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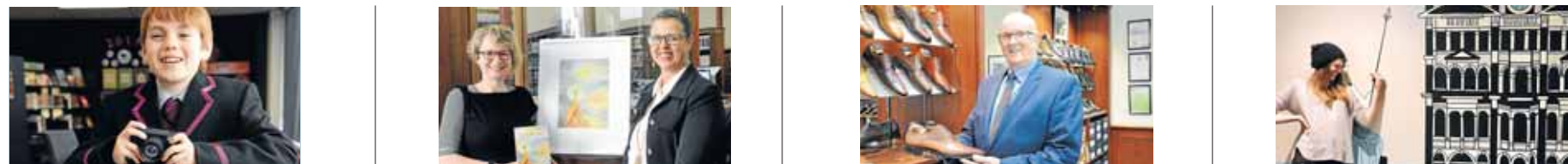
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Council set to slam road project

The City of Melbourne looks set to launch a withering critique of the West Gate Tunnel project, which will dump thousands more vehicles per day into the north and west of the CBD.

Speaking at a community session at the town hall on June 8, traffic co-ordinator Richard Smithers said the council had serious concerns about the impact of the project.

The government on May 29 released a 10,000-page environmental effects statement (EES) on the impact of the privately-initiated toll road proposal. Submissions in response close on July 10.

The EES is predicting significant reductions of traffic in King and Spencer streets in 2031 if the project proceeds, with traffic being diverted via Docklands. Apart from the western end of LaTrobe St (which is predicted to carry 1000 more vehicles per day), no other Hoddle Grid streets were included in the analysis.

Mr Smithers said the council was still formulating its response and was keen to be guided by community concerns. But, he said, some initial thoughts were obvious.

He said the most worrying traffic effect would stem from the thousands of extra vehicles entering the city from the Dynon Rd bridge.

He said there would not be more vehicles in the peak period, because the route was already at capacity. But, he said, any spare capacity that existed in adjoining streets



Council traffic co-ordinator Richard Smithers addresses the session.

would be taken up for 14 hours per day.

“Essentially, in both directions these roads will be in peak conditions for up to 14 hours a day,” he said. “That’s a concern because council has spent a lot of time and energy changing how traffic moves through this area.”

He said this extra east-west traffic would also have a devastating effect on north-south tram routes because traffic signals at intersections would need to be changed in favour of the new traffic.

He said 13 north-south tram routes currently moved 13,000 passengers per hour and taking “green time” from them at intersections would create a “significant problem” for the city.

Mr Smithers said the partial closure of Grattan St due to Metro Tunnel works would further exacerbate the problem.

Continued page 2



Inflatable Refugee

This five-metre sculpture took an outing on the Yarra on June 17 to draw attention to the plight of refugees.

Belgian artists collective Schellekens & Peleman created the work which was later temporarily installed at the Immigration Museum. Photo by AKM Imran.

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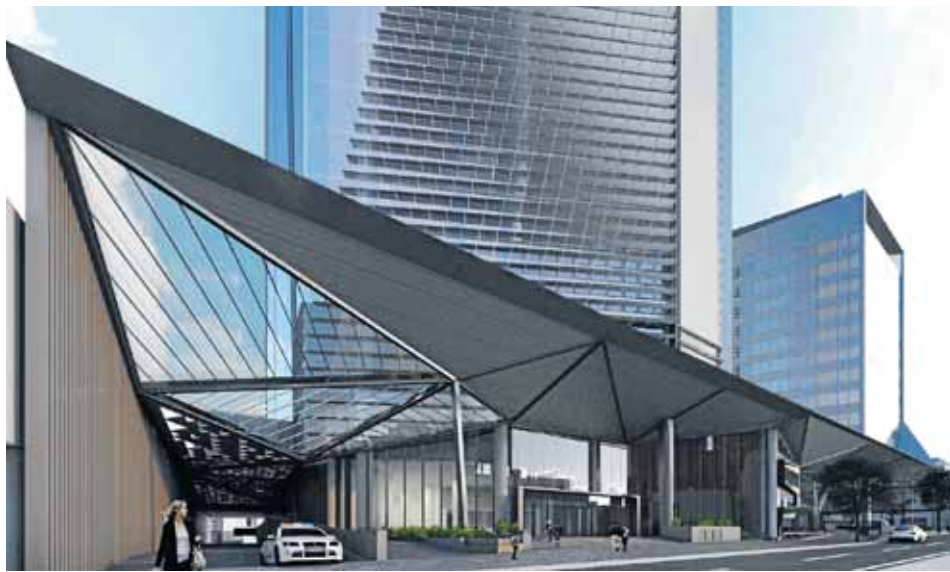
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Artist's impression of the proposed new police tower.

Support for new police tower

The City of Melbourne has supported an application for a 39-storey tower for Victoria Police at 263 Spencer St.

The site is next door to the newly-completed City West Police Complex and will allow Victoria Police to consolidate its major administrative functions into a single campus.

Police plan to vacate their Flinders St, Docklands, facility after the new tower is completed. The new facility will also house the police museum and media centre.

Some 65,000 sqm of office space will be built on the site. The building exceeds the minimum 18.1 plot ratio outlined in new planning regulations, but the council supports an exemption to these rules due to its use as commercial offices.

In a report to the council's June 6 Future Melbourne Committee, urban design staff raised concerns about concrete "vehicle exclusion seating blocks" designed to protect the building and called for their removal.

In her assessment, however, planning practice leader Jane Birmingham said: "As advised by the applicant, the proposed design is required given the need for increased security due to the proposed occupation of the building by the police."

Council set to slam road project

From page 1

The City of Melbourne's transport strategy, he explained, was based around discouraging private motor vehicles in favour of public transport, cycling and pedestrians.

He said the city also had concerns about extra traffic in Docklands, where traffic will be diverted from Spencer and King streets.

An "extension" is proposed between Dynon Rd and Wurundjeri Way, which planners expect to carry up to 19,000 vehicles per day. Wurundjeri Way itself is to get an extra lane in each direction and is predicted to carry up to 16,000 extra vehicles per day by 2031 if the project proceeds.

Other matters worrying the council included: impacts on open space, Moonee Ponds Creek, E-Gate and other renewal areas, noise and amenity impacts, physical connections, visual impact and loss of trees.

Council officers are preparing a response on all these concerns, which will be made public when presented to the Future Melbourne Committee in July.

Councillors have previously been scathing about the project. On May 17, 2016, they came close to opposing the project altogether, but agreed to wait until the more was known about it.

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Short-stay committee sits on the fence

By Shane Scanlan

The issue of short-stay accommodation in residential buildings is no closer to being resolved, with a government committee examining the matter sitting firmly on the fence.

On June 8, State Parliament's Environment and Planning Committee released its report into the Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016.

The report recognises the problems that short-stays can cause and makes a series of lukewarm findings and recommendations. And, while it recommends giving owners' corporations (OCs) power to regulate, it stops short of recommending they be given powers to ban short-stays altogether.

The committee acknowledges the legitimacy of short-stays but says they need to be regulated to protect residential amenity.

The committee's report does little more than summarise the evidence it heard and, ultimately, it hands the problem back to the government to solve.

On November 7 last year, the opposition referred the matter to the committee during the Bill's second reading in the Upper House. The government has six months to respond to the committee's report.

In his chairman's foreword, opposition planning spokesperson David Davis said: "In my view the Bill will have to be substantially amended to address many of the issues raised in evidence and to strike a more

appropriate balance between the rights of the peer-to-peer accommodation industry and the right of residents to quiet enjoyment of their own properties."

"There is no doubting the growing importance and in particular the economic significance of the peer-to-peer accommodation sector and the aim of government regulation must be to ensure this sector thrives within a responsible framework that accords fairness and rights to those with whom it cohabits."

Recommendation four of the report is potentially the strongest: "That, as part of its broader review of consumer property law, the Victorian Government considers the appropriateness of giving owners corporations of strata complexes power to regulate short-stay accommodation in their building."

But a preceding paragraph makes clear the proposed level of regulation: "The committee recognises that apartment owners have the right use their properties within the law for short-stay accommodation. However, in the committee's view owners' corporations of strata buildings should be empowered to regulate short-stays within their complex. This should include the right to insist on

legitimate inductions on building facilities."

Owners' corporations opposed to short-stays will gain some heart from recommendation nine: "That the Victorian Government, in its review of consumer property law, considers allowing owners corporations to levy fees on short-stay accommodation providers to cover increased maintenance and repair costs caused by their guests and the usage of these apartments. This should include a fair and equitable cap on the percentage of fees that may be levied."

However, those wishing to limit the number of days an apartment can be rented will be disappointed with the committee's response.

"The committee does not support a restriction on the number of days an owner may let their property for short-stay. However it recognises that there is a need to regulate short-stay accommodation that falls within the scope of commercial-residential accommodation."

And, on the other side, short-stay operators who had advocated for a system of self-regulation will also be disappointed.

The committee said: "During the inquiry's public hearings, stakeholders were unable to provide a compelling argument in favour of

self-regulation through the code of conduct in lieu of legislation."

And, while the committee clearly advocates regulation, it has offered the government little advice about how it should be done.

The committee said: "Based on the concerns raised in evidence, the committee considers that the Bill is inadequate and unfair to many parties, including residents and, in some cases, those who are legitimately providing short-stay accommodation."

Mr Davis said: "The legal position of short-stay accommodation and the ability of owners' corporations to manage these matters within their own complexes will require the government to find a solution."

The We Live Here anti-short-stay advocacy group has welcomed the committee's report. As reported of page 18 of this edition, the group said: "We Live Here welcomes the recommendations made and so do our members who, until now, have felt their concerns have been ignored by the government and short-stay operators."

"It is gratifying to know that politicians now understand that the short-stay issue is about safety, security and the unfair cost burden on the majority of owners."

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Security surprises

By Meg Hill

On June 10, the State Government and the City of Melbourne began the unannounced installation of safety barriers around the CBD in an attempt to counteract recent trends in terrorism and attacks against the public.

The barriers are being installed overnight at popular city areas without prior disclosure of locations, with the first barriers being installed at Bourke St and Federation Square.

New security measures were announced as part of a developing strategy by the government in May in the wake of the Bourke St massacre, but were spurred on by the recent London attacks.

"There's no time to be wasted here. When we think about London, when we think about other events, tragic events on the other side of the world and events very close to home, there's no time to be wasted," Premier Daniel Andrews told a press conference.

The unsightly concrete blocks are temporary barriers to be replaced by a network of permanent or retractable bollards, funded by a \$10 million chunk of the 2017/18 Budget.

"These concrete blocks will be replaced by street furniture, planter boxes and things that are perhaps a little less imposing. But, we're not going to wait for that work to be done, that will take some time," Mr Andrews said.

"This is not about alarming people, it's simply indicating that we are prepared and that we are doing everything that we need to do to keep Victorians safe," he said.

He said electronic bollards, which would not obstruct trams but could be activated when needed, would be installed in the Bourke St Mall.

Mr Andrews said other sites around the city



Temporary concrete barriers in Bourke St.

would be getting similar treatment but would not be announced in advance, as this would indicate where vulnerabilities existed.

"Whilst constructing permanent bollards will take some time, I have directed that temporary bollards be put in place here at Federation Square and Bourke St and a number of other sites that we won't go into for obvious reasons," he said.

He said CCTV upgrades and a city-wide warning system would also be rolled out over the next six months.

"I don't want to change the way we live our lives but I want to ensure that we've got the best infrastructure, on the best advice, to keep Victorians safe," Mr Andrews said.

"We will look to fortify and defend any assets across the city when we are given advice that it needs to be done."

Police Minister Lisa Neville said: "Recent events have shown us that these sorts of security measures can't wait."

Terrorism expert at Victoria University Professor Ramón Spaaij told *CBD News* in May that over-reliance on obvious public security measures could be problematic.

"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. They can help by diverting attacks away, simply because these lone individuals may not have the ability to overcome these barriers. Then the problem is target displacement."



Max Simpson with his prize and a couple of his winning entries.

Seeing through Max's eyes

When it comes to taking photos, nine-year-old Max Simpson certainly punches above his weight.

Max won the under-18 category of the recent Melbourne PhotoMarathon.

The Haileybury College student was the youngest contestant in the field but stunned his competitors with his nine images taken on nine subjects within nine hours.

He stunned himself too. "My aunty took a video of me and my mouth was wide open

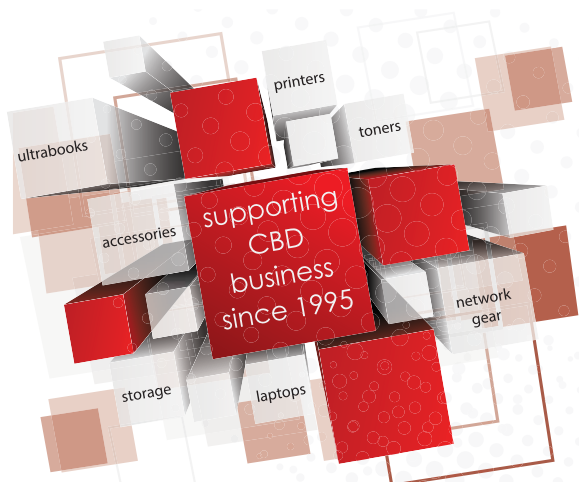
in amazement when I won," Max told *CBD News*. "Everyone was looking at me."

He said his older competitors were good sports about his win and wanted to know his entry number so they could check his work on display at Magnet Gallery in Bourke St.

And, with another eight years in the same category, Max is going to be hard to beat in coming years.

He said the photo marathon encouraged him to think differently about otherwise ordinary subjects.

"It makes you look at the town differently," he said. "You see something and it makes you think about it in a different way."



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Little Collins hotel proposed

A 22-storey luxury hotel may soon soar from an under-utilised, 10-storey office building at 422 Little Collins St.

Dilato Investments has submitted a planning application to the City of Melbourne to build an additional 13 levels, including a mezzanine, on top of the existing structure.

The current building will be retrofitted and the new roof will be turned into an outdoor-terraced podium with extensive views.

Melbourne-based Metier 3 Architects designed the \$40 million project, which aims for retention and revitalisation of the under-utilised building and surrounding laneways.

Dilato Investments said it wanted to distinguish the city block bound by Queen, Bourke, William and Little Collins streets and will focus on frontage activation.

Normanby Lane, which borders the site, will be activated with restaurants and bars under the plan.

The building will be home to a potential international hotel with 263 rooms on the 956sqm site.

The additional levels will be visually connected to the old building by using similar building materials.

24/7 support for the homeless

By Sunny Liu

The CBD’s homeless people will get 24/7 mental health support from Northwestern Mental Health Service (NMHS) and Victoria Police from July 1.

Currently NMHS in Parkville provides mental health treatment to the homeless from 2-10pm each day.

People sleeping rough on the streets and experiencing mental health issues will receive urgent help anytime of the day as part of a mental health and police response initiative.

Police will notify NMHS when they encounter homeless people needing immediate mental health treatment.

The mental health response helps patients receive support quickly and reduces the time police and emergency services spend on responding to related incidents and frees up more time for them to attend to other emergencies.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the mental health response program could help people transition out of homelessness.

“We know that people experiencing homelessness often have drug and alcohol addictions, or may suffer from mental health issues,” he said.

“This service will provide the support services rough sleepers need to help them find permanent pathways out of homelessness.”



“By bringing together police and mental health services to work as one, we can hopefully make a real difference to the lives of people experiencing homelessness,” Cr Doyle said.

The mental health services will add to council’s Homelessness Daily Support team, which comprises four workers who have been directly assisting homeless people in accessing housing and services since April.

“The service will complement the work that our daily support team is doing to connect rough sleepers with outreach services and support, as well as collecting face-to-face data so that we know who is sleeping rough at any one time, the services they are using and their health and housing needs,” Cr Doyle said.

The City of Melbourne has endorsed its \$2 million Pathways Innovation Package to fund homelessness programs, including the daily support team, Home Ground real estate, education program Connect Respect, a senior housing advisor and the Salvation Army’s Night Time Safe Space.

While availability of homelessness support programs is improving, council has not yet made a final decision on the proposed amendments to its Activities Local Law 2009.

Discussions on the proposal, which aims to change the definition of camping and remove homeless people’s unattended belongings, have been adjourned to July 19.

A council spokesperson said the proposal was delayed “so that adequate time would be available to complete a review of the submissions received and consider the proposed changes against the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities”.

John Dall’Amico, president of Residents 3000, said removing homeless people’s belongings would “only clean up the streets for that day”.

“Homeless people’s belongings are mostly donated and they can re-gather things anyway even if they are taken away.”

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Not just books and theatre at the Athenaeum

Renowned Melbourne cartoonist, artist, writer and children's book creator Judy Horacek will be the artist-in-residence at the Athenaeum during the Melbourne Rare Book Week and throughout July.

Ms Horacek is well known for her cartoons that touch on political topics such as climate change and her children's books, including *Where is the Green Sheep*, are household names in Australia. She is also a regular freelance cartoonist for Fairfax.

Ms Horacek said she hoped to get inspiration from the residency program at the Athenaeum, one of Melbourne's oldest libraries and theatres.

"It would be a privilege to work in this building and be inspired by the books and history," she said.

"It would be very different, working live and having people coming in to see me working. A lot of my regular work is just staring out the window or taking random notes."

"But setting up the studio here can help me engage with the audience more."

"I really enjoy talking to people about my work, especially with people who are wanting to get into art. The residency could show people an alternative way of life," she said.

Being a well-rounded artist and writer, Ms Horacek said she loved expressing political views through cartoons.

"I love the immediacy of cartoons and the possibility of making political comments



Artist Judy Horacek and general manager Sue Westwood at the Athenaeum.

around issues such as climate change, asylum seekers and feminism," she said.

Ms Horacek will also launch her new cartoon book *Random Life* on June 29.

Her ninth cartoon collection, *Random Life* features everything from anxiety to superheroes and to zebras, with different political themes. The foreword is by the late satirist John Clarke.

During the artist residency program, guest artists are invited to set up their studio at the Athenaeum Library and put their artworks on display. The program offers artists time and space to present, reflect and produce their work.

Ms Horacek will showcase *Random Life*, some of her recent cartoon prints, including one commissioned by the Athenaeum, and her previous books during the residency.

Athenaeum's business manager Sue

Westwood said the residency program could add an extra cultural element to the venue, which was already rich in history and literature.

"We want to offer more than just books. To be able to have Judy's work on display is a great reason for people to visit," Ms Westwood said.

"We hope a change of environment could provide a different kind of scene for the creative process. Also, people are always intrigued by some behind-the-scene access."

The Rare Book Week will run at various locations from June 30 to July 9.

Ms Horacek will be in residence from July 3-7, although her work is on display throughout July. She is also giving a free talk about cartooning and collaborating on Wednesday, July 5 at 6.00pm. Bookings are essential on **9650 3100**.

Diversion for Wandin

Disqualified Melbourne councillor Brooke Wandin has escaped conviction on electoral fraud charges.

The former "Indigenous Voice" candidate was granted a diversion order in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on June 6.

Ms Wandin was charged by Victorian Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate with unlawfully nominating for last October's City of Melbourne election. She was further charged with "failure to declare".

While she was declared elected by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) after the October 22 election, Ms Wandin was never sworn in.

It is understood Ms Wandin did not challenge the allegation that she incorrectly declared that she lived at the Kensington address of former councillor Richard Foster.

It is understood that she argued that she naively trusted the advice of others and had unknowingly broken the law.

Mr Foster is facing similar charges and is due to face court on July 18. It is understood he will be contesting the charges.



Disqualified councillor Brooke Wandin.

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Honour for footwear retailer

By Sunny Liu

Melbourne footwear retailer Peter Parkinson has been awarded a Queen's Birthday honours Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his lifelong contribution to the retail footwear industry.

Having owned McCloud Shoes on Queen St since 1991 and been the president of the National Footwear Retailers' Association (NFRA) since 1995, Mr Parkinson lives and breathes shoes.

Mr Parkinson said the award did not just represent his personal contribution but reflected the collective efforts of Australia's independent retailers.

"Receiving the honour just for myself is a bit like saying in football that the person who kicked all the goals is the person that won the match," he said.

The NFRA brings together a large group of individual footwear retailers and provides training and business support to members.

At its peak the NFRA had more than 300 members but, due to the shrinking independent-retail industry, it has been reduced to 150.



Local retailer Peter Parkinson was honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Nonetheless, the NFRA continues to play a crucial role in supporting independent footwear retailers and preserving the character of their businesses.

Mr Parkinson's father Allan bought McCloud Shoes in 1949, when the now high-quality gentlemen's shoe store was only a modest shop on Queen St.

Mr Parkinson started working at McCloud when he was 17 and took over in 1991.

His sons Paul and Bradley joined the family business in 1989 and have been working on the retail and manufacturing sides.

After almost six decades in the business, Mr Parkinson has witnessed numerous ups and downs of the footwear retail industry.

With department stores and international importers flocking in and the ever-changing fast fashion penetrating the market, Mr Parkinson said unfortunately quality and individuality was diminishing.

"The more big stores, the less personality. Sadly independent retailers are shrinking. People are more affected by styling and the trend changes much more quickly than before," he said.

"Fewer people choose to invest in a pair of high-quality shoes that they can wear for many years to come."

He attributed the continuous success of his business to upholding the "old-fashioned" retail principles.

"There are certain things in business that will always be old-fashioned, such as service, quality of product and accessibility. It's a matter of how you apply those principles to modern day consumerism." He said.

"These are the things that small independent retailers do better than big retailers."

Now at 75 years old, Mr Parkinson said he would like to see some new blood at the helm of the NFRA.

"I think it's more important for younger people to contribute more to the independent-retail industry. They can bring in a fresher and more active business approach," he said.

Mr Parkinson said he would continue to be more or less involved in the NFRA and his own business.

"Once you are a retailer, you are always a retailer. That's a 'terrier' sort of sense."

Lord Mayor honoured

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the honours list.

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Anger mounting after collapse

By Rhonda Dredge

The setting is like that of a Gothic novel. A dark laneway leads beside the Careers Australia building in Flinders St where plotters can be overheard, working on means of getting an education.

Some have paid fees of \$25,000 to study online for a diploma that will allow them to work in the nursing profession but they’ve been told they will have to start again.

There were rumours a month ago. Now students have been locked out of their campus and they’re coming out of the shadows to protest. They feel like targets of an unscrupulous industry.

The lights of Careers Australia were still shining in the window when the protestors arrived, pumping out slogans, even though the receivers were now in control.

The for-profit educational company rose to become the largest VET provider in Australia with 15,000 students at 13 campuses around the country and a vigorous marketing presence on the internet.

The company’s Facebook page is full of helpful hints for students such as the prophetic: “Consider keeping a ‘learning log’ to ensure you learn from your mistakes, as well as your successes.”

Come Monday morning and online students are usually opening their laptops to complete their assignments but not now. It’s time for them to consider their mistakes.

One protestor paid a fee of \$5000 just two days before the company went into receivership, two weeks after the Federal Government refused to continue funding the company with student loans.

The protestors are furious. Most of them have signed up for a diploma of nursing. Many of them are international students who have been lured here and have paid upfront.

Now, with just four months to go before completion of the diploma the hard reality of education politics has slammed the door on students, locking them out of the careers they so desired.

“The director left two weeks ago,” said one protestor. “Some text messages have been sent out but they told us nothing.”

Teachers have been dismissed without pay and the course code changed, say the protestors, so they won’t be able to transfer with credits to other courses.

Come Tuesday and the doors are still locked on the historic Flinders St building, designed to reflect the architectural qualities of St Paul’s next door.

A notice on the door provides the Brisbane phone number of the receivers. A man arrives and phones someone inside. He is an accountant, a former employee of a subsidiary of the company. He is let in.

“I don’t feel good about it all,” he said, refusing to give his name.

Other education providers have been swift to capitalise on the collapse. At the top of Google is an offer to students from a TAFE but when you click, all you get is a standard enquiry form, complete with a secret security code, similar to the one that got you into trouble in the first place.

And when you phone the Brisbane number, a spokeswoman passes you on to a PR spokesman in Sydney. You call the number and he’s in a meeting, building his own career.



Artist Sasha Heath shows off one of her murals at The Mutual Store.

Come and see our murals

The heritage-listed Mutual Store apartment owners are inviting locals to view their brand new murals on July 13.

The Mutual Store Emporium, on the corner of Flinders and Degraves streets, and opposite Flinders Street Station, was the very first department store to open in Melbourne in 1872.

It expanded to include the Empire Building next door and traded well for nearly 100 years before mass production and modern consumerism rendered its sophisticated and expensive wares unfashionable and unprofitable, and it closed its doors in 1965.

The CAE moved in and occupied the premises for the next 40 years, before relocating to Degraves St and Flinders Lane in the early 2000s.

Since then The Mutual Store and Empire Buildings have been beautifully restored and developed into apartments, and a series of large scale murals have now been designed for each level of The Mutual building, commemorating its early days, and referencing the long-forgotten leisure, style and grandeur of high-end shopping in the early 20th century. Each floor has its own entirely unique mural, depicting a scene from the department store in its heyday, and showing the particular range of goods available on that floor – drapery and fancy goods, millinery and mantles, even refreshment room and counting house!

The designing artist, Sasha Heath, has done similar mural work in Melbourne for many cafés and architectural spaces, including a large work currently showing in the Facebook office, of a stylised Melbourne tram.

Whilst normally closed to the public, there is a one-time opportunity to view these significant works at the opening event, to be held at The Mutual Store Building, 9 Degraves St, on Thursday, July 13, from 6.30pm.

The artist and organisers will be present to discuss the works, and time-lapse footage of the murals being painted will be shown during the proceedings. All welcome.

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Academic Street launched

New and upgraded facilities have been completed at RMIT University's city campus under the New Academic Street project.

The redevelopment includes upgrades on the Swanston Library and student hall, a new media precinct and more collaboration spaces and food options.

Officially launched on June 15, the New Academic Street project has opened the campus to surrounding streetscape with light-filled laneways, glass-roofed arcades, rooftop urban spaces, outdoor terraces, light wells and efficient walkways between floors.

The Swanston Library has doubled its capacity with 2000 more study spaces. An extra of 1000 seats have been installed across food and retail spaces.

The project has also opened up three new entrances from Swanston St to The Hall.

The new media precinct features television studios with advanced broadcast technology and enables more industry engagement for students and community stakeholders.

The project started in 2015 and integrated the design of five architecture companies.



Wishful thinking: The City of Melbourne's vision for CBD rooftops.

Concrete jungle could become actual jungle

Rooftops in the CBD could be transformed into green gardens under the City of Melbourne's Rooftop Project powered by the Urban Forest Fund.

The council has released a digital map, identifying rooftops' suitability for intensive or extensive planting, existing green rooftop adaptations, cool roofs and solar panel installations.

According to the analysis, the total area and the proportion of potential green roofs within the CBD is among the largest in the municipality.

Map statistics show 236 rooftops in the City of Melbourne are suitable (with low or no constraint) for heavy vegetated landscapes with a deep layer (more than 20cm) of soil.

Some 328 rooftops are ideal for lightweight vegetated landscape with a shallow layer of soil (less than 20cm).

Rooftops of CBD buildings such as Melbourne Central Shopping Centre, Flinders Street Station and the County

Court are identified as suitable for heavy vegetation.

As of 2015, there were 38 green roof and 40 rooftop gardens within the municipality.

Rooftops in central Melbourne make up 880 hectares of space, which is five times the size of Royal Park. The council says it aims to create 6000sqm of green roofs, the equivalent of 10 tennis courts.

It will allocate \$1.2 million to the Urban Forest Fund and aims to grow this to \$10 million through contributions from the private sector.

"This initiative, to stimulate greening of private property, which represents 73 per cent of land in our municipality, is the next frontier," Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said.

"Green infrastructure is fundamental to help cities respond to the challenges of climate change, urban heat, flooding and population growth," he said.

The Urban Forest Fund also includes planting trees, building parks, greening walls and facades and stormwater projects.

The council will match funding from the private sector with extra funding for a greening project.

Hoardings to be beautified

The appearance of hoardings at construction sites will be improved with the City of Melbourne planning to put artworks on long-term hoardings.

The council will outline a minimum standard of hoardings appearance and will mandate council-commissioned artwork for hoardings in place for more than 12 weeks.

This plan aims to reduce visual clutter in the streets and improve the quality of hoarding design and appearance.

The council will provide the artwork for long-term hoardings through a commission process, which may involve a single artist or studio.

The council has allocated \$50,000 in its 2017-19 budget towards the cost of commissioning the artworks. The concept will be trialled for two years.

Hoardings generally include fences, overhead walkways and scaffolding. A hoarding permit must be obtained to erect these structures.

The proposal was unanimously approved by City of Melbourne councillors at the May 30 council meeting.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the plan could beautify the city and create job opportunities for local artists.

"This is an opportunity to help employ some Melbourne artists or an organisation to come up with a series of designs that can be used by developers to beautify the public realm," he said.

He also noted that the hoarding improvement would not require large-scale projects but rather a simple design process.



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Apartments galore set to breathe new life into the western CBD

By Laurence Dragomir, of Urban Melbourne (urban.melbourne)

Once derided as the derriere of Melbourne’s CBD, the west end is undergoing a marked revival with a slew of residential projects about to start. This revival largely can also be attributed to the ongoing development of Docklands and the redevelopment of what is now Southern Cross Station, with the resultant epicentre of Melbourne’s CBD slowly shifting to the area around King and Spencer streets. A snapshot is presented here.



555 Collins St

This is one of the latest projects to hit the market, following a colourful history at planning. Once the site of the beautifully-crafted Federal Coffee Palace, 555 Collins Street currently stands as the empty concrete edifice dubbed Enterprise House.

Initially seeking planning exemption for a commercial building of 400m, owner Harry Stamoulis sold the site to Fragrance Group, which tried for a 90-storey, 300m tower designed by Bates Smart. That was reassessed following backlash during the planning process and was eventually replaced with a 47-storey pleated tower rising from a tapering base. 624 apartments constitute the tower.

555 Collins Street is currently at the sales and registration phase.

West Side Place

Stage 1 of West Side Place comprising two 200m + towers including a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, and is set to start construction in coming months following a successful sales campaign, with few apartments remaining.

Developer Far East Consortium is now pushing ahead with the next stage – The Gold Release Residences – launched on June 3 via Colliers.

Rising 72-storeys to an approximate height of 245m, the Gold Release will sit to the east of the Ritz Carlton with a laneway separating the two towers and frontage along Lonsdale St.

A fourth and final tower of 69-storeys and approximately 235m high will complete Far East’s regeneration of two city blocks, which it began with its Upper West Side development on the site of the former Lonsdale St power station.

Premier Tower

Premier Tower replaces the old Savoy Hotel on one of Melbourne’s more prominent corners. The site is now at piling following initial demolition and excavations, with the result a 249m tower and more than 600 apartments.

Fragrance Group is behind the Elenberg Fraser-designed tower, with Multiplex the head contractor.

At once a building that is the essence of first principles design – created entirely by parametric modeling – meanwhile, its spiraling curves recall the twists and turns of a woman dancing in black cloth.

The deceptively complex form is the result of research into wind, solar and massing criteria – the form is the best possible solution to all of those requirements.



The Gold Residences at West Side Place. Image: Far East Consortium



Premier Tower construction progress. Photo: redder

Collins House

Hickory is progressing construction works on the narrow site of what will eventually become Australia’s slimmest tower, containing 267 dwellings.

To deliver Golden Age’s 60-storey residential tower and to deal with the site’s small footprint, Hickory will be employing its innovative HBS construction method

The project will be serviced by a single tower crane, with major elements including façade and floors fabricated off-site and rapidly assembled on arrival at Collins St. As such, Hickory anticipates the overall construction program on the Bates Smart designed tower will be reduced by up to 30 per cent.

The 60-level Collins House project incorporates the grand heritage façade of Melbourne’s historic Maker’s Mark building with a sleek contemporary tower.

Once complete, the 204m project will boast 271 luxury apartments ranging from two and three-bedrooms to double-storey, loft apartments over a single basement level.



Collins House construction progress. Photo: redder

600 Collins St

Developer Landream has applied to amend the approved plans to include a six star hotel in the tower with a marketing campaign not too far off for the ZHA and Plus Architecture designed tower.

The development, distinguished by three stacked vases, will deliver a plaza to Collins St and laneway to the west of the site activated with retail and a gallery space.

600 Collins was approved with 420 apartments in place, although that final release will likely see this number change.



600 Collins St base and plaza. Image: ZHA



299 King St and surrounds. Image: CBRE

299 King St

Initially receiving approval for a height of 208m – down from the initial proposal of 83-storeys and 269m – owners Farinia on-sold the site with approval for a residential scheme by Plus Architecture to Aurumstone Group.

Aurumstone has since engaged Elenberg Fraser to rework the scheme in readiness for

a imminent sales campaign.

Gone is the pearlescent façade which would produce a pink, bluish, purple effect depending on how light was cast over the tower. Likewise the tower’s form has been rationalised with curvaceous lines and a bulge in form toward its peak.

No permits for horse-drawn carriages

By Sunny Liu

The City of Melbourne will not renew street-trading permits for CBD horse-drawn carriage operators from July 1.

Council said horse-drawn vehicles would not be able to park or offer rides on Swanston St due to safety risks and the current constructions of the Metro Tunnel project.

The carriage parking area on the corner of Swanston and Flinders streets will be removed.

The current street-trading permit allows horse-drawn carriage operators to sell their services for cash within the municipality.

Carriage operators will be allowed to take online bookings and pick up and drop off passengers at the parking area near Alexandra Gardens in St Kilda Rd.

There are five operators that run up to 14 carriages in the CBD and three companies operating without a permit.

Council said it conducted broad community consultation with stakeholders from December 2016 before deciding to stop issuing the permit.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said horse-drawn carriages and other vehicles “don’t mix”.

“Horse-drawn vehicles, modern traffic, busy city, a million people a day. They just don’t mix ... We’ve have a couple of pretty near misses,” he said.

“We need to ensure that Swanston St is



Animal right advocates welcome the expiry of horse-drawn carriage permits, but operators say it is unfair.

a safe and accessible civic space for all Melburnians and visitors to the city,” Cr Doyle said.

Horse-drawn carriages will still be able to operate on roads because they are classified as vehicles under VicRoads’ rules.

“This reality is they are defined as vehicles. So they can travel through the city if they wish to do that. I can’t stop them,” Cr Doyle said.

“My preference is that they don’t, because I don’t think horse-drawn vehicles and modern traffic mix. But I have no power to stop them. It is a matter for VicRoads.”

Campaign manager of animal-right group Melbourne Against Horse-Drawn Carriages, Kristin Leigh, welcomed council’s decision to stop renewing the permits.

The group rallied on Swanston St on June 10 to celebrate “the huge step in the right direction” and called for council and

VicRoads to end the practice.

Ms Leigh said council could not hand the responsibility to VicRoads.

“Wiping their hands off any responsibilities by handballing it over to VicRoads means this exploitative trade will continue and is unacceptable.”

Ms Leigh said that, despite the expiry of the current street-trading permits, horse-drawn carriage operators would still be able to take pre-bookings online.

“We don’t see it as the final solution. We think the City of Melbourne needs to work with VicRoads and actively enforce the local law to ensure operators do not continue to street trade,” she said.

“Pre-bookings are just a small part of the carriage business, so hopefully the business won’t be able to survive. People should not be able to use animals for profit.”

Dean Crichton, owner of Unique Carriage Hire in the CBD, said council’s decision was “unfair” and animal right groups were “misleading the public”.

Mr Crichton said horse-drawn carriages were very popular among visitors and locals and were an important element of Melbourne’s unique character.

“In one of the surveys the council did previously, horse-drawn carriages were voted the second most popular attraction in the CBD, just after Melbourne’s cafes,” he said. “The public love it”

He said the expiry of permits would be detrimental to his business.

“We will lose 70 per cent of the business. The council’s decision is one-sided and unfair. Cr Doyle is kicking us out of the city and leaving us with nowhere to go,” he said.

Mr Crichton said he had been trading in the CBD for the past 30 years and had not had any serious accidents. He also said he provided good care for the horses.

“An animal extremist group said we make horses work long hours in 40-degree heat. But that’s not true,” he said.

“I have about 100 horses and each of them work only nine hours a week ... We are criminalised by the council and animal groups.”

An online petition was started in 2014, calling for a ban on horse-drawn carriages in the CBD.

Unique Carriage Hire has started a new petition to the City of Melbourne, asking for the public and council’s assistance in saving the carriages.

The rise of the west

Melbourne real estate firm CBRE says the CBD is “recalibrating” towards the west end.

CBRE director Josh Rutman said about 100,000 commuters entered the city every day via Flinders Street Station, but that Southern Cross would be more prominent in the future.

“Fast-paced growth in the western suburbs, combined with the recent funds spent on the Southern Cross Precinct, has resulted in a dramatic shift in the main access point in the CBD,” Mr Rutman said.

“Whilst Flinders Street will always be the spiritual home of Melbourne’s transport network, there is no doubt that Southern Cross Station, with its regional and inner suburban links, will continue to grow into the true generator of traffic in and out of the Melbourne.”

Of the 17 new suburbs planned for Melbourne over the next five years, Mr Rutman said 14 were planned for the western suburbs.

STREET LIFE

11.30 Collins St.

Photo by Barry C. Douglas @ BarryTakesPhotos.com

Good news for small businesses

By Nadia Dimattina

CBD small businesses were well rewarded in the Business 3000+ awards in May.

The annual awards celebrate the endeavours and successes of small businesses in the City of Melbourne.

This year, CBD businesses took out the Female Entrepreneur Award, Social Enterprise Award, International Award and Sustainability award.

Hidden Secrets Tours

Founded in 2004, the Melbourne tourism business Hidden Secret Tours was developed to create unique walking tours.

The tourism business won the Female Entrepreneur Award.

Owner of Hidden Secret Tours, Fiona Sweetman (below), said she decided to apply in the Female Entrepreneur category as it was new and would recognise her business.

“For me, we were excited there was an option for us to stand out. At the time I was one of the few women in the state as a entrepreneur rather than as a corporation,” she said.

Ms Sweetman described her 13-year-old business, as “very Melbourne centric”. She said she was glad that the award recognised this.

“There are not many awards that showcase Melbourne so I have always been aware of the Business 3000+ Awards because they recognise Melbourne,” she said.

She said the award meant a lot to her business and made it stand out in such a busy small-business city.

“I think it means that we have some focus for our team, that there is an appreciation of what we do ... the team was pretty excited,” she said.



Women's Property Initiatives

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) is a community-housing organisation that focuses on at-risk women and their children, providing permanent homes and creating new beginnings.

Business development manager at Women's Property Initiatives, Kristie Looney (above) said the business started two years ago in response to homelessness and limited affordable housing for women.

“They face the most disadvantage in accessing housing in the private rental market. The basis behind it was to create known and reliable sources of income so that we can keep building more homes and house more women and children,” she said.

Women's property initiatives established a residential real estate agency that is different to any other business in this industry.

“We operate like any other residential real estate agency but our real point of difference is just where our profits go. There are no shareholders. All of our profits go back to building homes for women and children in the community that need it the most,” Ms Looney said.

The business applied for an 3000+ award for the first time this year and was “over the moon” to win the Social Enterprise award.

“For us, being in the residential real estate industry there is so much competition and it was such a lovely way to get recognised and

connect with other people within Melbourne and for them to learn about our business and our business model which is something quite different,” she said.

Ms Looney said that winning an award was a great recognition of what small businesses were doing in Melbourne.

“We think it is an amazing opportunity and we are so impressed by the small businesses in Melbourne and we have experienced how hard it is in the last two years to get a small business up and running,” she said.

Chin Communications

Leading Chinese and interpreting company, Chin Communications, has won a Business 3000+ award in the International category.

Celebrating 25 years as a business, Chin Communications is one of the most trusted Chinese language specialists in Australia.

Managing director and chief interpreter, Prof Charles Qin (below) said the small business had grown over the years.

“My partner and I set up the company as an interpreting and translation company. Over the years we have grown from just the two of us, now with 15 full timers and 150 contractors providing interpreting, translation, consulting, designing and publishing services to Australian companies,” he said.



After applying for the Business 3000+ award last year and receiving an highly commended award they decided to re-apply and were happy with the result.

“We are very happy. You apply with the hope that you want to win and we did win, so it is wonderful,” Professor Qin said.

He said winning the International Award was important to Chin Communications at a business level.

RightShip

RightShip is a small business, which has helped to significantly improve global maritime safety standards since 2001.

This world-leading ship vetting agency helps its customers manage marine risk by testing vessels such as large ships and also testing vessels for environmental sustainability.

RightShip was initially formed as a response to avoidable accidents at sea.

Communications manager at RightShip, Helen Gibney said it was humbled to have won the Sustainability Award.

“It is an honour to win a B3000+ award. We were up against some impressive organisations and we looked around the room and saw the other award winners and feel quite humbled to be amongst such good company,” she said.

It initially decided to apply for the award to establish stronger connections with its community.

“The B3000+ awards were a very good fit and a way to make ourselves become known in our local working community,” she said.

Ms Gibney said the networking opportunities on the awards night were beneficial for the business.

“We met lots of other organisations that we can learn a lot from and hopefully we can contribute to as well. It helps us establish more of a presence here in Melbourne and get to know our local business community as well,” she said.

Another term for Mary

Mary Poulakis is president of the Collins Street Precinct for 2017/18.

She was elected for another term at the group's annual general meeting on June 7.

Joining her as office bearers are Alister Reid, vice president, and Simon Ward, treasurer.

Committee members are: Alycia French, Luke Kelly, Judy Katz, Kathy Knowles and Fiona Sweetman.



The AGM was held at Caffè Duomo in the Block Arcade.

Rare Book Week

Melbourne Rare Book Week starts Friday, June 30

More than 50 free events and exhibitions, held at literary and historical societies, libraries and bookshops throughout Melbourne from June 30 to July 9.

Now in its sixth year, the 2017 Melbourne Rare Book Week program is being hailed as the best yet.

See www.rarebookweek.com

Just easier together

A group of Melbourne-based young French people have started an innovative mobile app to help get Melburnians moving.

JETsport was started a year ago when Nico D’anna could not find enough friends to play soccer with in Melbourne.

Mr D’anna, a former professional soccer player in France, soon partnered with his sister Laura, friends Jonathan Maury and Alex Paris to build a platform for people to find sports and training partners.

“People in the city are always so busy they don’t have time for sports,” Mr D’anna said. “But it can be much easier if they can do it with other people.”

JETsport started as a Facebook group where people could team up to play sports or train together.

A mobile app was launched a few months ago and enables professional trainers, volunteers, sports lovers and groups to organise free social sports events around the CBD.

Mr D’anna said the app focused on the social aspect of fitness and sports.

“We want people to meet others and train in a fun environment. The benefits of being active should be accessible to all,” he said.

Business partner Mr Maury said JET, which stood for “Just Easier Together”, provided the opportunity for people to join in more healthy activities.

“It’s one place where people can participate in sports and fitness sessions whenever they want, wherever they want in the CBD,” he said.



Jonathan Maury and Nico D’anna want to make it easier for Melburnians to play sports and keep fit.

It is free to download the app, sign up, and join or start an event on JETsport.

There are currently 3000 users of the app. From 15-20 sessions are run around the city each week.

More than 1000 events have so far been created. Sessions range from basketball to Zumba and from Cuban Salsa to Thai boxing. There are both indoor activities such as yoga and outdoor ones such as runs and Pilates in the park.

Mr D’anna said JETsport offered a service exchange between venue owners and

organisers. “The venues are provided to us for free because the events help promote their businesses,” he said.

“Many people cannot believe the app is completely free. They always think ‘what’s the catch?’, but there isn’t any. We just offer the platform for people to socialise and get active.”

Mr D’anna and partners expect JETsport to expand to the suburbs of Melbourne and eventually to other cities.



Wanted

Police are seeking a man and a woman they say frequent the CBD.

Andrew Justin Moore failed to appear at the Melbourne and Wodonga magistrates’ courts on numerous occasions between January 12, 2016 and May 12, 2016 for alleged theft-related incidents.

Ten warrants have been issued for the arrest of the 32-year-old (above).

Sue Peng (below) is wanted by police for an alleged theft that occurred in the CBD on October 18, 2015.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of the 24-year-old.



Street cylinders five years on

By William Arnott

It’s been five years since the City of Melbourne transformed eight old newspaper stands into businesses.

Established in 2011, the cylinders have allowed small businesses to grow.

Photographer Chris Cincotta said the cylinders had changed his life.

“It’s amazing ... I got to have my own business and sell my own photos,” Mr Cincotta said.

“The cylinders help support someone like me,” he said. “Where else was I going to be able to do that?”

Mr Cincotta is the driving force behind the popular *Humans of Melbourne* Facebook page and recently launched a line of watches that gives all profits back to the community.

“Without this, I couldn’t do that,” he said. “And if you look at the good that happens from *Humans of Melbourne* in particular, well that’s because of the city.”

Currently there are eight cylinders with



three-year leases in the CBD.

Creperie owners Patrizia Maselli and Michael Gatta-Castel identified how to transform one of these disused cylinders into a small business.

“Most of them were being unused,” Ms Maselli said. “We actually saw it as an opportunity to turn something that was previously unused into a business.”

“It’s been good for us. It’s been a good

location,” Ms Maselli said. “We guessed that, for our product, it would work really well because we are a takeaway, walk past, get a crepe and go type place.”

There’s a lot more to it than just setting up shop and hoping to get customers.

“We make sure we look appealing,” Mr Gatta-Castel said. “We make sure everything looks nice and put a lot of thought into the decoration and the style.”

“It doesn’t mean just because there’s a lot of foot traffic that everyone’s stopping to buy a crepe,” Ms Maselli said.

The old newspaper stands have also become a part of Melbourne’s unique street culture, and are a big hit with tourists and locals alike.

“People keep telling us, ‘we don’t have this in Sydney,’” Mr Gatta-Castel said. “And they

keep coming back.”

The council also makes sure that the cylinders are maintained and clean.

“We’re very well looked after,” Ms Maselli said. “And the council has offered an ongoing service keeping the externals clean.”

Current permits for operating a long-term street trading cylinder have been issued until October 31, 2018.





A new gateway for Elizabeth St

By Nadia Dimattina

The City of Melbourne has started its \$2.2 million upgrade to the southern end of Elizabeth St.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the upgrade would create a new public space for pedestrians.

“We’re improving Elizabeth St to make it a more functional, safe and attractive gateway for the thousands of pedestrians who use it every day,” he said.

The final concept for Elizabeth St involves five key components: southbound traffic lane removed, new pedestrian area, trams staying, western footpath upgraded and northbound traffic lane retained.

“The City of Melbourne proposes to exclude southbound traffic between Flinders Lane and Flinders St by October this year, allowing us to more than double the amount of pedestrian space and improve access to key public transport interchanges at Flinders Street Station and the Elizabeth St tram terminus,” Cr Doyle said.

The upgrade will include new street furniture and bluestone paving, better lighting, drainage improvements and more trees.

“We will do a treatment, like you see on Swanston St, with a broader footpath, trees planted, with street furniture, to make it a much more pedestrian friendly space,” he said.

The work started in June, with the eastern side works to get underway later in the year.

The construction works still allows northbound traffic to travel between Flinders St and Flinders Lane.

“The corner of Elizabeth St and Flinders St is one of the busiest pedestrian intersections in the CBD, with 9300 people pounding the pavement per hour during the morning peak,” Cr Doyle said.

“We think it will be a wonderful uplift to what has been probably an ugly duckling intersection in the city.”

Planning

Approval for twin tower

Last month SP Setia announced it had entered into a partnership with Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts for its twin tower development at 308 Exhibition St.

It was formally approved by Planning Minister Richard Wynne following earlier support from the City of Melbourne.

Located opposite Melbourne’s World Heritage-listed Carlton Gardens, the Cox and Fender Katsalidis-designed development will accommodate a 500-room Shangri-La Hotel in one tower linked via skybridge to a second tower comprising 300 luxury residential apartments.

A 1000-guest ballroom with views over the Carlton Gardens, designed for various events and formats will occupy the upper podium levels.

The residential component to be known as Sapphire by the Gardens will officially be launched later this year.

Existing structures on site are currently being demolished with SP Setia anticipating construction to start on the whole development by the end of the year with an

estimated completion date of 2022.

Meanwhile, the City of Melbourne has provided conditional support to Cbus Property’s office development at 311 Spencer St next door to the existing City West Police Complex.

The Woods Bagot designed tower will become the new home for Victoria Police, with the Australian Federal Police also relocating into the 40-storey tower.

A public foyer, police museum (to the street) and 526 bike spaces with end-of-trip facilities (to the rear) will be provided to the ground floor.

While the development’s plot ratio of 20.86:1 is in excess of the Capital City Zone’s (CCZ) plot ratio of 18:1, the proposal’s delivery of commercial office space as a public benefit satisfies the requirements necessary to achieve the proposed floor area uplift.

Pending final approval from Minister Wynne, 311 Spencer St will begin construction ASAP targeting a 2019 completion date.

And lastly, the City of Melbourne is progressing with plans for the long-awaited upgrade to the southern end of Elizabeth St. The project aims to transform the area into “a more functional, safe and attractive gateway for the thousands of pedestrians who use it every day”.

The \$2.2 million upgrade will



Short turnaround: SP Setia’s twin towers at 308 Exhibition St have formally been approved.

include removing vehicular traffic southbound between Flinders Lane and Flinders St by October this year. This will create double the amount of pedestrian space that currently exists.



Laurence Dragomir

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

Critic

Drowned by history

Two plays recently performed in the CBD vividly demonstrate the difference between prose and drama by resting too obviously on their historical settings.

In prose, a writer has a lot of mileage to set the scene, narrate on behalf of characters and generally give reality a twist so the reader can visualise the story world of the work.

Theatre is more immediate. Actors’ bodies do most of the telling and it is the positions they adopt in relation to each other that engage the audience.

The Haunting, a play adapted from the ghost stories of Charles Dickens, has all of the credentials for a good, suspenseful experience but the production at the Athenaeum failed to break out of its prose constraints.

The audience came expecting to be scared and there were plenty of sound effects, dramatic lighting and even musty smells to create the right kind of atmosphere yet the logic of the story failed to grip.

The play was adapted from a number of stories and was aimed at giving audiences a flavour of Dickens. Cameron Daddo and Gig Clarke play two fusty gentlemen who argue for too long about what is real and what is not.

One of the gentlemen has come to assess the value of a library in a house on the



moors. As a setting, the bleak room piled high with antiquarian tomes rings a strong Dickens’ bell. That is the trouble. The play tries to push all the right buttons instead of leaving some space for the imagination of the contemporary viewer who is quite familiar by now with the genre and needs no reminders.

Shrine, one of three plays written by prose specialist Tim Winton, has similar problems coming to terms with a contemporary audience. Winton’s work has been soundly criticised by literary critics for the way he represents women in stereotyped positions.

This criticism is based on the premise that a writer should transgress typical and traditional gender roles to provide new definitions and understandings.

Shrine was recently performed by Kin Collective at FortyFive Downstairs, a revival after its premier in Perth four years ago. The theatre company has campaigned to have the play included on the VCE syllabus because it deals with the issues of teen drinking and violence.

June, the rape victim, is played by Tenielle

Thompson. She works as a check-out chick and is of a lower socio-economic status than the hero. After a drinking binge on the beach, June is raped by two of the hero’s mates, played by Keith Brockett and Nick Clark, two more unlikely rapists you would be unlikely to encounter.

Winton likes to play the heart strings and actors love to emote. The hero saves the victim but is killed soon after in a car accident, creating narrative space for long monologues by the grieving dad and the rape victim that unfortunately wash over you like frothy drinks.

Winton is at his best when it comes to the sea. It is his most honest character. After the rape, June swims out beyond the headland into the deep, dark ocean. It is night and she is immersed in black.

The hero rescues her on his board and his recount, although delivered by Christian Taylor in a faux-innocent style complete with daggy shorts and haircut, is moving for its grand sweep of landscape.

For a few moments the audience is swept out to sea with the teenagers as they brave the elements and take their chances together.

It will be up to the next generation of thinkers to do the same and put Winton’s play into the historical perspective it deserves.

The Haunting is on at the Athenaeum until July 1.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au

VCAT Watch

Drawing a line in the sand: no more overshadowing at Birrarung Marr

Birrarung Marr is one of the city's relatively new green spaces along the banks of the Yarra River that fulfils a number of different roles, including events, active and passive recreation.

The closest high rise buildings to Birrarung Marr are on the north side of Flinders St. These buildings are some distance away from the park (with the railway lines separating Flinders St from the park), however the taller buildings in Flinders St still cast some shadow over the park.

In DEXUS Property Group Ltd v Minister for Planning [2017] VCAT 619, the developers sought approval to construct a 191 metre (54-level) tower at 32-44 Flinders St. The Minister approved the application but imposed a condition to reduce the height to 175 metres. The council supported the minister's condition.

The Melbourne planning scheme had been recently amended so impacts of increased shadowing of the public realm were assessed during the winter period rather than the equinox. It was acknowledged by the tribunal that this change to the planning scheme "illustrate an evolving policy context that is now being implemented into the planning scheme, and demonstrates clear intention

to provide for better protection of public open spaces against overshadowing by new development."

The developers put legal arguments to the tribunal that the more stringent overshadowing controls did not apply because of the transitional provisions inserted into the Melbourne planning scheme when it was amended.

The tribunal found in favour of the developers on this point but also observed that had the new planning controls (now applying to the subject site) been applied when the application was made, they would not have been able to construct a 171 metre high building.

In ruling that the condition requiring a reduction of height to be retained on the permit, the tribunal said:

We consider the effect that another shadow will have, adjacent to the current one and extending further than the one already present, will cause unwarranted loss of sunlight to Birrarung Marr particularly at the 191.5 metre height proposed during the

winter months. The 175 metre tower will regrettably also cast a shadow, but we believe that it is a more acceptable outcome than the higher form proposed.

We concede that city parks are vulnerable to overshadowing, particularly in dense and high cities such as Melbourne. But we do not agree this means that protection of sunlight to open space should not be given priority where possible.

The cumulative effects of a wall of towers at Flinders St is also an issue we believe must be taken into account in making our findings. We do not agree that just because one tower already overshadows the park that another will not make much difference. We go back to the diverging views put forward by the applicant and the minister and council about the function of the park.

We disagree with DEXUS that Birrarung Marr has the primary function of being a thoroughfare, ostensibly a walkway to the football on cloudy cold winter afternoons where the public is moving through quickly and rugged up against the elements. We

believe this argument detracts from the many other uses put forward by others, including experts, as well as what we observed on site. To suggest that the role of the park is limited in this way and it is not an important city park patronised for other passive and active recreation uses is simplistic and unconvincing.

The park will experience more overshadowing from development of the review site in any event and we consider the decision to limit this extent by way of condition 1(b) is the right one for the public and for the future of Birrarung Marr as it continues to evolve.



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Aussie docos on show

The Melbourne Documentary Film Festival outlines an ambitious slate of feature and short documentaries direct from Hot Docs, SXSW, Doc NYC, Doc Edge, Traverse City Film Festival, Sundance, Cannes, Doxa, Tribeca and more.

The focal points of this factual filmmaking festival can equally be divided between people on their own personal odysseys, society, community, family and those on the fringes.

The festival will open unconventionally on July 9 at Howler Art Space with an opening day "binge watch" of documentaries kicking off at 11am. The opening short is *The Satellite* by Ann Johnson which tells the improbable true story of Australia first spacecraft.

More than 80 documentaries will be screened over eight days at four venues: Howler Art Space, Long Play, Cinema Nova and The Laneway Learning Centre.

The Melbourne Documentary Film Festival is guaranteed to provide a rich array and diverse mix of documentaries direct from the festival circuit. Curated sections include Australian, short documentary, music, foodie, art, street art, environmental, LGBTI, Aboriginal, investigative journalism

documentaries and world cinema.

On Saturday, July 15 from 9am The Laneway Learning Centre will host a master class on documentary filmmaking, indigenous filmmaking and a seminar on distribution from leading Australian distributors geared toward helping established and emerging filmmakers.

The next day from 9am, The Laneway Learning Centre will host a new initiative from the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival called Charity Docs where all money generated from ticket sales of that session will be equally donated to the Alzheimer's Foundation and the RSPCA.

Selected highlights of this year's fest include the Melbourne premiers of high profile documentaries *The Cinema Travellers*, *God Knows Where I Am*, *Five Days on Lesvos* and *Miss Kiets Children*.

Short documentary highlights include *For Flint* direct from Tribeca and *Road to Webequie* from TIFF.

More than 40 Australian films will make the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival one of Australia's biggest showcases of local talent.

Confirmed guests this year include Costa Botes (*Candy Man*, *Forgotten Silver*, *LOTR*), John Pritchard (*One Heart*, *One Spirit*) and Jack Thompson (*The Man from Snowy River*, *Breaker Morant*).

For more information please go to the website www.mdff.org.au



Purchases with stolen cards

Police are searching for a woman who allegedly used stolen credit cards to purchase various items in the CBD on Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

At around 7.30pm a woman entered a retail store in Elizabeth St before using two stolen credit cards to purchase mobile phones.

She purchased a Huawei mobile phone and four Apple iPhone 7s.

Police have released CCTV images of a woman whom they believe may be able to assist in their inquiries.

She is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance and in her early 30s with brown hair.

The woman was wearing all black clothing and wore glasses/sunglasses.

Report information confidentially online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

Metro Tunnel

Monthly Update: July

CBD North

Happened or happening in June

- Piling in Franklin St, with about 100 piles to drill. Trucks will continue to travel in and out of the site, removing spoil and delivering concrete.
- More permanent site fences installed on Franklin St between Swanston St and Victoria St. Public artwork installed along the walkway on the north side of Franklin St.
- A new, permanent U-turn painted on Swanston St for vehicles approaching the super tram stop at the corner of Swanston and A'Beckett streets to avoid vehicles travelling through the tram stop, which improves safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Next stage of traffic management implemented, with more permanent site fencing erected on A'Beckett St. These changes necessary as more equipment and storage areas are needed near the shaft sites as construction activities such as piling and eventual site excavation increase. There will be changed pedestrian pathways around the site with truck movements in and out of the sites managed.

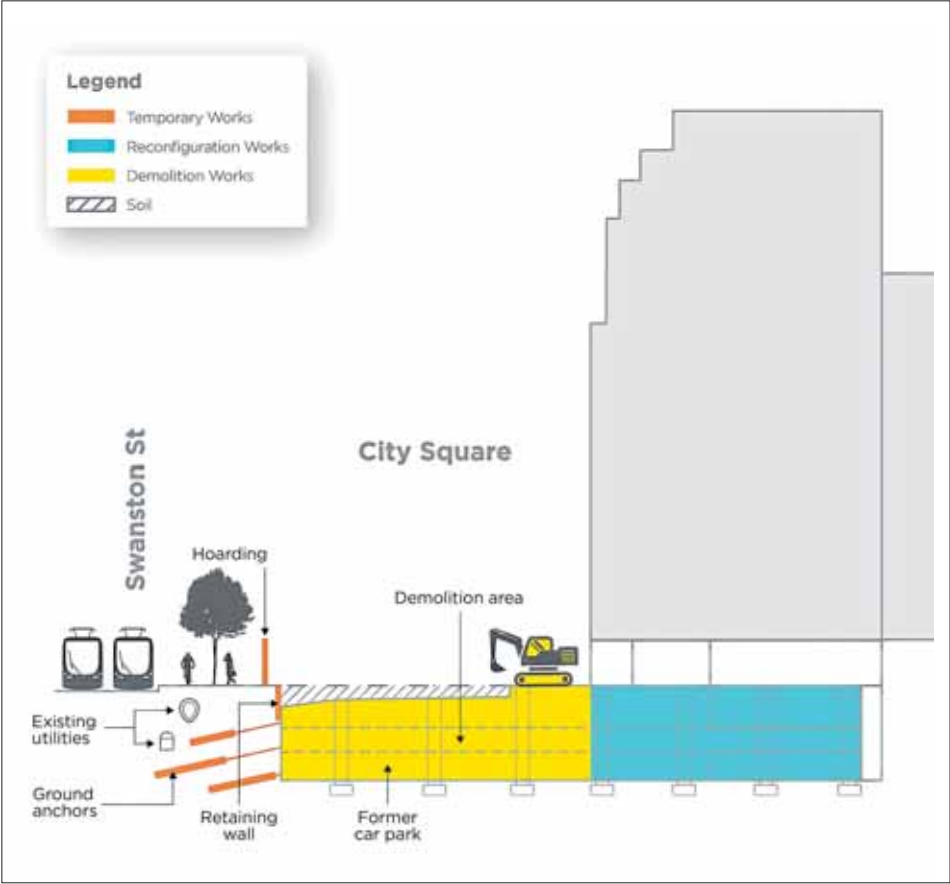
July

- Service relocations of gas, telecom, sewer, water, and electricity along A'Beckett St and should be complete in July.
- Piling in Franklin St.
- Piling works start from late July in A'Beckett St.

CBD South

Happened or happening in June

- The wall alongside the Dior store on Collins St demolished to allow for shaft excavation beneath.
- Underground retaining wall installed along Swanston St to provide ground support around the shaft when the underground car park is being demolished.
- New site fencing constructed above the new retaining wall along Swanston St.



- Once the new site fencing is complete, the existing temporary site fencing will be removed from outside the site, allowing for approximately one metre of extra footpath room.
- Two ground anchor trials – which includes installing a number of anchors at an angle into the car park retaining walls to test the anchor design as well as the noise and vibration caused by the works – occurring before permanent ground anchoring which will occur in July.
 - Demolitions within the car park underneath City Square and the Westin Hotel. These include the ticket booth, interior walls and storage sheds.
 - Services within the car park disconnected and relocated out of the shaft excavation path.
 - Soil from the surface of City Square excavated to expose the car park roof slab.
 - A ramp constructed within City Square to allow trucks to exit the site onto Collins St.

July

- The car park ramp demolished in the underground car park.
- Openings cut into the concrete slabs of the City Square car park to allow for crane access to deliver and remove materials once the car ramp is demolished.
- Following the anchoring trials, ground anchors installed into the retaining walls on all levels of the underground car park to provide further structural support following the forthcoming underground car park demolition works.
- To provide structural support within the car park underneath the Westin Hotel once the City Square car park is demolished, additional steel beams will be installed between the existing concrete columns to provide extra strength.



TRAFFIC CHANGES

ST KILDA ROAD

JULY 2017

Construction is underway on the Metro Tunnel Project

The Metro Tunnel is a huge project and there will be road and public transport disruptions, but it will create more space in the City Loop for more trains across Melbourne.

Throughout July, major works will be carried out on St Kilda Road including:

1 – 11 July Domain Road to Toorak Road West / Kings Way

Works are currently underway to reroute the Route 58 tram. From Saturday 1 July to Tuesday 11 July, St Kilda Road will be reduced to one traffic lane in each direction between Domain Road and Toorak Road West / Kings Way.

1 – 11 July Shrine to Commercial Road

From Saturday 1 July to Tuesday 11 July, buses will replace Route 3, 3a, 5, 6, 16, 58, 64, 67 and 72 trams on St Kilda Road between the Shrine of Remembrance and Commercial Road.

From 12 July Domain Road

The closure of Domain Road is required to support construction of a new underground rail station at Domain.

From Wednesday 12 July, Domain Road will be closed between St Kilda Road and the western edge of Edmund Herring Oval for up to five years.

During this time, Route 58 trams will be diverted along Toorak Road West.

More information

Please allow extra time for your journey.

See if you're affected at metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Residents 3000

Owners' corporations are not boring ...

You live in a high-rise apartment. You think someone else looks after the property – wrong.

As soon as you become the owner of a high-rise apartment you automatically become a member of the building's owners' corporation (OC). It is the OC that is responsible for looking after the common areas in your building and as a member you are part of that responsibility. How does that happen, you say?

When the sub-division plan for the building was registered, the OC came into being. It is a corporate entity formed under the Owners Corporation Act 2006. The idea is that the owners of the building's apartments are responsible to look after all the common property and the general wellbeing of the building for the amenity of its residents and other occupiers (hotel or commercial tenancies).

If you are new to strata living, you may think that this event is not particularly important. After all it is just a mechanism to see that the corridors are kept clean and that the lifts work. But no, it is much more complicated than that and much more interesting.

Your building is a huge complicated machine that needs to be maintained and surprisingly it can be made to function better when the OC is a progressive and caring organisation.

Why is my building a "huge complicated machine"?

You are standing in the shower one morning on the 16th floor. Have you ever thought about how the water pressure is maintained? Well, most probably down in the basement there are two (or more) huge motors driving pumps that keep the water pressure within design tolerances at all times. Why are there at least two? One is standby so that you don't suffer if the first one fails. These beautiful big machines need to be serviced regularly as their function is critical to the effective working of your building and your comfort.

Have you noticed the funny little nobly



Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood speaks at Hero Apartments AGM.

things poking out of your ceiling? They are the fire sensors and sprinkler heads. And then there are some round things that look like speakers in several places in your ceiling. Well, they are part of a complex system that must go into action if there is a fire in the building. Fire is the absolute worst thing that can happen to a building tower.

If there is a fire, the heat will activate the detectors in your ceiling and set off the sprinklers. Another set of pump/motors maintains the fire system water pressure. At the same time, the system will automatically call the fire brigade. Somewhere in the basement, a fire emergency board will set off the building alarm. A recorded voice will come over the speaker in your apartment telling you to evacuate the building. Do you know what to do in case of fire? Do you know where to go? If you do not, you should find out!

Security

Most high-rise buildings have intercom systems so that you have control whom you let into the building. Many buildings have CCTV cameras in the lifts, foyer, car park and corridors. Your building manager reviews the footage whenever suspicious activities are suspected.

Other building services

There is waste removal, collection of hard rubbish and recycling. How does your building deal with organic waste? Some buildings have worm farms. The worm juice can be used for your apartment garden.

Then are many more systems that make your building work. Find out about them!

What is the maintenance fund?

How often would you think that your lift would need to be refurbished or even replaced? Lifts last for 20-30 or more years. How would you feel if the lift needed replacing just when you moved into your new apartment and the OC did not have enough money to fix it? You would have to pay a huge levy to enable the essential work to be done.

Well, that is not prudent at all. OCs typically hire a quantity surveyor who, in conjunction with your building manager and your OC manager, works out how much to put away each year for major works in the future. Your levies should include payments to the maintenance fund (formerly known as the sinking fund).

The annual general meeting

Many residents do not come along to the AGM. The Hero Apartment Building at 118 Russell St solved the problem in March this year by inviting the Deputy Lord Mayor, Arron Wood. He spoke of many initiatives that OCs could take to increase the sustainability of their building. Some interesting suggestions were about:

■ **Solar Power:** There are 485 mid and high-rise apartment buildings in the municipality (five storeys and over). Assuming they were all as motivated to install solar as Hero (and that there were

no technological limitations), over 24,000 kW of solar would be installed, equivalent to 6310 households installing solar.

■ **Green Laneways:** Just the CBD's laneways have an area of nine hectares, bigger than Flagstaff Gardens. More than 16ha of walls including apartment walls in the CBD may be suitable for greening.

■ **Electronic waste recycling:** The City of Melbourne can supply an electronic waste bin (one or multiple 240L or 660L bins). Bins stay on site for up to two weeks and accept all electronic items, household batteries and power cords. Items are taken to Outlook Environmental in Darebin to be dismantled into respective material types (copper, plastics, etc) for recycling.

■ **Charity bins:** Diabetes Victoria provides 240L and 660L bins for clothes and shoes at no charge and it will also collect unwanted furniture that is in good condition. There are 53 apartment blocks in Melbourne that now that have charity bins and, on an annual basis, are saving 149 tonnes worth of clothing and shoes from landfill, equivalent to the weight of 87 family sedans.

Why should I care?

You and your neighbours have a vested interest in maintaining your building in good working order, not only for your comfort and pleasure but to maintain the value of your own property.

So, take an interest in your amazing building and volunteer to join the OC committee. You will find the time on your committee interesting and rewarding. Apart from the fact that you may learn a thing or two, you may also get to know your neighbours better. There are challenges and opportunities ahead for OCs. Get involved. It's not boring.



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RESIDENTS 3000
MELBOURNE

Pet's Corner

Lost in Flagstaff Gardens: Warren's Leash

By Meg Hill

Badger, a one-and-a-half year old French bulldog, pretended to search avidly for his leash in Flagstaff Gardens on a cold winter Tuesday, ignoring his owner's calls to go home.

Badger's owner, Warren, misplaced the leash somewhere in the grass and fallen autumn leaves. A few passers-by even stopped to help with the search.

Warren, however, saw right through Badger's search-and-rescue act.

"He just doesn't want to go home. He never wants to go home," Warren said.

The pair goes for a walk in Flagstaff Gardens every day without fail, and Badger never gets sick of the place.

Warren has enjoyed Badger's company since he was a puppy, meeting him at a local pet shop and living with him in his apartment around the corner from the gardens ever since.

When asked if Badger is always as disobedient as he was that day, Warren replied with a laugh.

"It depends on his mood."



Sharing and taking in vertical villages

“Airbnb is not accommodation sharing, it is formalised lending. Uber is not ride sharing, it is a transportation service,” so writes John Harvey of the University of Nottingham.

And he continues, “The sharing economy is a harmful misnomer. It conflates people who actually share with those who make money through collaborative consumption.”

The sharing economy or, as others prefer to call it, the “collaborative”, “peer-to-peer” or “gig” economy continues to be a hot topic in our high density precincts. And interest has again been stirred by the recent release by the Parliament of Victoria of the Inquiry into the Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 (June, 2017).

Here the Hon David Davis, MLC, chair, states: “The peer-to-peer economy is of growing importance but must be regulated properly to ensure that unintended and unforeseen impacts on others are properly and fairly managed.”

Others will, no doubt, be writing extensively on the rights and wrongs of this document, but its release raises again questions on the potential for sharing in our vertical villages.

Some of this potential was highlighted in last month’s Melbourne Conversation series where the topic was: “Will the real sharing economy please stand up?” During this event we heard from a range of speakers,

including Kate Trumbull from Car Next Door (a service linking private car owners with those wishing to rent their vehicles), Julie Miller Markoff from bHive Bendigo (a co-operative which aims to help local enterprises and people “own” Bendigo’s sharing economy) and Erz Imam from depo8 (a co-working space for small business and creatives). All of these presenters were, unsurprisingly, proponents of the sharing economy.

However, we also heard from Associate Professor Trebor Scholz from The New School, NYC – a scholar-activist who is significantly less enthused about the current sharing economy.

In his latest book, entitled *Uberworked and Underpaid: How Workers Are Disrupting the Digital Economy* Prof Scholz writes about the rise of digital labour and looks at companies like Uber and Amazon Mechanical Turk and their promise of worker autonomy, choice and flexibility. He argues that these companies are thriving at the expense of employment and worker rights and calls for a stop to wage theft and “crowd fleecing”.

Interestingly, however, Prof Scholz is not a Luddite, wishing for the return of

by-gone days. Rather, he advocates for a rethink and suggests that workers band together and themselves own the technology underpinning the sharing economy. He terms these technologies “platform co-operatives” and they already exist in the likes of Stocksy United and Green Taxi Co-operative (and in fact, the previously mentioned bHive is more aligned with this approach).

As regards vertical villages, the notion of a residential co-operative is well established in cities such as New York and there are many stories about prospective owners having to gain approval from difficult boards, meet rigorous income standards and abide by stringent “house rules” when renovating or selling.

Our state, however, operates differently, leaving the question as to how co-operatives (platform or otherwise) could benefit vertical dwellers.

One suggestion involves collective procurement. This is based on the reality that as apartment dwellers, most especially those in the same building, we have much in common – the same size windows and sliding doors and the same timeframe for replacing / updating electrical fixtures (like stoves and dishwashers).

By banding together, our purchasing power could be significant (we are fast approaching the 200,000 mark just in the CBD, Docklands and Southbank). Of course there are costs involved, principally in terms of negotiating the deals and administering the online platform. This is where using a co-operative structure, based upon paid membership, may appeal as the “free rider” syndrome (i.e. people who don’t contribute but receive the benefits) can be managed.

This is admittedly an old notion with a new twist, specifically an enabling platform – but isn’t that really what the sharing economy actually is?

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/>



We Live Here

Short-stays: Let owners decide

The Victorian Parliament’s Environment and Planning Committee has recommended significant changes to a Bill before Parliament aimed at regulating short-stay accommodation.

After a successful campaign by We Live Here, the Short-stay Accommodation Bill was blocked in the upper house and referred to Parliament’s Environment and Planning Committee.

The committee included Labor, Liberal and Greens members and was chaired by the David Davis MLC.

The Bill has now been thrown back to the lower house to be rewritten virtually from scratch.

“What is clear is the Bill presented to Parliament by the government did not address many of the key issues adequately,” Mr Davis said on tabling the report.

“Many provisions in the Bill were confusing and ambiguous. Other matters raised with the committee, but clearly of concern to many apartment dwellers, were not dealt with by the Bill at all.”

The committee has recommended that the Victorian Government consider giving

owners’ corporations power to regulate short-stay accommodation in their buildings.

“Recent legal cases make it clear the current law is inadequate with owners’ corporations unable to adequately regulate or manage on behalf of residents in apartment towers,” Mr Davis said.

The committee also agreed with the Tourism Accommodation Association (Vic) that the government should investigate a registration and compliance regulatory framework for short-stay accommodation providers, where properties are listed for more than 90 days or a single owner has multiple listings.

We Live Here welcomes the recommendations to address concerns that thousands of residents share about the commercial short-stay industry.

The rapid rise of commercial short-term accommodation in apartment buildings is an unregulated industry and has resulted in significant detrimental impacts for residents living in those communities, including:

- Safety and security issues;
- Higher maintenance costs due to increased wear and tear; and
- Disruption to residents through unruly, offensive or noisy behaviour of short-stay guests.

Residents right across Victoria are growing increasingly frustrated and it’s time we found a solution that puts everyone on a level

playing field.

We Live Here welcomes the recommendations made and so do our members who, until now, have felt their concerns have been ignored by the government and short-stay operators.

It is gratifying to know that politicians now understand that the short-stay issue is about safety, security and the unfair cost burden on the majority of owners. The short-stay industry results in an enormous increase in wear and tear caused by the overuse of lifts and common areas by short-stay guests and the tonnes of laundry that is dragged around every year.

We Live Here believes owners’ corporations should have the right of self-determination – the ability to pass and enforce a rule which might limit commercial short-stay accommodation.

Any rule would need to be passed by special resolution, with the acceptance of 75 per cent of lot owners.

We Live Here is a voice of reason in the short-stay debate. We are here to work with all parties, to ensure a level playing field that is good for residents, for businesses and the tourism industry.

document issues and priorities. An online survey was also available to gather feedback from the community.

Key themes that emerged included developing a community and natural environment – we hope the government listens.

The workshop outcomes and online feedback can be found at: engage.vic.gov.au/docklandsprimary

At the workshops the information flow was primarily from the community to the government. As the project advances we hope to see the consultation continue and for detailed information to be published as it becomes available.

We Live Here will continue to support the Docklands school as an important part of developing a local community.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. A special thank-you to those behind the generous and important financial support we have received recently.

To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at welfarehere.net



www.welfarehere.net
emails to campaign@welfarehere.net

City ambassador

Melanie Ashe said she was surprised by the rich sense of community when she moved to the CBD nine years ago.

After many years living in the suburbs, Ms Ashe was not expecting to make friends so quickly in the CBD.

“Everyone seems to know each other around here, and that was a huge surprise. I don’t know what it is. Maybe because people here walk to everywhere, they get to interact with each other more often,” she said.

An energetic woman with a bubbly personality, Ms Ashe said she quickly acquainted herself with new neighbours at the “vertical highways”, or lifts, inside her apartment building.

She soon became an active member of the building’s owner’s corporation and was also once the president of City Precinct, an organisation that aims to support small businesses and foster community within the CBD.

She is now City Precinct’s treasurer and part of local community group Residents 3000.

A bit over five years ago Ms Ashe made a life-changing decision to give up her corporate career and open up her own small business, which is now the Clementine’s food and gift shop in the highly sought-after Degraeves St.

Being a long-term resident and local business owner, Ms Ashe said life and work



Melanie Ashe has become an ambassador for the CBD community.

in the CBD was both busy and simple.

As a sole trader, she often has to work six days a week, at the same time when many of the festivals are taking place.

But she said owning a shop meant she could enjoy the opportunity to meet interesting people and show visitors what Melbourne had to offer.

“I think small businesses become ambassadors of the city. They are what make up Melbourne,” she said.

Ms Ashe also said she felt lucky to be able to live in a central location and operate her business in a local and visitor hotspot.

“I think the atmosphere here is creative, eclectic and ever-changing. There’s always

people around and so many different events happening.”

“The CBD is like a big town made up by small villages. Just like a small village, people from the same area know each other and shop locally,” she said.

Her shop exclusively features products from Victoria’s makers and farmers.

Ms Ashe said she was delighted to see local residents and visitors being supportive of her business concept.

“My customers understand the value of locally-made products. I get local regulars and overseas customers who would pop back in next time they are in Melbourne,” she said.

An advocate of the CBD resident and small business communities, Ms Ashe never misses a chance to engage positively with her customers and neighbours.

If a customer walks in and looks for something that is not available at Clementine’s, she would not hesitate to refer them to other local shops.

And being members of different community groups, she strives to make Melbourne a better place for both residents and business owners.

“People and small businesses are the most important fabrics of Melbourne,” she said.

Commuter Tales

Baby it’s cold outside

One thing led to another and then another and I found myself reading an article about the recent discovery of the coldest known object in the universe.

An “ultra-cold” (great description right? – very unscientific!) nebula – colder than the natural background temperature of empty space, with a temperature of absolute zero.

By international agreement, absolute zero is defined as precisely 0 K on the Kelvin scale, which is a thermodynamic (absolute) temperature scale, and -273.15 degrees Celsius on the Celsius scale. Amazing, right?

To put it in perspective, this is colder than the space Sigourney Weaver launched the alien into in the first (and second best) *Alien* film, colder than the cold that freezes the faces of anyone silly enough to venture out of the space ship in any space film. Colder even than the space in *Red Dwarf* when they would cut to those shots showing the ship hanging in space which were surprisingly atmospheric and a bit creepy.

But back to the nebula ... According to scientists, it has a minus temperature. That’s below absolute zero where atoms cease to move at all and are absolutely still.

Which got me to ponder ... if cold makes atoms move less, laws of thermodynamics etc, etc, why wouldn’t this apply to humans also. It’s cold outside. We like to move less. Makes sense. And it would explain why

activity of any sort is abhorrent to me.

This may include, or exclude, taking the dog for a quick round the block walk (500 metres), walking from the car to the tram stop (100 metres tops), walking from the bed to the bathroom (six to seven metres, give or take, depending on what obstacles are in the way – dog is often one of them). Given the science behind it, it’s not abhorrent. It’s unnatural to move in the winter.

It’s atomic, baby. Hence the reason for why my body is getting increasingly creakier and crankier. It’s got to stop.

So here’s the thing. If you can’t move long distances because of low motivation, creaky joints, laws of thermodynamics, etc, then why not do your exercise in micro-hits. Like, 15 minutes here, 10 minutes there. Even half an hour when the sun is out? Seems plausible. Possible even.

So instead of scoffing at the thought of seeing getting off the tram a stop earlier remotely as exercise, I’ve been embracing it. I can get to 10,000 steps easy peasy doing my steps in micro hits, without fear of my nose freezing solid and falling off.

So that’s what I’ve been trying. So far so good (at two days in). Movement is happening. I’m challenging the laws of the universe. One micro-step at a time.



Maria Doogan
CBD Worker
Send ideas for articles, observations, musings of your own to mariafdoogan@gmail.com

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CBD - 5 MINUTES TO YOUR DOOR

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Street Art

The Age of Innocence

Fine artist Julian Clavijo is the only local artist I’m aware of who’s attempted a reverse transition i.e. from the gallery wall to using the street as his canvas!

I liken him to an iceberg – with the tip being his street art participation. But there’s so much more depth to this Colombian-born artist’s work.

The image accompanying this article was commissioned for the 2017 Grand Prix and painted in Hosier Lane. The CEO of the race approached RMIT Department of Public Art for a student or alumni who could paint some pieces before and during the event. Julian’s name was put forward as a natural choice!

Formula 1 Management UK also requested a 6 x 3 metre canvas to be painted “live” during the race. Potentially fraught with problems, all went well on the day for him and his two assistants.

The finished piece was signed by the Australian winner, with the intention being that, as it travels, the canvas will be signed by all the future winners. It will then auctioned off with all proceeds going to Julian’s charity of choice – one that aids children in war-torn countries. It’s art with a purpose other than that of entertainment.

“The eyes peering out from underneath the helmet are those of a refugee child. It’s to do with dreaming big. I’m passionate about drawing attention to the loss innocence and destruction of dreams for children in countries that are continuously at war,” Julian said.

Julian has come to us via Colombia and



Costa Rica and nine years ago he decided to settle in Melbourne.

At the age of six he was sent to an Academy of Fine Arts, so he’s been painting for a long time! Amongst his many academic achievements is a Master of Arts (Arts in Public Space) at RMIT University. However, it was only last year that he decided he’d like to paint on the streets.

Since 2013, Julian has been represented by Metro Gallery, Armadale. It was here that he connected with Matt Adnate, who was to mentor, encourage and support him in the transition to a street artist.

“I approach painting a wall as I would a canvas, only now I’m using aerosol and being a master of the technique, Adnate’s advice has been invaluable,” he said.

Julian, a participant at this year’s Wall to Wall Street Art event in Benalla, used a combination of brush and aerosol for his wall.

“I’m not proficient with the can as yet,

therefore the brush is still my chosen technique. Aerosol is such a fast drying medium, so respect to those who’ve mastered it,” he said.

There are three other facets to his work: hyper-realistic portraits, pixelated portraits on wooden blocks and whimsical, personalised, commissioned sculptures.

He is also responsible for many commissioned, community-based public art sculptures around Dandenong. Constructed from wood, they are designed to be interactive.

Julian’s subject matter remains a constant – that of children.

“I do this is to make my portraits meaningful. They depict the innocent victims of war and some of the subjects for my early works lived in really tough situations and may no longer be alive! I see myself as giving a voice to their plight, using my art as a conduit. I don’t paint portraits as such, but symbols of childhood, which

should be one of joy and optimism! It’s this I attempt to depict this in my paintings.”

What set Julian on this path? “Colombia, the country of my birth, is an impoverished and very dangerous one. My own upbringing was one of privilege.”

“I was cocooned and oblivious to the violence that surrounded us. Since coming to Australia I’ve researched Colombia’s history and found that most of the victims of the atrocities that occurred there were children – innocent victims of circumstances beyond their control. When I became an artist I decided that my work should have a purpose. Otherwise it is pointless, just decorative! In doing so, I’ve found my niche,” he said.

“As for the street art scene, I’m very new to it but I’ve found it a very welcoming one. My involvement in ‘Meeting of Styles’ 2015, led to many projects and some firm friendships.”

“The street offers a totally different and satisfying means of expression for me and these days I’m spending more time outside the studio, than in it. In the fine art world my work is sought after and collectable, but in the street art one, at this stage, I’m relatively unknown but gaining recognition.”

Footnote: The paint has barely dried on Julian’s most recent mural for Neruda’s Brunswick. Located on busy Albion St, the portrait of is Eber, a Peruvian boy from the Q’ero Nation; direct descendants of the Incas. It revisits the theme of childhood innocence and wisdom.



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

Heritage

Finding ghosts and inspiration in Chinatown

It’s mid-afternoon in Melbourne and I’m surrounded by the familiar heritage buildings in Chinatown, though without much time to appreciate them.

In a rush on the way to a workout before an appointment, I decide to take a shortcut via Brein Lane, which leads from Little Bourke St into Bourke flanked by unassuming bricks and concrete.

What was meant to be a quicker way to a place is interrupted by a mysterious

printout glued into a nook in the wall caught by the corner of my eye. An official looking worksheet form for the “Hyperart Thomasson Report” turns out to be a street-art project instructing me to look around my surroundings.

It’s then as a look that I realise the boring nook is a bricked up window of what was once a Gospel Hall, curiously positioned in a tight laneway. Then another ghost sign appears for some kind of cabinetmaker, a popular trade in the Chinatown 100 years ago.

While a quick Google on my smartphone doesn’t reveal anything about the Gospel Hall’s odd position, I can see that the building I’m looking up at has a front

entrance in the next laneway, with a 90s era pool and arcade game hall still inside. Perhaps this is where the hall was, and perhaps one day it will change into a refurbished laneway bar.

Following a few more links I discover that the lane is named after a long vanished pub, the hangout place for Frenchmen who fled to Australia after the failed Paris Commune of 1871, around the same time this building was constructed.

Putting the phone away I walk along the concrete wall on the other side of the lane, round the corner into my gym – housed in the now heritage-listed brutalist Hoyts Cinema Centre at the Bourke St end of Brein Lane.

Once again it hits me that heritage protection isn’t about keeping our city static and museum-like. It’s about allowing it to evolve through a history we can discover through technology we all carry around the city – brought to life by creativity, adventure and the liveability that heritage precincts also give us.

Maybe I’ll skip the treadmill and briskly walk through more laneways instead.



Tristan Davies
President
Melbourne Heritage Action



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短暂住宿 政策未定

住宅楼的短暂住宿问题并没有得到解决，政府专门委员会的审查工作模棱两可。

6月8日，州议会环境规划委员会公布了2016年物业管理修订（短期住宿）条例草案的报告。

该报告认可短暂住宿可能导致的问题，并提出一系列温和的处理建议。建议给物业管理权力来进行规管，但没有建议他们有权禁止短暂住宿。

委员会承认短暂住宿的合法性，但他们认为需要受到监管以保护住宅的设施。

委员会的报告只是总结了所收集到的证据，最终将此问题交回政府解决。

去年11月7日，反对党在上议院二审期间将条例草案提交这个委员会。政府有六个月的时间来回应委员会的报告。

反对党规划厅发言人大卫·戴维斯(David Davis)在其主持人的前言中说：“我认为条例草案将会大幅修改，以解决所提出的许多问题，并争取更好地平衡住宿行业的权利以及居民享有自己物业环境安静的权利。”

“住宿行业的经济意义越来越重要，这是不容置疑的，政府监管的目标必须是确保这一行业在一个负责任的框架内蓬勃发展，为与其同样居住的居民提供公平和权利。”

该报告的第四条建议可能是最有力的：“作为对消费者物业法的更广泛审查的一部分，维多利亚州政府认为给予物业管理对综合楼的管理权力，以规范其住房的短期住宿。”

但报告中的前一段则明确提出了拟议的监管层次：“委员会认可公寓所有者在法律之内有权使用他们的物业进行短期住宿。不过委员会还认为，楼宇的物业管理应有权管理其综合楼的短暂住宿。这应该包括建立使用楼宇设施权利的规定。”



墨市雅典娜剧场 不仅是书籍和舞台

在墨尔本的珍本书周和整个7月期间，著名的墨尔本漫画家、艺术家、作家和儿童图书作者朱莉·霍拉切克(Judy Horacek)将在墨尔本雅典娜剧场居住，进行创作。

霍拉斯克女士以她的漫画而闻名，她的漫画涉及气候变化等政治题材，以及她的儿童读物包括“绿羊在哪儿”，都是澳大利亚家喻户晓的。她也是费尔法克斯媒体的特约漫画家。

霍拉切克女士表示，她希望通过在墨尔本雅典娜剧场——这个墨尔本最古老的图书馆和剧场——的居住创作工作计划中得到启发。

她说：“在这个建筑中工作是一种荣幸，将会受到书籍和历史的启发。”

霍拉切克女士将于6月29日

推出新的卡通书“随意生活”。

她的第九部漫画系列“随意生活”涵盖从焦虑到超级英雄到斑马的一切，有不同的政治主题。前言是由已故讽刺家约翰·克拉克(John Clarke)题写的。

雅典娜剧场的商业经理苏·韦斯特伍德(Sue Westwood)表示，居住计划可以为现有丰富的历史和文学场地增添额外的文化元素。

韦斯特伍德女士说：“我们想提供的不仅仅是书籍的展出，更是让参观者能亲眼目睹朱莉的创作及作品。”

图片：朱莉·霍拉切克和苏·韦斯特伍德在雅典娜剧场。

路政项目 市政责难

墨尔本市政似乎要对西门隧道工程提出严厉的批评，该隧道工程每天将会有数千辆机动车辆进入CBD的北部和西部。

6月8日在市政厅的社区会议上，交通协调官员理查德·史密瑟斯(Richard Smithers)说，市政对该项目的影响深感关切。

就这个私营提议的收费道路项目，5月29日政府发布了一个长达1万页的环境影响报告书(EES)。所有对此回应意见的提交将于7月10日截止。

如果该项目实施的话，EES预测2031年King街和Spencer街的交通量将大大减少，交通将通过港区(Docklands)转移。除了LaTrobe街的西端（预计每天还会有1000多辆车运行），EES的分析中并没有包括其它霍德尔路网(Hoddle Grid)的街道。

史密瑟斯先生表示，市政仍在形成答复，并希望以社区所关注为主导。但他说，当时的一些初步设想也是显而易见的。

他说，最令人担忧的交通影响将来自于Dymally路大桥进入CBD的数千辆额外车辆。

他表示，高峰期间不会有更多的车辆，因为道路已经满载了。但他说，任何邻近街道上的满载时间将延长至每天14个小时。

他说：“基本上，这两个方向的这些道路将会有多达14个小时的高峰期”。“这是一个令人担忧的问题，因为市政已经花费了大量的时间和精力来改变这个地区的车流量。”

他说，这额外的东西方交通也会对南北电车路线造成重大的影响，因为交叉路口的交通信号需要作有利于新交通的改变。

他说，十三条南北电车线路目前每小时输送一万三千名乘客，要从这些电车在交叉路口的“绿灯时间”中挤出时间，将对本市交通造成“重大问题”。

安保措施 出人意料

Meg Hill撰稿

6月10日，维多利亚州政府和墨尔本市政在没有公布的情况下，就开始在市中心周围安装了安全屏障，为了防止近期的恐怖主义和对公众的袭击。

事先没有披露具体位置，安全屏障在市中心受欢迎的区域里一夜之间得以安装。伯克街(Bourke)和联邦广场是首先安装安全屏障的。

新安全措施是安德鲁斯(Andrews)政府在5月份伯克街惨案之后所宣布的发展战略中的一

部份，也是由于最近伦敦袭击事件所促成的。

州长丹尼尔·安德鲁斯在新闻发布会上说：“不能再浪费时间了，当我们想到伦敦，想到其它的事件，想到世界另一边所发生的悲剧事件，以及离家非常近的事件，我们没有时间可以浪费了。”

并不美观的混凝土块是暂时的安全屏障，以后将被各种永久性的或可伸缩性的护柱式屏障网所取代，这笔资金由维多利亚州政府2017/18预算的1000万所提供。

WHAT'S ON
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

<p>10AM-4PM JULY 29-30, VARIOUS LOCATIONS</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE</p> <p>Explore some of the most iconic landmarks and architecture beauties that reflect Melbourne's history and lifestyle. A tailored children's program is also available. FREE.</p>	<p>10AM-5PM JULY 9, FED SQUARE</p> <p>BOHO LUXE MARKET</p> <p>Showcasing the best of Australia's bohemian creative in clothing, jewellery and homewares, the Boho Luxe Markets brings a Byron Bay vibe to Melbourne.</p>	<p>INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB</p> <p>Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.</p> <p>www.life.org.au/imlac or call Dianne 0425 140 981</p>	<p>7.20AM FOR A 7.40AM START, TUESDAYS</p> <p>ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE</p> <p>Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne.</p> <p>rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au</p>
<p>10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SUNDAY, 326 LONSDALE ST</p> <p>MEET UP WITH FRIENDS</p> <p>Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for \$1.00 Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the church yard). 9663 2495</p>	<p>11AM - 5PM SATURDAYS, FEDERATION SQUARE</p> <p>BOOK MARKET</p> <p>Join Melbourne's bibliophiles at the city's largest weekly book market, in The Atrium at Fed Square.</p>	<p>4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. LUNCH-TIME, ST PETER'S EAST MELBOURNE</p> <p>AUSTRAL SALON OF MUSIC</p> <p>Listen to music from talented young musicians. Make new friends.</p> <p>www.australsalon.org 0449 727 910</p>	<p>10AM-10PM JULY 1-23, FEDERATION SQUARE</p> <p>RIVER RINK</p> <p>Get your skates on and take a spin along the ice with the shimmering Yarra River and city skyline behind you. Family friendly. \$15-\$24.5 for a 45-minute session. \$10 for skate aid.</p>
<p>EVERY THURSDAY FROM 1PM 120 COLLINS ST</p> <p>ST MICHAEL'S GALLERY</p> <p>Enjoy a free 30-minute recital of the grand organ.</p> <p>Contact: 9654 5120</p>	<p>11AM MONDAY - SATURDAY</p> <p>FED SQUARE GUIDED TOURS</p> <p>Learn about the site's history, unique architecture and the engineering marvels that make Fed Square one of the city's great icons. Meeting outside Melbourne Visitor Centre. FREE.</p>	<p>JUNE 27 – JULY 8, FORTYFIVEDOWN-STAIRS GALLERY, 45 FLINDERS LANE</p> <p>WABI/SABI</p> <p>An exhibition of John Beaton's photographs that celebrate transience by freezing humans in motion, exploring the effects of lights and drawing nature into close focus. FREE.</p>	<p>6PM, 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH THE KELVIN CLUB, 14 MELBOURNE PL</p> <p>RESIDENTS 3000 DRINKS</p> <p>A community group that connects, supports and represents residents of Melbourne's CBD.</p> <p>Events are posted on www.residents3000.com.au</p>
<p>9.30AM-11.30PM, JUNE 23-25, COLLINS PLACE</p> <p>KINO CINEMAS' 30TH B-DAY</p> <p>Kinos Cinemas will be selling movie tickets and snacks at 1987 prices for its 30th anniversary. Tickets are at \$6, choc top is \$3 and popcorn \$1.</p>	<p>6PM TIL LATE, JULY 27, VARIOUS LOCATIONS</p> <p>NITE ART</p> <p>An interweaving network of 25 galleries will showcase the work of more than 50 artists at various locations in the CBD and the University of Melbourne precinct. FREE.</p>	<p>JULY 14-16, ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING</p> <p>FINDERS KEEPERS MARKET</p> <p>The three-day event features more than 250 independent art and design stalls, including local Melbourne makers and talented favourites from around the country. \$2 entry.</p>	<p>10.30AM-12PM JULY 12, CITY LIBRARY</p> <p>SQUISHY CIRCUITS</p> <p>Sculpt conductive and non-conductive PlayDoh into electronic circuits. Suitable for children older than seven. FREE.</p>
<p>12.30PM-1.30PM JULY 4, CITY LIBRARY</p> <p>LIZZY'S LIZARD</p> <p>Join in a fun morning to meet and learn about some of Lizzy's favourite animals. For children aged from 5-10 years. FREE.</p>	<p>10AM EVERY 3RD TUESDAY, Pomodoro Sardo Restaurant, 111 Lonsdale St</p> <p>EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB</p> <p>Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed.</p> <p>eastendersinc@gmail.com</p>	<p>10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATURDAY, CITY LIBRARY</p> <p>ONCE UPON A TUNE</p> <p>An interactive musical adventure that features live music by Beethoven, Brahms and Brumby. Suitable for children aged from 5-12 years. FREE.</p>	<p>EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2.30PM, THE HUB, 506 ELIZABETH ST</p> <p>FILM CLUB</p> <p>The film club has some of the best film noir classics including 1962 French Classic and two time Cannes winner "Sundays and Cybelle". FREE, coffee provided.</p> <p>Contact John on 0459 398 358</p>

PRAYER TIMES

<p>St Michael's 120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000 Ph: 9654 5120 Church times: Sunday Service at 10.00am Free organ recitals at 1.00pm on Thursdays. For more information please contact the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).</p> <p>Chabad of Melbourne Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St Ph: 9525-9929 Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.</p>	<p>City on a Hill Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm. Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central</p> <p>Collins Street Baptist Church 174 Collins St Ph: 9650 1180 Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm</p> <p>Hillsong City Youth Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Holy Cross Orthodox Mission 261/265 Spring St www.australianorthodox.org</p>	<p>Scots' Church 156, Collins St Ph: 9650 9903 Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>St Paul's Cathedral Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets Ph: 9653 4333 Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm (Choral Evensong)</p> <p>St. Augustine's Catholic Church 631 Bourke St. Melb Ph: 9614 1722 Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm Mon – Fri Mass: 1.05pm Mon – Fri Confessions: 12.30pm</p>
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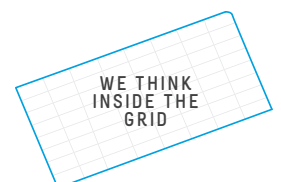
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CBD NEWS

Laneway artworks form an “Empire of Dirt”

Melbourne artist James Geurts and environmental microbiologist Prof Andy Ball created a series of open-air artworks at RMIT University’s Rodda Lane in June.

Crafted through the clashes and collaborations between art and science, *Empire of Dirt* alluded to the constructed landscape in future modern cities.

Piles of white soil, shaped like termite mounds and mystic underground creatures, crawled from the building, pipe and light boxes in the CBD laneway.

The light boxes featured site drawings and imagery produced from under the microscope – another combination of art and science.

Creative producer Kim de Krester said the installation and creative process allowed two experts from contrasting disciplines to express their ideas on sustainability.

“The collaboration enables people to look at sustainability in an innovative way. People may be inspired to ask questions like ‘how does climate change affect future cities?’ and ‘how can we control it?’” she said.



Kim de Krester stands in front of the *Empire of Dirt* artwork at Rodda Lane.

Ms de Krester also said the installation allowed pedestrians to stumble upon it.

“The artworks look like they are part of the building, which makes it appear as if the soil is growing out of the building. People don’t notice them immediately and that’s very interesting,” she said.

Artist James Geurts took a sample of the soil at a RMIT University construction site and travelled to the Northern Territory and took 3D prints of termite mounds as inspiration for the project.



The circus is back in town

The Circus Oz big top has again been raised in Birrarung Marr for a new show which runs until July 16. Called Model Citizen, promoters say it is the biggest and best yet.

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