

*The voice of postcode 3000*

**CBD NEWS**

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## "Mini me" in the chair

New Junior Lord Mayor, Chloe Amalfi, 12, was sworn in on August 20. Her policy platform is to fix the homeless problem.

# Telstra plunders CBD for profits

By Shane Scanlan

*After years of incremental encroachment into the public domain for private profits, Telstra appears to have crossed a City of Melbourne "line in the sand" with its latest rollout of monster digital advertising.*

Locals would have witnessed the recent unveiling on CBD footpaths of about 40 3m x 1.1m digital signs – advertising platforms geared to reap hundreds of millions of dollars – masquerading as pay phones.

For many years now, Telstra and its joint venture partner, French multinational JCDecaux, have been ruthlessly exploiting a loophole in last century's Telecommunications Act, which allows them to place pay-phones wherever they please – without needing planning permission.

Until now, it was generally accepted that councils at least retained planning control over the outdoor advertising component of the "phone boxes". But this too seems to have legally morphed to the advantage of the rogue telco.

The sheer scale of the new signs and the universally-accepted understanding that pay-phone are obsolete, have tipped the City of Melbourne over the edge.

Complaints from retailers and the public, who understandably, but incorrectly, blame



the council for allowing such an outrage, are compounding its opposition. And, with a further 80 signs understood to be potentially on their way, the situation is becoming desperate. The signs are taking root in the best locations throughout the CBD – and not necessarily where pay-phones have been.

The council is privately appalled at the latest assault. But it is loath to publicly decry the assault, lest it jeopardise its narrowing legal options to challenge Telstra.

*CBD News* understands the city is in discussions with other capital city councils, which are being similarly exploited. Legal strategies are being discussed, but an amendment to the anachronistic legislation could ultimately halt the pillaging.

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News works for advertisers because  
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# Telstra plunders CBD for profits

*Continued from page 1.*

Federal Communications Minister Mitch Fifield did not respond by deadline to *CBD News* on whether he would amend the law.

In a statement prepared by the administration, council's planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said: "The City of Melbourne has received a large number of complaints about the rollout of a swathe of new-generation Telstra telephone kiosks fitted with large digital advertising billboards."

"We are concerned that the new structures are impeding pedestrians, significantly disrupting footpath traffic flow and negatively impacting the public realm."

"With indications that the number of Telstra structures to be installed in central Melbourne may triple in the coming months, City of Melbourne is currently in high-level discussions with the company about this issue," Cr Reece said.

Telstra currently operates about 700 more modest, pay-phone-based, static advertising signs with JCDecaux in Melbourne, which pull in tens of millions of dollars every year.

In 2016 it attempted to convert 23 of these signs in the CBD to digital models, but was thwarted by the City of Melbourne. Each of these signs was estimated at the time to be capable of earning \$8000 per week.

Telstra is, in effect, double-dipping on pay-phones. It is not only earning millions of dollars by piggy-backing outdoor advertising, it is also being paid hundreds



Cr Nicholas Reece with (left) the new and (right) the old model.

of millions by the federal government to maintain them under so-called Universal Service Obligations. In 2016, the Productivity Commission recommended scrapping this arrangement, saying it was "anachronistic and needs to change".

"In an age where basic phones and payphones are rapidly becoming outdated,

the lack of transparency and accountability makes the continuation of current arrangements difficult to justify from the point of view of those who contribute to its funding," the commission said.

Telstra did not respond by deadline to questions from *CBD News*.

## How Well Do You Understand The CBD Market?



Sam Nathan  
Managing Director

Australia's pre-occupation with discussing our housing markets is legendary. However, when it comes to the medium and higher-density sectors, how well do you know the position of your asset and what determines its performance?

The majority of commentary and "analysis" of the medium and higher-density housing markets is data-led. This may be relevant in some instances. But, critically, it fails to incorporate interpretation of the dynamic and disparate market influences so we can apply an educated narrative to allow better understanding of the position of your particular property. To truly understand where an individual property fits within the market, owner-occupiers and investors alike must look beyond the "commentary" and ask some broader questions:

- Do I understand the drivers behind the evolution of the medium and higher-density sectors and where the different housing forms fit within the market?
- Has somebody logically and clearly explained Melbourne's housing structure, the segmentation between sub-markets, how they operate and their key influences?
- What are the local, national and international political, social and economic factors influencing my asset?
- Where does my current property or potential next purchase sit in the market?

In a relatively young and dynamic market it is not surprising that an educated discussion around these points is hard to come by – particularly in a sector driven by "in the moment" commentary and short-term considerations.

In Melbourne, if you are an owner-occupier you are both financially and emotionally invested in the fastest and most dynamic high-density market in the country. If you are an investor, you are exposed to the performance of the city – just as you are exposed to a commodity or company listed on a financial exchange.

If the city performs well, there is a good chance your asset will also perform well. However, just as individual shares perform differently on an exchange, individual properties perform relative to their position in the suburb, neighbourhood or building.

Melbourne's central city is progressing through a rapid transformation. Some established and new projects are quintessentially Melbourne, others are a signal to our increasingly globalised economy and housing market, but all will behave individually.

As NPM expands our footprint, we look forward to elevating the central city and city fringe real estate discussion beyond data and "hard numbers", by providing buyers, sellers and other stakeholders with a deeper understanding of the position of their asset in the market, from which more considered decisions can be made and successful outcomes be achieved.

Above all, we look forward to helping you understand the position of your property in the market and working with you to achieve your desired outcomes – whether you are a buyer, seller, owner occupier or investor.

# Critics open fire on Melbourne Day

By Shane Scanlan

**The “invasion day” label, which has controversially dogged Australia Day in recent years, has caught up with the CBD-based Melbourne Day, with immediate consequences.**

After decades of support, Melbourne Day is this year proceeding on August 30 without any funding from the City of Melbourne.

Melbourne Day chairman Campbell Walker told *CBD News* the council this year offered only half as much as in previous years. And, he said, new conditions attached to the grant obliged him to not accept it.

Mr Walker said the diminished grant was conditional on a 50 per cent refund back to the council should bad weather keep the crowds away from the 10.30am flag raising ceremony at Enterprise Park.

“It would have been fiscally irresponsible to accept the grant,” Mr Walker said.

Support for Melbourne Day is waning within the councillor group, with at least two publicly declaring they won’t be taking part in the celebration.

Aboriginal portfolio chairperson Nic Frances Gilley and Cr Rohan Leppert say they won’t be recognising the day that the destruction

of local indigenous culture started.

Cr Frances Gilley said he didn’t participate in Australia Day and he similarly thought it inappropriate to celebrate the founding of Melbourne on the anniversary of the day white settlers first arrived.

“I think we should stop it. I think we should change it. I think we can do better than that,” he said.

Cr Frances Gilley said Canada and New Zealand had managed to be proud of their European heritage without necessarily offending their indigenous residents.

“I don’t think anyone is trying to give offence. They’re just trying to celebrate their European culture and everybody means well. But there is a cost and that cost is to the 60,000 or 70,000 years of continuance culture on this land.”

“If we are going to celebrate, then we need to be inclusive. The current model does not promote reconciliation,” he said.

Cr Frances Gilley said white Australians celebrating “invasion days” was akin to someone walking into your house and, after five minutes, starting to rearrange the furniture without your permission.

“And then they would tell you how lucky you are that they invited themselves to dinner,” he said.

“I want to be a proud Australian, not a proud white Australian, and I feel compelled not to support the current arrangement,” he said.

He suggested that a day like Moomba, when there were lots of people around, might be a better day to commemorate and celebrate Melbourne’s origins. Or, alternatively, he suggested the birthday or anniversary of the death of William Barak as a date.

Cr Frances Gilley said he was not willing to “fight a fight that could not be won” in the current political climate, but he was not willing to participate and would continue to speak his mind when the issue next came up at the City of Melbourne.

Cr Rohan Leppert concurred, saying: “I love this city and there is so much to celebrate about Melburnians and our achievements, but I’ve never felt that Melbourne Day was critical to these celebrations.”

“The occupation of the north bank of the Yarra in 1835 by European settlers is a historical fact. Choosing whether or not to celebrate Melbourne Day doesn’t change the historical fact, but it does say a lot about how government views indigenous Victorians.”

“The committee’s mission is to make Melbourne Day prominent. I admire the tireless volunteer efforts of the committee but, to be frank, I’m relieved that Melbourne Day isn’t all that prominent. If it was, it would generate just as much controversy and division that Australia Day does.”

“But I’m a white bloke, questions about Melbourne Day’s future should be put to traditional owners ahead of me. Until we have a mature understanding of the cultural

significance of Melbourne Day and its future, I’m reluctant to sink ratepayer’s funds into the romanticisation of white settlement,” Cr Leppert said.

But Mr Walker says the local indigenous community supports Melbourne Day.

“They say they’d rather talk about the present and the future rather than the past,” he said.

He said he was disappointed that Crs Frances Gilley and Leppert had chosen not to consult directly with him on their views.

Mr Walker pointed out that he and his committee were volunteers and said, if Melbourne Day was not appreciated, there were plenty of other ways he could give back to the community.

The August 30 flag-raising event will be preceded by an indigenous “welcome to country” and a “junior lord mayor” will be presented in the presence of Lord Mayor Sally Capp and other councillors.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the committee was offered cash sponsorship.

“However the Melbourne Day Committee had concerns about its ability to meet the requirements to increase free public programming and attendance numbers, and declined the sponsorship.”

“Attendance at the Melbourne Day Flag Raising Ceremony is typically under 200 people. Sponsorship under the Event Partnership Program is usually restricted to events which attract more than 1000 people.”

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# Reflections on “full pelt” for 100 days

By Shane Scanlan

**Some 100 days into the lord mayoralty, Sally Capp's energy is undiminished and her learning along the way has sharpened her capacity to effect change.**

It's a very different council with Cr Capp in the chair. The council has become open and available. Collaboration and co-operation are present where, not so long ago, it was Robert Doyle's way or the highway.

"I've been working so hard. And part of that is learning and part of that is doing. So it's been full on. I've absolutely loved it," she told CBD News.

And with the opportunity to help appoint a new CEO to match her style, it's very easy to be upbeat about better connections between the council and the citizens.

"I've never done this before and, apart from the fact that I love going full pelt, we need to manage what 'full pelt' looks like to make sure it's constructive for everybody and that we're putting energies in the right places," she said.

So what has she learned so far and what would she do differently if she had her time again?

"I genuinely didn't realise the length and breadth of the services that they city gets involved in. It's enormous," Cr Capp said. "And the number of really dedicated people in this place is seriously fantastic."

Cr Capp said long-time staff had told her the demand for lord mayoral attention had tripled since she assumed the role.

"I think that's because there's a new lord mayor, I think being a woman as well, and then just my own contacts and history in the city together with what I see as a renewed interest in the lord mayoralty – reinvigorated," she said.

"I could fill the diary 10 times over. The amount of demand for the lord mayor's time really surprises me. And all of that compounds into incredible demands on time. But it's been great."

Not such a nice surprise has been the layers of restraint imposed by the government system itself.

"I probably didn't realise the amount of legal constraint. I find that overwhelming as well," she said. "There's a huge amount of control that's put in place through the Local Government Act. The amount of time we spend on compliance is heartbreaking to me."

"Over the decades we've built up these processes to protect the public's interests. But boy, it takes up a huge amount of time and cost – making sure things are compliant with forms and double-checking. It's quite mind-boggling."

Her local government inexperience has also made her vulnerable because she accepted so many donations during her campaign.

Cr Capp said she and her husband thought they were doing the right thing by accepting smaller donations from more people. Some



Lord Mayor Sally Capp in a reflective mood.

100 people contributed \$332,000 in the lead-up to the May election. But this means she has to be extra vigilant to avoid conflicts of interest under local government law.

"Well, I think it set me up for very, very challenging processes. So far, it's been okay but the processes I have to go through – my Sunday afternoons are now spent checking and double-checking lists," she said.

"I think it stems from my own naivety. I had not done this before. Our thinking on this, was if we took a little bit from a lot of people, then it would be difficult for anyone to say 'oh you're influenced by one person'."

"So, we purposefully went about it that way and, as we went along, some people did say 'oh, that's going to be interesting! I was so focussed on the influence bit so I didn't really take the time to stop and listen about the challenges that was going to set up."

"Would we do it differently? The fact is that we really did everything we could to win. That was the first priority. And that's what we achieved, so we've got to be happy with that. But would I do that again? No. I would definitely not do that again," she said.

Cr Capp also said she had some more learning to do around speaking on live radio – in particular recognising when questions require a broader, and less literal, answer.

"I'm a lawyer by training so I'm very literal," she said. "This is one of the surprises and maybe one of the things I can do better – that is to be conscious when entering broad conversations, I'm tending to be literal."

"I think I'm missing the point a bit with where people are trying to go. I'm focussed on one little bit. The question seems to be focussed on that, but is actually a broader issue," she said.

Cr Capp has wasted no time getting out and about in the community. She has established "community conversations", is talking about a formal "residents' panel" and has driven the establishment of a "people's panel" to guide the renewal of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM), as reported on page 6 of this edition.

It is on this issue that differences have emerged for the first time within the councillor group and her approach has also attracted outside criticism.

So has she over-reached on her desire to consult on the market? And does she accept that the QVM could make or break any attempt to seek re-election in 2020?

can't see where their ideas were considered."

"Of course everything's going to be a compromise and, if you can say to people 'we considered that idea but couldn't make it work because we had to do this,' then people have an idea of why it's happened and, even if they don't agree with it, they can come along with it because they can see the logic of it and the rationality to it."

"I think all of us agree that we lost the narrative and trust of the broader community who became concerned with things like heritage – even though we've always had heritage at the core. So how do we win the confidence back?"

"I think how it gets handled will be make or break. Because, from my campaign's point of view, I've always said I'm a big supporter of the development but my main piece has been engagement. And that's basically what I'm delivering."

"It's the opportunity for those key stakeholders to engage in a way where they feel that they are deliberating in the future of the market – not just on the sidelines throwing ideas into a bucket."

In the meantime, she's getting on the job – at "full pelt".

"I have very high expectations. As I said through the campaign, this is a very serious role. It has a major impact on our city and beyond. And I just want to make the most of every single moment to make sure it is having that impact," she said.

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# Killing the culture that laid the golden egg

By Meg Hill

*In a fairly foreseeable series of events, the move of monolithic clothing chain Culture Kings into Melbourne's iconic Hosier Lane has proved antithetical to the preservation of culture.*

There's no lack of irony in this story. A corporate enterprise decides to trade on the currency of culture, even claiming to be the kings of such phenomena.

It moves one of its outlets into Melbourne's most iconic laneways, co-opting the street-art it's famous for to further its brand.

Before long, they call the police on street artists doing exactly what has created the Hosier Lane we know.

Strictly legally speaking, Culture Kings seems to be within its rights to do so. While there has been some ambiguity in the legal situation of Hosier Lane, a spokesperson from the City of Melbourne said: "While Hosier Lane is recognised as a long-standing street art site, written permission is required from the building owner."

It seems, however, that until now, both owners and artists were happy to ignore such formalities in Hosier Lane as the street art's large draw on tourists was mutually beneficial.



In fact, part of the appeal is the possibility of actually witnessing an artist in action and the creation of the lane's newest piece.

It's most likely that, in the future, artists reported by Culture Kings will be charged. This sets a dangerous precedent and will likely have a flow-on effect for laneway culture in Melbourne in general.

City of Melbourne councillor and chair of its arts, culture and heritage portfolio, Rohan Leppert, told *CBD News* that Culture Kings was "playing with fire".

"The central city is a dense amalgam of private and public spaces, and there is an expectation that government, land owners

and artists work together as custodians of the public realm," he said.

"I'd suggest that no-one has a social licence to unilaterally determine the look and feel of a street-art precinct as iconic and democratic as Hosier Lane."

The agency that negotiated the lease for Culture Kings' Russell St tenancy (that backs onto Hosier Lane - where the clothing chain has created a back entrance) last year said that street art "was a key influencer in Culture Kings' decision to relocate and would likely fuel further activation of the laneway."

"The urban aesthetics of Hosier Lane are in line with the Culture Kings' brand, creating a real synergy between the two destinations," the agent said.

"We expect the move to inspire other big-name brands outside of the luxury retail market to seek out retail space in the precinct."

The corporate speak - urban aesthetics, brand, synergy, activation - is just a bit too much when paired with Culture Kings' infamously try-hard image encroaching the graffiti covered Hosier Lane.

The talk of encouraging further activation is particularly unnerving given recent developments. Previously, Hosier Lane has been fairly empty of private enterprise. The main tenant has been the Youth Project - which provides crucial services for the disadvantaged.

Culture Kings' vision for the lane seems to be its "activation" by a number of private enterprises who dictate the direction of street art in the laneway - turning the walls into billboards.

That's not too surprising, given the fact that it is a business. But that's the point - corporations and artists don't enter into these spaces on equal terrain.

Hosier Lane seemed to be one of the last bulwarks for artistic freedom - even if it was kept so informally.

Community group, Hosier Inc, said: "It is not only the street artists that have found it a challenge. As an association representing artists, residents, businesses and visitors to Hosier Lane, Hosier Inc welcomes and supports initiatives which upgrade the general amenity of Melbourne's laneways."

"Unfortunately, Culture Kings management do not see the need to integrate into the neighbourhood and have missed an opportunity to add to the area's safety and amenity -they seek only to leverage what they can for commercial gain and to impose their brand on us all . Sadly our newest neighbour brings nothing that will enhance the area as safe and inclusive."

"It is a disappointing, but not unexpected outcome."

*CBD News* contacted Culture Kings for comment but didn't receive a response by the time of publication.

*Also see our Street Art column on page 18.*



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# Council takes a radical U-turn on Queen Vic

By Shane Scanlan

**The City of Melbourne has abandoned its renewal plans for the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) and is throwing the market's problems back on "the people".**

At its August 7 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting councillors voted seven to four in favour of establishing a "people's panel" of 40 members to re-examine what's needed to guarantee the QVM's future.

The move is a radical "U-turn" from where the council was only weeks ago and can be attributed to the influence of new Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

Just before Cr Capp joined the council, on May 15 councillors voted to resubmit to Heritage Victoria (HV) its plans for a three-level basement under the western end of sheds A, B, C and D.

At that time, the only dissent came from Cr Susan Riley and Cr Philip Le Liu, who both wanted to proceed with even stronger action – an appeal against HV's rejection of its heritage permit application.

In the intervening period, Cr Capp has spent a lot time with market traders and other stakeholders and led the charge on August 7 to change strategic direction.

A week earlier, Cr Capp successfully moved to sideline the QVM Board and replace it with a "committee of trustees" with broad representation, including traders, shoppers and community representatives.

And while Cr Capp achieved a unanimous vote in favour of the new governance arrangements, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood flagged concerns with the draft arrangements, which are yet to be refined.

Essentially, Cr Wood warned against admitting opponents of the council's long-standing plans, lest the committee be sabotaged from within.

Among other questions, he asked:

- Other governance structures examined?
- Pros and cons?
- Independent advice received?
- Management of roles and conflicts?
- How can three traders do what the



Night market activity.

Traders' Representative Committee (TRC) hasn't been able to do in many respects?

- How will the two community reps will be considered representative, and therefore, acceptable to groups like Friends of QVM?

Cr Wood expressed concern that the council's objective to re-purpose the existing car park as civic open space for the City North urban redevelopment could be lost within a narrow focus on QVM operations.

"All the questions need to be answered so we don't end up with unintended consequences and another governance structure that a group says this isn't the way we want to go," he said.

A week later when the 40-strong "people's panel" proposal came before FMC, he was not so reserved and spoke in opposition.

"Any idea that this new process can take these different viewpoints and do what we haven't been able to achieve over five years is something that I'm concerned about," he said. "At the end of the day, what are we elected for?"

He pointed out the council had spent five years working on the plan, had commissioned 60 independent reports and two business cases as well as making 50 decisions – 37 of which were unanimous.

"When you look at the current situation, we've got a board, we've got a committee of trustees, we've got a people's panel, we've got a Traders Representative Committee, we've got QVM management and we've got council. I raise questions about the unwieldy nature of this approach."

Cr Wood pointed out that candidates supporting "full renewal" had been successful at the last three elections. "The biggest people's panel is the voters," he said.

"If we're going back to a first principles approach, what if the people's panel says 'let's not renew the market?' and 'let's leave it as it is.' Well we should accept that decision because that's the people's umpire that we're subscribing to."

His suspicions were supported by a comment on the "people's panel" by Friends of QVM spokesperson Mirian Faine, who told councillors: "Show us the costs. That needs to be preliminary to what we see as an unnecessary and wasteful process which won't improve the market community."

Cr Capp, however, said she had faith in "the people" to get the project back on track.

"I have faith in the people to come back to us with something that's genuinely worthwhile for the renewal," she said. "Engagement needs to be at the heart of how we go about this process."

"There's been a perception of a top-down approach in the past and this is definitely a recognition of the value of having a bottom-up approach – making sure that the people are involved in that process."

"It is a genuine commitment to move this process forward in a constructive way towards an outcome that will become the basis of council consideration and an application process going forward that reflects that overall representative approach and deliberative democracy approach to what that renewal will be."

Also supporting a panel, Cr Rohan Leppert explained: "This is about momentum. It's about regaining political capital."

On the dozens of reports supporting the old plan, Cr Leppert said: "That is just a technical argument and that is not the same as having the political capital here and now to proceed down that route."

"Now is the time to check in again – to go back to that engagement stage and build the political capital that is necessary to progress any sort of Queen Victoria Market renewal."

He said the process was designed to get the community to "own the problem and to own the solution".

Voting for the motion were councillors Capp, Frances Gilley, Le Liu, Leppert, Oke, Reece and Watts. Voting against were councillors Wood, Louey, Pinder and Riley.

## Another record night market

***The Queen Victoria Market's (QVM) winter night market continues to outperform, with another record season attendance this year.***

With still another week to go – the final winter night market for this season is being held on Wednesday, August 29 – average attendance has already smashed all previous records.

According to QVM chief executive Stan Liacos, an average of 33,000 people attended the 2018 winter night market – up on last year's average attendance of 28,098. The numbers have been rising every year since the first winter night market in 2013, when an average of 9652 patrons attended.

And, also this year, the winter night market has outstripped the last summer night market season, when the average attendance was 28,842 – down from a high of 40,520 in 2014/15.

"We have had 11 winter night markets this year to date. We have two to go," Mr Liacos said. "At this rate, we are likely to fall on about 30,000 - 32,000 patrons per evening. At this rate our winter night market will exceed the average on our summer night market! Who would have thought that!"

Despite the winter night market outperforming its summer counterpart, fewer traders take part in the colder weather.

Mr Liacos said: "At winter night markets we typically have about 120 traders, with about 35 being food based). At summer night markets we typically have around 170 traders with about 60 of those food based. Typically, for both, about 40 per cent of night market traders are also day traders of QVM."

Mr Liacos said a new night market would soon be announced to run through the spring season.

"We're not calling it the spring night market," he said. "It will have a more strongly focused Asian theme and will run for about eight Wednesday nights. We'll be making an announcement about that soon."

"Our target is to have a Wednesday-based night market for every Wednesday of the year within two years. Given our success so far, we think we can achieve this."

"This is good for QVM but, importantly, great for Melbourne, locals and tourists! We're proud that the winter night market continues to be a firm favourite on the event calendar."

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# Residents let down on short-stay Bill

By Shane Scanlan

**Residents hoping for a legislative solution to short-stay rentals in apartments will have to wait until at least 2021 for their next opportunity following the passing of the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 on August 8.**

The new law won't come into play until February and the government has said it won't again revisit the issue until at least two years after that.

The state opposition is promising "serious change to these laws" if it wins the next election but, if actions speak louder than words, it has given little hope to residents, having failed to oppose the government's new legislation in Parliament.

High-rise residents are appalled that, after four years of inquiry and legislative review, the best protection owners' corporations have is an ability to take unruly visitors to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to face a possible \$1100 fine.



Lobby group We Live Here spokesperson Barbara Francis accused the government of being in the pocket of Airbnb and said Victoria now had "the weakest regulatory restrictions for short-term letting ever seen in Australia".

But the state opposition is also in the sights of the lobby group – having spoken vehemently against the Bill, but failing to oppose it in the Parliament.

"Yesterday's outcome must rank as one of the worst cases of politicking and back-room deals seen in Parliament," Ms Francis said.

"How can we think otherwise when every speaker on the opposition side condemned the Bill for all the reasons we have articulated over the past two and half years, then walked out of the House before the vote was taken."

The Greens also did not vote against the legislation. Melbourne MLA Ellen Sandell told *CBD News* there was no point forcing a division where votes are counted and recorded because the Liberals had already determined not to oppose the Bill.

Opposition planning spokesperson David Davis told *CBD News*: "In the circumstance of being unable to rewrite the entire Bill from opposition, the Opposition chose to not oppose the Bill, neither supporting, nor opposing."

Earlier in the Parliament, he said of the government: "They have squibbed it here. We are going to look at expanding the powers after the legislation has passed. That is too late. This pathetic piece of legislation will be passed into law, and they are then going to review it after missing the whole opportunity to actually improve it."

"Today they come to the chamber wanting the bill passed—a squib of a bill, a weak, pathetic, paltry bill—and yet they have had these recommendations in front of them since June 2017."

In a press release, Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz said of the new legislation: "These tough new laws will deliver essential

protections that apartment residents deserve."

"We're regulating the short-stay sector to better protect Victorians and crack down on unruly behaviour in short-stay accommodation."

Tom Bacon, CEO of Strata Title Lawyers said: "The legislation is not worth the paper it is written on. These regulations are the lightest feather of a touch, and do not provide owners' corporations with any meaningful way of regulating the issues associated with short-term stays. I would not advise owners corporations to use these regulations. It would be a costly exercise and a waste of time."

Mr Davis said in the Parliament: "It may not make it any worse. It may just leave it pretty much the way it is now. It will do no harm, but it will do no good. I think that is a summary of this bill."

"I can put on record now that if we are elected, we will take action in this area. I know my shadow ministers are all aware of the feedback from the community and we understand that in fact people have a right to be safe and people have a right to lay out the living conditions of their area in a reasonable way."

"I accept that there is a balance to be struck, but truthfully this is not it and more will need to be done. We are very aware of that and we think that this is just a very, very weak step."

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**HAILEYBURY**

KEYSBOROUGH BRIGHTON BERWICK CITY DARWIN BEIJING



# The buck stops right here

By Shane Scanlan

***It's hard not to be impressed by the man in charge of policing in the eastern half of the CBD***  
***- Inspector Craig Peel.***

Youthful, fit and vigorous, Insp Peel has a sharp wit and a big smile, which fails to mask a keen brain and devotion to the task and his staff. At 45, he's a man on the rise – having been promoted from senior sergeant to inspector in just five and a half years.

With due modesty he says of his meteoric rise through the ranks: "It's not unique, but it doesn't happen that often."

Now, as local area commander based at Melbourne East Police Station in Flinders Lane, he is giving everything to preserving the safety and security of the CBD.

"I think the city's looking fantastic. I don't think the city's ever looked better," he said with typical positivity.

Despite one million people coming into his patch everyday and being responsible for some of the nation's major events, he says policing in the city is no harder than being a sole officer at a high country police station.

"It's not harder. It's unique," he said. "We operate under the same legislation. We've got the same rules. We wear the same uniform. It's unique because of the amount of things going on here."

He reels off some of the unique challenges he faces: AFL Grand Final. White Night. Moomba. Anzac Day. Unplanned demonstrations. Hostile vehicles. Counter terrorism. Expansion of food delivery vehicles. The sheer volume of people.

"We have 10,000 pedestrians an hour during peak at the (Flinders and) Swanston St and Elizabeth St intersections," he said. "And history shows that there have been a number of targeted attacks that haven't eventuated because of good policing."

As an active representative on the city's high-level committee looking into homelessness, Insp Peel says he's proud of improvements that have been made.

"I think it's changed in the last five years," he said. "At that time you saw a lot of people sleeping in doorways – multiple amounts of



Inspector Craig Peel in Flinders Lane.

people. You just don't see that any more."

"We work very closely with the City of Melbourne and their partners such as the Salvation Army. They've got their protocols and we support them."

"Every Tuesday there's a 'hotspots' meeting where the service providers come together and talk around different areas that may be causing issues – and it's all about referrals. Referrals and finding pathways out of homelessness."

So have they been successful?

"We have 'positive results' rather than 'success'. Success would be no homeless," he said. "The (police) members engage very well. They are very empathetic. They take the time. They're very professional and very courteous."

"The feedback from the service providers and the rough-sleepers is very positive. So, in terms of policing services in the CBD, I would call that a success."

Insp Peel accumulated some years of life experience before joining the police as a 22-year-old.

The Bairnsdale boy had previously worked as a professional lifeguard and in hospitality. He also travelled abroad and worked at the snow.

"So I did a whole lot of different roles but, in essence, all of them were around customer service," he said.

"That engagement and human interaction gave me a real desire to continue in a 'human natured' type of occupation."

He graduated from the Police Academy in 1995 and spent his first years in Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs before embarking on a 12-year stint in what was then the Force Response Unit (now the Critical Incident Response Team).

There he was a police negotiator and tactical operator and also performed "Close Personal Protection" for overseas dignitaries, including US presidents George Bush Snr and Bill Clinton, and worked with international secret service agencies.

But he said, while initially glamorous, that role, like any repetitive work, wore thin over time.

"I really enjoy the uniform aspects of policing because there's something different every day," he said.

Back in uniform, he returned to East Gippsland as a senior sergeant and quickly rose through the ranks, which necessitated a return to Melbourne – specifically the western suburbs. Now in the heart of the city, he's loving the challenge as well as the hustle and bustle of the big smoke.

"As the inspector, I'm the one who has to continue to come up with strategies to make the best use of the limited resources that I have," he said. "I've got what I've got. So, with my management team of senior sergeants, we have to come up with plans and then implement those plans to, say, reduce pedestrian injuries."

"We've reduced unauthorised vehicles in Swanston St. We don't have any of those anymore. We're reducing crime and making it safer for people to come into the city. For me, that's the exciting stuff."

Insp Peel believes the city is a great place to live.

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# No cash? You can now tap to tip

By David Schout

***Ever heard a brilliant busker playing on the CBD streets, reached into your pocket to give a tip, and realise there's nothing there?***

As we move deeper into a cashless society, wallets void of coins and notes are slowly becoming the norm.

And while contactless payment has made transactions hugely convenient for most, it has left some more niche industries – like street performers – behind.

But that could be about to change. A pilot program between tap-and-go enabler Quest Payment Systems and up to 20 local street performers has launched on the CBD streets in an Australian-first.

Passers-by now have the chance to tip buskers by “tapping” a two or five dollar tip with their bankcard or, if they wish, a larger sum. It will also allow onlookers the chance to buy merchandise using tap-and-go. The technology will be piloted in the next month, before a potential nationwide release.

Talented didgeridoo performer Dan Richardson is one of the few who will trial the new payment system, and naturally hopes it will be good for business.

“When things are new, you just never know what’s going to work,” he told *CBD News*.

“I’ve definitely had it multiple times over the years that people say that they want to pay, but don’t have any cash.”

Mr Richardson said it could even change the quantities onlookers choose to give.

“It might be a thing where people would give 50 and 20 cent coins, but if they’re going to bother with the card, they might give five bucks. You might get fewer people just chucking in their change. When they pay it might be more substantial.”

He said, however, tap-and-go payments represented a shift in audience behaviour.

“If you’re under 50, you don’t carry cash. It is really happening. But I still think it (paying a busker with a card) is a barrier... giving cash

is part of the experience for an audience,” Mr Richardson said.

He also queried the level of trust some less technologically-aware bystanders may have with the system, such as “whether it’s going to zap 20 bucks or two”.

Alongside the tap-and-go option, the selected buskers are also trialling the China-based Alipay app-payment system in a move to allow Chinese tourists the opportunity to pay with a familiar system.

A week into the trial, however, he was yet to receive any payment through Alipay. Mr Richardson was optimistic, however, with the local payment option.

“As you can see, it’s going to happen. In 10 years’ time we’ll be having a very different conversation, I’ve got no doubt about that.”

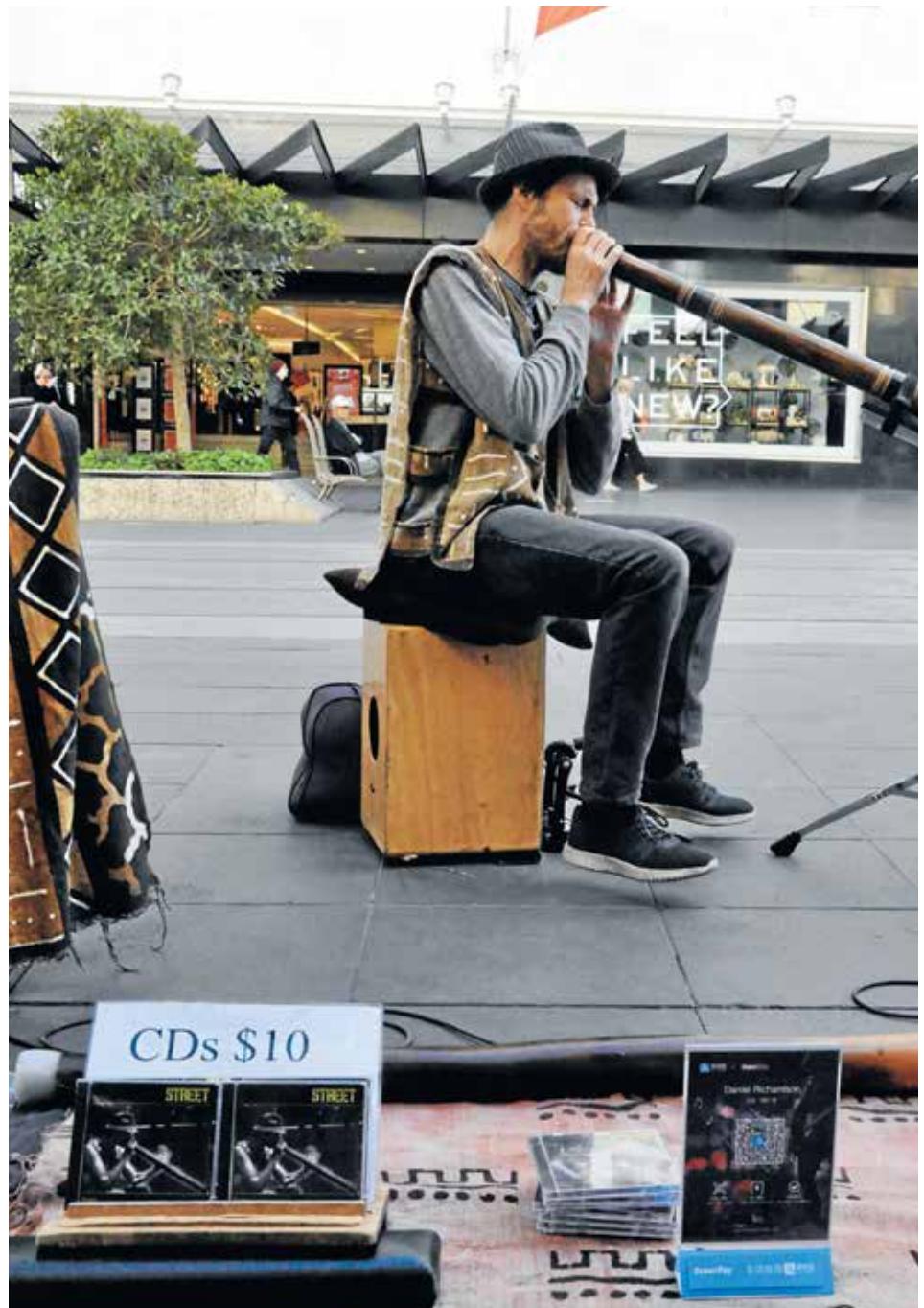
Another Burke Street Mall performer, singer-songwriter Simon Paparo, similarly embraced the change.

“Yeah it’s definitely a positive thing,” he said. “It’s more frequent that people don’t carry money with them these days. Everything’s ‘pay-pass’, so it makes a lot of sense.”

“I think it’s going to take a while before people actually know what it is. Like implementing anything, it takes a while before the public are aware. But once that takes place I think it’ll be a really positive thing for the future of busking.”

Luke Fuller, head of SME and alternative payments at Quest, said his company was optimistic about the pilot program.

“While many businesses are thriving with the shift to digital payments, there are pockets of society that have been left behind and the busking community is one of them. This program is about levelling the playing field for buskers and giving them every opportunity to continue doing what they love, entertaining,” Mr Fuller said.



Didgeridoo performer Dan Richardson is one of the few buskers who will trial the new payment system.

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# Councillors in love

**Melbourne councillors have been smitten with admiration and praise for a proposed new apartment building on the site of the Mercure Hotel in Spring St.**

At the August 7 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, they were gushing in their praise for the proposed 125m, 34-storey luxury apartment building.

Planning chair Nicholas Reece said: "This is an exemplary example of the city working with developers."

"This development is an absolutely outstanding outcome. In my two years on the council, this rates near the top."

He said to Cbus chief executive Adrian Pozzo: "With what you've done up at 35 Spring St, it now makes that Flinders St / Spring St corner of the city something that is just absolutely terrific and will look great on postcards."

The proposed Cbus development has been designed by Bates Smart and comprises 84 apartments, with more than half of them having three bedrooms or more.

The break down is: one-bedroom: six (7 per cent); two-bedroom: 24 (29 per cent); three-bedroom: 49 (58 per cent); and four-bedroom: five (6 per cent).

Councillors were so enamoured with the proposal, that they willingly turned a blind



A render of the 17 Spring St proposal.

eye to a massive number of car spaces to service the 84 apartments. Normally, a developer could expect to be granted a maximum of one space, per apartment, with encouragement given for fewer spaces.

Cr Rohan Leppert said: "I think the variation from the requirement of 84 car parks up to 148 is very, very generous."

However, Cr Leppert predicted many of the spaces would remain unused.

"I note that there are many, many three and four-bedroom apartments in this tower and that is wonderful to see," he said.

"I'm not sure they're all going to attract families. I'm quite sure they're going to attract a lot of wealthy individuals and couples who probably won't all need the second or third car park spot."

The development, to be known as 17 Spring St, comes in just under the 18:1 floor area ratio threshold where community benefit payment would be required from the developer. Cbus has constrained the development to a floor area ratio of 17.9:1.

Cr Leppert said: "No other city in the world would let you get away with this, but they're the rules, so well done."

Councillors voted unanimously to recommend support for proposal to Planning Minister Richard Wynne.



Deborah McMillan and Peter Calwell with one of Simply Cups' collection containers.

## Successful recycling initiative

By Jacklyn Yeong

**101 Collins Street has partnered up with Simply Cups to alternatively recycle takeaway coffee cups.**

Within the first two months, 101 Collins Street's new successful initiative saw over 10,000 cups recycled.

The building management set up green tubes provided by Simply Cups at convenient points for cup collections.

Building manager Peter Calwell said the building tenants reacted very positively to the recycling program.

Takeaway coffee cups contain a liquid-proof plastic lining that prevents the cups from being normally recycled. With over three billion cups being disposed in Australian landfill, the building management team recognised the need to introduce an alternative system.

## We're no longer "most liveable"

By Niccola Anthony

**Melbourne has lost its title of world's most liveable city to Vienna, despite nabbing its highest ever liveability score.**

The yearly ranking of world cities by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) gave Melbourne a liveability index of 98.4, a 0.9 increase from its 2017 score.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp congratulated Melbourne for its unprecedented seven-year run at the top, but warned Melburnians that a return to the number one spot would involve reflecting on the challenges ahead.



Entertainer P!nk's crew joined local volunteers to feed Melbourne's hungry at Fed Square on July 26.

## P!nk's concert crew lends a hand

**Local charity The Big Umbrella was humbled and honoured to have the crew from the recent P!nk series of concerts volunteer on July 26 to help feed Melburnians in need.**

Big Umbrella founder Justin Dickinson said he was "blown away" that the international

tourists chose to "give back" during some downtime on the local leg of the Beautiful Trauma world tour.

"It's incredible to see the international entertainment industry support a local charity," Mr Dickinson told CBD News.

Over the past seven years, The Big Umbrella has collected and reissued 218 tonnes of discarded food to more than 100,000 people.

It operates every Wednesday and Thursday nights at Fed Square, supported by corporate team-building exercises.

Mr Dickinson said about 200 people were fed each night with food collected from cafes, restaurants and supermarkets.

He said international entertainment company Live Nation, which brought P!nk to Australia had also recently brought its own staff to Fed Square to become immersed in the experience of helping those less fortunate.

See [thebigumbrella.org](http://thebigumbrella.org) for further information about volunteering opportunities.

# Minister backs planning controls

By David Schout

**The Planning Minister has backed CBD development rules in light of criticism from the Property Council of Australia (PCA) that Melbourne's "historic competitive advantage" was at risk.**

The PCA is calling for a bipartisan establishment of a city planning advisory group to review the C270 planning controls.

Those controls, officially in place since November 2016, sought to limit what the current Labor government saw as excessive

building approvals and height allowances by the previous government.

The lack of control on high-rise building applications, it claimed, caused overshadowing and wind issues that negatively impacted CBD residents, workers and visitors.

But the PCA has claimed these controls have gone too far and resulted in the approval of just two new commercial developments (the Victoria Police Centre on Spencer St; and Wesley Place on Lonsdale St) and one new residential development in almost two years.

The PCA's Victorian acting executive director Matthew Kandelaars said the balance should be reset.

"Although there are still cranes across Melbourne's skyline, if industry's concerns are not immediately addressed, when those

cranes come down they won't be replaced and nor will the jobs they support," he said.

Mr Kandelaars said it was especially vital to address the significant decline in commercial office development approvals in the inner-city.

"Strong supply is crucial to support our growing population and smart jobs of the future and to allow Victoria to remain internationally competitive."

He said when the current pre-C270 developments were completed, the city would be forced to deal with a office space supply issue, which will then cause commercial rents to rise.

But Planning Minister Richard Wynne said his government was pleased with the amendments set out in C270, and gave no indication it would review guidelines.

"These controls ensure adequate separation between tall buildings and the street, enshrine protections for public space and important landmarks and set a fair density level for new developments," he said.

Under the current rules, developers are able to exceed 18:1 plot ratio limits if the prospective building meets "public benefit" guidelines.

"We introduced these planning controls to protect Melbourne's liveability," Mr Wynne said.

He did not directly respond to the PCA's claim that the decline in investment would impact jobs, other than to say the Victorian Government's "investment in roads and transport, hospitals and schools ... has created more than 340,000 new jobs since November 2014".



(From left) "Butterflies" Siena Torok, 8 (year 3) and Connor Langford, 9 (year 4) rehearse for the Haileybury College Tattoo at the King St campus.

## Respect – the stage show

**Students at Haileybury College's CBD campus participated for the first time last month in the school's combined annual "tattoo".**

More than 2300 Haileybury students performed at the event held in Keysborough over six nights. The "City Tattoo" was held on August 16 and 17.

It was the first time the city campus had taken part. Local students from years 1 to 8 combined with Berwick campus students to sing and dance their way through exciting numbers supported by a 40-piece band.

This year's theme was "respect" – using music and drama to explore respect for difference, the environment and each other.

Haileybury's director of performing arts, Stewart Bell, said: "Respect is a tough concept to capture visually but it inspires hundreds of words. The campuses have taken the theme in many directions ... through song choices and associated lyrics."

# Sensing the humble street light's potential

By David Schout

**Some CBD streetlights are now mini air-monitoring stations.**

A new project from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has turned the unassuming lamppost into something more than just street illuminators.

In 2016 the EPA, alongside distributor CitiPower, affixed small air quality sensors – about the size of a matchbox – atop street lamps on Queens Bridge as part of a trial.

The sensors collected data on the presence of PM2.5 particles – a pollutant in smoke, fine dust and vehicle exhaust emissions.

These particles are particularly small (with a diameter of less than 3 per cent of the diameter of a human hair) and light, which causes them to stay in the air for longer to be inhaled by humans and animals, and their presence is used to measure air quality.

After initial tests, the EPA was pleasantly surprised with what it saw.

"Initial results showed the construction of these sensors was quite robust," spokesman John Rees said.

"The data they collected on the presence of PM2.5, typically from vehicle emissions, was monitored and analysed and the trial demonstrated low-cost sensor technology can be usefully applied."

The success led to the deployment of more



sensors throughout the CBD.

"Several small operational sensor networks are now in place," Mr Rees said.

Early in the trial, measurements recorded from the small sensors were consistent with the EPA's nearest permanent monitoring station in Footscray. This suggested they could be onto something.

The trial's success showed the EPA that it can incorporate new technologies into existing air-monitoring infrastructure, which could be a catalyst for more sensors throughout Victoria, especially remote regions.

The sensors cost about \$200, which makes them a desirable, compact technology at a fraction of the cost of larger stations.

Also, they work by transmitting air quality data via secure radio communication, which is relatively immune to telecommunication outages that can interrupt data flow in traditional monitoring networks.

"While sensors are not considered Australian Standards methods, they can provide useful information on the status of air quality for particulate matter and gases," Mr Rees said.

# Melbourne says no to racism

By Meg Hill

**The Multicultural Hub holds its sovereignty in a city used as a backdrop for recurring racial tensions.**

On August 9 the Hub hosted a community forum titled *Standing up to the Racist Law and Order Agenda* - set up by The Greens and a number of South Sudanese community leaders.

It's only 500 metres from the city loop at Melbourne Central where until early August people were compelled - out of a literal lack of choice in the matter - to watch *Sky News* as they waited for their train.

The state government pulled *Sky News* after it aired an interview with self-described fascist Blair Cottrell.

Mr Cottrell has argued for portraits of Hitler to be hung in classrooms and *Mein Kampf* issued to students. In June, a video went viral showing Mr Cottrell physically intimidating a street performer in Federation Square with an aura of hyper-masculinity, violence, and homophobia so outright it was caricaturist.

His offences are too long to list, but have been widely reported and bragged about on Mr Cottrell's social media accounts.

Conceivably, someone on their way to The Hub on August 5 - perhaps for one of the many reading circles or EAL (English as an additional language) training sessions held there - may have seen Mr Cottrell's interview on *Sky News*. He called for immigration controls and action against "foreign ideologies".

While the state government made the decision to remove *Sky News* from city loop



Writer, artist and youth worker Flora Chol addresses the crowd.

screens after the interview, speakers at The Hub just a few days later said the Andrews government was helping to perpetuate racism.

The latest instance cited is the introduction of anti-association laws applicable to those as young as 14.

Senior lawyer at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service David DeWitt told the crowd the laws were "racially motivated".

So, while we're all freed from watching fascist figureheads on train platforms,

African youths will now have to think twice about whom they catch the train with - or potentially face a criminal conviction.

Just weeks ago, hundreds of people gathered outside Channel Seven's headquarters to protest the station's *Sunday Night* story on "African gangs". The young organisers of that protest were among the audience at the Multicultural Hub.

The list of those implicated in promoting the ongoing fiction is long, even just surveying this year. Before *Sky News* interviewed Mr Cottrell, Channel Seven ran its hysterical

gang story, and when the anti-association laws were announced, Peter Dutton and the federal government claimed diners in Melbourne were scared to go out to eat because of African gangs.

"When I get on the train I have to make myself small, because Peter Dutton says I'm a thug," writer, artist and youth worker Flora Chol told the crowd.

If this seems never-ending, it's probably because it is. Greens candidate for Richmond Kathleen Maltzahn spoke about the shifting nature of racism in Australia - the Irish, the Vietnamese and Muslims, to name a few.

"And indigenous people since the beginning," she added.

Local federal member Adam Bandt noted the "youth riots" that no one ever really heard much about, failed to pick up media attention when it became apparent they were white youths.

Radio presenter and community worker Matoc Achol described trying to fit in as the only black person in his high school. Community advocate Deng Malek Deng articulated why his community didn't trust the police.

A Somali woman who felt uncomfortable voicing her opinion in person sent her story to be read out. The start of this article claims a sovereign space in the Multicultural Hub, but one has to get there first.

## Community project a game changer

By Niccola Anthony

**The CBD's unofficial home of everything not-for-profit, Ross House, is competing for a \$200,000 government grant in the Pick My Project initiative.**

The state government initiative is awarding grants to local projects around Victoria, with the aim of improving facilities and amenities for community groups.

If successful, Ross House plans to create a community conference and theatre space at the Flinders Lane site. The new space will accommodate meetings for tenants, as well as provide a space that can be accessed by the wider community for various activities.

Amber Moore, the Ross House development program manager, is excited by the opportunities that will flow from the project should the campaign be successful.

"It ticks all our boxes in terms of creating opportunities to enhance social connectedness and social bonds and feeling part of a community, because we can run really important community events from the space," Ms Moore said.

Ms Moore said that the idea of a community



Development program manager Amber Moore.

theatre festival had been floated around in project discussions and could have a huge impact on social inclusion.

"It's just really about expanding those services and those opportunities that we can provide for our community and the wider community as well," Ms Moore said.

"Being the social justice hub of Melbourne I truly feel we represent the city."

Ross House is managed through the Ross House Association, an organisation set-up to maintain the building, manage available resources and develop community.

The building currently houses 51 tenants, all of whom comprise community groups dedicated towards ensuring a socially just and environmentally sustainable society.

Tenants include Australia for UNHCR, Climate and Health Alliance, Shine for Kids and Union of Australian Women (Vic).

The state government has allocated \$30 million worth of grant funding under the Pick My Project scheme, which will be equally divided between metropolitan and regional partnership areas.

Of the \$15 million awarded to metropolitan Melbourne, a minimum of \$1 million will be allocated to each partnership area, with surplus funding allocated based on population.

Community members must vote for their favourite project online by the September 17 deadline to give their chosen project the best chance at securing a grant.

There are 189 local community projects to choose from in the Melbourne 3000 area.

If you'd like to vote for Ross House or check out some of the other project proposals, head to <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/rounds/pick-my-project/ideas>

## Low voter turnout leads to concerns

**Political engagement in the City of Melbourne remains significantly behind the state average.**

The Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC) latest figures reveal that just 56.61 per cent of registered voters took part in May's lord mayoral by-election, compared with a Victorian average of 73.75 per cent recorded in 2016. While the turnout figure for the council represents a slight increase on 2016's figure of 55.15 per cent from the general election, the number remains one of the state's worst.

After accepting the report at a recent meeting, several councillors said the figure needed to rise.

"In two years' time we have a general election (and) I really hope that the voter turnout will be higher," Cr Philip Le Liu said. "The more we engage with voters and the more they can vote on this, it just means we have a better representative council and a better representation of the people within the city."

Willam Angliss

# Mixing with the best

By David Schout

While further education exposes students to many ideas and schools of thought, William Angliss Institute's Aidan Coffey has developed one of his own.

"My philosophy is that I'll just work in places I can't afford," he says, grinning.

The fourth-year bachelor of tourism and hospitality management student has already worked in some of Australia's best hotels and restaurants.

It's been a rapid rise for the 22-year-old, who four years ago had no idea he'd go down the path he has chosen.

As it turns out, a high school dinner changed things, and was the first step in an already-promising career.

"When I was in year 12 there was a celebratory dinner for my school's 125th anniversary and they asked if any students wanted to help out the catering company that was coming," Aidan explained.

"So I thought 'yeah why not, I'll put my hand up.' And I fell in love with it. I thought 'this is great,' and I could see myself doing something similar for a career. And I slowly started getting the idea from there."

After considering various institutes to study, he decided on William Angliss.

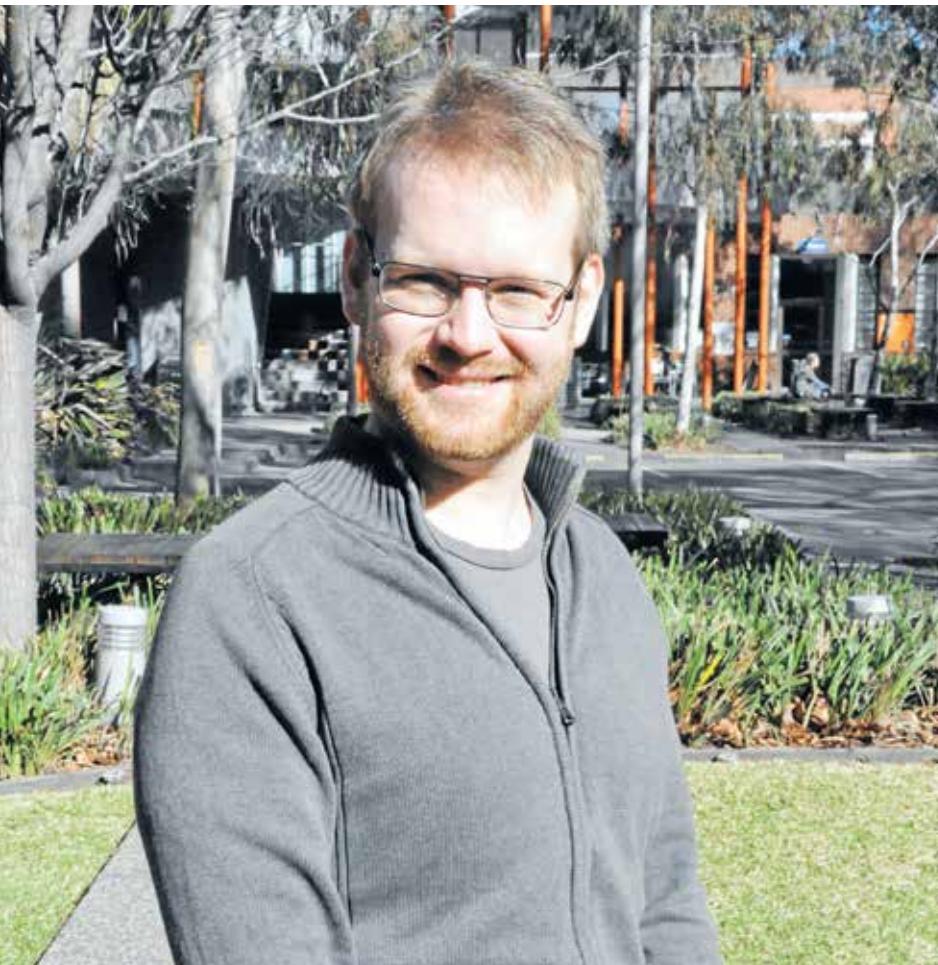
His first two years at the LaTrobe St institute were largely theory-based – something he admits was initially challenging.

Tourism and hospitality management students are then asked in their third year to undertake a year of industry placement.

After deciding to pursue employment in a hotel, Aidan considered working in the UK and even China for 12 months.

In the end he decided on Tasmania after his mum stumbled across a magazine ad for an exclusive hotel in the picturesque Freycinet National Park.

Soon after contacting Sapphire Freycinet – a \$2000 per night coastal sanctuary, recently voted Australia's number one luxury hotel



*Aidan Coffey was selected to represent William Angliss at the Victorian Tourism Industry Council student entrepreneurial awards.*

– he was packing his bags and headed for the Apple Isle's east coast.

"It pushes the idea of luxury," the CBD resident admitted.

Naturally, he learned a considerable amount about the ins-and-outs of high-end

hospitality, and was gradually given more responsibility.

After six months he was put in charge of the bar – despite professing "no bartending experience" – and developed a cocktail list that is still being used today.

After noticing the absence of a distinct list, he was asked by the general manager to comprise an offering that reflected the area's distinct surroundings.

In this he created a cocktail called the Freycinet Fling, which included one of the local flowers with a distinct honey smell.

"It included a lot of long nights of experimentation," he conceded.

Aidan said serving personally-created cocktails was one of several highlights in a 12-month stay in Tasmania, and that the placement year was invaluable.

"I got so invested in the place and made so many lifelong friends. It was pretty hard to leave," he said.

After moving back to Melbourne to complete his final year of study – of which he is halfway through – he secured a role at Bourke St Italian fine dining restaurant Grossi Florentino.

More recently, he was selected to represent William Angliss at the Victorian Tourism Industry Council student entrepreneurial awards with his proposal for an e-sports road show through regional Victoria.

The high-flyer paid tribute to his education provider.

"Studying at William Angliss has given me the connections to move around in the hospitality industry – whether that's through the friends I've made, the teachers I've met or doing student ambassador work. I also believe that studying at the institute has given me a vast pool of knowledge to utilise in the workplace and throughout my career."

After his studies conclude, Aidan plans to incorporate travel and work, gaining experience in luxury lodges around the world.

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## CBD Local

# All in a day's work

By Nicolla Anthony

Jarrod Briffa is a pioneer of the Melbourne cafe scene on Bourke St's West End.

In 2010 he co-founded Kinfolk, a cafe run by volunteers that donates all its profits to a number of charity partners based around Melbourne.

In the eight years of its operation, Kinfolk has housed more than 700 volunteers who have contributed around 50,000 hours to the cafe.

However, as Mr Briffa explained, Kinfolk's volunteer program has transformed from an initial strategy to keep operational costs down, to a form of work experience for those facing social exclusion.

"Originally, the volunteer program was about keeping costs low so that we could donate more money. What we didn't realise was that we were going to get such a diverse group of people who were facing their own challenges, who wanted to volunteer. So that's where the business has really evolved," he explained.

While the challenges faced by each volunteer vary, common themes include mental health issues, long-term unemployment, physical and learning disabilities and those transitioning from prison.

The overwhelming success of the volunteer program is not lost on Mr Briffa, who highlights that, throughout last year, 76 per cent of volunteers were successful in finding paid work.

"That's really unique for us because we didn't set out with the intention that (the



volunteer program) would be a core focus of what we do," Jarrod said.

Another unintended consequence of Kinfolk's operation has been the creation of a "safe space" in the CBD for city workers to escape the stress of their office jobs.

"We found that a lot of our customers were seeking a place where they could escape their busy jobs for half an hour so that they could build themselves up to go back and

fight the fight," explained Mr Briffa about Kinfolk's uncanny ability to momentarily replace the daily grind with the coffee bean grind.

The seed for social entrepreneurship was planted in Jarrod from his early 20s when he spent a few years living abroad in India and around South-East Asia.

Following his travels he studied entrepreneurship at RMIT, where he found

himself particularly inspired by the idea of social entrepreneurship.

From there, he assembled a team and, with less than \$10,000 in cash, attempted to set-up a social enterprise that could positively impact the local community.

Mr Briffa acknowledges that, given his adventurous spirit and love of travel, it's ironic that he has spent the past eight years in Melbourne operating the business.

"I made the commitment early on that I would manage it for the first 12 months, but then I think I just fell in love with it and fell in love with what it's all about. It gives me a lot of purpose coming to work every day and it gives the people I'm working with a lot of meaning as well," Mr Briffa said.

As the popularity of Kinfolk has grown beyond the capacity of its Bourke St venue, the need for a second site has been recognised.

Jarrod is now working to extend the business model to Carlton North with an aptly-named sister cafe, Sibling.

The new space will allow a doubling of volunteer opportunities, extending the current volunteer intake of around 60 a week to 120.

Mr Briffa is aiming to raise \$60,000 by August 29 to fund the Sibling's opening and initial operational costs.

If you'd like to donate head to <https://www.startsomegood.com/sibling-by-kinfolk>

## Residents 3000

# Tigers and the cheese

Last year Tigers fans witnessed the cutting of the famous Big Bell Cheese at the Queen Victoria Market on the morning after its grand final win. What about this year?

Dennis Husseini is the proprietor of the Pavillion store that specialises in high quality cheese and other delicatessen products. Just a few days after he bought the store in 2005, he met market tour guides, Judy, Geraldine and Helen.

When they came around to meet Dennis and to explain their promotional activities, one of them said "Where's the Big Bell Cheese, Dennis?" Dennis replied: "What cheese?"

"Oh my goodness!" they said. "Don't touch the Bell! It's one of the highlights of our tour! Don't sell it or cut it. The cheese was made in 1987. There were three of them delivered to the market back then and yours is the only one left."

The now 31-year-old, Big Bell Cheese became a feature of Dennis' store displayed

prominently on the back shelf or sometimes on the front counter. This famous cheese is known as Auricchio Provolone Piccante, made in Cremona, a province in Northern Italy - south east of Milan. Evidently the cheeses are made in old church bells to give them their interesting shape and large size.

Dennis and his family, being avid Richmond supporters thought that, should Richmond win the 2017 AFL grand final, they would cut the old cheese on the morning of the next day to share with their customers and other Richmond supporters.

Well, the dream eventuated and early Sunday morning, the big cheese was cut. Surprisingly, the cheese was still quite tasty although a little dark at the top. Many people attended the special ceremony and were brave enough to taste the then 30-year-old cheese.

What has happened since? Well the cheese makers in northern Italy were delighted to hear the story and told Dennis that they could still make large bell cheeses. These are not part of their normal product range. They are extremely special. In fact, the ones that are made today, on special order, are solid throughout, whereas the 31-year-old cheese had a hollow area inside. Dennis decided to order another cheese in

the hope that Richmond might win the grand final again and to replace the original cheese thus keeping up the tradition. The cheese was ordered in October last year and took three months to make and deliver.

At the time of writing, Richmond was on top of the AFL ladder. Dennis and quite a large number of Richmond supporters at the market are hopeful of success again this year. As you might guess, Dennis has promised to cut the new cheese if the Tigers win the 2018 grand final.

If they do, be sure to be at the Pavillion store the morning after at 10.30am for a special cheese tasting. Otherwise the cheese will wait, as its forebear did, until Richmond next achieves the coveted prize.

Notice in the photo, on the top right-hand corner shelf, the old cheese has been painted yellow and the Richmond sign draped across.



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RESIDENTS 3000  
MELBOURNE



Dennis is ready to cut the cheese when Richmond wins the grand final.

## Fiction

# On my patch

By Rhonda Dredge

It was 2 pm on Sunday and a shaft of sunlight pierced the dark, wayward forms of Hayward Lane, off Little Lonsdale. The roughcast wall of a converted warehouse showed off its texture to the passer-by. The light show lasted for just 15 minutes then the 57-storey residential tower Abode took over once again.

Vince was temporarily blinded as he entered the light. He was rushing to the gym then he got a call. It was all too much, the plastic ivy in the window box struggling to survive and the insinuations of his mate.

Everyone has issues. He knew that now and he didn't want to make a scene but he was sick of having to defend his position.

If it wasn't for the lamb and hand-made noodle soup at Food Heaven soon after, he might have laid down and died. He got out a crisp \$50 note and felt guilty for the hundredth time. Everyone else was sharing and he'd had an entire bowl to himself.

When the waitress brought the change and a slip dated 5/8/18, time 15.27.59, Vince sighed. There was no way he could get to the library in three minutes. He messaged his mate and sat back to consider his position.

"There's nothing you can do," said his guru, a man who had opened up an ethnic cafe on Little Lonsdale and was weathering the storm. "At least the road's open. People

walk past."

Two new towers had popped up in the last year, just like that. One wasn't even on the list of skyscrapers or Google maps. It was quite attractive yet oppressive at the same time. It had taken up a prime position in Vince's northern window without his permission! Now there were cranes to the south.

He lingered for a little longer in the warmth of the cafe, relaxing among the other diners. They probably knew just how he felt. If only he belonged to a tribe like them.

A text came in from his mate. OK. 4.00. That gave him 25 minutes to get his act together. He seemed to be on the trail of a story and he didn't want to let go.

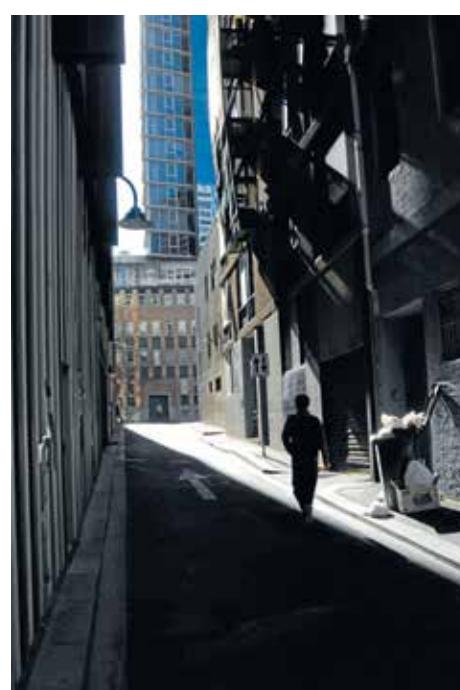
"I'm off," he said finally, dashing off with just 18 minutes to spare. He took a brochure from the cafe to show his friend. Their stews were lovingly portrayed in rich golden hues and they deserved a plug. Patronage is everything in the CBD.

There was a nice cushioned seat waiting for Vince at Mr Tulk and the waitress was charming. He calmed down even though she forgot their order three times.

"You should put her in a movie," he whispered to his friend, a script writer who worked in the library and was always on the lookout for good characters. Sure, he had to be forceful about the shortbread but the waitress didn't seem to mind. City living has its ups and downs, he thought, but there's always a warm heart beating somewhere in the vicinity.

"Did you know that the Uyghur are a persecuted minority from China?" his friend asked, when Vince showed him the brochure.

That gave Vince quite a jolt. Perhaps he felt persecuted as well. That's the vibe he was tracking. It would take a while to put it into



comments about city slicker culture. His friend had been for a bush walk and was acting virtuous.

"What is it?"

An answer shot out of his mouth with a few crumbs.

"Body balance."

So what if he belonged to a tribe that trotted off to the gym on a Sunday morning? That's what you do when you settle into urban life.

"Mm. What time do you go?"

"I was just on my way when you called."

"That was at 2 pm!"

"So, I was a bit late today."

City life has its pressures.

His friend pulled out a small white container and offered it to him.

"What's that?"

"Dental floss."

He sighed. He still had a piece of gristle caught in his teeth from the stew and his friend, of Irish descent, was making a meal out of his faults as usual.

He picked up the bill and thought about returning home to his little haven but, to the south, a rather attractive vista of bluestone walls now contained four large cranes. Perhaps he did have a tribe after all and now was the time to make a press statement.

He stood.

"I live at ground level in the CBD," he said, "And I'm not alone."

His friend nodded.

"The Wesley Mission across the street has given in to a 35-storey office block and another had been approved next door. Five new towers have turned up on my doorstep in the last three years and I know all their names. There's the Abode, Trillium, Atira, Wesley Place and now a new one is coming along. There is no denying it but everyone wants to live and work on my patch."

words. From the back blocks of his mind a thought was beginning to take form. It had a fair way to travel from the northern border of some distant land. He didn't want to be too explicit. No, he'd been caught out before.

Vince smiled at his friend, hoping that a nice chat would draw out what was bugging him but his friend was still talking about the Uyghur. Something about the Chinese Government.

The shortbread wasn't as good as home-baked.

They were soon in a worthy conversation about freedom. The Uyghur were Muslims and had a right to follow their faith.

"What about my faith?" Vince found himself asking.

His friend smiled.

Vince got ready to fend off ironic

## Heritage

# Heritage gaps on the radar

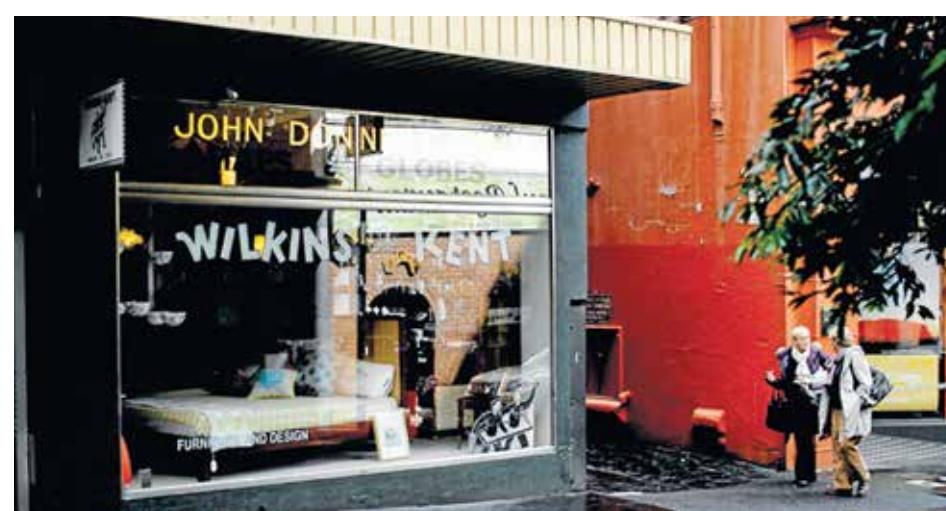
Across the city, gaps in heritage studies have seen a number of character-filled and historic buildings face the wrecking ball.

Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) recently lodged objections to the demolition of The Theosophical building on Russell St, which has also been home to Lewis Music, one of the city's oldest small businesses, which was established in 1963.

Built in 1923 as a motor showroom and refurbished in 1975 for the Theosophicals, the 1970s-era ground floor and lecture halls are quite intact alongside the 1920s facade, making it not only a layering of architectural styles worth saving, but also an important base for social uses – offering moderate rent for social enterprises and alternative health organisations.

Meanwhile in Little Bourke St, both Melbourne House at 360 and Chart House at 372 are facing full and partial demolition respectively. Melbourne House, a modest 1920s office building, may not be significant on its own, but it plays a coherent part in the intact pre-war streetscape.

Interestingly, it was one of the few buildings in the block left out of upcoming



heritage protection in Lovell Chen's study of the Hardware Lane precinct. Sadly, this means there may be little standing in the way of its demolition.

We also believe that Chart House is important as a rare example of war construction in Melbourne with a fusion of

moderne style into post-war modernism. It is also notable that it was built in 1942 for John Donne Maps Sellers, another historic Melbourne business.

Finally, the proposed "revitalisation" of the Walk Arcade into a luxury hotel and upmarket shops is of much concern, as

the current proposal would not only see facadism on all sides of some significant buildings such as Diamond House, but also the complete demolition of one inter-war warehouse on little Collins St that also provides half the blank canvas for Union Lane – one of the few legal street art lanes in the city that gives upcoming street artists a safe place to experiment.

The proposal would replace this wall with entrances to upmarket shops and glass frontages, surely not a good outcome for an iconically grungy Melbourne lane.

If you want to object to any of the above demolitions, find more about them all on our website [melbourneheritage.org.au](http://melbourneheritage.org.au)



Tristan Davies

President  
Melbourne Heritage Action

We Live Here

# Government ignores Airbnb stabbing death

In stunning scenes in Parliament this month, the Victorian Government passed the weakest legislation for short-term letting ever seen in Australia, to the delight of Airbnb.

In answering questions from The Greens in Parliament, the Trade and Innovation Minister, Philip Dalidakis admitted to Parliament that he visited Airbnb's office in San Francisco. (Hansard, 7 August 2018, page 46).

It has also been reported by *The Age* that Premier Daniel Andrews had visited Airbnb in San Francisco in 2015.

Quizzed on the Airbnb stabbing death in the CBD in July, Mr Andrews told ABC Radio: "We certainly would be open to having a look at whether there's anything we can do from a regulatory point of view."

Mr Andrews also said that Consumer Affairs Minister Marlene Kairouz was "already doing some work on this".

However, in Parliament this month, the government passed the same legislation word-for-word that had been rejected by the Upper House as inadequate more than 12 months earlier.

Since the widely-released photograph of the then Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jane Garrett, shaking hands with Airbnb head honcho Brett Thomas on the steps of Parliament, it has been clear that Airbnb has been behind every move the government makes.

And now Airbnb is celebrating the passing of the weakest short-stay legislation in Australia.

One of the recommendations made over 12 months ago was for the government to investigate giving greater powers and resources to Victoria Police to be able to deal with criminal activity in short-stay apartments. However, that recommendation was never acted upon, despite Minister

Dalidakis telling Parliament that he considered the issue "core police business".

The government stated in its policy response that it would conduct a review in 2021 to see whether the new regulations were working and would seek feedback from stakeholders and resident groups at that time. However, this review was not inserted into the Bill and the Labor government could not commit to a review because it might not be in power in 2021.

The Liberal's Shadow Minister for Planning, David Davis, addressed Parliament to slam the government for reintroducing the same legislation which he labelled "weak, pathetic and a damp squib".

The Liberal Party told Parliament that it would seek to have this legislation amended if it were to form government at the next election.

Ultimately however, the Liberal Party did not block the passing of the Bill when it came time to vote on the legislation and was absent from the chamber when it was put to the vote.

Tom Bacon, CEO of Strata Title Lawyers said: "The legislation is not worth the paper it is written on. These regulations are the lightest feather of a touch, and do not provide owners' corporations with any meaningful way of regulating the issues associated with short-term stays. I would not advise owners' corporations to use these regulations; it would be a costly exercise and a waste of time."

This parliamentary outcome must rank as one of the worst cases of politicking and back-room deals seen in Parliament.

How can we think otherwise when every

speaker on the opposition side condemned the Bill for all the reasons we have articulated over the past three years, then walked out of the House before the vote was taken?

The statements made by Minister Dalidakis and his advisors were feeble and showed how little the government understood the issues that it became an embarrassing spectacle.

## Airbnb-taxing Vienna teaches Melbourne a lesson

Vienna, which has a policy of levying a tourism tax on Airbnb, has overtaken Melbourne as the most liveable city in the world. Vienna is also now in a battle with Airbnb, demanding the multinational hand over its Vienna registration data so that the tourism tax can be collected fairly from all operators.

Why doesn't our state government look to see what is happening overseas? Vienna, New York, London, Tokyo are all taking action – we are not the only city wrestling with this issue.

So again, we invite Daniel Andrews to come and talk to us at We Live Here (now more than 300 buildings are signed up as supporters). We are an organised and passionate group of residents wanting to have our voice heard and includes a large disenfranchised section of the electorate – those who purchased apartments in residential buildings not designed for short-stay quasi hotel-type accommodation.

Time is also running out with the state election looming in a few months. Most of the inner-city seats are held by candidates

who support our stance.

We have given the government statistical data, analysis and concrete solutions – all ignored, at its peril. Mr Andrews, please wake up and commit to the following solutions now:

- Prescribe a maximum number of days per year for a property to be used for short-stays (such as NSW – 180 days per year, or San Francisco – 90 days per year or New York – minimum stay 30 days); and
- Mandate a requirement for a 75 per cent ballot of the owners in owners' corporations to pass a special resolution in favour of short-stays for the practice to be allowed.

We hope it won't take another death in an Airbnb apartment before politics is taken out of the debate and the real issues discussed, which the passing of the Bill does nothing to address.

## 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 [welivehere.net](http://welivehere.net)

We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests.

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

[www.welivehere.net](http://www.welivehere.net)  
emails to [campaign@welivehere.net](mailto:campaign@welivehere.net)

# Free Tram Zone is here to stay



Greens spokesperson Sam Hibbins, Liberal spokesperson David Davis and Transport Minister Jacinta Allan.

**Melbourne's Free Tram Zone is here to stay, with tripartisan support offered by Labor, Liberals and The Greens at a Metropolitan Transport Forum at Melbourne Town Hall on August 13.**

Representatives of all parties pledged support for the free tram service in response to a public questioner who suggested it primarily benefited tourists and motorists.

The question was: "How does the Free Tram Zone provide value to the city outside of incentivising drivers to park in town and take advantage of (free) public transport at the expense of paying customers?"

Greens spokesperson Sam Hibbins said: "We don't have a plan to either extend or remove the Free Tram Zone. The Free Tram Zone is contributing to overcrowding and probably put the Bike Share out of business, when they were already struggling a bit. So, yeah, I take your point."

Liberal shadow transport minister David Davis his party had no plans to amend the scheme, should it win the November state election.

Mr Davis said: "The Free Tram Zone was our creation, prior to the 2014 election and implemented by the current government in January 2015."

"It is wildly popular. People actually like and people do move around the city with it. There's no question about that."

"In terms of the range of people who use it? I think it's wider than you have actually allowed for. It's not just tourists and a few people who have driven into the city. It's people who are moving inside the city during the day. It's people who live on the edge of the city – down in Docklands and other areas."

"We have to plans to diminish the Free Tram Zone. I understand the crowding that it has brought forward in the sense that it is

actually popular. It is actually used. In one sense, that is a recognition of its success and, long term, there will have to be thoughts about how we manage that," Mr Davis concluded.

Transport Minister Jacinta Allan said: "The Free Tram Zone has been a good addition to the city."

"It certainly has caused some challenges to our overall tram network which we are managing very carefully with Yarra Trams and it's also why we need to order more tram rolling stock."

"I must say that tourists are an enormously valuable part of how the City of Melbourne operates. The contribution they make to our economy, the way they support our hospitality and retail, you look at the convention centre, you look at the big conventions they bring in."

"The 24/7 economy we have here in the City of Melbourne is a really important part of how our city operates. We widely back it in through our Visit Victoria program and our Free Tram Zone is, at its heart, a way for tourists to get around the city."

## Metro Tunnel



# Piling is about to start at City Square

### Town Hall Station

The next phase of major construction on the Metro Tunnel Project is underway as piling works kick off at Town Hall Station's City Square site, located on Swanston St.

Michele Dix, managing director of London's Crossrail 2 and one of the UK's leading public transport infrastructure experts, visited City Square and shared her experience of working on some of the world's most complex public transport infrastructure projects.

Over the coming months, the public will be able to see the construction activity first-hand through the viewing windows on Swanston St at City Square and watch on as 148 piles are installed up to 35 metres below street level.

Piling will provide a support structure so the site can be safely excavated as we continue to build the new underground Town Hall Station, which will connect to Flinders Street Station.

Two 1000-tonne piling rigs and an 80-tonne crane were delivered to site during the night, requiring the temporary shutdown of Flinders Lane and Swanston St.

Once piling is completed early next year, a huge acoustic shed will be built over the site to minimise noise and dust impacts. There will be over 500 piles in total installed across all Town Hall Station sites at City Square, Flinders Quarter and Federation Square.

In Scott Alley off Flinders Lane, a new viewing window has been installed allowing people to peek into the worksite at Flinders Quarter where archaeology digs and construction are underway. The businesses in Scott Alley remain open for business.

### State Library Station

At the northern end of the CBD, service relocation work has started in Little LaTrobe St. These works will involve moving power and gas services until mid-September and may result in some changes to traffic conditions nearby. The community will be notified in advance of any changes.

Following these service relocations, building demolition works will start in Little LaTrobe St before archaeological investigations can be undertaken by the project's expert team of archaeologists, supported by university students and volunteers.

So far, the Metro Tunnel's big dig has uncovered more than 200,000 artefacts across the sites in the CBD, including at LaTrobe St where the public can watch the action unfold through viewing windows on Swanston St.

For more information about the Metro Tunnel Project, visit [metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au), connect on social media via our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages, or call 1800 105 105 (24 hours per day).

# Open for business

## Franklin Street

### Metro Tunnel works are ramping up

Local businesses remain open and accessible for customers and deliveries.

Some parking spaces will be removed but please continue to support these businesses as we build the Metro Tunnel, so more trains can run to and from the suburbs.

For more information visit [metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 105 105.



More trains,  
more often

## Vertical Living

# Sky gardens

Melbourne may have lost its liveability crown this year but might better green infrastructure help win this back?

"Liveability" has many factors, such as residents feeling safe and socially connected, having affordable housing with linked-up public transport, being able to access health, education and shopping services and, increasingly, being surrounded by robust green infrastructure.

According to the University of Melbourne, green infrastructure is a city's network of natural and designed vegetation elements (both public and private). It includes traditional green elements such as urban parks, gardens and trees, as well as newer items such as green roofs, green walls and rain garden technologies.

And the benefits of green infrastructure are believed to be manifold, including returns that are economic (e.g. improved amenities), environmental (e.g. reduced heat island effect) and social (e.g. strengthened community resilience).

However, we of the Vertical Villages know well the challenges of green spaces in high density precincts – and, usually, if dedicated areas were not incorporated into the original design, options to redress this are very limited.

This said, perhaps inspiration can be taken from our counterparts in other high-density cities who face similar challenges arising from their "density".

### Consider Singapore

These vertical dwellers, with the aid of their government, have leveraged the closeness of their buildings to improve their residents' sense of connectedness. One popular element used to achieve this is "sky gardens" – green spaces created at height which help residents manage their stresses.

These sky gardens can be open or enclosed and may be spread over several levels of a building (i.e. not only the roof). They are purposefully designed to incorporate the aesthetic qualities of a garden setting, so as to evoke responses of wellbeing.

These areas can also be used as social spaces to support the formation of communal groups which can meet, occasionally or regularly and at various times (morning tai chi, coffee breaks, afternoon gardening, etc).

Interestingly, sky gardens are not a new phenomenon and can be traced back to quite ancient times when civilisations similarly sought to integrate greenery into cities at height (though the heights these days are more lofty!). For instance, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, built by Nebuchadnezzar II for his wife Amyitis, comprised a series of planted terraces, supported on stone arches 23 metres above ground. Trees were embedded into tiered stones terraces, with permanently green foliage irrigated by a mechanical system from the Euphrates River.

Returning to current times, Australian academic, Dr Philip Oldfield (UNSW), believes there are two lessons we can learn from our Singaporean counterparts. The first is that we need to increase the number and size of sky gardens in Australian buildings and intentionally design them to support social interaction.

The second lesson concerns the way these spaces are managed as recent experience has revealed a tendency to be overly restrictive in how and when these spaces can be used.

"It's not just what you design – it's how you manage it," he said.

Dr Oldfield emphasised that residents must be consulted in order that they can stamp their own identity on these areas, as so doing fundamentally affects the success of the development.

And to accelerate greening across our high-density precincts, the City of Melbourne is launching its 2018 Urban Forest Fund. This round opens on August 27 and it offers matched funding (up to \$500,000) for new greening projects such as green spaces, tree planting, vertical greening or green roofs.

The eligibility and assessment criteria are now available on the City of Melbourne's web site [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbanforestfund](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbanforestfund)



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



### Franklin Street shops

1. Captain Melville
2. Europcar
3. No. 1 Delicious
4. Sarawak Kitchen



## Street Art

# Painting in Hosier Lane is not legal

So now it's official: corporate greed can and does sell out our beautiful city for a quick buck, and the government and police support them in every way they can.

The more-than-distasteful shop known as Culture Kings has done it again. They moved into Hosier Lane to use its credibility and kool to sell hats and haircuts to rich kids.

I have no real problem with this concept so far. But keep in mind Hosier has been an important part of the Melbourne fine art and urban art scene since Amac opened the awesome light boxes known as city lights in 1998.

It has gone through great years but has fallen in standard in the past few years, after the government made the laneway a decriminalised area. This meant that it's neither legal nor illegal. It fits into a weird grey area where the rules can be interpreted in numerous ways.

## Here is what the City of Melbourne stated:

"Hosier and Rutledge Lanes in particular are perceived as 'free access' or permissioned locations as a result of long term, largely illegal, activity happening over a significant period of time - in this case we are talking over 20 years. This is a result of the inherently counter cultural and guerrilla ethos that drives graffiti and street artists and the history of the city as it grew."

Yes that's right, Hosier Lane is perceived as having "free access" to paint in. This has been annoying for us older artists who liked the lane the way it used to be. And it has meant that the natural order of the urban art movement was corrupted by the government. But in the end it is kind of law that you can paint in Hosier Lane.

So the guys from Culture Kings have called the police to complain about someone painting on the back of their fancy shop. They claim that they pay artists to paint on their shop and that it should not be capped (gone over).

## So I will break it down for you:

- Culture Kings' shop on the corner of Queen and Flinders (the old Fletcher Jones) is bought out for gentrification. The shop was just keeping its doors open;
- Culture Kings closes;
- Signs 10 year lease with the Marriner kids;
- Creates a back entrance into Hosier;
- Pays artists to paint the back entrance; and
- Hires security to stop the homeless people from entering.
- Then this week the so called Culture Kings has called the police about artists painting at the back of its shop.

## The city of Melbourne supports this move in a statement:

"Council's role in Hosier and Rutledge Lanes is in managing the outcomes of this activity, both positive such as visitor interest, and negative including inappropriate content, paint fumes, and resident and business concerns."

"Street art/graffiti is only legal in the City of Melbourne municipality where the property owner has provided written permission and any planning permissions



required have been obtained."

So this is the key to the argument that Culture Kings has been making and it looks like, on some level, the law is on its side.

These punks have moved into Hosier Lane, a declared legal lane, and stomped on all the homeless and the artists and then tried to control the culture that they are exploiting.

To me it seems easy. We vote with our wallets.

If Culture Kings is trying to hurt the culture of Melbourne and the artists that make it great then we should try to hurt them back, with our buying power.

I encourage all artists to paint in Hosier and Rutledge as it is a part of Melbourne's cultural identity. I can no longer promise you won't get arrested. So please get this story out there to the suburbs and let the kids know.

To finish off I would like to reflect on a lane that was once the pride of Melbourne.

I often get sad about all the beautiful artists that have come through this most amazing lane. I have seen some of the best art by some of the best artists in the street art world.

So Culture Kings is where the Banksys used to be. And I remember when the council accidentally went over them and then someone made fake Banksys and replaced them and people were cool with it.

And we need to remember how this lane started. Nobody seems to care about the past only the present. But when Amac set up the citylights in Hosier and Centre Place it changed the way people interacted with the lane ways.

It was such an amazing time it seemed like everyone was working towards a single goal. Hosier is an amazing place with an amazing history.

We should be aware of our past and not sell our city to rich people that don't care about anything except their money and their greed. We need to stand up and say no to the exploiters of this beautiful city.

I hope it all makes sense please get the word out there.

You can contact me if you have any issues.

Instagram: doylesart

Check out my art @[www.doylesart.com](http://www.doylesart.com)

Have a great month

Respect and peace

Doyle



**Adrian Doyle**

Street Artist

Blender Studios founder and director

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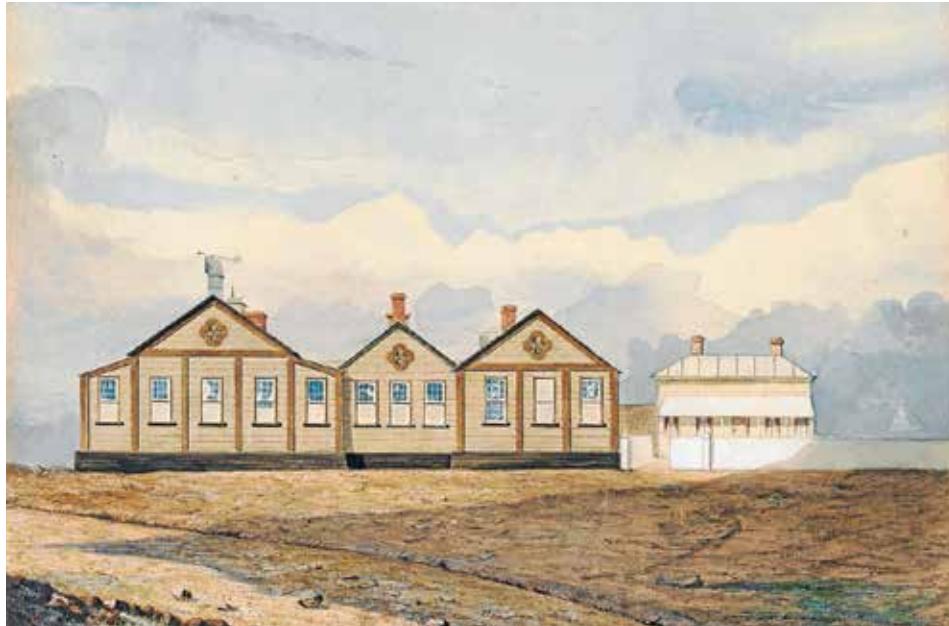
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## History



*Old Government Printing Office in William Street. Government Printer John Ferres lived in the adjacent cottage. Site now occupied by Supreme Court of Victoria. Image courtesy of State Library of Victoria.*

# Getting the message out

For society to function, a government needs a means of communicating its rules, regulations and processes with the governed.

Today it is Twitter but in the early days of European settlement around Port Phillip the only means available, apart from word of mouth, was the printed word. Thus even during the first short-lived settlement in Victoria in 1803 at Sullivans Bay near Sorrento a small printing press produced the first official documents in Victoria, a set of general orders and garrison orders.

With the appointment of Charles LaTrobe as superintendent of Port Phillip District in 1839, the need again arose for official printing.

Initially this was done by private contractors. However in 1850 LaTrobe established a small Government Printing Office. The first government printer, Edward Khull, a former printer to the University of Glasgow, was appointed in 1851, only to be dismissed 10 months later.

He was replaced by John Ferres, the manager of the Melbourne Morning Herald. Ferres had gained extensive printing experience in England and proved to be a successful appointment.

According to one writer Ferres did his job "... with a degree of success which certainly few other men could equal and none excel." He served in office for 33 years.

With a staff of about six, Ferres began work in an office in Lonsdale St West but that proved too small and so other buildings were used. Then in May, 1853, a ballroom originally built beside the government offices at the corner of Lonsdale and William streets for the celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday was modified for use by the government printer.

Ferres and his staff moved in and work began on printing government documents, among which were a large number of miner's licences to cope with the demands of the gold rush. This site is now occupied by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Melbourne's environment made life difficult for Ferres. Summer heat softened the material of the printing rollers and they

had to be cooled in a well dug in the centre of the print room floor.

To quote Ferres "... it is only by being able to replace a soft roller with a fresh one from the well that the pressmen succeed in proceeding steadily and continuously with their work."

The dust which often enveloped Melbourne was also "... a great impediment in the way of fine printing ..." as it caused much extra wear of the type fount and wooden printing blocks.

The converted ballroom was home for the Government Printing Office until 1858. Government had by then gravitated to the eastern end of the city and a new Government Printing Office was built on what is now the Treasury Reserve.

This building was designed by the remarkable John James Clark. The 14-year-old Clark migrated from England to Melbourne with his family in 1852. Clark had no formal qualifications but gained employment as a draughtsman in the Colonial Architect's Office largely on the strength of a detailed and finely executed map of his home city of Liverpool, prepared as a school project. (That map is now one of the treasures in the Collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.)

The design of the new Government Printing Office was one of his first jobs and he went on to design many government buildings in Victoria and elsewhere.

Production began in the new building on May 31, 1858. Ferres now had a staff of over 100 and business was expanding rapidly. The Government Printer produced about six million documents in 1859. By 1874 that figure had risen to over nineteen million.

The new building was extended several times. It was quite badly damaged by fire in 1882 but continued to serve until 1961 when the Government Printer left the CBD and moved to new premises in North Melbourne.

The original ballroom has long disappeared but Clark's building remains, hidden among other government buildings in St Andrews Place.



**David Thompson**

David is researcher at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

## Music

# Akin to Kentucky Diva racing away and streeting the field

The sun is over the yardarm at The Scots Church, Collins and Russell streets. Inside there's a piano quartet ready to play. The Emerald Hill Quartet (EHQ), the smoothest of smooth.

On the menu, it's Brahms Piano Concerto No 1, G Minor Opus 25. Hamburg musician Johannes Brahms saw the world premiere in 1861 of Opus 25, just days after Archer had won the first ever Melbourne Cup. Ferdinand Mueller was the director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

The EHQ are Liam Osborne (violin), Alexander MacDonald (viola), Jeremy Garside (cello) and Sine Winther (piano).

They have devoted considerable time researching the historical approach and context of Brahms's music. Opus 25 has a droning feel in the first movement, in 4/4 time, Allegro (G minor). Of the five themes, the fifth is most exciting (*multo animato*).

The EHQ were spirited and precocious. The third movement, *Andante con Moto* has loads of themes and ideas in slow time. The EHQ sounded phenomenal - finding depth and distinct intimations of warmth. Folky, catchy rhythms, with an undercurrent of Gypsy good humour. Counterbalanced of course by a true Germanic sense of humanity.

The much-anticipated and heralded brisk crescendo to conclude the fourth movement, IV *Rondo alla Zingarese: Presto* (G minor) arrived in a brilliant, exhilarating style akin to Kentucky Diva racing away and streeting the field in scintillating fashion in race six at Sandown on the first Sunday in August. Bravo EHQ.

On 3RRR *Breakfasters* program, chiming in with a great song called *Native Tongue* was Wiradjuri musician Mojo Juju. Jupiter's moons are aligned perhaps for Mojo as she tours Australia promoting her third album *Native Tongue* (ABC Music/Universal) and is garnering great reviews.

People are touched by the music of Mojo Juju, and *Native Tongue* chronicles her family's stories and relationships.

Soulful and strident with a beautiful choral background reminiscent of Lauryn Hill, Mojo Juju's music is an amalgam of the past, present and future of Wiradjuri culture.

Mojo feels lucky to be able to tell her story, her Radio National interview is worth checking out.

She just concluded a sold-out season at the Fairfax Studio at The Victorian Arts Centre performing songs from *Native Tongue*. Transient creature Mojo Juju, she is happening and doing great with plenty of time in forever. She does a chilling version of The Beasts' *Psycho* - sweet return to Znitzi. Get to know Mojo.

Great historical guitars are on display in a new exhibition showcasing Maton Guitars at the Australian Music Vault (AMV) at The Arts Centre.

Maton, a Melbourne guitar manufacturer producing high-quality, hand-crafted guitars, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2016.

Dragon's *April Sun In Cuba* was written on a Maton. As was The Easybeats' *Friday On My Mind*.

Tommy Emmanuel's 1963 Maton

Mastersound MS 500 is one of the many highlights. The AMV is worth repeated visits. There is so much music, stories, history and memorabilia to enjoy.

Well-credentialled Berta Brozgul concluded her piano recital at the Australian National Academy Music (ANAM) HQ with French composer Olivier Messiaen's *Regard de l'Eglise d'amour from Vingt regards sur l'enfant Jesus* (1944).

Having gone through the grades at Salzburg specialising in Mozart, Berta produced a winning performance. Berta attacked the first section with gusto. The ferocity, passion and velocity reminded me of The Mark Of Cain at their peak. From another world. Magnifique!

Messiaen thought that the birds were the greatest musicians to inhabit our planet.

As the music progressed, sudden grand spaces appeared, interspersed with superb descending augmented chord changes. Berta's timing was impeccable. A thrilling performance.

One great band in Melbourne are Heinous Hounds. They slayed the crowd at the Cherry Bar on Sunday, August 12. On this occasion, the saxophonist Sid Preece (Cat Empire) was welcomed on stage and his playing fitted hand-in-glove with the Hounds' sound. Preece is very lockjaw and rough-hewn. His tone is sometimes like Clarence Clemons of the E Street Band.

They played a great version of the Dylan song *Everybody Wants to get Stoned*. Closer was a killer version of *I Put A Spell On You*. Worth considering.

Under blue lighting gels at ANAM HQ was The Turner Trio (TT). They commenced their recital wearing masquerade masks looking like Zorro.

TT, consisting of Eliza Shepherd (flute), Liam Meany (cello) and Alexandra Waite (piano/harpsichord), utilised inventive instrumentation techniques with the cello tuned scordatura, the piano strings played with paper clips, a chisel and glass rods. John Cage would have approved.

## Gigs/Shows

- Chris Wilson Benefit, Corner Hotel, August 24
- Sunday Arvos in September, Cherry Bar Blues Sessions, AC/DC Lane, CBD
- The Good, The Dub, The Global, Systa BB, Tuesday, 2pm, 3RRR
- Courtney Barnett, Festival Hall, September 1
- All Our Stories, Jess and Leah, Mondays, 1pm, 3PBS
- Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Forum Theatre, September 12
- Olivia Newton John, Her Majesty's Theatre, September 14



**Chris Mineral**

email:  
mineralsands@hotmail.com

## Planning

# A look at three CBD projects

In an otherwise-slow news month on the planning front, we take a look at three projects at various stages of their development cycles.

That's not to say Melbourne has ground to a halt, far from it, with the CBD's northern and western ends a flurry with construction activity.

First up, developer Aust Global Investment (AGI) is developing a new 14-storey hotel within Bennetts Lane designed by Plus Architecture in collaboration with Breathe Architecture.

The boutique hotel will feature 44 compact rooms, inspired by the former Bennetts Lane Jazz Club, which closed this year to make way for an apartment development.

Plus Architecture's design for the hotel's exterior seeks to activate Bennetts Lane via a reception and café area located on the ground floor spilling out onto the laneway.

Construction on the hotel is expected to start in early 2019 and be open for business in mid-2020.

Elsewhere, Beulah International has appointed Multiplex to build its a \$200 million apartment tower, set to rise behind the shell of the former Celtic Club on Queen St.

Designed by architects Fender Katsalidis, Paragon will accommodate 227 apartments across its 48 levels and will feature a diagrid pattern across its golden glazed façade.



*Artist's impressions of 17 Spring Street and the Bennetts Lane hotel.*

The development will also include a three-storey elevated indoor urban forest designed

by Paul Bangay which Beulah lauds as an Australian first.

Last but not least, Cbus Property is proceeding with plans for a high-end residential development at 13-23 Spring St.

The Bates Smart-designed tower – set to be marketed as 17 Spring Street – represents the pair's second Spring St undertaking, drawing design cues from their earlier apartment project at 35 Spring St.

Cbus Property purchased the site, which currently accommodates the Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens, last year for approximately \$70 million.

The 33-storey tower reportedly includes six one, 24 two and 48 three-bedroom apartments, targeting the higher end of the market, with apartment sizes ranging between 133sqm and 207sqm.

The development was submitted for town planning during April and has received support from the City of Melbourne via its Future Melbourne (Planning) Committee.

Final approval rests with Planning Minister Richard Wynne.



**Laurence Dragomir**

Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD [urbanmelbourne.info](http://urbanmelbourne.info)

## Pet's Corner



## Puppy Love

**By Niccola Anthony**

Dexter, a two-year-old, long-haired Chihuahua, has stolen the heart of his older (human) sister Victoria.

Victoria, who studies marketing at RMIT and lives in the city away from her family, eagerly awaits every visit from her mum as she knows she'll also have a chance to cuddle her precious Dexter.

While it was her mum's decision to get a dog, Victoria has fallen so in love with her younger canine brother that she dreads when the time comes to say goodbye.

"During the week, I miss him a lot because

I'm so attached to him. I just get really happy when he's around and I don't want mum to take him home," she said.

Victoria hasn't always been a dog lover, admitting that she was scared of dogs throughout her childhood years.

However, once she saw how cute Dexter was, it was impossible to resist his charm and she soon found herself utterly infatuated.

Dexter has also made family visits a fun ritual for Victoria, who now can't wait to travel to her family home when her schedule allows.

"I feel like I can have a lot more fun with my family. Before, we'd usually have a meal and just chat. Whereas now when I go and visit I'll spend the whole time playing with Dexter!"

*Top Class*  
of Collins Street

 A large, close-up photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes, nose, and mouth. She has dark hair and is wearing bright red lipstick. She is also wearing a multi-strand pearl necklace. The background is dark and out of focus.
 

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# 夜市又创纪录

维多利亚女王市场(QVM)的冬季夜市连续表现出色，今年冬季参与人数又创新高。

本季节的最后一个冬季夜市还有一周时间——它将于8月29日星期三举行——但是平均出席人数早已打破了之前的所有记录。

根据QVM首席执行官斯坦·利亚科斯(Stan Liacos)提供的数据，平均有33000人参加了2018年冬季夜市，高于去年的平均28098人。自2013年第一个冬季夜市以来，该数字每年都在上升，当时平均参加人数为9652人。

同样在今年，冬季夜市还超过了上一次夏季夜市，上次夏季夜市的平均出席为28842人，低于2014 / 15年度的40520人。

利亚科斯先生说：“今年以来，我们已经办了11个冬季夜市，我们还有两次要办。”



以这样的参与率，我们每晚可能会有大约30000 – 32000名顾客。根据这个参与率，我们的冬季夜市将超过夏季夜市的平均水平！谁会想到呢！”

尽管冬季夜市的表现优于夏季夜市，但由于寒冷的天气，经营者的数量还是相对减少了。

利亚科斯先生说：“在冬季夜市，我们通常大约有120个经营者，35个以食品为主。在夏季夜市，我们通常大约是170个经营者，其中大约60个是经营食品为主。”

“通常情况下，对于这两个夜市，约有40%的夜市经营商也是QVM的白日经营商。”

利亚科斯先生说，一个新的春季夜市即将宣布运行。他说：“我们不说是春季夜市，但它将更加突出亚洲主题，并将持续运行八个星期三晚上。我们很快就会宣布这一消息。”

“我们的目标是在两年内，达到一年中的每个星期三都有一个‘星期三夜市’。鉴于我们所取得的成功经验，我们认为我们能够做到。”

“这对于女王市场来说是一件好事，但更为重要的是对于墨尔本这座城市、当地市民以及游客来说更是一件好事！”

“我们为冬季夜市能继续成为城市活动日程表中的最爱而感到自豪，我们期待着在8月29日以时尚的方式结束这个冬季。”

## 没有现金？刷卡支付！

撰稿 David Schout

当你听到一个街头艺人在CBD街上出色表演，你把手伸进口袋想给小费，但意识到口袋里什么零钱都没有？

澳大利亚第一个街头刷卡支付系统(tap-and-go Quest Payment System)将率先在墨尔本CBD街上启动，目前这个系统只是先在20名当地街头表演者中试点。

过路人现在有机会可以用银行卡来“刷卡支付”两澳元或五澳元的小费给街头艺人，如果愿意的话，还可以刷付出更多的钱。

这也让旁观者有机会通过刷银行卡即可购买街头艺术家的商品。

这项技术将在下个月进行试点，然后在全国范围内发布推广。

土著乐器迪吉里杜管(didgeridoo)的天才表演者丹·理查森(Dan Richardson)是少数几个尝试新支付系统的人之一，自然希望这将有利于他的收入。

他告诉本报：“当新事物来临的时候，你永远都不知道会发生什么。”

“这些年来，我已经多次听到人们说他们想付钱，但是没有现金啊。”

理查森先生说，这甚至可以改变愿意给钱的旁观者数量。

“这只是人们给予50分和20分硬币的事，但如果是刷银行卡的话，可能会给出五块钱。你也可能看到扔零钱人数会减少，但他们一旦刷卡支付的话，可能会付得更多呢。”

## 女王市场改造 市政决策转变

撰稿 Shane Scanlan

墨尔本市政放弃了维多利亚女王市场(QVM)的改造计划，并将该市场的改建矛盾推回到“民众”身上。

在8月7日的墨尔本未来委员会(FMC)上，市政议员以七票赞成四票反对，成立了一个由40名成员组成的“民众小组”，重新审查以确保QVM未来发展的需要。仅仅几周时间，市政就作出了如此的突变，原因是受到了新上任市长莎莉·卡普(Sally Capp)的影响。

在卡普议员加入市政之前，议员们于5月15日，投票决定重新向维多利亚遗产管理局(HV)提交在女王市场西端的A、B、C和D棚屋下建造三层地下室的计划。

当时唯一的异议来自苏珊·莱利(Susan Riley)议员和刘乐(Philip Le Liu)议员，他们都希望采取更强硬的行动——针对被维多利亚遗产管理局拒绝的遗产许可申请进行上诉。

卡普议员介入之后，她花了很多时间与市场经营商和其他利益相关者一起，并在8月7日主持了改变战略方向的行动。

一周前，卡普议员成功地将QVM董事会边缘化，取而代之的是以一个具有广泛代表性的“受托人委员会”，包括经营商、购物者和社区代表。

尽管卡普议员获得了对新管理安排的一致支持，副市长埃伦·伍德(Arron Wood)对这个有待完善的草案安排有所担心。

伍德议员特别警告不要接纳反对市政长期计划的人，以免委员会从内部受到瓦解。

伍德议员担心，市政的目标是将现有停车场重新用作市民开放空间以适应不断发展的城市北部建设，这很可能会在狭隘的市场运作中失去。

他说：“所有的问题都需要得到回答，这样我们就不会产生意想不到的后果，也不会出现另一种不是我们希望的管理构架。”

一周后，当这个有40人参与的“民众小组”提案提交到FMC时，他并没有那么保守，而是发表了反对意见。

他说：“这一新的运作过程是否能采纳这些不同的观点，并且能够做到我们五年多来未做到的事情，这都是我所担心的，”他说。“归根结底，我们的当选议员是为了什么？”

投票赞成这项动议的议员有：卡普、弗朗西斯·吉利(Frances Gilley)、刘乐、雷珀特(Leppert)、欧克(Oke)、李斯(Reece)和沃兹(Watts)。投票反对的议员有：伍德、路易(Louey)、皮德尔(Pinder)和莱利。

## 墨尔本日庆祝 遭到激烈批评

撰稿 Shane Scanlan

近年来给澳大利亚国庆日贴上“入侵日”的标签备受争议，已经影响到了庆祝以墨尔本CBD为中心的墨尔本日。

经过几十年的努力，墨尔本日的庆祝活动将于今年8月30日正式举行，而且没有来自墨尔本市政的任何资助。

墨尔本日组织机构主席坎贝尔·沃克(Campbell Walker)告诉本报，今年市政提供的专门款项只是前几年的一半。他说，这个款项所附带的新条件使他无法接受。

沃克先生说，根据这个新条件，如果天气恶劣没有很多人在上午10点30分来参加Enterprise公园举行的升旗仪式，那么还得退还50%的款项给市政。

沃克先生说：“接受这样的款项在财政上是不负责任的。”

市政议员内部对庆祝墨尔本日的支持度正在减弱，至少有两名议员公开声明他们不会参加庆祝活动。

土著事务主管弗朗西丝·吉利(Frances Gilley)和罗汉·莱珀特(Rohan Lepert)议员表示，他们不会认可当地土著文化开始遭到破坏的那一天作为庆祝日。

弗朗西丝·吉利议员说他不参加澳大利亚国庆日，他同样认为在白人定居者第一次到达雅拉河畔的周年纪念日庆祝墨尔本日是不恰当的。

他说“我认为我们应该停止这个活动，应该改变这个活动。我们完全可以举办更好的活动。”

罗汉·莱珀特议员对此表示赞同，他说：“我爱这座城市，有很多有关墨尔本人及其成就都值得庆祝，但我从未觉得庆祝墨尔本日有如此至关重要。”

莱珀特议员说：“虽然我是白人，关于墨尔本未来的问题应该先让传统的原著民来讨论。在我们对墨尔本日及其未来的文化意义还未完全理解之前，我不愿意将纳税人的钱投入到白人定居的浪漫之中”。

但是沃克先生指出，当地土著社区支持墨尔本日的庆祝活动。

他说：“他们说他们宁愿谈论现在和未来而不是过去”。

8月30日将举行升旗仪式，由土著民举行“欢迎来到国家”活动，并将在市长萨利·卡普和其他市政议员面前宣布一位“少年市长”。

# WHAT'S ON

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

<b>AUGUST 30</b> <b>MELBOURNE DAY</b> Celebrating Melbourne's founding day, including a flag raising ceremony, free entry to the Immigration Museum, free river cruising, and free Melbourne Star rides. <a href="http://www.melbourneday.com.au">www.melbourneday.com.au</a>	<b>6PM-8PM TUESDAY &amp; WEDNESDAY UNTIL DECEMBER 12, CITY LIBRARY</b> <b>WRITING FOR BEGINNERS</b> Find new friends and your writing voice at the free workshop designed to give writers a space to network, receive feedback and learn in a supportive environment. <b>FREE 9658 9500</b>	<b>INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB</b> 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. <a href="http://www.life.org.au/imlac">www.life.org.au/imlac</a> or call Dianne 0425 140 981	<b>7.20AM FOR A 7.40AM START, TUESDAYS</b> <b>ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE</b> Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne. <a href="http://rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au">rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au</a>
<b>10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY &amp; FRIDAY</b> <b>10AM-3PM SUNDAY,</b> <b>326 LONSDALE STREET</b> <b>MEET UP WITH FRIENDS</b> Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for <b>\$3.00</b> Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the church yard). <b>9663 2495</b>	<b>MONDAYS 8.30PM,</b> <b>41 BOURKE STREET</b> <b>COMEDY AT SPLEEN</b> Mixing some of the big names in comedy with the best up and coming acts, this will be sure to make you forget the Monday blues. Gold coin donation. <b>0439 660 836</b>	<b>4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.</b> <b>LUNCHTIME, ST PETER'S EAST MELBOURNE</b> <b>AUSTRAL SALON OF MUSIC</b> Listen to music from talented young musicians. Make new friends. <a href="http://www.australsalon.org">www.australsalon.org</a> <b>0449 727 910</b>	<b>UNTIL AUGUST 31, CHAPTER HOUSE LANE VIA FLINDERS LANE</b> <b>KILLING TIME</b> An exhibition exploring the role of laneways in Melbourne cultural life and the act of smoking. <a href="http://chapterhouselane.org.au">chapterhouselane.org.au</a>
<b>6:30PM EVERY MONDAY, ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, 326 LONSDALE STREET</b> <b>JOIN OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY</b> Students with no family in Melbourne, are welcome to pray for each other. It is a unique gathering of learning to walk in faith and hope. After prayer we share concerns and network. <b>FREE 9663 2495</b>	 <p><b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARKET</b> <a href="http://thenightmarket.com.au">thenightmarket.com.au</a></p> <p>The image shows a night market scene at Queen Victoria Market. People are walking through a covered area filled with various stalls and food counters. The atmosphere is lively and social.</p>		
<b>EVERY THURSDAY FROM 1PM,</b> <b>ST MICHAEL'S, 120 COLLINS ST</b> <b>ST MICHAEL'S RECITAL</b> Experience spectacular music as the St Michael's grand organ comes to life for a free 30-minute recital every Thursday. No booking required. <b>9654 5120</b>	<b>4-6PM, EVERY SUNDAY, CAMPARI HOUSE, 23-25 HARDWARE LANE</b> <b>TRIVIA ON THE ROOF</b> A retractable roof and drink specials will help warm up your brain for Sunday trivia. Bookings not required. <b>9600 1574</b> or <a href="mailto:info@camparihouse.com.au">info@camparihouse.com.au</a>	<b>10AM-4PM, SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER</b> <b>THE ATRIUM, FEDERATION SQUARE</b> <b>MELBOURNE COLLECTIVE MARKET</b> Spring Collection, Over 70 stalls, food, Prosecco Bar, cool tunes. <b>FREE Entry.</b>	<b>1PM, EVERY THURSDAY &amp; FRIDAY,</b> <b>LEVEL 1, YARRA BUILDING,</b> <b>FEDERATION SQUARE</b> <b>BIRRARUNG WILAM RIVER WALK</b> Learn about how the land under Melbourne has changed over time and its significance to the local Kulin people. <b>\$33, book on</b> <a href="http://fedsquare.com/shopvisit/birrarung-wilam-walk">fedsquare.com/shopvisit/birrarung-wilam-walk</a>
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY, FROM 6PM.</b> <b>MELBOURNE CENTRAL LION HOTEL</b> <b>LANGUAGE SWAP</b> Speak another language but no one to practise with? Come along to the free language exchange and meet like-minded people who love language. <b>Book on</b> <a href="http://www.NewToMelbourne.org">www.NewToMelbourne.org</a>	<b>10AM, EVERY 3RD TUESDAY,</b> <b>POMODORO SARDO REATAURANT,</b> <b>111 LONSDALE ST</b> <b>EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB</b> Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed. <a href="mailto:eastendersinc@gmail.com">eastendersinc@gmail.com</a>	<b>10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATURDAY,</b> <b>CITY LIBRARY</b> <b>ONCE UPON A TUNE</b> An interactive musical adventure that features live music by Beethoven, Brahms and Brumby. Suitable for children aged from 5-12 years. <b>FREE.</b>	<b>10.30AM – 11PM TUESDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER 11,</b> <b>253 FLINDERS LANE</b> <b>STOMPERS AT CITY LIBRARY</b> For toddlers aged 18 months – 3 years, this event is sure to be a fun favourite. Songs, stories and rhymes will help develop of love of reading. <b>FREE. 9658 9500</b>
<b>10AM–5PM, UNTIL OCTOBER 7, IMMIGRATION MUSEUM, 400 FLINDERS ST</b> <b>MAO'S LAST DANCER</b> An exploration into ballet icon Li Cunxin's story from a childhood to his current life as Artistic Director of Queensland Ballet. <b>\$0 - \$15, museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ ACMI, FEDERATION SQUARE</b> <b>ACMI FAMILY SUNDAYS</b> On the first Sunday of every month, ACMI will be hosting a day of free family and kid-friendly events and interactive activities for Family Sundays. <b>FREE 10am - 4pm</b>	<b>7.30PM WEDNESDAYS,</b> <b>16 CORRS LANE</b> <b>CRAB LAB</b> Comedy in the city at the House of Maxion with well-known performers from radio and TV plus some new talent. <b>FREE.</b> <b>0422 686 933</b>	<b>1-2.30PM, EVERY WEDNESDAY,</b> <b>CITY LIBRARY</b> <b>ESL READING GROUP</b> Fun weekly reading program, read along with others and practice pronunciation, improve English comprehension and vocabulary and meet new people. Native and ESL speakers are welcome. <b>FREE.</b>

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**Chabad of Melbourne**  
Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St  
Ph: 9525-9929  
Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.

**City on a Hill**  
Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm.  
Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central

**Victorian Friends Centre**  
484 William Street, West Melbourne  
Quaker Meetings for Worship: Sunday 10.30am

**Collins Street Baptist Church**  
174 Collins St  
Ph: 9650 1180  
Sundays services: 10.30am

**CrossCulture Church of Christ**  
333 Swanston St, Melbourne (Corner of Swanston & Little Lonsdale St)  
Ph: 9623 9199  
Sunday services (English) - 9am, 11:15am & 6pm  
Sunday service (Mandarin) - 10:45am  
[www.crossculture.net.au](http://www.crossculture.net.au)

**Hillsong City Youth**  
Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm

**Holy Cross Orthodox Mission**  
261/265 Spring St  
[www.australianorthodox.org](http://www.australianorthodox.org)

**Scots' Church**  
156, Collins St  
Ph: 9650 9903  
Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)

**St Francis' Church**  
326 Lonsdale St | 9663 2495  
Sunday: 7am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am (St Francis' Choir) and 12.30, 1.30, 4.30, 6.00 pm  
Filipino Community Mass: Second Sunday of the month at 2.30pm  
Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm

**St Paul's Cathedral**  
Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets  
Ph: 9653 4333  
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**St. Augustine's Catholic Church**  
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**Wesley Church**  
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# Meet a Young Thinker in Residence

By Meg Hill

**The links between LGBTI identity and homelessness have only recently started to become a topic of discussion in society. The correlation has always been pretty clear to the LGBTI community.**

When one recognises that for young people in general, a leading factor in homelessness is being kicked out of home, it is pretty obvious how this would disproportionately affect those who are LGBTI.

This is just one of a number of factors which lead to their higher representation.

Research and statistics are still severely lacking. A 2014 report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics highlighted that 34 per cent of people identifying as gay or lesbian had experienced homelessness, compared to 13 per cent of heterosexual people.

The report placed those who identified with a sexuality other than gay/lesbian and heterosexual into one group – “other”. Further, there was no statistics on the transgender population. And that’s about it when it comes to available national data.

All this makes Moumen Omar’s story all



Moumen Omar has just been announced as the Youth Affairs Council Victoria's Young Thinker in Residence.

the more important. Mouman has just been announced as the Youth Affairs Council Victoria's (YACVIC) Young Thinker in Residence in partnership with the Melbourne City Mission (MCM).

Their topic of research is youth homelessness and its relationship to QTPOC (queer, transgender, people of colour) young people. The topic is close to home. Mouman, a young, queer, person of colour, has lived experience of homelessness.

“I identify as queer, bisexual, non-binary or trans and I’m black,” Mouman said.

The 24-year-old has been in Melbourne for

a year, having moved here from Perth in desperation.

“When I came to Melbourne I did it to get out of a difficult situation I was in. I was in a tricky place with a lot of toxic people, in a toxic environment,” Mouman said.

“I was doing things that were dangerous to myself. I was not happy at all and my headspace was messed up.”

Mouman came to Melbourne with an Airbnb booked for a few days.

“The next thing I knew I was homeless. I was also homeless before I came to Melbourne. I was couch-surfing for the last month or so

and I didn’t think I was homeless.”

Mouman says one of the biggest challenges that they had to navigate was asking for help. While moving to Melbourne and not knowing anyone was, in a way, a “blessing in disguise” in the form of a clean slate. The particulars of Mouman’s identity were still extremely hard to explain to other people.

“I didn’t have to pretend I was okay, because they don’t know who I was. But I had to then educate them – it’s because I’m black, or I’m queer, or I’m non-binary.”

“My blackness is something I can’t hide, so that’s always something that some people will react to in certain ways.”

“My queerness is something that I can hide, but sometimes I don’t. Especially if I’m asking for help, that person needs me to be vulnerable, so I’d be open but they sometimes wouldn’t understand what it means to be queer.”

This is what Mouman wants to start tackling in this residency – working directly with young people, while guiding the organisations in the right direction.

“I want to look into the organisations and see how they’re operating, how they are supporting these people, what’s working, what’s not working, just collecting that data.”

“And then presenting it to young people too – this service works in this way, this one doesn’t,” Mouman said.

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