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FREE

CBD NEWS

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Questions still loom over Fed Square

By Meg Hill

Following Heritage Victoria's decision to reject a demolition permit for the Yarra Building, Apple and the state government conceded that plans for a flagship store in the square had become untenable.

The government has also announced a review to examine the square's financial and governance arrangements. Planning Minister Richard Wynne called the square "sad", and told *The Age* something had to be done to stop it from withering away.

Federation Square CEO Jonathan Tribe told *The Age* the square needed government funding and, coming out of the Heritage Council of Victoria hearings over April 15-17, it seemed that heritage status had been secured – it was just a question of which criteria would be selected.

After more than a year of community activists yelling into the wind about the Apple proposal, with no concessions from the government or Federation Square management, it seemed like everything was happening at once.

But there are still major questions to be resolved. Our City Our Square spokesperson Brett De Hoedt said there was a new battle to be won.

"This review will influence Federation Square for the next 17 years, we want

to make sure it isn't just an open-air Chadstone in 17 years," he said.

"We welcome a review of how Federation Square is managed and enjoyed, but we do worry that everyday Melburnians won't be heard."

The review will be jointly chaired by Victorian Government architect Jill Garner and former managing partner of Ernst and Young Tim Eddy, and will be completed by the end of the year.

The state government said the review would work closely with the chair of Federation Square's board, Deborah Beale, and would involve public consultation.

Mr De Hoedt said Our City Our Square would seek a seat at the table, but he thinks the narrative being set up was the wrong one.

"We think the idea of Federation Square losing money is false to begin with. Federation Square is running at a deficit of four million dollars. That's the cost of four average Melbourne homes."

One line of the narrative has been the drop of visitor numbers by a million over four years.

"It dropped from 11 to 10 million, how is 10 million visitors a failure? Heaven forbid – something not being 100 per cent capacity 100 per cent of the time," Mr De Hoedt said.

"The Melbourne Cricket Ground is empty and locked up 99 per cent of the time."

Continued on page 2.



Snr Sgt Adam Tanner with the keys to the new holding cells at the CBD police station.

New CBD police station

The CBD has a new police station, with officers from Melbourne East Police moving on April 17 from Flinders Lane to new premises at 202 Bourke St. Read more on page 3.

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Questions still loom over Fed Square

Continued from page 1

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"The funding model has hurt it. Four million dollars is loose change for the government."

Federation Square is currently required to be "financially viable" on its own terms, which means operating on a profit motive. But it has only ever run at a deficit.

But Our City Our Square rejects seeing this as failure, and rather believes the profit margin is an unhealthy metric for public spaces.

In the same article in *The Age* decrying the drop of foot traffic, a restaurant proprietor based in Federation Square said there had been a 75 per cent drop in events in the square over the past two years. Fewer events meant less visitors and less money means less events.

This seems a lot like a chicken and egg scenario.

Mr Tribe told *CBD News* management would determine its position concerning both operation and capital funding "in due course" over the review.

"The decrease in foot traffic over the past few years is a focus for us. We operate in a more competitive world now (Cato Square, Melbourne Quarter, Docklands, lawns of the Library)," he said.

"However, our event programming for the square is aimed at increasing the number of event-activated days so we would expect our



Apple Store proposal protesters rally at Fed Square.

visitation numbers to improve over time."

The public consultation aspect has been welcomed, as the surprise announcement of the Apple plans in 2017 and the lack of consultation since was one significant source of criticism.

But it is unclear what form this will take.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley told *CBD News*: "The consultation program is currently being developed with the co-

chairs Jill Garner and Tim Eddy. I encourage everyone to have their say on this important public and cultural space."

Tania Davidge, president of Our City Our Square, said the group would like to see representatives from "heritage, architecture and design, people from arts and culture, and with events and hospitality experience, and we'll put ourselves forward as a community representative".

Sell or buy first? Which option is right for you?

It's the ultimate dilemma for any home owner planning to move on to a new property – do I sell or buy first? You don't want to sell unless you have somewhere else to live, but you don't want to buy unless you have the money from the original home. Whichever way you go, there will be some stress involved, so it's important to look at the pros and cons of each option to decide which is the most suitable and practical for your circumstances.

Existing Equity

Your decision should be based on your current equity situation and how fast you can sell your current home. In a "hot" market, a "hot" property is sure to sell fast – but don't assume that your property will attract an immediate buyer. Do your research so you have a realistic idea of the potential selling time. The other factor to consider is how long it will take you to find your next home. You don't want to be left homeless and in limbo while you search for the perfect property.

Your financial status

Generally speaking, selling first is a suitable option if you have little to no equity, or if the property will take some time to sell, either because the market is slow. This way, you are not caught in the situation of having two mortgages, and you can purchase your next home with an established budget based on the sale of your last home.

If you have significant equity in the current home combined with a healthy income, you can afford to balance your payments if you buy first.

Simultaneous settlement

If you are very lucky and well-organized, you can achieve the ideal – a simultaneous settlement. This is when the sale of your previous home and the purchase of your new home are processed simultaneously. So the money from your sale is instantly transferred into the purchase of your next home. Your solicitor or conveyancer and your financial lender will assist you best with this.

One way to achieve this is by selling your home with a long settlement period of up to six months. This gives you time to look for a new property, knowing that the payment from your previous home is available for the purchase. You can include a clause in contract allowing an earlier settlement in the event you find a home within that time frame.

You can also purchase a new home with a long settlement period, giving you extra time to sell your current home. However, this is riskier because if you fail to sell your home within the specified period, you could potentially lose your deposit on the new house and incur legal actions against you for non-performance of contract.

Buying first with a bridging loan

If you owe approximately 60% or less of the value of your current home, you may have sufficient equity to apply for a bridging loan. A bridging loan covers the cost of purchasing a new home and maintaining the two properties until you have sold your current home. You need to prove that you have sufficient equity to cover the loan once your property is sold.

This is generally a good option for a home owner who is downsizing, such as a pensioner, as the new home will be of considerably less value than the current home. As a bridging loan incurs a significant amount of interest, it is not a good option for anyone buying a more valuable property than the one they are selling, as the interest could become unmanageable.

In all situations you should seek good counsel from your financial lender, accountant or solicitor.



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New CBD police station

From from page 1

The move was particularly gratifying for station commander Snr Snr Adam Tanner, who had been working on the move for about three years.

Snr Sgt Tanner said the new station has been purpose-built for 21st century police, accommodating the very latest in technology.

“Policing has changed dramatically in the past 20 years,” he said. “While many other police stations are retro-fitting to keep up, Melbourne East is ready to go.”

He said facilities for the “on-the-street” officer were “10 times better” than at the old Flinders Lane building.

With more police in Victoria than ever, Snr Sgt Tanner said there was so much more room at the new Bourke St facility. There’s more room for visiting police as well.

“99 per cent of demonstrations in Victoria happen in our patch, so we need to be able to brief and accommodate a lot of officers here,” Snr Sgt Tanner said.

The public, too, was better catered for at the new police station, he said.

Disabled access has been improved and, best of all, the central location makes it so much more convenient for locals.

“Look where we are. You can’t get a more iconic central location than here,” he said.

The new station comes with three vehicle spaces on each side of Bourke St and, because there is little vehicular traffic between Russell and Swanston streets, the focus is on pedestrians.

And, while the “shopfront” approach is friendly and welcoming, the station is fully functional with “processing” ability and holding cells.

“I won’t go into the security features,” Snr Sgt Tanner said. “But what we have here is state-of-the-art.”

The new station is supported by new office accommodation a couple of doors down at 206 Bourke St.

Melbourne East Police Station looks after the CBD east of Elizabeth St. The area west of Elizabeth St is handled by Melbourne West Police Station in Spencer St, Docklands.



Out with the old (Flinders Lane)...



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Council sees the light with solar bins

By David Schout

The City of Melbourne is getting smarter about its so-called "smart bins" and has recently moved a number of the solar-powered units into the sunshine.

A number of the self-compacting bins, which hold around seven times the waste of a normal litter bin, have experienced power failures after their solar batteries failed to charge.

As a result, the compactor and notification technology also failed.

"A selection of solar smart bins have recently been relocated to areas with greater direct sunlight to ensure their batteries stay charged," a council spokesperson confirmed to *CBD News*.

Without a notification, the bins remain overflowed unless manually alerted by an officer or passers-by.

When properly charged, the smart bin's notification system sends an alert either when the bin hits 70 per cent capacity, or when there is a blockage.

"Overflowing solar smart bins are caused by either a blockage in the disposal point (large item placed into the bin) or a fault with the bin," the spokesperson said. "When there is a smart bin blockage, an alert is sent to our waste contractor, Citywide, who respond immediately to clear the blockage."

Despite some of the bins suffering a vitamin D deficiency, the introduction of the technology in the city has been a success, with new figures revealing that bin-collecting truck movements have dropped 85 per cent since their introduction.

Public collections have dropped from 93,000 to 14,500 per month across the City of Melbourne, resulting in far fewer trucks entering the CBD.



"The majority of collections take place overnight, resulting in almost all public litter bin waste trucks removed from the central city during the day," the spokesperson said.

Prior to this, bins in busy CBD locations were being filled as early as 8.30am, and overflowed with rubbish for much of the day, before being collected.

While the new technology has resulted in a significant drop in daytime waste collection, noisy trucks continue to cause issues at night.

In February, *CBD News* reported that trucks were illegally reversing up Hosier Lane in the early hours of the morning for waste collection.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp flagged this as a serious issue in October.

Within the last 18 months, the council has replaced 772 litter bins in the CBD with 397 solar smart bins following a successful two-year trial from September 2015.



Collingwood FC CEO Mark Anderson, Australia Post CEO Christine Holgate, the Salvation Army's Australia Southern Territory (AST) Heritage Centre founder George Ellis, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Salvation Army Melbourne Project's Major Brendan Nottle.

Salvation Army opens new facilities

A collaborative project at the Salvation Army on Bourke St has built personal mailboxes and storage facilities for Melbourne's homeless.

The initiative was led by Salvation Army, the Collingwood Football Club, Australia Post and the City of Melbourne (CoM) - resulting in 171 personal mailboxes and more than 150 storage boxes.

The previous storage facilities at the space were limited and at capacity, and mail could only be received via a single PO Box.

The new facilities were opened by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Australia Post CEO Christine Holgate, Collingwood FC CEO Mark Anderson and the Salvation Army Melbourne Project's Major Brendan Nottle.

Christine Holgate said the joint initiative was an opportunity to give people without a fixed address the chance to reconnect with society.

"Personal onsite mailboxes enable people in special circumstances to re-establish connections with family and friends, government and financial services, and accommodation, in a safe and secure space," she said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the project was an example of how government and

the private sector can work together with agencies to support people who are homeless or sleeping rough on the streets of Melbourne.

"Many people don't realise how difficult it is to connect with services like Centrelink and Medicare if you don't have a fixed address when filling out the paper work," the Lord Mayor said

"A personal mailbox is a simple way of helping people reconnect with society."

CoM's Deputy Lord Mayor Aaron Wood and "people city" chair Beverley Pinder were at the opening.

"Regardless of an individual's heartbreaking circumstances, dignity and respect is what each of us needs," Cr Pinder said.

"Storage lockers and mailboxes are practical solutions to the very real issues faced by some of our most vulnerable people sleeping on our streets, and their precious worldly goods and Centrelink notices are two key elements that this initiative delivers on."

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Market vision rescued

By Shane Scanlan

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has brought the City of Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market (QVM) project back from the brink.

Cr Capp last year danced close to the precipice by instigating a "people's panel" process to advise on critical infrastructure requirements and the project looked doomed when the panel last year recommended keeping the existing car park.

This recommendation, however, has been conveniently ignored and councillors unanimously endorsed a new plan on April 2, which repurposes the car park as public open space, which the council is now calling "Market Square".

Excising the 1.5 ha car park for other uses has always been the council's prime motivation for stumping up \$250 million to "renew" the market. It has also been the major source of opposition from market traders, fearing a downturn in business without it.

"Box hire" traders too have been behind organised opposition to the city's ambition, and this is likely to intensify as the council pursues storage options at previously temporary stalls under heritage open sheds.

That the council is back on track to take

the car park is a credit to the Lord Mayor's political prowess. She has successfully outmanoeuvred project critics and brought a divided council back inline behind her.

In a half-hour Future Melbourne Committee debate, little was said about losing the car park.

In a brief acknowledgment, Cr Capp noted that the council's alternative parking location – underground in the yet-to-be-developed "southern site" – was 55 metres further away than the current car park.

"I'm sure than in the operations of the market we can find ways to overcome some of those needs of people who want to be closer to the traders in terms of 'click and collect' and other means," she said.

Cr Rohan Leppert, who has been influential in Cr Capp's strategic direction, said Market Square had always been "sacrosanct" to him.

He noted that the people's panel has been a "circuit breaker". "I think that it's paid off now," he said.

"It's not a duplication of Flagstaff Gardens. This is a multipurpose space that's going to absolutely enhance and attract people to the market and allow those different market uses to spill out and completely new uses that complement the functions of the market," Cr Leppert said.

"This space has the potential to be

something that is absolutely wonderful and really, really helps the market go in lots of new and exciting directions and I think it's a much better way to respect the dead [in reference to the remains of 6000 people under the car park]."

Market trader Leah Moore had earlier asked the committee: "Why are you moving the current car park from where it is and make it hard for the customers and the producers to come and drop off their stuff?"

"Every other large retail precinct is increasing its car parking but you're taking the car parking away," she said.

Trader Marshall Waters remarked on the irony that earlier opposition to a council plan to develop a car park under Sheds A, B, C and D would have been better for traders.

"It was the best solution and it was stopped by unreasonable opposition with within the market and outside the market and from Heritage Victoria," Mr Waters said. "If everyone had have got behind that proposal, I'm sure Heritage Victoria would have found a way to make it work for them and for us."

Market CEO Stan Liacos also took a shot at project opponents saying: "We take actions on behalf of the ENTIRE market community for the COMMON good of the market."

He said: "No change at QVM is not an option."

STAG ups the ante

Queen Victoria Market's Stallholders and Traders Action Group (STAG) has pledged to reconvene and re-energise its advocacy on behalf of disaffected traders.

Spokesperson Phil Cleary told *CBD News*, the group had recently incorporated and intended to pursue better outcomes for traders.

He accused Queen Victoria Market (QVM) management of being autocratic and high-handed, and this had resulted in a number of legal cases against it.

Mr Cleary said market management had "no idea" how to promote the market and STAG was about to begin a series of promotional and marketing campaigns.

He said STAG aimed to represent the majority of traders at the market and would "drag" Lord Mayor Sally Capp and City of Melbourne CEO "into the conversation".

Cr Capp told *CBD News* that STAG was welcome to feed into ongoing engagement with QVM management.



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E-scooters line up to launch in city

By David Schout

Over 10 dockless electric scooter companies are vying to enter the Melbourne market in a bid to replace the “last mile” transport void left by O-bike.

But ambitious operators are waiting on the state government, whose tough scooter laws remain unchanged.

Despite big plans from companies to launch in Melbourne – including a recent demo event by Uber-backed Lime – the scooters are still illegal in Victoria.

Current legislation dictates that any electric scooter that exceeds a top speed of 10kmh is considered a motor vehicle, and must be registered and ridden by a rider with a motorcycle licence.

These laws essentially prevent the launch of all dockless e-scooter operators, whose vision is for anyone to ride the “last mile” to their destination – that is, the distance between their train or tram stop, to their workplace or meeting point.

Users unlock the scooter via a designated app and are charged per minute.

For months, operators have been lobbying the state government to change the laws, which they say were designed for toy vehicles.

But thus far, the state government has remained unmoved.

Most e-scooters can travel at around 25kmh and, while operators can speed-regulate them, they consider speeds below the 10kmh threshold as impractical.

Startups such as Lime, Bird and RIDE have been granted trials in other capital cities but Melbourne remains untouched, to their frustration.

Lime general manager for Melbourne George Morrison told *CBD News* it was time the government changed the law.

“We hold great ambitions for Melbourne,” he said. “There’s clearly an appetite for micro-mobility here. We recently had 500 people

turn up at a demo event.”

Mr Morrison lamented the fact that “more modern, progressive states” had more accommodating regulations in place and he wants a trial permit to prove they can work.

“For us to not be operational – you can read into that what you will. Ultimately the laws should be revised, but in the short term we’re asking for a sandbox trial to be put up. Our model is tried and tested.”

Lime even resorted to asking demo event attendees to lobby their local MPs to lift the speed limit.

Greens MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell confirmed she had received several inquiries, but said the issue needed to be further investigated.

“The Greens are very supportive of looking at new, innovative ways of getting around our city,” she said.

“However, any bike or scooter share scheme also needs to make sure it doesn’t repeat the mistakes of the past where we’ve seen, for example, abandoned oBikes clutter up footpaths and our rivers and creeks.”

Mr Morrison said concerns a scooter rollout would see a repeat of what he termed the oBike “fiasco”, where bikes were found dumped on footpaths, trees and the Yarra River, were unfounded.

Lime’s model involves independent contractors, or “juicers”, picking up the scooters at around 10-11pm daily to charge overnight, deploying them again between 5-7am.

He said this eliminated the key issue in oBike’s “idealistic” rollout, which saw a large excess of unused bicycles. “If there’s a scooter that’s sitting around, there’s something wrong with it,” Mr Morrison said.



But the state government remains tight-lipped on any regulatory changes.

“Be it cars, pedestrians, cyclists or e-scooters, the safety of all road users is our highest priority,” a government spokesperson said.

“We continue to work closely with our road safety partners to determine how e-scooters may safely integrate with our existing transport network.”

The City of Melbourne confirmed that more than 10 companies had been in contact with it about launching in the city.

But the council said it too was waiting for a regulatory framework from the state government before it could proceed.

One of the council’s key concerns surrounds the scooters impact on already congested footpaths within the Hoddle Grid.

Many dockless scooters are parked on walkways.

“We are absolutely for efficiency of transport modes and helping people get around our city, but it’s got to be done in a way that’s respectful and that doesn’t create more clutter,” Lord Mayor Sally Capp said on ABC radio.

CBD kiosks deactivated

Nine CBD kiosks will be removed by the end of the year after the City of Melbourne announced it would not renew the leases when they expire in November.

All the rectangular shaped kiosks in the city will be removed, but the circular kiosks will remain. The council’s Street Trading Team Leader Hugh Kilgower said the kiosks, which sell newspapers and small items, had become anachronistic.

“When I was a kid, newspapers were sold at street corners. Council assisted newsagents back in the day with putting structures in place,” he said.

“Over time, the city has changed and evolved and there’s a lot more businesses around – 7-Elevens and supermarkets. The need for those kiosks has changed.”

Mr Kilgower said when the kiosks were installed 30 years ago the city was less active, but now they were creating “bottle necks” for foot traffic. He said this congestion was also a reason for the decision.

Council transport chairman Nicolas Frances Gilley told the *Herald Sun* the kiosks initially helped activate the city.

“We have great respect for the historical and cultural value of the kiosks, so we have begun reaching out for find new homes for the structures once they are removed,” he said.

One of the kiosks is heading to Collingwood Children’s Farm.

Fatih Dicle, who has run a kiosk on Elizabeth St for two-and-a-half years, told the *Herald Sun* he was “disappointed but not surprised”.

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Luke Creasey - Labor



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\$1.5 billion 555 Collins proposal

Charter Hall Group has applied for planning permission to build a 35-storey office building at 555 Collins St.

If successful, the building will mark the first phase of a staged \$1.5 billion development on a combined 4620 sqm, which also includes 55 King St.

The proposed design includes an activated ground plane with connections between Collins St, King St and Flinders Lane, a premium retail hub with food and beverage outlets and a landmark health and wellbeing offering.

The building will be one of the city's most sustainable office buildings, targeting 6 Star Green Star, 5 Star NABERS Energy and Platinum WELL certification.

In 2016, Singaporean developer Fragrance Group was granted approval for a 147m residential tower at 555 Collins St which would have comprised 625 apartments.

It had earlier failed to gain approval for a 300m mixed-use building on the site.



A render of the proposal for 555 Collins St.

Five candidates to choose from

On May 18 CBD voters have at least five candidates to choose between to represent them in the House of Representatives in the next federal parliament.

Three-term Greens sitting member Adam Bandt, 47, again starts as favourite, with the ALP and Liberal parties throwing up new candidates and minor parties also in the hunt for the federal seat of Melbourne.

Mr Bandt is a former industrial lawyer and first was elected in 2010. In 2016, he won the seat comfortably over the Liberal Party, with the ALP performing poorly in a seat which used to be one of its safest.

This time around, the Liberals have pre-selected self-described "global entrepreneur" Lauren Sherson and the Labor Party's hopes ride on the shoulders of gay-activist and high school teacher Luke Creasey.

Ms Sherson, 39, summarises her LinkedIn profile as: "Investigating unsolved problems through entrepreneurship, psychology and politics."

The profile also says she achieved a Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Swinburne's Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship in 2007 and followed on with post-graduate qualifications in teaching and psychology.

"Lauren's energy is her signature trait and acute focus is her approach. She uses the science of entrepreneurship to catalyse opportunity and applies context from her extraordinary life experience and life-long bonds to produce unimaginable outcomes," her profile says.

She lists five years' experience as "chief safecracker" at The Safecrackers Club and two years as "director of opportunities" for The Jade Lions. A company search shows that the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) is in the process of de-registering The Jade Lions.

Mr Creasey teaches health and food technology at Coburg High School. Before moving to Coburg High, he taught for four years at Princes Hill Secondary College. He has a science degree and a teaching qualification from RMIT university.

In August last year, the then 28-year-old told Joy FM it was his mother's experience as a victim of Kennett-government education cuts that inspired his political aspirations.

"My mum was one of those teachers who was out of work and I've seen what that does

to people," he said.

He told the radio presenters: "I am a Labor leftie. I quite often agree with things that the Greens say. But I don't just want to feel good about the words I say, I want to feel good about the lives we can change and I do think we can change lives through winning government."

Mr Creasey lists his volunteering experience on LinkedIn as being co-convenor of Rainbow Labor Network Victoria and also being a member of Victorian Labor's LGBTI Affairs Policy Committee.

He listed housing affordability, renters' rights and the restoration of penalty rates for hospitality works among his top political issues.

Both Ms Sherson and Mr Creasey failed to respond to *CBD News's* requests for interview.

Other candidates are the United Australia Party's Tony Pecora and Enos Masonga of the Australian People's Party.

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New decking for Birrarung Marr

By Rowan Webb

The City of Melbourne has acknowledged growing concern among local residents over the safety of the Birrarung Marr boardwalk.

A council spokesperson confirmed a contract had been awarded to replace the existing timber deck.

One local resident and regular boardwalk runner told *CBD News* he had long held safety concerns about the boardwalk.

“On my run yesterday, I travelled along the Birrarung Marr boardwalk and, unfortunately, my runner was pierced by a very large splinter. The boardwalk is in such a total state of disrepair and requires urgent maintenance,” the resident said.

“The most important thing is to make sure it’s safe. Previous repairs haven’t lasted long.”



A CBD resident shows off a wooden splinter in his shoe from the boardwalk at Birrarung Marr.

The current timber deck will be replaced with fibre reinforced polymer, more commonly known as micro mesh.

The works to upgrade the deck will start in early June and are expected to be completed over four weeks.

130 Little Collins listed

The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has put its 130 Little Collins St office building on the market.

The building boasts a net lettable area of 3797 sqm, comprising eight levels of office, ground floor retail, and 15 car spaces, on a 651 sqm corner site with 53 m of frontage to Little Collins St and Coromandel Place.

The Uniting Church, which has occupied the building since its construction, has decided to offer the property to market in anticipation of its move to the redeveloped Wesley Place site at 130 Lonsdale St in 2020.

According to marketing agents, CBRE in conjunction with Colliers International, the property will be offered with a permit for



an Elenberg Fraser-designed, 26-level hotel development.



Queues a blurred line

By David Schout

Footpath-blocking queues outside popular CBD restaurants and micro-shops has been described as a “difficult” and “no-win situation” by a City of Melbourne officer.

And without a change to planning laws, it appears the issue will continue.

At a recent meeting with residents’ group East Enders, the council’s Street Trading Team Leader Hugh Kilgower said blocked walkways was a tough issue to police.

“We’ve actually got a mismatch,” he said. “Council don’t handle it, or provide an ability to have queues, but on the other hand businesses are required to manage their crowds.”

Under the Activities Local Law, footpath queuing is not permitted.

Businesses are required to manage their crowds, but for micro-shops selling directly to foot traffic, blocked footpaths are largely unavoidable.

Mr Kilgower said a recent CBD case highlighted the issue, where a micro-shopfront selling doughnuts directly to footpath traffic put in place queuing structures to deal with demand.

“Council went down there and got them to remove it. They (the business) turned around and put tape down because, how else are they supposed to manage their queue? They’ve got a queue, they can’t stop people coming to buy their products, and yet they’re getting in trouble for not managing their crowds.”

“It’s a no-win situation. And with planning allowing people to have a smaller footprint and almost selling straight out onto the footpath, it’s making it difficult.”

Crime prevention officer Leading Sen-

Constable Glenn MacFarlane, also in attendance at the meeting, said it was almost impossible to enforce a long-term solution.

“We, as the police, technically they’re obstructing the footpath and we can move them on,” he explained. “But the problem is going to persist – police aren’t going to be there every day. So I think it then comes back to the council to ensure they’ve got the staff managing it.”

Another aspect of the issue is the rise in queues at popular cafes and restaurants which, combined with outdoor seating, can completely block footpaths.

East Enders president Jenny Eltham used the example of Liverpool St, where outdoor seating combined with queues frequently meant pedestrians were forced to walk on the road.

This was especially an issue, she said, for those using wheelchairs or prams.

Mr Kilgower conceded this was an area that could be addressed.

“There’s a few different examples around the city where we’ve issued outdoor dining (permits), and the business is attracting crowds. So you’ve actually got the queue, and outdoor dining, and there’s no room for pedestrians. So we need to make a decision in that situation where, if you’ve got queuing, maybe you don’t have outdoor dining.”

Mr Kilgower said the issue was largely a planning matter, and recommended concerned residents write to the planning minister.

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MELBOURNE STAR
OBSERVATION WHEEL

"Featureless" design atop heritage building slammed

By David Schout

The City of Melbourne has criticised a "plain" design directive from Heritage Victoria for a development atop the heritage-listed former Melford Motors building.

An application for a nine-storey mixed-used atop the Elizabeth St building, built in 1928 as a showroom for Ford vehicles, is set to be sent to the state planning minister after receiving heritage approval.

But before it does, the council said it wanted significant changes to the building's proposed facade.

"Melbourne does not need another featureless glass tower, and yet it seems that is what is before us," planning portfolio chair Nicholas Reece said at the April 2 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

"I think for Melbourne, and I say this very clearly to Heritage Victoria, I think we need to set the bar higher than just requiring that heritage buildings have glass boxes built on top of them. I think we can actually do better than that."

The site, now a Toyota dealership, is "of architectural and historical significance to the state of Victoria" according to the Victorian Heritage Register.

It is significant for its association with architect Harry Norris, who was one of Victoria's leading designers of office buildings, shops and showrooms in the interwar period.



A render of the proposal.

"We would like to see a design that references the rhythm, depth and detail of the Harry Norris building, that art deco building on the corner," Cr Reece said. "Also one that references potentially the materials of that building and we think in that way we'll get a much more interesting development on what is a highly visible corner of the city."

The council's urban design team said the proposed form did not reflect "the expected level of design quality for a tower of this prominence and significance".

But despite criticism of the facade, Cr Reece said the new \$80 million development was "very, very significant improvement" on the previous proposal.

In 2017, planning minister Richard Wynne approved a \$208 million, 1008-dwelling development on the Toyota-owned site, stretching across four towers.

That proposal included 700 student units, something Cr Reece said was not needed due to a "tsunami" of recent student accommodation approvals.

After that project failed to materialise, plans for the site were scaled back.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the smaller-scale development far outweighed the previous proposal.

"This is a far superior scheme and there's much to love about the application," he said.

The Greens councillor said while the facade needed work, he admitted it was hard when a new development sat atop a heritage-listed building.

"Their [Heritage Victoria's] concern is the same as ours – how do you distinguish that building from the heritage place to make it clear and legible that these are different places?" he said.

"Heritage Victoria doesn't have the same internal referrals process to design experts as we do, and different people will come to different conclusions."

The council has asked Heritage Victoria to consider changes to the facade treatment that wouldn't require a new heritage permit to be issued.

From there, Planning Minister Richard Wynne will consider the development.

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Thinking small in waste management

By Rhonda Dredge

Down a small alley off Flinders Lane, tucked at the back of a car park, a modest environmental experiment is turning food scraps from nearby cafes into water and compost.

Niall Haran, the co-ordinator of the experiment, takes off in his mini electric dump truck to collect the consumables.

His is not a glamorous profession but some see waste warriors like Niall as heroes.

To save us from landfill overload, they are cleaning up the laneways without complaining, even if this means plunging their arms into vats of rotting food or clearing up spills left by nightly revelers.

It's difficult for Niall to deny the heroics of the job when the crew at the Degraeves St recycling depot calls their little truck the Batmobile and it's designed to slip around corners and into grimy places.

The first job each day is to buff the laneways so they're looking good after the big swill of an evening when up to 100,000 people converge on the area.



"This is the highest concentration of cafes in the CBD," Niall said.

Many food scraps were ending up in general waste before the crew set out to blitz them. Instead of zapping perpetrators, however, the waste team is in the gutters and back kitchens of the laneways educating workers, offering them green bins, washing the bins, sorting out cardboard, plastics, dealing with polystyrene and generally firing up the population.

"There are gross times such as sticking your hand into oil or greasy curry," Niall admitted. "You need a strong stomach."

Some 120 traders are now involved in the project. "They can call around the clock if their coffee machine breaks down. The thrill

of it is that we're not just dealing with waste. Rather than being the bad guy we offer to troubleshoot."

The day begins at 6 am but they don't have to worry about the locals and their sleep because their electric vehicles are so quiet.

There's quite a line-up of choice vehicles at the depot, including electric bikes, electric trolleys, an electric forklift plus the Batmobile which only needs to be charged every three days or so for its regular journey out to the Dynon Rd transfer station.

The aim of this project is to show how an operation taking up just 10 car spaces can keep an entire city block sustainable.

"This time last year we were handling eight tonnes of food waste a month. Now it's

22 tonnes." The waste is fed into a large silver box known as an Orca, sprayed with an enzyme and mixed with little black beads. After adjusting the pH, the mixture eventually breaks down into water, which is returned to Werribee.

Coffee grounds amount to 40 per cent of the food waste and start-up companies are now turning them into fire logs for the barbecue and compost for growing mushrooms. The compost looks like a cross between soil and coffee grounds.

"The new hipster collects coffee grounds and gets them to bag it up," Niall jokes.

He was recently featured on an episode of *War on Waste* as a solution to a problem. New ways of disposal have been forced on Citywide, the major contractor for the City of Melbourne, since China stopped accepting our waste.

Niall in his little den down Royston Place has his hands full. "Last year we took 442,000 tonnes away from landfill," he said. The trick is to get into places these "nasty diesel trucks" can't access. "We see this as the next generation of recycling. We want to take over the city."

The depot currently deals with the quarter between Flinders, Collins, Swanston and Elizabeth streets.

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Change to busking rules

By Sakshi Agrawal

The City of Melbourne has introduced new busking regulations under which buskers need to publicly audition for a three-year "premium" permit for the Bourke St Mall.

The first live auditions were held on April 10, when about a third of the 23 hopefuls failed to make the grade.

Six of the 23 were existing permit holders, but only four were successful. The two unsuccessful candidates will be allowed to continue until the end of the year.

The council's Street Trading Team Leader Hugh Kilgower told residents' group East Enders: "It was amazing to actually have auditions out there in the mall versus in the council house. It was a totally different environment."

Mr Kilgower said the council was able to train and educate the buskers regarding appropriate sound levels. Under the new regulations, Bourke St Mall buskers need to re-audition every three years and live auditions will be held quarterly.

"Ones who have a premium permit (or Bourke St Mall permit) can go through re-audition," Mr Kilgower said.

Bourke St Mall-accredited buskers go into a weekly draw for the opportunity to perform in the mall.

Additionally, street performers such as tattoo artists, caricatures and other art performers have been reclassified and will require a street trading permit in the future.

10 weeks at a writer's desk

By Meg Hill

The Wheeler Centre has just celebrated the announcement of its 24 Hot Desk fellowships. The 24 winners receive a stipend and a workspace in the Wheeler Centre for 10 weeks to work on their writing projects.

This year there were three additional fellowships added for regional or interstate writers - with accommodation for five weeks at the Norma Redpath Studio. Yvette Holt is one of the recipients.

"I spin from the chandeliers when I'm in Melbourne," she told *CBD News* over the phone while on a road trip from Alice Springs to Brisbane.

During her residency, she will finish her collection of poetry and prose, titled *3068*, about her existence in and around Melbourne.

"I've been in and out of Melbourne since I was an undergraduate. I've followed the literature scene, have appeared at the Wheeler Centre a few times, and I'm the chairperson of the First Nations Australian Writers Network," she said.

"The collection is reflective of analysis, dream states, coffeehouses, women. I cover things around sexuality, my fetish with theological imagery, Greek mythology, and a lot of it is reflective of psychoanalysis."

In fact, Yvette was just in Melbourne for her performance at the comedy festival - *Queer as Muck*. She was followed and filmed by NITV, which is putting together a documentary on the show.

Yvette said there was very little



psychoanalytical poetry, let alone poetry reflective of a First Nations' experience.

She has lived in Alice Springs for 10 years, is originally from Brisbane and, as she said, spends a lot of time in Melbourne. All of these experiences are "dispensed through analysis and spat out in *3068*".

"It's notes, arguments, disagreements. It's going to be way out there, consolation of childhood memory, finding oneself, working class beginnings in Brisbane, a day spa in the Mornington Peninsula."

3068 is the postcode of North Fitzroy. The title has a lot of layers. As an indigenous person, Yvette said she was aware of the Koorie history and community there, but also how the inner city has changed and become gentrified.

"I wanted to go with a numerical call, which is a little bit outside the square for a collection of poetry," she said.

"There's nothing more gratifying than seeing another Koorie person in the area and putting out fists up in solidarity. I might be crossing the road and they might be getting on a tram, but it's that two seconds of recognition with someone who shares the same heritage."



CBD's tallest tower tops out

Aurora Melbourne Central, the city's tallest tower, topped out at almost 300 metres high on April 5 in a ceremony with the Lord Mayor.

The mixed-use tower includes residential, serviced apartments, retail and commercial space and has been partly occupied since October last year while construction continued at higher levels.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp welcomed the city's newest building.

"Melbourne is renowned for our stunning skyline and we have an exciting new addition with Aurora Melbourne Central," she said.

"This mixed-use development by UEM Sunrise and Probuild will see new residents and businesses move into the CBD and I look forward to welcoming them into our new great city."

The celebration was also attended by Probuild managing director Simon Gray, UEM Sunrise CFO Mohamed Rastam Shahrom and board of directors' member Christina Foo (pictured).

The tower is the only residential development in Melbourne to have a direct underground connection to Melbourne Central.

Some 95 per cent of the development sold in just two weeks, and it is now completely sold out.

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Aboriginal history in the Hoddle Grid

By Meg Hill

A recently-released City of Melbourne heritage review is likely the most extensive study of the inner city's Aboriginal history ever conducted.

At the April 2 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, Cr Rohan Leppert described the effort as “completely new in local government”.

The meeting discussed volumes three, four and five of the six volume Aboriginal heritage review, part of the overall Hoddle Grid Heritage Review.

Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley said it was an “extraordinary piece of work”.

“We have in this country somewhere between 60,000 and 120,000 continuous years of a people living on the land – the oldest continuous culture in the world,” Cr Frances Gilley said.

“That’s extraordinary, and that now you might be able to better find and touch and understand how that culture was below the concrete that is now often on top of it is going to be really important for us in claiming that history and story.”

Cr Frances Gilley talked about The Falls, one of the places of significance highlighted by the review.

“I learnt today you can actually walk along the bank of the Yarra and look down and see some of the rocks that formed The Falls that separated the salt water people from the fresh water people,” he said.

“It’s so sad that with such a rich culture, the oldest culture on the planet, that we don’t know that, we weren’t taught that in school, we don’t have it so readily as the history of the invasion of this land.”

“What’s amazing to me is that while we haven’t acknowledged those cultures, the people of the Kulin nation, the three groups relevant to this land, contribute willingly to help us understand.”

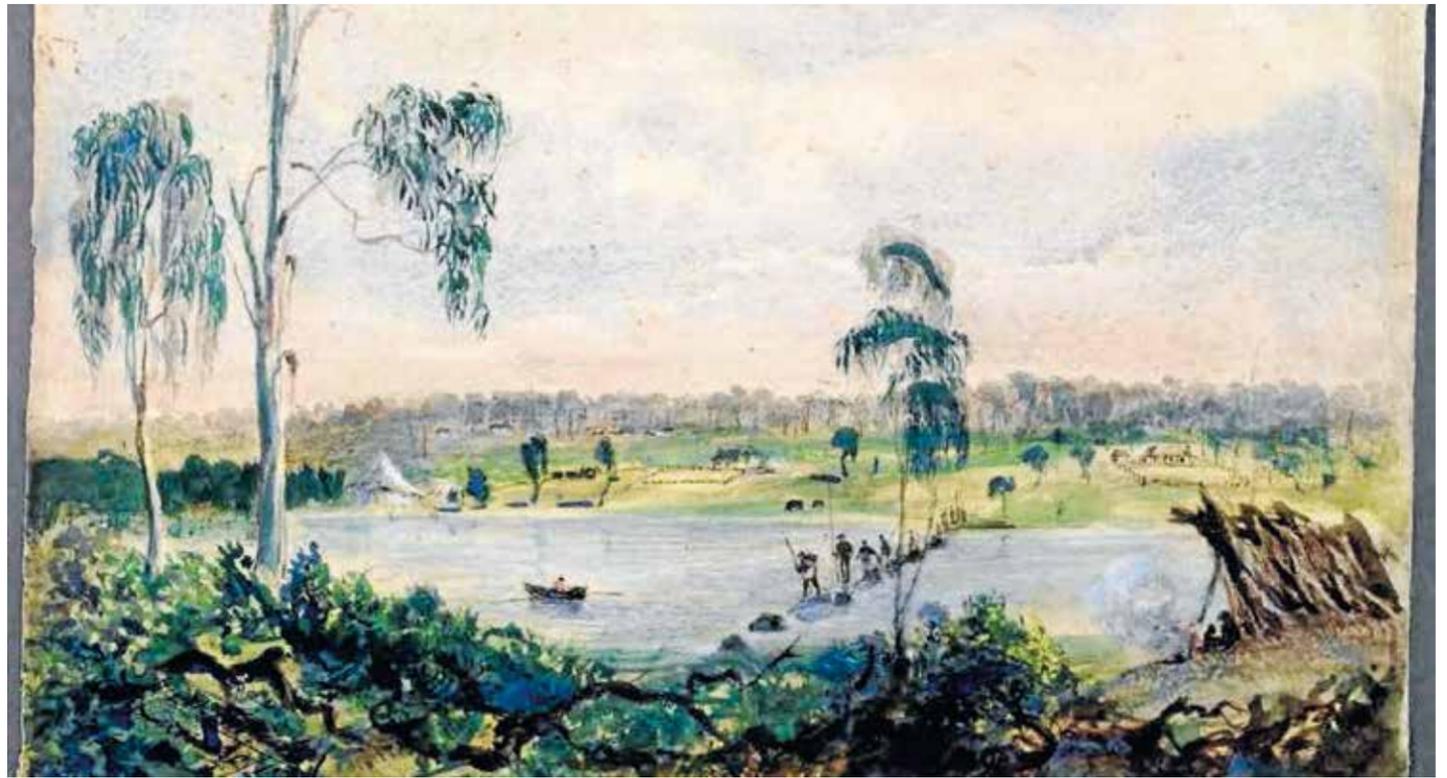
“They don’t say: ‘You mean after 200 years you’re interested? Get lost.’ They say: ‘Here, this is what we know, this is what we’ve remembered.’”

The three traditional owner organisations involved in the review are the Boon Wurrung Foundation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Wurundjeri Woiewurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Bunurong Land Council CEO Dan Turnbull said the review was extremely important and began to address the “current deficiency of information, promotion and recognition of the rich cultural history that lies beneath our feet”.

“Many people we speak to think that Aboriginal heritage sites are away from the city, as though they don’t understand that only 160 years ago it was a well-maintained open bushland and had been for tens of thousands of years,” he said.

“Today, the CBD is Melbourne’s business district but prior to 1835 it was the place where the Kulin Nation did their ‘business’ and, as such, the space is rich with both tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage.”



An 1837 painting of the Falls, which is now the location of Queens Bridge.

“We are proud to be working with the City of Melbourne and Context Heritage on this project.”

Parbinata Carolyn Briggs from the Boon Wurrung Foundation said the recognition and respect for their history by all peoples on their lands was vital for the harmony of our broader community.

“The Boonwurrung people are looking forward to making a further contribution to this ongoing project, which has a lot of merit to building the recognition of our traditional beliefs that all Melburnians have a stake in and can be proud of,” she said.

Cr Leppert highlighted the success of the review on the question of shared heritage.

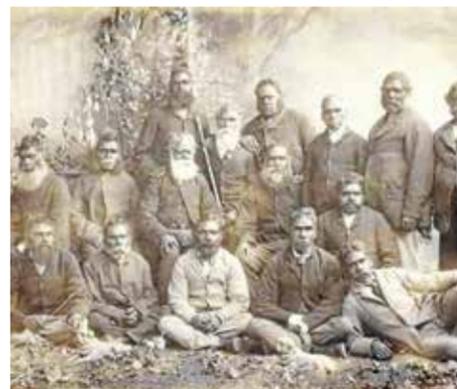
“These three volumes in particular, which explore not just Aboriginal histories but the way we look at shared heritage and how to accurately reflect that shared heritage in our slightly fragmented heritage statutory framework,” he said.

“The law kind of takes a rigid approach where you’ve got post-contact European heritage on one side governed by the Heritage Act and Aboriginal heritage on the other side governed by the Aboriginal Heritage Act.”

“But what do you do about all of those places that have so many important values that meet so many different cultural values whether it’s European, Aboriginal or shared?”

“Heritage is a continually-evolving practice and that exploration into how you properly recognise shared heritage values is something that we’ve done here really well.”

CBD News has picked out some highlights from the review below, but we recommend reading the whole document. It’s available online from the Future Melbourne website.



Pre-Contact

The idea of uncovering pre-contact Aboriginal history of Melbourne CBD, particularly through archaeology, has long been neglected.

New studies are rarely a requirement of developments, both because of the lack of cultural heritage sensitivity and the built-up nature of the CBD, according to the review.

But the review concludes against the common belief that prior ground disturbances had eliminated archaeological potential.

A review of pre-contact archaeological data found that Aboriginal stone artefacts in the area are found both in original as well as disturbed contexts.

The review highlights the prior land and water forms that existed for thousands of years, and their importance in considering pre-contact life in the area.

For example, the review emphasised Batman Hill and Eastern/Parliament Hill as important locations to Aboriginal people in the early post-contact period with at least a pre-contact association.

Batman Hill was likely important because of

its proximity to the West Melbourne Swamp, which the review also highlighted as a rich and important ecosystem.

Neither the hill or the swamp remains today, but are sites of built up development around Southern Cross Station and Docklands.

Similarly, the Yarra itself was of probably of unparalleled importance to Aboriginal people since long before European settlement in the area, and has had its ecology changed.

The Falls and the Yarra

The Yarra naturally separated salt water from fresh water by way of a waterfall at what is now the location of Queens Bridge.

The waterfall had long been the only crossing point in the area. The review concludes it was probably partially natural and partially constructed.

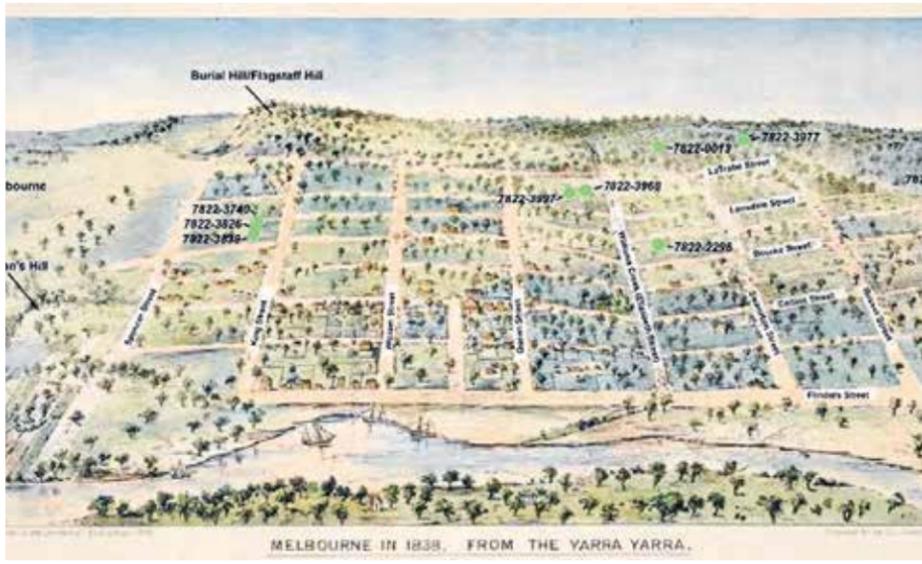
For the Kulin nation, it was also an ancestral meeting place. The Falls had a Kulin song, a name and a creation story.

The point was where settlers stopped in their expeditions – both John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner’s parties stopped at the part of the river below The Falls.

There is evidence that Aboriginal people carried settlers over The Falls, and that the location – always crucially important to Aboriginal people in the area – also became central to the settlers.

A sub-genre of Melbourne historical illustration features The Falls and, according to most sources, John Batman’s son drowned after falling off The Falls 10 years after settlement.

It was blown up in the 1880s to allow ships further up the river, but you can still see some of the original rocks below Queens Bridge.



The Hoddle Grid in 1838.

Old Melbourne Gaol

The first people hanged by the new government in Melbourne were referred to at the time as Bob and Jack.

Their real names were Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener, two Aboriginal freedom fighters from Tasmania. After witnessing the destruction of their communities in Tasmania, they were brought to Victoria and witnessed it a second time.

They escaped to the bush and, with some others, fought back, stockpiling guns and burning down settlements.

They were hanged at Old Melbourne Gaol after a trial in which they were deprived of a defence.

There is now a memorial to the pair at the location of their hanging outside RMIT University. Their bodies are buried somewhere beneath Queen Victoria Market.

The review tells the stories of a number of other Aboriginal prisoners at the gaol, including the Wurundjeri elder Tullamareena who escaped from his imprisonment in the first Melbourne gaol and subsequently burnt the building down.

The act is immortalised in an 1840 painting by Wilbraham Liardet, owned by the State Library.



William Cooper, the Australian Aborigines League and the former German Consulate

William Cooper is best known for leading a protest to the German Consulate in 1938, condemning the treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany after Kristalnacht.

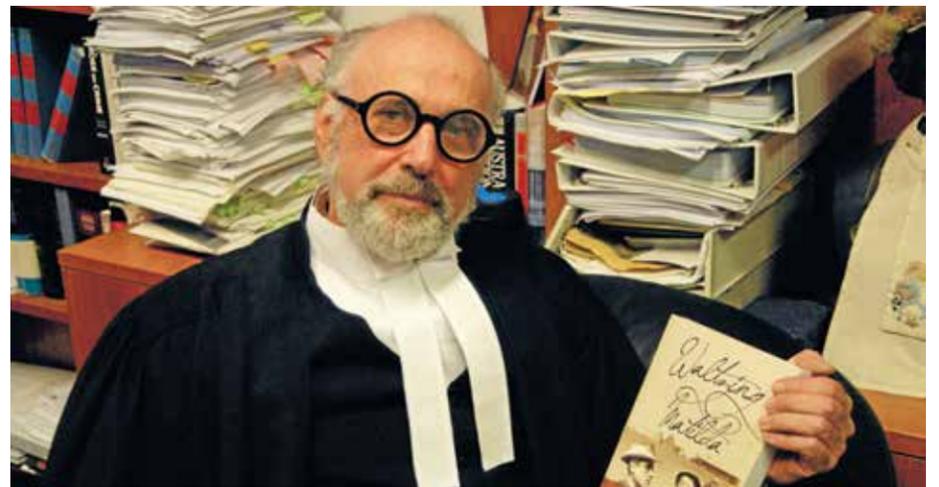
The act of solidarity from an Aboriginal activist to another persecuted community is striking. It is often highlighted that, at this time in history, most governments were turning a blind eye to the treatment of Jews in Germany.

The Consul General to the Third Reich refused to see the delegation.

Seventy-four years later, Cooper's grandson, Alf Turner, delivered a replica of the letter to the consul-general of Germany, accompanied by Aboriginal and Jewish community members.

Mr Cooper became the honorary secretary of the Australian Aborigines League in 1935, campaigning for an end to discrimination, the granting of access to land, education and parliamentary representation.

The heritage review recommends that the former German Consulate building, where Cooper walked to from his home 10 km away with friends, family and other members of the Aboriginal community, be placed under further heritage protection.



Making a case for a love triangle

By Rhonda Dredge

Most people are scared of the legal profession but inside many a crusty barrister or stern judge beats the heart of a romantic.

Benjamin Lindner, counsel for the defence, has just launched the 21st book on Australia's theme song: *Waltzing Matilda: Australia's Accidental Anthem*.

Benjamin claims that *Waltzing Matilda* is, arguably, not about the 1894 shearers' strike but a love triangle involving its lyricist Banjo Paterson.

The author was young, he could write clever verse and two women were vying for his attention when he first penned the words 120 years ago.

The book was launched by Boolarong Press at the Essoign Club, in Owen Dixon Chambers, last month and the legal profession gathered to assess the case for a love serenade.

One barrister said he was writing a book about terrorism, a judge had lessons from fiction writer Carmel Bird so she could write "all the things I can't say on the bench." Another had written a book on bail law.

"We're all wordsmiths. It's what we do. It's what we are. Words are our tool of trade," said Benjamin, acknowledging the talent of the legal profession present. "All of us are becoming more and more written wordsmiths nowadays."

Barristers like to get things right and that takes research. Benjamin's argument is based on examination of transcripts of inquests, private letters held by the Australian National Library, shipping records and documents, and visits to key sites, including Dagwood Station where the song was composed in 1895.

"I judge a book by its footnotes, or, at least, its endnotes," Benjamin told *CBD News*. "There are 10,000 words of endnotes. I'm an analytical type of person. I work as a criminal barrister. I sift through the evidence. And so I sifted through the evidence on the origins of *Waltzing Matilda* to learn about its origins and to separate history from folklore."

He is able to say with some authority that Australia's most famous song was penned to impress Christina Macpherson, who was plucking a pretty Scottish tune on an autoharp, while staying at the station with Paterson's fiancée Sarah Riley.

Paterson had travelled to meet his fiancée of seven years and flirted with her friend. He wrote the words on the verandah "to impress the musical, attractive, well-to-do Christina Macpherson."

The love serenade theory was accepted by Benjamin after he examined, among other things, the transcripts of coronial inquests in 1894 about the so-called heroes of the song, a swagman, troopers and a squatter.

"I saw a play in Port Fairy," he said. "There, I learned of the theory that the swagman had a name and the squatters and police could be named. All of the names were grounded in the shearers' strike of 1894 at Dagwood Station and the burning down of its shearing shed."

"I thought it would be an easy task to look at the evidence to support the theory." But he found that treating the song as an allegory was flawed.

There weren't three policemen present, the swagmen didn't die by drowning in a billabong and the squatter, who was meant to be present, wasn't present when the shearer died.

Banjo Paterson arrived at the station eleven and a half months after the strike. It was probably a topic of discussion. Benjamin says the words "waltzing matilda" are colloquial, Queensland terms, meaning to "carry a swag" or to sleep with your blanket.

"It was an innuendo for sleeping with your loved one," he said. The result was that the engagement was broken off. "It is claimed that both women present were in love with Banjo." Banjo Paterson was 31, a lawyer by day and a versifier by night.

Judge Howard Mason launched the book. He said that Benjamin, who has been at the Melbourne bar for 35 years, was known for his attention to detail.

"He doesn't do things by halves. He gives 150 per cent."

The launch finished with a singalong to the original tune by Christina Macpherson and the original words penned by "Banjo" Paterson.

Ashes urn coming to State Library

By David Schout

Australia has reclaimed the Ashes, quite literally.

While the men's cricket team reclaimed a replica urn after a 4-0 drubbing of England during last summer's test series, the real urn is leaving its London home later this year for the first time in 12 years.

From December, the State Library will host the precious urn, a symbol of sporting rivalry between England and Australia.

For three months it will be the centrepiece of *Velvet, Iron, Ashes* – the first exhibition to hit the library's brand new Victoria Gallery.

The urn's history is a quirky one, and dates back to 1882.

Then, the touring Australian cricket team defeated England to the dismay of locals fans and as a result, the following day's press included a mock obituary of the "death" of English cricket.

The ensuing article determined that "its body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia".

This was the first reference to the "Ashes", the word eventually used to describe the test

series played between Australia and England every one to two years.

Just weeks later, England set off to tour Australia and pledged to bring back "the Ashes of English cricket".

After defeating Australia at Rupertswood Estate on the outskirts of Melbourne, a small red terracotta perfume jar was filled with what's believed to be the ashes of a burnt cricket ball and was presented to winning England captain Ivo Bligh.

After Bligh's death in 1929, the urn was donated to the Marylebone Cricket Club and was eventually housed in the Lord's Cricket Ground museum.

From there, it became the public image and symbol of England and Australia's rivalry.

Since 1929, the urn has remained at the "home of cricket", and returned to Australia just twice (in 1988 and 2006).

"We are delighted to loan the Ashes Urn, a symbolic and special treasure, to State Library Victoria," MCC chief executive and

secretary, Guy Lavender said.

"The story of the Ashes Urn is one that captivates so many people around the world and the State Library's exhibition is a very fitting place for its story to be told."

These days a replica urn is given to the Ashes winner and, at just 11 centimetres high, it is the smallest trophy in world sport.

State Library Victoria CEO Kate Torney said the library was honoured to feature the urn at the upcoming exhibition.

"We are thrilled to have the chance to bring to life the wonderful stories surrounding the Ashes tradition, which of course, began here in Melbourne. The history of the urn is very much woven into the history of this state," she said.

The Ashes Urn will be on display from December 2019 - February 2020.

For more information about *Velvet, Iron, Ashes*, visit slv.vic.gov.au/velvet-iron-ashes



Former Australian captain Steve Waugh speaking at a launch event for *Velvet, Iron, Ashes* at the State Library.



The Ashes Urn at Lords.

Caught out

By Rhonda Dredge

Who was that sitting enigmatically at a table trying to look anonymous? Was it a celebrity author working on her next book?

Degreaves St is full of colour and you can see local celebrities out and about that tourists might miss.

On a Tuesday last month a famous artist came out of Senior's art shop wearing a long casual shirt over baggy pants.

He headed south towards Flinders St. He didn't have a shopping bag in his hands.

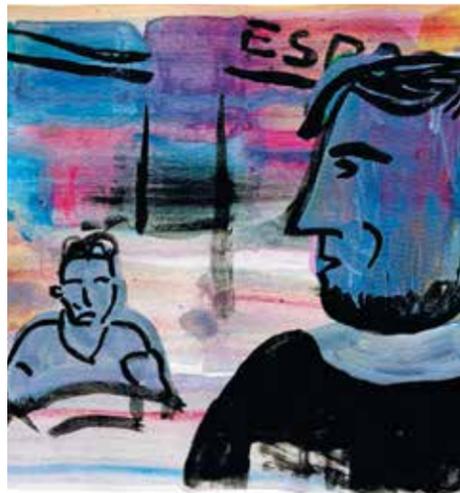
A few minutes later a famous comic actor walked in the opposite direction towards the CBD. His step was more hesitant, bold yet circumspect at the same time.

The actor has been on TV for many years and he is memorable for his part in *Very Small Business*, a spoof on the hazards of taking yourself too seriously when you're trying to make a dollar.

No-one wants to take themselves too seriously these days. That's why they love to get away from the PR people by merging into the crowd in the city.

Bad Luck! *CBD News* had spotters out and it can be revealed that the famous artist who was seen coming out of an art shop on Tuesday, April 14 at about noon was Lewis Miller.

He's well known as a portraitist in the more



modernist style with great brushwork and a feel for paint. He was also a war artist at some time this century.

He swiftly disappeared without giving an interview. So did Kim Gyngell.

The reveal is one of journalism's greatest tools, not that a very small newspaper such as *CBD News* would want to make a song and dance out of a tool of the trade.

There were a few other significant people around complaining about the train service to Frankston. "It takes two and a half days," said one but he didn't want to go on the record.

How pleasant it is to work undercover in the city looking for stories. On a quiet news day there's nothing better than outing a few celebrities who are trying to hide away.

White Night expands in 2019

By Rowan Webb

Victoria's annual White Night will return to Melbourne across three nights in August.

Returning August 22-24, the festival will be re-imagined and expanded to new precincts. Carlton Gardens, Birrarung Marr and the National Gallery of Victoria will showcase live performance, installation and projections.

"White Night Reimagined will make Melbourne come alive during the quieter winter months, bringing us the best entertainment, art and culinary experiences from Victoria and across the world," said Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula.

Having been traditionally held in warmer months, the festival's move to winter has been welcomed by local business owners.

President of the Yarra River Business Association John Forman was thrilled with the announcement.

"Extending over three nights and expanding the program and changing the date to winter is what needed to occur and the majority of traders are very supportive of the change in direction," Forman said.

"Having the event as a centrepiece of an expanded winter creative campaign is very clever and will be incredibly beneficial to the Victorian economy and Melbourne brand".



White Night artistic director David Atkins and his team said they had been "elated and energised by the new undertaking". The festival's mix of music, visual and performing arts is aiming to help the city come alive during the quieter period.

For more information about the program, visit whitenight.com.au/Melbourne

Planning

Contrasting commercial projects

In this month's column we look at a couple of contrasting commercial projects in addition to the City of Melbourne's plans for a new public square as part of the \$250 million Queen Victoria Market renewal project.

First up, development partners Perri Projects and Pellicano are proposing a \$150 million 21-storey boutique office building next to Bennett's Lane.

Spanning a 1500sqm site at 11-21 Bennetts Lane, the project dubbed simply "Bennetts Lane" would introduce a unique mixed-use tower comprising two levels of retail and F&B tenancies, co-working spaces, A-grade office space, a function centre and rooftop bar totalling 12,000sqm.

The development team says the project has been inspired by the international concept of a "vertical village" and will include first class end-of-trip facilities, a rooftop bar and is designed to set a benchmark environmental standard meeting 5-star NABERS and 5-star Green Star.

According to Perri Projects, Bennetts Lane is targeting a completion date of Q2 2022.

For those unfamiliar with the site, it is situated directly opposite Charter Hall's Wesley Place development currently under construction.

Speaking of Charter Hall, the developer has lodged an application for a dual tower development of \$1.5bn across two sites it owns at 555 Collins and 55 King streets.

The two-stage development will feature a



Bennett's Lane development. Image: Perri Projects

35-storey tower and 32-storey tower atop a shared podium with a sloped roof profile to respond to overshadowing controls.

Charter Hall has engaged local architects Cox Architecture to partner with global design and architecture firm, Gensler on the project.

555 Collins Street is set to become one of the city's most sustainable office buildings,



555 Collins Street.

targeting 6 Star Green Star, 5 Star NABERS Energy and Platinum WELL certification.

The tallest of the two towers along Collins St will be developed first with construction to begin in October and completion expected in mid-2022. This coincides with VCAT's lease at 55 King St ending, allowing for the construction of the smaller 32-storey tower.

And lastly, the City of Melbourne endorsed

its revised vision for the Queen Victoria Market renewal project based on feedback and recommendations made by the Queen Victoria Market People's Panel.

In its revised vision developed with NH Architecture, City of Melbourne has proposed the transformation of the existing at grade car park into much needed public space to service the city's north.

To counter the loss of parking 500 car spaces are included in the southern development site, which was always earmarked for development in a deal struck between the state government and council. This is in addition to the car parking within the Munro development.

For the state government to transfer ownership of the southern development site to the City of Melbourne which would then on-sell the site to a developer (or developers) it would need to deliver a public space on the existing at grade car park by 2026.



Laurence Dragomir

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

SkyPad Living

Vertical village parcel delivery

Mail types and volume have changed but how are our mailrooms coping?

Recent years have seen a rapid decline in the number of letters delivered to our vertical villages, while the amount of sent parcels has soared. This change is inline with the national shift towards parcel delivery as Australians continue their love affair with online purchasing.

This change may be most evident in our traditional deliverer of letters, Australia Post, where since 2008 (when Australian letter volumes reached an all-time high), the number of letters it delivers has declined by more than 50 per cent.

However, it is not a case of doom and gloom as Australia Post has reoriented its business to focus on Australian's preference for online channels and home delivery.

Indeed, according to the Parcel Shipping Index, parcel volume in Australia grew 8 per cent last year to 841 million parcels. And our parcel market is expected to grow to more than 1 billion parcels a year by 2021.

But just what is being delivered to our vertical villages?

One visually notable category is the home meals kits, which arrive in their white styrofoam boxes and wait for their owners on the floor of our mailrooms.

But we are told that there are actually increases in several categories of parcel delivery:

- Business-to-consumer: This is the main category and includes such popular items as online ordered clothes;
- Business-to-business: This is a growing category with many small businesses operating from their apartment home;
- Consumer-to-business: In terms of our apartments, this category includes the many "returns" which wait in our mailrooms for courier pickup; and
- Consumer-to-consumer: Such as when we send a parcel, such as a gift.

And accompanying this rise in the volume and variety of parcels, are the expectations of customers for timely receipt. Retailers now say that two out of three shoppers expect to place an order at 5.00 pm for next-day delivery and three out of five believe orders placed by noon should be delivered the same day.

However, there are several issues arriving with our parcels - and mailrooms strewn with parcels too large to fit into standard letterboxes may well be the least of our challenges.

So says Shay McQuade from My Parcel Locker, an Australian-owned business specialising in intelligent mail systems.

Shay sees the emergence of the parcel delivery sector as a genuinely interesting space but one where the broad impacts are,

as yet, largely unappreciated.

For instance, there are customer issues such as failed or redirected deliveries, which are particularly annoying for apartment residents who do not have concierge services to sign and receive. This means that we will either have to stay at home to await delivery or collect our parcel after hours from a secure drop-off point. Not really the purpose of parcel home delivery!

However, a more critical and wider felt issue emanating from these increased, repeated and often failed deliveries is the growth in traffic congestion, which is exacerbated by these deliveries being made predominantly (and repeatedly) during business hours.

While bicycle couriers may not take up too much space, an army of delivery trucks (seeking spots to unload and hand deliver parcels) will certainly impact upon the traffic flow surrounding our apartment blocks.

Another issue raised by Shay involves security and theft - both of our goods and our identity. This is a concern shared by the Australian Federal Police whose first piece of advice on protecting yourself is to "secure your mail".

What to do?

Once again, this is a multi-faceted challenge requiring the involvement of our transport and traffic regulators and well as our more innovative minds.

Some of the more creative solutions

involve drone drop-offs or robot deliveries - though both of these options bring their own raft of issues.

Other options include greater use of "click and collect" where the customer orders online but collects from the outlet, but this assumes a local physical store.

And then there is another trend which is being adopted by many new apartment builds - the smart locker solution. This is where an array of secure lockers are designed and installed into our apartment blocks - possibly replacing our mailboxes or as an additional facility in a common area like our car park. These lockers come in various sizes and configurations and can include "refrigerated and frozen lockers" - catering for those home meal kits!

Utilising a system of pre-approved authorisations, it allows deliveries to be made out-of-hours to secure but accessible units.

So, here's another item to add to your owners' corporation list for future-proofing!



Janette Corcoran

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

Emotionally attached to the art world

The Flinders Lane Gallery has occupied a special place in the streetscape for 30 years and many collectors have fond memories of coming to openings then going out dining nearby.

Claire Harris has been in the gallery for 20 of those years, greeting collectors, making them feel comfortable, the last 12 as director.

"I think galleries get a bad rap because of the way they can be portrayed," she said. Some view them as elitist.

The gallery is now one of a dwindling group in the CBD but Claire resisted the impulse to move to the new art hot spot in Collingwood when the lease came up.

"We did think about Collingwood," she said, but she lives nearby in Swanston St so she's committed to the city. Her son goes to a school on the fringe and there are other parents living nearby.

"I was looking for character. I'd been looking [for gallery space] for over two years. There was just one other contender."

When a space came up on the first floor of the Nicholas Building, she was undecided for six months. "It's opposite the Metro Rail dig,



It was so noisy. It was 85 decibels in here. There were heritage issues and sleepless nights. But the community of the building attracted me."

She now likes the quiet of her new location, a large and multi-roomed renovated space that was formerly a bead shop and began as several individual shops. The evidence of its past uses has been retained in sections of the walls.

"It's calm and peaceful in the gallery now," she said. "When you go out you have to face the onslaught of the streets."

The hardworking gallerist with a feel for people also has an office for the first time. "Sometimes my head explodes from so many

questions. Now I've got doors to my office so I can have a hissy fit in private."

Claire is a hard worker. She's open five days a week and is often in on Mondays as well. "I'm very practical and pragmatic. A fundamental part is having good relationships. I don't like being stressed out."

She likes the conditions in the new building better. She has fashioned a small kitchen for herself in the refit so she doesn't have to eat el-desko.

"I was constantly eating at my old desk. Now I can sneak out the back and have a sandwich," she said.

She runs the kind of business that promotes old-style aesthetic values. "It's a

hard slog. Every week there's something I haven't seen. I'm constantly bombarded with new images."

Art is sometimes seen as a luxury item so there's a whirlpool of romance, delusion, cynicism and aspiration around the question of taste and that's without even adding the political dimension.

Claire has 17 reasons why people do and should invest. The dynamic businesswoman has them listed on her website and challenges anyone to come up with more.

Sales come naturally to her. Nothing seems to faze her. Landscape – "it's a bit of escapism." She has her hard edge artists, her indigenous ones, her mechanical drawings, even line works based on the pheromones of a spider orchid.

She says it's cheesy but she loves phoning up artists and telling them that she's been able to sell their work.

"Some artists don't talk. They need to be asked particular questions to get to the truth."

One thing is for sure – artists love sales. They don't need to know why an unknown purchaser has believed in them.

"Collectors are more like supporters," Claire said. They're emotionally attached to the art world.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au

History

Charles Troedel – a great Melbourne lithographer

Charles Troedel was one of Melbourne's foremost printers in the latter years of the 19th century.

As a lithographer he was responsible for producing many high-quality images of early Melbourne.

He also employed and mentored several notable artists and developed lithographic techniques which allowed high-quality artworks to be made available to the public at reasonable prices.

Johannes Theodor Carl (Charles) Troedel was born in Schleswig-Holstein, then a part of Denmark, in 1835, the son of Carl and Maria.

Carl was a lithographer and Charles became his apprentice. Later, to gain experience, Charles went to Norway where he met A.W. Schuhkraft, a Melbourne printer visiting Norway and who was on the lookout for skilled young lithographers. He recruited Troedel and his friend Robert Wendel. The two arrived in Melbourne in 1860.

After working with Schuhkraft for three years Troedel set up in business for himself in Collins St, where Wendel joined him. Troedel imported a lithographic printing press from Germany and this was used by his company for many years.

In the lithographic process the artist draws directly on to the surface of a flat stone



Bourke Street in 1863. Artist: François Cogné. Lithographer: Charles Troedel. Reproduction of 'Melbourne Album' print by Troedel & Cooper, 1953. (RHSV Collection)

which is then chemically treated so that when ink is applied to the stone it adheres only to the drawn design. When a sheet of paper is pressed on to the stone the image is transferred to it. By using different stones it is possible to add different colours to the image.

Troedel's first great success as an independent lithographer was his *Melbourne Album*. Published in 1863, this was a set of 24 lithographic prints of Melbourne and the surrounding districts. The artist for many of these prints was François Cogné, whom Troedel had met while working with Schuhkraft. In fact the first two prints were produced while Troedel was still with Schuhkraft, the remainder coming after he had set up his own business.

The *Melbourne Album* was published as a subscription series and was very successful.

The images provide a valuable record of the appearance of Melbourne in the 1860s.

Amongst the other artists that Troedel worked with was Nicholas Chevalier. Together they produced chromolithographs in which images from stones carrying different colours were overlaid. This allowed colours to be combined to produce a much greater range of colours than could be done in the earlier tinted lithographs and the results had the appearance of a painting.

Twelve prints in *An Album of Chromolithographs* produced by Chevalier and Troedel were the first chromolithographs produced in Australia and both men won medals in the 1866 Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition for "successfully introducing chromolithography to Melbourne".

Other artists who worked with Troedel included such well-known names as Eugene von Guerard, Arthur Streeton, Blamire Young and Lionel Lindsay.

Through the medium of colour lithography it was possible to make high-quality artworks available to the public at reasonable prices and the demand for lithographic prints was large.

Although it was pictorial art which launched Troedel, he later turned to more commercial lithography, specialising in labels and advertising for food, tobacco and drinks.

He also produced letterheads, bank cheques, share certificates and posters. He became a leading figure in the printing industry and served in many organisations

including the Victorian Master Printers' Association.

Troedel had married Julia Sarah Glover in 1869 and they had five sons and three daughters. When Troedel died in 1906 three of his sons continued the business.

In 1910 the company became Troedel & Cooper in a partnership with Edward Cooper, a long-time colleague of Troedel.

In 1953 Troedel & Cooper produced a fine set of reproductions of the *Melbourne Album* prints to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the original firm. Over the years, the company went through a number of changes and amalgamations but finally went into liquidation in 2013, 153 years after Charles Troedel first set up in business.

Charles Troedel was probably the most distinguished of Melbourne lithographers. His earliest works have left us with a beautiful record of Melbourne in the 1860s and he later went on to make high quality affordable artworks available through the medium of chromolithography and to produce a huge range of commercial art.

In 1968 Troedel & Cooper assembled a large collection of the company's lithographs and this collection is now lodged with the State Library of Victoria, a fitting memorial to a famous printer.



David Thompson

David is researcher at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Metro Tunnel

Construction update – Town Hall Station

Works to build the new Town Hall Station are ramping up, with major construction underway at all three work sites at the southern end of Swanston St.

Visitors to Federation Square will notice large piling equipment in operation behind the hoarding, as piling works get underway. More than 60 piles will be constructed up to a depth of 30 metres before an acoustic shed is built over the work site to minimise noise and dust during major excavation works later this year. Piling is also underway at Flinders Quarter, adjacent to the Young & Jackson Hotel on Swanston St, where over 200 piles will be constructed.

At City Square, piling is now complete and work is underway to build a temporary deck over the site. The deck will be constructed using steel, forming an area around the site that can support machinery as major excavation gets underway.

From mid-year, an acoustic shed will be built over the City Square work site to minimise noise and dust during construction.

For more information on Town Hall Station works, visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Indigenous artefacts on show

A new layer of Melbourne's history is on show at Metro Tunnel HQ.

Indigenous artefacts in the form of flaked stone tools found during the Metro Tunnel Project's archaeological investigations are currently on display.

The artefacts were uncovered on Swanston St, adjacent to the Young & Jackson Hotel, where an entrance to the new Town Hall Station is being constructed.

Flaked stone tools could be made quickly and were used for many everyday tasks, including shaping objects made of wood, bark and bone. They were used as spear-tips in hunting weapons and as knives to butcher, and were also used to scrape and prepare animal skins for making cloaks, containers and decorative items.

The Metro Tunnel's big dig – the largest



Works are carried out at Federation Square.

archaeological program in the state's history – uncovered more than one million artefacts in the CBD. A selection of pub-related objects is also on display at Young & Jackson Hotel, located on the corner of Flinders and Swanston streets.

To view the latest display at Metro HQ, visit the Project information hub at 125-133 Swanston St Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm.



Indigenous stone artefacts on display.

Heritage

Melbourne is so lucky

A recent visit to Sydney revealed how lucky Melbourne is to have so much anti-landmark heritage in our CBD.

Both cities sadly demolished many incredible heritage buildings in the 60s and 70s, but it can be argued Sydney came out worse off not for what was considered heritage at the time, but all the things dismissed entirely, such as laneways and small industrial buildings, the kind that now make up some of Melbourne's most vibrant precincts.

Melbourne really hit an accidental gold mine when it retained its retail core and then ignored precincts such as Hardware and Flinders Lane by virtue of height limits and economic downturn, leaving space in the future for a CBD made up of so many uses and types of people, as opposed to Sydney's generally more monocultural corporate city.

As impressive as many of Sydney's heritage buildings are, from the grand banks and post office of Martin Place to opulent government buildings on Bridge St, the iconic bridge itself, and impressive Queen Victoria Building, the harbour city's landmark heritage building lacks anchorage in human scale character, leaving visitor craning the neck up for want of anything interesting to see at the street level between corporate lobbies and grand columns.

While Sydney re-activates the few laneways it has with bland commissioned art and upscale restaurants, Melbourne is so lucky to have a wealth of historic lanes and little buildings right in its heart where street art and venues for all kinds of people could spring up organically over the past three decades.

It's important to remember that heritage protection isn't just about retaining impressive landmarks of wealth, but also the little "mundane" places that collectively give our city spaces for diversity and creativity.



Tristan Davies
President
Melbourne Heritage Action

Open for business

Wonderbao: 19-37 A'Beckett Street

Throughout construction of the new State Library Station, Wonderbao will remain open and accessible. Wonderbao is a tiny outpost of bao love tucked away in A'Beckett Street. Try their home-made organic soy milk, a traditional favourite!

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



WONDERBAO



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We Live Here

More support for OCs in the new Bill

The long-awaited exposure draft of the Owners Corporations and Other Acts Amendments Bill has now been released by Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) for public consultation.

The exposure draft can be accessed at www.consumer.vic.gov.au/OCBill

Submissions emailed to cav.consultations@justice.vic.gov.au will be accepted until May 10, 2019.

Subject to the satisfactory resolution of any issues raised during the consultation process, the Bill should be introduced into Parliament later this year.

It has taken more than three years since submissions to the Issues Paper closed in 2016 and at first glance the proposed new Bill does seem to give more support for owners' corporations than previously, indicating that our voice is at last being heard.

The introduction to the Explanatory Memorandum states: The proposals that have emerged from the review seek to make buildings governed by owners' corporations better governed and more liveable taking into account stakeholders' experiences and industry developments since the Owners Corporation Act 2006 commenced in December 2007.

The amendments seek to:

- Rationalise the regulation of owners' corporations;
- Enhance protection for owners' corporations by improving the quality of owners' corporation managers and expanding and improving developers' duties to the owners' corporations they create; and
- Improve the governance and financial administration of, and internal relations in, owners' corporations.

Some significant features of the proposed new legislation

Four tiers of owners' corporations to replace "one size fits all".

The current legislation fails to distinguish between 50-storey skyscrapers and suburban blocks with two units. The new legislation will allow for different regulatory requirements based on the number of occupiable lots.

This is a huge step forward and one that "We Live Here" has campaigned for since the review of the legislation commenced in 2016.

The four tiers are:

Tier	Composition
Tier one	51 or more occupiable lots, and not a services only owners' corporation
Tier two	10 to 50 occupiable lots, and not a services only owners' corporation
Tier three	Three to nine occupiable lots, and not a services only owners' corporation
Tier four	A two-lot subdivision or a services only owners' corporation

Limiting the powers of developers and owners' corporation managers to determine how buildings operate to enhance protection for owners' corporations.

2(a) In relation to developers the new legislation provides for the expiry of any contract appointing a third party manager (a person who is neither an initial owner or a lot owner) entered into by the applicant for registration of the plan of subdivision at the first meeting of the owners' corporation.

Provision is also made that any other contract entered into that relates to the owners' corporation and benefits the applicant for registration must not exceed three years in duration. Further it will be a provision of the new legislation for the minutes of the first meeting be kept.

2(b) For owners' corporation managers the current registration system will be strengthened to improve the quality of owners' corporation managers.

Other proposals relate to additional obligations placed on owners' corporation managers regarding procurement of goods and services on behalf of owners' corporations (including disclosure of any beneficial relationship with a supplier, commissions, payments and other benefits received), influencing voting on owners' corporation matters and owners' corporations' access to their financial records.

One long-overdue reform is the insertion of a new section in the Act that relates to the appointment of an owners' corporation manager, prohibits certain terms in owners' corporation management contracts and gives more power to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to rule generally whether other terms in management contracts are unfair.

Terms that will be prohibited in owners' corporation contracts of employment include those that:

- Impose procedural restrictions on the revocation of the manager's appointment;
- Enable the manager to renew the contract of appointment at their option;
- Provide for the automatic renewal of the contract of appointment if the owners' corporation fails to give notice of its intention not to renew the contract, and
- Must not restrict the ability of an owners' corporation to refuse consent to the assignment of the contract of appointment to a person appointed as the manager, other than one which provides that such consent must not be unreasonably withheld.

We Live Here has previously expressed concern that the government has been consulting in private and only with commercial groups - businesses that make money from buildings that are governed by owners corporations, and not the owners' corporations themselves.

However, it seems submissions and campaigning by us and others have not been in vain, and we welcome the proposals that are aimed at creating a clear distinction between the role of owners' corporations and the role of owners' corporation

managers in buildings that are governed by owners' corporations.

Future columns will review more of the Bill - the good and the not-so-good proposals.

We encourage as many of you as possible to review the Exposure Draft and provide us with your feedback.

Campaign donations

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

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



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

Letters to the Editor

Keep politics out of it

The *CBD News* article by Kevin Jingga, refers to the City of Melbourne presenting to major parties issues, of which one is "climate change".

As we know that label comprises of a bunch of world political issues, which are being fought out with real vigour.

As a resident we do not pay rates for the council to act politically.

It's very worrying if, as you say, the councillors were amazed at school children having a day out marching?

To indoctrinate children into politics is a sad situation. (I just recalled, the council consults children with traffic problems.)

As residents, we simply need concentration on CBD issues and to redress the drastic decline in CBD liveability. Soon we will be vying with Amsterdam as the world's worst western nation city. There is no noticeable monitoring by MCC of what is happening on the streets.

I have attached PDF file, or continue to read below the same an email to our political leaders and relevant organisations reminding the pollies of what has got us into this mess, and if decisions are made in ignorance we will be cooking and reading under candle light.

Or buying battery lights from China which is so-so happy at the political pressure onto western nations to scale down economies.

Emil



Send your letters to news@cbdnews.com.au

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Residents 3000

Residents connect with local business

Residents 3000's motto is to "Connect, Inform and Support".

The last regular monthly event was turned into a marketplace where residents were able to connect with some City of Melbourne (CoM) agencies and Melbourne's wonderful small businesses that contribute a special something to life in the city.

The event, held at the Kelvin Club in Melbourne Place, offered participants the opportunity to (for example) taste local honey made in the city, discuss the restoration of their old but much loved jewellery pieces, investigate the magic world of hobby construction kits, see the nearly finished colour version of the Melbourne Map, taste locally grown tea or find out about projects run by CoM agencies.

Exhibitors included from the CoM were:

- Participate Melbourne;
- Library Services;
- Green Money; and
- Busking and Street Trading.

From the city's small business sector were:

- Balthazar Jewellery;
- Clementine's;
- Gray Reid Gallery;
- Hearn's Hobbies;
- Laneway Learning;
- Marea Bright Milliner;
- Melbournalia;
- Melbourne Athenaeum Library;
- Melbourne Men's Shed; and
- The Melbourne Map.



Melbourne is famous for its laneways and quirky little corners where you can find local brands.

Melburnians love to shop for the quality and uniqueness found in these small local stores. Prices can still be competitive, but it is the extra value in a product being made locally or one where the design cannot be found elsewhere, that attracts.

The marketplace event was inspired by Australia's Neighbour Day which is held annually on the last Sunday in March – the weekend preceding the Residents 3000 event.

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood.

For CBD residents, it is about building

connections between a diverse community of residents, small businesses and CoM agencies, projects and departments.

The concept of Neighbour Day was conceived by a Melbourne resident Andrew Heslop (see neighbourday.org) with the first event being observed on Sunday, March 30, 2003.

Since that time, Neighbour Day has progressed from a reminder to connect with elderly neighbours to an annual celebration of strong communities and friendly streets – including in our case, vertical streets.

People of all ages participate because everyone, everywhere is a neighbour no matter where you live or your personal circumstances. Not only do residents and office colleagues hold barbecues and street parties on front lawns and in the car parks

of business areas to celebrate, councils and other local government bodies also hold major festivals and community events.

Neighbour Day has now been endorsed by the prime minister, state premiers, lord mayors and local government ministers. In 2008 founder Andrew Heslop spoke at the United Nations in New York about the development of Australia's annual celebration of community, Neighbour Day.

Neighbour Day Ambassador – Hugh Mackay said: "We all want to lead a good life, at the heart of a thriving community, among people we trust and within an environment of mutual respect. Neighbour Day gives us an opportunity to reach out to connect and to become more engaged with our local community."

"Neighbours don't have to be best friends – but the role of neighbour is a distinct and precious one."

Next month at Residents 3000

It's the popular Trivia Night again. Come along with your thinking cap and your best, most knowledgeable mates to join your team.

Prizes are awaiting the best team, followed by the usual refreshments after such hard work answering all the questions.

Keep up to date with happenings in Melbourne through the Residents 3000 web site: www.residents3000.com.au



Susan Saunders

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



Critic

Moments of cruelty exposed

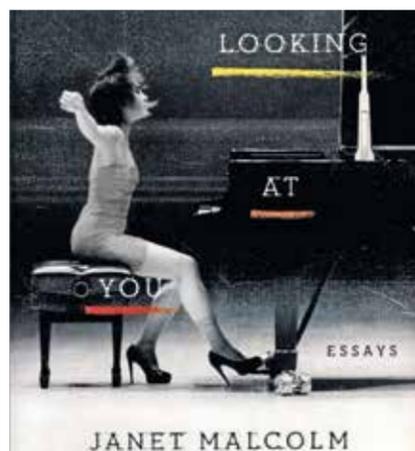
Cruelty to animals will touch the nerve of most readers and Janet Malcolm uses it to great effect in her latest book of essays, *Nobody's Looking at You*, just released by CBD company Text Publishing.

In a profile of New York fashion designer Eileen Fisher, known for her simple yet elegant styling, Malcolm noticed that a pet cat was forced to live outside in the snow.

Malcolm used this chilling observation to challenge the designer.

Biographers like to pick up telling details and use them to pierce the defences of their interview subjects whereas hacks will use clichés such as "woman of steel" to portray those who do not succumb to their jibes.

Malcolm works as a staff journalist for the *New Yorker* and instead of jumping to any conclusions she returned to question the



Janet Malcolm, *Nobody's Looking at You*, Text Publishing, 2019

designer about her cat and gave her space to explain why she didn't allow it inside.

Some readers find the *New Yorker* style too ponderous and descriptive. Conflict is often played down in the service of a longer yarn that takes time to unfold.

Malcolm began her writing life as a fashion columnist and this shows in her approach to style. She was married to a reviewer at the

magazine then when he died she married the editor, so she could be called an insider but she never smacks of privilege.

The book includes profiles of New Yorkers, accounts of political events and more traditional essays on literary history. Most appeared in the *New Yorker* or the *New York Review of Books*.

One essay on the confirmation of a Supreme Court judge looks at the rhetorical approaches of the questioners and Malcolm is able to show how cleverness can be a cover for lack of soul.

The losers are those in court where the judge consistently favoured the big guys over the small.

Moments such as these in which potentially cruel practices are examined are the most memorable in this essay collection and even though they occurred in the political maelstrom of New York they are relevant here.

As a staff journalist for the *New Yorker*, Malcolm is the envy of many professionals in Australia. She has time to write her pieces, often returning again and again to her subjects.

CBD-based company Text Publishing is noted for the imports on its publication list and translations of international titles that might not otherwise make it into the country.

Malcolm is well-known to those who read biography for her book on the poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes. *The Silent Woman* was taught in universities here and it rewrote the rule book for biographers.

This collection of Malcolm's shorter magazine pieces is just as reflective.

Malcolm is a considered writer. She takes care before rushing in to use the nominative case, preferring to load up her writing with detail that she picks up in a grounded, non-judgmental kind of way.

Her points are large but they appear to be small.

The tactics of the Republicans in the confirmation meant that the judge never had to account for the actual decisions he made in court.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au

On the nose

The other day I was walking down Bourke St and I was busting to go to the toilet and all I could find was one of those self-washable silver toilet blocks.

I had to wait out the front whilst someone was finishing up. When I finally got my turn, I went in and shut the door.

A voice came over the speakers to tell me that I had 10 minutes before the door would open. Classical music turned on as the pungent stench infected my nostrils. The wet dirty moist wall had a number of unpleasant smears and the toilet was filled.

I tried to find the flush button but when I did I realised I wasn't going to touch it. If I wasn't busting I would have ran.

But I was in a bit of a state so I close my eyes, aimed and tried not to make a colourful yawn.

As soon as I finished I got out of there not even attempting to wash my hands.

I walked away feeling dirty. I wondered what girls do. Believe it or not these facilities are unisex. I'm all for unisex toilets, but I feel that, more often than not, the females often get the short end of the straw.

When I was younger I spent most of my days walking around the city. And I know where some of the best toilets in Melbourne are located. So, I normally don't have any issues, but I feel sorry for the tourists that have to use these amenities.



This got me wondering why all the beautiful heritage-listed underground toilets have been covered over. Built about 110 years ago to try and control the smells of

horse manure and urine smell throughout the city, these underground toilets are historic, clean and beautiful. However, about 10 years ago most of these historic rest

rooms where concreted in and in their place came these self-cleaning smell boxes.

Why would we choose to use these horrible toilets when we have awesome and historic toilets all around the city from the front of the Vic Market to the back of Flinders Street Station and everywhere in between. When I was a kid some of these bathrooms even had bathroom attendants.

As this city grows and changes there are some things that we need to hold onto and these toilets are an important part of Melbourne and its history.

These beautiful and historic toilets need to be re-opened and put back to their former glory. As for the silver self-cleaning smell machines, I wouldn't even go into one to do graffiti.

Have a beautiful month.
Stay awesome.
Doyle
(Inst: doylesart)



Adrian Doyle
Street Artist
Blender Studios founder and director

Pet's Corner



A family's best friend

By Rowan Webb

Janet and Graham Price have been residents of Spring St Towers for the past 20 years.

They've seen many changes over their time living in Melbourne's CBD and their 15-year-old dog Buster has proudly accompanied them on their journey.

Buster recently lost his pug sister Yum-

Yum after 15 years, but remains as loyal a companion as ever to Janet and Graham.

A passionate gardener, Graham proudly waters the residential vegetable garden as Buster and Janet keep a keen eye on his progress.

When asked about Buster's life at Spring St Towers, Graham happily remarks, "it's been a full one!"

A veteran of Spring St Towers, Buster's journey with the Price family is a true testament to dogs being a family's best friend.

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墨市新警局

4月17日，原来在弗林德斯(Flinders)巷的墨尔本市东部警察局的警员都搬迁到位于伯克(Bourke)街202号的全新警察局。

警局指挥官亚当·坦纳(Adam Tanner)警司对这个新警局特别满意，他为这个新警局的建设及搬迁，工作了大约三年。

坦纳说，新警局完全是为了满足21世纪警务而专门建造的，容纳了最新的技术。

他说：“在过去的20年里，警务工作发生了巨大的变化。尽管许多其它警察局还在逐步更新，但我们这个墨尔本市东部新警局已经准备就绪了。”

他说，对“街上巡逻”警察的设施比弗林德斯巷老警察大楼要“好10倍”。

坦纳警司说，维多利亚州的警察比以往任何时候都要多，新的伯克街警局有更多的空间，也有更多的地方来接待来访警察。

他说：“维多利亚有99%的



示威活动都发生在我们这个地域里，所以我们需要能够在这里集合很多警员。”

他说，新的警局也能更好地服务于公众。

残疾人通道得到了改善，最重要的是，地处中心位置更方便于市民。

他说：“看看我们所处的位置！你不可能找到比这儿更具标志性的中心位置了。”

新警局在伯克街两侧各有三个车位的空间，而且位于车辆稀少的拉塞尔(Russell)街和斯旺斯顿(Swanston)街之间，所以其重点是行人。



电动滑板车等待进墨市

撰稿 David Schout

十多家无固定停车点的电动滑板车公司正在争夺进入墨尔本市场的机会，以取代原来共享自行车留下的“最后一英里”运营空间。

但是这些雄心勃勃的运营商们正在等待维多利亚州政府对滑板车的严厉法律有所改变。

尽管各运营公司都想要在墨尔本推出此计划，其中包括优步支持的莱姆(Lime)公司最近的一次演示活动，但是目前这些电动滑板车在维多利亚州仍然是非法的。

根据现行立法规定，任何超过时速10公里/小时的电动滑板车都被视为机动车辆，必须由持有摩托车牌照的骑手进行登记和驾驶。

目前的这些法律基本上阻止了所有无固定停车点的电动滑板车的运营，这些运营商的愿景是让任何人都能使用这个交通工具到达他们的“最后一英里”目的地，也就是说，从火车站或电车站到他们的工作场所或想去的地点。

使用者可以通过指定的应用程序来解锁滑板车，并按每分钟的使用时间收费。

几个月来，运营商们一直在游说州政府修改这些法律，他们说这些法律当时是为玩具车制定的。

但到目前为止，州政府仍无动于衷。

大多数电动滑板车的行驶速度约为25公里/小时，当然使用者可以对其进行速度调节，但他们认为低于10公里/小时的速度是不切实际的。

一些运营公司如Lime、Bird和RIDE公司已经在其他首府城市获准试点，但是令他们沮丧的是仍未获准进入墨尔本市。

Lime公司总经理乔治·莫里森(George Morrison)告诉本报，现在应该是政府改变有关法律的时候了。

智能垃圾箱 需要见阳光

撰稿 David Schout

墨尔本市政实施的“智能垃圾箱”措施越来越明智了，最近已经将一些太阳能垃圾箱移到了阳光充足的位置。

这些自动垃圾压实箱，其垃圾容量是普通垃圾箱的七倍，但许多由于太阳能电池无法正常充电而导致电源中断，以致这些自动垃圾箱的压实和警报系统也失灵。

一位市政发言人向本报确认：“最近，一些太阳能智能垃圾箱已经被重新安置在阳光直射

的地方，以确保电池保持充电状态。”

在没有警报通知系统正常工作的情况下，这些智能垃圾箱会一直处于过载溢出状态，除非由工作人员或过路人手动提醒。

如果充电正常，这些智能垃圾箱的警报系统会在垃圾箱容量达到70%或堵塞时发出警报通知。

该发言人指出：“太阳能智能垃圾箱的过载溢出是由于(投入大件物品)堵塞或是智能垃圾箱本身故障所造成的。当智能垃圾箱堵塞时，市区的垃圾

承包商(Citywide)会收到警报通知，并会立即作出反应来清除堵塞。”

尽管有些智能垃圾箱缺乏维生素D(阳光直射)，但该技术在市中心的引进使用还是取得了一定的成功，最新数据显示，自引进该技术以来，市区垃圾收集卡车的运行数量下降了85%。

墨尔本市区的公共垃圾收集次数从每月的93000下降至14500，使得进入市中心的垃圾收集卡车数量大大减少了。

女王市场改造计划得以挽救

撰稿 Shane Scanlan

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)把墨尔本市政的维多利亚女王市场(QVM)项目从边缘上又拉回来了。

去年卡普市长发起了一个“民众小组”就女王市场的关键基础设施需求提出建议，然而当该小组建议保留现有的停车场时，使得该项目走到了悬崖边缘。

然而，这个建议很容易地就被忽视了，4月2日市政议员一致通过了一项新计划，将该停车场改建成公共开放空间，市政称之为“集市广场”。

将现有的面积为1.5公顷停

车场挪作它用，一直是市政动用2.5亿澳元“更新”女王市场的主要动机。这也一直是市场交易者反对的主要因素，因为担心没有这个停车场，市场交易业务会下滑。

“箱式租赁”交易商也一直在有组织地反对市政这一雄心勃勃的计划，随着市政对传统露天大棚下的临时货摊主给予储藏货物的选择，这种反对可能会加剧。

市政这次重新挽回停车场改造的计划，显示了市长的政治实力。她成功地挫败了对此项目的批评，并将一个持不同意见的市政议会重新拉回到她的身后。

在这次未来墨尔本委员会半小时的辩论中，很少有人提到失去这个停车场。

在一份简短的声明中，卡普市长指出，市政的另一个停车场地点方案，位于尚待开发的“南部场地”地下，离现在的停车场只有55米远。

她表示：“我相信，从市场运作角度出发，我们可以找到一些方法，来满足那些希望通过‘点击取货’和其他更接近交易者的需求。”

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**

8:00-9:15PM MONDAY, APRIL 29TH MADAME BRUSSELS, CBD
FUTURE ETHICS: GLOBAL POPULATION CONTROL
So how many people is too many? And what are our options to control the issue?
\$16, book on melbourne.lanewaylearning.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**

8:00-9:15PM TUESDAY, MAY 14TH LANEWAY LEARNING CENTRAL, CBD
INNER WARRIOR YOGA
A combination of Kundalini Yoga exercises and Tantric Yoga breathwork providing deep relaxation, restoring body balance and awakening inner body wisdom. **\$16, book on melbourne.lanewaylearning.com**

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

7PM - 9PM SATURDAY 4 MAY, YARRA BUILDING, FEDERATION SQUARE, CNR SWANSTON & FLINDERS STREETS
CAMPOUT
Solo exhibition insideOUT by Peter Waples-Crowe while acknowledging the ongoing presence of LGBTQIA+ First Nations people.
koorieheritagetrust.com.au/event/campout/?epage=1

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

10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATURDAY, CITY LIBRARY
ONCE UPON A TUNE
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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
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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

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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In praise of fiction

By Rhonda Dredge

The Paperback bookshop at the top of Bourke St has been going 50 years and it celebrated last month with a bit of fiction.

Christos Tsiolkas read a scene from his latest manuscript about a woman with a bag over her head 2000 years ago.

He invited the assembled readers to enter a fantasy world that he has been creating over the past four years.

Each generation rewrites history and Tsiolkas's imagination was honed locally on the streets of the CBD where he and his family went looking for entertainment.

"My first memory of the place was as a little boy. We lived in Richmond and walked into the city. My parents could go and have a drink at the Southern Cross and they let us kids wander," he told birthday guests.

"I remember the first time I entered. My first novel was Russian, *Novel with Cocaine*. There was also the music section. It was my nourishment."

In the early days, the bookshop specialised in imports, particularly American paperbacks which were difficult to get here. The owners Pippa Grey and her daughter Gail travelled to the US and brought back supplies.

Portnoy's Complaint, which was banned

here, was available in a brown paper wrap, said Rosie Morton, who bought the store 23 years ago.

"The book was at the centre of a long-running court case but if you came here and went to the back counter ... there's still writing on the window that says American books."

The bookshop has since become an institution, a place that attracts riff raff and city slickers, where you can bounce around ideas, disagree with staff, criticise their choices but also be matched with new authors.

"In the big city, this is a small place but with a sharing of ideas and discovery," said Rosie. "The language of books is about inner lives and how they meet the larger world."

You get the sense that while other cities have moved on and become dominated by world politics, a little modesty and serendipity still prospers at the Paperback.

When readers got together for the birthday party the mood was convivial as they tried to outdo each other with their knowledge of books. Those huddled together between



Bill Morton at The Paperback peddling fiction to the populace.

fiction and crime with glasses of cheap red in their hands became boastful.

One reader plucked a book from general fiction and declared it a must read. It was one of those clever books, set in Paris, with 155 chapters in a mysterious order.

Another responded with an obvious choice, an Agatha Christie from the murder mystery shelves which he vowed to read over Easter.

The girlfriend of one of the sales staff broke a glass and attention was focused for a while on the ruby-red, threadbare carpet.

Paperbacks were revered in their day because they were so much cheaper than hardbacks which could cost up to a week's wages and became associated with pomp

and old-world values.

Paperbacks brought fiction to the population at large. Bill Morton who currently spends most of his days in the shop said there were several boxes of books he had not yet unpacked owing to the festivities.

"We live in a bit of a bubble here," he conceded. Some books that do well overseas still don't make it to Melbourne. Customers order books in and they, in turn, become part of the stock.

"David was on a Cortazar binge," he said, naming the reader who recommended *Hopscotch*, the book that emerged as if by magic from the fiction section at the back of the Paperback during their birthday celebrations.

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