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Citizenship blockbuster

By Alex Dalziel

On June 5, the City of Melbourne welcomed 275 new Australians in what was the largest citizenship ceremony in the municipality's history.

The "super ceremony" at Melbourne Town Hall welcomed new citizens from from six continents all over the globe. Groups of around 20 citizens were sworn in by Lord Mayor Sally Capp on a red carpet at the same time, such was the scale of the event.

Pictures and story page 13.



A young girl can't hide her joy as she is presented with her certificate of Australian citizenship by Lord Mayor Sally Capp on June 5 at Melbourne Town Hall.

Picture: Sean Car

Residents "shut out" from planning

By David Schout

CBD residents are largely unheard in council planning matters and deserve a greater say in the city's direction, a leading voice on citizen juries has said.

Dr Stan Capp has proposed creating a panel of impartial residents to add a missing democratic layer in the city's decision-making process.

He said the council's current avenues for local input were insufficient, while the creation of a "people's panel" for Queen Victoria Market (QVM) was "poorly structured and has had predictably disappointing outcomes".

Dr Capp, a former CEO of Southern Health and a 19-year Exhibition St resident, completed a doctoral thesis in 2001 on public healthcare in which a key focus was on community engagement.

The study sought optimal ways of engaging the community in decision-making, a process he believed needed to occur in Melbourne.

With experience in local government,

including a stint as CEO of Glen Eira City Council, Dr Capp said residents' perspective in Melbourne was "incredibly lacking".

In his first exposure to the decision-making process at Town Hall some years ago, he recalled having little opportunity to challenge a development before councillors ticked it off.

"I just felt something was missing in relation to giving council the benefit of a resident's

view," he said in an interview with *CBD News*.

His plan, which he has shared with Lord Mayor Sally Capp (no relation) and other councillors, would include a panel of impartial, unaffected CBD residents who would hear from developers, architects, planning officers and directly impacted residents before making recommendations

Continued on page 2.

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Residents "shut out" from planning

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back to councillors of its recommendations.

Dr Capp said it would be "surprising" if design compromises could not be achieved through a constructive process.

His experience in running mediated sessions between developers and residents in Glen Eira gave an "almost 100 per cent success rate" of effective compromise.

He said it was important a panel – which would include a mix of people based on age, gender, background and orientation – was impartial, unlike the City of Melbourne's latest attempt.

"The constituency at the QVM (people's panel) was 40 folk who all have an interest, but the residents' panel idea is that the people don't have a particular direct interest in what's happening, but they're residents of Melbourne," Dr Capp detailed.

"As soon as you get an interest, you have this conflict of being objective and subjective. Like 'oh, my view's going to go, therefore we can't have the building.' The thesis behind this is to get people who are committed to good planning and can represent a resident's view. You get this group together that are unbiased, if you will. It's like a jury – that's why they're called citizens' juries."

Currently, the City of Melbourne can approve developments of 25,000 sqm or less, while the state government adjudicates planning matters above that limit.

However, Dr Capp said the planning minister received council recommendations on matters that exceeded their jurisdiction. This would ensure – should a panel be established – residents' views were always heard.

He said the City of Melbourne's current decision-making process "shut out" residents from planning matters.

"At the moment we have advice from council officers, we have councillors' views, but we have no vehicle for residents' views to be part of that process."



Dr Stan Capp.

The Lord Mayor has proposed the idea for 12 months but as yet, no draft plans have emerged.

In September last year she told CBD group Residents 3000 that the concept of a residents' panel was progressing.

"It would be a way in which we could have residents more involved in planning decisions, but really, more pre-application discussions with the council and, hopefully, also with developers if we can get them involved," Cr Capp said.

Planning portfolio chair Cr Nicolas Reece also said in March to "watch this space" on citizens' panels.

But while a commitment remains to explore the effectiveness of deliberative democracy, the council is yet to reveal any concrete details.

"The City of Melbourne is continuing to progress what a residents' panel might look like, what its terms of reference might be, and the sorts of issues which that group would consider," a council spokesperson said.

Dr Capp stressed that his proposal was not simply a way to prevent development, but rather to increase democracy.

He acknowledged that forming citizens' juries was by no means an easy exercise but said its role could shape the future of the city.

"I would deny anybody who says it doesn't provide us with another residents' perspective. And it's the residents' perspectives that I think is incredibly lacking in this council."

Currently, residents can voice feedback via the *Participate Melbourne* webpage, or an objection in writing to be considered by the planning officer.

In almost all circumstances, councillors adopt officers' recommendations on an issue. In fact, a former City of Melbourne councillor put to Dr Capp that 98 per cent of council officers' reports were endorsed by councillors.

He said that while officers played an important role in ensuring compliance with regulation, decision-making needed wider input.

In 2015, the council convened 43 randomly selected Melburnians to make decisions on its 10-year financial plans.

Many of the recommendations from the citizens' jury were adopted by the council, and the exercise was widely hailed a success.

"The Melbourne People's Panel shows the public is very smart, if given the time and information necessary to work through an issue," current councillor Nicholas Reece wrote in *The Age* at the time.

"That a group of 43 randomly selected Melburnians meeting over six weekends developed sound policy that is now being implemented is a profound result for anyone despairing at the state of our democracy. And it invites the exciting question, what's next?" As it turns out, not much.

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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Heritage tax dodges

By Meg Hill

Owners of state-listed heritage buildings in the CBD triggered a tax loophole earlier this year and escape hundreds of thousands of dollars in land tax. Now, a bid to drag local heritage overlay into the loophole could cause an inundation of new tax dodges.

Owners of the former London and Lancashire building at 400-402 Collins Street are attempting to join the ranks of the General Post Office (GPO), the Block Arcade and others in having their building's land valuation dropped to just \$1.

The landlords of those heritage listed buildings, worth tens of millions of dollars, had them valued at next-to-nothing by first applying for a demolition permit.

When the permits were refused due to the heritage listing, it allowed owners to trigger Section 2(8) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* and have the property value dropped.

Now, a demolition application for the London and Lancashire building is attempting to do the same under the local heritage overlay and the related Section 2(9) of the Act.

The first of the state-listed buildings, the GPO, was sent to VCAT where the loophole was confirmed. VCAT deputy president Mark Dwyer and senior member Justin Jacano called s2(8) "anachronistic".

But the City of Melbourne's chair of heritage Cr Rohan Leppert said the state-listed

heritage buildings were a "drop in the ocean" compared to buildings in local heritage overlays that could be caught up in the loophole.

"It comes down to a question of fairness," Cr Leppert said. "It's not sustainable to have owners of heritage buildings removing their land tax obligations one-by-one - it just rewards those with the wherewithal to go through a planning application refusal and revaluation process, which is hardly equitable."

"The treasurer needs to act quickly to amend the law, so that the state isn't minimising land tax receipts from wealthier land owners and burdening municipal planning departments with make-work planning applications."

The demolition application stated that the Former London and Lancashire building, built in 1865, was "no longer fit for purpose" and should be replaced by a modern, mixed-use building.

But the intention to use the application in an objection to land tax was confirmed in a follow-up email to the City of Melbourne.



The former London and Lancashire building at 400-402 Collins St.

CitiPower road closure

Little Bourke St will be closed to traffic between Russell St and all of Waratah Place for 11 weeks from August as part of CitiPower's CBD upgrades to the electricity network.

Speaking at an East Enders resident group meeting on June 18, CitiPower and Powercor stakeholder engagement manager for major projects Kellie Wilson said that the area would be closed for piling and underground cabling works.

"We'll be closing Little Bourke St between the Chinese monument from Russell St and through Waratah Place for a period of 11 weeks so it's significant," Ms Wilson said. "We'll be encouraging people travelling across the city instead of using Little Bourke to take Lonsdale St."

"The one thing that we're really conscious of is that these businesses remain alive and are able to sustain their patronage so we're working closely with them in that area."

The area will still be open to pedestrians, while traffic to Little Bourke St will be diverted via Heffernan Lane. The closure is due to start from August 9. For updates: facebook.com/citipower.powercor

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Shared zone “an accident waiting to happen”

By David Schout

A serious accident at a busy cyclist and pedestrian zone on Swanston St is “waiting to happen” according to a concerned user.

In a detailed presentation to the City of Melbourne in June, cyclist and tram user Stephen Maguire detailed his experiences at the shared zone between Melbourne Central Station and the State Library.

Mr Maguire said the zone, where cyclists were given right of way except when a tram is approaching, was not being used correctly by either group.

He said pedestrians were often oblivious and unaware of the shared zone and didn’t perceive bikes approaching due to either a blocked view or distraction on their phones.

Cyclists, by contrast, can aggressively move through the zone at speeds of up to 40km/h, were eager to get past a tram about to stop, and were similarly distracted with headphones.

“I’m a biker. I understand the angst that comes up in some people,” Mr Maguire said.

“I think somewhere in history bikes were moved off the road for their own safety, but I believe now that pedestrians have



Pedestrians crowd the area designated for cyclists on Swanston St.

become vulnerable as a result of that. The combination of these two groups will conspire to cause what I think will be a serious accident.”

A 2016 TAC-funded survey indicated the Swanston St shared zone was one of the top 10 most feared cyclist spots throughout all of Melbourne, as riders reported feeling uneasy about pedestrians unassumingly walking onto their path.

Mr Maguire proposed a range of solutions to better ensure cyclist and pedestrian safety on the shared path, for which he was praised by several councillors.

These included installing speed humps, more effective signage and painted paths, and a speed limit of 5km/h.

He also said the problems faced outside the Melbourne Central and State Library stop were not confined to that particular spot,

and “could be extrapolated to other shared zones”.

Council transport portfolio chair Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley said council was aware of issues between cyclists and pedestrian at tram stops, but confirmed VicRoads data indicated there had been no reported pedestrian/cyclist collisions at the particular CBD spot.

However, the 2016 study noted that only serious crashes tended to be recorded in the database.

“It should also be stated that there could be minor crashes at these tram stop locations, but these are less likely to be captured by CrashStats database,” the study said.

Cr Frances Gilley said that primarily, the shared zone required a certain awareness from all users.

“It is important for all people to be aware of their surroundings in the central city and to share the space. People on bikes need to stop when trams have their doors open and only travel at 10km/h if the tram is stopped and the doors are closed. Pedestrians need to wait on the footpath until a tram arrives before moving out to board and not walk along the bike lane.”

He confirmed the City of Melbourne would install green pavement treatment and a bike symbol on the two approaches to the tram platform adjacent to the State Library.

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Still no cladding loans issued

By Sean Car and Alex Dalziel

Since the state government introduced its cladding rectification agreement (CRA) scheme in October last year, not a single loan has been granted to an owner affected by flammable cladding in Victoria.

In July last year, the state government announced that it would be introducing CRAs as part of changes to the *Local Government Act 1989*. The scheme, which came into effect in October, allows owners to pay off low-interest loans through their council rates over a minimum of 10 years to pay for the removal and replacement of flammable cladding.

The government told *CBD News* last month that it was still finalising CRA provisions with several inner-city councils.

"We're working through agreements with a number of inner-city councils, most are keen to find ways to help apartment owners fix their buildings," a spokeswoman for Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said.

"We are encouraging all councils where flammable cladding needs fixing to work

with apartment owners towards solutions."

In order for the loans to work, an owners' corporation (OC) must enter a three-way agreement with a lender and the relevant council. However, the scheme is voluntary for councils and some, such as the City of Stonnington, have chosen not to be involved.

The state government said that CRAs were just one possible funding option for cladding rectification work and that it was up to lenders and councils to consider whether a CRA was the best option.

While the City of Melbourne is one council that has agreed to participate, its assistant chair of planning Cr Rohan Leppert said it was a "massively complicated" scheme.

The news comes amid new modelling by RMIT University researchers released in June, which showed the cost to replace combustible cladding in Victoria could be upwards of \$1.6 billion.

Debate continues among state government, the building industry and apartment owners as to who is responsible for replacing the flammable material, which has caused two fires in the CBD and Docklands.

In a statewide cladding audit conducted in 2018 by the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, 354 low/moderate-risk buildings and 275 high/extreme-risk buildings were identified.

The municipalities of Moreland, Melbourne

and Port Phillip have been found to have the highest number of buildings containing flammable cladding.

The modelling used the average data for the number of dwellings within both medium- and high-density apartment buildings to estimate how many dwellings required rectification.

The RMIT study conservatively applied lower rectification cost data, being \$2500 per dwelling for low/moderate risk buildings and \$20,000 per dwelling for high/extreme risk buildings.

The modelling also applied costs based on reported quotes which ranged between \$15,000 and \$60,000, but noted that these figures were also conservative based on some sighted estimates up to \$100,000.

The study's author Simon Lockrey said that the results demonstrated how prevalent the issue was in Victoria. However, with the cladding audits still ongoing, he said that costs would only rise.

"There's an argument that the numbers we used for the costing are low," he said. "The reason we used \$2500 and \$20,000 was due to an article about rectification published in the *Australian Financial Review*."

"When we spoke to owners we did not see a quote under \$15,000 an apartment."

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA)

announced in June that it had audited 1000 buildings in the 2018/19 financial year. It will audit a further 500 buildings this year.

While the 2019/20 state budget included \$160 million over the forward estimates to replace the cladding on 95 government-owned buildings, the government has yet to put any funding forward for residents.

Victorian Greens leader Samantha Ratnam hosted a cladding roundtable meeting with residents and experts on May 21 at Parliament House, which called on the state government to fund rectification works for buildings identified as "unacceptable risk".

Participants argued that the financial burden owners faced by having to rectify their buildings, among increased insurance costs and loss of value on their homes was unfair.

"The government must step up, listen and work collaboratively with residents and owners to fix the cladding problem, starting with funding rectification.," Ms Ratnam said.

Premier Daniel Andrews told *774 ABC Melbourne* on June 25 that public money would be used as part of a package of cladding rectification reforms to be announced in July.

It is understood that the government will also establish a new agency Cladding Safety Victoria, which will provide the community with a one-stop-shop for advice and assistance on removing dangerous cladding.

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A stable space for young people in need

By David Schout

A world-first youth crisis accommodation centre has opened in the CBD, in what providers hope will provide greater stability for the city's young people doing it tough.

The new 18-bed facility at Frontyard Youth Services on King St allows those aged 12-25 to be housed in the same facility that offers 24/7 emotional and practical assistance – a model believed to be the first of its kind.

The modern, “trauma-informed” facility further expands services offered by Frontyard, which has helped young people experiencing homelessness in Melbourne for 30 years.

“The change is so dramatic and extreme, it’s hard to think this is the same place as 12 months ago,” Frontyard operations manager Rob Hosking told *CBD News*.

Prior to now, young people would come to Frontyard, among others, for housing, health, or employment services, but leave when the facility closed at day’s end.

Hosking said the idea of on-site accommodation was floated a few years ago when he and his team identified 40-60 young people in the city that the system simply didn’t cater for.

“They were bouncing around different hotels, refuges, emergency departments, the justice system. These are young people that are really damaged and traumatised and weren’t getting the adequate service response,” he said.

From there, a model was proposed that featured both the existing services alongside crisis accommodation upstairs.

“It was about meeting their needs and also disrupting their transition into long-term homelessness,” Hosking said.

That would come to include 24/7 support – a huge step forward in the homelessness space.

“We’re there any time of the night to sit with them and meet their needs. That’s what makes the model unique, because most of the other programs out there don’t offer that level of holistic support.”

Perhaps most importantly, the accommodation gives stability for those who have never had it.



Frontyard operations manager Rob Hosking and (right top and bottom) a look at the new bedrooms and kitchen.



Of the new 18-bed facility, Hosking said 14 were used for longer stays, and four for short-term or overnight beds, available to young people as an alternative to a hotel.

Frontyard’s key objective, however, was to transition everyone who enters its doors into more permanent accommodation.

“Our view is that young people can stay here for as long as they need. But it is crisis accommodation, and short-term, and we want to support as many people as we can so we can’t have them living there forever. We work very proactively to find what’s next.”

The reality, however, was a continual and complex struggle.

“For a lot of these kids, there aren’t a lot of options beyond the program we have here due to their vulnerability and their needs. It’s quite difficult to identify a housing pathway they can sustain when they have very little access to the means and resources to live independently.”

Before working through accommodation options, caseworkers and other professionals at Frontyard first and foremost address complex trauma and personal issues.

And a certain two new staff members are proving popular in helping young people speak about their issues.

Alfred and Missy, Frontyard’s resident therapy dogs, help alleviate stress and anxiety.

“We know a lot of young people have anxiety with engaging in mental health services and the idea of traditional talking therapies doesn’t always stack. We’re having a lot of success with mediums like music, art and now animals.”

Hosking paid tribute to the “real community effort” that saw the project take shape, including support from government, philanthropy and industry partners, and external contractors who did pro bono work.

“It’s good to know there’s so many people out there who care about young people and homelessness and contributed their time and money to get this over the line.”

“There’s a young man I was just chatting to who, for the first time I can remember – and he’s probably been coming to Frontyard for three years – has stayed somewhere for more than a couple of nights. That’s a pretty powerful thing. We’re now able to offer something for these kids who historically were just sleeping rough or staying in rooming houses and dodgy hotels.”

More than just stability, housing young people in the same facility as caseworkers ensures a far closer relationship and a greater ability to determine what’s next in each individual case.

“We can see them every day, we can meet with them and discuss their goals and case plans. Their caseworker is just one flight of stairs away rather than us relying on them coming in and catching them sporadically

when they do.”

“Because the young people are more accessible to us, it makes it easier for us to help them progress.”

Hosking, who has worked at Frontyard for 11 years, has seen the facility undergo several changes. He said the new design was the third “version” of Frontyard he had worked in.

“It’s evolved from a very security-focused, institutionalised-type space to a more client-centred youth service with lots of colour. Now, we’re in a very trauma-informed area. It’s very white and the furnishings are quite soft – all designed to help young people remain calm.” (Read more about the design by architects Fender Katsalidis on page 7).



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Pro bono work brings rewards

By Rhonda Dredge

Pro bono work has its pleasures. One definite plus is that you can be free and easy about allocating work, inviting rather than directing who should get involved.

When architect David Sutherland went in to brief his staff about the Melbourne City Mission (MCM) youth shelter job in King St, he asked for volunteers.

"I introduced it to the whole office," Mr Sutherland said. "The project captured our imagination. People donated certain amounts of time because it was a good cause. That's where the inspiration was."

The two-year project is now a model of how local companies can help quickly while waiting for political parties to develop policies for what may or may not ever eventuate.

"Individuals can be leaders, not just governments," the outspoken director of Southbank architectural firm Fender Katsalidis said. A member of the MCM board suggested the company do the job pro bono and it agreed.

Fender Katsalidis has now been working for two years with MCM and builders, who



Architect David Sutherland at the new Frontyard crisis centre.

worked at cost price, to overhaul its youth crisis service so that it provides temporary accommodation as well as counselling.

The new Frontyard shelter opened last month, and staff members were seated,

ready by the automatic doors to deal with their first clients.

It takes an architect to explain how the angle of the stairs works to take the clients, who might be in crisis, straight towards a case worker.

Mr Sutherland said that the new glass front meant that clients could see into the building and the doors opened automatically to let them in. Workers are protected by what he called "safe mode". "There's a panic button at the entry and every room has two entrances," he said.

The four-story building was completely remodelled, reducing office space to two floors. 16 bedrooms now occupy the top two floors, each with its own bathroom so there is no connotation of a barracks. There are decks, shared kitchens and after-hours access.

"Architecture is an incredibly complicated and rigorous profession," Mr Sutherland said. "It's a regulatory minefield. Pro bono work is the same. There are no short cuts."

"For us the liberation was doing it for such a good cause. What is our core value? The basis of the practice is people and the environment."

"In business the building is an economic vehicle. This project by comparison has a moral imperative. We just wanted to do it. It made us feel good. I think we'll do it again."

Tower evacuated

By Meg Hill

The Liberty Tower apartment building at 620 Collins Street was evacuated late on June 23 at after a water main burst and flooded the basement.

The water reportedly caused the electricity, heating and lifts to stop working.

All 240 units were evacuated and a relief centre was set up at Melbourne Town Hall.

The emergency order read: "The basement was subjected to flooding and compromised the electrical systems and all essential safety measures installed in the building are rendered inoperable as a result."

The flood cut off the fire system.

At the time of publishing the July edition of *CBD News*, the cause of the water burst remained unknown. It is expected residents will be locked out for 72 hours.

The 28-floor building was built in 2002.

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Uber's CBD air raid

Melbourne has been named by multinational transport giant Uber as one of three global locations to host its aerial taxi service trial in the CBD.

Uber Air seeks to link transport hubs, such as Melbourne Airport, to central CBD locations, with flight-testing due to begin in late 2020. The company said it planned to run commercial operations in 2023.

Selected alongside United States cities Dallas and Los Angeles, Melbourne was chosen after an 18-month process ahead of major cities from the likes of Brazil, France, India and Japan.

Uber Elevate, the division of Uber developing the ambitious ridesharing mode, will partner with the state government, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and other key organisations in the lead up to the trial.

Treasurer and Minister for Economic Development Tim Pallas said he was "thrilled" about the new partnership and its potential to enhance Victoria's transport network.

The service would use an electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft known as an eVTOL to transport passengers. Uber estimates that the eVTOL aircraft would operate at noise levels comparable to a Toyota Prius at around seven to eight metres from the listener, driving by at 56 km/h. eVTOLs are designed to carry four passengers, plus a pilot.

The service would function via the Uber app, allowing passengers to travel across a number of landing pads known as "Skyports" on various rooftops throughout the CBD.

As part of preliminary discussions with Uber, the state government said that it had facilitated meetings with industry and government stakeholders in partnership with Invest Victoria.



A render of an Uber eVTOL flying through Melbourne.

A government spokeswoman said that Uber would build on those relationships and engage with critical stakeholders to determine where and how demonstrations of Uber Air would take place.

"Before trial flights and demonstrations can proceed, Uber will need approval from all regulators and authorities for their aircraft, routes and skyports," the spokeswoman told *CBD News*.

"We will work with Uber as they consult councils, the community and regulators ahead of their demonstration flights."

Speaking at the announcement of Uber's global Elevate (Uber Air) Summit in Washington on June 11, regional general manager for Uber in Australia, New Zealand and North Asia Susan Anderson said: "Australian governments have adopted a forward-looking approach to ridesharing and future transport technology."

"This, coupled with Melbourne's unique demographic and geospatial factors, and culture of innovation and technology, makes Melbourne the perfect third launch city for Uber Air. We will see other Australian cities following soon after."

While Uber has committed to community consultation in lead up to the trials, the City of Melbourne's Cr Rohan Leppert said council had not been party to any agreement with the state government. He also

questioned the initiative's impact on helping ease congestion.

"If we're actually serious about moving people, it's a mode of transport for the wealthiest that will do nothing for congestion," Cr Leppert said.

Research fellow at RMIT's Centre for Urban Research Dr Chris De Gruyter said that Uber Air would not assist with transport issues in the CBD.

"Uber Air isn't going to help with managing our urban transport problems. These vehicles are very low capacity - similar to what a car could carry - while there are also questions about if these vehicles will create visual clutter in the sky and how environmentally friendly they are," Dr De Gruyter said. "Another risk is 'empty running,' where there are no passengers, but the vehicle has to travel to pick people up from another location."

RMIT aerospace engineer Dr Matthew Marino said that the announcement of Uber Air's trials was not showing progression in technology.

"The technology for autonomous aerial transport - also known as drones - already exists. Today's announcement means Melbournians are a step closer to travelling by drone," Dr Marino said.

"Allowing a computer to fly an aircraft, rather than a human, is nothing new. Technology has progressed so much that aerial autonomy is considered safe and reliable, arguably more so than driverless cars."

"While a driverless car would be faced with obstacles on the road, like pedestrians on their mobile phones or other vehicles like trams and buses, aerial autonomous vehicles don't have these obstructions."

This will not be the first time Uber has offered an air service in Melbourne. Last year Uber offered one-way helicopter flights from Batman Park to Flemington Racecourse via the Uber Chopper App for the 2018 Melbourne Cup Carnival.

news@cbdnews.com.au

Pre-polling proves a hit

Post-election analysis shows a high number of voters in the CBD cast their ballot paper before the May 18 federal election.

As the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) reported further growth in pre-poll numbers, few places were as popular for "getting in early" as the CBD.

Over 11,000 people cast their vote at the pre-poll voting centre at 215 Spring Street.

Greens member Adam Bandt retained the seat of Melbourne with a 4.7 per cent swing in primary votes.

Mr Bandt received 44.9 per cent of first-preference votes in the CBD (up from 42.7 per cent in 2016). This compared to 49.3 per cent throughout the entire division.

Long queues were reportedly seen at the Spring St voting centre in the days leading up to the election.

While some of these would have been CBD residents pre-polling for the division of Melbourne, most were likely workers enrolled in other seats, but who utilised the pre-polling option.

Pre-polling is ostensibly available for those who cannot do so on election day - whether for work, travel or health reasons.

And while each voter is asked to self-declare one of the above reasons, there is no way the AEC can tell if they are telling the truth or not.

An AEC spokesperson told *CBD News* it was yet to determine why pre-polling had proved so popular.

"In between federal elections the AEC reviews voting trends in order to plan for the most effective voter service model. However, there has been no specific analysis on why so many more people are choosing to vote early."

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Grappling with Queen Vic Market management

By Meg Hill

An expert on community participation has criticised the Queen Vic Market (QVM) people's panel six months after it wrapped up, while the City of Melbourne (CoM) has revised the market's ongoing management structure.

Dr Stan Capp, who discussed the topic of residents' panels with Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Nicholas Reece in June last year, said the panel was "not in accordance" with what he advised.

"The constituency in the panel was 40 folk who all have an interest, but the residents' panel idea is that the people don't have a particular direct interest in what's happening, but they're residents of Melbourne," he said.

"As soon as you get an interest, you have this conflict of being objective versus being subjective."

"The thesis behind this is to get people who

are committed to good planning and can represent a resident's view and are unbiased. It's like a jury - that's why they're called citizens' juries."

Speaking at a meeting held by CBD resident group East Enders in May, Dr Capp said residents were often of the view that council didn't include them sufficiently in process.

He said there was a high rate of council wholly approving officers' recommendations without involvement of residents, particularly under the previous Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

The QVM people's panel wrapped up at the end of last year, delivering a report which rejected council's ambitions to place a car park under the market's heritage listed sheds.

The panel prioritised keeping the car park and expressed concern for falling customer rates if it was repurposed.

But in April, councillors endorsed a plan to turn the car park into public open space to be known as "market square".

Dr Capp's commentary comes at the same time as a review of the QVM management structure by the council.

A council meeting on May 28 considered and passed the revised structure.

The changes dissolved one apparently redundant control group and expanded the QVM board in a bid to streamline and simplify the "complicated" management structure.

In contrast to the premise of Dr Capp's emphasis on non-biased involvement, Lord Mayor Sally Capp lauded the new structure for improved engagement of multiple stakeholders - traders, customers, councillors and management.

"The basis of the change to management is that over the time the market has been running, but particularly with the overlay of the renewal program, it's important to remain very open to ways in which we can keep improving," the Lord Mayor said.

"The way that all the various stakeholders work together and particularly those that have accountabilities for the operations and the infrastructure program and the way it works with council."

Council also requested a report be presented later in the year to evaluate progress of the changed governance framework and operations management.

Crime down

Latest crime statistics have revealed that criminal incident rates this year in the CBD have gone down by 3 per cent.

The figures from the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA), which tracked crime rates between April 2018 and March 2019, recorded a total of 15,842 offences in postcode 3000; down from 16,334 the previous year.

Crimes against the person (2302) and property and deception offences (7794) were down from the previous year, however drug (881) and public order/security (2604) related offences both saw small increases.

The trends in the CBD are contrary to that found across the state, with criminal incidents in Victoria rising two per cent overall. A total of 387,157 criminal incidents were recorded; an increase from 379,396 incidents the previous year.

Assaults are up 3.6 per cent, robbery is up 6.4 per cent and drug use and possession is up 12 per cent.

Alleged offender incidents recorded by Victoria Police continued to increase in the last 12 months, up by 6.9 per cent to 178,731; a 45.2 per cent increase in the last 10 years and a record high for the CSA data, which goes back to 2004.

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City-first timber offices

Plans have been released for a 10-storey timber office structure above Melbourne Central shopping mall, pitched at the “socially conscious generation of worker”.



The unique tower, dubbed *Frame*, will be the biggest timber building in the CBD and will sit atop the popular retail centre.

Designs unveiled by Developer GPT Group are targeted at the “new wave of corporates” and aimed to enhance the work-life experience.

It includes a “skylobby” where workers can take advantage of wellness and food offerings, a shared library and a variety of native gardens also open to the public.

Above the lobby sits 10 levels of warehouse-style offices with “abundant natural light” designed to “improve the sense of well-being of its occupants”.

Finally, the native garden rooftop will include a mix of retail, hospitality and entertainment spaces.

“The new rooftop retail precinct is a unique concept where city dwellers and visitors gather to learn, interact, have fun and be inspired. It is a meeting place

between workers and the rest of the city,” project designer Ian McDougall, principal at ARM Architecture said.

In what could be a sign of things to come, the “socially conscious” timber building is the first large-scale office structure built using the material in Melbourne.

While similar structures have been developed in other Australian capital cities, the design is a first for the CBD.

Typically, timber buildings offer a more affordable, sustainable, and flexible design than concrete and steel structures.

Using timber also allows aspects of the construction to be pre-manufactured offsite, which can speed up construction and reduce disruption.



A concept image which includes the now scrapped proposal for an Apple store at Federation Square.

"Hack" Fed Square

By Meg Hill

As Heritage Victoria deliberated on Federation Square and the state government worked on the public consultation process for its review, the square's management invited the public to help co-design its future.

Hack Fed Square was co-hosted by Federation Square and Marketing Entourage on May 24-25 as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week.

Interested members of the public were placed into teams and given eight hours to solve one of a few key questions, including:

How can we ensure Fed Square remains one of Melbourne's key cultural landmarks and iconic meeting places - a space where creativity, curiosity and inspiration collide?

At the end of the eight hours, the teams pitched ideas to a judging panel.

Criteria assessed civic and cultural value, brand alignment, engagement and financial sustainability.

“Essentially Fed Square isn't funded, so what we're looking for is the idea or experience to be financially viable, so people use their disposable income in the area,” the emcee said at the publicly accessible pitch event.

Teams presented visions of augmented realities (AR), immersive AR experiences, interactive artistic solutions, giant walkways, event communications and more.

But for well over a year, in the dispute over a proposed Apple store in the square and the square's future more broadly, the premise of private funding for a “public space” was criticised by community activists.

When it became clear that the Apple store was not going ahead, even Federation Square CEO Jonathon Tribe told *The Age* the square should receive government funding.

One of the reasons the Apple decision was so controversial was its surprise nature. There was no community consultation.

Announced at the beginning of the year when Apple abandoned its plans, the government is now putting together a community consultation process as part of the review of Federation Square.

The Federation Square Review project director Unni Menon said consultation would take place “with industry and community stakeholders” in the next few months, putting together recommendations for consideration by the government and square management.

“The review will focus on public attitudes towards the public space, ideas on how it might be used in the future to benefit Victorians and visitors, opinions on increasing public engagement and the precinct's connectivity to other adjacent landscapes and precinct,” he said.

There are two key streams to the review. One focusing on finance and governance and the other on the use of the public space and buildings at Federation Square.

The government has said that the funding model will be considered as part of this, but what that will look like is still unclear. A tinkering of different commercial models? Or a dedication of public money for a public place?

Will the government's community consultation mimic management's “hack”, asking members of the public to work with the premise of financial viability?

Our City Our Square, the community group that led public opposition to the Apple store, always rejected the premise. Its spokesperson Brett De Hoedt told *CBD News* in April that the idea of Federation Square losing money was false to begin with.

“Federation Square runs at a deficit of four million dollars. That's the cost of four average Melbourne homes,” he said.

Mr De Hoedt compared the square to other public spaces; would we expect the Royal Botanic Gardens' existence to rely on them making a profit on its own?

The gardens are mostly funded by the Victorian Government with other sources to supplement that funding, including grants, donations and fund-generating programs.

Heritage Victoria's decision on Fed Square should be announced by August and all indications point towards a heritage approval, which could help with the push for government funding.

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Tower plan above heritage building praised

By David Schout

Heritage activists have lauded an approved 19-storey office building atop the historic German Club as a “positive outcome”.

The \$24.5 million office building, approved by the City of Melbourne in June, will be set back 1.5 metres from the front and 5 metres from both sides of the 132-year-old building on Alfred Place.

Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies said his group was particularly pleased that “key interiors” would be retained and that the proposed tower was set back an “appropriate distance from the façade”.

Mr Davies said the collaborative outcome between the owner, builders and council “should happen more often”.

The applicant was Seafirst Australia, an investment company owned by Rupert Murdoch’s sister Janet Calvert-Jones, alongside her husband and sons.

Situated at the “Paris end” of Collins Street, the German Club was built in 1887 as a single-storey structure before being purchased by the Naval & Military Club in 1918, which then added an additional three storeys.

It is known for its Victorian interior, grand timber staircase and concert/lecture hall which, according to the Victorian Heritage Database, was said to have been the lecture venue for “Melbourne’s most distinguished German resident” Baron von Mueller.

These days the commercial building houses restaurants and office space.

The new 19-storey building will consist of “boutique” office space that will allow small businesses to occupy an entire floor rather than co-exist with other entities.

City of Melbourne planning chair Cr Nicolas Reece said it was pleasing the applicant didn’t “push the envelope”.

“(The plan) responds very sensitively to the foundations of the German Club,” he said.

“It’s not, as we see too often in this place, a bland glass box on top of a heritage building. It’s actually a design that references the Old German Club and Alfred Place.”

“This is a very important part of the city, the Paris End of Collins Street. Any application that comes before us in this part of the city is reviewed with a very close eye. It’s pleasing to see that this development proposal not only fits within the planning scheme but delivers for Melbourne in some important ways.”

Councillors noted that while the interiors of the German Club were not protected under the heritage register, it acknowledged the “dignity” with which it was being treated.

Mr Davies said this was an area that needed to be addressed in future.

“There are at least a dozen interiors in the City of Melbourne that are at least moderately significant which really should have some protection. Hopefully it’s something the council can address eventually,” he said.

“This is definitely a very significant place that reaches that local threshold and should be protected.”

Seafirst purchased the German Club in 2006 for \$11 million.

Once redeveloped, the site will sit 23 storeys and 80 metres high.



A render of the approved development.



CBD hotel sale

The Ibis Budget hotel on 101 Elizabeth St was put up for sale in June.

The three-star hotel has a central location between Collins and Bourke streets, with an immediate proximity to Flinders Street Station. The building has a notable Victorian – era façade and sits on a main shopping thoroughfare.

It features 146 refurbished guest rooms, a reception area and a food and beverage outlet.

CBRE Hotels’ Scott Callow and Wayne Bunz have been appointed to oversee the sale process.

“The Ibis Budget is modern and ideally located in the heart of Melbourne’s CBD, close to transport hubs and sporting, retail and business centres,” Mr Callow said.

Mr Bunz said that hotel markets continued to see new supply nationally, with a main focus in the four- to five-star sector.

“Economy hotels have become less viable to develop in CBD locations, which makes existing opportunities even more valuable,” Mr Bunz said.

A night at the Nicholas

By Meg Hill

The Nicholas Building contains its own collective oral history. It’s unverified and inconsistent, but stems from the imaginative character of the building and its tenants.

During the building’s own “open house” on June 19, one oral testament held that in the ‘20s “there was a pond in the building with a real crocodile and flamingos”.

What makes those histories so endearing is finding the kernel of truth that set it off, like Chinese whispers. In this case, the story seems to originate just up the road.

Apparently, alligators were at one point held in big glass tanks in the basement café of the Manchester Unity building.

But from inside the Nicholas Building on the top floor, you could imagine the pond at the bottom of the central light well that cuts through the inside of the building to the third floor.

It stops there with a concrete roof. The bottom was originally glass, but people kept throwing stuff onto it from the roof.

Almost every tenant threw their doors open for the open house. A line stretched out of the bottom floor arcade and down Swanston St.

The popular approach was to take the lift straight to the top floor and make your way down by the stairs. The lifts were still operated by elevator workers up until a few years ago when they were retired.



Scenes from inside the Nicholas Building overlooking Flinders Street Station during its open house event on June 19.

A dark music studio on the third floor was showing live music in front of a perfect view of Flinders Street Station.

Tenants describe the building’s constant evolution, as people come and go. The artistic base conduces a natural reflection of artistic trends.

“I’ve been coming here since maybe the ‘90s,” said Rebecca Stewart, an illustrator who shares a studio on the top floor.

“It’s a place I’ve always been to for parties and stuff like that.”

She described climbing out of windows to get to party spots. The windows of her studio are cracked, and the roof is now permanently locked.

“They’re never going to get fixed. Those are our cracked windows.”

The Nicholas, built between 1925-26, is one of the most architecturally important buildings in the CBD. Its façade is in Greek revival styling and internally the building reflects the eclectic nature of its history.

Both the National Trust and the Heritage Council of Victoria have listed the building.

Ms Stewart said the building feels more organised now in terms of tenants.

“When I first came to parties here it felt very individual, it was pretty weird and whacky. There were a handful of people living here when they definitely shouldn’t be.”

“Now there’s Flinders Lane Gallery and Blindside, they have visibility. Everyone knows what Blindside is, whereas before it might have been a place that was tucked away.”

Although Vikkhi Hillyer – from the second floor’s Muses of Mystery – praised the building’s continued ability to “stave off corporate types”.

She then pointed to a corner of the building, where Gregory David Roberts wrote *Shantaram*.

Like the central light well, there’s still plenty to find in the Nicholas that’s hidden from the outside looking in.



MCW delegate Anne Parton gets the message across.

Calls for warmer street lighting

By Rhonda Dredge

A new study has found that bright lights in the city can actually be disconcerting, making people feel unsafe as if the lighting is trying to cover up danger.

This was one of the findings of a forum on safety for women last month, hosted by independent lobby group National Council of Women (NCW).

The NCW meets monthly at Ross House in Flinders Lane and posts its gritty results on the street.

Experts on women's safety spoke at the forum, including Hoa Yang, a design consultant with Arup Lighting in the Docklands, who talked about the new human-centred approach to lighting.

"The current Australian lighting standards for pedestrians are based on pre-LED technology and are in need of a re-think," Ms Yang said.

"The standards revolve around the amount of light falling on a surface, and do not consider the perception of brightness and experience of the larger urban context by its users."

NCW has uploaded the message into a window display at Ross House, which will be up for a month.

"We're concerned about the safety of women and girls generally at night," NCW secretary Pam Hammond said. "We're an advocacy group. We don't have the power to physically change anything. I like the fact

that we can look at big issues and can put resolutions to state parliament."

Ms Hammond said she was surprised to learn that glary lights feel unsafe. "We have a role to monitor lighting," she said.

The study, which was conducted with Monash University, analysed lighting measurements across 80 different sites in the City of Melbourne; the largest sample of night time analysis done globally.

Lights that are visible from the air are ones that shine up rather than down, wasting their wattage rather than directing it into making places feel safer.

People in the CBD are particularly sensitive to lighting. After the recent murder in Celestial Avenue, CitiPower received complaints that the lights weren't working. One café worker said the lane had been dark for two weeks.

Ms Yang said that new and retro-fitted lighting opportunities were happening all around the world, presenting an opportunity for city design to use light to curate positive experiences.

"The tendency in designing for public spaces is to choose a worst-case scenario by stakeholders to de-risk, too often resulting in poor lit outcomes," she said.

"This design approach often leads to over lighting spaces resulting in negative experiences of the space due to glare, also contributing to light pollution and excess energy consumption."

"Safe perceptions of spaces correlate generally with a higher level of colour rendering, suggesting that distinguishing shapes and colours more accurately make people perceive spaces as safer."

Local government reforms are a "backwards step"

Greens councillor for the City of Melbourne Rohan Leppert has slammed the state government's proposed changes to multi-member ward structures as part of its plans for a new Local Government Act.

It comes after Minister for Local Government Adem Somyurek announced on June 17 that the government was seeking the community's feedback on six new reforms, which propose changes to areas including election donations and multi-member wards.

While the City of Melbourne is yet to determine how and if it will be impacted by the changes due to having its own Act, Cr Leppert denounced the reforms as "controlling" and a "backwards step" for women and diversity in local government.

The six new proposed reforms include:

- Simplifying and clarifying enrolments for voters in council elections;
- Introducing mandatory training for council election candidates and councillors;
- Capping electoral campaign donations and gifts;
- Allowing for the dismissal of a councillor after a community-initiated commission of inquiry;
- Defining standards of conduct to guide councillor behaviour and make dealing with councillor conduct issues faster and easier; and
- Introducing a preference for single member wards to make councils more accountable.

The change to ward structures means that councils with multiple member wards would now be broken up into single member wards as a default, with a councillor dedicated to a single postcode, for example.

While the change to electoral campaign donations, which would be capped at \$1000, has been widely welcomed, the introduction of community-initiated commissions of inquiry has too been met with concern.

Mr Somyurek argued that the new laws would help councils be more accountable, democratic and responsive.

"These changes boost consultation and engagement between councils, residents, ratepayers and businesses, as well as providing for ongoing accountability," he said.

The 2019 Bill builds on from the *Local Government Bill 2018*, which was the result of a three-year consultation with councils, communities and sector bodies and was informed by an expert panel.

The draft of the Act allowed for councils (other than the City of Melbourne) to be constituted in one of three ways: an un-subdivided district, multi-member wards of equal number of councillors or single-member wards.

"This extraordinarily controlling change to the local government electoral structures is the opposite of the government's stated aim of returning control of councils to communities," Cr Leppert said. "The consequence for community representation will be a massive backwards step."

According to current data from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), 41.4 per cent of councillors in multi-member ward councils are women, compared to only 33.9 per cent in single-member wards.

Cr Leppert said a move to abandon multi-member wards would lead to an increase in disproportionate voting and less diversity.

"Proportional systems of voting produce more representative elected representation – it's as simple as that," Cr Leppert said.

"Why is this Labor government trying to eradicate proportional representative models and make it harder for women to be elected? Such sweeping change to local government needs to be subject to proper scrutiny, not just dropped on the sector as the new minister's pet reform to game local elections."

"Minister Somyurek's track record on how he works with women is well known; he's already lost the Premier's confidence once before. Now he is pursuing measures that will worsen systemic discrimination against women in local government elections."

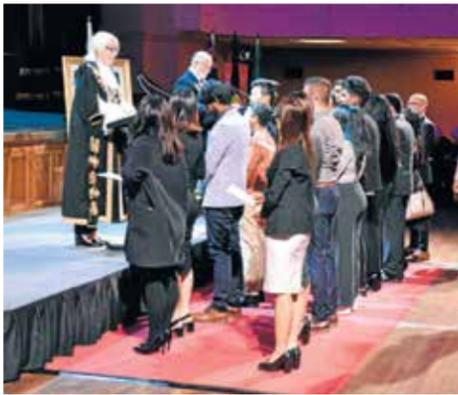
"This bad policy, and Labor should do better. I'm surprised Cabinet let this fly."

In a statement to *CBD News*, a City of Melbourne spokesperson said that council needed to wait and see the detail of the proposed Bill later this year before it could fully assess its implications for the city and councillors; if any.

"It's not clear whether the Bill will incorporate City of Melbourne as we are also governed by a separate Act," the spokesperson said.

"The City of Melbourne already has high standards of governance and several of the proposed reforms flagged by the state government – including training for councillors and defining standards of behaviour – are already in place."

"We believe electoral campaign donation are a matter for individual councillors or candidates."



(Top) New citizens young and old were all smiles on June 5. (Bottom left) a group takes the citizenship pledge, (middle) a packed Melbourne Town Hall and (right) Cr Nic Frances Gilley presents gift to a new citizen.

Citizenship blockbuster

Continued from page 1.

New citizens were then presented with a certificate by the Lord Mayor, as well as an Australian flag and an indigenous plant from council's Aboriginal City portfolio chair Cr Nic Frances Gilley.

According to council, of the 275 new citizens, 104 live in the CBD, 49 in Southbank and 39 in Docklands.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the ceremony was a celebration of the city's diverse multicultural community.

"We are proud that these new citizens from 54 nations have decided to call Melbourne home," Cr Capp said. "Melbourne's vibrant culture has been shaped over generations by

migrants who left their native countries for new beginnings.

"They are making a commitment to our nation, bringing the best of themselves and their heritage to create a fresh future here in Melbourne."

One CBD local who became a citizen on the day was Richard Bestel de Lezongard from South Africa.

Richard first immigrated to Australia about 10 years ago with his parents when he was 19 and has lived between South Africa and Australia ever since. He told *CBD News* that the June 5 ceremony was a fantastic occasion.

"My parents both had their ceremonies

before me and I don't think it was nearly as grand. There is something special about doing it with a bunch of other people alongside you," Richard said.

"There's a sense of really having all of the rights of someone who comes from this country. It is the final step in feeling at home in Australia."

In 2019, the City of Melbourne has welcomed hundreds of new citizens, having already hosted six citizenship ceremonies this year to keep up with demand. Citizenship applications have continued to rise from 60 per month in 2016 to an average of 90 - 100 per month this year.

More than 7650 Melbourne residents have become Australian citizens since September

2006, with China being the biggest contributor with 1403 citizens followed by India with 1026.

"The City of Melbourne is one of the fastest growing cities in the developed world and we look forward to the contribution these new citizens will make to our great city," the Lord Mayor said.

"As Lord Mayor it's a privilege to preside over citizenship ceremonies and to be a part of such a special moment in the lives of our new residents."

"I'm often asked what the greatest strength of our city is and it is that we speak 260 languages and practice 135 faiths, but we are one Melbourne."

Capitol Theatre transformed

By Sarah Bartlett

RMIT University's iconic 1920s-era theatre has been transformed into a cultural and educational hub, which sees a valuable cultural asset delivered back to the community.

The 580-seat historic theatre at 113 Swanston St was officially reopened in early June by the minister for training and skills Gayle Tierney following five years of restoration works.

Mr Tierney said that the Capitol would be an asset for both the CBD community as well as for RMIT and its students.

The state government contributed \$2.5 million for the \$24.5 million restoration project, which was completed by Hutchinson Builders and Six Degrees Architects.

The Capitol Theatre was originally constructed in 1921 and is the largest municipal work to be constructed by the internationally-renowned American architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin.

Its design is an early example of art deco architecture, and its unique features include a ceiling designed to be reminiscent of a crystalline cave with a geometric ceiling that cloaks over 4,000 coloured lamps.

It is one of the few cinemas in Australia to retain both 35mm and 70mm film projection.

The project also redeveloped the fly tower behind the stage, which will extend the

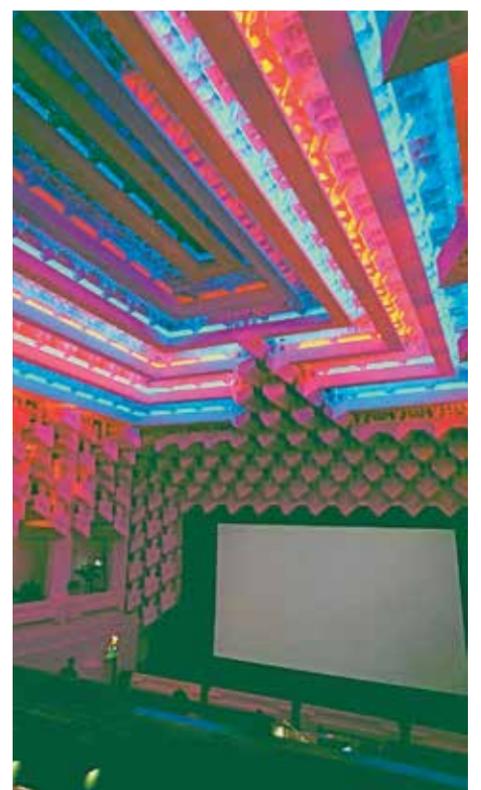
usage of the theatre beyond film screenings to include new media, theatre and conference presentations.

The Capitol Theatre will now provide an educational hub with a range of work-integrated-learning, workshops, presentations and showcase experiences for students at RMIT's vocational, tertiary and research programs.

"RMIT students will have access to high quality training in a unique environment so they can develop skills in real world professional settings," Ms Tierney said.

The Australian Centre for Moving Image (ACMI) will also present a variety of festivals and events at the theatre until mid-2020.

The Capitol Theatre is anticipated to host more than 500 cultural, events festivals and performances with over 100,000 visitors during that time.



Inside the new look Capitol Theatre.

History

"Under the Clocks" at Flinders Street Station

It was the 1960s and I was meeting a friend in town. We lived in Coburg, so it wasn't a long journey.

All I had to do was get on a Number 19 tram, travel straight down Sydney Rd until it became Elizabeth St and get off at Flinders Street Station, at the end of the tram's run. It was school holidays, I was in my early teens and hadn't been into the city on my own before, so I was a bit worried I'd get lost. I'd organised to meet my friend "under the clocks at Flinders Street" at Mum's suggestion.

So, there I was, "under the clocks", waiting patiently at first, but as time went by and no friend appeared, I was beginning to worry that Mum might have been wrong. Maybe these clocks weren't as well-known as she'd claimed. Maybe there were other clocks and I'd missed them. After a time (quite a long time), I walked back to my Elizabeth St tram and came home, disappointed to have missed my friend.

My first "meet you under the clocks" had been a non-event. But my mother was right: those clocks are very well known and I grew to know them pretty well, too, as I joined the crowds rushing down Swanston S at the end of the work day, hoping against hope that the Lilydale line train was not about to depart from platforms two and three without me. A quick glance up at the clocks as I scurried up the steps, and I knew my fate. By then we lived in Croydon, and more often than not, I knew I'd be getting home in the dark yet



Flinders Street Station entrance, c1920. RHSV PH-970245.

again. What I didn't know was that it was the task of one railway employee to change the times on the clocks manually – more than 900 changes in the course of an eight-hour day!

There'd been a railway station in Flinders Street since the 1850s. The present-day station replaced an earlier fish market in 1865, but it was not until the early 20th century that it became the building we know today. With its dome, its arched entry and those clocks, Flinders Street (you didn't need to add the "Station" for people to know what you meant) quickly became a Melbourne icon from the time it opened in 1909. In the days before the Loop (1960s and earlier), it was the central departure and arrival point of train commuters. This is where journeys started and finished. It was busy place, and

for a time in the 1920s, it was the busiest railway station in the world.

Looking at this image, taken from the St Paul's Cathedral corner, you can feel the energy of the lunchtime crowds. The clock tells us it's 12.30, right in the middle of the lunch hour. Or perhaps it's 12.30 on a Saturday and trading has finished for the week. So, is everyone getting out of the city as fast as possible to enjoy the weekend ahead? I'm sure you all remember how quickly the city became an empty shell soon after midday on a Saturday. To me, as a child and teenager of the 1960s, it always felt a rather sinister, disembodied presence on a Saturday afternoon. Definitely not somewhere I wanted to be. I wonder what the Flinders Street scene would have looked like at two o'clock that day, for example. And

if you moved north a few blocks to Bourke Street would you see anyone at all by two o'clock?

Flinders Street was, and still is, the city's busiest station. And that wasn't always just because it was a train station. Its buildings once housed an impressive range of public facilities. As well as meeting rooms, there was a children's nursery, a library, a thriving gymnasium and even a ballroom. The nursery opened in 1933 and did well until 1937 when it was closed due to a serious polio outbreak. It closed for good in 1942. The gym featured a boxing ring and billiards room. There was even a running track on the station's roof. The ruin of the ballroom, abandoned since September 1983, is now closed off to the public, but once it was one of the most popular dance halls in Melbourne. All just a memory now. If you are interested in reading more about Flinders Street Station and about Melbourne's early development, why not buy a copy of the RHSV's publication *Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960*, available from the RHSV Bookshop for only \$35 plus postage and packaging. With more than 700 photographs and accompanying essays and detailed captions, you will be transported back to a Melbourne that you won't necessarily recognise as you walk its streets today. To find out more, visit the RHSV Bookshop (historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop) or email office@historyvictoria.org.au or phone (03) 9326 9288.

Dr. Cheryl Griffin
Royal Historical Society of
Victoria

Trader Profile

Contrarians in coats

By Sean Car

If there is one thing that David and Sally Kiper know, it's how to produce a good coat.

The couple has been in business together for 45 years and their iconic stall has become an institution at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM). And with winter now well and truly in season, there is no better time to pay them a visit.

A third-generation business and one of few left of its kind, Catcher Coats has been manufacturing coats in Australia using cashmeres and wools from Prato in Italy since the 1970s. Using old fashioned methods of Italian design and tailoring, just the feel of one of its coats is indication of a product made to last.

In defying all the odds that the retail sector has thrown its way, their longevity is testament to a passion and commitment to quality. As the industry has continued down a path of mass-production and commercialisation, Catcher Coats has done the contrary.

"We're basically contrarians," David said. "We're one of the last manufacturers left standing here but we make in Australia and we go to Europe to source our products."

"Winter is our season! The benefit from importing from Europe is that it's the reverse of our season. I can go there when their season finishes and ours is about to start."

"We pitch from bitumen with white lines and not fancy stalls so we're in a position to offer our product at a more than reasonable price."

Step inside David and Sally's stall and you're immersed in coats of all varieties. Offering everything from winter duffle and trench coats to blazers and puffa jackets, Catcher Coats is a one stop shop for men, women and children.

Most importantly, David and Sally know their customers inside out and the market has provided them with the perfect vehicle for building that connection with people over the years.

While he describes retail as "the most basic form of enterprise," David said there was a defined science to understanding it and there was no better place to learn than QVM.



David and Sally Kiper.

Originally from Poland, David speaks several languages and has witnessed the evolving migration patterns in Melbourne since the 1970s, tailoring his way of doing business to suit needs of different cultures.

"I am a man of Queen Victoria Market, which is the world," David said. "What makes it unique is that you've got the world around you. I get customers from Europe and I get customers from Broadmeadows. You name a demographic and we come across it here."

"If anybody wanted to do polling on the sentiment or mood of the world or the nation, this is the place to come and get it. We've predicted the last three elections purely by talking to people."

"We can primarily judge sentiment of the

economy, people's moods, purely by being here at the coalface. You see it all."

Talking to David at his stall, his passion for the market and its people is infectious. Having got to know his fellow traders over the years, he said the sense of community and support within the market was incredibly strong.

"What we experience here at the market is that there are no walls, so you get to know people on a personal basis and their background and challenges in trying to adapt to this lifestyle," he said.

"A lot of the traders were highly educated people whose qualifications weren't recognised when they migrated here, so they ended up selling boots and clothes and coming from totally different backgrounds."

"At the end of the day we're all the same. Everybody has the same ambitions and desires and they were people who were starting off their life again. Their main endeavour is for their children to have a better life than they had."

"They had to sacrifice a hell of a lot to give their children those opportunities and Australia is the perfect place for them to have done that. The Queen Victoria Market has been the perfect vehicle for them to drive those ambitions forward."

Catcher Coats can be found at Queen Victoria Market's J-Shed and online at catchercoats.com

Residents 3000

How to keep healthy in the city

People talk about the air pollution, the noise and the stress associated with the hustle and bustle of city life. But is this necessarily bad for your health?

City living does not have to detract from good health. One of Residents 3000's sponsors, Kieser (pronounced Kee-ser) is at the forefront of helping people find and maintain a healthy lifestyle that copes with the busy nature of living and working in the city. Kieser specialises in physiotherapy and strength training. It believes that a strong body is essential for an active, pain-free and healthy life.

The reason lies in the fact that maintaining a strong body can help you to easily walk around the CBD and move throughout your office and at home. Kieser believe that a strong body is the essence of achieving good health.

With a strong body you are less likely to have knee problems or glute soreness from the early morning run. You can enjoy a yoga session or a swim as you are less likely to suffer an injury during activity. A strong body with increased muscle can speed up resting metabolic rate which helps to reduce weight.

But what if this ideal is not you? You have a bit of arthritis. Or maybe the doctor said you were tending towards osteopenia the pre-



Kieser exercise scientist James Weir with local resident Janifer Anderson

cursor to osteoporosis. Or you have slightly elevated blood pressure. Or perhaps you are a bit overweight and you cannot touch your toes or do a press up.

The human body is a marvellous machine that no matter how deconditioned it has become due to lack of love and attention - for whatever reason - with a scientific approach and a customised program, it is possible to turn that body into a healthy, strong one. This is where Kieser comes in. The team at

Kieser are equipped to help clients improve their strength regardless of age or condition, many of whom are referred by their doctor.

When you go to Kieser in the city, found on the corner of Collins and King streets, you will find a team which prides itself in achieving the best outcomes for its clients. The equipment it has is highly specialised to strengthen specific muscle groups in a carefully graded program, designed specifically for each individual. The idea is

to build strength in order to resolve specific problems, but more importantly to maintain the body machine in good working order that translates to health and wellbeing.

City resident Janifer Anderson said: "I am a retired city resident. When I came to Kieser, Collins St in November 2018 I had lost my 'mojo'. I had aching joints, poor balance, lost strength, generally felt unfit and I was losing the confidence to step out into the busy city life. Six months on I'm thrilled with the results. I feel more like myself, stronger, pain free, generally more active and more confident!"

Forum 3000 – July and August events

In the coming two months, on July 4 and August 1, Residents 3000's forums will include an update on the property market per favour of our sponsor hockingstuart (July) and insights into achieving body health by Kieser (August).

Come along as a guest if you are not already a member and join in the conversation. All our meetings are held at the Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place off Russell Street. Details will be posted on our web site: residents3000.com.au



Susan Saunders

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Business

Boutique city real estate

Real estate agent and CBD resident Chris Snell has built his own brand on old fashioned service and a deep understanding of community.

Having worked in real estate since 1992, Chris established his own boutique agency at 21 Victoria Street Melbourne and his approach of providing a tailored and engaging real estate service is well received by those who have engaged his services.

From selling and buying to investment and property management, Chris Snell Real Estate's small and dedicated team cares more about what's right for its clients as opposed to its bottom line, according to Chris.

"We're not just a tick a box sort of service," Chris said. "Because I'm small my idea of being not just boutique by the fact I'm small, but boutique by the engagement I can offer a client, is what I pride myself on."

"It's just simple stuff. It's just a good old-fashioned honest service really. A handshake is a handshake and it should be honoured whereas the emphasis with a lot of other agents is just to sell. We're here to make friends, not enemies."

Born and raised in Lilydale, Chris landed his first real estate job as an 18-year-old, where he said he was fortunate to work



Chris Snell

under the mentorship of an agent 40 years his senior, who taught him the importance of trust, hard work and respect from a young age.

Having also previously studied theology and philosophy at a Catholic seminary in Melbourne, Chris said his experience both through his faith and professional life had given him a strong appreciation of understanding people.

"The great thing about theology and philosophy is that it gave me a great appreciation of people and an understanding. It was a great self-development tool," he said.

"It's the help I love providing. I just think every day is like helping people. If they're young I think of them as my brother, sister or niece. If they're older I treat them like mum and dad or my grandmother."

In a career spanning more than 25 years, Chris has extensive experience as a property manager, salesperson and office manager. Prior to starting his own brand, Chris has worked in other leading branded agencies across Melbourne.

Now working under his own brand, Chris and his team have maintained a strong focus on inner city sales, while still offering to go the extra mile for clients seeking boutique service in suburban areas as far as Lilydale or Keysborough.

And as a long-time resident of the CBD, he said his knowledge of his local area and community always boded well with clients looking to call the city home.

"You certainly have an interest in the area as a resident," Chris said. "There is often surprise from people that I live in the city so they really enjoy dealing with me on city apartments because I live here. They like that engagement."

"The market in the CBD is strong for owner occupiers so if the property is good quality with good design, good size then it's strong," he said. "Once they live here they become aware of how convenient everything is. You can walk to the Vic Market, State Library or go to a show." Chris Snell works where he lives – Melbourne.

chrissnell.com.au

On a housing mission

By Rhonda Dredge

A social conscience is a difficult concept that many struggle with but few conquer. Robert Pradolin is an ideas person on housing and he's letting his social conscience drive him.

That means he's ready to cop the flak from those who see him as a big-noter, a property developer turned homelessness consultant.

He doesn't care. He wants to "get shit done". He's sending out press statements on the internet and criticising government.

Last week he got a call from Sydney to say that an aged care facility was about to be converted into crisis accommodation using a pro bono model that he pioneered in Melbourne and he's happy.

"That model has been adopted nationally," he said. "It got 160,000 views from around the country."

Living in a high rise in the city for 25 years has made Robert determined to fix what he calls our "housing stress". He wants to use his contacts and years of experience in property development for the public good. He's particularly concerned about the rise in female rough sleepers over the age of 50.

As a working-class kid from Noble Park, he was "taught the values of fairness and doing the right thing" and they began to dominate his life after a motor bike accident left him and his wife unconscious in St Kilda Rd seven years ago.

"I nearly died," he said. Six months of counselling later and his social conscience



began dictating his moves. Three years after that he had quit his job as a property developer for Frasers (Australand).

Now he sits at a coffee table promoting his charity Housing All Australians and brokering deals. He has used his powers of persuasion to assemble a new A team to begin work on his third shelter in Melbourne

and he's on a roll.

The first was a YWCA pop-up shelter for women in South Melbourne, the second the remodeled City Mission youth shelter in King Street and now, the most ambitious of all, will be the conversion of a six-storey building in the CBD that is currently empty.

"There's a rule of thumb," he said. "The

amount of work for free has to be justified by the length of the lease. Many buildings are empty for three to five years while planning approval is gained. There are thousands of them."

He's calling on the private sector to fill in a gap created by government.

"After many years of sitting at round tables with new ministers and talking about the same stuff nothing ever happens. The private sector has to lead. No more re-announcing announcements!"

He's also critical of those organisations that hinged their programs to Labor's grand vision for the construction of 300,000 new affordable houses. "What was their plan B?" he asks.

Robert is respected in the industry for his developments, particularly the Freshwater Place residential tower in Southbank. He has lived there and, in the BP building in St Kilda Road, one of the first commercial towers to be converted.

"I like the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city. People in the CBD are not wedded to a particular community. I spend all my time in the CBD, doing work, talking to people all day. It's about relationships. I like moving around. I don't have an office."

SkyPad Living

Sharing our vertical commons

Common property is a defining feature of vertical villages - but how widely are we expected to share?

At last month's Melbourne Knowledge Week, a panel came together to discuss re-thinking high-density residential design.

This panel was led by Dr Isun Kazerani and Dr Kirsten Day, experts from community planning, who were joined by Dr Marjan Hajjari, Abbie Freestone and Matt Strickland.

The focus was upon improving the physical and mental wellbeing of high-rise residents, with many of the usual-suspect issues raised, such as design deficiencies in natural light, ventilation and temperature.

But one issue which grabbed my attention involved our communal spaces - and the apparent need to expand these.

We of the vertical villages are very familiar with the notion of shared spaces by virtue of our strata title form of ownership, which allows for individual ownership of part of a property (a lot) and shared ownership of the remainder (i.e. common property - our foyers, driveways, gardens, etc). Also sharing these spaces are the tenants of owners. This means that we vertical villagers are very well versed in the pragmatic challenges which accompany operating shared amenities - maintenance costs, cleaning issues, behaviour and misuse, insurance, safety and security - issues which did not

receive much attention from the panel.

Indeed, the panel appeared uniformly supportive of the notion of creating more communal spaces with the phrase "density with amenity" widely lauded.

However, while each member was in favour, their reasons for advocating for these types of spaces differed, as did who was to benefit.

I noted three different perspectives taken towards communal spaces in our high-rise buildings - areas within a building, spaces shared between buildings, and amenities open to the "broader community".

As regards the first perspective (within a building), this was raised in relation to addressing social isolation, with the panel highlighting the need for accessible places to nurture resident wellbeing by creating "moments for interaction". Apparently shared laundry facilities fall under this category - but, I for one, am happy to relegate this communal feature to long-past student days. However, other shared facilities, such as a communal dog-wash, seem to have more merit as long as water usage and clean-up protocols can be managed.

The second scenario (between buildings)

is more about better resource utilisation and the economies of scale that come with greater usage. The example given was for a group of neighbouring residential buildings to enter into a reciprocal arrangement, whereby each building's facilities (e.g. gym, theatre, equipment shed) was accessible to participating residents. The idea here is that this would allow a group of buildings to offer a greater range of facilities and also permit the addition of value-add services, such as health programs. The underpinning aim is that wider "sharing" will transform these lonely facilities into more active gathering spaces for neighbours. Of course, these types of arrangements are much easier to implement when designed from the outset.

The third scenario (with the "broader community") was raised by Dr Marjan Hajjari and is a more radical approach to "sharing". Dr Marjan Hajjari proposes that spaces in our residential buildings be used for the delivery of services needed by the broader community. This idea is not entirely new. Some vertical villages are already mixed use, having cafes and other commercial ventures which operate under established commercial arrangements.

But the devil is in the detail.

The suggestion put forward seemed more akin to our vertical villages fulfilling a social responsibility - and possibility, in the future, being obligated to do so. Think of those owners' corporations that need to pay for the maintenance of public art installations, which often comes as a surprise to new owners! Think also of those buildings that were required to provide public access to toilets and the horror stories around their maintenance costs and security issues.

Into the future, we vertical villagers might have to get used to, and possibly enjoy, much greater levels of communality. And for new builds, this can be designed from the outset to ensure a good mix of private and social spaces - and possibly even public areas. However, care needs to be taken in shifting public-private boundaries and note needs to be taken by government decision-makers about transferring service delivery responsibility - and costs - to residents.



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

Metro Tunnel



Deck installation at City Square for the new Town Hall Station

Construction update

Town Hall Station

Construction to build the new Town Hall Station is continuing in Melbourne's CBD, across all three sites.

At Federation Square, piling works will continue around the perimeter of the site until mid-July. Two piling rigs are currently operating at the site, a regular-sized rig drilling piles up to 30 metres deep and a small rig, known as a baby drill, currently drilling piles up to four metres deep.

From the Swanston St viewing windows, you can see that 50 per cent of the deck is now covering the City Square site and is able to support construction vehicles driving onto it. This milestone has enabled construction works to commence on the installation of the acoustic shed.

Once the acoustic shed is fully constructed it will reduce construction impacts for nearby residents, businesses and the broader community while we excavate an access shaft and build the station cavern under Swanston St.

Across the road at Flinders Quarter piling works are continuing. There are more than 200 piles within the site which provide support for future excavation works.

State Library Station

Construction is continuing at the northern end of Swanston St in Melbourne's CBD to build the State Library Station.

Last month, service relocation works commenced on La Trobe St to facilitate the construction of an underground passenger connection that will link Melbourne Central Station to the future State Library Station.

Three road headers are operating up to 30 metres under Swanston St as they mine out the caverns and underground passenger connections for the new state-of-the-art station. In the next month, a fourth road header will be lifted into the shaft, which is being constructed at the La Trobe St site.

At the Franklin St West site, works will shortly commence to construct a deck over the site using over 300 tonnes of steel.

metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



Shaft excavation at the La Trobe Street site for the State Library Station.

Heritage

Testing our resolve

A development currently advertised for 7 Hosier Lane, which seeks to plonk serviced apartments on top of a building with a heritage facade in one of our key laneways, should be seen not only as a heritage issue, but as a litmus test for the kind of city we all want to live in.

Hosier Lane has long been recognised as one of Melbourne's main attractions, a nondescript cobblestone laneway turned into a hive of creativity and counter-culture in the heart of the city.

We don't perhaps realise how lucky we are to have a city where more can exist in the CBD besides corporate culture and generic tourism (visit Sydney if you want to find out), something we believe developments like this are continuing to threaten.

Heritage listings and height limits have so far kept small creative spaces and laneways alive, but more and more we are seeing heritage and counter-cultural values used solely to sell a gentrified version of our city.

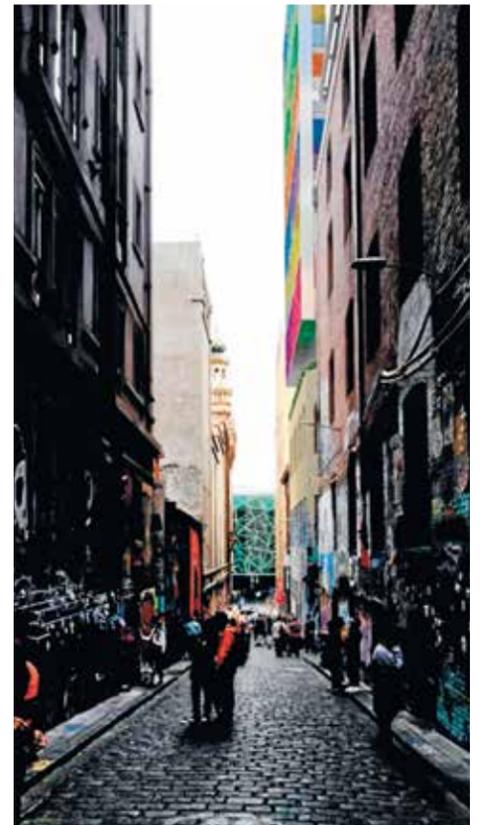
This is illustrated in the new apartment floors proposed here, which use colour to mimic the graffiti below, all the while threatening the authenticity of the street level experience.

The proposal, which will also boot a social enterprise cafe, op-shop and youth projects organisation out of the building, seeks to install into Hosier Lane more gentrified tenancies, and serviced apartments on a "boutique" scale of affordability.

The idea of co-opting graffiti culture for retail has already seen controversy recently, with the addition to the lane of Culture Kings and its attacks on "unauthorised" street art last year, bringing to the boil conflicts between high-yield retail and street art culture.

This development will potentially further this conflict, with the serviced apartments bringing constant passive surveillance and a changing nature of visitor to the lane, adding potential that street artists will no longer visit the laneway they helped turn into a destination in the first place.

Development has an important place



in our city, but sometimes we have to know when to leave things as they are, regardless of how well activated or renewed a place may potentially be.

Melbourne needs to think carefully about what kind of city it wants to become. We shouldn't aspire to becoming just another generic world city with little authenticity or reason to be visited beyond work, high-end retail and gentrified tourism.



Tristan Davies
President
Melbourne Heritage Action

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More trains,
more often



The tenderness of artistic types

By Rhonda Dredge

The path of a writer is hellish. Many take the safer journey into genre.

Organisations abound to help crime writers. Fantasy goes down well on the internet.

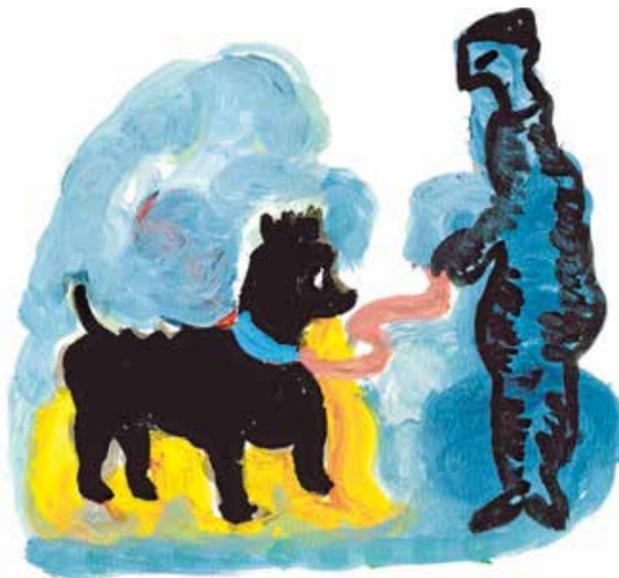
But the plain old realist with mental health issues and a desire to expose the pretensions of Melbourne's literary industry has to rely on his own little battered suitcase of knowledge.

After taking the reader on a journey through his own personal landscape, Luke Carman ends this collection of essays with *In the Room with Gerald Murnane*, a tribute to the shy master of sentences.

Intimate Antipathies is a brave book and a very funny account of the excruciating experiences of being a novice writer whom the literary establishment attempts to train up.

In the *Cult of Western Sydney*, Carman is coerced to rehearse on a chorus line of the unpublished for a writers' festival and in *A Northern Rivers Romance*, he rides a bus full of positive-thinking fantasists into the bush.

But it is in *Getting Square in a Jerking*



Circle that he targets Melbourne, presenting the CBD literati as a pampered lot, who pretend to love literary culture but are more interested in the paper-thin sound of our own voices.

Carman makes it clear where his loyalty lies - in a deep Murnanesque foray into the language of the mind.

It cannot be denied that writers in this country are served up as tasty meaty bites to gatherings of readers, when they are much better at being introspective.

Carman won the 2015 NSW Premier's New Writing Award for *An Elegant Young Man*

and this gives him a platform for judging the pedigree of the Melbourne gatekeepers whom he finds too middlebrow.

He uses his critique of the Melbourne Voice to penetrate the defences of the reader as he builds a case against the "cultish cabal" of arts administrators.

Secret deals, special desks and lucrative grants are some of the weapons wielded by these operatives.

In the cozy den of the Wheeler Centre and City of Literature, our "lit-scene mobsters" dole out praise to the undeserving and make it impossible for shy, young "lunatics, lovers

and poets" to be taken seriously.

Carman comes from Sydney's western suburbs. In the old days he could have drifted to Balmain to join the larrikins of the Sydney Push but now the Melbourne Voice dominates from the hallowed halls of Little Lonsdale Street.

What is the Melbourne Voice? Is it merely the voice of a reading culture emanating from the pleasant faces of the respectful personnel who spread the word through talks in the CBD or something more sinister?

Starry-eyed accounts of dreams and deep suspicion that administrators are using writers to fill diversity quotas intermingle in a delicious blancmange of adventure and insightful critique in this book.

Murnane offers final deliverance, a pathway for writers that helps them avoid the pitfalls of ideology and politics that dominate the literary scene.

Carman describes the tendency of the middlebrow to want more than is offered as "the cult of personality preying on the credulity and tenderness of artistic types in need of something to make them whole."

Intimate Antipathies, Luke Carman, Giramondo, 2019

Rhonda Dredge
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Commuter Tales

Why it's ok to hibernate in winter

Many people believe that the seasons are caused by the earth's distance from the sun.

That in winter its orbit takes it further away from the sun, causing temperatures to plummet, and that conversely, summer is when our planet is closer to the warmth, thus warmer.

In fact, according to NASA's suspiciously colourful and playful website, this is not true. Just so you're not left hanging with uncertainty over what actually causes summer and winter, I can confirm that it is, in fact, the earth's tilt that is responsible. Earth has seasons because its axis doesn't stand up straight and different parts of the Earth gets the sun's direct rays at different times of the year.

So back to winter. It's cold. It's windy. It's wet. It's grey. And it's here. Scientific explanation/rationale/justification notwithstanding, winter presents us with the ultimate "if you can't control it, let it go" type scenario. We know we can't control it, make it go away, tilt the planet in the opposite direction by all of us stamping our feet and concentrating really hard.

The tilt is here to stay. At least for the next two months and a bit.

How we respond to this is remarkably similar. At least among the people I see on my commute. Looking around me I see resignation, I see making do, I see making the best of, I see indifference, and sometimes, when the sun comes out, I see

happiness.

Rarely, aside from the few seconds when people enter the tram from outside, do I see grumpiness, disgruntlement or anger. People don't rage about the weather. We accept it, and we try to move on. Work. Job. Turn up. Be reliable. Don't be a sook. Blah blah. But we don't have to turn up after work. After we've all been grown-ups and done our stint at work, shown up, been accountable, ticked off our task list and fulfilled our key performance indicators (KPIs), we can walk out the revolving door, get home, take off our wet coats, damp gloves, kick off our shoes and get into hibernation mode.

The softest tracksuit pants, the most worn jumper, the threadbare t-shirts, the thick woollen mismatched socks. The drawing in of curtains, the shutting out of the world, along with the cold. Bring it all on.

My winter evening hibernation is the reason I have read three books this month and exhausted nearly all the content on my streaming service. I have half knitted a scarf for my son (he doesn't like it and says it's "itchy" but I'm going to force him to use it). I have a fridge full of homemade stock, rekindled some friendships from couch side phone chats, while sipping tea and/or wine. Sure, there's the extra kilo or two I'm packing away under my over-sized coats but it's a small price to pay for some hibernation time.



Maria Doogan
CBD Worker

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Planning

Commercial is the flavour of the month

While the residential market may have slowed down over the past 12 months, developers have opted to push ahead with plans for a slew of office developments within the CBD.

While it awaits approval for its 35-storey dual tower development at 555 Collins Street, Charter Hall has just been granted a demolition permit by the City of Melbourne to commence demolition of Enterprise House, which currently occupies the site.

Charter Hall lodged plans for the \$1.5 billion redevelopment in late April which will encompass the adjoining property at 55 King Street and has been designed by Cox Architecture in tandem with global practice Gensler.

Delta Group has already commenced demolition works on site with the cost approximately \$13 million. Demolition of Enterprise House will allow Charter Hall to proceed with the first phase of the



redevelopment - the construction of 45,000 sqm of premium office space spanning 35 levels.

The development will aim to target a number of sustainable certifications including a 6 Green Star rating, 5 Star NABERS energy rating and platinum WELL certification - in pursuit of creating one of the city's most sustainable office buildings. The building will also feature a state-of-the-art health and wellbeing offering, as well as a premium retail hub with a curated selection of restaurants and bars.

The 35-storey tower is due to be completed in mid-2022, by which stage the second

phase of the project at 55 King Street is expected to get underway.

Elsewhere, the City of Melbourne has also approved a compact 23-storey office tower designed by Chris Connell Design. The glazed tower will be developed above the 1885 former German Club at 7 Alfred Place in the city's Paris End after councillors voted unanimously to approve the project at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on June 4.

The tower will comprise smaller office tenancies while existing restaurant tenancies at ground level and the interior of the German Club will be retained within the

redevelopment.

And finally, Developer GPT Group has revealed plans for a cross-laminated timber office building designed by ARM that will be built above the Melbourne Central shopping centre at 300 Lonsdale St.

The 12-storey building, to be known as *Frame*, will provide office accommodation totalling 19,400 sqm supported by a retail, hospitality and entertainment precinct, which will span the vast rooftop area of the shopping centre as well as a sky lobby on level five.

Frame is targeting a 5 Star NABERS energy and water rating, a 5 Star Green Star, and WELL gold standard.

Pending planning approval from the City of Melbourne, GPT expects construction of the building to begin by the end of the year, with an anticipated completion date of late 2021.



Laurence Dragomir

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

We Live Here

A Royal Commission into industry scandals

Enough is enough. Every day we read of more apartment catastrophes created by builders with the tacit acquiescence of governments:

- Cladding made of flammable material on thousands of apartment blocks
- Cracking buildings sparking fears of collapse
- Contracts for management mates locked in for decades

Apartment owners continue to be ripped off by an industry destitute of morality in Victoria and, indeed, all over Australia. That's a lot of people caught up in these scandals. For example, one in three Victorians live in a strata title residence, mostly apartments. That's a lot of voters.

Decades of unscrupulous behaviour in the building industry, alloyed with a lack of effective government regulation are starting to take an enormous human toll - so far with little or no consequences for the perpetrators.

The affected apartment owners are the pawns here, suddenly transformed into mortgage prisoners, either homeless or unable to sell, consequently plunged into penury. Home values and life savings have been wiped out.

It gets worse of course, if you follow the money. The fall-out from two decades of "self-regulated" builders have insurers, globally, shunning the entire industry.

Owners have been hit hard with insurance premiums escalating to excruciating levels. And builders, architects, fire engineers,

surveyors, all and sundry connected with the building industry have also been impacted.

Professional indemnity (PI) insurance premiums have skyrocketed up to 500 per cent and some major industry players will not be able to reinsure at all.

Huge Victorian companies employing hundreds of professionals might hit the wall in the next few weeks because insurers are set to decline PI cover all the way back to Lloyds.

Professionals involved in the recent string of headline-grabbing fires and other disasters are obviously being targeted. Some industry players are being stunned with up to seven-figure excess sums imposed, which virtually equates to no cover. And no PI cover means no practice.

You can expect a massive and painful building industry shake-up in the coming months, with enormous knock-on effect for the entire Australian economy.

An open secret - built to demolish

Let's face it - the building industry surely must implode - if it hasn't already.

It's been an open secret, well known at all levels of government and industry, that dangerous and lax building practices were leaving a disintegrating legacy of substandard apartment blocks while bringing short-term profits to builders and windfall gains to the state's revenue coffers.

The widespread knowledge of the industry malaise has been documented and publicly avowed for some years. In 2015, Emeritus Professor Michael Buxton from RMIT university told a We Live Here community forum that an appalling proportion of buildings in Melbourne would have to be demolished within 10 years because they had been built so poorly.

Against the landscape of crumbling buildings there are other dramas playing out. For example, tens of thousands of Victorians also need relief from blatantly immoral building manager contracts. Many unconscionable management contracts have opaque costs, embedded commissions and irrevocable terms of up to 25 years. This inequity needs to be eliminated. While this has been recognised in the exposure draft of the *Owners Corporation (OC) and Other Acts Amendment Bill*, no date has yet been set for when the Bill will be introduced into Parliament.

For apartment dwellers, the building industry has been and remains a national disgrace. We need a Royal Commission to clean it up. A Royal Commission would also give governments the political capital needed to make decisions that look after owners and residents.

Is the party over for short-stays?

Right now, short-stay party damage and violence is continuing unabated. But will it be over soon for long-suffering Victorian apartment residents? We hope so but we won't hold our breath.

Short-term rental watchdog BNBGuard has reported a crazy month of global short-term rental fiascos, including:

- a shooting
- a birthday "riot" with 200 students
- a "graduation party" with 300 students
- a meth lab

We Live Here has also reported on the case here in Melbourne concerning the massive repair bill escaped by a short-term business courtesy of Victorian legislation (the so-called Airbnb Bill), which sheets most of the cost of party damages back to hapless owners.

This case involved a large party held in a luxury penthouse containing a sauna, which set off the fire sprinklers. The resultant flooding extensively damaged the apartment directly below and, months later, the innocent owner-occupier is still counting the cost.

But is there a chance that the short-stay onslaught could be stemmed? Maybe.

VCAT, long the nemesis of OCs, has finally delivered a verdict that supports rather than opposes the right of OCs to control access to a building.

In this case, while confirming that OCs in Melbourne do not have the authority to implement a total ban on short-stay leasing, VCAT did validate other methods of control that could be used, including:

- The legal right for OCs to prevent entry into the building without three days' notice being given; and
- a requirement for a short-stay tenant to take part in a building induction before entry is permitted. The decision also validated the right of the OC to charge a fee for the induction.

While this is a significant step forward for beleaguered OCs trying to curb the excesses of short-term leasing in their residential buildings, it does require a special resolution to be passed for these new rules to be implemented. This can be quite difficult to achieve, particularly for large buildings.

However, it is progress, of a sort, and for that we can be thankful.



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

Music

Caves to skyscrapers

Skyscraper Stan's second album *Golden Boy Vol.I & Vol.II* (Heart Of The Rat Records) is an absolute ripper. Music to listen to on golden days. Louisiana, 40 degrees in the shade, singing. Tennis courts, summer, central Victoria.

Back on Your Corner is a great ballad, reminiscent of the Tindersticks in the baritone vocal delivery. The film clip to the song, directed by Isabella Doherty (*Polyfaces A World Of Many Choices* 2015) is set in a karaoke lounge bar at the Bridge Hotel, Castlemaine and has Skyscraper Stan in metamorphosis mode with static swirls of cigarette smoke, neon light. Green, red, blue lights on a mirror ball. A bit of twang in the air.

Back on Your Corner film features a cast of "rock dogs" and "MegaHertzers" crooning along to the song, starring Rex Watts, Matthew Colin, Stan Woodhouse, Monique Kerr, Briega Young, Bronte Ashworth, Sabine Pablialong et al.

Laconic vocal styling augmented and underpinned by wonderful keyboards, percussion fine and balanced. The chorus has soaring vocal delivery of The Carter Family.

Skyscraper goes major league, moving from third- to first-person narrative through the course of the song. At the conclusion of the video, there is a moment where the MC introduces Isabella to sing *Sweet Child Of Mine*. This Guns N' Roses reference is paralleled in the album title that replicates the *Use Your Illusion Vol. I & Vol.II*

Antipodean Skyscraper Stan has always produced great material. After the debut album *Last Year's Tune* in 2015, and the *Tall Stories* EP, where *Oil City One-Step* is the highlight, the next album was a solo live endeavour by Skyscraper Stan entitled *Live At Some Velvet Morning* in 2017. Great southern charm music. After a great crowdfunding victory his second studio album *Golden Boy* is a step up to a more mature and well-balanced musical vehicle.

Doorbell mentions living on Easey St. A companion song to *Doorbell* in terms of lyrical content could be Men At Work's *Who Can It Be*. The guitar in the coda has a ringing sustain reminiscent of Slash's guitar in *November Rain*.

Dancing On My Own Grave has some poignant guitar playing that is like Chris Chapple on his *It's A Wonderful Life*, and there is a "Chapplesque" understatement as well in the lyrics. The Topp Twins are an influence as well, no doubt inspiring Stan with the notion that songs can be imbued with a tremendous narrative arc. And The Topp Twins do have a great storytelling ability. The Topp Twins' *Honky Tonk Angel* has an uplifting, big chorus, just like Skyscraper Stan's *Back On Your Corner*. This massive approach to the chorus is counterpointed with a sardonic approach in the verses. Raphael has a bass line like Niles Rogers and an interpolating guitar line like Marty Willson-Piper.

Tarcutta Days from the debut album is a song with the calibre of a Peter Allen song. Its guitar sound and playing sounds like The Church's Peter Koppes in maximum overdrive, such as in *Tantalised*. And again, you can hear Slash's guitar influence in the sustain, and the conclusion has bass playing

that would fit in well with Nick Cave's *The First Born Is Dead* album in terms of atmosphere.

Skyscraper Stan musos who have performed in this band include Stan Woodhouse, Oskar Herbig, pocket bass player Martin Schilov, Chris Windley, Monikah Quoi, Briega Young, Dan McKay and others. Woody Guthrie's spirit can be found in the music of Skyscraper Stan.

The ever-versatile Stan had a song in New Zealand director Leanne Pooley's feature length animation movie *April 25*. Based on the Gallipoli campaign, this movie screened at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2015 in the Contemporary World Cinema section.

The opening track on *Golden Boy* is *Dole Queues and Dunhill Blues* and it sounds like a funkified song from a Joe Jackson concert in a loft in New York City. Talking Heads' *Remain In Light* can also be heard in the vocals and angular guitar riffing lines of *Dole Queues and Dunhill Blues*. Kudos to producer Richard Stolz (Paul Kelly, HUSKY) from Woodstock Studios for his great production work on *Golden Boy*.

Flag Of Progress has some fine fingerpicking guitar with a nice bit of reverb.

Talking About The Weather (While The House Burns Down) has nice twangy guitar, subtle keyboards and some nice handclaps like Ric Ocasek and The Cars. *Bound For Glory* by Woody Guthrie would be one book that you could read whilst listening to Skyscraper Stan. Stan is a fan of Gillian Welch, as evidenced by his performance of Welch's song *Wayside Back In Time* in a room full of guitars in Wellington, New Zealand.

Skyscraper Stan is launching *Golden Boy* at the Northcote Social Club on July 27 and also performing the previous night on the July 26 at the Bridge Hotel in Castlemaine.

Gigs/Shows

- Sunday Arvos Blues Sessions in July - Cherry Bar, AC/DC Lane, CBD
- Tex Perkin's *Man In Black Johnny Cash Show* August 23 and August 24 - Athenaeum Theatre
- Skeggs - Forum Theatre - July 14
- The Stetson Family - Bello Winter Music Festival, July 11 - 14
- Melbourne International Animation Festival - Treasury Theatre, July 13 - 21
- Jody Haines #IAMWOMAN - Arts House, July 10 - August 4
- Didirri - 170 Russell, Friday, August 30
- *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory* - Her Majesty's Theatre, August
- Vital Bits - Sunday Mornings on 3RRR
- Saturday Evening 3CR Radio



Chris Mineral

email: mineralsands@hotmail.com

Pet's Corner

Social star

By Sarah Bartlett

Two-year old husky Shiraz is already a celebrity on social media.

Shiraz's features stood out at Flagstaff Gardens with a striking fur coat and almond shaped brown eyes when *CBD News* met him last month.

Owners and CBD residents Gialin and Jinkotie Wang said that they had recently taken Shiraz to Brighton Beach and filmed him. The response to was huge!

"We uploaded the video onto the Chinese social media app TikTok and from that the video gained over 1000 followers," Gialin said.

Shiraz's TikTok account documents his daily life through short-form mobile video for his followers.

While describing Shiraz as "kind and lazy", Gialin said that he did enjoy going for regular walks.

"Shiraz likes to go for walks, and we take him for a walk once every day for one hour," Gialin said.

Gialin and Jinkotie said that they were currently planning to get another husky as a partner for Shiraz.



Jinkotie Wang with Shiraz

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たくさんの美しい女性
日本語を話します



联邦广场未来的公众咨询

撰稿: Meg Hill

随着维多利亚遗产局对联邦广场的考量,以及州政府则致力于对其进行审查的公众咨询,联邦广场的管理层邀请公众来共同设计其未来。

5月24日至25日,联邦广场管理和市场人员举办了“黑客联邦广场”的活动,作为墨尔本知识周的一部分。

感兴趣的公众被分成小组,给予八个小时来分别解决几个关键问题,其中包括:

我们如何确保联邦广场仍然是墨尔本重要的文化地标和标志性的集会场所之一?

如何确保这样一个有创造力、充满好奇和灵感相碰撞的空间?

八个小时结束时,这些团队将他们的想法提交给一个评审小组。

评审小组将从城市居民、文化价值、品牌定位、大众参与度和财政可持续性方面进行评审。

活动主持人说:“联邦广场基本上没有资金,所以我们要寻求的是在财务上可行的想法或经验……人们在这个区域内可使用他们可支配的收入。”

活动团队展示了增强现实、沉浸式增强现实体验、交互式艺术解决方案、巨型走道、活动交流等愿景。

但在过去的一年多时间里,在广场上拟建苹果店和广场未来的争议中,私人资助广场“公共空间”的提议遭到了社区活动人士的批评。

越来越清楚苹果店不在广场建造了,联邦广场的首席执行官约翰逊·特里布(Jonathon Tribe)告知“时代报”,联邦广场应该得到政府的资助。

联邦广场管理层和州政府对苹果店原先的决定,引起了巨大争议,其原因之一是没有任何社区咨询的过程。

苹果公司放弃建店后,作为今年年初宣布的对联邦广场重新考量的一部分,现在政府正在组织进行这么一个各方面的社区咨询。



公民宣誓 人数空前

撰稿: Alex Dalziel

6月5日星期三,墨尔本市政迎来了275名新澳大利亚人来到我们的城市,这是该市历史上最大的公民宣誓仪式。

墨尔本市政厅举行了“超级仪式”,欢迎来自世界各地的新公民,参加者来自六大洲。每组大约有20名新市民同时在红地毯上由市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)主持进行宣誓,规模空前。

然后,市长向新公民颁发一份证书,以及一面澳大利亚国旗和一株由市政议员、土著城市组合主管查理·弗朗西斯·吉利(Nic Frances Gilley)颁发的

土著植物。

据市议会称,在275名新公民中,104人住在中央商务区,49人住在南岸,39人住在道克兰区。

墨尔本市长萨利·卡普说,这个仪式是我市多元文化社区的庆祝。

卡普说:“我们为这些来自54个国家的新公民决定把墨尔本作为自己的家而感到骄傲,墨尔本充满活力的文化是由离开祖国开始新生活的移民几代人塑造的。”

“他们正在对我们的国家做出承诺,把自己最好的东西和遗产带到了墨尔本,在这里创造一个崭新的未来。”

为有需要的年轻人提供稳定的住宿

撰稿: David Schout

世界上第一个青年危机住宿中心在中央商务区开业,希望为城市中那些艰难的年轻人提供更稳定的住宿。

这个有18个床位的新设施位于国王街的“前院青年服务中心”,让12-25岁有需要的年轻人入住,提供全天候的情感和实际帮助。这是一个被认为是同类服务中的首创。

这个带有“创伤信息”的现代化设施进一步扩展了“前院青年服务中心”的服务,该中心在帮助墨尔本无家可归的年轻人方面已经工作30年了。

前院青年服务中心运营经理罗布·霍斯金(Rob Hosking)对本报说:“整个变化如此之大和戏剧化,很难想象这个新设施还和12个月前是同一个地方。”

在此之前,有需要的年轻人会来到前院青年服务中心,寻求住房、健康或就业服务,但是服务中心当天工作结束时,他们就会离开。

霍斯金说,几年前当他和他的团队发现了市中心有40至60名这些的年轻人急需帮助,而我们



的系统根本无法照顾他们,就想出了这个就近住宿的想法。

他说:“他们在不同的旅店、避难所、应急部门和司法系统里来来往往。这些年轻人受到了严重的伤害和创伤,没有得到足够的帮助服务”。

从那以后,就提出了一种新的模式,既包括现有的服务,也包括楼上的危机住宿服务。

霍斯金说:“这是为了满足这些年轻人的需求,也是为了阻止他们成为长期无家可归者。”



共享区域 事故待发

撰稿: David Schout

据有关人士称,繁忙的自行车和步行共享道斯旺斯顿(Swanston)街将会是一个严重的事故发生区。

自行车骑车者和电车乘客斯蒂芬·马奎尔(Stephen Maguire)详细描述了他在墨尔本中心(Melbourne Central)车站和州立图书馆之间共享区域的经历。

马奎尔先生说,该区域的电车在停靠车站之前,骑车者都有通行的权利,可是行人和骑车者都没有正确使用这个共享区域。

他说,行人经常忘记并且不清楚这个共享区域,由于被挡住了视线或在看手机,也常常没有感觉到自行车的靠近。

然而,骑自行车的人可以以高达40公里/小时的速度穿越该区域,希望抢在电车靠站之前通过,并且同样也会被耳机分散注意力。

马奎尔先生说:“我是一个骑自行车的人,我理解一些人出现的焦虑。”

“我知道以前在一些路段为了安全而不能骑自行车,但我觉得现在的共享区域使行人因此变得更为不安全。我认为这两组人群的共享结合将会导致严重事故的发生。”

一项由交通管理委员会资助的2016年调查显示,斯旺斯顿街的这个共享区域是整个墨尔本十大最令人恐惧的骑车区域之一,因为骑车人报告说,他们对行人在这个共享路上的行走方式感到不安。

马奎尔先生提出了一系列解决方案,以更好地确保共享道路上的骑车人和行人的安全,为此他受到了几位市议员的赞扬。

所提出的方案包括安装减速带,更有效的标识和涂漆路径,以及5公里/小时的骑车限速。

他还表示,墨尔本中心车站和州立图书馆之间的共享路段所面临的问题并不局限于那个特定的区域,“也可能在其他共享区域发生”。

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**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH 8:00PM TO 9:15PM LANEWAY LEARNING CENTRAL BELLY DANCING-BEGINNERS

Fun, dynamic and engaging introduction to the world of belly dancing. Basics of belly dancing in just one session.

\$16, 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**

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JULY, 5:00PM-10:00PM QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET EVENT SEASON RUNS UNTIL 28 AUG CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT WINTER NIGHT MARKET

Free entry, food and drinks for purchase
thenightmarket.com.au

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

TUESDAY, JULY 16TH 6:15PM TO 7:30PM. PLANTED PLACES, CBD OPEN TERRARIUMS WITH MISS EMILY

Learn layered structure of a terrarium and how to decorate and care for these plants.

\$32, melbourne@lanewaylearning.com

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

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

✚ PRAYER TIMES

St Michael's

120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000
Ph: 9654 5120
Church times:
Sunday Service at 10.00am

Chabad of Melbourne

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

City on a Hill

Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm.
Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central

Victorian Friends Centre

484 William Street, West Melbourne
Quaker Meetings for Worship: Sunday 10.30am

Collins Street Baptist Church

174 Collins St
Ph: 9650 1180
Sundays services: 10.30am

CrossCulture Church of Christ

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

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
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Lending a hand at lunch

By Rhonda Dredge

When you're on your lunch break in the city, you don't expect to be confronting police and offering support to those in distress.

That's what happened to Louise Bennet when she dropped by to see her mum in Collins St on Friday, June 14.

Her mum Sylvia, 74, was at a "Free Julian Assange" rally outside the British consulate.

"It was meant to be a peaceful protest," said Ms Bennet. But by the time she arrived, an angry scene had erupted, people were yelling, a woman had been arrested and her mum was close to tears.

Ms Bennet was dismayed at the show of force.

"I'm still so shocked a combined Federal and Victoria police force would be so aggressive and intimidating towards such a small, peaceful protest," Ms Bennet told *CBD News* a week later.

The arrested woman was being held by several police officers at the tram stop when Ms Bennet arrived. She rushed to her side to give her moral support.

"I'm so proud of you," she cried out across



Main image: Louise Bennet (right) supports arrested woman. Below image: Ms Bennet at the protest in Collins St.

the ranks of the officers, while taking pictures with her phone.

There were about a dozen police officers and 20 protesters, holding placards, chalking the footpath and driving down the street with a billboard.

Sylvia Bennet, Louise's mum, told *CBD News* that the arrested woman had been sticking up a banner to a lamppost when a police car stopped, and an officer confiscated it.

The woman was handcuffed, held in a nearby lane and later taken to Melbourne West police station.

Louise Bennet said the rally was to protest about the way the press was covering the imprisonment of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange in London.

"I hadn't been part of the protest but came to



take a look during my lunch break to check up on my mum. I joined as a result of what I saw."

"I'm just so shocked and upset by the overreach. I guess I've been shielded from it in my middle-class bubble ... until now."

The protestor was not charged.



L-R: George Georgiou (CEO EIG Developments), Weixing Zhang (Minister of Science & technology, China) and Dr Lizi Li.

Start-up talent

A start-up/science and research competition in Fed Square attracted 200 entrants on June 23 gunning for a trip to China.

Eureka Technology Innovations and Investment host the annual competition, giving award winners a seven-day educational and commercialisation trip to China.

The overall award winner, Chuandong Wen and his team from INWENTECH, also received \$20,000.

The competition had four categories: IT and digital tech, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and food and agriculture.

Eureka TechIn general manager Dr Lizi Li said the competition was intended to strengthen the company's "people-to-people" ties in accelerating the development of the start-up community in Australia.

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