.

"How will it be viewed both close-up and from afar? I sketch out the elements and then choose the palette to keep it cohesive. It's great to see a wall come into fruition."

"Although I can paint with a can, my preference is to use brushes. I really like using a brush and it's more affordable! A few litres of paint can go a long way!"

Júlia and her partner Chuck Mayfield have been a very successful team. Their different styles work well together. Their strengths balance each other out. His is an urban graffiti one, whilst Júlia has a delicate and illustrative style with a strong jewel-like

sense of colour.

They enjoy the flow and overlapping of styles – the softness of the brush blending with the crispness of aerosol-creates a lot of depth.

Júlia aspires to travel the world to make connections with people who run projects that benefit communities. Improving the world through art?

"This is the direction I would like to take as I'm very interested in the mural art of Latin America. It's not just pretty pictures but has a message. When I go back to Brazil I find the work being done on the streets really inspirational. It has something to say. Although there's a bit of that here, it's mostly just decorative," she said.

"So when I return home I realise that this is the direction in which I want to take my art – making art in public places that focuses on local, important issues."

"It's still early for my practice and I'm still working things out. How can I my mark on the world? Art can be a divine vessel for the flow of creativity but other times you feel you're being indulgent."

"Just painting pictures, not bettering humanity in anyway? Too complacent with what you are doing? Are we really adding anything to the world or just painting walls for the money? I'm constantly questioning myself."

"That said, if art is too confrontational, too political, it can force people to switch off. I'm interested in making it seem otherwise: work that makes you question and creates a dialogue."

"I'm also frustrated with the way women are portrayed. Art on the streets is meant to be a rebellious form of art but a lot of it's just repetitive. The same imagery that idealises women very much the way advertising does. Women are objectified. There's not enough critical conversation about this!"

Júlia's show at Off The Kerb Gallery, *Garden of Delight*, was an exhibition of delicate, sensitive watercolours: very personal and very sexual.

"Painting is my way of saying what I find difficult to articulate. It's a way of expressing my feelings," she said.

"*Garden of Delight* dealt with my sexuality and being comfortable with my body. It was a new direction, embracing opposites – masculine and feminine. The outer and inner worlds."



Self portrait "We see a Garden of Delight". Off the Kerb Gallery, January, 2017.

And as for her future, Júlia sees it being one of study and extensive travel, taking her talents to an international stage. More of Júlia's work can be seen in Flinders Court. She was amongst the few female artists invited to participate in the *Meeting of Styles* event in 2015.



Lorraine Ellis

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

Pet's Corner

Friendly dogs call Flagstaff Gardens home

By Meg Hill

Astor and Spencer hit the jackpot when they befriended Flagstaff Gardens gardener and resident John.

The two dogs get to lounge around in the sun while John works in the picturesque CBD park that surrounds his home.

John, who lives in a cosy caretaker's house, has owned seven-year-old shitzu/poodle Astor since "he could fit in the palm of your

hand".

John is also pleased to have his friend's rescue dog, three-year-old Spencer, join him and Astor to work in the garden. Spencer is a mystery mix of breeds and has learned from his calm companion Astor since being rescued.

"He has calmed down a lot, he used to be very nervous and jumpy," John said.

John has to put the dogs on a lead when he takes them into the park, but they are happiest relaxing off-leash when playing within the fenced boundary of his home.

There seems to be little point of a leash,

however, as John cannot be pushed to think of a single time Astor has failed to be a good boy.

In fact, Astor can be easily prompted by his owner to shake hands, high-five, drop, roll over and howl.

"He sometimes gets over-excited and barks a bit, but he's just saying hello."

Spencer, on the other hand, is sometimes caught digging up John's well-maintained gardens, endearingly undoing hours of hard work.



John at work with pals Spencer and Astor.

居民权力上升

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

如果自由党联合政府赢得2018年的州政府选举，那么住宅居民的利益可能会主导下一届墨尔本市议会。

4月1日，维多利亚州自由党委员会要求未来的联合政府“全面采纳”乔治欧(Petro Georgiou)2014年提出的地方政府改革建议。

乔治欧先生的“地方政府选举报告”中，对墨尔本市具有最重要意义的建议是：

- 结束不公正的选票方式，即居民单票投票，而商家有两票投票；

- 每位团队成员的选举捐款上限为\$1000。

在去年10月的墨尔本市政选举中，许多候选人没有申报选举捐款，而另一方面，获选的道儿(Doyle)九人团队则报告收到了\$314400(每名成员约\$35000)。

前任议员王宗坚(Ken Ong)的Together Melbourne团队报告每位成员的捐款相当于\$15482，菲尔·克莱里(Phil Cleary)团队的每位成员为\$12650。绿党团队报告的捐款为\$15067.09(每位成员为\$2152)。

目前的墨尔本市议会大致有七位商业议员(六名道儿团队成

员加上刘乐)，相对应的只有四位社区议员(两名绿党成员、杰基·瓦茨以及尼古拉斯·弗朗西斯·吉利)。

目前，墨尔本市内居民的投票为42%，而非居民的投票则享有58%。

在非居民的投票中，约43%是地产物主，15%是商家业主。这两组人在现行制度下可分别获得两票选举 - 也就是说如果你既是商家，又是非住宅物业的物主，你可获得两票选举。

如果乔治欧的改革得以通过，那么住宅居民/非住宅的投票组合很可能对居民有利，但是他的建议也支持拥有多个物业

物主的投票权。

但更重要的改革将是限制选举捐赠，因为这将大大地削弱那些资金充足的竞选活动所带来的优势。

目前，唯一能够与那些不断增长的非住宅物主选民的沟通是通过邮寄的方式。

在去年的市政选举中，非住宅物主分配了57323张选票。那么根据澳大利亚邮政的价格，第一次所发邮件的费用就可能超过2020年最佳资助竞选团队的预算。

接近都市心脏

人们选择在市中心生活，最流行的理由是都市的多样性以及社会和文化活动的贴近度。对居住在邮政编码3000居民的最新一次民意调查显示，57%的回答选择了这项决定他们住在CBD的一个影响因素。

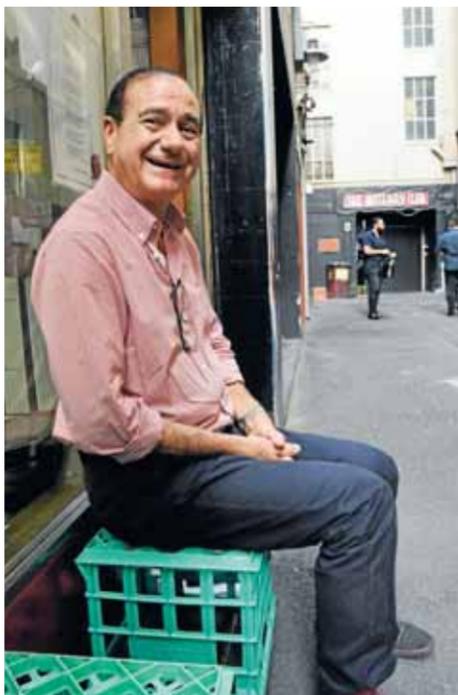
在CBD居住的其它普遍理由包括：近工作场所-44%；地段-43%；方便使用公共交通-32%；便利-31%；以及接近服务设施-25%。

四月初进行的这个民意调查，有71位市中心居住者回复了调查。

在要求评估他们市中心生活的整体经验，按-5到+5打分时，平均回答为+3。当问及他们对市中心最喜欢的事情时，最受欢迎的回答是“餐馆，酒吧和咖啡馆”，占67%。其他流行的回答是：娱乐 - 55%；绿色区域和公园 - 53%；可用和接近服务实施 - 45%；建筑 - 41%；及文化多样性 - 39%。

一位参与者评论说：“生活在一个国际化的城市，由于其24小时社会和文化的如此繁华，整体活力大大提高。”

尽管居民们有很多喜欢居住在这里的东西，但是还有诸多他们不喜欢的东西，其中尤为突出的是乞丐，无家可归者，吸烟者，施工区域，清洁和涂鸦。



塞巴斯蒂安 回到街店

1996年，塞巴斯蒂安·麦蒙(Sebastian Maimone)是墨尔本百货公司的第一位理发师，而2017年的现在，他成了最后一位。

为了吸引男性购物者进入各个男装部，他为此工作了51年，可上个月被通知结束走人。

他认为大卫·琼斯(David Jones)的这种目光短浅。但是他并不为自己所受到的处境而难过，相反，他把店搬到了小柯林斯(Little Collins)街对面，在卡森广场(Carson Place)

为自己及他的三名职员在Ab理发店找到了新的空间。

73岁的麦蒙正值老当益壮之年。毕竟在他开始学徒时，当时最年轻的理发师已是81岁。

他说：“我有一群可爱的客户，我喜欢和他们说话，当然还有一份工作收入。”

现在麦蒙先生又回到了卡森广场，希望他的忠实客户能知道他在那儿。他的联系电话是9663 1283。

新的毒品法院

Melissa Chung 撰稿

维多利亚州政府在CBD的核心地段建立了一个耗资3200万澳元的毒品法院，这是2015年制定的冰毒行动计划的第二阶段。

墨尔本的毒品法院为170名冰毒使用者提供机会来抵制对毒品的依赖，而不是采取直接监禁。否则往往会导致更多的再次犯罪。

新的毒品法院是在丹地农(Dandenong)毒品法院取得成功之后建立的，因为已经证明了两年内重复犯罪的减少 - 也就是说这个重复犯罪率比在主流司法制度下低34%。

州政府表示已经提供了超过1亿澳元以增加毒品治疗服务，家庭援助，以及为维多利亚警察在冰毒行动计划中提供更多资源。

市政选举 谁在乎？

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

根据最近公布的数据显示，中央商务区(CBD)和南岸(Southbank)的都市选民对墨尔本市政选举最不关心。

在都市新闻报(CBD News)的要求下，维多利亚选举委员会(VEC)对选民不参加去年10月的市政选举 - 也就是道尔(Doyle)团队重新当选的选举情况，通过邮政编码排列透露了有关信息。

墨尔本市是维多利亚州投票率最糟糕的城市之一，只有55%的选民参与了投票。

而CBD(邮政编码3000)和南岸(邮政编码3006)的情况更糟，有超过半数有资格的选民没有参与投票。

但数据显示，不仅是许多

当地居民没有参与，而且没有投票的物主数量更为突出，只有43.67%的“非居民物主(自动享有投票权者)”选民在CBD中投了票。

在南岸，物主参与投票的数字甚至更少，只有38.75%的人返回了他们的邮寄投票 - 这可是该市任何类别选民投票的最低百分比。

CBD内的居民投票率相对好些，为57.02%(4938人)，但正如都市新闻报所指出的那样，实际上只有很少一部分当地居民注册了这次选举投票。

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www.life.org.au/implac
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7:20am for a 7:40am start, Tuesdays

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rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

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Events are posted on our web site at:
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7pm - 8pm, Boyd Centre,
207 City Rd, Southbank

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eastendersinc@gmail.com

First Thursday of each month,
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SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

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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
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Collins Street Baptist Church
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www.australianorthodox.org

Scots' Church
156, Collins St
Ph: 9650 9903
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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
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Ph: 9653 4333
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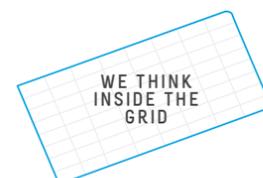
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CBD NEWS

Tribunal knocks back redevelopment of Flagstaff House

Flagstaff House is a “B” graded heritage building located opposite the Flagstaff Gardens on the corner of Batman and and King streets.

It was designed by Yuncken Freeman Architects in 1955 and developed for its office. It was considered a prototype building for subsequent “International Style” heritage buildings by Yuncken Freeman in Melbourne, most notably the Former BHP House and the South Yarra Library. It is a two-storey International Style building and is described in the West Melbourne Heritage Review as one of the most faithful of the Mies van der Rohe inspired designs in Victoria.

Application was made to construct a 19-storey tower behind the existing facade for a residential hotel (including a liquor licence) and private penthouse apartment. The proposed building would be almost 30 metres above the discretionary 40 metre height control. The City of Melbourne opposed the proposal, as were nearby landowners including Haileybury College to the immediate south. The college adapted its building for the school’s use with approval granted in

November 2015. The school’s capacity is understood to be for 774 students. The school has open spaces on three levels – levels 3, 4 and 10. In *DCF 407 King Street Developing Entity v Melbourne CC* [2017] VCAT 423, the tribunal found there were many fatal problems with the proposed development including its impacts on the school. It therefore agreed with the council that a permit not be granted. In summary, the tribunal found that:
 The street and laneway setbacks were generally sufficient to distinguish the retained fabric from the tower, however the placement of the tower on the southern boundary or its relation to the buttress element had not been successfully addressed;
 The design response would adversely affect the significance of the retained building by reinforcing bulk and height (by lining up and matching the size of upper and lower sections of the tower), emphasising mass

and heaviness over the lightweight heritage glass box;
 The proposed building was too high when viewed from the Flagstaff Gardens, which was accentuated by the “heaviness” of the building form;
 A building height of 50m or less was in the order of acceptability for this site in the context of the planning control which has a preferred height of 40m; and
 The design had little regard for the impacts on the adjoining college, and any redesign should include design techniques to lessen impacts as a trade-off for height utilising common methods, such as chamfered tops of towers angled to allow sunlight to the school when most warranted.
 In refusing the proposal, the tribunal gave clear directions as to what was required to achieve an acceptable outcome. These included:
 Acknowledge the buttress element of the retained building;
 Set the building back from the southern

boundary above the Haileybury College building about or greater than 3m to allow the design of the upper tower in the round;
 Reconsider the architectural expression, particularly the relevance of the indent;
 Reduce the height of the building to respond to the Flagstaff Gardens; and
 Provide for better consideration of the amenity of the Haileybury College’s outdoor areas.
 No doubt with some clear directions from the tribunal a new application is likely to be made.



Mark Marsden
 Managing editor
 Victorian Planning Reports
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