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CBD NEWS



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Happy New Year!

With the Chinese New Year of the Pig about to get underway, Melbourne will be awash with celebrations in February.

Chinese New Year United Pty Ltd (CNY United) has organised CBD events, as well as activities in surrounding suburbs.

In this photo CNY United chair Thomas Ling and performance co-ordinator Junxi Su are joined by four children in traditional dress.

This reflects the theme of this year's festival – culture, colour and family for Year of the Pig.

See Jessica Carrascalao Heard's full report on page 4 of this edition.

CBD is too dangerous for cyclists: Feedback

By David Schout

Record feedback from Melburnians has suggested that the CBD is indeed overcrowded and dangerous for cyclists.

The City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy Refresh received 1325 submissions about the city's main transport issues and what it

can do to improve it – the most feedback the council has ever received on an issue.

"Overcrowded" was the term most-used to describe how people experience walking, public transport and space in the city.

Almost seven in 10 comments (68 per cent) said the Hoddle Grid – where roads make up over half of total space – is struggling to cope with population growth.

A quarter of contributors suggested the congestion contributes to increasingly

irritated drivers, who may then undertake risky behaviour.

The feedback was part of eight discussion papers released by the council between April and July last year, with results released in December.

Each paper focused on a different aspect of how we move around the city, and included walking, public transport, motor vehicles, cycling and parking.

The cycling discussion paper, titled *Bicycles*

for Everyday Transport, proved by far the most accessed, with 366 respondents.

The most common experience was of "unsafe and intimidating" conditions.

Melbourne Bicycle Users Group spokesman Nik Dow said the comments reflected a desire to see appropriate cycling infrastructure installed in the CBD.

However, he said that at a policy level, there was still a long way to go.

Continued on page 2.

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CBD is too dangerous for cyclists: Feedback

Continued from page 1.

"Talk is cheap and we have seen strategies in the past that didn't deliver. We hope that this is going to change under the current council," Mr Dow said.

Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley, the council's transport portfolio chair, said the record engagement and feedback had struck a chord.

"People are absolutely saying 'give us the space to walk, to cross the road, to be safe, to enjoy the trees and the architecture,'" he said.

"They want a city they can get around and enjoy and drink coffee on the sidewalk. We heard it loud and clear."

Cr Rohan Leppert said the feedback was naturally CBD-centric.

"It's the area we need to place our highest focus on because that's where the biggest pressures for space are," the Greens councillor said.

"Overcrowding is by far the issue that's come through the consultation. All of the different areas in the discussion papers all come back to the underlying issue of overcrowding and how we make the most of the spaces that we have in the city."

Cr Jackie Watts was the most outspoken in


Feedback to the City of Melbourne warns that the CBD is not safe for cyclists.

her comments on the findings, and included a parting shot at upper levels of government.

"If we are to reap the benefits of our international reputation for liveability, we really have to concentrate on transport and haven't the people wanted to tell us all they

know? If only the state government would listen as closely."

The feedback from the 1325 submissions will inform a draft 30-year transport strategy due in the coming months, with a final strategy due mid-year.

Eight tips for New Australians wanting to purchase property

If you are new to Australia and looking to establish a comfortable life here in Melbourne. You may be thinking about buying property, either as an investment or a home for your family. So there are a few things you need to do in preparation for your first property purchase.

1. Find steady employment. When you eventually want to apply for a loan, the first thing the bank or lender will investigate is your employment history. They want to see that you have a secure job with regular pay.

2. Start saving. It's never too soon to start building up your savings towards your property. Set a firm, yet realistic budget and create a steady savings routine.

3. Apply to Foreign Investment Review Board. Your visa and citizenship status may affect whether you are eligible to purchase property in Australia. Contact the FIRB to learn whether you have permission to purchase real estate.

4. Research all your expenses. There are numerous one-off costs involved in buying a property, such as conveyancing fees, stamp duty and inspection fees. Calculate all these fees into your budget, so you are prepared when you are finally ready to buy.

5. Reduce your debt. Your best option is to reduce all your debts as much as possible and concentrate on building your savings. When you are shopping for a loan, declare your debt, including any foreign debt, so you secure a suitable loan with timely approval.

6. Secure pre-approval. Pre-approval is when a bank or other lender says they are willing to approve you for a loan at a later date. This is useful if you want to show sellers that you are serious about buying their property and that you can secure payment. It also gives you a clear idea of exactly how much you can spend on a property and how much you can borrow.

7. Find a good mortgage broker. A good mortgage broker acts as an intermediary between you and the lenders, helping you fill in paperwork and secure the best deal for your circumstances.

8. Find your dream property. Finally, you reach the fun part – now you can start searching for your new home. List important attributes of your dream home – number of bedrooms, house or unit, proximity to public transport or schools – so you can recognize it when you see it.

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Wynne may soften high-rise rules

By David Schout

Planning minister Richard Wynne has flagged an easing of rules that have successfully reduced approvals on new inner-city skyscrapers.

The planning restrictions, known as C270, were introduced by the state government in November 2016 after a spike in high-rise approvals under the Liberals.

Then planning minister Matthew Guy earned the unfavourable nickname "Mr Skyscraper" on the back of excessive height allowances for developers, and C270's implementation has seen a definitive drop in approvals.

But recent comments from Mr Wynne have hinted the tight planning controls may be scaled back, primarily to address a drop in commercial office space vacancies that the Property Council has called a "serious cause for concern".

In a recent interview with *Domain*, Mr Wynne conceded that the government needed to consider whether C270 needed "tweaking".

Just two new CBD commercial office buildings have been approved in over two years under the amendment, which requires developers to meet stricter density,



separation and public provision conditions before gaining planning approval.

A November report commissioned by the Property Council of Australia raised the alarm on low commercial office vacancies.

The Urbis report concluded that by 2036, the CBD would need a 50 per cent increase in floorspace of 9.1 million sqm – including an additional 4.4 million sqm of office floorspace – to accommodate future workforce projections.

"This report is a warning to policymakers that an immediate review of C270 planning controls is needed, with the impacts of this policy plain to see and cause for serious concern," Property Council Victorian

executive director Cressida Wall said at the time.

And it appears the report has had the desired impact, with Mr Wynne now willing to assess the industry body's concerns.

"We'll work with peak bodies to refine the regulations and ensure we continue to support a strong supply of commercial office space," a government spokesperson confirmed to *CBD News*.

"Unlike the Liberals, who wanted to dump these controls and let developers cash in with unlimited skyscrapers, we'll keep these important restrictions in place."

The Property Council naturally welcomed the news.

"(We have) advocated strongly for the need to change C270 and we've provided substantive research that paints a compelling need for change," Ms Wall said.

"Changes to C270 are urgent - with buildings in the CBD taking between five and seven years to complete ... we are approaching a significant cliff where CBD development drops off, unless the government acts swiftly to address the issues."

But, is the property council being alarmist?

In what might prove a sign of things to come, Cbus Property submitted an application prior to Christmas for a 55-level office tower at 435 Bourke St – a site originally slated as a residential high-rise.

Additionally, a development at 57 Haig St in Southbank (within C270 boundaries) that already has an approval for a 37-storey residential tower, has resubmitted a brand new application for the site seeking a 30-storey commercial office tower instead.

And a host of large-scale commercial office developments are expected to be submitted for approval in 2019, including sites at 55 King St, 555 Collins St, 60 Collins St and 383 LaTrobe St.

President of Residents 3000 Rafael Camillo said he hoped all high-rise applications were treated with the utmost respect for the benefit of locals.

"The inner-city needs to be shaped with a clear vision and we cannot allow projects to be rubber-stamped in isolation from their surrounds," he said.

"The residents, visitors and workers of our CBD deserve a more balanced, sustainable and liveable city. Minor changes may occur in the amendment, but nothing [should change] that could compromise any of the provisions developed to provide adequate separation between tall buildings, ensure that public space and important landmarks are protected from wind and overshadowing, and establish a value capture system to deliver public benefits such as public open space, laneways and community space."

It is believed the Planning Minister will begin reassessing certain aspects of C270 as early as February.

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Culture, colour and family for CNY

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Family and culture will be the focus of celebrations at the 2019 Chinese New Year Melbourne Festival to bring in the Year of the Pig in February.

The festival, running from February 2 to 17, is set to see performances by local and international Chinese artists, and cooking demonstrations by 2017 *MasterChef Australia* winner Diana Chen.

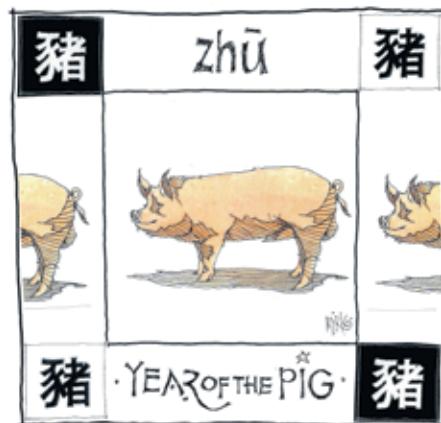
Chinese New Year United chair Thomas Ling said this year's festival would be "our biggest celebration yet".

"We want to make every year bigger ... we try to be more unique and more creative and bring up more, other aspects of the Chinese New Year heritage," he said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who will open the festival at Queensbridge Square in Southbank, said it was one of Melbourne's favourite events.

"The Chinese New Year Festival Melbourne 2019 unites families and friends to celebrate Chinese culture and traditions across the city," she said.

The festival is set to showcase traditional Chinese culture with its trademark colour and verve.



Light shows, dances, costume parades, and live music will all feature throughout the festival.

A lantern parade with the fire dragon and glowing lions will be on show at the closing ceremony.

With a bigger focus on culture this year, organisers have also reached out to community groups from other cultures to share in the celebrations.

"They may not come to present any performance, but they will come to experience what is happening during Chinese New Year in Melbourne," Mr Ling said.

Mr Ling said it was important in Australia, especially in Victoria, as different ethnic groups form major communities here.

"Melbourne has long heralded itself as one of the most successful multicultural cities in the world," he said.

The festival will also hold its first dragon boat regatta at Docklands, which organisers hope will become an international event by 2020.

Lion dances are scheduled for major events, including a lion dance on ice at the O'Brien Group Arena in Docklands.

Activities at the festival will be culture-focused, with the Cultural Kaleidoscope offering family-friendly workshops highlighting traditional Chinese culture as well as traditions from other Asian countries.

The Cultural Kaleidoscope is also home to the "Streets of Chinese Cuisine" marquee, where visitors can attend cooking demonstrations and try Chinese New Year treats.

Mr Ling said activities at the festival were designed to "keep every member of the family having fun, full of happiness and filled with delicious traditional festive food".

Celebrations will span Southbank, Melbourne CBD, Docklands and up north at the Melbourne Museum.

The festival will officially close on February 17, with a ceremony at Melbourne Museum.



CNY United chair Thomas Ling and performance co-ordinator Junxi Su are joined by four children in traditional dress.

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Hospitality wage theft in the city

By David Schout and Meg Hill

Hospo Voice has continued to expose city-based hospitality employers underpaying their staff as the Fair Work Ombudsman conducts investigations into exploitation exposed by the union last year.

On January 14 Hospo Voice shared an online ad for a kitchenhand/dishwasher by Treviso Bar & Dining in the city, highlighting that the pay rate was under the legal award.

By January 17 the employer had edited its advertisement, raising the pay from \$20 an hour to \$24.34 an hour.

More than 40 restaurants and cafes on popular dining strips Degraves St and Hardware Lane were raided by Fair Work before Christmas.

The Fair Work Ombudsman acted on various tip-offs, including an investigation and campaign by Hospo Voice and United Voice and reports through Fair Work's anonymous reporting tool.

Thousands signed a Hospo Voice petition demanding action against Degraves St venues after union members held a Halloween-themed wage-theft protest.

"Wage theft is a universal problem across the state but the CBD has been a place where we've uncovered some of the worst examples," United Voice Victorian assistant secretary Ben Redford said.

"Wage theft is the dominant business model in many parts of the hospitality industry.



This industry relies on workers feeling vulnerable and too scared to speak out."

"If these workers weren't so vulnerable, this whole business model would collapse."

Details of charges from the December 11 audits are yet to be released, but Ombudsman Sandra Parker said the searches were part of a directed effort to target popular food hubs.

"Our audits have established a link between prices and wage underpayments and it is

clear that the true cost of cheap food may be the employees' lawful entitlements," Ms Parker said.

Hospo Voice's online platform for hospitality workers to rate their workplaces lists 617 venues in the CBD – with 25 per cent rated one star and 28 per cent rated two stars.

"With several higher education institutes located in and around the Melbourne CBD, a large proportion of students live and work in the area," Ms Parker said.

"Our inspectors will educate workers about their workplace rights and empower them to seek help with any workplace issues."

The raids follow a string of penalties against CBD restaurant and retail outlets in 2018, including cases where employees were paid as little as \$11 an hour.

The state government made a pre-election promise to crack down on wage theft, with proposed laws ensuring guilty parties could be jailed for up to 10 years.

A Fair Work spokesperson told *CBD News* that hospitality workers were a "major focus" of its work and said it was working on preventative as well as punitive measures.

"We have a strong emphasis on ensuring vulnerable workers are aware of their workplace rights," the spokesperson said.

This includes an immunity to report workplace exploitation even if they have breached visa conditions.

"Visa holders should also be aware that in line with an agreement between the FWO and the Department of Home Affairs, they can seek our assistance without fear of their visa being cancelled, even if they've worked more hours than they should have."

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New container-stalls for QVM

By Shane Scanlan

Heritage Victoria (HV) has granted permission for the installation of a further 12 free-standing shipping containers to be used as stalls at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

To the delight of management and the disappointment of market activists, HV granted the five-year permit on December 21.

HV says it granted the permit because: "As it was assessed that the proposed works were temporary and reversible, would have limited impact on the heritage impact of the place, and could be mitigated through appropriate permit conditions."

Market CEO Stan Liacos told *CBD News* he was "heartened and encouraged" by the granting of the permit.

In March last year HV scuttled plans for underground facilities at the market when it refused permission for the works.

Mr Liacos said: "Their [HV] support is welcomed in that it acknowledges a shared aspiration for the market to preserve its physical heritage but to commercially evolve to better meet the demands of today's fast-changing fickle customers and enable the market to be reenergised and prosper once again."

"String Bean Alley once complete mid this year will emerge as another groovy enticing laneway for central Melbourne that will be able to trade more days of the week and for slightly longer hours than it currently can given its current half-done state."

Market activists are crying foul, and claim the introduction of fixed stalls in a deliberate strategy to undermine the viability of "box hire" businesses, which are central to the daily setting-up, removal and storage of goods.

They claim that container tenancies are being "subsidised" by paying lower rents than open-area traders – a claim which Mr Liacos denies. He says container tenants pay twice the rental of others on a per square metre basis.



Vic Market Traders Action Group spokesperson Phil Cleary said the new containers would further change the fundamental character and nature of the market. He blamed management for failing to attract new traditional tenants.

"It is a smokescreen that camouflages management's lack of creativity on promoting and marketing the QVM," he said.

"It also obscures the fact that we have a HR management style at the market which is moribund. The traders have not been given a proper voice."

But Mr Liacos insists the fixed stalls are designed to boost the market's bottom line – and it appears there maybe more to come.

He said there was considerably more demand for "fixed" lockable and/or semi-fixed tenancies at the market, compared with the traditional open-shed stalls that needed to be set up and removed each day.

"For instance, we have only one vacancy at the very moment in areas where we have

our fixed tenancies and a recent EoI process for that space alone attracted nine submissions, half of which were actually from new traders," Mr Liacos said.

"The reality, on the other hand, is that we have reducing demand from traders for much of our more traditional open shed 'unfixed' stalls where we have an occupancy of about 60 per cent, and reducing."

However, Mr Liacos said he envisaged only about 20 per cent of the space under the sheds would be required to "more fixed fittings and utility service points to attract new trading formats, new and younger traders, attract local customers back to the market and, in turn, help restore the appeal and commercial prosperity of this part of the market."

"Being in fixed shops or stalls allows traders to invest in quality fit-outs and fixtures and also reduce their repetitive daily labour grind which in turn reduces the cost of doing business and increase profitability," he said.

Save Queen Victoria Market spokesperson Mary-Lou Howie told *CBD News* the new shipping containers would block ventilation and would make hot summer days even worse under the sheds.

"I think it's being done to get rid of the box-hire boys," she said.

Ms Howie accused management of a deliberate campaign to reduce the number of open-air market traders.

She said, in the bigger picture, the 12 new containers were not that significant. But, she said, lack of proper process was her major concern, saying management appeared to lack a coherent plan for the future.

Problem with fake beggars

Local police have been cracking down on "fake" beggars and anti-social behaviour in the CBD.

Melbourne East police local area commander Craig Peel has told *CBD News* that the recent Operation Protocol was developed on the back of the discovery that some beggars were not what they appeared.

"Operation Protocol was developed in line with intelligence which showed that some persons committing the offence of beg alms were not necessarily persons experiencing homelessness and in need of support services," Insp Peel said.

He said Melbourne East police had been "targeting beggars and persons undertaking anti-social behaviour and affecting the amenity of those in and around the CBD".

He said the behaviour of a small proportion of "real" beggars was a problem.

"Some of the behaviour displayed by a small section of beggars can negatively impact perceptions of safety and make those that wish to come in and enjoy the CBD feel uncomfortable or unsafe," Insp Peel said. "There is sometimes other behavioural and criminal offending aligned to begging."

"Those that are in genuine need of assistance are referred to support services including Launch Housing and the Salvation Army where support and pathways out of homelessness are offered and supported."

Operation Protocol concluded on January 20.

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More security upgrades

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Construction of permanent security barriers on Princes Bridge has started, with steel bollards and reinforced reinforced blocks to be installed on both sides of the bridge.

Since construction started in mid-January, the footpath on the western side of the bridge has been closed, with pedestrians having to cross the road to get over the river.

The bicycle lane on the western side is also closed during the day, forcing cyclists and motorists to share a single traffic lane between 9am and 4.30pm in January, and 9.30am and 4.30pm in February and March. The bicycle lane remains open during peak times and overnight.

The 88 block-shaped barriers will replace the temporary water filled barriers which currently line St Kilda Rd across Princes Bridge.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said: "As well as keeping people safe, a high priority for Princes Bridge is ensuring we maintain its significant heritage value."

Unlike with the temporary concrete barriers



in place around the CBD, graffiti and artwork will not be tolerated on the permanent barriers.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said any changes to permanent security measures on Princes Bridge would need Heritage Victoria approval.

"City of Melbourne will remove graffiti, artwork, fabric covers or paint from permanent bollards or barriers," the spokesperson said.

Once work has finished on the western side in March, work will start on the eastern side of the bridge.

Security upgrade construction also restarted at Flinders Street Station in January, with 20 steel bollards and an eight-metre barrier to be installed.

This is in addition to 33 steel bollards installed last year.

There are also plans to widen the pedestrian crossing over Flinders St on the western side of Swanston St and to also expand the forecourt at the station to 130sqm.

Construction at Flinders Street Station will mainly happen overnight, from 8.00pm to 6.00am.

New late-night trams for LaTrobe St

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Visitors to Marvel Stadium, St Vincent's Hospital and the State Library can now stay out later, with the rollout of a new late-night tram timetable for Route 30.

The new timetable, which came into force on January 1, sees tram services from St Vincent's Plaza to Central Pier via LaTrobe St run until 1am on Friday and Saturdays, and until midnight from Sundays to Thursdays.

Minister for Public Transport Melissa Horne said the government was making it easier to leave the car behind and take public transport.

"We're giving people extra services when and where they need them," she said.

Previously there were no weekend services on this route, with weekday services finishing at 6pm.

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Bright sparks brings AI to aged-care

By David Schout

When Adam Jahnke's grandfather had a nasty fall in 2016, his family faced a predicament familiar to those with elderly loved ones.

The fall, which caused hospitalisation, had not deterred his grandpa – or “Ump” as he and his siblings called him – who intended to return immediately to his home of more than 60 years.

Adam and his family naturally wanted to support his independence but were also worried that, should it happen again, the consequences could be far worse.

Ump, like many elderly residents living alone, had an incident-detection pendant, but was not wearing it when he fell.

As the family sweated on what to do, Adam created a tech-based solution that has now developed into an inspiring tale showcasing the real-life application of technology to sectors where it’s most needed.

The 28-year-old, whose background is in technology and public health, set about creating a behaviour-detecting notification device to ensure that family were in-tune with what was going on inside the homes of their independent-living loved ones.

“The problem with those pendants is that people don’t wear them around the home, they feel uncomfortable wearing them there and the fact is, that’s where most incidents happen,” he said.

“We wanted to build something non-intrusive that works with the person’s habits rather than requiring them to wear anything.”

This is where *Umps Health* was born.

Adam, with the help of some friends, created a prototype product that notified him, via text message, each time his grandfather used the kettle.

Through this, he knew Ump was active and going about his daily business.

While this worked initially, Adam soon began to “tune out” to these rather basic alerts, and knew the product needed some work.

In November 2016, he left his job at Ericsson and started working on *Umps Health* full-time.

Shortly after this, he began a partnership



Adam Jahnke, co-founder and CEO of Umps Health.

with co-founder Geoff Ayre, which allowed the technical solution to really take off.

They developed the product to notify nominated family members when *abnormal* behavioural patterns appeared, rather than just normal patterns.

For example, should an elderly person fail to turn on their TV before 9am – something they’ve done for the last 100 days without fail – family would be notified via text when it ticked past 10 or 11am.

Through complex data analytics, behavioural patterns of individual users are observed and alerts are generated and sent to loved ones.

“We also look for other abnormalities, for example if appliances are being used longer and longer each day,” Adam said.

“More sedentary behaviour can be a pre-indicator of a health issue. Another one is if people are using appliances increasingly in the middle of the night – that will send a notification.”

“More and more we’re trying to identify abnormalities before incidents occur, because if we can do that we might prevent something happening and that’s the key to keeping someone living safely at home, independently.”

The product itself is surprisingly simple and takes just five minutes to install.

The pack contains five plugs (which are fitted between the wall socket and five everyday appliances) and a “smart hub” that contains a sim card, as the product does not depend on an existing internet connection.

The system then monitors a loved one’s behaviour for 30 days, building a data set based on their everyday habits, after which the notification system will kick in and send alerts to (up to) five nominated contacts when something isn’t quite right.

Since its inception, *Umps Health* has received seed funding from the University of Melbourne, whose Accelerator Program co-working space on Exhibition St currently houses its work.

Adam and Geoff have also had support from crowd funding and, among others, the City of Melbourne, whose small business grant will fund an “experience centre” in 2019.

The centre will showcase their technology in an environment that simulates an actual home and will bring to life ideas that are still abstract for many.

“It will allow elderly people, their families and service providers to come in and experience the future of aged-care and the component of it that’s powered by artificial intelligence, the internet of things, and how those emerging technologies can be used in really tangible ways to support people living at home. It’s a physical environment, which takes a lot of the fear of the unknown away.”

Adam expects this year to be crucial.

“This is the scale-up year for us. The capital we’ve raised to date has really all gone into the product and the team we’ve built,” he said.

Their latest production run was for 200 systems. The one soon after will be for 5000, and then 10,000 after that.

Setting the standard for young tech-based entrepreneurs, Adam and his team are certainly ones to watch going forward.

For more info, visit umpshealth.com



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Young Coders tackles gender diversity

By Meg Hill

Young Coders, a not-for-profit organisation founded in June 2017, is running entirely free coding classes for children in the CBD.

The organisation was born out of the need to combat the heavily male-skewed nature of the tech industry.

Kruti Patel founded Young Coders after numerous conversations about the lack of women in the industry, directing her efforts to what she identified as the "root".

"I'm one of the few women in tech and for that reason I get pulled into a lot of conversations about diversity and women in the community and industry," she said.

Ms Patel said there were lots of complaints about difficulties finding women to hire, but that she believed attention needed to be directed far earlier than at the hiring process.

"We have to educate children so that girls are interested in tech at an early age and can get excited about it, then they can go into the engineering and editing, the maths and science fields," she said.

"That was the reason that made me start Young Coders."

But Ms Patel said that working with young



Kruti Patel and volunteers instructing a Young Coders workshop.

children to combat the issue of sexism was sensitive, and that it was particularly important to not project the issue onto them.

"I felt that when I work with children I don't want them to know that there is a diversity issue and we want to actually represent diversity and that's the reason we teach both genders," she said.

Young Coders workshops, which comprise about 30 children, are registered with a 50/50 ratio of boys and girls. It has classes for five-to-eight-year-olds and eight-to-twelve-year-olds.

The balance is struck by making a conscious effort to combat the early manifestations of sexism.

"There are a few main things which are

very obvious with girls when they come to workshops. Some of the girls will be extremely quiet and boys will be answering questions over girls," Ms Patel said.

"So, we make sure we give them opportunities and we ask them individually. Even though boys might have raised their hands, if we've noticed some girls are not talking a lot we might give them the attention and ask them more questions."

Confidence levels are a big issue, with examples like these showing that boys are socialised from an early age to be more outspoken.

Ms Patel pointed out some of the other simple and common ways that young boys and girls are treated differently, which lead

to problematic trends later in life.

For example, young girls were given gifts like dolls, whereas boys were given electrical toys.

Ms Patel said this made a big difference, especially in relation to the tech industry. Just the pure fact that boys have been playing with tech at the simplest level for years makes them more confident and excited about it, while it remains an untested field for many girls.

"Making a conscious effort is what I feel is going to contribute to change," she said.

Ms Patel still works full-time as a software engineer for a company called iflix while running Young Coders.

She said coming from India, where the issue of poverty deprived many of the right to education was particularly prominent, and this informed her determination to provide classes for free.

"I didn't want to charge children a dollar. I'm just getting them excited about technology. That's why it's free," she said.

Workshops are every Saturday from 12pm to 2pm at General Assembly in the city.

Book here: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/young-coders-au-14654316143

Find it on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/youngcodersau/

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Heritage hearings for Fed Square

By Meg Hill

Progress may soon be made in the year-long public battle over a proposed Apple store in Federation Square with three days of public hearings announced for April.

The Heritage Council of Victoria has scheduled the hearings for April 15-17 to assist in its assessment of heritage status for the square.

The National Trust of Victoria pushed for the heritage protection in August 2018, working closely with the Our City, Our Square campaign set up by Citizens of Melbourne to oppose the Apple development.

Two months later Heritage Victoria recommended Federation Square be added to the heritage register. The 60-day window for submissions from the public ended in December.

National Trust CEO Simon Ambrose told *CBD News* that 750 submissions were received primarily in support for the heritage protection, which he said was "pretty well unheard of".

"I expect the hearings to have a fairly high profile. People will be interested to hear the outcome and be involved in the outcome,"

he said.

"Obviously we can't pre-empt any decision made by the council but we are very buoyant about the fact that there have been so many positive submissions."

"We are fairly confident they will uphold the decision."

Citizens for Melbourne vice president Brett de Hoedt said the response showed that Victorians wanted to keep public space.

"It also shows how out of step the government is on this issue," he said.

Heritage status would not rule out the Apple store altogether, but it would mean stricter requirements and a more comprehensive process of planning and community consultation.

Mr Ambrose said the National Trust wasn't anti-development, but asked for "recognition of the importance of the square and to make sure that Apple, or

anything, is properly discussed, that there is community involvement and a master plan for development".

Plans for one of Apple's biggest ever stores to be built in the square involve a number of contentious issues.

The debate has broadly coalesced around the nature of public and private space, but has been sharpened by a number of other circumstances surrounding the development.

The plans were announced at the end of 2017 without community consultation, and would involve demolishing the Yarra Building, which houses the Koori Heritage Trust.

To justify the project, the state government used allegedly faulty "visitor boost" projections which were based only on Apple's own estimates.

Hostility has also grown due to Apple's conduct.

In a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in September last year, City of Melbourne councillors called the plans "appalling" and reported that several entire documents were missing from Apple's application.

Further, community advocates say the design of the store is incompatible with the architecture of Federation Square.

Citizens for Melbourne ran a campaign during the state election at the end of last year in an attempt to pressure parties on the issue, particularly the incumbent Labor Party.

Scorecards rated a number of different parties out of five. Both the Liberal and Labor parties were given the lowest possible rating - having apparently not replied to the questions asked.

"Federation Square was one of many issues for voters. We are 100 per cent certain that Labor would have gained votes by reversing their decision," Mr de Hoedt said.

Bourke St redevelopment

In December, the City of Melbourne submitted a planning application for a \$232 million redevelopment of a Bourke St precinct.

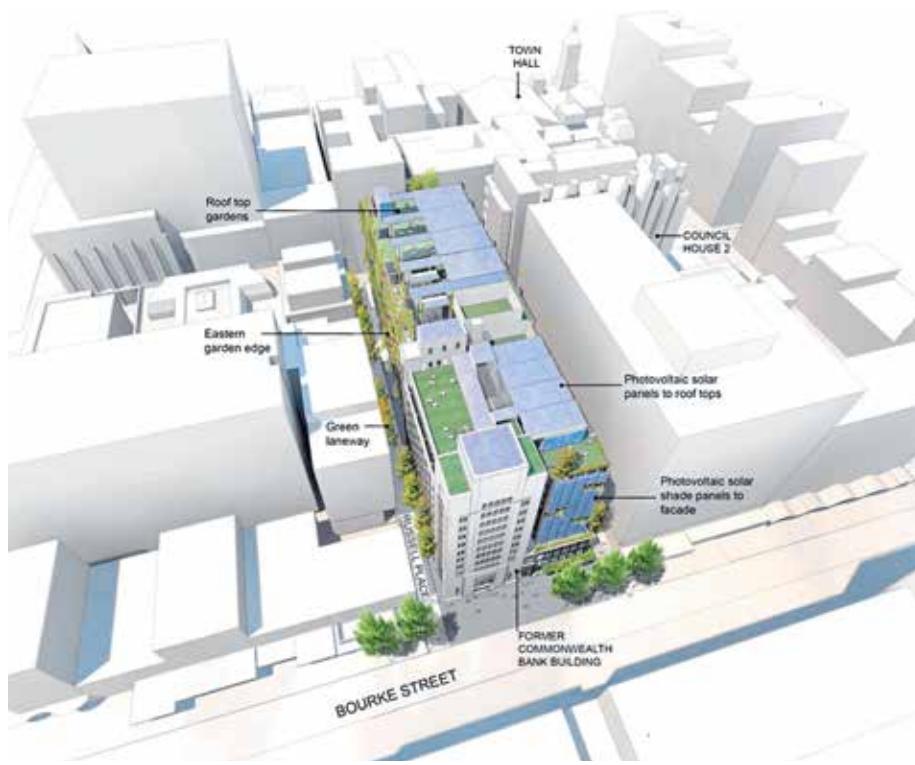
The block between Bourke and Little Collins streets will be turned partly into a "public commons" precinct aiming to encourage people to gather and participate in council activities.

Added to the precinct will be: "public commons" spaces, including shared rooftops; new laneways to connect the block; new retail spaces; and new office space that will be partly used as a new home for City of Melbourne staff.

There is also speculation that the City Library may be re-homed there, as its Flinders Lane lease expires in 2020.

An application for a heritage permit was also submitted, as the Commonwealth Bank building at 219-225 Bourke St - which the council proposes to refurbish - is heritage listed.

Decisions won't be made on the applications until at least mid-2019, with construction likely to begin in 2020.



The City of Melbourne's Bourke St proposal.



Artist's impression of the 435 Bourke St development.

"Vertical Village" proposed for 435 Bourke

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

There could be a new addition to Melbourne's skyline, with Cbus Property proposing a 200m tall "vertical village" in the heart of the CBD.

The \$1 billion project, located at 435 Bourke St and stretching from Queen to McKillop streets, would add over 64,000 sqm of office space.

The 55-level building would also include retail offerings, landscaped terraces and a four-level wellness hub.

Cbus Property CEO Adrian Pozzo said the project would "create a new and exciting standard" for commercial offices.

"The significance of the project's location and the needs of a future city were integral to project's design," he said.

In November, a report by Urbis commissioned by the Property Council's Victorian division, found that Melbourne's CBD would require an extra 4.4 million sqm of office floorspace by 2036.

Property Council executive director Cressida Wall, said: "Melbourne's CBD desperately needs more office floorspace growth to support the high-value jobs that are so vital to our economy."

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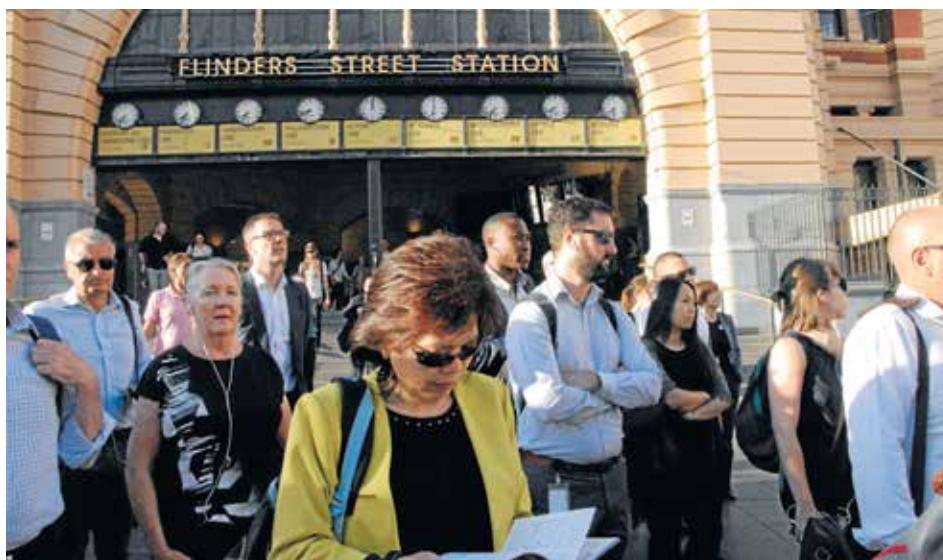


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Authorised by Phil Cleary, spokesperson for Queen Victoria Market Stallholders & Traders Action Group (STAG)



Flinders Street 7.30.



Anna Cousins and Patrick Larkens pushing for pay rise.

Working is no laughing matter

By Rhonda Dredge

By 7.30 am office workers were spilling out of the great mouth of Flinders Street Station but they weren't exactly laughing about the prospect of taking up their desks again for 2019.

Most had backpacks, one was doing a last-minute check of a report and all were looking glum as they waited for the lights to change.

The CBD is seen as a fanciful place by visitors with lanes full of sparrows and artists and alluring doors leading off shady passages.

Not for most of the CBD's 200,000 workers who present their passes to electronic sensors and take lifts up to standardised cubes where they engage in business

services.

Dress was smart, yet surprisingly casual, among these early-risers in January. Only a few were wearing jackets.

They did not look nearly as uniform as those suited-clones depicted in John Brack's famous 1955 painting *Collins Street, 5 pm.*

By 9.30 am, however, the real work of the city was underway. There were formal suits and cases full of files on the streets and the serious business of earning and maintaining a living had begun.

Anna Cousins and Patrick Larkens, of the Federation of Air Pilots, were on the steps of the Fair Work Commission by 10 January with a pay claim, possibly the first for the year.

"Tigerair pilots haven't had a pay rise for over two years," Ms Cousins said and the pilots had commenced protected industrial action just as workers were preparing to

return home to Melbourne from up the coast.

"At least 10 flights were cancelled over the weekend," she said. She said her association was pushing for conciliation on the claim before another pending action a few days further into January.

Returning to work in the summer asphalt after two weeks of annual leave soaking up sun and hanging out on beaches can be a daunting prospect even without the cancellation of flights.

According to Australian Unity Health Insurance, annual leave is highly beneficial. It results in reduced stress, extended life, improved mood, better social life, reduced risk of heart disease and greater workplace productivity.

But what if you are stuck at an airport, have to rush back into full battle gear or are expected to do performance appraisals the first week back?

Some workers prefer to avoid the painful transition altogether and spend their holidays at home shopping, eating and mixing with friends.

Sunny Kim, an educator from Balwyn, and her two sons visited the city 12 times during their two-week break.

Sunny comes from Seoul, a massive city of eight million. "Even far from the centre it's still big and busy," she says. In Melbourne "the CBD itself is nice and good but the size is far too small."

The CBD mightn't feel small compared to the seaside villages holidaymakers prefer.

A further 270,000 people visit daily to shop and hang out, with more than half from metropolitan Melbourne. By the beginning of February they will be joined by an influx of 82,000 students, some passing through but others contributing to the go-head vibe of the city.

Men's Shed looking for new members

Melbourne Men's Shed in its sixth year is recruiting new members and is also keen to attract more women.

The shed, located in the car park basement of Federation Square, has 70 members but less than 10 women.

Chairman Andrew Stefanetti told *CBD News* the organisation's facilities were open to the whole community.

He said "shedders" had been busy filling an order book for wooden toys. These ranged from cars, trucks and tops to old-fashioned horses on wheels attached to a push stick.

Eight shedders at Christmas donated a batch of more than 30 toys to the Royal Children's Hospital. Those children who couldn't go home picked their favourite.

Apart from toys, the shedders fill requests such as possum nesting boxes to lure possums out of home owners' roof spaces. The Bureau of Meteorology wanted its 90-year-old cedar boxes used to house delicate outdoor instruments repaired and refurbished. The renewed boxes are preferred to newer commercial ones.

Another job was a table with adjustable

height for standing and sitting, for a wheelchair-bound person. Tailor-made wooden storage bins for kindergartens, schools and sport clubs were also in demand, Mr Stefanetti said.

Shedders enjoy their teamwork and being taught skills by volunteer experts on top-flight equipment.

"The shed gives members a purpose and provides camaraderie," Mr Stefanetti said. "Men often lose their social network after retirement or illness."

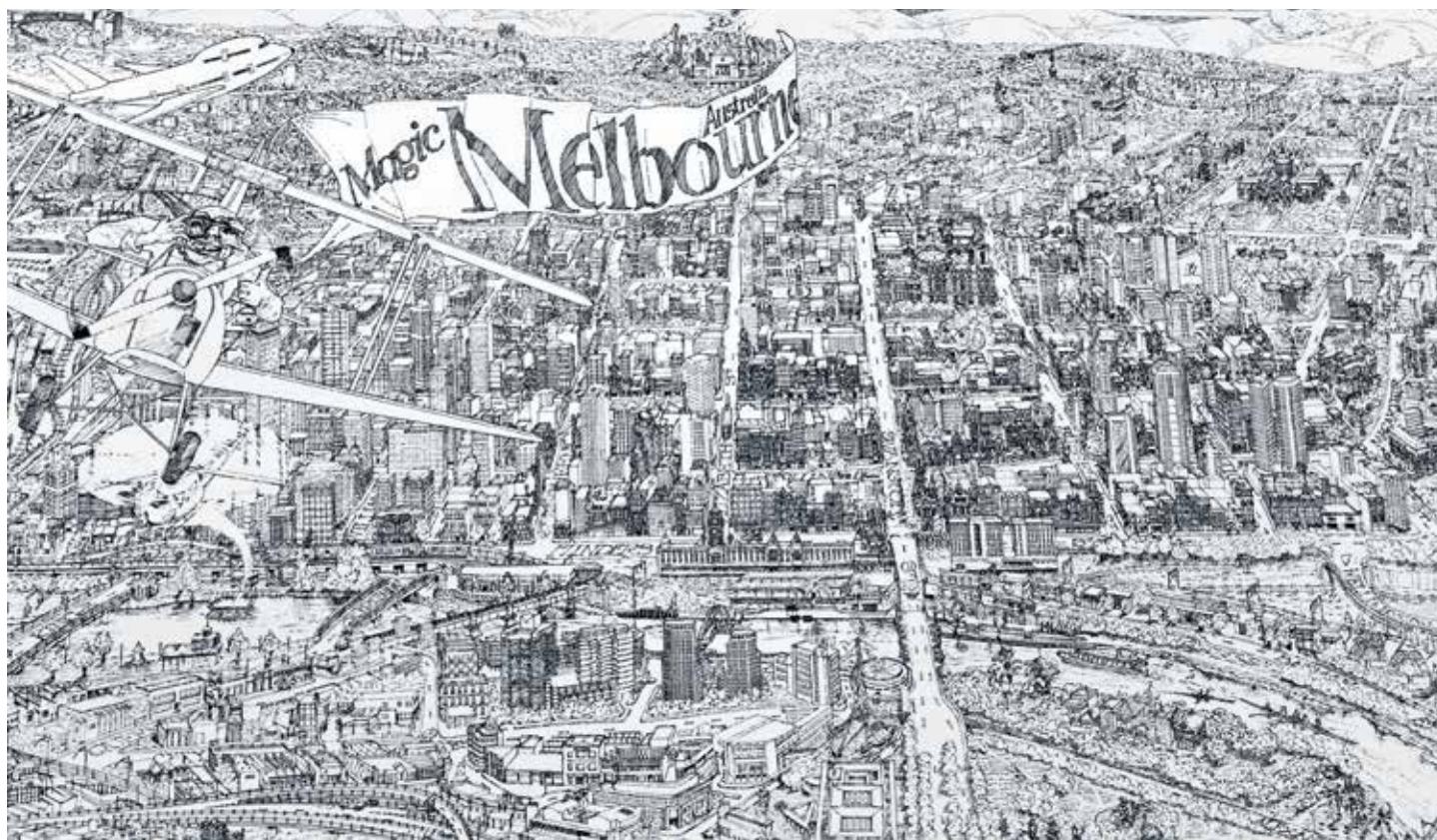
The shed also runs cooking classes on commercial equipment, resulting in popular lunchtime get togethers. There's a walking group approved by the Heart Foundation, and computer and photography classes.

It's the only CBD-based shed in Australia. Charity work is free but jobs-to-order are charged for.

For more information on joining the Melbourne Men's Shed, visit www.melbournemensshed.org



Melbourne Men's Shed chairman Andrew Stefanetti at the workshop.



The CBD in 1990.

Haven't times changed!

It's been 29 years, but the change to Melbourne's CBD is remarkable - as evidenced by the soon-to-be-released new version of The Melbourne Map.

The original was completed in 1990 and a coloured 2019 edition is expected to be released in March.

The black and white version is available already, including larger signed limited prints.

Project founder and producer Melinda Clarke shared the uncoloured version with *CBD News*, and the result is incredible.

With only a handful of skyscrapers, the CBD in 1990 looked more like a village than the place we know today.

Contrast that with the metropolis that we now know as the Melbourne CBD.

Ms Clarke said: "The Melbourne Map is an independent project with considerable time and funds injected over the past four years. Along with the support of a very successful

crowd funding and pre-sales, Melburnians have backed the project to ensure its completion. It is very exciting to have released the first black & white prints."

General-release black and white prints can be found in a couple of places around town - Clementines, 7 Degraves St and Melbournalia, 50 Bourke St. For more, visit www.themelbournemap.com.au



Now



Click, click – gotcha!

Statistics have revealed that a new speed camera at the intersection of King and LaTrobe streets is one of the most active cameras in metropolitan Melbourne.

Over the past year 33,470 fines were issued via the camera that was installed in early 2018, making it the fifth busiest camera in Melbourne.

The fines amount to more than \$8 million.

As well as nabbing southbound motorists a couple of hundred metres after the speed limit drops from 60kmh to 40kmh, the high-performing camera also scores plenty of red-light offences.

It was the top-rating camera during the periods of April to June and July to September 2018.

New Nicholas Building gallery

Flinders Lane Gallery will be moving to the first floor of the historic Nicholas Building in March after 29 years on Flinders Lane.

The first floor of the Nicholas Building has been completely empty of traders other than RetroStar Vintage Clothing since Collected Works Books closed in November.

The other spaces on the first floor have been empty for months longer.

The heritage-listed building is often referred to as a "vertical creative precinct". Since it was built in 1926 it has housed countless small boutique traders, artist and writer studios, galleries, bookshops and performance spaces.

Vertical Living

Blockchain for residential blocks

"Blockchain will do for transactions what the internet did for information" and thereby change many aspects of our vertical lives.

The claims for blockchain are impressive. It is widely espoused, for instance, that blockchain will fundamentally disrupt many existing industries, in particular those which "check and balance" our transactions – think accountants and bankers.

Some claim even greater impact with forecasts of profound change for our currency, all types of supply chains and even democracy.

And giving heed to these claims are a swag of both new and established firms.

Among the new in Australia, are start-ups like Shping which apply blockchain to supply chains. Their goal is to allow consumers to view additional product information prior to purchase. There is also Horizon State, a Melbourne start-up which uses blockchain to provide greater voting transparency in emerging democracies.

On the list of more established players giving attention to blockchain are IBM (whose efforts include a tracking tool for retail chains), Eastman Kodak (repositories for stock images) and Spotify (managing copyrights) as well as a host of blockchain investors such as Google, Goldman Sachs, Visa and Deloitte.

Also sharing this belief that blockchain has the potential to cause significant economic and social change are researchers at RMIT. They contend that blockchain could change how we interact online, who controls our information and shift the incentives that

guide businesses and co-operative systems. And they have acted upon this belief by establishing a Blockchain Innovation Hub, claimed as the world's first research centre on the social science of blockchain.

But what is blockchain and why is it believed so great?

First point, blockchain refers to an underlying technology. It is the digital foundation which supports the offerings of companies such as Shping and Horizon State.

Second point, it is useful to think of blockchain as a sort of distributed digital ledger, designed to be incorruptible and self-executing. IBM describes blockchain as a shared and immutable ledger which records transactions – all transactions – permanently. The name comes from the way this transaction data is stored – in blocks that are linked together to form a chain. The chain grows as the number of transactions grows, with each block having its own timestamp. In essence, this chain is a digital trail and, with the help of a series of algorithms, it is resistant to tampering. This is the key offering and benefit of blockchain – an immutable chain of historical record.

As regards the benefits of uptake, consider the food industry. For reasons of safety, it needs to reliably and quickly establish the provenance of food offerings which, unfortunately, has been all too front of mind with the recent strawberry fiasco. Being able

to quickly and accurately identify the source, route and current location of potentially affected food allows a more rapid response as well as a reduction in associated costs.

Also benefitting from blockchain, albeit in a very different vein, are advocates of digital democracy who view blockchain as playing a key role in preventing voter fraud. In offering an immutable, highly accurate digital voter enrolment and counting system, blockchain holds the promise of equitable, democratic elections.

So, how might blockchain impact us vertical villagers?

Taking inspiration from the two previously mentioned examples, our vertical living sector could greatly benefit from reliable supply chains and a dose of digital democracy.

In terms of transparent supply chains, the biggest impact might actually occur before we move in, that is, during building construction. Being able to reliably source materials – and having proof that what was ordered was that delivered – would be a big step forward (think cladding substitution!). Indeed, having verifiable evidence of a product's provenance has insurance implications also. And the benefits of accurate supply chain tracking continue once the building is occupied, including cost reductions from the harmonisation of different processing systems (there is the potential to reduce costs by one fifth!).

As regards blockchain-based democracy, having a reliable and immutable way of voting (which is internationally accessible) could greatly help our vexed and ongoing issue of proxies (and proxy farming). In fact, already companies like Horizon State are considering different contexts for voting, such as corporate shareholders, and are devising systems to support remote participation while also reducing the costs involved. Similar applications for owners' corporations could also both greatly increase owners' participation, improve transparency of committee decision making (via permanent voting records) as well as decrease costs associated with (the currently expensive) special resolution process.

And these are just a few examples of how our vertical living domain might be impacted (benefit?) from blockchain. Already many more applications are emerging in the property industry where an immutable record of sale and rental data could really change the vertical real estate game!



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

Laneway Learning is back for 2019

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

Ever wanted to play the ukulele or learn a bit of French? Or maybe you want learn how to get the most out of your superannuation?

With Laneway Learning back for 2019, now might be your chance.

Now in its eighth year of operation, this year sees the not-for-profit organisation continue to offer fun, informal classes in the CBD and surrounds.

The classes offer a peer-to-peer learning experience, with members of the local community devising each class and teaching their skills to groups of about 20 people.

They span a wide selection of topics, with classes in February ranging from an introduction to tantra to learning how to form new habits.

Upcoming classes in the CBD for February include:

French: The Language of Love

February 6, 6.15pm – 7.30pm

Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, L8, Room 16, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St

Cost: \$16



melbourne.lanewaylearning.com/classes/french-the-language-of-love/

Beginner's Ukelele via Bob Dylan

February 11, 6.15pm – 7.30pm

Madame Brussels, L3, 59 Bourke St

Cost: \$16

melbourne.lanewaylearning.com/classes/beginners-ukulele-via-bob-dylan-7/

Making Superannuation Super!

February 12, 8.15pm – 9.30pm

Embiggen Books, 197-203 Little Lonsdale St

Cost: \$16

melbourne.lanewaylearning.com/classes/making-superannuation-super-8/

Mindful Sexuality: An Introduction to Tantra

February 13, 6.15pm – 7.30pm and 8.00pm – 9.15pm

Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, L8, Room 16, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St

Cost: \$16

melbourne.lanewaylearning.com/classes/mindful-sexuality-introduction-tantra-6/

The Secret Language of Dogs

February 20, 6.15pm – 7.30pm

Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, L8, Room 16, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St

Cost: \$16

melbourne.lanewaylearning.com/classes/secret-language-dogs-3/

Forming New Habits With Creativity

February 26, 6.15pm – 7.30pm

Laneway Learning Central, L3, Room 17, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St

Cost: \$16

melbourne.lanewaylearning.com/classes/forming-new-habits-with-creativity/

To see the full listing of classes, visit: melbourne.lanewaylearning.com

Sewer works completed

The major \$25 million infrastructure project to build an additional sewer along Spencer St is now complete.

Finished ahead of schedule, safely and within budget, the upgraded sewer is now connected and working for the thousands of residents and commuters who live and work along Spencer St.

The two-year project has increased the capacity of the 122-year-old sewer. The upgraded sewer now has 25 times the capacity of the existing one.

City West Water's general manager for infrastructure and delivery Maree Lang said: "Our thanks to everyone, on and off-site. Especially to the local community and businesses, visitors to the city and the countless commuters who showed great patience and tolerance while works have been underway."

Construction of the additional sewer was a major project. The pipeline is 700m long and buried 11m underground. Crews worked weekends and overnight for just over a year.

CBD Local

Words to get by

Rhonda Dredge

If you live in the CBD everything you need might be just a block away.

Your morning coffee is a one minute walk up Flinders Lane. Your half-price Monday movie is a short tram ride up Collins St. Groceries can be carried in a shoulder bag.

If you have a walking stick and one side of your body is paralysed, these things count. If you can't really speak to strangers, a friendly barista makes all the difference.

Peter Davidson moved into the CBD three years ago. He rents a studio apartment and lives on \$12,500 a year.

To make the move in the CBD he had to leave behind 4000 books. He couldn't read them anymore anyway. He spends a lot of time listening to music but if you ask him which composer he likes he can't really tell you. Words are difficult to capture.

He uses a paper napkin and a pen as props for his speech. He writes down five letters - VEILE. "Ah. Verdi," he says with a smile. "Music is fabulous." It registers in the right side of his brain, his good side. "The left is dead," he says, touching his head.

Limitations govern the former architect's life. He once lived with journalist Jill Singer but she died two years after his stroke in 2010. He writes 2012 on the napkin. He is still good with figures. They come from the right side of his brain.

The cross-over between right and left preoccupies Peter. His right leg and arm are numb. His hand lies uselessly by his side but if you touch it there is pain. Right brain, left body - these are his good working parts and he has to make the most of them.

Daine Singer, a small gallery, has

mounted six exhibitions of his drawings and watercolours. He had to change to his left hand.

It is easier for Peter to sketch than speak. He draws a plan of Swanston St with a rectangle and then begins to cross it out. "Demolition" is a word he can't use but he cares about what is happening to Federation Square, given that he led the team that designed it.

A man with no voice can hardly object.

Anyway, life itself is too much of a challenge. "It's the way it is," Peter says. He used to play cricket, batting with one hand and bowling with the other. He thinks for a while and gets a flush of pleasure when the word "ambidextrous" appears as if by miracle.

Small pleasures seem to keep him going. He's apologetic upfront so you have to persevere.

"It's terrible because I know but can't say it. It's gone."

He has to count the months on his left fingers to figure out which month his next exhibition will be - July or August? Hopefully, then the words will get to his mouth.

"I have difficulty in finding the words because nothing - the brain just nothing. I can visualise and music is in here." He taps his right brain. "This side is more sensitive. I didn't know it before. I think about it a lot. I'm trying to develop this side."

He likes the little neighbourhood around Flinders Lane. "I don't go a lot further." It's an area in which he can feel at home.

The final words he writes are Moor St in uncertain lettering. That's the address of Daine Singer, the gallery, which has now moved out of the city to Fitzroy, just another difficulty he will probably manage.

It's surprising how few words you need to get by.



CBD local Peter Davidson.

Pet's Corner



Megan Lewis with Tucker.

Helps around the office, addicted to fetch

By Jessica Carrascalao Heard

You'd think the hustle and bustle of a CBD office would not be a dog-friendly place.

But toy poodle Tucker is no stranger to office life. His owner, Megan Lewis, has been bringing him to work since he was a puppy.

"I got him on a Wednesday, so the Thursday and Friday he came in to work with me," she said.

Tiny, teddy-bear faced Tucker is now one-and-a-half years old, but still accompanies Ms Lewis to her office in the CBD.

"Occasionally he comes in to work with me so he's not at home by himself," she said.

Ms Lewis said she worked "for a place that's very friendly to dogs", with others also bringing their pooches in from time to time. Tucker's a favourite, and tries to help where he can.

"He likes jumping on people's laps at their computer," Ms Lewis laughs.

Though shy around strangers, Ms Lewis said Tucker was not like that at home, and was playful around people he knows.

He's also a good guard dog.

"If anyone is to come near our house or even our office, he barks," Ms Lewis said.

She takes him for a walks through Flagstaff Gardens during her lunch break, where Tucker likes to have a good sniff around.

She said if they had a ball, he'd like to play fetch.

"He's addicted to fetch. He loves his ball," she said.

History

Colonial defence to history and music

At the corner of William and A'Beckett streets, opposite Flagstaff Gardens, nestles a red brick Art Deco building – one of the few remaining low-rise buildings in a sea of tower blocks.

For more than a century, buildings on this site were associated with the defence of Victoria and Australia. To defend the Colony of Victoria, local military volunteer units were established in 1854. Volunteer orderly rooms and drill halls were set up in Melbourne and across the colony and by 1866, the site at 239 A'Beckett St was occupied by the West Melbourne Orderly Room.

The building became known as the Metropolitan Orderly Room in the 1880s. The volunteers were disbanded in 1884 and Victoria's defences were completely reorganised. At about this time some additions were made to the Orderly Room. Following Federation the site came under the control of the Australian Department of Defence. In 1906, a new weatherboard building was completed on the eastern end of the site and remained in use until the 1930s.

The present building was designed for the Australian Army by George Hallandal, of the Commonwealth Department of Works in 1937-38. It was completed in 1939. It is functional and utilitarian, with a few decorative touches. A two-storey red and cream brick structure fronts on to A'Beckett St and an additional storey at the William St corner forms a low tower.

Hallandal was also responsible for the design of two other drill halls of similar appearance, one at the corner of Therry and Victoria streets in Melbourne, and one in



The front entrance to 239 A'Beckett St today.

Mateo St in Mildura.

The interior of the building is largely taken up by two large halls, one on each side of the main entrance in A'Beckett St, together with additional offices and other rooms. The army hierarchy is reflected in the arrangement of messes. The mess for other ranks is tucked away in the basement, that for sergeants is on the first floor in the middle of the building, while the wood-panelled officers' mess is on the first floor and looks out through tall windows on to William St and the Flagstaff Gardens.

First occupied by the Army Medical Corps, the building's original purpose was to train army medical personnel in the provision of medical and hygiene services to troops, in the care of casualties, in disease prevention and in field skills such as map-reading and

first aid. In addition, the building was to serve as a centre for research and advice on such matters as the physiology of physical training and medical supply logistics.

As well as training and research functions, the building was used for the medical and dental examination of recruits and for physical training and social activities for military and militia personnel. It also functioned as a supply and payroll centre. In the 1950s, the building was used by the army's 3rd Psychological Unit, and in 1970 the Army Publicity Unit moved in and set up printing equipment and storage facilities in at least one of the drill halls.

In about 1988, the army moved out, the building was sold and plans were drawn up for its use as accommodation for Lindsay Fox's collection of vintage cars. However,

these plans did not proceed.

In December 1988 the building was placed on the Historic Buildings Register. The Victorian Heritage Database states that the building:

"... is of architectural significance as an excellent example of an inter-war period military building. [It] combines several stylistic influences, with colonial revival, art deco, classical and Moderne elements. The Art Deco and Moderne, in particular the modelled brickwork touches, gave it a contemporary feel, while the classical elements of the William St corner convey a sense of conservative solidity appropriate for a major public building, especially one associated with the defence forces."

In August 1999 the Royal Historical Society of Victoria became tenants, sharing the building with the Victorian Concert Orchestra. The drill hall at the RHSV end of the building houses the society's research library and gallery. Other rooms and offices accommodate manuscript and image collections and the society's professional staff. The officers' mess serves as a lecture theatre and meeting room.

The Victorian Concert Orchestra uses the other half of the building for rehearsals and performances, and also shares facilities with other performers of music and dance.

Thus a site originally concerned with a colony's defence is now concerned with preserving a state's history and its culture of music and dance.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has an annual program of events, changing exhibitions, a history bookshop and a research library. It is open Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm.



David Thompson

David is researcher at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Commuter Tales

Commuting and content go hand in hand

Consuming content and commuting – at least on transport where you're not behind the wheel - go together for me, and, looking around me on the tram, for most people.

Whether it's social, fiction, non-fiction, work-related or celeb infused, people are reading, listening, scrolling and surfing their way through screens and – reassuringly - pages of it.

Whether it's about productivity, staying in touch, keeping up, zoning out or simply squeezing a little more joy from the day, when I look around me it seems commuters can't seem to get enough content – myself included.

It's a New Year and so far I've finished one

new book and am finding my way through a few others. Not that I'm reading all of them. Having subscribed to Audible a year ago, my life, and my commute, changed completely.

I listened to a female narrator tell, or enact, the story of Tim Winton's *The Shepherd's Hut* as I gazed out of the window of the Number 96 tram on my way to work, tramped up to Princes Park with the dog in tow and walked to the local Woollies to collect something for dinner (I am going through this weird stage where I shop every day like I live in a village or something – don't know why but I'm going with it for the moment).

If you haven't tried audio books – and you can get them from the library as well – it may be something worth considering. Although be warned – you cannot multi-task anything beyond gazing out the window of a tram or train or walking the dog with listening to an audio book. I have tried to surf the net or get social while listening to a book and found

myself hopelessly adrift at the point in the narrative where everything is unfamiliar and strange and a new character has been introduced I don't know. Unsettling and a little disturbing.

With a bit of concentration, and presence, the Tim Winton book, in particular, fitted in well with my commute. If you haven't read it yet, it's about a journey, literal, psychological and spiritual. A kind of coming of age for a teenage boy – a neglected and abused boy – one that involves learning to trust, to care for and be cared for. Wonderful read.

From outback Western Australia, I've travelled to the Wimmera with Mark Brandi's book of the same name. It's a psychological thriller that would probably fall into the category of genre fiction. Like a tram ride, it comfortably has a beginning, a middle and an end. The characters are sharply drawn and, although the author gives enough detail to render them real enough to care for, for me they tend to fall into archetypes that are

reassuringly familiar.

Also on the go is a more literary novel populated with characters who, while richly drawn, I just can't quite get my head around. They behave in ways that are contradictory, fickle and unpredictable. Like real people. This makes for an engrossing read and one which requires a fair bit of concentration. Like miss your tram stop because the 20-minute ride has compressed to what seems like 2 minutes and you've been transported to another world, another reality.

So, I've also managed to get my 19-year-old son hooked on audiobooks. Yay me. I knew there was a place for books in his life.



Maria-Doogan

CBD Worker

Metro Tunnel

Mini tunnel boring machine on show

The first of four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) that will build the Metro Tunnel's twin 9km rail tunnels is on its way to the Port of Melbourne. It will then be transported to North Melbourne for assembly.

Measuring 7.2 metres in diameter, weighing more than 1000 tonnes and 120 metres in length, the first TBM is due to start tunnelling in May this year.

Before it does, the public can view a model size replica at Metro Tunnel HQ, the project's visitor centre located at 125-133 Swanston St. In mid-2019 the first two TBMs, which launch at North Melbourne, will tunnel north towards Kensington. The third and fourth TBMs will launch at Domain and travel south to South Yarra.

For more information on Metro Tunnel HQ visit: metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Federation Square transformation

Construction of the CBD's future Town Hall Station is preparing to move into the next phase following the demolition of the former Melbourne Visitor Centre in late-2018.

Over several weeks, the building was carefully removed piece by piece as crews prepare the site for major construction. Vertical support structures known as piles will be installed deep into the ground over the coming months, to allow rock and soil to be safely excavated later this year.



Uncovering the past

A selection of archaeological artefacts found at the Metro Tunnel's Town Hall Station site on Swanston St are on display at the Young and Jackson Hotel. Wine glasses, cork screws, champagne-style bottles and lost coins (shillings, sixpence and pennies) from pubs that operated on Swanston St from the mid-1800s to the early 20th century are all on show.

The collection of historical items, which also include Codd bottles and clay pipe mouthpieces, will be on display for the next 12 months.

History buffs can also step into the shoes of the archaeologists who made these finds by visiting Metro Tunnel HQ to experience the state's biggest ever archaeological digs with a virtual reality experience.

*Young and Jackson Hotel, corner Flinders and Swanston streets
Metro Tunnel HQ, 125-133 Swanston St*



Open for business

Campbell Arcade

Metro Tunnel works in Campbell Arcade/Degraves Street underpass will not commence before July 2019.

All your favourite Campbell Arcade shops are still operating and looking forward to seeing you. Please continue to support them.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au or call 1800 105 105.



More trains,
more often

Planning



Cbus Property's 435 Bourke St office proposal

Premium office space for CBD

As the industry slowly begins to crank up for a big 2019, one of the big news stories for the year actually broke in late 2018 just as we were all winding down for the holiday period.

Just prior to Christmas, Cbus Property submitted an application for a 55-level office tower comprising approximately 64,500 sqm of premium grade office space at 435 Bourke St, on the corner of Bourke and Queen streets.

Designed by Bates Smart, the office tower supersedes two separate development proposals spanning 140 Queen St and 150 Queen St – better known as the Tower Melbourne site – and the subject of protracted legal proceedings between the owners of the properties.

The design of the tower is characterised by its streamline sculptural form, expressed as four vertical segments with a slight twist to allow for solar access and capped with a sloped roof profile to respond to overshadowing controls along the Yarra's Northbank.

Culminating in a 200 sqm sky terrace on level 53, 435 Bourke St will feature six different landscaped terraces throughout providing workers with areas of respite and social interaction.

According to Cbus Property, pending planning approval, it intends to launch 435 Bourke St to market early this year with construction expected to start in 2019.

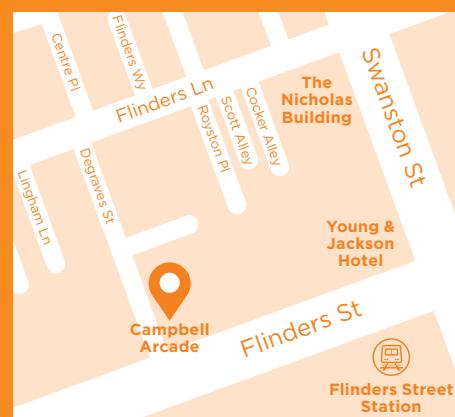
As mentioned in the final column for 2018, 2019 shapes as a big year particularly on the commercial office front with a host of large-scale planning applications expected to be submitted for approval. These include adjoining sites at 55 King and 555 Collins St, 60 Collins St and 383 LaTrobe St to name a few.

In the meantime, this year should see the topping out of significant projects around the Hoddle Grid such as Stage 1 of Wesley Place, 80 Collins St, Collins Arch, Collins House and Oldfleets.



Laurence Dragomir

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



Campbell Arcade shops

- A Touch of Paris
- Sticky Institute
- The Cat's Meow
- Wax Museum Records
- Sublink PC Mobile Repair
- Cup of Truth



Music

Peach Melba

The Grand Salvo seventh album *Sea Glass* (Mistletoe Records) is an old-school concept album with a maritime theme.

It's been half a dozen years since the previous Grand Salvo album and the material is exceptional. *Sea Glass* has garnered accolades including Album of the Week from both 3RRR and 3PBS.

The driver man of Grand Salvo is Paddy Mann, brother of Oliver Mann, the great operatic rock singer. Paddy is in career-best form with this latest Grand Salvo album. Engineering and production reminiscent of Not Drowning Waving, maybe with a few extra milliseconds of reverb on the piano. Think The Same Heat feel.

Sea Glass is the contemplation of an artist living by the sea, taking an afternoon stroll along the beach, sighting the first star of the evening.

The pivotal song of the *Sea Glass* album is *In The Water*, a track that goes for almost 10 minutes. A compelling live performance of *In The Water* can be seen on the YouTube Random TV channel, filmed at XO Studios in Brunswick where Grand Salvo put in a towering performance of this song.

The video captures well the awe and respect audiences have for this musical project. There is great evocative lyrical content in this most dynamic song. The line *A Row of Faces Green and Blue* is reminiscent of an Albert Tucker painting from his series *Images of Modern Evil*.

"Inside her pocket a cigarette, a tiny split where it was bent" is a gem of everyday minutiae placed in the narrative. Paddy Mann can hold and sustain a note like Ron S Peno from Died Pretty.

Sea Glass track listing from pillar to post is: *A Flux of Moments/ All Those Stars/ In The Shade/ Strange Days/ The Unquiet Tide/ In The Water/ The Black Coast/ Field Of Flowers/ Standing On The Sea.*

Sea Glass traverses many moods - eerie, melancholy, joyful, contemplative, reflective, mournful, a medieval timbre. The closer, *Standing On The Sea*, is a ripper. Grand Salvo is double-clutching - saluting old friends and moments to cherish. Time and solace.

The exceptional Grand Salvo has delivered an absolute Peach Melba collection of songs.

GS, the ultimate storm voyager, is kicking and will be performing at Bendigo Autumn Music on April 25.

Tropical Lightning

Tropical Lightning Cimematica and the TFS band put in a series of brilliant performances in late November playing an original live soundtrack that accompanied screenings of the film *No Country For Old Men*.

This occurred at the Playhouse Theatre at the Victorian Arts Centre. The film, a West Texas 80s noir action drama, is the Coen Brothers' interpretation of the Cormac McCarthy dark novel of the same name.

Cormac McCarthy is a favourite author among many musos. He has a very visceral, vivid imagination. TFS is the appropriate band to do the complementary soundtrack work to this film adaptation of McCarthy's book, when one considers the cinematic imaginings you can have when hearing the outro to *You Let My Tyres Down* from the TFS album *Laughing Death In Meatspace* (Joyful

Noise Recordings) and is one of the best albums in 2018.

TFS band, comprising Gareth Liddiard (guitar, vocals), Fiona Kitschin (guitar, vocals), Lauren Hammel (drums, percussion) and Erica Dunn (guitars, keys and assorted gadgets), were able to summon up the appropriate angularity, the displaced harmonics timed to perfection, absolute syncopated power surging, sturm und drang with a quick smoke at Spots vibing to complement the Coens' film.

TFS delivered the goods again with a startling performance Chameleon painting with the big screen. Kudos to the *Hear My Eyes* posse who got the ball rolling on this.

Drive Live

3PBS 1106.7FM blistering live-to-air juggernaut *Drive Live* returns to the airwaves, with a scintillating collection of Melbourne's best purveyors of punk, funk, soul, hip-hop, hardcore and everything in between. The free series of in-studio performances feature three acts performing from Studio 5 live each night and offers audiences a power-packed peek into a live-to-air studio broadcast. Happening from February 4 through to February 8. Spectacular line-ups every night - at 5 we drive!

Share the spirit

The Balit Narrun 2019 - *Share The Spirit* is happening at Treasury Gardens and it is a day of music that showcases the diverse talents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in Victoria. Artists performing include the magnificent Mojo Juju, Stiff Gins, Brothers in Arms, Birdz, Jeddah, Djirri Djirri dancers and the mighty MC Monica Karo. There will be craft and food stalls, children's entertainment and a whole heap more. January 26 at Treasury Gardens from 1pm

Chris will be missed

Chris Wilson, a phenomenal muso will be missed very much in Melbourne. A blues muso who had the staggering ability to summon up the blues with a feeling of an old-school Baptist preacher laying down the word to the congregation. When Heinous Hounds first started, many times it seemed as if Chris Wilson was the man who had the compass pointing True North for his fellow musos.

The people who were there at those shows at the Ding Dong Lounge remember the awe that the audience and the band had when Wilson would play from deep within the heart of the matter. Incredible and visionary. One occasion Wilson's son Finn subbed on drums in Heinous Hounds at the Ding Dong Lounge. Most memorable. Vale Chris Wilson.



Chris Mineral
email:
mineralsands@hotmail.com

Heritage

Ever heard of the Cathedral Room?

Next to the wonderful, spectacular Gothic Bank on Collins St there's a side entry up a few stairs.

During business hours if you wander in and head down the back you'll find an amazing, empty, Gothic-style hall, complete with groin vaults and a stained-glass window.

The aptly named Cathedral Room has been connected to the bank since the 1920s, but wasn't built for it - it was actually built as part of the 1891 Stock Exchange next door, a building designed by William Pitt that was even more extravagant than William Wardell's design for the ES&A Bank, built in 1883-87, which famously cost twice its budget.

Thirty years later the exchange sold out to the bank, which liked its ornate banking chamber so much, it copied all the internal details of the chamber and doubled its size by building into the exchange. You can hardly tell from inside. In the process though, the elaborate Gothic entrance to the Stock Exchange was lost.

Then in 1989 the ANZ Bank decided to build its world headquarters office tower behind and, as a trade-off for extra height, created a banking museum, restored all the old buildings, but also demolished parts of



the backs to create a couple of glassed-in atriums.

In 2016 the bank moved to the Docklands, and sold everything except the Gothic Bank to a developer, who is now proposing to put a café into the Cathedral Room, re-instate 1920s windows at the back (removed in the last restoration), turn the atriums into open light wells, connect to surrounding laneways, and demolish the recreated Stock Exchange entry to put back lifts which were demolished in the 1990s!

This is all very complicated, and it's hard to say whether all of the proposal is good or not but anything that gets more people in to see the wonderful Cathedral Room, even filled with the clutter of a café, is probably a good thing.



Rohan Storey
Vice President
Melbourne Heritage Action

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We Live Here

Cladding confusion continues

We Live Here has been inundated with complaints that it has been almost impossible to get accurate, consistent information about cladding and how to address the issue.

Owners' corporations (OCs) have been telling us they are getting mixed messages about whether there is a cladding issue at all.

Is our building on a danger list or not? Some buildings just could not find out what was going on. And other buildings not "on the list" were misled into inaction.

The whole issue has been managed by the authorities in an ad hoc, shambolic fashion. Owners have suffered from incompetence at all levels of government. Issues include:

- Lack of communication to residents and owners;
- Poor communication between the government and councils;
- No guidelines; and
- Rapidly shifting approaches by municipal building surveyors.

How many of you received a building notice as a Christmas present from your local council grinch?

Yes, that's what happened. Late last year, the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) and the Municipal Association of Victoria pressured councils to act before Christmas against high-rise buildings with "inappropriate use" of cladding.

The councils responded with a Santa-sack of building notices.

Waiting, waiting ...

Let's go back to this time one year ago when the CEO of the VBA said: "I understand you might be worried about this issue and I assure you that we are working with owners' corporations, fire authorities, local councils and other government bodies to help you and to address this issue as quickly as possible."

If you were lucky, you would have received a postcard from the VBA with this statement in February 2018. Some of us got nothing – until the building notice.

Since then, hapless high-rise owners have been needing information and direction on what to do.

We Live Here does have some good news. The VBA has now updated its website with more detailed information. Google "VBA assessing and fixing cladding". You will find a step by step process outlined.

What is not on the website is the expected timeframe.

Our members are telling us that, start-to-finish, the process is measured in years, not months.

The VBA website says every building over three storeys will be assessed for unsafe cladding, and is offering free tests to determine if your cladding is combustible.

This could save your owners' corporation thousands of dollars, but is of no help to those who've muddled out for themselves how to go about it.

Who's next on the cladding hit-list?

The VBA will prioritise buildings for inspection based on several factors, including "intelligence from local councils", if you can forgive the oxymoron.

Put a fire risk management plan in place NOW

We Live Here encourages all high-rise apartment buildings to implement a fire risk management plan NOW. This will help you avoid getting emergency orders. The plan should set out all the management steps you

have implemented to make your building safe while the assessment is being carried out.

Properly managed, you can get through the whole cladding resolution process with only a building notice, not a building order.

Parliament shapes up

We were pleased to see the Transport Matters Party elected to parliament. We are looking forward to seeing the approach it takes because of the number of parallels between ride-sharing and short-stays.

Living under the Airbnb Bill

High-rise residents will soon be subjected to the limitations of the so-called Airbnb Bill, set to become law on February 1, 2019.

Short-stay guests trash your building? \$10,000 damage? \$20,000 damage?

Bad luck, the maximum you'll get is \$2000. And under the Airbnb Act you cannot seek redress from the owner of the apartment – you'll have to chase the overseas visitor who probably just skipped the country.

Airbnb crime and damage has been on a sharp uptick – have a look at our website for links to the latest media stories on the wild times in apartments and our suburbs. How this equates to the "rare instances of bad behaviour or unruly parties", cited by the government as the reasons for bringing in this "Trojan Horse" of a Bill after the last election⁽¹⁾.

Members are now asking us for advice about how they can use the new rules to impact on rogue short-stay operations in their building. Our reply is they should direct the question to the Minister for Consumer

Affairs as at present there is nothing they can legally do.

We Live Here again calls on Daniel Andrews' government to:

- AMEND the Owners Corporation Act 2006 to regulate the short-stay industry;
- RESTORE POWERS to OCs to make decisions about use of a lot, lost in Justice Riordan's Supreme Court decision in July 2017; and
- LISTEN to residents. You did listen to residents down at Apollo Bay. How about up here in Melbourne?

Footnote 1: Press Release May 23, 2016. Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts – Minister Garrett has given owners' corporations a Trojan Horse

Minister's decision to introduce laws to stamp out bad behaviour in short-term stays will lead to more (not less) "ghettos in the sky".

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.

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 address in this column.



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

Residents 3000

City life has surprising upsides

Here is what Chris Murphy has to say about his relocation to the city. (Chris is a new Residents 3000 committee member.)

"After almost 40 years of commuting into the CBD for study and work, my wife and I took the plunge and moved into the Melbourne CBD. Our children had all grown up and started their own life journeys and it was time for us to enjoy some 'me' time. And mostly, our change produced few surprises."

"Living in the epicentre of Victoria's economic, social, cultural and sporting activities was as exciting as we imagined. Great food and coffee on our doorstep, theatre and sports options that are unrivalled on the world stage. The Queen Victoria Market offered us unlimited spoils for food, and perhaps most enviable in this day and age, was the complete elimination of the daily commute and sitting in never-

ending traffic."

"And the several downsides were also hardly surprising. The noise of garbage trucks plying the city at night, the boisterous and noisy restaurant and nightclub patrons spilling out onto the street, the difficulty in finding parking for our visitors and almost impossibility of getting tradesmen to quote for work – let alone undertake it."

"But overall, as we expected, the upsides of city living well exceeded the downsides. What was so surprising was how supportive and vibrant the community of Melbourne is. Rather than being a soulless concrete canyon, the city we found was more like a country town than a giant metropolis. Neighbours stopped to say hello, shopkeepers remembered you and your favourite order and restaurants were more like a home kitchen than a commercial business."

"In part, I know this sense of community is built on the attitude we bring. When you stop to say hello, people say hello back. When you share a little story about yourself,

you get a story back."

Just a simple nod in an elevator can break the ice and lead to great discoveries. There are now over 30,000 residents in postcode 3000 and its near surrounds. And if you reach out to them as neighbours and fellow community members you may be surprised by the response."

"If like many of us you are afraid of taking that first step, then consider joining Residents 3000. Here you will meet other residents who can share their experiences and discoveries. From the simple to the obscure, from where to find a good tradesman or service to how to navigate the bureaucracy that governs so much of our city lives, someone will have the answer."

Residents 3000 holds a forum on the first Thursday evening of each month at the Kelvin Club where you can be informed about crucial issues for CBD residents and perhaps more importantly meet other residents and start to join a community that will make living in the city even more rewarding than you expected.

Events are published on the Residents 3000 web site: www.residents3000.com.au.

Our first two events have been confirmed.

- February 7 at 6pm – An interesting update on the grand Metro Tunnel project.
- March 7 at 6pm – Meet and discuss with our parliamentarians – Fiona Patten MLC and Ellen Sandell MLA.

Members and guests are welcome. If you are not sure whether Residents 3000 is for you, just come along as a guest for a few times to try us out!



Susan Saunders

Vice President
Ph: 0412 566 606
email: sue@residents3000.com.au



RESIDENTS 3000

MELBOURNE

Critic

An open mind in the big city

By Rhonda Dredge

It's 5.45 on Friday night and the bar at Young and Jackson is full of workers but you can still feel alone.

The hotel is a favourite watering hole in Melbourne, particularly among interstate visitors. Boutique beers are on tap and there's a friendly crowd who will swap business cards at the drop of a hat and compare notes about professional preoccupations. You can pretend a little here.

Creative writers are often solitary creatures who delve into private spaces. There's a preference for understanding and showing in contemporary Australia literature "character" at a deep yet concrete level. Is a pub in the CBD too shallow as a setting?

Julia Prendergast is in town for a book launch. She's stopped off at the pub for a beer and a chat. She's trying to take her job as writer and academic seriously. She isn't sure which hat she is wearing. Sometimes the demands are overbearing.

The launch is up Swanston St but she's just received a text warning her to avoid the corner of Bourke. This is real life and it's more confronting than both fiction and academia. She has been thrown in at the deep end of the CBD at its most dangerous. Everyone is acting normally, however. She's got a glass of chardonnay and her friend has a beer. They could have been in any bar in the country except for the view out the window. They are upstairs looking down on Flinders Street Station.

A bouncer out the front has just told Julia that three people have been stabbed. That's all she knows. This is way outside her area of expertise. She's a realist writer not a true crime specialist. She feels as if she's on a freeway and that life is whizzing past quite dauntingly. Her first book has just been released and it's a finely-tuned, first-person account of family life in present tense. How relevant is this in an era of terrorist attacks and texts from the police?

"I think that fiction writing is an opportunity to say things than can't be said elsewhere," she says, looking worried. She doesn't seem that convinced but she's sticking to her guns. Travel by foot is the only way of defining your range. She is training up a batch of creative writing students at Swinburne to value their responses. Existential moments mean more to her than the drama of the big city but this evening she is not letting on.

She talks about the missed moments of human experience. It's important to be alert. She looks out the window.

"Writing is an opportunity to provide scaffolding for ideas and transfer what's unsayable to other people," she said. She has spent some time supporting her ideas with theory. This is the job of the creative writing academic. She would rather be writing fiction, and Young and Jackson on the evening of the stabbing in Bourke St is not her first choice of setting.

The CBD attracts writers. They have their favourite places. The Wheeler Centre is one. Ms Prendergast has read from her novel at



The Next Big Thing, a forum for new writers there. Writers tend to see the CBD as a place for broadcasting their regional stories. Narratives are meant to travel well. The CBD of Melbourne has struggled to develop an identity. You're more likely to find hype here than anything home-grown.

According to statistics released by the City of Literature, Melbourne has almost a million creative writers. What does this indicate? It appears that everyone wants to join the profession. Readers want to become writers. A novel invites a reader into its pages. It is a site of hospitality in which the reader is flattered and entertained. No wonder the literary fervour is spreading.

Creative writers prefer to talk about uncertainty than statistics even though Julia is part of a growing industry that often presents writing as a glamorous career full of launches and chats. These are incentives for engagement in the profession yet they are way down the track for the novice writer. Julia's book is made up of a series of interlocking short stories. Some have been published in small magazines. Other writing academics have been supportive. It has been a long cautious road. She wasn't sure if the book would find a publisher.

Julia is also a mother of six. She has a PhD in creative writing and teaches full-time. Her first book is called *The Earth Does Not Get Fat*. She organises conferences and is the book review editor for an academic journal. She often gets up at 3 am to write.

Content demands a lot of a writer. You could say that she is spreading herself thin. If fiction is her first love, she also has family, theory and teaching as options for her creative energy. They all make up the one totality yet some places are better than others for finding the support you need to forge a career in an increasingly competitive field.

The mark of a professional creative writer is compulsion, she says. "There's a big difference between writing and the desire to be part of a scene." This is pithy advice for those who like to hang out in Readings or at the Wheeler Centre. You need tenacity and the keenness to get to the bottom of a story. Results may not ever match youthful desires.

Julia is currently working on a short story about olfactory hallucinations.

"I like concrete, realist work. You can't create compassion with compassion. You have to get to the concrete and specific." The comments come from the great US short story writer Flannery O'Connor and she uses them at Swinburne. Students write about moments - a dying woman projecting herself onto a butterfly, a socially-isolated man waiting for a wife to be delivered on e-bay, a woman on the way to the hospital with a phantom pregnancy. She is able to bring out the dark in her students without being too

also with PhDs. Their area of specialisation is road engineering. They can talk quite knowledgeably about bitumen. They are rather charming in their delight to be meeting a published writer. Julia begins to blossom. Is there such a thing as too much introspection?

"What I like about the CBD is that it's so anonymous. People act out in symbolic ways," she said. Creative writing students tend to base their stories on themselves. What if they tried a bit of projection rather than introjection? It might be amusing to create a character who designs roads rather than a subjective prison.

The precarious trajectory of the individual rings a bell with contemporary readers. A writer lifts up the carapace of society and looks at what's lurking beneath. Cooking for six children must be a trial. Even creative writing must seem like a breeze in comparison. Closely focussed narratives may seem suburban compared to genre pieces that escape the confines of the self but who's to judge? Only a brave critic would dare suggest that Julia put her feet up. There are conferences to attend and people to meet. The life of a writer can be quite cosmopolitan.

"I'm interested in what happens behind closed doors," she said. The best locations are secrets and she's not giving them away. You need an open mind in the big city.

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文化色彩家庭 庆祝中国猪年

撰稿Jessica Carrascalao Heard

家庭和文化将是2019年墨尔本庆祝中国新年活动的重点，2月份将喜迎猪年。

这次春节庆祝活动将于2月2日至17日举行，届时将会有本地和国际中国艺术家的表演，以及荣获2017年度澳大利亚厨艺大师戴安娜·陈(Diana Chen)的烹饪表演。

中国新年联合会主席托马斯·林(Thomas Ling)说，今年的春节将是“我们最大的庆祝活动”。

他说：“我们希望每年都做得更大...我们尽力做到更独特、更有创意，并展现多方面的中国新年传统”。

这次节日活动旨在展示中国传统标志性的色彩和神韵。

灯光表演、舞蹈、时装游行和现场音乐将贯穿整个庆祝活动。

闭幕式将会有一场灯笼游行，同时还有火龙和闪光狮子的表演。

由于今年更加注重文化，组织者也联系了来自其他文化的社区团体来分享庆祝活动。

林先生说：“他们也许不来参加表演，但是他们可以来体验墨尔本的中国新年期间所进行的庆祝活动。”

林先生说这在澳大利亚很重要，尤其是在维多利亚，因为不同的民族群体在这里形成了不同的社区。

他说：“墨尔本长期以来一直宣称自己是世界上最成功的多元文化城市之一。”

这次节日庆祝还将在道克兰(Docklands)区举行第一次龙舟赛，组织者希望到2020年这将成为一项国际性活动。

这次节日庆祝还组织舞狮活动，包括在道克兰区奥布莱恩(O'Brien)滑冰场的冰上舞狮。

庆祝活动将跨越南岸、墨尔本CBD、道克兰区以及墨尔本北端的博物馆。

这次的节日庆祝活动将于2月17日落幕，在墨尔本博物馆举行闭幕式。

政府可能放宽高层建筑的限制

撰稿David Schout

州规划厅长理查德·韦恩(Richard Wynne)已经暗示将放宽对较少市内新摩天大楼的批准。

这个称为C270的规划限制，是当时自由党领导下高层建筑批准激增后，州政府于2016年11月所推出的。

当时的规划厅长马修·盖伊(Matthew Guy)，因为对开发商的建筑高度过度放宽而得到“摩天大楼先生”的绰号，C270的实施使得高楼项目批准有所下降。

但韦恩先生最近的评论暗示，严格的规划控制可能会改变。

在最近接受Domain采访 时，他承认政府需要考虑C270是否需要“调整”。

根据该修正案，两年多来只有四座新的CBD大楼获得批准，这要求开发商在获得规划批准前要满足更严格的密度、分离度和公共区域条件。

澳大利亚房地产委员会的一份报告引发了商业办公室空置率低的警报，这可能是政府心态转变的关键驱动因素。

该报告的结论是，市区商业办公室空缺率已经低到令人担忧的水平，并且是澳大利亚所有CBD中最低的。

房地产委员会维多利亚代理执行总监马修·康德拉(Matthew Kandelaars)说：“如果行业的担忧没有立即得到解决，当那些(C270之前的)起重机降下来时，就不会被替换，所有这些支持工作也不会有人取代。”

该报告似乎产生了预期的影响，韦恩先生现在愿意评估该行业机构的担忧。

一位政府发言人向本报证实：“我们将与权威机构合作，完善法规，确保我们能继续提供大量商业办公空间。”

“自由党想要放弃这些控制，让开发商用无限的摩天大



楼赚钱，而我们则还会保留这些重要的限制。”

毫不奇怪，房地产委员会欢迎这一消息，并表示期待与韦恩先生合作。

维多利亚执行总监克雷斯特达·沃(Cressida Wall)说：“房地产委员会强烈主张需要改变C270，我们提供了实质性的研究，这些研究显示了迫切的变革需求。”

“对C270的改变是紧迫的——CBD的建筑需要五至七年时间才能完成，自C270推出以来，只批准了四个建筑项目，除非政府迅速采取行动解决这些问题，否则我们将面临CBD发展下降的重大悬崖。”

但是这是否像房地产委员会所说的那样糟糕呢？开发商Cbus Property在圣诞节前提交了一份申请，要求在伯克街435号建造一座55层的办公大楼，该地块原来定为高层住宅建筑区。

事实上，许多大型商业办公开发项目预计将于2019年提交审批，包括位于国王街55号和柯林斯街555号、柯林斯街60号和拉筹伯街383号的地块。

“居民3000”组织的主席拉斐尔·卡米洛(Rafael Camillo)说，他希望所有高层建筑的申请都要最大限度地尊重当地居民的利益。

他说：“市中心需要有一个清晰的视野，我们不能公事公办地让建筑项目与周围环境隔离开来。”

据了解，规划厅长最早将于2月份开始就C270的某些方面进行重新评估。

咔嚓 咔嚓 – 抓住你了！

统计数据显示，国王(King)街和拉筹伯(LaTrobe)街交叉路口一台新安装的超速监控摄像头是墨尔本大都市最活跃的摄像头之一。

这台摄像头是2018年初安装的，在过去的一年里，通过它已经开出了33470张罚款单，成为墨尔本第五个最繁忙的监控摄像头。

罚款金额超过800万澳元。

除了拍摄从60kmh降至40kmh后几百米路段向南行驶的违章超速驾车者外，这款高性能监控摄像头也拍摄了大量的闯红灯驾车者。

这是2018年4月至6月以及7月至9月期间评为顶级的摄像头。

假乞丐

当地警方一直在打击墨尔本市中心的“假”乞丐和反社会行为。

墨尔本东区警察局督察克雷格·皮尔(Craig Peel)告诉本报，基于一些假乞丐的出现，我们制定了一个“运作规则”。

皮尔督察说“这个运作规则是根据有关情况报告所显示的犯罪现象而出台的，报告显示有些并不是无家可归的和需要援助服务的人在街上进行乞求施舍。”

他说，墨尔本东区警察局已经针对这些影响CBD及其周围人群舒适性的乞丐和有反社会行为的个人展开行动。

他说，一小部分“真实”乞丐的行为也是个问题。

皮尔督察说：“一小部分乞丐表现出的一些行为可能会对市区的安全产生负面影响，让那些想进CBD来享受的人感到不舒服或不安全”。 “在乞讨过程中有时还有一些其他的行为和犯罪。”

“让一些专门的支援服务机构来帮助那些真正需要帮助的人，包括住房援助(Launch Housing)和救世军组织，在那里可提供有关服务以及提供帮助无家可归者的途径。”

此运作规则于1月20日结束。

市区的工资 盗窃

随着公平工作委员会对工会去年揭露的雇主剥削行为进行的调查，服务业网上维权工会(Hospo Voice)继续揭露市内酒店雇主克扣员工工资的情况。

1月14日，Hospo Voice揭露了本市Treviso酒吧和餐馆发布的一则厨房帮工/洗碗工的在线广告，指出了该工资低于法定最低工资。

到1月17日，该雇主改编了他们原先的广告，将小时工资从20澳元提高到24.34澳元。

Hospo Voice揭露了克扣工资的热点餐饮地区后，公平工作委员会在圣诞节前突击检查了Degaves街和Hardware巷40多家餐厅和咖啡馆。

公平工作监察员对各种举报采取了行动，这些举报包括来自Hospo Voice和服务行业工人组织联合之声(United Voice)的宣传调查，以及通过公平工作委员会的匿名举报通道。

12月11日审计的指控细节尚未公布，但监察员桑德拉·帕克(Sandra Parker)表示，这是针对大众餐饮领域定向检查的一部分。

WHAT'S ON

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**10AM - 4PM, FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH ACMI, FEDERATION SQUARE
ACMI FAMILY SUNDAYS**

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. **FREE**

**7.30PM WEDNESDAYS,
16 CORRS LANE
CRAB LAB**

Comedy in the city at the House of Maxion with well-known performers from radio and TV plus some new talent.

FREE 0422 686 933

**INNER MELBOURNE
LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB**

Meeting on selected dates and various locations, IMLAC takes in the city's parks, its culture, fabulous eating options as well as festivals, galleries and concerts.

www.life.org.au/imlac
or call Dianne 0425 140 981

**7.20AM FOR A 7.40AM START,
TUESDAYS**

ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE

Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne.

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

**10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
10AM-3PM SUNDAY,
326 LONSDALE STREET**

MEET UP WITH FRIENDS

Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for **\$2.00**. Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the church yard). **9663 2495**

**MONDAYS 8.30PM,
41 BOURKE STREET
COMEDY AT SPLEEN**

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. **0439 660 836**

**4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.
LUNCHTIME, ST PETER'S EAST
MELBOURNE**

AUSTRAL SALON OF MUSIC

Listen to music from talented young musicians. Make new friends.

www.australsalon.org
0449 727 910

**EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2.30PM,
THE HUB, 506 ELIZABETH ST
FILM CLUB**

The film club has some of the best film noir classics including 1962 French Classic and two time Cannes winner "Sundays and Cybelle". **FREE**, coffee provided.

Contact John on **0459 398 358**

6:30PM EVERY MONDAY, ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, 326 LONSDALE STREET

JOIN OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

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. **FREE. 9663 2495**

**11AM TO 5PM TUESDAY – FRIDAY,
11AM TO 3PM SATURDAY, 5 - 16 FEBRUARY, 45 FLINDERS LANE
LIGHT. ASH. WHITE**

Evan Hancock's black and white photographic narrative marks the anniversary of Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires. **FREE.**
www.fortyfivedownstairs.com

**EVERY WEDNESDAY, FROM 6PM.
MELBOURNE CENTRAL LION HOTEL**

LANGUAGE SWAP

Speak another language but no one to practise with? Come along to the free language exchange and meet like-minded people who love language.

Bookings www.NewToMelbourne.org

7-9PM, EVERY *WEDNESDAY, WELSH CHURCH, 320 LA TROBE STREET

MEN'S CHOIR PRACTISE

Australian Welsh Male Choir weekly practise. Sing with our City Chapter. No need to be Welsh. *Except last Wednesday of the month. www.awmc.org.au or call Geoff on **0405 987 567**

**EVERY THURSDAY FROM 1PM,
ST MICHAEL'S, 120 COLLINS ST**

ST MICHAEL'S RECITAL

Experience spectacular music as the St Michael's grand organ comes to life for a free 30-minute recital every Thursday. No booking required. **9654 5120**

**MELBOURNE MUSEUM, CARLTON
MAKE BELIEVE**

The Story of the Myer Christmas Windows celebrates a beloved tradition. Magical models, working drawings, beloved books and playful puppets. **\$0 - \$15, museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on**

**10AM, EVERY 3RD TUESDAY,
POMODORO SARDO RESTAURANT,
111 LONSDALE ST**

EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB

Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed.

eastendersinc@gmail.com

**6PM, 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
THE KELVIN CLUB, 14 MELBOURNE PL
RESIDENTS 3000 FORUM**

A community group to inform, connect and support CBD residents.

Regular social events with speaker.

Details posted on residents3000.com.au

4-6PM, EVERY SUNDAY, CAMPARI HOUSE, 23-25 HARDWARE LANE

TRIVIA ON THE ROOF

A retractable roof and drink specials will help warm up your brain for Sunday trivia. Bookings not required.

9600 1574 or info@camparihouse.com.au

**10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATURDAY,
CITY LIBRARY**

ONCE UPON A TUNE

An interactive musical adventure that features live music by Beethoven, Brahms and Brumby. Suitable for children aged from 5-12 years. **FREE**

**1PM, EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
LEVEL 1, YARRA BUILDING,
FEDERATION SQUARE**

BIRRARUNG WILAM RIVER WALK

Learn about how the land under Melbourne has changed over time and its significance to the local Kulin people.

\$33, book on fedsquare.com/shopvisit/birrarung-wilam-walk

**10AM-5PM, FRIDAY TO WEDNESDAY,
AND THE FULL 24-HOUR INSTALLATION THURSDAY NIGHTS. TO 10TH MARCH, ACMI, FEDERATION SQUARE**

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Ph: 9654 5120
Church times:
Sunday Service at 10.00am

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://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

Scots' Church

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

St Francis' Church

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

St Paul's Cathedral

Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets
Ph: 9653 4333
Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm

St. Augustine's Catholic Church

631 Bourke St. Melb
Ph: 9614 1722
Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm
Mon – Fri Mass: 1.05pm
Mon – Fri Confessions: 12.30pm

Wesley Church

148 Lonsdale St
9.15 am Gospel Hall Cantonese/Mandarin Service
11.00 am Morning Worship Service
6.00 pm Evening Worship Service

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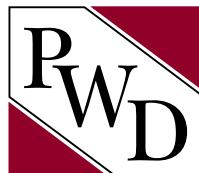
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Apartments mooted for Hosier Lane

By Meg Hill

A proposed development in Hosier Lane would place 36 serviced apartments and two new retail spaces in the tourist hot-spot.

The \$12 million development at 7-11 Hosier Lane would involve internal demolition and reconstruction of the existing three-story building and eight additional floors.

The development would have entrances on both Hosier Lane and Rutledge Lane. Part of the building is currently leased by the Youth Projects, a charity providing for disadvantaged and homeless youth.

It is unclear whether or not the development would allow for the Youth Projects to remain.

The current building, of which the exact construction date is not known but is estimated around the beginning of the 20th century, has heritage overlay protection.

A planning application for the development outlines the protection of the brick facade, which is required by the heritage listing. The additional eight storeys is described as "contemporary", with rainbow colouring that the application states will complement the graffiti and street art at ground level.

But the application also states that there will be "minimal visibility" of the additional storeys from ground level, and that this will mitigate any negative impact on the visual identity of the laneway.

Street artist Adrian Doyle said the proposal



A street artist painting an anti-commercial mural in Hosier last year.

was "outrageous".

"Hosier Lane gets 10,000 visitors a day, it's an economy in its own right," he said.

"Would they want to set up their shops and develop it if there wasn't street art? They're

using street art, even though it's illegal and they don't want to put any money into the art, so they can make a quick buck."

"They don't understand the currency of culture. At what point is the whole city going

to be exactly the same, like one big shopping mall?"

"We're a cool city because of our art, and it's just about gone."

The proposed development may inflame simmering tensions over commercialisation of the lane and its street art.

After Culture Kings opened a store with an entrance in the lane there was a dispute over the company calling the police to report street artists last year.

At the end of last year street artists also hit out at commercial art in the laneway, including promotions for sporting events and different businesses.

Culture Kings signed a 10-year lease in the lane in 2017, but there are almost no other retail or hospitality outlets in the lane at ground level.

A notable exception is Good2Go Coffee, also at the 7-9 address, which is a social enterprise run by the Youth Projects.

A proposed high-rise development at another address in Hosier Lane was met with widespread backlash in 2014 and was rejected by VCAT after being approved by then planning minister Matthew Guy.

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