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The CBD is one enormous Chinatown

By Sunny Liu

The Melbourne CBD has a larger percentage of Chinese residents than any other CBD or suburb in Australia, the 2016 census shows.

More CBD residents were born in mainland China than any other country, including Australia.

Some 14.5 per cent of the people living in the CBD were born in Australia, whereas 24.9 per cent were born in mainland China, which is up from the 14 per cent of Chinese-born residents in 2011.

An even larger percentage (38.4 per cent) of Melbourne CBD residents identify their ancestry as Chinese, compared with 7.7 per cent who identify themselves as English and 4.6 per cent as Australian.

Mandarin is the top language spoken at home, with 30.7 per cent of residents speaking Mandarin at home and 21.9 per cent of residents speaking only English.

Second-generation immigrants, whose parents were born overseas, make up 76.7 per cent of the entire CBD population.

Other top countries of origin among CBD residents include Malaysia (8.4 per cent), India (6.1 per cent), Indonesia (4.4 per cent) and South Korea (4 per cent).

John Dall'Amico, president of Residents 3000, said the statistics on the Chinese population in Melbourne's CBD should not be surprising.

"China is a country with the largest population in the world. So it shouldn't be surprising that there are many CBD residents born in China," he said.



Mr Dall'Amico pointed out two factors that might have drawn Chinese people to the Melbourne CBD.

"Schools play a big part. Lots of Chinese students come here for education," he said.

"Also Melbourne is one of the most liveable cities in the world. So many people come here to stay."

"We are a multicultural society. Chinese people add to that mix," Mr Dall'Amico said.

With a median age of 26 and 67.5 per cent of the local population aged between 20 and 34, CBD residents are likely to be the youngest group in Victoria, where the state median age is 37.

The census also shows the CBD's population has nearly doubled, from 20,627 in 2011 to 37,975 in 2016.

The explosion in the population is matched with the boom in the number of apartments since 2011, which has soared from 9496 to 16,327.

But living in the heart of the city comes with higher rental costs.

The median weekly rent in the CBD is \$451, compared with the Victorian median of \$325.

However, CBD residents' median income is not keeping up with the CBD's high rents.

The median personal weekly income among CBD residents is \$431, lower than the \$451 median weekly rent.

This means some residents may not be able to pay the rent with their own income, which may be explained by the 57.5 per cent of CBD residents who are currently studying.

CBD residents' median personal weekly income is lower than the state median of \$644, despite the higher-than-average weekly rent, making life in the CBD seem unaffordable among the 70.2 per cent of the residents who are renting their home.

The median weekly household income in the CBD is \$955, compared with \$1419 in Victoria.

In fact, 45.4 per cent of CBD households spend more than 30 per cent of the household income on rents, whereas in Victoria only 10.4 per cent of households face rents that cost more than 30 per cent of the household income.

Home ownership is 25.5 per cent in the CBD, much lower than the 67.6 per cent in Victoria.

CBD residents are also highly educated, with 57.8 per cent holding a diploma from a university or a tertiary institution, dwarfing the average 17.8 per cent across Victoria.

While the number of families has increased from 3706 to 5804 and family households are now making up 34.6 per cent of all CBD homes, CBD residents are largely single, as 74.3 per cent of them have never married.

Single-person households constitute 37.4 per cent and group households constitute 28 per cent of all households in the CBD.

The introduction of the free tram zone and easy access to the train system see 72.2 per cent of CBD residents not own a motor vehicle, a large contrast to the 7.9 per cent of Victorians without a vehicle.

Some 45.2 per cent of local residents say they are not religious, 11.5 per cent are Buddhist and 9.6 per cent are Catholic.

Statistics on employment will be released in October.

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News works for advertisers because
people like to know what is happening
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those of the publishers.

The design and builders for the major tunnelling works and five underground stations of the Metro Tunnel project have been announced.

Following competitive bids among internationally acclaimed designers and builders, the Cross Yarra Partnership consortium, comprising Lendlease Engineering, John Holland, Bouygues Construction and Capella Capital, has been selected.

Cross Yarra Partnership members have worked on some of the biggest international rail projects in recent history, including Crossrail in London, Singapore Metro, and Express Rail Link in Hong Kong.

It is substantially the same consortium that was contracted to the previous Coalition



The interior of CBD South station.



The proposed design of CBD South station.

State Government and was generously compensated when the current government scrapped the East West road project.

The package for the consortium also includes station fit-out, mechanical and electrical systems, maintenance services and commercial opportunities at the new stations.

Early works, including utility service relocations, construction site preparations, construction power and tram works, are currently underway and the major tunnelling and station constructions will begin next year.

The Metro Tunnel will allow interchanging with City Loop services, including a direct underground connection to link the CBD North station with the Melbourne Central concourse.

At CBD South, a direct underground connection from the new station to the

Degraves St Subway leading to platforms at Flinders Street Station will allow passengers to move between Metro Tunnel and City Loop services.

CBD South will have eight different entrances – including a second entrance at City Square as well as access via Federation Square, the Degraves St Subway, Flinders St, Swanston St, Cocker Alley and Scott Alley.

Entrances to CBD North will be built at Franklin St and LaTrobe St.

Designs of the station fit-out feature wider platforms, natural lighting and sweeping arches.

The future Domain Metro Station will sit below the current Domain tram interchange stop on St Kilda Rd.

The Parkville Station will provide train access to hospitals and Melbourne University and the Arden Station will help create a new suburb in the Arden-Macaulay precinct just outside the CBD.



The interior of CBD North station.

Key Considerations for Sellers in a Maturing Market



Sam Nathan
Managing Director

In a diverse and maturing market such and as the central city, your agent should also be your partner in ensuring you have a full understanding of the context of your property, it is priced appropriately, its full narrative is presented to buyers, and it is represented appropriately to the market.

There are some key themes to follow as you embark on the sale of your property:

- Choose your agent carefully. Identify an agent who is a neighbourhood specialist, understands the local market and influences of property demand and pricing, seeks understanding of your position, motivations and intention, and importantly with whom you can sense you can work well.
- Engage closely with your agent to ensure you are comfortable they are acting transparently and with your best intentions at heart. They will educate you about the market position of your property, building and location, key themes or considerations affecting your property, and recent comparable sales. This ensures you understand the current state of the market and the value of your property.
- Timing is always important in real estate. Be sure to discuss with your agent the optimal timing for any sale campaign...an agent with experience, local knowledge and understanding of the building will be able to guide you appropriately.
- Work closely with your advisory team, including accountant and lawyer/conveyancer before listing your home to understand the financial and legal implications of the sale given your circumstances.
- Campaign management is critical in the medium and higher density market. Too often we observe this most critical of factors is not fully addressed, or an inappropriate strategy is adopted. Your agent should be adding insight, context and specific advice.

Our significant growth over the past 2 years has resulted in our office being more active in the market than may be apparent. Our senior team has had leading roles in some of Melbourne's most iconic developments, allowing us to understand the context/position of individual buildings and properties, and provide transparent and informed guidance to clients.

To discuss how we can assist you understand the ongoing evolution of the market and position of your apartment, please feel free to make contact with us directly.

Happy outcome for historic CBD house

Lola Russell and George Dixon got a happy outcome for their nightmare of losing their home when a development company offered to fully restore their hundred-year-old house.

Lola and George's problem started last month when the City of Melbourne demanded that they prevent their historic home from falling down into LaTrobe St.

The couple, both in their 90s, live in Russells Old Corner Shop – one of Melbourne's oldest structures – on the corner of King and LaTrobe streets.

Lola's grandmother, Valetta Azzopardi, bought the property in 1899. She moved there when she was one month old and had been there ever since.

In late June Lola and George received a building order from the City of Melbourne, which was followed a day or so later with an emergency order – resulting in the bracing of their northern wall and the unfortunate removal of a west-bound lane of traffic in LaTrobe St.

But being without the financial or administrative capacity to respond and the state's heritage organisations refusing to help, Lola and George threw themselves on the mercy of the council.



George and Lola got the outcome they hoped for.

On July 4, George addressed the council's Future Melbourne Committee (FMC).

"The subject is survival," he said. "We've been in this old place for a long, long time. She (Lola) and her forebears handed out largesse to the travellers, the gold seekers, who stopped there on their way to the gold fields."

"We've kept the little place there – the shop and the dwelling – and plan to do so for as long as we live."

"The point of my little oration is that we need help of some sort. I'm unwilling to put my hand out," he said.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle responded: "Rest assured, without promising that we can provide that financial assistance, we are very sympathetic to your needs."

"We know you are not putting your hand out to us but we know also that you have limited means to do the works that may be required to make good one of our historic structures."



Bracing for Russells Old Corner Shop.

George's little speech attracted the attention of the daily press reporters covering the council meeting and resulted in stories in both the *Herald Sun* and *The Age*.

On July 25, a large development company confirmed they would fund the full restoration of Russells Old Corner Shop.

It also led to sympathetic interest from television personality Shaynna Blaze, who immediately started a crowd-funding page and later offered to restore the interior of the house.



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Political alliance revives market project



Lord Mayor Robert Doyle’s ambition to redevelop the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) appears to be well and truly back on track after a shoulder-to-shoulder vote of confidence from Premier Daniel Andrews on July 11.

“We have the same shared vision, the same goals,” Mr Andrews said.

The Lord Mayor, Premier and Planning Minister Richard Wynne outlined some relevant decisions around planning amendment C245, which had been sitting on Mr Wynne’s desk for almost a year.

Although the full detail of the amendment is yet to emerge, the government will gazette a maximum building height limit of 125m on the Munro site, which is 25 metres higher than the discretionary limit recommended by an independent planning panel.

When the council bought the site for \$76 million in 2014, the discretionary height limit was just 20 metres.

But, despite the extra 105 metres, the council is facing losses in the tens of millions of dollars over its Munro investment – losses it is not including in its market redevelopment costing estimates.

Mr Andrews’ endorsement of the project is a blow to the opponents of the redevelopment, who had pinned their hopes on Mr Wynne’s reticence to support the council.

It now appears that Mr Wynne (who refuses



to speak with *CBD News*) has been sidelined from the decision process, which may explain his ignorance over the current QVM detail. Mr Wynne incorrectly told the July 11 press conference: “My understanding is that, in the recent iteration of this is that there will not be a requirement for any of the sheds necessarily to be moved.”

Cr Doyle’s majority on council and the high-level ALP connections of his planning chair Nicholas Reece is manifesting in a presidential style of lord mayoralty. Given the Premier’s support for QVM, it is probably no coincidence that Cr Doyle was the previous week attempting to hose down his fellow councillors’ criticism of the West Gate Tunnel proposal (see our story on page 7).

The renewed momentum for renewal comes despite a number of recent political setbacks for the QVM project.

The first was the resignation of QVM chief executive Malcolm McCullough on July 3 after little more than a year in the job.

The second was the release of the long-awaited, but underwhelming, future market retail plan.

Rather than present a document which

might excite a market trader about future profitability, the 42-page documents adds very little to what is already known. Incredibly for a retail plan, dollars are mentioned just once in 42 pages.

The council’s QVM business case is also deficient.

The Lord Mayor makes much of the independence of SGS Economics and Planning (SGS), which authored the *Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program Business Case*.

At the July 11 event, Cr Doyle said: “The business plan says that if you do nothing or take a minimalist approach, it (the market) will go under. It’s not sensationalist in its language but its conclusions are quite chilling.”

“That’s why we went out and got the most rigorous, independent analysis that we could get. It’s not an internal one. We didn’t know what was going to come back. It’s come back and it makes for some very compelling reading.”

However, the consultants were working with the council’s own construction costings. There was no scrutiny of the council’s

\$308.77 million construction cost estimate. There was no scrutiny of the \$60 million the council plans to gain from future land sales (bringing the cost estimate back in line with the Lord Mayor’s oft-quoted \$250 million net cost).

Given that the council in 2014 expected to make similar profits from its Munro site purchase but is, instead, looking at net losses of potentially \$150 million, one might have expected some public disclosure around these numbers.

And is it right for the council to isolate its Munro losses from the cost of redevelopment? It would be more honest for the council to admit it is looking at costings closer to \$400 million than \$250 million.

What then, would this do for SGS’s finding that the project will return a ratio of 5.5 for each dollar spent?

Without public oversight of the inputs, the business case has no legitimacy.

The council says it checked its construction costs with quantity surveyors Donald Cant Watts Corke. But we have no evidence of this.

The council also says that Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) has “independently assessed” the business case. But it refuses to reveal what PWC was specifically asked to look at, or what disclaimers the accountants might have included in their “endorsement”.

The Queen Victoria Market renewal is a terrific project for Melbourne. And the council should be congratulated for taking it on.

But the City of Melbourne seems incapable of running an open, honest and transparent process.

Community meeting

Opponents of the council’s renewal plans are hosting a community meeting at the Drill Hall, 26 Therry St, at 7pm on Monday, August 14. The group promises to reveal its architecturally prepared alternative plan for the market.



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Laneway shrine for Chinese dissident

A shrine has appeared at the CBD's famous street art laneway, Hosier Lane, in memory of the late Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

Liu Xiaobo was an outspoken pro-democracy and human right activist and the recipient of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, which he did not receive in person due to his imprisonment by the Chinese government.

Melbourne-based Chinese political artist Badiucac installed two artworks in Hosier Lane when Mr Liu was in his final hours of his life on July 12. Mr Liu died in prison the next day.

The two human-sized pictures depict Mr Liu in prisoner uniforms and his wife Liu Xia with the words "Free Liu Xiaobo" and "R.I.P. Liu Xiaobo".

Flowers and candles, many with notes in Chinese, have been laid in the laneway as tributes to Mr Liu.

Badiucac called the artworks a "commemorative poster campaign" for Liu Xiaobo.

"The sadness of Xiaobo's passing and anger with the ruthless treatment from authorities has led me to continue the 'posters for Xiaobo' campaign and appeal to society for help," Badiucac said.

Badiucac said he initially intended the artworks for self-expression, but people in Melbourne had also paid homage to Mr Liu in their own way.



"The entire process is very simple – seek out a legal and local graffiti site and put up posters for Mr Liu Xiaobo," the artist said.

"But the next day I discovered Melbourne residents had filled the alley with flowers.

In one evening what began as one poster in the city centre had turned into a corner for investing support and thoughts."

Badiucac has later pasted another artwork on the Hosier Lane wall, featuring Mr Liu

in the iconic Hokusai tsunami painting and echoing NGV's latest exhibition.

The same Liu Xiaobo artworks by Badiucac have also been installed at Sydney University's Graffiti Tunnel.



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The face of the CBD

Being a 28-year-old Chinese Australian with three tertiary degrees, CBD resident Wendy Liu could very well be the face of Melbourne's CBD.

The latest census shows 38.4 per cent of Melbourne CBD residents have Chinese ancestry. The median age in the CBD is 26 and 57.8 per cent of residents are tertiary educated (read the story on page 1).

Ms Liu said the CBD's Chinese population was growing so quickly that native Chinese-speakers did not have to speak English to survive.

"My parents don't speak any English and when they came to visit me they were able to get around easily because there are many people speaking Mandarin here," she said.

The 2016 census shows 30.7 per cent of CBD residents speak Mandarin at home.

She said the never-ending festivals and events in the CBD also made it easy for newcomers to adapt to the new culture.

"I'm settling down in the new culture quite well, even though I'm still finding my place," she said.

"Here in the CBD I get to eat Chinese food and speak Mandarin a lot, so I remain very connected to the Chinese community."

Ms Liu said the CBD has changed dramatically over the years she had been here.

"When I arrived here five years ago, there were not as many Chinese people as today. Now when I walk along Swanston St, it's like walking in Wangfujing in Beijing," she said, likening the bustling Swanston St to Beijing's busiest shopping strip.

"It's so busy in the CBD that I can easily bump into someone I know," she said.

Ms Liu came to Melbourne from Beijing five years ago and studied engineering and management at the University of Melbourne and later MBA at RMIT University.

Having completed her undergraduate in engineering at Beijing Institute of Technology and played the piano and percussion professionally, Ms Liu is a high



Wendy Liu says the CBD is a melting pot of residents from different cultural backgrounds.

achiever.

After six rounds of competitive interviews, she won the 2017 Telstra Retail Graduate award, which comes with an 18-month program for graduates to explore and enhance skills in areas such as business, IT and engineering.

To Ms Liu, there is no better place to live or work other than the city.

She has been living in the CBD for the past two years and said the location was a helpful boost to her work and social life.

"My apartment is so close to work, to restaurants and to my friends," she said.

"I hate public transport and it's wonderful I can walk everywhere in the CBD. I feel very comfortable here."

She said one of the perks of vertical living was being near friends and neighbours.

One of her good friends lives in the same apartment building and she gets to socialise with friends frequently because everyone is within five minutes' reach.

"I think because we live so close together, friendships can really develop. I didn't know the friend living in the same building very well before, but we've now become really close friends because we see each other almost everyday," Ms Liu said.



Characters from "My Neighbour Totoro"

Japanese animations to be showed

The entire collection of films made by one of the world's most loved and acclaimed animation studios, Studio Ghibli, is coming to the Melbourne CBD in August.

The series of Japanese household animation films, including *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbour Totoro* and *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*, will be showcased at Hoyts Melbourne Central and ACMI from August 24 to September 20.

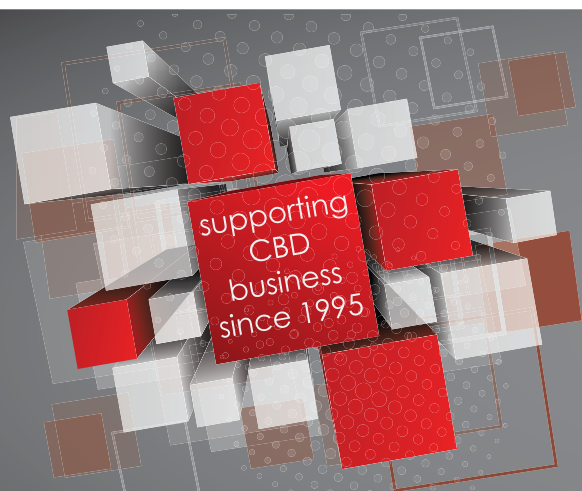
Twenty-two films produced by Studio Ghibli and a behind-the-scenes documentary *The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness* will be shown on the big screen at the two CBD locations and other participating cinemas around Melbourne.

Film director and animator Hayao Miyazaki, dubbed the "Walt Disney of Japan", co-founded Studio Ghibli and produced the film collection.

Studio Ghibli's 2001 film *Spirited Away* won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film and many other international awards.

The month-long showcase of films from the iconic Japanese animation studio is part of the Australia-wide *Celebrate Studio Ghibli* program.

For more information, visit studioghbli.com.au/celebratestudioghbli



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Doyle blunts West Gate Tunnel opposition

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne councillors have savaged the proposed West Gate Tunnel project, despite the best efforts of the Lord Mayor to hose them down.

At the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) of July 4, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle cautioned councillors not to get too far ahead of themselves.

“I would say to councillors, that we actually don’t have a project yet. We have a proposal before us. Let’s not get too far ahead of ourselves in that process. The State Government has indicated that it is prepared to listen,” Cr Doyle said.

“We enter this process in good faith. We enter this process to argue logically and coherently for good city outcomes.”

If it goes ahead, the project will dump thousands of unwanted cars into West Melbourne, North Melbourne and Docklands. It is contrary to both City of Melbourne and State Government transport policy.

The council’s own submission to the environment effects statement (EES) is scathing.

But Cr Doyle said: “We will await the

government response to the inquiry and then we’ll reserve the right to have a whole of council view on the final project.”

Despite Cr Doyle’s caution, he and all other councillors unanimously endorsed the council’s response to the EES.

The council submission says the EES fails to appropriately assess the impact of the project on:

- Transport capacity, connectivity and traffic management;
- Built environment;
- Health, amenity and environmental quality;
- Social, business, land use, public safety and infrastructure;
- Landscape, visual and recreational values;
- Hydrology and water quality;
- Biodiversity; and
- Environmental management framework.

It says: “The majority (between 54 and 65 per cent) of city-bound morning peak vehicles using the Footscray Rd elevated section of the project would access the central city, some 2900 to 3500 vehicles per hour. This brings unsustainable traffic volumes to the economic heart of the state.”

“The increased congestion for east/west trips has the potential to add to travel times and



A render of West Gate Tunnel.

negate the short-term and minor travel time benefits stated by the project.”

“The project’s justification relies in part on the Eddington Report, which proposed a new freeway linking Melbourne’s east and west. However, the Eddington Report specifically recommended against such a road having exits (or entry ramps) to the central city. It was conceived as a city bypass, not a city access road, like the project.”

“The project does nothing to bring jobs closer to residents of Melbourne’s west but will instead further embed sprawl and expensive car dependency.”

“The project is trying to address amenity problems in Melbourne’s inner west. The proposed solution is leading to amenity problems in other areas of Melbourne, including to the north of the Hoddle Grid. The EES fails to adequately consider this.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said at the July 4 FMC meeting: “We’re looking at a project that will deliver one of the largest spaghetti junctions in the world on what is

prime developable land, so the opportunity cost is quite significant. And, when you look at the project itself, it seems to be quite confused.”

“If we’re planning 8 million people by 2051, really the only direction we can take in terms of commuters is mass transit and we really need to have a rethink about how we’re dealing with freight in our city.”

Cr Rohan Leppert said: “The more we learn about it, the more its very serious consequences are understood. The creation of congestion in West Melbourne and North Melbourne in particular, when this is supposed to be a ‘congestion busting’ proposal, is incredibly worrying.”

Cr Cathy Oke said: “This project really does break my heart. I grew up in North Melbourne. I live in Kensington. I’m very proud of what the City of Melbourne has been doing in respect to transport policy and urban renewal.”

“To see a project like this which will come in and ruin so much of our great work – and people before us and all of the people we work with in our community – really breaks my heart.”

“I go along Footscray Rd a lot. I see Docklands a lot. And I see North Melbourne a lot. And to see a vision of that covered in transport, covered in traffic, to see elevated spaghetti junctions ruining the vista and the opportunity for urban renewal is just devastating.”

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Non-compliant cladding in the CBD

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne (CoM) is refusing to reveal which CBD buildings are still under investigation for their non-compliant, flammable cladding.

There are about a dozen non-compliant city towers already on a Victorian Building Authority (VBA) list of buildings that have been cleared of further concerns.

But the council is maintaining a secret list of 17 buildings that are yet to be given a tick of approval.

The council says it won't reveal its list for fear of causing public alarm. It says all are safe to occupy.

It says it is dealing directly with affected owners' corporations and it's no one else's business.



532 Flinders St is on the VBA list.



410 Elizabeth St has been cleared.

But, given the seriousness of the issue, doesn't the public have a right to know? Not everyone is an owners' corporation executive member. What about other owner-occupiers? What about renters? What about hotel or short-stay apartment guests?

Affected CBD buildings which have been cleared include: 475-511 Swanston St, 108 Flinders St, 58-64 Franklin St, 204-240 Spencer St, 19-37 A'Beckett St, 601 Little Collins St, 532-526 Flinders St, 269-321 Lonsdale St, 660-674 Elizabeth St, 768-800 Swanston St, 42-56 Franklin St and 410 Elizabeth St.

The VBA and CoM audited city buildings following the Lacrosse Apartments fire in 2014.

In answer to questions from *CBD News* on June 20, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle defended the council's approach and responsiveness.

"We don't make those public. The people who are in the building know. Their owner's corporations know. We want to protect

against a public alarmist view," Cr Doyle said.

"In fact, we're working through this quite quickly. When this was first discovered, there were something like 170 buildings that were identified."

Cr Doyle then went on to explain why the process was taking so long.

"There is a remarkably small number of qualified building surveyors who can do the necessary work because, of course, many of them worked on these buildings in the first place and it would be quite inappropriate for them to be doing evaluations of their own work," he said.

"So the cross conflict of interest meant there was a very small pool of expertise was available. Most of that fell to the City of Melbourne and our municipal building surveyor, the statutory officer who works here."



58-64 Franklin St has also been cleared.



108 Flinders St is another building on VBA's list.

"Of the buildings that were referred to us, we have moved through, on a risk profile, down to the last 17. We are hopeful that they can be resolved in a relatively short period of time."

"We have worked very co-operatively with building owners and, in most cases, compliance measures, even when initially disagreed, have then been agreed."

"There'll be a range of different possibilities for those last buildings. We don't want public alarm," Cr Doyle said.

"If, however, we get to a point with some of those in the last 17 where there is a dispute about what would make a building compliant, we would be prepared to pursue that legally and, in that case, those buildings would be publicly identified."

With the State Government on July 3 establishing a taskforce to investigate the extent of non-compliant cladding throughout the state, it is unlikely to have any impact on the CBD, as it has already been audited.

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Channelling students into entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurial pair
Arnav Dutta and Shourov
Bhattacharya is determined
to bring out the best in the
CBD's brightest international
students.

Educator Mr Dutta and business brain Mr Bhattacharya have joined forces to match groups of students with businesses for mutual benefit.

Unlike some others, certificate and advanced diploma students at private registered training organisations (RTOs) generally have no entrepreneurial channels offered to them. And they are further bound by restrictive visa requirements that stymie their talent for business.

But to Mr Dutta and Mr Bhattacharya, this is a tragic waste of potential talent and creative energy.

"Look at the Elon Musk story," Mr Bhattacharya said. "It's a migrant story. And we could well create similar outcomes here."

Since last October, the pair has identified, placed and mentored about 50 students in groups of four.

One group, in particular, has Mr Bhattacharya excited. "They've come out of their own accord and have created a world-



Arnav Dutta and Shourov Bhattacharya want to bring out the best in the CBD's international students.

class application and program."

Mr Bhattacharya is taking them to the next stage, including access to seed capital.

"Suddenly, they realise they can do something. They are all super aspirational. They want more from life," he said.

In fact, Mr Bhattacharya said he was constantly amazed at the progress the students were making and the level of contacts and meetings they were arranging.

"Even if their project fails, the experience they have gained sets them over and above," he said. "They are the people we want for the future."

The group comprises a Colombian business student, a Mexican electronic engineer, a Chinese software engineer and an American psychology student.

"They're a killer team," Shourov said.

Mr Dutta said theoretical studies could only take students so far.

"It's not tangible. It's not real. They need to spend time with real people. They need access to real businesses and real business problems," he said.

He said educational institutions needed pathways to entrepreneurship but, as a cohort, international students were

"structurally marginalised".

At the moment, the program is operating under the broader banner of Mr Bhattacharya's Innovations in the Wild business.

"It's currently called The Business Club," Mr Bhattacharya said. The former Melbourne 3000+ Awards winner said he and Mr Dutta were yet to formulate an appropriate business model for the social enterprise.

For the moment, however, the pair would love to hear from interested businesses. Mr Bhattacharya's email is Shourov@innovationinthewild.com



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laneway learning

The last school

By Rhonda Dredge

It was a Friday evening in July and the Oxford Scholar was pulling its last beers.

The regulars were there after work for a bit of old-school banter.

They were fixtures of the Ox, meeting at the same table year in and year out, getting older like marble statues worn down by the grit of the city.

You're a scholar and a gentleman, was the standard reply for a pot of bitter. You could always count on a mate for a shout.

Now, the pub on Swanston St that has provided bar work for students from across the road at RMIT and a convivial space for office-work types, has closed.

The numbers have been crunched and the pub is down to its last few barrels. Drilling work in Swanston St for Metro Tunnel hasn't helped. CBD North will be located next door.

Further down Melbourne's main drag, Young and Jackson's has vowed to keep on trading during the tunnel construction period. It will be next to CBD South. Can it last the distance?

According to Urbanspoon, there are 28 pubs in the CBD. Make that 27. The Great Western is already off the list and the Oxford Scholar is following on its heels. It will bite the dust soon.



Sergeant Kael Oosthuizen, Sergeant Pete and Constable Ethan Scanlon at the fundraiser.

Police help Red Nose

Melbourne East Police Station staff and their families held a Red Nose Day fundraiser to raise money for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Senior Sergeant Adam Tanner said the station held a fundraiser for a good cause every year. This year they raised \$500 for Red Nose Day, which fell on June 30.

The police officers had previously raised money for Monash Children's Hospital and the Australian Cancer Council.

The Red Nose funds were raised through a barbecue, face paintings and guessing the number of lollies in a jar.

"We want to acknowledge the good work that these charities are doing and help the community," Snr Sgt Tanner said.

"It's also a great opportunity for the staff across the city police station to get together and show families their workplace," he said.

STREET LIFE

11am Bourke St.

Photo by Barry C. Douglas @ BarryTakesPhotos.com

Brighten up your day

Artist Dan Wollmering is presenting a bright exhibition at & Gallery, 220 Spencer St, until August 5.

The exhibition, entitled *Street Beat*, brings together a series of works inspired by Wollmering's art residencies in Malaysia over several years.

He used these opportunities to write, sketch, document and make cardboard models based on "quirky connections" that were observed and recorded during his street wanderings.

Returning to his Melbourne studio, he then reduced the complexity to more minimal forms and bold colours that would capture an essence – fabricated in steel and wood.

River Rink brings true winter

Hosted by Federation Square, River Rink brings an authentic winter atmosphere to the Melbourne CBD each year.



Children and adults put on their skates and spun on the outdoor ice rink by the Yarra River in July.

Real estate showroom

CBRE has opened a real estate showroom in Chinatown.

The store was officially opened on June 28, following a short speech by Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

CBRE says it has sold more than \$12 billion in property to Chinese investors and developers since 2009.

CBRE's national director, Mark Wizel, said: "The launch of our Asian Services team in 2008, and now the opening of a dedicated Chinatown showroom, will enable us to continue our market-leading specialisation in this growing sector of the market."



A multiple ribbon cutting marked the opening of the new CBRE showroom.



Enviropoles Operations Manager, Chris Holwell, with 68kg worth of cigarette butts collected from streets for recycling.

Recycling binned cigarettes

The City of Melbourne is recycling millions of cigarette butts into industrial products.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the council had collected 1.2 million binned cigarettes from busy CBD locations, universities and hospitals.

The cigarette butts collected will be made into practical items such as shopping pallets and plastic furniture.

"We collect more than 200,000 cigarette butts each week from 367 cigarette butt bins across the city: litter that may otherwise end up being washed down drains and into the Yarra River," Cr Doyle said

A survey shows 10,500 cigarettes are being

littered on the ground every day.

The council said it spent \$13 million on collection and disposal each year.

The City of Melbourne placed a glass box filled with 200,000 cigarette butts on at Queensbridge Square on July 24 to show the environmental impacts of littering cigarettes.

Cr Cathy Oke, council's environmental portfolio chair, said Melbourne was the first in Victoria to recycle cigarette waste.

"We hope this project will motivate smokers to place their cigarette butts in one of the butt bins located around the CBD."

Woman died at CBD apartment

A 20-year-old Western Australia woman was found dead at serviced apartment Oaks Hotel on Market St on July 16.

It is believed the serviced apartment where the woman's body was found was rented by a group of men for a buck's party.

Victoria Police said they were not treating the death as suspicious.

Four men, aged in their late 20s to early 30s from Australian Capitol Territory and New South Wales, were in custody to assist the investigation and were released without charge.

INSPIRATION IN THE HEART OF MELBOURNE

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Join Clinical Psychologist Julijana Chochovski as she explores the challenges of coping with the changes and stages of older adulthood.

Investigate helpful ways to plan for retirement and how to discuss your wishes with your family. Explore the options available regarding caregivers, administrators and executors. Learn about how legal wills, power of attorney, medical directives and residential care can help support your wellbeing.

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Cost: \$20 includes tea, coffee and sandwiches
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Laneways get green facelift

By Sunny Liu

One of the CBD’s oldest but most neglected laneways, Coromandel Place, is receiving a gradual green facelift.

Coromandel Place is the first of the four pilot laneways selected in the City of Melbourne’s \$1.8 million Green Your Laneway project, which will see CBD laneways transformed into lush street gardens.

A dead-end laneway tucked off Little Collins St and between Exhibition and Russell streets, Coromandel Place was previously a quiet and industrialised city spot that only nearby workers and residents would frequent.

Some 14 planter boxes of Boston Ivy and Creeping Fig were installed in front of its western wall in July. Climbing plants are expected to cover the walls in the next five years.

The bluestone kerbing and tarmac was dug out and replaced with new soil and underground irrigation systems to help the new plants grow.

Local street artist Ghostpatrol has created a two-storey mural at the northern end and Al Stark has painted the wall of the Uniting Church, where greenery cannot be planted due to underground services and traffic requirements.

Businesses in Coromandel Place have



Vladimir Bereza and Sam Gudge from Oli & Levi in Coromandel Place welcome the makeover.

welcomed the laneway’s green revamp.

Vladimir Bereza and Sam Gudge, baristas at the Oli & Levi cafe at 20 Coromandel Place,

said the program could attract more visitors to the laneway.

“People tend to walk past Coromandel

Place because there’s not much to see. But the plants will bring more attention to the laneway,” Mr Bereza said.

“Greenery helps catch people’s eyes amongst the concrete jungle.”

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle also said the project could boost surrounding businesses and generate environmental benefits.

“The residents and business owners in Coromandel Place supported this rejuvenation to help entice people to this hidden part of the city,” he said.

“There are more than 200 lanes in our central city and they offer great opportunity for renewal. We can transform these laneways with plants and trees to help cool the city, improve air quality and clean stormwater.”

The next laneways to be transformed as part of Green Your Laneway are Guildford Lane, Meyers Place and Katherine Place which, like Coromandel Place, were selected from more than 800 public nominations and consultations with engineers, sustainability professionals, place-makers and landscape architects.

The transformation of Guildford Lane includes a seven-square-metre green roof.

The City of Melbourne has also initiated the \$1.2 million Urban Forest Fund that provides funding to turn building rooftops into high-rise gardens, with additional contributions from the private sector.

For more information about Green Your Laneway, visit participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greenlaneways



Mandarin Oriental (middle) at 600 Collins St.

Mandarin Oriental coming

Asian hotel giant Mandarin Oriental is coming to the CBD by signing a management contract for a new luxury hotel at 600 Collins St.

The mixed-use 180m tower will be Mandarin Oriental’s first property in Australia.

The five-star hotel will comprise 196 rooms and will be part of the 50-storey tower designed by acclaimed British architect Dame Zaha Hadid.

Mandarin Oriental will also manage 148 residences on the upper floors of the building.

Melbourne developer, Landream, is developing the project, which is expected to complete in 2023.

The hotel will be the first five-star hotel at the western end of Collins St, near the corner of Collins and Spencer streets.

The Collins St tower was granted ministerial approval last year, despite it exceeding the interim planning controls, due to its visual appeal and the inclusion of public space.

A galactic sound

By David Amaya

It is a 60cm wide metal plate; it weighs about 4kg; and it has small holes around it.

Although it looks like a UFO that came from space, it is a musical instrument called handpan, which landed three months ago in the CBD to hypnotise pedestrians with its singular sound.

Masayuki Seki is a 30-year-old Japanese man who is exploring the handpan’s harmonious sound along Swanston St. He is not a professional musician, but fell in love with this instrument during a recent trip to South America where he saw another Japanese guy busking on the streets of a Peruvian city.

From that moment, the steel drum vibrations echoed in his head, inspiring him to travel around the world playing the handpan on the streets. He bought his first model in Indonesia at a low price but later, when he was busking in Canada, he realised that the tuning accuracy was like a secret that was only revealed in the models made by expert hands.

Still in Canada, Masayuki contacted another person who designed a new one using better materials and better technique.



Although he has travelled around 17 countries and dozens of cities, Australia is the starting point in Masayuki’s musical career, and our CBD is the first place where he started to figure out the secret sound that transmits tranquility to the fast-paced passers-by’s hearts.

Every day, if weather permits, Masayuki looks for the busiest corner of the city. He opens the case where he keeps his interstellar device and places a small note with the message “please enjoy the sound”. The sounds of the cars, the vibrations of the tram and the mixture of the languages of dozens of people from different nationalities seem to disappear when Masayuki gently strikes the surface of his handpan.

The sound spreads like a reassuring wave that attracts dozens of people to enjoy some of this melody in the middle of the chaos of the city. Then they continue on their way and Masayuki continues to play for a new crowd that quickly fills the empty spaces.

Great Western Hotel to go

The gold rush era Great Western Hotel will be partially demolished to make way for a mixed-use 80m tower with 26 levels.

The pub’s two-storey brick facade will be incorporated into the new building, designed by DKO Architecture.

Constructed in 1864 at 204 King St as Star of the West, the Great Western Hotel is one of the oldest pubs in Melbourne.

Despite its history, the pub has a C heritage grade based on the City of Melbourne’s Central City Heritage Review, making it unprotected from demolitions or developments.

City of Melbourne granted approval for developer Jin Yi to partially demolish Great Western and construct the tower at its July 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Some 61 formal objections were received by the City of Melbourne prior to the meeting.

Jin Yi applied for a full demolition in its original proposal last December, but submitted a revised application to keep the pub facade after the council’s objection.

Last drinks were called at the Great Western Hotel in March and the partial demolition is set to start soon.

The building’s ground level will be used for retail, with offices on the first and second levels and 64 apartments on the upper levels.



A spokesperson for the developer said retaining the original pub facade was “an appropriate compromise.”

“The proposed design skilfully incorporates the retained heritage fabric into a contemporary, elegant development, which demonstrates considered detailing and fantastic architectural quality,” he said.

The spokesperson also said the ground floor retail facility and “sympathetic alterations” of the retained facade would “provide an enhanced sense of activity to the pedestrian environment”.

Rene Spoors from Melbourne Heritage

Action said preservation and integration of heritage buildings should be the first consideration.

“Over 60 objections to its demolition demonstrate the community does not want the Great Western to go the same way as the Corkman Inn, which went under the wrecking ball last year,” he said.

Mr Spoors acknowledged the council’s previous efforts in retaining unprotected heritage building facades, including the Art Deco facade at 35 City Rd in Southbank.

“Whilst our ideal outcome is always to retain and integrate heritage buildings into new

developments, where there is a lack of formal protection, sensible restoration of building facades is to be preferred over demolition,” he said.

The new building replacing the Great Western Hotel on the 325sqm site will have a floor area ratio of 20.6:1, exceeding the 18:1 standard.

In addition to the Great Western Hotel, developer Figtree submitted an application in 2015 to demolish the 1920s neo-Egyptian style Duke of Kent Hotel and its neighbouring buildings at 293-303 LaTrobe St to build a 66-level residential tower.

OK for Exhibition St tower

An application to build a 58-storey skyscraper at 57-63 Exhibition St has been supported by the City of Melbourne.

Concern loomed over the potential overshadowing on Birrarung Marr, the north bank of the Yarra River, in the original application in August 2014, which initially proposed a 220m skyscraper.

Developers Salta Properties and Asia One recently lowered the proposed height to

203m, but the City of Melbourne requested it to be further reduced to 183m.

The revised height would reduce, although not eliminate, the area of overshadowing on Birrarung Marr.

An update on the podium design will help integrate it with the appearance of adjacent heritage buildings, including the B-graded former Kelvin Hall and Harley House.

The latest plan also features a new public laneway that will connect Strachan Lane and Chester Lane.

The current 13-storey ASF House on the 894sqm site will be demolished and replaced with the skyscraper with a total floor area of 37,688sqm.

At the July 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, councillors supported the updated proposal unanimously.

“This is the part of the city where we really do want to see the best in terms of what the city can produce and, in that respect, this development proposal has a lot to like about it,” council’s planning portfolio chair, Cr Nicholas Reece, said.

The proposal will now be sent to the Planning Minister for consideration.

If approved, the \$225 million high-rise tower will add a residential hotel and 119 apartments to the premium corner of Exhibition and Collins streets in the eastern CBD.



Market attendance soars

By Kate Mani

The Queen Victoria Winter Night Market has recorded its most successful season in its six-year history.

More than 80,000 people enjoyed the evening winter festivities over the two-week July school holidays.

Strong word-of-mouth marketing motivated by social media was believed to have helped the night market’s popularity, as attendance increased 60 per cent from 2016.

Queen Victoria Market customer engagement manager Mark Scott said the boost in numbers inspired market staff to focus on their constant goal of providing a special experience for customers.

“We have just seen two weeks of record attendances which makes everyone involved work so much harder to ensure we deliver the best customer experience we can,” Mr Scott said. “That is always our priority irrespective of the numbers.”

It is expected that more than one million people will have visited the summer and winter Wednesday night markets by the time the winter season finishes later this month.

After that, Mr Scott’s marketing efforts will return to the daytime market, with management and traders hoping to apply the same successful elements all year round.

Due to its phenomenal success, the Night Market will be extended to October 4.

Business

Local company takes on the world – and wins!

QA Software is a success story for our city. Based in St Kilda Rd, the company received a City of Melbourne export grant in 2006 and recently opened an office in Denver, USA.

Last year QA beat a field of 10 international rivals to become the preferred in-house provider to America’s fourth-largest engineering and construction company, Kiewit.

Kiewit has a presence in 22 US states and has 300 concurrent projects underway.

“The fact that we won this bid as a relative unknown shows that we have a very good system,” Russell Mortimer, CEO at QA Software, said.

“We are their corporate system for document management and that is giving us huge inroads into other construction companies and joint ventures that they are dealing with.”

With so much construction in Melbourne these days, proper management of the millions of documents underpinning these projects is in all our interests.

Engineer-turned-software entrepreneur Russell Mortimer estimates that a “modest” \$250 million project would generate about 350,000 documents.

“Stacked together, they would stand 10 storeys high, so you can imagine how many documents the \$11 billion Melbourne Metro Tunnel project will generate!” he said.



Russell Mortimer from QA Software.

Without robust systems, the cost of even modest mistakes can be significant.

Since 1996, Mr Mortimer and his partner Steve Joustra have dedicated themselves

to refining construction and engineering project online document management software via their company’s TeamBinder product.

“One of the reasons we stand out from our competitors is because we understand engineering and construction,” he said. “Steve and I are both ex-engineers. In 1995 we left engineering to make software because it was so badly needed.”

Mr Mortimer said document discoverability was one of the secrets of the product’s success.

“When designing a document management system for engineers, it pays to think like an engineer,” he laughed.

QA Software has grown rapidly from humble beginnings to now employ 60 people. Those who know the strength of the local IT scene will not be surprised that Melbourne exports first-class software.

The next international target market is China.

Above all, Mr Mortimer is passionate about the benefits that good document management brings to a project. He talks about a “single source of truth”.

“Document control is the lifeblood of any project because it delivers who, what, when,

where and how,” he said. “You can’t do anything without the lifeblood. And the heart that pumps the lifeblood is a document management system – a single system, not multiple hearts pumping in different directions.”

TeamBinder has a local presence too. Its client list includes the City of Melbourne, the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority and the Level Crossing Removal Authority. It was also used on Federation Square, Crown Casino, Melbourne Museum and many other local projects.

Although competing companies may spend huge sums on marketing, Mr Mortimer is confident that his product and after-sales services is the best.

“We can talk the language,” he said. “And we keep in touch. If something goes wrong with a project, we also feel the pain.”

However, he said, it was important that all users were properly trained.

“Sometimes you can have the best tool, but you can also suddenly find someone doing something on a spreadsheet. Our focus is on helping bring out the best for the user.”

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Safe and secure in our vertical villages

Safe City, Liveable City, EcoCity, Resilient City, Smart City, Knowledge City, Compassionate City – our Melbourne is a multi-themed and highly-considered metropolis!

Last month, for instance, Melbourne played host to the international EcoCity World Summit, which had as a theme Changing Cities: Resilience and Transformations – and aimed to “highlight the need to deploy expert knowledge to make cities resilient in the face of rapid change”.

Not to be left out, Brisbane entertained those attending the Liveable Cities conference, which was closely followed by the companion conference, Safe Cities.

And being so well discussed, might we vertical dwellers, being a new and growing breed of city resident, feel assured that our issues are well known?

Having attended the recent Safe Cities Conference, I can say that high rise living was not a particular area of focus, with more attention given to topics such as the “night

economy” and the need to “get it right” when managing events to attract domestic and international tourists, businesses and employees. We, city residents, were notable by our absence.

However, there are a range of safety – and security – issues confronting vertical dwellers. And, as I have been informed, there is a difference between safety and security. Broadly speaking, safety is more about protection from unintended incidents or accidents and is more concerned with health and wellbeing. Security, on the other hand, is more about protection against intended incidents that occur as a result of deliberate and/or planned acts and includes malicious and criminal incidents.

So, what are the current safety and security issues for vertical dwellers?

Unsurprisingly, on the safety front, many issues relate to apartment design and their impact upon occupant health. For instance, heat stress inside apartments was identified as a growing issue, most especially for west-facing apartments. The *Living Well – Apartments, Comfort and Resilience in Climate Change* study (conducted by University of Melbourne) looked at apartment performance in “free running mode” (ie without air conditioning). Its finding was that most of our city apartments

would turn into “ovens”.

But if you want a real scare, Alan March (Associate Professor Urban Planning, University of Melbourne) is your man. Speaking earlier this year at the HighRise Expo, Professor March challenged high-rise dwellers to “imagining the worst” – fire, power outage, water system breakdown, heatwave, terrorism, social unrest, major storm, pandemic and business breakdown. He was not overly positive about how long we could continue to live in our high-rise apartments if Melbourne experienced one (or more) of the foregoing. Without power or water, things will get very unpleasant very quickly. He asked: “Do our buildings have an emergency plan?” and “How much individual capacity did each of us have to last unaided?” He suggested only a few days – and then proposed that we each use “resilience thinking” (doomsday prepping for vertical living!).

In regards to high-rise security, the issue of tailgating continues to be of concern, including pedestrians tailgating (ie the following of residents into buildings). Interestingly, one growing reason for this is short cutting.

As our apartment buildings become better connected through linkways, some people are seeking out these quicker routes

by transiting through resident buildings. I know of one apartment building where the employees of nearby businesses routinely “cut through,” preferring to use the residents’ lifts rather than the external stairs. Also growing in popularity (regrettably) is mail theft, which has had a boost courtesy of our short stayers. The issue here is that once people have access to your building, this also means they have access to resident-only mail rooms.

What to do? Suggestions include using the Internet of Things so that we can better know what is happening inside our buildings (both for safety and security matters). Perhaps this is where our “smart city” people can talk to our “safe city” people so our vertical villages can be part of a more resilient city?

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/>



Planning

Green light for Vic Market

The planning controls that deal with the upgrade of the Queen Victoria Market have now been approved by Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The City of Melbourne will now need to work within a framework that places a mandatory height control of 125 metres on the “Munro” site, which the council bought in 2014 for \$74 million.

Commenting on the approval, Mr Wynne said: “We’ve given careful consideration to get this amendment right. It’s all about striking a balance between the need for development and rejuvenation and protecting the market’s heritage.”

The project will see the erection of a temporary greenhouse pavilion designed by Breathe Architecture to house traders while heritage sheds A, B, C and D are dismantled, restored and reinstated allowing for underground services to be installed.

Further to this will be the creation of a new 1.5 ha public open space on the site of the current car park. According to Lord Mayor Robert Doyle: “This area will serve as a thriving hub for festivals, events or simply relaxing and enjoying produce from the stalls.”

Elsewhere, the council has provided conditional approval for Salta Properties’ mixed-use tower at 57-63 Exhibition St.



The \$250 million Queen Victoria Market renewal project can now proceed.

Replacing ASF House, the currently 203m tower with an expected development cost of \$255 million may be required to lose a few floors in order to prevent overshadowing of Birrarung Mar with City of Melbourne planners requesting the tower be

reduced to 183 metres.

A mix of hotel and residential, 57-63 Exhibition St’s fate is ultimately with the Planning Minister.

And finally, Probuild signage has appeared on the hoardings for the multi-tower

West Side Place development on Spencer St, signalling that a construction start is imminent. The first stage will include two towers of 69 and 80-storeys rising to heights of 235m and 270m respectively and will also include a Ritz-Carlton hotel in addition to 1200 apartments. A further two residential towers of over 200m are also planned.

West Side Place is opposite Far East Consortium’s other large scale urban infill project, Upper West Side. The now complete Upper West Side comprises four residential towers atop a shared podium on the site of the former Lonsdale St power station.

A fifth tower known as “The Fifth” on Rose Alley is currently being completed.

These projects, along with the under-construction Victoria Police headquarters at 311 Spencer St and the “Beyonce” Tower at 150 Spencer St will change the western face of Melbourne’s CBD.



Laurence Dragomir

Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD
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Heritage

Delights revealed as scaffolds come down

Scaffolding going up on heritage buildings is often a worrying sign that demolition of facadism is soon to follow, but a number of scaffolds coming down recently have revealed much better news.

On Elizabeth St, just past the market, the retained front of a Victorian building with stunning bronze shop front has been restored meticulously from under decades of limewash grey in front of the new Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation building, lifting the entire streetscape in that part of town.

Although the original plans included completely demolishing the building before MHA successfully objected, the team behind the project are to be commended for one of the better heritage facade incorporations in recent years.

Further down Elizabeth St at number 295, simply removing the large banner of former tenants Mitchells Outdoors has revealed a whole art deco facade complete with original window frames and decorative columns for the new Dong Ting restaurant.

If we cross over a block, we’ll also see the colourful scaffolding coming off another interwar gem - the amazingly cleaned up Curtin House. It is now a shining beacon on

Swanston St, as part of works to renovate the iconic Rooftop Cinema.

Heading down to the river, a detour down Collins St takes us past the neo-gothic Trustees Executors and Agency Company Building, who’s chipped and tired sandstones have just been meticulously restored – hopefully inspiring neighbouring sandstone buildings in this significant streetscape to do the same.

Right at the end of Elizabeth St, a recent paint job has taken decades of soot off number 25, originally built for Mrs Cecilia Hordern in 1889 and tenanted out to mantelpiece importers. Though the building is still missing a lot of its Victorian detailing, which was chipped off decades ago, the clean-up is definitely a step in the right direction.

Our journey through the CBD ends as many do at Flinders Street Station, currently still covered in scaffolds but soon to be revealed in its original colour scheme after decades of neglect.

Let’s hope the months and years to come see many more scaffolds go up over neglected historic buildings to reveal heritage gems.



Tristan Davies

President
Melbourne Heritage Action

Metro Tunnel



The entrance to CBD North station.



The City Square entrance to CBD South station.

Monthly Update: August

CBD NORTH

Happened or happening in July

- Piling in Franklin St progressing, with about 40 per cent of piles completed.
- Works to relocate services taking place, including power, telecommunications, sewer, water and gas.
- Minor modifications to the road network are continuing to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

August

- Service relocations expected to be complete.
- More permanent scaffolding and hoarding erected in A'Beckett St to provide safety for pedestrians, similar to what has been installed in Franklin St.
- Piling to begin in A'Beckett St.
- Piling in Franklin St expected to be complete and an acoustic shed constructed from late August onwards.

CBD SOUTH

Happened or happening in July

- On-site traffic management changes. Previously, construction vehicles entered and exited City Square via Flinders Lane. Trucks to enter via Flinders Lane and exit by turning right onto Collins St instead. A driveway on Collins St set up to facilitate this. About 20 to 30 vehicles per day are expected.
- Taller hoarding installed on top of a new retaining wall along Swanston St. This further protects the site and adds about one metre to the width of the current footpath.
- Construction equipment lowered into the car park via an opening in the roof slab. Rubble from the demolitions removed in the same way.
- Services in the car park relocated or disconnected, such as stormwater drains, pipes and fire sprinklers.

August

- Steel supports installed in the Westin Hotel side of the car park to add strength after the City Square side is demolished.
- Car park ramp demolition.
- Concrete strengthening works, including construction of a dividing wall to separate the City Square demolition site from the levels underneath the Westin Hotel, which will be retained.
- Ground anchor works on all levels to provide stability to the walls after car park demolition.



The interior of CBD North station.

Music

Lovetown at the library

The Burke and Wills monument had been removed, hoardings had been placed around City Square, Chautauqua had won the TJ Smith Stakes at Randwick racecourse and nearby at the Athenaeum Library on Collins St, a full house awaited the arrival of the singer/songwriter Stephen Cummings.

The Melbourne ambiance was overcast, grey and cold.

Cummings arrived at the oldest library in a dark grey suit and the literate rock musician noted to the audience that an edition of his memoir *Will It Be Funny Tomorrow Billy?* (Hardie Grant 2009) was on the shelves of the library. Accompanying Stephen Cummings at this concert on guitar was Robert Goodge. Goodge was a foundation member of the very influential (amongst underground musicians) Essendon Airport, the brilliant post-punk outfit from the late 70s. Essendon Airport also included David Chesworth, on keyboards, who later would help create the sound installation at the bridge at Birrarung Marr, the William Barak Bridge.

With his memoir nearby, and gazing across the audience and all the vast books and bookshelves in the library, the Lovetown musician began to reminisce and recall places, buildings and people from back in the 20th century.

With the audience joining the dots for any gaps in Cummings' rock memory (perhaps on occasion more igneous than basaltic) the gig became a rare occurrence where the audience and performer riffed with one another between songs.

Goodge seemed bemused on occasion as Cummings and the audience recalled distant flotsam, jetsam and ephemera.

Cummings was in a great band called Sports, from the same era as Essendon Airport. Sports were so good with their angular, acerbic, guitar-driven, post-punk drive that a bloke called Gudinski was able to launch Sports into the US and European markets. The memoir tells some tremendous anecdotes about this.

The highlight song was *Some Prayers Are Answered Unexpectedly, From Time to Time*. The interplay of the guitars chiming in the Reading Room was warm and beguiling. Before too long, Cummings and Goodge were at the last song and, being somewhat inspired Cummings began making up lyrics and singing *Thank You For Coming To The Library*.

The finish was brilliant, like watching Manikato flying along the Flemington racetrack back in the day when Sports began.

The Athenaeum Library Reading Room was graced by the presence of one of the best musicians in Melbourne. Cummings writes phenomenal songs and his timing, phrasing and staccato delivery reminds sometimes of Frank Sinatra. Cummings swings and grooves. As Gudinski would have realised when he first saw Sports, Cummings has it.

Whatever it is, in an ecliptic, ellipsoidal, diffident manner, Cummings has got it. Listen to Stephen Cummings *Stuck On Love*, *Don't Throw Stones* or even *Gymnasium*, where his tongue is in his cheek. He has a sublime lyricism. He once sang *Baby Blue* on Rockwiz with Isabella Manfredi. *Baby Blue* is the type of song Cummings loves.

Afterwards, someone mentioned that it felt very special, like a mythical Crime And The City Solution gig in a New York loft ... as good as cruising in a Citroen.



Chris Mineral
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SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES



The city's north is changing with construction underway for a new station as part of the Metro Tunnel Project.

Although A'Beckett Street has closed for up to five years between Swanston Street and Stewart Street to enable the new underground station to be built, the rest of the road is still fully accessible.

Some of the businesses that are still open and welcoming customers during construction include:

- **Bebu Soju Bar & Restaurant** – 2/31 A'Beckett St
'Authentic Korean in a homely urban fit-out'
- **Wonderbao** – 4/19-37 A'Beckett St
'A Melbourne institution, serving traditional buns'
- **No 1 Spicy Pot** – 1/31 A'Beckett St
'Great value, popular and wholesome Chinese meals'

- **Darac** – 53 A'Beckett St
'Trendy exposed brick interior with quality Korean fare'
- **Kaki Lima** – 1 Stewart St
'Bustling Indonesian eatery popular with students'
- **DokiDoki Japanese Restaurant** – 18-20 Little La Trobe St
'Enjoyable and affordable Japanese and Korean dishes'

We encourage residents, students, visitors and workers to continue to support local businesses in and around the north of the CBD during construction works.

More information

To find out more, visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au or call 1800 551 927.

Residents 3000

How does your city grow? Can you visualise it?

Remember scrolling through monthly building approvals lists? Seeing a sign on the street about a new development and wondering why you didn't know about it? Those days are gone.

In June, the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle AC unveiled a new online 3D interactive tool, which, for the first time, provides a visual representation of buildings that are existing, approved, under construction or under application in Melbourne. The tool allows the user to zoom in and out and view the city from different angles.

The web address for the Development Activity Model as shown below is developmentactivity.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

"It's like Google Earth, except some of the buildings don't exist yet. For the first time, we can see the level of building activity in Melbourne's CBD in context. This is the first time an Australian council has undertaken this kind of modelling and made it public," the Lord Mayor said.

"The data behind the model, from the City of Melbourne's Development Activity Monitor, reveals a large upswing in office construction in Melbourne as our reputation as a knowledge city and business hub continues to grow."

"There was 9000sqm of floor office space completed from January 1 to May 1, 2017 compared with just 6000sqm for the entirety of 2016. The future continues to be positive as we also have 254,000sqm of floor office space under construction, 704,000sqm with town planning approval, and town planning applications have been lodged for a further 209,000sqm of office space."

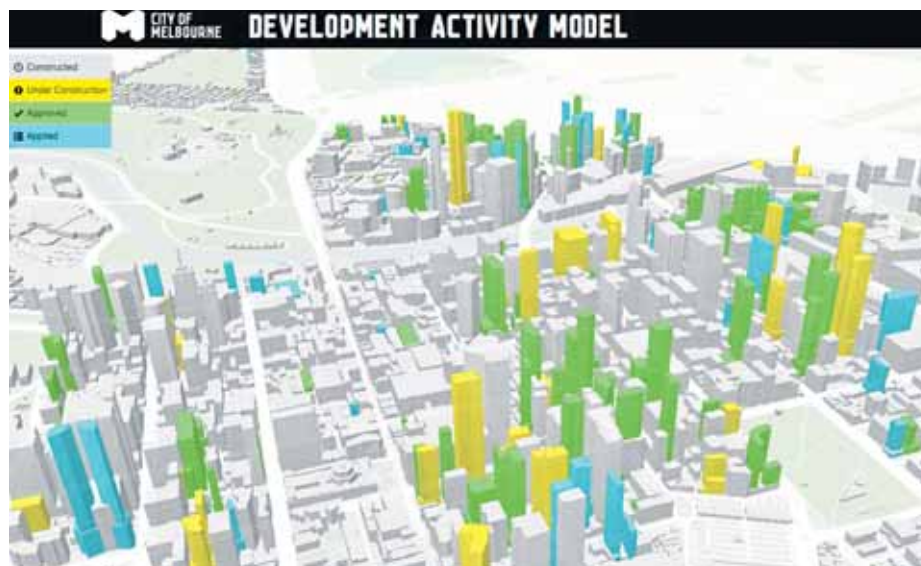
"On the residential side, 5300 residential dwellings were completed from January 1 to May 1, 2016, a further 36,600 residential dwellings have received town planning approval and town planning applications have been lodged for a further 18,300 residential dwellings."

The Lord Mayor said that the demand for student and family accommodation was driving residential construction.

"The interactive model shows there has been a surge in student accommodation over the past 12 months to May 2017, with 4100 student beds currently under construction and a further 2400 approved. This compares with the 12 months to May 2016 when there were just 791 student beds under construction," the Lord Mayor said.

"There are more than 30,000 international students living in the municipality. Students want to live in the world's most liveable city and this demand is reflected in the record level of student accommodation being built."

"Of the apartments being built, 52 per cent contain two bedrooms, 41 per cent are one-bedroom apartments, and more than six per



cent contain three bedrooms or more. Three-bedroom apartments are being built at the highest rate in the past five years, reflecting the number of families who want to live in the inner city."

The illustration shows a close up of a section of the city. By clicking on a building, a dialogue box springs up to give details of the particular building.

The 3D model includes all development activity across the City of Melbourne, including developments the State Government has approved.

It uses the following colour coding:

Grey – existing buildings;
Green – approved buildings;
Yellow – buildings under construction; and
Blue – buildings under application.

Highlights of the Development Activity Monitor data include:

■ Retail space remains strong, particularly within mixed-use residential developments: From January 1 to May 1, 2017, 14,800sqm of retail space was completed. As at May 1, there was a further 37,400sqm of retail space under construction, 104,000sqm with town planning approval;

■ Hotels: From January 1 to May 1, 2017, very few hotel rooms and/or serviced apartments were completed. However, hotels and serviced apartment construction is now booming, with approximately 2700 rooms under construction as at May 1, 2017. A further 5350 have received town planning approval; and

■ Office floor space: From January 1 to

May 1, 2017, 90,000sqm of office floor space was completed, compared with 6000sqm in 2016. As at May 1, there was a further 254,000sqm of office floor space under construction, 704,000sqm with town planning approval, and town planning applications have been lodged for a further 209,000sqm of office space.

The City of Melbourne has been tracking residential and commercial development since 2002. To coincide with the Development Activity Monitor moving to 3D, data will be updated monthly, instead of every six months, allowing people to gain a more accurate picture of development happening in Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne developed the 3D model in partnership with the US-based mapping platform Mapbox, after being selected for the Mapbox Cities program in 2017. The partnership includes access to Mapbox's web and mobile mapping tools, 2D/3D visualisation platform, and dedicated Mapbox staff support and resources.

Residents 3000 along with several other community groups took part in a focus group last November to provide feedback to the City of Melbourne team about the useability of the tool and the information it provides.



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Heritage listing for Shell House

Despite being less than 30 years old, Shell House has been included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Harry Seidler-designed building on the corner of Spring and Flinders streets is one of only a few post-1980 buildings to make the list.

Making the announcement, Heritage Council chair Stuart MacIntyre said: "Shell House has been loved by architects, designers and the general public for a long time."

"It is the only high rise tower designed by Harry Seidler in Victoria. It is a fitting corner piece to the Hoddle Grid and a landmark CBD building," Mr MacIntyre said.

Completed in 1989, it won a number of architectural awards soon after its completion.

Shell House is one of an important series of high-rise tower projects designed by Harry Seidler both in Australia and overseas from the 1960s to the 1990s. The registration states it is an outstanding example of a late modernist office building in Victoria.

The sculptural effect of the building – mainly its curved and interlocking shell like shape – are enhanced by large scale artworks on site such as the mural *Bathers and Pulpit Rock* by Arthur Boyd and Charles Perry's sculpture, *Shell Mace* at the Spring St entrance. These artworks are also included in the building's registration.

Once the headquarters for Shell, 1 Spring St is now a mixture of government and commercial offices.



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We Live Here

Flammable cladding: residents ignored

The Victorian Government Cladding Taskforce examining flammable cladding does not include a key stakeholder group – the strata owners that would end up having to manage any remediation works.

We Live Here, as the state’s major residents’ group representing more than 200 apartment buildings, says owners’ corporations need to have a voice at the table.

More than one million people in Victoria live in strata buildings, which is about 25 per cent of all people in the state, and We Live Here already represents some of the largest buildings.

We Live Here is calling to be included in the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, which is examining non-compliant cladding following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London.

There are fears the dangerous material could be present in apartments across the city, with a similar material contributing to a fire in a Docklands building in 2014.

We Live Here is the largest group representing people that might be at risk, and if owners’ corporations can’t be individually included in the process, We Live Here should be.

The co-chair of the taskforce, former Labor deputy premier John Thwaites, has put on the record that there’s widespread non-compliance of the building code across Australia.

As residents, we are the ones at risk, and we are going to be involved in the fix one way or the other, so we should be consulted.

The Victorian Government says its taskforce will make recommendations to improve compliance and enforcement of building regulations, to better protect the health and safety of residents.

We Live Here has been trying to work with the government to improve health and safety for residents in Victorian apartments for two years.

Our group was formed by residents to fight the rapid, unregulated rise of short-stay accommodation in apartments, but our issues have now grown well beyond that.

It’s time the government started looking at owners’ corporations as policy partners instead of simply people to be regulated.

Airbnb escapes tax time crackdown

Commercial short-stay companies like Airbnb will deprive Victorians of more than \$14 million in unpaid GST this year.

Airbnb, and similar operators, only collect GST on the 5 per cent to 15 per cent “service fee”, rather than the entire booking cost. This means the state misses out on up to 95 per cent of the GST applicable under current legislation.

But conversely – or perversely – this year “hosts” will pick up an extra bill, with the Australian Tax Office signalling a tax crackdown on “hosts”.

It’s hardly fair that Airbnb gets out of paying millions in GST, while mum and dad hosts who simply rent a room, are not only subject to income tax, but actually being targeted by the tax office.

How on earth can a person renting out a room in their house be considered to be running an income-producing business, while on the other hand the multinational rental company doesn’t have to pay its fair share of tax?

Victorians are missing out on millions of dollars every year, while Airbnb’s profits continue to grow, and that’s where the focus should be.

Airbnb alone had 651,000 guests last year and grew at a rate of 116 per cent. It’s only fair that legislation is updated to recognise the rise of this unregulated industry, so

Airbnb pays its share, along with other overseas companies.

Airbnb admits other countries require the company to collect GST on the entire booking cost, so why isn’t it happening here?

The industry also avoids commercial rates from being imposed by local councils, by relying on their land use activity being classified as a residential activity.

Come on. Airbnb is not a residential activity. It’s a business activity and a loud, disruptive, unregulated and unfair one at that!

A parliamentary committee examining the commercial short-stay industry heard a range of submissions, calling for Airbnb, and similar overseas companies, to pay GST and other taxes.

The Committee has also made a series of recommendations to the Victorian Government, including that it:

- Considers that the current proposed legislation is unfair to residents and should be reworked;
- Works with Victoria Police to examine safety issues in residential complexes with short-stay activity;
- Works with Victoria Police to consider establishing protocols to manage violent and disruptive incidents;
- Reviews the regulatory imbalance between the short-stay and traditional accommodation sectors; and
- Investigates costs and benefits of introducing a registration and compliance framework for commercial-residential short-stay accommodation (where properties are listed as short-stays for more than 90 days).

We Live Here is a growing movement of residents from across Victoria, dealing with significant detrimental impacts due to the rapid, unregulated rise of the commercial short-stay industry.

The concerns relate to safety and security, higher maintenance costs due to increased wear and tear, and disruption through “party houses”.

Clearly, the government needs to act on these concerns and bring legislation into line for this massive industry. We need a solution which puts residents, businesses and the tourism industry on a level playing field.

Ensuring these giant overseas companies pay their fair share of tax on the millions they make in Victoria, is just one of many issues that require urgent attention, when it comes to the commercial short-stay industry.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to make a donation please visit our website at welfarehere.net.

You can also reach us at campaign@welfarehere.net.au. We Live Here members can make a presentation to your owners’ corporation committee upon request.

We welcome your comments and feedback, and invite suggestions for topics you would like us to address in this column.



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

Critic

The word from the garret

The urban artist today is likely to be a spatial specialist who builds installations out of found materials in out-of-the-way corners of the CBD.



References are unlikely to be recognisable people or settings from everyday life.

Marie Darrieussecq in *Being Here* documents the way an artist at the beginning of the 20th century worked in rural Germany. Figurative painting was at its heyday and her account is liberating for those attached to the stories that emerge out of a particular place.

Even though Cezanne was doing

experiments with colour and form in France, the content of his work was still connected to the visual world, providing opportunities for ambitious young women with a flair for colour and a good eye.

Paula Modersohn-Becker painted nude women – girls from the surrounding countryside and self-portraits, including ones of her own pregnancy. Her life was romantic in the sense that she documented her struggles to create a space for her work.

A century on, and there is a museum devoted to the painter, several books, published letters and memorialisation in the poems of Rilke.

Paula was headstrong and travelled to Paris like so many Europeans to live in a garret and learn how to paint and draw. The European dream was to become a great artist and make the world afresh in your view.

Artist colonies were springing up on the flat steppe of northern Germany where authentic villages were attractive places

to stay. The book explores the difference between the more serious German approach to creative work and the lively stimulation of Paris.

Artists, like now, could not live off sales and depended on financial aid from wealthy relatives or a stipend from doting parents. Life typically became more difficult in later life unless one found a patron.

Tragically, Paula died a few weeks after giving birth to a daughter at the age of 31. Until then she had sold only three paintings. Her mother published her letters and she became a bit of a cause celebre, attracting the attention of the Nazis who labelled her work degenerate.

Being Here is an intimate portrayal of a period before the great upheavals of the 20th century. The author is relaxed in the telling, interspersing her own responses with excerpts from letters and accounts of the painter’s relationships with other artists and writers.

An artistic life meant freedom from the strictures of the German house *frau* – children, chores and piety. Paula remakes the word piety to mean a kind of purity of the self.

This is the 20th book by French writer Marie Darrieussecq, who curated Paula’s first show in Paris in 2016. The book was released last month by Text Publishing, a company that has bravely translated many European books that would never have made it here otherwise.

The company has its own artistic garret in William St in the CBD where piles of books demonstrate their attachment to the printed word. Entry is by a bell on the door.

Marie Darrieussecq, *Being Here: The Life of Paula Modersohn-Becker*, Text Publishing, 2017

Rhonda Dredge
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Home away from home

By Sunny Liu

David Amaya came from Columbia to the Melbourne CBD two years ago as a tourist and is now a long-term “CBD local”.

“When you first come to a new city, you are a tourist. You only start living after you get over all the tourist attractions,” he said. Becoming a “local” in Melbourne was probably the last thing Mr Amaya was expecting, as he did not speak any English before coming to Melbourne. But after spending almost the entire past two years within the Hoddle Grid, David knows a lot of more about the city than many Aussies. Mr Amaya, from Columbia’s capital city Bogota, has been living in the same CBD apartment ever since he hopped out of the car from the airport. With limited English, he found part-time work doing food deliveries, where he spent his first year in Australia riding a bicycle along nearly every single street within the CBD.

“Doing deliveries helped me know the city very well. I know where the good food is, what is in every street and how to get around,” he said.

He said he got to know the city through the numerous bike rides, but it was through learning English that he got to understand the culture.

Having been a journalist in Columbia for six years, Mr Amaya took an extended English course in Melbourne for 1.5 years and is now studying project management and hoping to become an English-language journalist.

He has gone from speaking little to none English to now speaking it confidently and fluently and even occasionally faking the Aussie accent.

He said, albeit challenging, learning the language was the starting point of becoming part of the local community.

“People in the CBD are from many different countries and speaking many different languages, such as Korean and Arabic, but we can all communicate in English and that is how we get to know each



David enjoys his life in Melbourne.



David Amaya has become a CBD local who knows the city inside out.

other,” he said. He also said learning the language could be a lifelong journey. “I will always be learning English, just like I will always be learning my native language, Spanish, because languages are always evolving,” he said. For David, coming from a different cultural background gives him a unique perspective on life in Melbourne. When the city’s traffic and noise put many city residents and workers on edge, Mr Amaya said he loved how organised everything was. “The public transport is very accessible. And when I ride my bike, everything is very orderly and people are very respectful,” he said. And when Melburnians constantly complain about having four seasons in one day, Mr Amaya said the sudden changes in weather amazed him. “In my hometown Bogota, it’s always cold. The weather doesn’t really change, but here in Melbourne we have four seasons and it’s one of my favourite things about Melbourne,” he said. “I think my different culture makes me appreciate things more here. I will always keep the energy of when I first came to Australia, when I was fascinated by everything new.” “If I could choose where to live again, Melbourne would still be where I want to be.” Mr Amaya said he was fascinated by how accepting and diverse the CBD community was. “In the city, you can just be you. You can dress however you like and choose whatever lifestyle you like,” he said. “In Melbourne, no matter how busy people are, they still find ways to enjoy life.” “I feel very comfortable living in the heart of the city. This is my home now.”

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Street Art

Ink and aerosol

Steve Cross is a veteran of the graffiti/street art scene having put up his first tag 30 years ago as a 14-year-old.

A keen skate-boarder, tagging and sticker bombing became something he did as he traversed the streets of Perth.

These days Steve straddles two scenes: that of tattooing and graffiti/street art. He says the similarities between them are surprising. In both you have to earn your stripes, prove yourself, be aware of and abide by the rules.

I had the privilege of catching-up with Steve, a chatty, jovial man in his compact, tidy studio that is packed floor-to-ceiling with an extensive art book collection, sketchbooks and an enviable photographic archive documenting our street art history.

Steve is a disciplined artist. He completes a drawing each morning before heading to his studio. These are mostly female portraits, with a strong emphasis on light.

“It needs to be constantly flowing out of me. You could liken it to doing push-ups everyday. I flick through my photos until I find something that triggers a response,” he said.

“It’s usually the light source or shadows that I’m interested in replicating, not the person.”

He proudly showed me his new possession – a Japanese micro-rubber, a stylish tool that is handy for highlights.

“I realise that hardly anyone paints a male portrait and female portraiture is what everyone seems to be obsessed with. To me the female is ascetically more pleasing. It’s this that people relate to,” he said.

“I’m aware of the arguments around this but I find a woman’s face so much more mysterious. Certain parts of a face can be challenging and hair can create an atmosphere. I don’t aim for photorealism. I just take what I need and manipulate it.”

Steve has a “wild” colour palette and this has become his signature. Because of this



distinctive colour theory, no matter what the subject is, the work is recognisably his!

“Sometimes I’ll turn up to paint a wall uncertain of what I’m going to paint. I like to wait and feed off the energy that flows from other artists. But when I begin, I tend to work fast and finish the piece in a day.”

“I’ve been documenting Melbourne laneways for at least 20 years, capturing them when they were virtually empty with perhaps just one tag. I made it my mission to photograph every piece I found and now have an extensive archive of the Melbourne and Perth street scene. I started doing this as I felt something was going to happen.”

And he was right. For this tag became two, then three and viola, it blossomed and exploded into the street art scene as we know it today.

“I particularly loved the period when Ha-Ha and Psalm began stenciling. It was one of pure creativity. Artists were bombing in isolation and there was a political and religious content to their work. I was documenting a movement that had social commentary.”

“I painted my first commission at 16 and that was it! I’ve painted ever since; surviving off this and tattooing. It was a two-year apprenticeship before I was accepted into the tattoo scene. Like graffiti, it’s a sub-culture that’s seen as having a criminal element to it. I’ve never wanted the graffiti/street art and tattooing scene to become as mainstream as it has. Through the internet it’s impossible for it to be otherwise. In fact it’s becoming so acceptable that the police don’t do a name-check anymore and even

my mum talks about it! What’s the world coming too?”

“I’m still enjoying being a writer and part of a crew that’s been together for 30 years. We seldom paint all together these days as we’re scattered around the globe and time is the essence. Everyone’s too busy being an artist.”

Self- taught, Steve considers that an art school background would have been a retrograde step for him.

“My education came through conversations and observation of fellow artists, who were willing to share their knowledge with me,” he said.

“I’m all for progression and forward thinking in both my street art and tattoo practice. I view my career as a stream in which one keeps moving and developing; encountering and being inspired by new influences.”

“Gone are the days of making your own caps in order to manipulate the can and pressure. I still enjoy seeing tags because at least they’re not controlled by commercial interests. I’d rather see anything than nothing.”

“Street art was developed from the tools provided by graffiti. With street art you can just paint a wall, but graffiti writers have rules and structure that must be abided by. I love this about the graffiti scene. It was the first time I’d had a connection with a group of people and at that time, nothing else had meaning for me.”



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

Pet's Corner

Active dog the perfect companion

By Kate Mani

For toy poodle cross terrier Oreo, there’s nothing better than having a run with other dogs.

Her owner Nick Jiang laughs as he tells how his eight-month-old bundle of fur has recently started chasing dogs, not only in the park, but also on TV.

“We were watching David Attenborough ... there was a pack of dogs in the episode and she started chasing left and right, everywhere they ran around the TV, thinking they were behind there and checking where those dogs went,” Mr Jiang said.

Oreo’s love of running has, however, almost landed her in strife. She recently ran onto King St after Mr Jiang let her off her lead in Flagstaff Gardens.

“Maybe she got distracted by something on the road, she ran all the way to the road,”



he says. “I just ran in front of traffic to stop the cars, she was in the middle of the traffic. She wouldn’t come back to me!”

Most of the time Oreo is well behaved and on the day she met *CBD News*, she looked

sprightly with a fresh haircut and a playful energy. A curious dog, she is always ready to play.

“Every time she sees a dog she just goes up to them. She gets really excited,” Mr Jiang

said. “Even when they’re angry at her she still thinks they’re playing.”

Just as she likes socialising with other furry friends, Mr Jiang said that having a dog had added another layer to his friendships with his dog-loving pals.

“A lot of my friends have dogs too so we bring them all together sometimes,” he said. “It’s something different, instead of just catching up for a coffee or going out for dinner we catch up with the dogs. There is something extra to it.”

Welcoming Oreo into his life has been the realisation of a childhood dream for Mr Jiang. “I’ve always been a dog person. I always wanted one when I lived with my parents but they didn’t want one at home so as soon as I moved out I got a dog.”

Since then he has grown used to Oreo’s company and couldn’t imagine not having her presence at home.

“It makes me happier. If I’m home alone and my partner is not there, it’s not lonely. Oreo is a companion, that’s what it is.”



墨尔本市中心 一个大唐人街

Sunny Liu 撰稿

2016年的人口普查显示，墨尔本市中心(CBD)华人居民比澳大利亚其他CBD或市区的比例更高。

相比其他国家，包括澳大利亚，CBD的居民中在中国大陆出生者居多。

生活在CBD的居民中，约有14.5%的居民是在澳大利亚出生的，可是有24.9%的居民是在中国大陆出生的。在2011年中国出生的居民还只占14.9%。

墨尔本CBD居民中认定祖先是中国人的则更多，约有38.4%，相比之下，认定祖先是英国人的有7.7%，认定祖先是澳大利亚人的有4.6%。

普通话是家里讲得最多的语言，其中有30.7%的居民在家里说普通话，有21.9%的居民只说英语。

父母出生在海外的第二代移民占全部CBD人口的76.7%。

CBD居民中其他国家的排列是，马来西亚(8.4%)，印度(6.1%)，印度尼西亚(4.4%)和韩国(4%)。

有67.5%的CBD人口在20至34岁之间，年龄的中位数为26岁。墨尔本CBD的居民有可能是维多利亚州最年轻的群体，全洲的年龄中位数为37岁。

人口普查还显示，CBD的人口从2011年的20627人增加到2016年的37975人，几乎翻了一番。

CBD的人口爆炸与其公寓数量的蓬勃发展相匹配，CBD的公寓自2011年以来，已由9496个飙升至16327个。但是居住在城市中心的租金成本比较高。

CBD每周租金的中位数是\$451，相比维多利亚州的租金中位数为\$325。然而，CBD居民的收入中位数并未跟上CBD的高租金。

CBD居民个人每周收入的中位数为\$431，低于每周租金的中位数\$451。这意味着一些居民无法以自己的收入来支付租金，这也解释了有57.5%的CBD居民可能是目前正在学习的学生。



墨尔本涂鸦街 纪念中国异议人士

墨尔本著名的艺术巷道 - 霍西尔(Hosier)涂鸦街出现了一个纪念处，为纪念已故的中国异议人士刘晓波。

刘晓波是一个直言不讳的民主和人权活动家，也是2010年诺贝尔和平奖的获得者，当时他因被中国政府监禁而没有亲自去领奖。

7月12日，就在刘晓波先生去世前一天的最后几个小时里，墨尔本的中国政治艺术家巴丢草(Badiucan)在涂鸦街装了两件作品。

两幅真人大小的图画，描绘了刘先生身着囚服，以及妻子刘霞的“释放刘晓波”和“安息吧刘晓波”。

在巷道里已经放了很多带有中文留言的鲜花和蜡烛，作为对刘先生的哀悼。

巴丢草将此艺术品称为对刘晓波的“纪念海报”。

巴丢草说：“晓波的去世以及当局对他无情对待所引起的愤怒和悲伤，促使我继续“纪念晓波海报”的活动，并呼吁寻求社会帮助。”

巴丢草说，他最初是为了呈现表达自己想法的作品。但在墨尔本，人们也以自己的方式向刘先生致以敬意。

这位艺术家说：“整个过程非常简单 - 寻找合法当地的涂鸦场所，为刘晓波先生制作海报。”

“可是第二天我发现墨尔本的居民用鲜花填满了这条涂鸦街。从一个晚上的一张海报开始，已经变成了一个表达支持和表达思想的巷道。”

市中心面貌

作为一名居住在墨尔本市中心(CBD)、拥有三个高等学位的28岁澳洲华裔刘地(Wendy Liu)可以很好地反映墨尔本CBD的面貌。

最新的人口普查显示，38.4%的墨尔本CBD居民拥有中国血统。CBD的年龄中位数是26岁，57.8%的居民是受过高等教育的。

刘女士说，CBD的中国人口急剧增加，而且母语为中文的居民不必说英文来生存。

她说：“我的父母不会说英文，当他们来这儿看望我的时候，他们能轻而易举地在这儿生活，因为在这儿有很多人说普通话。”

她说，CBD有不间断的各种节日和庆祝活动，使得新来者能够适应这儿新的文化。

她说：“我正在适应这个新



的文化，尽管我还在寻找我的位子。”

“在CBD我可以吃到中国菜，可以讲普通话，我还与中国社区保持着很好的联系。”



房地产展示厅

被誉为行业创新者的世邦魏理仕(CBRE)，在唐人街开创了其房地产“展示厅”。

这个展示厅在6月28日正式开幕，墨尔本市市长罗伯特·道尔(Robert Doyle)作了简短讲话。

世邦魏理仕公司表示，自2009年以来，它向中国投资者和开发商出售了超过120亿澳元的房地产。

世邦魏理仕全澳主管马克·维泽尔(Mark Wizel)表示：“2008年我们推出了亚洲服务团队，现在又专门在唐人街开设了这样一个展示厅，这将使我们能够继续保持在这个不断增长的市场领域中的专业化市场领先地位。”

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

<p>10AM-1PM, AUGUST 12, ANGLISS CONFERENCE CENTRE WEST MELBOURNE PLAN – COMMUNITY WORKSHOP</p> <p>This interactive workshop will give the community a chance to have a say on the West Melbourne Draft Structure Plan.</p>	<p>5-7PM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, TOWN HALL CELEBRATION OF INDONESIA</p> <p>A grand night that celebrates the Indonesian culture, the nation's identity and Indonesians' roots on the Republic of Indonesia's 72nd Independence Day. FREE. Contact coimelbourne@gmail.com</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 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 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>10AM-1PM, EVERY THURSDAY, FED SQUARE GENTLE CHINESE DANCE</p> <p>The gentle dance session draws on ancient Chinese traditions and invigorates the mind and body. FREE. 9655 1900. fedsquare.com</p>	<p>4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. LUNCH-TIME, ST PETER'S EAST MELBOURNE 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>1.30PM, AUGUST 15, ROSS HOUSE, 247 FLINDERS LANE OSTEOPOROSIS SUPPORT</p> <p>A group that supports people who have osteoporosis and inform them of the help that is available to them. A dietician will advise members on "eating for your bones" at this meeting. 9885 2839 and melbosg.org.au</p>
<p>EVERY THURSDAY FROM 1PM, ST MICHAEL'S, 120 COLLINS ST ST MICHAEL'S RECITAL</p> <p>Experience spectacular music as the St Michael's grand organ comes to life for a free 30-minute recital every Thursday. No booking required. 9654 5120</p>	<p>AUGUST 5 - OCTOBER 8, LEVEL 1&3, YARRA BUILDING, FED SQUARE WHAT IF? MARLENE GILSON & MURNONG: YAM DAISIES DEANNE GILSON</p> <p>Linked by the culture of their Wadawurrung Ancestors, the mother and daughter artists showcase two solo exhibitions.</p>	<p>1-2.30PM, EVERY WEDNESDAY, CITY LIBRARY ESL READING GROUP</p> <p>Join this free and fun weekly reading program, read along with others and practice pronunciation, improve English comprehension and vocabulary and meet new people. Both native and ESL speakers are welcome.</p>	<p>6PM, 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH THE KELVIN CLUB, 14 MELBOURNE PL RESIDENTS 3000 DRINKS</p> <p>A community group that connects, supports and represents residents of Melbourne's CBD. Events are posted on www.residents3000.com.au</p>
<p>7PM, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, ST MICHAEL'S, 120 COLLINS ST PAUL GRABOWSKY CONCERT</p> <p>Experience one of Australia's most celebrated musicians in the architectural splendour of St Michael's on Collins. \$15-20. stmichaels.org.au/event</p>	<p>AUGUST 2 – SEPTEMBER 2, CITY LIBRARY WITHOUT A JEWEL</p> <p>Four artists explore the edges of jewellery – Renee Ugazio (Australia), Anneleen Swillen (Belgium), Paulina Rodete (Mexico) and Zoe Robertso (UK). Boundary-crossing practice in the contemporary jewellery realm. FREE.</p>	<p>1.30PM, AUGUST 10, MULTICULTURAL HUB U3A MELBOURNE CITY FORUMS</p> <p>Join Sally Diserio, president of the Calligraphy Society of Victoria, and members for an insight into the world of beautiful writing. Book via 9639 5209 or citymelb@u3a.org.au</p>	<p>10AM-6.30PM, AUGUST 8, FEDERATION SQUARE DYING TO KNOW DAY</p> <p>Dying to Know Day is a national public health campaign that aims to change our cultural response to death. It is a day that celebrates life, sparks deep conversations and promotes resilience and wellbeing.</p>
<p>2-3PM, AUGUST 13, STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA IMMERSIVE SCIENCE: AUSTRALIAN ASTRONOMY</p> <p>Astrophysicists Dr Alan Duffy and Dr Katherine Mack will give an immersive science talk that explores the universe and blends live events and virtual reality. FREE.</p>	<p>10AM EVERY 3RD TUESDAY, Pomodoro Sardo Restaurant, 111 Lonsdale St EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB</p> <p>Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed. eastendersinc@gmail.com</p>	<p>10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATURDAY, CITY LIBRARY 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 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. 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</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</p>	<p>(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</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> <p>Wesley Church 148 Lonsdale St 9.15 am Gospel Hall Cantonese/Mandarin Service 11.00 am Morning Worship Service 7.00 pm Evening Worship Service</p>
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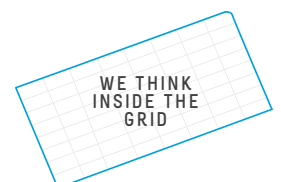
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CBD NEWS

Have a session with a special local

CBD locals, workers and visitors have a new option for entertainment and learning – City Sessions, hosted by some of the city’s most eclectic small businesses.

The laneways and upper storeys of the city’s streets have long been home to dozens of artisan and boutique businesses. Supported by City Precinct, last winter some of them got together to host events.

They were such a success that, according to City Precinct spokesperson Neil Balthasar, the concept has now been extended and will run all year round.

Mr Balthasar said City Sessions offered a quirky alternative for people looking for a different, but authentic, experience.

“Some of our members have teamed up with Laneway Learning and have been able to share their unique knowledge about their craft,” Mr Balthasar said.

“Others have hosted events in their own premises which can easily turn into a bit of a party and certainly a great night out.”

Mr Balthasar said City Precinct members were mainly small, local, niche, sometimes hidden, independent retailers, hospitality and service providers who, collectively, made Melbourne’s story unique.

“Melbourne is really privileged to have so many of these local treasures living and working among us,” Mr Balthasar said.

“City Sessions presents these people and their offerings to a curious public. The



opportunity really shouldn’t be missed.”

One of the sessions last year dealt with the history of perfume and its origins, the chemistry of extracting scent and how it reacts with skin. Another looked at how men’s jewellery has been inspired by music.

- The ongoing City Sessions are organised around four high-level themes:
- Lost Wisdom: Gaining knowledge through a class or learning session;

- Curious Wanders: Being taken on a customised tour by someone who really knows the city;
- Tavern Encounters: An introduction to the city’s diverse bar culture; and
- Season Adventures: Seasonal workshops or events at just the right time of year.

Mr Balthasar said City Precinct was encouraging members to list their events on the City Sessions website.

He said the sessions would benefit both the member business and attendees.

“It’s a great behind-the-scenes opportunity for the public,” he said. “And, obviously extra exposure isn’t going to hurt participating members either.”

See www.citysessions.com.au for further information.

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