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CBD NEWS

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Beggar déja vu

By Meg Hill

“Police have arrested 77 city beggars this year, many of whom were either drug users or professional beggars.”

This is a familiar start to an article about begging in the CBD. But it's not from the recent news surge. It's a *Herald Sun* article from November 2000.

This July a similar, but arguably smaller, police operation targeted a number of apparent “professional” beggars in the city.

Police charged seven people with beg alms. It's alleged those charged were Chinese nationals on tourist visas operating as part of an organised syndicate and are not truly homeless.

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Photo: John Tadigiri

Council crackdown on motorbike parking

By David Schout

The City of Melbourne could install “no-stopping” signs on some of the CBD’s busiest footpaths in a bid to free-up clogged walkways.

As councillors step up their bid to “reclaim footpaths” as a key pillar of council's 10-year transport strategy, motorbikes and food delivery bikes have been targeted.

The strategy, a final draft of which is soon to go before the council, already includes a plan to install 300 additional on-street motorcycle parking bays as a way to remove them from busy walkways.

But the council has now indicated that they

could install “no-stopping” signs on busy paths as a further way to curb congestion.

“Our goal is to improve our streets and make them safer for all users, including people walking and riding motorcycles,” a council spokesperson said.

“This will be achieved by shifting motorcycles in high-activity areas from footpaths by providing more on-street parking. In order to achieve these goals,

we may need to introduce motorcycle no-stopping zones for part or all of the day in some high-activity areas.”

Melbourne is the only capital city in Australia where you can legally park on the footpath.

Riders are merely required to park at least one motorcycle length out from the building to allow free passage for pedestrians.

But this state law has caused headaches in

recent times, as research confirmed that almost nine in 10 trips throughout the CBD are completed on foot.

Further surveys as part the transport strategy – which the council received a record level of response – confirmed that one of the most common problems in the CBD was “crowded footpaths”.

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Heritage push for Queen St

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne has welcomed a recommendation to extend heritage protections at the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) to include a 200-metre section of Queen St on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The strip of Queen St dividing the market (between Therry and Victoria streets) is the only section of the QVM precinct not included on the state's Register. However, the same section is included as part of the market's National Heritage Listing.

Heritage Council Victoria publicly advertised the recommendation from the executive director of Heritage Victoria Steven Avery on July 19, in accordance with section 41 of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

A council spokesperson told *CBD News* that the recommendation would bring the market's registration on the Victorian Heritage Register in line with the national listing.

"As the custodians of Queen Victoria Market, we are committed to protecting its unique heritage – that is why we applied for and secured National Heritage Listing of the market," the spokesperson said.

"Through City of Melbourne's \$250 million QVM renewal, we are protecting the very things the National Heritage Listing recognises including preserving the market's long history, restoring its heritage buildings and securing its place as a traditional open-air market."

The inclusion of the strip of Queen St on the state's Register has been pushed by The Friends of QVM, who say the listing adds another layer of protection to what is "vital to the traffic flow of customers across the market".



The northern end of Queen St looking towards the CBD.

A spokesperson for Heritage Victoria said that the current extent of registration for QVM comprised two separate blocks and the inclusion of the northern portion of Queen St was considered important for protection, conservation and connectivity.

The group's spokesperson Mary-Lou Howie said she hoped the move would help prevent any inappropriate development from taking place on Queen St as part of the council's plans to renew the market.

The City of Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Master Plan does earmark the section of Queen St to be pedestrianised by removing parking and vehicular traffic. A 2016 makeover plan also included a proposal for a glasshouse pavilion to be constructed on Queen St, which has been strongly opposed by Friends of QVM and many market traders.

The City of Melbourne told *CBD News* that it didn't expect the heritage recommendation would impact its plans for renewal, which included a new waste management and loading facility on Queen St.

"We anticipated this process and, as with every heritage and planning approval process, we will work through any additional approvals required efficiently so we can get

on with delivering renewal and protecting the market for future generations," a council spokesperson said.

"We do not expect that an extension of the heritage area, as proposed, will significantly change the project timelines."

"The plans for delivery of market infrastructure, as approved by council in April 2019, included a new facility at the northern end of Queen St where the heritage nomination is proposed to be extended."

"This building would provide centralised waste management and loading services for the market and was a key recommendation of the People's Panel process."

"The 2015 Master Plan included key improvements such as the enhancement of public space on Queen Street between the upper and lower markets and the reduction of vehicular traffic on Queen Street for improved public safety and visitor experience."

The recommendation will be advertised for 60 days from July 19 and submissions can be made to the Heritage Council of Victoria via the following link:

heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/registrations-reviews/executive-director-recommendations/

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Part-closure for three years

Local businesses on Flinders and Degraves streets can expect a challenging few years ahead, with one side of Flinders St to close to traffic for up to three years as part of construction of the new Town Hall Metro railway station.

Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan announced the extended closure on July 21, which will enable major work to start building the new interchange under Flinders St, between Swanston and Degraves streets.

From September 2, both eastbound lanes on Flinders St will be closed between Elizabeth and Swanston streets.

Trams will continue to run in both directions throughout, except for a six-day period from October 2-7, when major construction will be carried out close to the tram network. The footpath will also remain open along Flinders St past Degraves St.

A new pedestrian crossing will also be



established to the west of Degraves St to enable pedestrians to cross to the south side of Flinders St and maintain access to the tram stop.

Pedestrian and vehicle access will also be maintained for local businesses and residents, and loading bays will be available east of Elizabeth St for deliveries and drop-offs. Jacinta Allan said the full footpath on Flinders St was expected to re-open to pedestrians in late 2020.

"We know how disruptive this major construction will be so we're doing everything we can to minimise disruptions and impacts on local residents, businesses and people visiting the city," Ms Allan said.

news@cbdnews.com.au



Lord Mayor Sally Capp with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Ardern graces our city

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was warmly welcomed by leaders and Melburnians during her visit to the CBD in July.

As part of a brief Australian visit, Ms Ardern met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Victorian Governor Linda Dessau, Premier Daniel Andrews and Lord Mayor Sally Capp during a two-day visit to Melbourne on July 18 and 19.

Ms Ardern became Prime Minister of New Zealand in 2017. Earlier this year her Coalition Government gained worldwide acclaim for its compassionate leadership in response to the terror attack in Christchurch.



Ms Ardern meets with Premier Daniel Andrews.

On July 18, she delivered a speech at Melbourne Town Hall at an event hosted by the City of Melbourne and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, where she spoke of the importance of good governance.

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Tax loophole finally closed

By Meg Hill

The state government has quietly closed a tax loophole that cost it hundreds of thousands of dollars and threatened hundreds of thousands more.

Since the start of the year owners of state-listed heritage buildings in the CBD have used a loophole in the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* to have their buildings valued at just \$1.

The list included multi-million-dollar buildings like the General Post Office (GPO) and the Block Arcade.

Following that, owners of locally-listed heritage buildings began to target the loophole – threatening a landslide of land tax exemptions.

The State Government erased the loophole from the legislation in an amendment passed on June 18, but it seems the \$1 valuations will still have to be overturned in court.

A Department of Treasury and Finance spokesperson said the GPO case was still before VCAT.

"Heritage-registered commercial properties that generate significant income should not receive an unfair advantage through reduced land tax liabilities," the spokesperson said.

The amendment repealed both Section 2(8) and Section 2(9) from the Act, closing the loophole for both state-listed and locally-listed heritage buildings.

When the precedent case – the GPO – was decided at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and valued at \$1, both the VCAT members and the government expressed concern.

Owners' fight pays off

By David Schout

A retired couple have taken the fight to both builders and council over a gantry erected directly outside their CBD apartment window.

After months of letters and complaints about the structure's impact on privacy and natural light, their persistence finally paid off when the structure was removed in July.

Judith and Michael McCann returned to their 131 La Trobe St building on February 13 to see the structure assembled on Bennetts Lane for nearby building works.

The 15-year CBD residents rent out the affected apartment and live upstairs in the same building themselves.

"We didn't even see the permit – we didn't have a chance. We arrived back and the gantry was in place. We didn't get to ask why it was that height or how long it will be there for," Mrs McCann explained.

The permit, issued by the City of Melbourne, was granted to builder Hamilton Marino for 12 months.

Soon after the gantry was erected, however, tenants decided to vacate because workers were operating directly outside their window, severely impacting their privacy.

As a result, the McCanns were out of pocket.

"We're good citizens, we pay our rates and do things by the book, and I just think this is unfair," she said at the time.

The builder had informed the building's owners' corporation (OC) of the impending structure, but the OC had failed to pass this onto the McCanns.

They, therefore, had no opportunity to lodge an appeal against its placement.

After several verbal and written complaints



A view of the gantry from the McCanns' balcony and (below) the view from Bennetts Lane.

that followed, council officers visited the apartment in early June and agreed it would be difficult to lease.

The following week a meeting was organised with both council site services officers and the builder, who informed them the gantry could not be lowered.

More objections followed, until finally it was agreed the gantry would be removed.

However, there are conflicting reports as to how this decision was arrived at.

In a letter to the building's OC, Hamilton Marino said the council had "asked us to remove the gantry earlier than previously arranged".

Yet when contacted by *CBD News*, the council said it was the builder's call.

"While the builder was entitled to leave the gantry in place until the permit expired in February 2020, they devised a solution which allowed the gantry to be removed while also ensuring suitable public protection is maintained," a spokesperson said.

The council did not respond to questions whether they had erred in permitting the gantry.



Mrs McCann said she was glad their resolve paid off.

"We are confident that our persistence led to the removal of the gantry. It was a stressful experience but we are satisfied with the outcome. We now intend to pursue the builder for compensation for loss of rental income."

She was, however, disappointed the saga dragged on for so long.

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Council crackdown on motorbike parking

Continued from page 1.

While the council has no power to implement a blanket ban on footpath parking, it has the power to install no-stopping signage to restrict motorcycle parking from specific walkways.

Several councillors have made no secret their desire to clear crowded footpaths.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said in a recent interview that it would also be tackling the steep rise in food delivery bikes parking on busy pavements.

"We've got nearly a million people per day coming in to use the central city which is fantastic - we want people to come in and enjoy the city. But it means footpath space is really at a premium," he said on 3AW.

"It's not one or two delivery bikes on the pavement, what we're talking about is when you've got four, five, or sometimes upwards of that number all sitting in a row essentially blocking pedestrian space from that footpath."

Cr Wood stressed the value of bicycles within the CBD, but said council needed to be smarter about where they could be left.

"They are an important form of sustainable transport. But it's just about making sure as the city gets busier and busier that we're



Motorbikes and scooters cause congestion on Flinders St.

looking at alternative places for them to park."

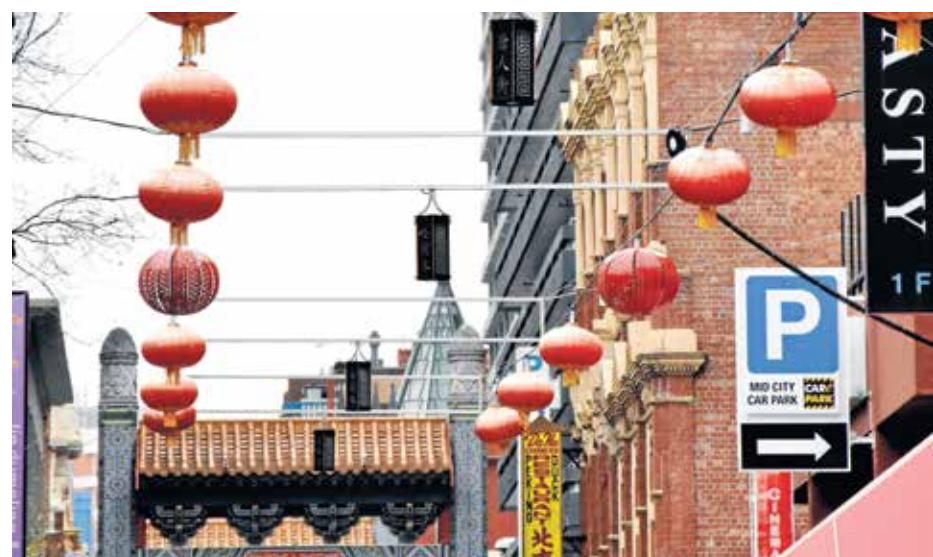
Transport portfolio chair Nicolas Frances Gilley said in December that feedback from survey respondents had struck a chord.

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

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

In April the council announced that nine kiosks situated on CBD footpaths would be removed by year's end.

The stands, selling mostly newspapers and cigarettes, were obstructing pedestrians according to the council.



The new lanterns installed in Chinatown.

Brighter lights for Chinatown

New red lanterns are being trialled in Chinatown in what traders hope will further brighten the cultural precinct.

sought by both the City of Melbourne and the Chinatown Precinct Association.

If successful, the spherical lights will replace the current red lanterns along Little Bourke St.

It is hoped that 100 of these lanterns will be installed in time for Chinese New Year 2020.

In the 2019/20 budget, the council allocated \$115,000 for new catenary lanterns for the Chinatown Precinct.

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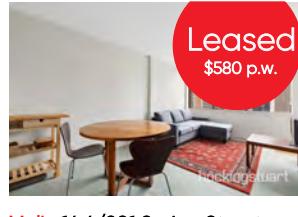
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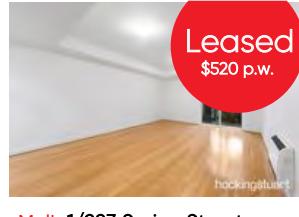
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Beggar déjà vu

Continued from page 1.

This ignited claims that those “fake” beggars were taking advantage of Melburnians’ goodwill and ruining the reputation of the genuinely disadvantaged.

We've heard this before.

A 1996 article from *The Age* reported a police crackdown on “professional” beggars in the city: 93 people were charged with begging-related offences. But begging is illegal whether or not the beggar is homeless, no statistics were offered on how many of those were deemed “professionals” or how.

In 2015, *The Age* reported an apparent rising phenomenon of “professional beggars” in the city. Of 135 people caught begging in the city, only nine were alleged to be “professionals”. Then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said they (“professionals”) “gave begging such an awful public image”.

In 2016, the *Herald Sun* referred to Elizabeth St as Melbourne’s “skid row”, and alleged beggars’ behaviour threatened our reputation as the world’s most liveable city – not because the fact that part of the community were resorting to begging suggested inequality, but because the beggars were disturbing tourists and encroaching on limited pavement space.

In 2017, the *Herald Sun* described city beggars as a “growing sore” that unfortunately “festered” during the Australian Open: “Melburnians cannot be held hostage to street takeovers and groups of sham beggars looking to supplement their welfare cheques.”

Perhaps it's not those deemed “professional” beggars who give begging such a bad reputation, but the consistent stream of hysterical and disparaging claims made about beggars in the Melbourne CBD.

What's been left unexamined is the assertion that begging is *only* acceptable when practised by the most utterly desperate – usually formulated as those who have already lost the roof over their heads.

What about those on their way there? Where do we draw the line, and what does it say about our society when we do?

Only when it comes to begging is rough sleeping the accepted standard of homelessness – government authorities in almost every other instance define homelessness as a much broader



Photo: John Tadigiri.

phenomenon. This typically includes living in overcrowded dwellings, couch surfing and unsafe accommodation, to name a few.

The University of Melbourne’s Dr James Petty, whose thesis focused on the regulation of criminalisation of homelessness in Melbourne, said government regulatory power and criminalisation was often directed toward the most visible point of homelessness, partly thanks to media coverage.

“I think because of the media attention that gets focused on that visible point of homelessness, and public anxiety about it, the government responds to that instead of the more invisible forms of homelessness,” Dr Petty said.

The 2015 article from *The Age* stated that a significant portion of those begging who were not technically homeless were “on a disability payment but had more than 80 per cent of this income taken by their supported accommodation provider for housing and food”.

Although details are lacking due to an ongoing police investigation, it's clear that those charged with begging earlier this month are far from privileged.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp told a press conference: “I think it's clear now that they are part of an organised system but that many of those people are really quite vulnerable themselves and they've been pulled into this situation”.

Shouldn't that be obvious?

How the practice of begging in the Melbourne CBD could be lucrative enough to warrant people who, it's implied, could easily be working legitimate jobs, to sit outside in the Melbourne winter and beg, let alone to compel them to run their own international syndicate, has never been explained.

And there's another element of the narrative that's gone unquestioned.

It's what hysterical claims of an organised Chinese syndicate raking in money off our streets means contextually within the rise of anti-Chinese racism recently in Australia.

The debate over Chinese influence in Australia is ongoing and heated, and caused 80 academics last year to put their names to an open letter that warned it was creating a “racialised narrative of a vast official Chinese conspiracy”.

Also, last year race discrimination commissioner Tim Soutphommasane warned that the debate over Chinese influence could spill over “into general suspicion of Chinese-Australians”.

In this context, stories that frame “professional” Chinese beggars as one of the city's biggest problems have a corrosive subtext.

Dr Petty said the seemingly peculiar case of the Chinese beggars is likely a logical consequence of globalisation.

“Poverty and homelessness, because of that increased globalisation and mobility, have fewer geographic restrictions and

limitations,” he said. “So, it becomes possible for people to be flown to a place to beg.”

It's not, as some have suggested, that those concerned are not vulnerable or experiencing poverty.

But the operation should give us pause to question the criminalisation of homelessness in the first place, and the City of Melbourne protocols introduced in 2017 that continued down that path.

“I would say that homelessness was effectively criminalised prior to that. The most explicit example is that begging is criminalised,” Dr Petty said.

“It's not a behaviour that others take part in, it's homeless people and really poor people.”

“But the new protocol that was introduced in 2017, I guess, expanded the scope for that criminalisation to occur. It went beyond begging and started to include objects that a person may or may not be responsible for.”

There are also types of legislation that are less explicit, posed in neutral terms like public amenities or move on powers, but are used to police homelessness.

But, according to Dr Petty's research, it's actually the criminalisation of homelessness that makes it more visible.

“If you make the city more accommodating to homelessness, not having that really intense policing, the research suggests that lessens the visibility of homelessness.”

“Local governments can't really decide or implement large-scale interventions, but they can help determine how homelessness is engaged with in their city.”

Dr Petty said the City of Yarra had a better approach to homelessness, recognising the right to be on the streets and engage with public life and with public space, and a high threshold of police intervention.

“In terms of demanding action on homelessness and poverty, there are federal scales and state scales that need to be addressed: increases to public housing, increasing welfare payments above the poverty line, increasing support services, emergency housing.”

“The City of Melbourne can't really afford the large-scale projects, but it should definitely be demanding that from the state and federal governments.”

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Government takes lead on cladding

By Sean Car

The state government ended years of speculation last month when it pledged \$600 million of taxpayers' money to remove high-risk cladding from apartment buildings.

Premier Dan Andrews and Minister for Planning Richard Wynne made the announcement on July 16, which followed recommendations from the final report of the government's Victorian Cladding Taskforce.

The taskforce also recommended the Victorian Government seek a contribution from the Commonwealth to help fund rectification, mounting the case that cladding was a "national problem".

However, the federal government was quick to quash any speculation that it would pitch in, with federal treasurer Josh Frydenburg stating that his government would not be "picking up the bill" for what he labelled "a state responsibility".

The Andrews government will instead directly fund half of the rectification works and will introduce changes to the state's building permit levy to raise the other \$300 million over the next five years.

The program will be overseen by a new agency, Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV), which will manage funding and work directly with owners' corporations (OCs).

The government's decision to use tax-payer money to rectify buildings with high-risk cladding ends years of discussion in Victoria around how removal should be funded, with the government set to recoup costs from "dodgy builders".

"This isn't just about safety, it's about fairness for people who bought apartments in good faith and were let down by dodgy builders or dangerous building products," Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said. "The Commonwealth is shirking their responsibilities when it comes to helping fix combustible cladding."

While it welcomed the government's plan for rectification, the Property Council



L-R: Richard Wynne, John Thwaites, Ted Baillieu and Dan Andrews at the cladding announcement on July 16.

of Australia warned that a "700 per cent increase" in building levies would add untenable costs to new construction projects in Victoria.

The Property Council's Victorian deputy executive director Matthew Kandelaars said he was "deeply concerned" about the impacts of the proposed increase.

"The Government is proposing a 700 per cent increase in the levy for new buildings valued at more than \$1.5 million," he said. "For works as low as \$800,000, it is proposed the levy rate will double. These are not big building projects by any stretch."

"The increases which are being proposed for new projects are disproportionate and unreasonable when you consider that the buildings being targeted for rectification have previously been lawfully approved under the Victorian building code."

"We understand and support the imperative to strengthen public confidence in construction and building safety and address the looming insurance crisis. However, a unilateral and massive increase in construction costs is not the answer."

The government's taskforce, headed by former Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu and former Deputy Premier John Thwaites, has worked with the Victorian Building Authority

(VBA) to identify 15 buildings that will have their cladding fixed first.

The government has said that CSV would soon start contacting OCs and property owners, starting with those buildings that had been identified by the taskforce as the greatest risk, while the VBA continues to audit buildings across the state.

The taskforce's final report, released on July 16, stated that of the 2227 buildings audited in Victoria to date, 1069 were found to have combustible cladding. Of those, 72 were deemed to be extreme risk, 409 high risk, 388 moderate risk and 200 low risk.

Federal Greens MP for Melbourne Adam Bandt welcomed the government's decision and urged it to begin funding the removal of dangerous cladding immediately.

"This is a victory for all the residents who have pushed for action. This is what happens when people speak up and demand that governments act," Mr Bandt said.

"Once this cladding is removed, the government should pursue those responsible in court and implement a new levy on developers to recoup the costs."

The announcement would also appear to draw an end to the government's failed cladding rectification agreement (CRA) loan scheme. *CBD News* reported in July that not

a single loan had been issued in Victoria under the scheme since it was introduced last year.

The complicated scheme involves a three-way loan between owners, council and a lender, which allows an owner to pay off a loan through their council rates.

Lannock Strata Finance CEO Paul Morton, whose company funded the Lacrosse building in Docklands to enable the OC to commence rectification and pursue litigation, said that the government's scheme was never commercially viable.

"The market for lending to owners' corporations is mature and competitive. There is no reason or justification for government intervention," he said. "Lannock will lend 100 per cent of the amount required to fix all cladding rectification on strata buildings in Victoria."

"From a lenders point of view there are lots of practical problems with the CRA. It's uncommercial. There is no arrears management process in place and council has to set up all of these new systems, which they don't normally do."

The government's announcement was also followed by the news of a landmark agreement being struck between states, territories and the Commonwealth on July 18, which will see a new national taskforce funded to pursue nationally consistent building standards.

Held at the Building Ministers Forum held in Sydney, Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said the agreement would mean that the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) would be expanded, better resourced and force greater engagement from the building industry. The ABCB will now be tasked with preparing a national framework to guide implementation of recommendations from the Shergold Weir *Building Confidence* report.

States and territories also agreed to work towards a coordinated approach on professional indemnity insurance.

To view the Victorian Cladding Taskforce's final report:

planning.vic.gov.au/building-policy/victorian-cladding-taskforce

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Council declares climate emergency

City of Melbourne councillors moved an urgent item of business last month by formally declaring a “climate and biodiversity emergency”.

Endorsed unanimously by councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on July 16, the motion followed the adoption of the final version of council’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

Moved by environment portfolio chair Cr Cathy Oke, the urgent motion declared that climate change and mass species extinction posed serious threats to the people of Melbourne and should be treated as an emergency.

While noting its ongoing commitment to mitigating climate change through a range of initiatives such as the Melbourne Renewal Energy Project and the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, Cr Oke said she felt frustrated that more wasn’t being done.

“We are on track to far exceed the 1.5 degrees increase that thousands of scientists acknowledge that, pass that point, and we are in dire circumstances. We need far more action at all levels of government,” she said.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said that all councillors had engaged in a “robust discussion” about the use of the word



A render commissioned by the City of Melbourne showing a greener CBD.

“emergency” and how that would help curb climate change in the municipality.

“It’s not about scaring people but it’s actually about how you resource things and push towards targets. It sends a message to our community that we take this very seriously,” Cr Wood said.

“We’re actually on track by 2030 to be responsible for 13 per cent of global emissions so that’s no longer the get out of jail free card that people use to say that ‘we’re not much of the problem’ and ‘we shouldn’t move on this.’

Cr Wood also slammed the lack of leadership from the federal government on the issue, noting that if it wasn’t going to act then it should not “stand in the way” of those wanting to do so.

Cr Jackie Watts also gave an emotional address in support of the motion, but

in particular, to one section which acknowledged the action that young people were taking across the world in demanding more from their governments.

“We are in a very dire situation. We have an obligation to tell it how it is, and we are,” Cr Watts said. “This motion actually shows respect for the young people who will actually have to deal with the mess that we are fighting.”

Earlier in the meeting, council adopted its Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy – a crucial document in its efforts to mitigate climate change. The strategy lays out the vision for council to become a “zero-waste” city by 2030.

While many submissions questioned whether some of the targets set in the strategy went far enough, such as a 20 per cent reduction of household waste by 2030,

Cr Oke said that it was important to get on with delivering change.

“We need to endorse the strategy and within that there are quite a few items that capture the urgency and the implementation required. I believe it does meet the ambition that we’ve been talking about,” Cr Oke said.

Councillors also noted the challenges that management had to consider in compiling the final version of the strategy, with reference to the ongoing recycling crisis plaguing Australia at present.

Some key features of the strategy include options to separate organic waste, a waste minimisation and innovation fund, a new expert and advisory service to support an improved waste system and more electronic recycling options for residents.

In good news for CBD residents, the strategy also aims to minimise garbage truck movements by providing more centralised compacting hubs, reducing the amounts of rubbish bins in laneways and improving separation rates of organics and recyclables.

Behaviour change, education and advocacy are key features of the strategy, with councillors noting that more action was required from federal and state governments to implement initiatives such as extended producer responsibility, and container deposit schemes.

participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-resource-strategy

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CBD power upgrade

By Sarah Bartlett

A \$250 million upgrade on the CBD's electricity infrastructure is nearing completion.

Electricity provider Citipower's *Metro and CBD Security of Supply* project will help secure supply to homes and businesses in the CBD in the case of unexpected events, such as extreme weather, fires, traffic accidents or infrastructure failures.

CitiPower CEO Tim Rourke said the project was one of the most intricate and substantial electrical projects to ever be conducted in Melbourne's CBD.

"CitiPower is Australia's most reliable electricity distribution network so it's not necessarily the risk of outages we're preparing for, it's the impact of how long it takes to restore power," Mr Rourke said.

"Every day, almost one million people and businesses generating 25 per cent of the state's economic value depend upon the continuity of electricity supplies to Melbourne's CBD."

"There have been many cases where major cities around the world have been severely impacted by power outages ranging from a number of hours to a number of days."

"We are investing in our networks to do everything we can to prevent this from happening in Australia's most vibrant and rapidly growing city."



Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio tours the new facility last month.

Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio joined Mr Rourke on the first official project tour at the beginning of July.

Ms D'Ambrosio stressed the importance of this project for the CBD during her tour.

"This upgrade will mean a more secure and reliable electricity supply for Melbourne's CBD and highlights the importance of modernising critical delivery infrastructure," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

A major part of the project is the Waratah Place zone substation, which has been reconstructed and is in the process of being reconnected to the CBD grid. Once

completed, the zone substation will have the capacity for power to be diverted around the grid so the duration of a significant power outage becomes limited to no more than 30 minutes.

Currently, the CBD's power supply is able to endure one major outage on the 66kv network. The project is designed to assist the CBD during two major outages.

Mr Rourke said that the substation would also help revive the cultural heritage of the laneway culture in Chinatown.

"The new Waratah Place zone substation retains the character of the original building down to the circular portal windows on the



The new-look substation at Waratah Place.

northern wall, while innovative light displays on the façade are destined to become a feature of the Chinatown landscape," Mr Rourke said.

The process of connecting the zone substation to the surrounding area involves CitiPower digging a four-metre-deep trench in a small laneway as well as connecting and replacing 10.5 kilometres of cables that encircle the CBD. The final stages of this project will work with gas, water and sewerage utilities to enable numerous asset relocations. Works will require temporary closure of Little Bourke St between Russell St and Waratah Place and are due to start in August for 11 weeks.

The project has also included upgrades to the Brunswick terminal station, Bouverie - Queen zone substation and Victoria Market zone substation as well as installing 21km of electricity cables over 7km from the Brunswick terminal station to Carlton.

Space for the third age

Melbourne City's University of the Third Age (U3A) was the first to be established in Australia and is the biggest in Victoria, but the volunteer-run organisation is under increased pressure from rental demand.

U3As provide activity for those in retirement – the "third age". The Melbourne U3A has over 1500 members and offers 80 year-long classes that include current affairs, history, chess, crafts, cryptic crosswords, bike riding, languages and philosophy.

There are 108 U3As in Victoria, but vice president Russell Huntington said almost none offered the same comprehensive program as theirs did.

But Mr Huntington said the Melbourne U3A is also unlike most others because of the rental pressures of the city.

"We haven't got any free accommodation and typically, but not always, U3As will have space given to them by the local municipality in some way or another," Mr Huntington said.

"We must pay rent everywhere. We have 13 different locations around the city, and we



Melbourne City U3A members.

pay rent for all of them."

The Hawthorn U3A, for example, has purpose-built free accommodation provided by the Stonnington City Council.

"I'm sure it's difficult for Melbourne City Council to come up with a whole building because the land and the properties are too expensive, they wouldn't have something like that available," Mr Huntington said.

"But they have opportunities and that's what we're pursuing."

Mr Huntington said 75 per cent of the organisation's income went to paying rent.

U3A is completely volunteer-run, from the board to tutors to office staff.

Each member pays an annual fee. The Melbourne City membership fee is \$90, three times the average membership fee because of the rental costs.

One short-term solution has been to give U3A access to the largely state-funded Men's Shed under Federation Square.

Melbourne City U3A was established in 1984. The world's first was started in Toulouse in France in 1973.

"The concept of university is taken from the classical concept of university – a collection of people with enquiring minds," Mr Huntington said.

"The purpose of joining is fundamentally activity when you're no longer in a structured existence like at work."

Mr Huntington said while many of their members are city residents, they also have a large number of people travelling in from the suburbs.

"We have a lot more 'talent' if you like that we can draw on, but secondly people like coming into the city from the 'burbs when they've retired."

"Many used to work in the city, and they miss having that purpose of coming in every day."

u3a.org.au

Flying eyes for city cops

Victoria Police will soon launch its first ever drone unit, with a focus on counter-terrorism and crowd control that could concentrate them around the CBD.

In a press conference on July 10, inspector Craig Shepherd said the drones would be a boost to the capability of police across the state – from public order response to search and rescue.

"The drones we plan to use will have a 24/7 ability, with high-end technology allowing for both day and night camera vision," inspector Shepherd said.

The unit will be based at Essendon Airport, but most crowd-related and counter-terrorism work will conceivably occur in the CBD.

Inspector Shepherd downplayed concerns at the media conference about privacy in crowd and public order situations.

Victoria Police aims to acquire up to 50 drones over the next 12 months to be used by the new drone unit, as well as specialist areas and regional officers.

Hosier Lane apartments are only a facade

By Meg Hill

Opposition to a planned multistorey apartment building in Hosier Lane has forced the issue to debate at an upcoming City of Melbourne meeting.

Bruce Henderson Architect's \$12 million plans for 7 Hosier Lane attracted enough formal objections to trigger a review by the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC).

Eight additional floors are proposed atop an existing three-storey heritage-listed building. It's likely that Youth Projects, the youth charity and shelter currently occupying the building, would be moved out if the plans proceed.

Melbourne Heritage Action (MHA) said the proposal would dominate Hosier Lane, threaten its authenticity and was an example of heritage "facadism" – reducing heritage retention to outside shells.

MHA said the plans "mimicked" the street-level graffiti in its colour design in a threatening and disingenuous way.

Part of the apartment plans read: "Coloured horizontal and vertical steel frames are proposed around new openings and balconies to create a random façade composition that extends the artistic 'graffiti' feel of Hosier Lane to the upper levels and

create a visual connection between the existing building and the new extension."

Street artists are on edge about attempts to commercialise the lane's graffiti culture after street clothing chain Culture Kings moved into the lane last year.

Tension turned into conflict when store management called the police on the long-accepted practice of street artists painting in the lane without formal permission.

Culture Kings commissioned artwork for their walls in the lane, which further angered street artists.

MHA has expressed concern that the apartment proposal, which includes moving retail into the ground floor, would also involve a clampdown on non-commissioned painting.

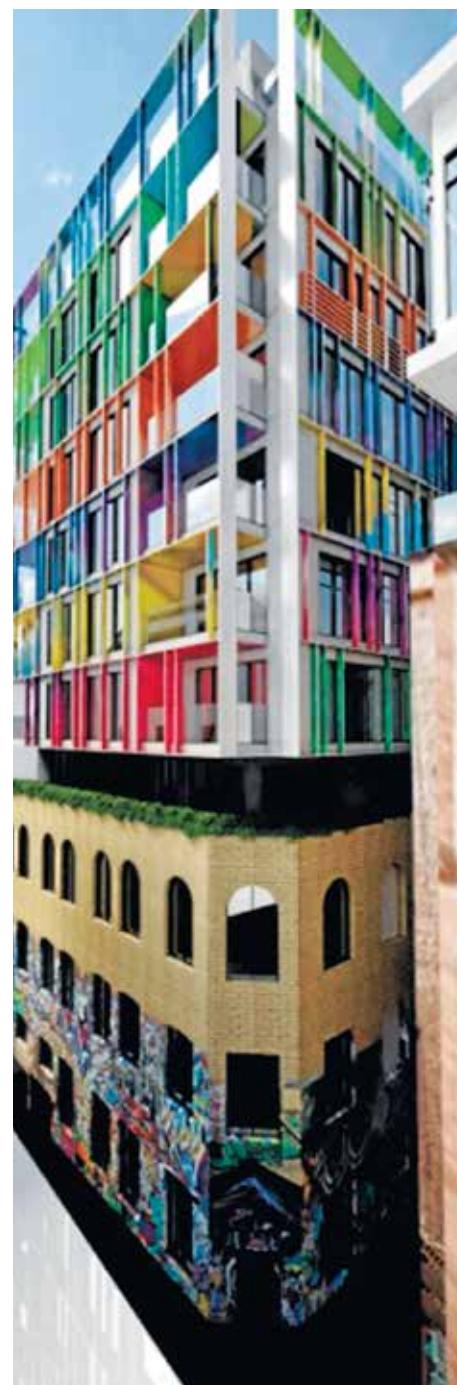
Street artist Adrian Doyle told *CBD News* in January that the apartment proposal was hypocritical.

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

"Would they want to set up their shops and develop it if there wasn't street art? They're using street art, even though it's illegal and they don't want to put any money into the art, so they can make a quick buck."

A planning permit application for the apartment building was submitted to council in January this year.

There are currently 19 formal objections against the plans.



A render of the proposal for Hosier Lane.



Hoarding plan stalled

A 2017 City of Melbourne plan to beautify hoardings is still waiting to be implemented amid the city's construction boom.

The two-year trial was announced by council in June 2017 and was meant to mandate council-commissioned artwork on any hoarding in place for more than 12 weeks on council-managed land.

\$50,000 has been allocated to the project since 2017. Design processes and minimum standards were meant to establish a low-cost method to "beautify" the structures.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said the delay was due to a "longer than anticipated" consultation process with the property and construction industry and other stakeholders.

They said council anticipated the two-year pilot trial to be implemented by the end of 2019.

"We have been taking a collaborative approach with the property and construction industry since we initiated the project and have been working closely with a number of stakeholders," the spokesperson said.

The original plan was meant to alleviate visual clutter and general appearance in the city, where masses of hoarding accompany a boom in construction and renovation projects.

Heritage advocates and city planners had expressed concern over the city's appearance, favouring creative approaches to hoarding and construction as adopted throughout Europe.

Of particular concern were heritage buildings intrinsic to the CBD's history and aesthetic that were covered in hoarding for long periods of time when development and restoration occurred.

President of CBD residents' group East Enders Jenny Eltham complained this month that the city was full of unsightly hoarding.

She said the corner of Collins and William streets were a particularly bad example. Several developments have covered the intersection in hoarding various directions.

This includes some of Melbourne's most valued heritage buildings.

The 19th century Oldfleet Building is one example at the intersection. The building has been covered since last year when Mirvac started construction on its 38-story Mirvac Oldfleet development.

Kinfolk wins

By Sarah Bartlett

Social enterprise café and caterer Kinfolk was awarded twice at the Melbourne Business Network's Business 3000+ Awards ceremony in June.



L - R: Kinfolk's business development executive Dianne Schmidtke, Kinfolk CEO Jarrod Briffa and Minister for Small Business Adem Somyurek.

Minister for Small Business Adem Somyurek presented the organisation with the Business 3000+ Award for Social Enterprise as well as the prestigious Business of the Year Award.

Kinfolk's co-founder and CEO Jarrod Briffa spoke at the awards ceremony about the development of the social enterprise since its launch in 2010 and the pleasures that came from working with and learning from its volunteers.

Kinfolk was awarded Business of the Year in recognition for its efforts of making a social impact in Melbourne as well as its overall success as a commercial enterprise.

The judges, in particular looked at the recent development of Kinfolk, which has extended operations into event management and catering, with its four CBD locations hosting

regular corporate workshops and private events. The social enterprise also distributes catering around the CBD from the well-known Donkey Wheel House, located on Bourke St.

In 2018, Kinfolk launched a new café site and evening function space called *Sibling by Kinfolk* in Carlton North. This location will provide another 60 training positions for the extensive volunteer waitlist.

Kinfolk aims to create an inclusive community, that counteracts social isolation through volunteer programs that concentrate on training, capacity building as well as social inclusion for people facing

significant challenges. The training program sees the involvement of hundreds of participants each year. Types of challenges that the participants might typically face include physical and learning disabilities, mental health challenges, asylum seekers or people with a migrant background, people in transition from prison as well as people who have been experiencing long-term unemployment.

All profits are donated to the social enterprise's two charity partners, The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Cathy Freeman Foundation.

Co-founder and CEO Jarrod Briffa said that one of the intentions behind Kinfolk was to encourage "conscious consumerism."

"The aim with Kinfolk was to positively promote conscious consumerism while creating more inclusive communities. We couldn't be more humbled for our team, including our volunteers, for the recognition of both our social enterprise and business success," Mr Briffa said.

Since Kinfolk's launch in 2010, there have been over 700 community members that have volunteered in the hospitality-training program at Kinfolk. Many of these people have successfully secured paid employment as well as gaining confidence and friendships from the experience.

The “gold rush jeweller”

By Meg Hill

“Because of the publishing house pressures to meet a certain number of pages and edit out much of the history, we end up getting history books that give credit to prime ministers and kings and queens,” Dr Douglas Wilkie told the Docklands History Group last month.

“They make it out that those ‘big people’ made everything happen, when actually it was ordinary people who made things happen.”

Dr Wilkie was presenting on Charles Brentani, who he described as one of those ordinary people pushing history along, submerged below the historical record.

One of the few monuments to his name in Melbourne today is Docklands’ Brentani Way.

Charles, born Carlo, is usually described as a gold rush jeweller. Born in northern Italy in 1817, he was sent to Van Diemen’s Land as a convict in 1835 after a stint in England to study silversmithing.

He stole silver instead of smithing it.

He was granted a certificate of freedom in 1841 – “like today’s parole” – and ended up in Melbourne.

“Melbourne was a brand-new settlement and offered far better prospects than Tasmania,” Dr Wilkie said.

He can tell you basically anything about Brentani thanks, largely, to the digitalisation of history.

Dr Wilkie was researching his own family history in relation to the Victorian gold rush when he stumbled across a few characters – Charles Brentani, Joseph Forrester and Alexandre Duchene.

They seemed more central to the period of history than their rare mention suggested.

They went to a part of central Victoria – now between Ballarat and Maryborough – to look for gold. Hundreds of people rushed there after them and were chased away by the police.

A few years later Victoria became its own state, and about a week later the gold rush began.

“The reason Charles LaTrobe, the Governor, hushed it at the time is that when Victoria was part of New South Wales, any revenue



A painting depicting an exchange between a gold rush jeweller and his customers. Picture: The State Library of Victoria.

made here was sent to Sydney,” Dr Wilkie said. “So, they sat upon the story of the gold until Victoria was separate.”

So, Brentani, who became known as a jeweller, silversmith and gold purchaser operating on Collins St during the gold rush, is much more a part of the history than given credit for.

But, Dr Wilkie’s ordinary people exist below Brentani too.

He was not actually a jeweller, or a silversmith, or any kind of tradesperson – he was a retailer.

“The retailer got all the credit,” Dr Wilkie said. “Brentani went down in history as being the silversmith responsible for making the original Melbourne Cup, for example, and it was actually his employed silversmith Joseph Forrester.”

Brentani died in Melbourne in 1853 a wealthy man. But, despite his time as a convict, he was actually already from a well-to-do background.

Dr Wilkie said that although the

digitalisation of historical records could mean you had to sift through a lot of irrelevant references when searching names, you found the real gems.

Like Frankenstein author Mary Shelley’s account of staying in the Brentani Hotel at Lake Como in 1940 in her book *Rambles in Germany and Italy*.

Charles Brentani was already in Australia, but his mother and brothers were still running the family hotel. Shelley wrote that she hoped to see them again one day.

Brentani passed away from the effects of delirium tremens – the most severe form of alcohol withdrawal characterised by delirium and tremors.

Mr Wilkie wrote: “We might assume that Brentani suffered from both the delirium and the tremors for some time before dying. Perhaps he had thoughts similar to those of Mary Shelley’s Victor Frankenstein as he lay on what he believed was his death bed.”

The Docklands History Group event was held on June 25 at The Library at The Dock.



Office sale

By Sarah Bartlett

The Uniting Church and developer BPM have sold an eight storey office tower located at 130 Little Collins St to a locally based investor.

With the deal negotiated by Colliers International and CBRE, the property was successfully transacted on an unconditional basis after the international expressions of interest (EOI) campaign was closed.

CBRE’s Mark Wizel said that the second round of the EOI process was extremely competitive and drew bids that added up to over \$600 million, from local and international private investors, developers and institutions.

“The volume of offers in this campaign from a wide variety of investors and developers demonstrated the depth of capital seeking high quality offerings in the Melbourne CBD,” Mr Wizel said.

Colliers marketing agent Daniel Wolman said that while the property had the advantage of the approved permit for hotel development, it was the considerable improvements of the current office tower that was the predominant market attraction.

“The result reflected the very strong demand for office investments in the nation’s tightest CBD office market,” Mr Wolman said.

The current office space comprises of eight levels of office and ground floor retail, an auditorium, meeting rooms, a chapel and basement car park. The net lettable area of current space is 3797 sqm. Of that amount, 605 sqm have corner exposure to Little Collins St (16m) and Coromandel Place (37m).

The CBD office building was constructed in 1967 and was refurbished in 1995. The property has a permit for an Elenberg Fraser-designed hotel that will consist of 27 storeys and 184 rooms. The site was sold with a leaseback to the Uniting Church.

The sale comes after numerous transactions have been completed in the eastern end of the CBD this year. This includes a property located on 85 Spring St that sold for \$112.25 million, as well as a property on 45 Exhibition St which sold for \$27.5 million.

Police operation nabs over 50 in CBD

By David Schout

A recent targeted police operation in the CBD saw over 50 fines slapped on pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.

Police issued penalty notices as part of operation *Don’t Do Your Dash* on Thursday, June 27, in which they targeted all road users at the city’s most high-risk intersection.

The majority of infringements (33) were pedestrian red-light offences, or “jaywalking”, while 15 motorists were also

nabbed for a range of offences including using a mobile phone, a failure to indicate or driving while unlicensed.

Three cyclists were also fined for failing to wear a helmet, and two people were arrested for matters unrelated to the operation.

Melbourne East acting senior sergeant Robert Milliken said the operation was about ensuring all road users were aware of their responsibilities on the road, and remained vigilant at the city’s more dangerous spots. “These operations are ultimately about improving safety on our roads, particularly at Melbourne’s busiest intersections where

we see a high volume of people daily,” Acting Sen-Sgt Milliken said.

Tragically, the following day a pedestrian was killed after being struck by a truck turning a corner near Queen Victoria Market.

It is believed the truck was turning left from Victoria St into Peel St when it struck the female pedestrian.

In May, Roads Minister Jaala Pulford convened a Road Safety Summit to address the state’s soaring road toll, which was up by more than 50 per cent when compared with the same time last year.

Woolf at fortyfive

By Meg Hill

Shakespeare's sister was named Judith and she died young – "alas, she never wrote a word".

Virginia Woolf wrote Judith, a device to symbolise female exclusion from literature, into her narrative essay *A Room of One's Own*.

The term "Shakespeare's sister" was donned as a statement. A song by The Smiths and a British pop band both took it as their title.

Shakespeare didn't have a sister, but he did have a daughter named Judith. Woolf's niece shared the name, as does an unused gospel, *the Book of Judith*, which is also considered the first historical novel.

"If I was to dare change the name of Shakespeare's sister, I would have all the Virginia Woolf aficionados on my back I suspect," Peta Hanrahan told ABC Radio National in an interview about her stage adaptation of the essay.

The production ran a sold-out premiere season in 2016 and is back until July 28 at fortyfivedownstairs at 45 Flinders Lane.

Peta said the name of Shakespeare's sister was one of things you just couldn't change from the 1929 essay.

It's surprising, given the essay's age, that only a few words had to be replaced because they were too tied to the period and not the message.

But by and large, Woolf's writing still says what it was meant to, and by and large Peta's adaptation lets it.

The production rests largely on Woolf's words, spoken by four different actors who each embody a different part of her psyche. Woolf's thought process and stream of consciousness are presented as dialogue between three women and one man, because "a woman also must have intercourse with the man in her".

The different parts of Woolf's psyche cut each other off, giving an edge of self-sabotage to the sense of interruption from the essay.

Woolf, like most women, is constantly interrupted. While she tries to answer her own questions about the position of

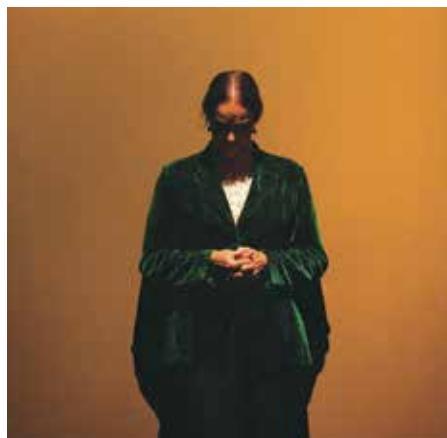


Photo credit: Tommy Holt T6 photography

women in society, she's interrupted and loses track multiple times. In the essay, this only serves to enhance the emphasis on a room of "one's own".

But what solution is it for a woman to be alone in her own space if she interrupts herself. Is there a statement here on the impossibility of isolation? The way society exists inevitably within the mind as well as outside it?

The play's stage layout means the audience at fortyfivedownstairs is split in two on each side of the performers, who the audience watch along with the reactions of the "opposing" audience section.

Some in the audience are taken by the humour in the performance, others by the sorrow.

"A woman must have money and a room of one's own if she is to write fiction" is declared early, just like in the essay.

It's Woolf's counter to the arguments she finds researching at the British Museum. Most explicitly, that women are "intellectually, morally and physically inferior to men".

It's not hard to find a repeat of that back-and-forth in 2019, the argument still hasn't been won. The debate over equal pay in women's sport has to be one of the most obvious.

Woolf was adamant that, one day, Shakespeare's sister would be born "if we worked for her, and that so to work, even in poverty and obscurity, is worthwhile".

Can we say she's been born yet?

Do her birth pangs ring out from Peta's play, or the continued experience of poverty and obscurity?



L-R: Ben Quinn, Ian Symmons (cohealth) and Simone Bursey (Frontyard Youth Services, Melbourne City Mission) at the Inner Melbourne Connections Program (IMCP) launch.

Catching those falling through the cracks

By David Schout

A pilot program providing mental health support for vulnerable people not covered by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has made big strides in its first few months.

Launched in April, the Inner Melbourne Connections Program (IMCP) – a collaborative program between health, community and charity networks – aims to provide psychosocial support for those experiencing homelessness.

Research has shown that mental health issues are significantly higher in the homeless community than in the general population.

As such, the joint program between North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN), cohealth and Melbourne City Mission has looked to address issues these people have in accessing help.

"The Inner Melbourne Connections Program (IMCP) is doing exactly what we hoped for: connecting with people who are extremely disengaged and have traditionally missed out on services," Lee-Anne Boyle, lead of psychosocial supports at NWMPHN, said.

"Building relationships and having positive encounters with this group takes time,

but even after just a few months into the program, the early signs have been really promising. We now have a group of people that are in regular contact with the IMCP team."

While the introduction of the NDIS has provided comprehensive support for people with mental health-related disabilities, some people suffering from severe mental health issues are still ineligible for support.

The program looks to catch these vulnerable people falling through the cracks.

Ms Boyle said that despite the 12-month pilot being in its infancy, wider community awareness was forming.

"Interest from other services and organisations about what we're doing is also growing rapidly, with many seeing this initiative as one of real importance as it targets a group that is often seen as hard to reach and engage."

The \$700,000 pilot supports people experiencing homelessness in the City of Melbourne and Yarra, where teams at various key locations will be based.

Support ranges from practical help to mental health support.

"La Trobe University is evaluating the program and we are learning and adapting along the way with the aim of developing a model that will hopefully be rolled out across the region and can be replicated by other community organisations," Ms Boyle said.

Overdue greening for Davisons Place

A City of Melbourne project aimed at greening Davisons Place, which has been in the pipeline for more than a year, is still more than four months away from completion.

A council spokesperson told CBD News in July that the project, which will see four

planter boxes installed on the western side of the laneway at Davisons Place with climbing plants, would be ready for installation in 10-12 weeks.

It comes after City of Melbourne council officer Gordon Harrison told an East Enders residents group meeting in June that he was "embarrassed" at how long the project was taking council to finish.

"I'm really embarrassed about that. There is budget for it, the budget has been made available. Our sustainability branch has been

working on that for the last 12 months, so the money is there, it's just waiting to be done," he said.

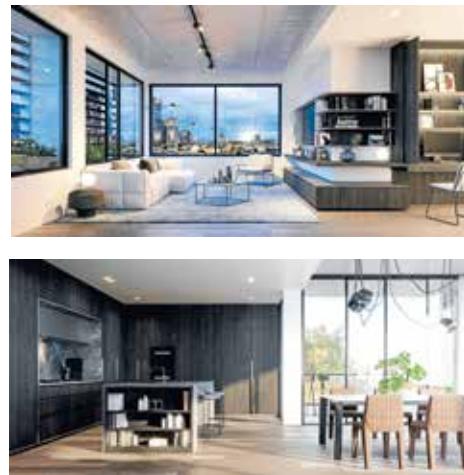
"Where we've got to with that now is that the materials have been ordered and manufactured, as in the planter boxes, so as I said I'm embarrassed that it's taken so long. You can expect that it will happen but unfortunately it's just taking way too long."

A council spokesperson said that fabrication of the planter boxes had begun and that climbing plants would be added shortly after.

"Two of the planter boxes will be drilled into the existing bluestone kerb on the ledge next to the La Trobe Gardens carpark that fronts onto Davisons Place. This will ensure safety and stability for pedestrians and vehicles using the laneway," the spokesperson said.

"A further two planter boxes will be installed on a private balcony in the middle of Davisons Place to provide vertical greening. This will be visible to everyone in the immediate area and provide additional greening without taking up limited kerbside space."

Business



Unrivalled inner-city living

By Jack Hayes

Nestled impeccably between city and sea, the streets of South Melbourne are set to welcome Lenny – a unique six-level luxury development in the heart of the buzzing South Melbourne.

Marketed by Eton Property Group, Lenny will stand at 161 Buckhurst St, an easy walking distance to South Melbourne Market, Bay Street shopping precinct, South Melbourne Primary School and the nearby Montague light rail station.

The development is the first of its kind for the suburb, with five full-floor boutique residences, boasting unbridled views of both the city skyline and nearby bay. Each residence has direct and secure private lift access.

With ceiling heights ranging up to nearly three metres, the spaciousness of each apartment is complemented with three bedrooms, two full bathrooms plus a powder room, a substantial open plan living and

dining area and two roomy terraces that capture sunlight with ease. Each residence has two car spaces.

Richard Newling-Ward of Bayley Ward Architects said the kind free-flowing attitude to space was rarely seen in South Melbourne and was perfect for those looking to downsize. "The inspiration for Lenny was to design something targeting a sophisticated buyer. The owner-occupier market really understands what South Melbourne has to bring," he said.

"From the living room you have clear views of the city, and as you walk through the apartment to the master bedroom, you have a terrace at the back which looks towards Port Melbourne beach where you

get a really good sense of space. This is what inspired us to believe one apartment per floor was the path to go."

Each home's glamorous, eye-catching form enjoys an entire level. "When you go through the apartment, there isn't a need for any more space than what you have already got," Mr Newling-Ward said.

Lenny's location is recognised with a Walkability Rating of 94 per cent, which means all the essential amenities such as transportation, shopping, schools, medical and more are all located within close proximity.

Style and luxury have been a keen focus on the design of these five apartments, with lavish bedrooms, superbly serviced by fully

fitted robes, and luxe bathrooms complete with modern innovative tapware.

With construction beginning in September, Eton Property Group's James Burne, said this boutique development was going to gain immense interest from buyers from the South Melbourne area and surrounds.

"Right now, we are taking expressions of interest in our soft launch phase, and it won't be long before we have our grand launch," he said.

For all enquiries visit etonproperty.com.au or contact Bradley Dean on 0413 508 866 or Barbara Giannarelli on 0421 666 447.

String Bean Alley opens at QVM

Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has unveiled Melbourne's newest laneway experience, with String Bean Alley officially opened on July 19.

26 independent traders in bespoke shipping containers now call String Bean Alley home, providing a uniquely Melbourne shopping experience in the heart of the city's favourite market.

With a history dating back to 1936, the name String Bean Alley pays tribute to the laneway where green string beans were once sold.

12 new businesses have joined existing traders to offer a variety of locally designed, sourced or produced fashion, vintage, jewellery, art, craft, skincare, toys, books and more.

From indie bookshop Mary Martin Books to handmade cards and gifts from The Paper & Wood Co., unique clothing from Miss Brown Vintage, and artisan chocolate makers Melbourne Cocoa, String Bean Alley offers something for everyone.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the revival of String Bean Alley, located between L and M sheds, was part of the City of Melbourne's \$250 million renewal of the QVM precinct.

"String Bean Alley is the new place to find Melbourne's best independent makers,



Queen Victoria Market (QVM) CEO Stan Liacos, acting QVM board chair Jane Hodder, Cr Susan Riley and Lord Mayor Sally Capp cut the ribbon on July 19

creators, designers and artists," the Lord Mayor said.

"We expect the unique shopping experience and facilities to attract more customers to this part of the market, as well as provide weather protection and storage

for traders."

"More than nine million visitors come to the Queen Vic Market each year for its traditional open-air market experience, and this magnificent new precinct will be a drawcard for new and existing customers."

"This is the latest project we have delivered to improve the experience for customers, traders and visitors to the market. We've also installed new seating, fruit trees and umbrellas in the new pedestrian plaza on Queen St, along with our red coat volunteers at the Visitor Hub."

QVM CEO Stan Liacos said the rejuvenation of String Bean Alley was crucial to encourage new visitors to the market while celebrating its rich history.

"The String Bean Alley precinct represents a new era for the market," Mr Liacos said.

"This section of the market is now acting as a small business incubator, providing a platform for specialist traders offering products and services that are locally designed, sourced or produced."

String Bean Alley marks another part of a series of crucial market improvements as identified in the *QVM Precinct Renewal Master Plan*.

String Bean Alley traders are open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and Wednesday evenings during The Night Market event series.

CBD-based businesses wishing to be profiled in this section should email: advertising@cbdnews.com.au

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Residents 3000

City gardens, trees and street trees

The City of Melbourne has developed several well thought out policies to progressively ensure our city becomes greener. But can there be a better way to improve the fate of street trees?

You may recall that Victoria was referred to as "The Garden State". In fact, previous Victorian licence plates proudly displayed the fact. The total area of forest in Victoria is about 7.9 million hectares (35 per cent of the state) across both Crown and private land. If we look closer to our backyard, the City of Melbourne is blessed with a multitude of parks and gardens on its edge and within, including Royal Park, Domain Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens, Carlton Gardens, Flagstaff Gardens and a few smaller ones. And the city will be adding eight new or revitalised parks to the group by 2021. There have even been additions such as the "parks in the sky" in the new Melbourne Quarter precinct.

Plants and trees provide clean air, increased oxygen, clean water (acting as a filter) and increase the city's resilience to the impacts of climate change by cooling the atmosphere. They also provide habitats for animals, birds and insects. (Think - waking up in the morning to the sound of birds chirping!)

The City of Melbourne recognises trees and other vegetation as a critical urban infrastructure. They run multiple projects to encourage innovative methods to green the city. The *Urban Forest Strategy* aims

to manage the issues of climate change, population growth and urban heating and to protect the longevity of Melbourne's urban forest. The greening of roofs, walls and facades is yet another means to green the city.

But there are still things that can be improved.

If you are one of the long-term residents of the CBD, you will be able to point to areas around your neighbourhood where there used to be trees, but those trees have never been replaced. Take Russell St for example (see the photo). Sadly, the trees that were there in the centre strip have gone. All that remains are little patches of grass and a few weeds where once there were quite mature, elegant trees.

The trees have been missing for several years. Were they diseased? Why have they not been replaced? City of Melbourne have developed new techniques to provide technically superior soil wells for street trees, but are they being implemented? Trees are often removed for construction. How can we be sure that they will be replaced? It takes time to return to the mature trees that were removed.

What about new trees planted in the



This is where the City of Melbourne could take the initiative and ask for volunteers - maybe ask people from the nearby cafés or residents to be "tree mothers". Perhaps equip the "tree mothers" with a watering can and fertiliser. It is just for the first few years that the small, new trees need extra care and attention. Maybe this is a job for the citizen foresters?

With all the projects and programmes in effect, residents can easily take an active role close to where they live and work to help develop the tree canopy in their local streets. Just one small part of the greater picture but being responsible for just one or two trees is doable for most people. Maybe the City of Melbourne should think up a new promotion?

"Adopt a tree. Become a tree mother."



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We Live Here

State government follows UK lead on cladding

Daniel Andrews' pledge of \$600 million to fix half of the 1000-plus buildings in Victoria with flammable cladding is welcome news for some "lucky" owners.

The policy shift by the state government follows the lead set by UK Prime Minister Theresa May earlier this year when the UK government allocated 200 million pounds to address the flammable cladding issue in that country.

The UK cladding fund, announced in May this year, is estimated to pay for the rectification of half of Britain's affected apartment buildings.

The U-turn by the Victorian government follows the release of the final report of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, headed by former Liberal premier Ted Baillieu and former Labor deputy premier Prof John Thwaites.

The state government now has plans for "risk-tiering" to be applied to determine who gets the golden tickets to have the rectification costs covered.

The Cladding Taskforce deemed 1,069 buildings as having cladding that is a "risk to life".

Of the 1069 buildings classified as dangerous by the Cladding Taskforce:

- 72 are rated as an extreme risk
- 409 are rated a high risk
- 388 are rated a moderate risk and
- 200 are rated low risk

What rating is your building? Good luck trying to find out, because the webpage of the government's newly established agency Cladding Safety Victoria gives scant information, saying simply:

"To be eligible for assistance from Cladding Safety Victoria, your privately owned [sic] apartment building must first be assessed as part of the State-wide Cladding Audit, led by the Victorian Building Authority. Was this page helpful? Yes, No."

That's the site's whole page on eligibility... So you'll have to go into the lottery to find out if you win a prize.

Mr Andrews expects his Cladding Safety Victoria fund to remediate the cladding issues for the top 500 dangerously clad buildings in Victoria.

Of these buildings many are hospitals, schools, aged care or other government-owned facilities. The Taskforce report says:

"The 2019-20 Budget provides \$150.3 for the rectification of State-owned buildings.

We are reasonably certain Ted and the professor meant to say \$150.3 million. That's a big chunk of money that would retrench the \$600 million somewhat.

To be accurate, should Dan have announced a budget of \$450 million to

rectify apartments?

Instead, the Premier has made a media-release appeal to the federal government for matched funding. It seems to be a bid to cover the tens of thousands affected apartment-owners who, as it stands, will miss out.

"There needs to be a true national partnership to put community safety first, to rectify these most dangerous buildings," the Premier said.

However, federal industry minister Karen Andrews flatly rejected Mr Andrews' long-distance supplication.

"The Commonwealth is not an ATM for the states. So, no, this problem is of the state's making and they need to step up and fix the problem and dig into their own pockets," Ms Andrews told Radio National.

It seems to be a clever buck-passing move by Andrews, promising to fix 50 per cent of the problem and blaming Canberra for not being able to fix the whole problem.

At least the ill-fated Cladding Rectification Agreement loan scheme seems to have been put to rest. With its voluble silence on the concept, the Cladding Taskforce effectively damned the loan scheme. The Taskforce report essentially said "A loan scheme was

set up. We recommend funding."

We look forward to seeing how much of the budget relieves affected owners - watch this space!

Finally, to put the cladding disaster in a community context: an apartment resident in an "extreme risk" building told ABC radio: "The great Australian barbecue is under threat...we're concerned that one wrong move and you might burn down all your friends."

Campaign donations

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History

Too thick to drink and too thin to plough

In the early 1970s, when I was a student at La Trobe University, I joined a folk club briefly where I was introduced to a number of modern versions of the traditional Australian folk songs that I'd always loved.

I don't remember too many of them now, but the song about the "Muddy Old Yarra", too thick to drink and too thin to plough, comes to mind every time I get off the tram at Flinders Street Station and walk across Princes Bridge to the Arts Precinct.

The Yarra, an essential player in the development of Melbourne's character, has always symbolised a perceived north-south divide, once based on class (the wealthy lived to the south, the working class to the north) but now the divide is a bit harder to pinpoint. There's still that sense of affluence to the south and perhaps it's a bit showier, some might even suggest brash these days. The north's definitely lost its working-class edge, replaced now by a different sort of edge. Home to artists and a much younger and more aware demographic, I read recently that the north likes to think of itself as Berlin. I'll leave that with you. All I can tell you is that in 22 years since I moved back into the northern suburbs there have been many changes, not all of them welcome (large scale apartment developments at the forefront), but I love the energy that surrounds me every time I take my tram into the CBD from my tiny corner of the "north".

As you look at this image of the Yarra, you could be forgiven for thinking that the photographer was actually in Paris, and that this was the River Seine. Or maybe he's in London and it's the embankment along the Thames. It's doubtful that you'd believe that just 71 years earlier the first European settlers had arrived from Tasmania and a



Looking west along the Yarra River from below Batman Avenue, 1906. (G. Attwood, chemist, 64 Bourke Street, Melbourne, photographer.) Image courtesy Royal Historical Society. RHSV D-397.002.

mere 55 years earlier there had been only a wooden trestle bridge crossing the river at this spot.

For thousands of years before that the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation knew this as Birrarung, "the river of mists". There is much to explore along the river just east of Princes Bridge. If you want to get a feel for the indigenous history of the area, for example, walk along Birrarung Marr ("Riverbank on the river of mists") and roam

among the park's open-air indigenous art works.

For now, though, take a closer look at this photograph taken looking downstream on the northern bank. The master of the vessel, pipe in hand, cap slightly askew, leans casually on the top of his vessel and looks straight at the photographer. Seated on a deck chair on the bank is a woman – his wife, perhaps? She's looking at him, leaning slightly forward. She appears to be wearing

a light coat, perhaps a raincoat. There is a puddle on the ground just in front of her. My guess is it's either spring or autumn and Melbourne is experiencing its typical four-seasons-in-a-day.

The woman's feet are just about touching the ropes of the *Beaumaris*, the vessel moored behind the featured boat. Beyond that a curious dog looks out, front paws on the edge of the embankment. Under the arch of the Princes Bridge (it's the northern arch that you see here) you can see more boats and ferries and Flinders Street Station. Almost central under the arch is Signal Box A (now a youth arts centre) which was where the switching engineers presided over the railyard. It was important for them to have a clear view of this yard and the line crossing the Sandridge Railway Bridge to Port Melbourne. Beyond that is the distinctive silhouette of the Corporation Markets (also known as the Fish Market), built further along the river in the early 1890s at the Spencer St end of Flinders St.

And looking down on the photographer and his subjects are a line of a dozen or so pedestrians, who have stopped on their journey across the bridge to observe something on the river bank, presumably the photographer at work – still a rarity in those pre-smartphone days.

Dr. Cheryl Griffin
Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Trader Profile

Satisfying a footy-mad town

By David Schout

After Terence Port's parents immigrated to Melbourne from South Africa, their first business move was to set up a stall at Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

Combining a love of sport and an entrepreneurial spirit, they opened a shop that catered to Melbourne's sports-loving public.

And now, 39 years on, their presence at the CBD institution remains.

"It's been a lot of hard work and money involved," Terence told *CBD News*.

"But we've built the family business from nothing to something."

That business is Market Sports, which operates both a stall in D Shed laneway and a permanent store on Victoria St.

As the name suggests, they sell a range of sports gear and merchandise, from beanies to balls, and stubbie holders to scarves.

The Victoria St shop stocks a range of in-season stock, while the market stall sells



Terence Port.

previous seasons' merchandise for a reduced price.

Terence's parents, both in their 70s, work from the Victoria St store while he operates within the market itself.

"What I love most about the market is the customers. I've always been around people, I can't be sitting around in an office."

While the Ports have always been a sporty family, after moving to Melbourne they soon learned that one sport dominated the city's fabric.

"Yep, definitely Aussie Rules is number one," he confirmed.

Terence is "Hawks through and through", something he says will "never change".

So footy-mad is Market Sports, you'll hear the sound of the 18 AFL teams' club songs playing on loop in the background.

Despite his strong bias to Hawthorn, he doesn't dislike the other now all-too-familiar tunes.

"Nah, I love them all. Although I seem to hear them when I'm sleeping, too," he said, smiling.

"It gets the atmosphere going. People hear their song and walk in."

Repeat business, he said, was one of the joys of the job. Often people return to buy a new footy scarf or beanie, and any given weekend will see a healthy dose of interstate fans keen to update their club colours.

While his passion for the place shines through, business struggles are also apparent.

Terence said he was unsure how many years he could continue his stall given the difficulty to sell stock.

"I love it to bits but it is getting harder."

Some stalls, he noted, had a presence for a matter of weeks before realising profits were difficult to come by, and shortly after left.

He feels traders should have a greater say in the future direction of the historic establishment, given many have a wealth of experience in the day-in, day-out operations under the sheds.

Whatever the case, it's clear the market, which has made up the bulk of his life, holds a special place in his heart.

You can find Market Sports at 123-129 Victoria St, or at the following QVM stalls:

Tuesday D 81-84, Thursday D63-66, Friday D61-64, Sat D99-102, Sun D69-72.

Metro Tunnel

State Library Station breakthrough

Three massive machines – each weighing more than 100 tonnes – have met 30 metres underground, in the first tunnel breakthrough on the Metro Tunnel Project.

The breakthrough occurred under the northern end of Swanston St, near Franklin St, where the new State Library Station is being built.

The road headers – which are 15 metres long and can smash through rock three times harder than concrete – are operating deep under Swanston St as they mine out the caverns and underground passenger connections for the new state-of-the-art station.

A fourth road header will soon join them, as they work together to excavate around 500,000 tonnes of rock – the equivalent of almost 70 Olympic swimming pools – with 1500 tonnes of rock and soil removed every 24 hours.

To date, crews have worked around the



clock to complete approximately 20 per cent of the overall excavation for the State Library Station caverns.

For more information on State Library Station visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



Shed construction at City Square

If you have taken a stroll down the southern end of Swanston St lately you would have noticed a large shed is being

built over the City Square site for the Town Hall Station. Construction of an acoustic shed started last month with framework installation and wall panels being lifted into place.

The acoustic shed will minimise noise and dust impacts on the surrounding community and maximise construction productivity.

While the shed is being constructed, the deck is also being installed which will give truck access from Collins St to Flinders Lane, as they pass through to remove excavated soil during construction of a shaft for the new Town Hall Station.

The shed and deck are expected to be completed in the coming months.

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

Heritage

Corkman will not be rebuilt

The latest news is that Raman Shaqiri and Stefce Kutlesovski, the developers who illegally demolished the 1856 Corkman Irish pub in Carlton, are removing the debris from the site (which contained asbestos), and are disposing it.



Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearings, court cases or the behind-the-scenes mediation, so we don't know why these developers could not be forced to at least reconstruct the façade though an "enforcement order".

This has happened to a number of other places in Melbourne in the last 15 years, whereby a permit was issued to retain a façade as part of a development, but was demolished, usually due to "safety concerns". There have been at least four

other cases, and in each one the lost façade was reconstructed, though only one of the four is a good reproduction of what was lost. Instead, the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne at first tried a site-specific amendment mandating reconstruction with no taller development, but this was challenged all the way to the Supreme Court. Local objectors and the City of Melbourne started an enforcement action at VCAT to require a rebuild, but this was never heard. Instead, a mediation (the details of which

remain confidential) resulted in a deal that only the developers would be happy with.

They have to turn the site into a park (which they are doing now), and only if they don't start a development by July 2022 do they have to reconstruct the pub. So, expect a proposal soon that will have 12 levels and some vague reference to the old pub. This is an even worse result than if they had just kept the façade, and built a development as allowed for in the first place.

The only punishment the developers will bear is the \$1.3 million loss in fines for doing something without a permit, and not disposing of the asbestos properly – this will eat into their profits, but they will still come out winners and we will be the poorer.



Rohan Storey
Vice President
Melbourne Heritage Action



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Critic

When the press performs well

By Rhonda Dredge

Way above the CBD in a lovely little apartment hidden within a hotel on Highlander Lane, two thinkers work on articles for publication in the academic press.

Leonie Huddy and Stanley Feldman are political psychologists and they like the quiet of a high-rise location.

But a haven in Melbourne's CBD does not protect them from the fact that Trump is threatening war in Iran.

One of their collaborative ventures was a book on the lead-up to the Iraq war which showed how President Bush misled the public.

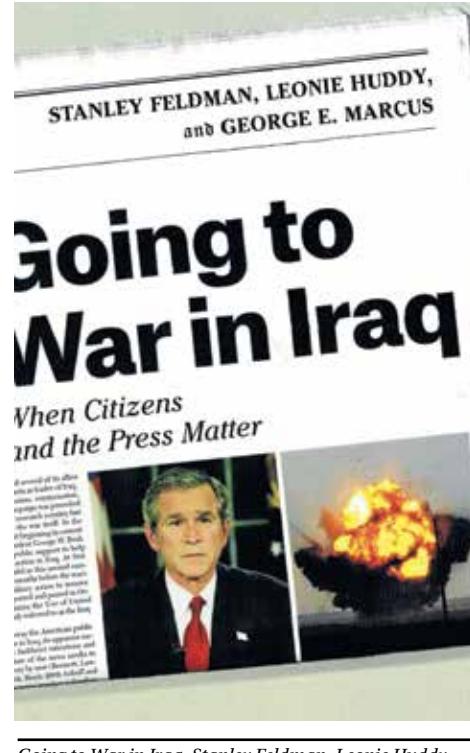
"The concept of information flow is central to whether the public is led by elite opinion," they said in *Going to War in Iraq*.

They claim that newspapers played a major role in uncovering misinformation about Bush's claims whereas TV channels in the United States tended to be governed by elite information flow.

Leonie grew up in Edithvale, studied psychology then moved to the US in the 1970s where she did a PhD on political opinion polling.

She met her partner Stanley, they married and they've worked together at Stonybrook University on Long Island ever since.

They are now commuting between their



Going to War in Iraq, Stanley Feldman, Leonie Huddy and George E Marcus, University of Chicago, 2015.

various teaching posts and Melbourne's CBD.

Their analysis showed that democrats and independents who read investigative reports in newspapers tended to oppose the war whereas the response by the actual Democratic Party was weak.

Political psychologists have to be sure before they are willing to go on the record. They first had to negate the null hypothesis that people who opposed the war tended to be newspaper readers anyway and weren't actually influenced by what they read.

Analysis of the data showed that a non-elite Knight Ridder newspaper group was prominent and critical in its regional coverage of President Bush's false information about weapons of mass destruction.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, the *Miami Herald*, the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *Detroit Free Press* were more critical than the elite *New York Times*.

This analysis has given the couple an important anti-war message.

When asked by a psychologist about

whether citizens like going to war, the Nazi commander Herman Goebbels said: "Why, of course, the people don't want war. Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece?"

When the psychologist suggested that in a democracy people have some say, Goebbels replied: "Oh, that is well and good, but, voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders."

The book concludes that the public is capable of engaging with complex policy issues when the press performs well.

Rhonda Dredge
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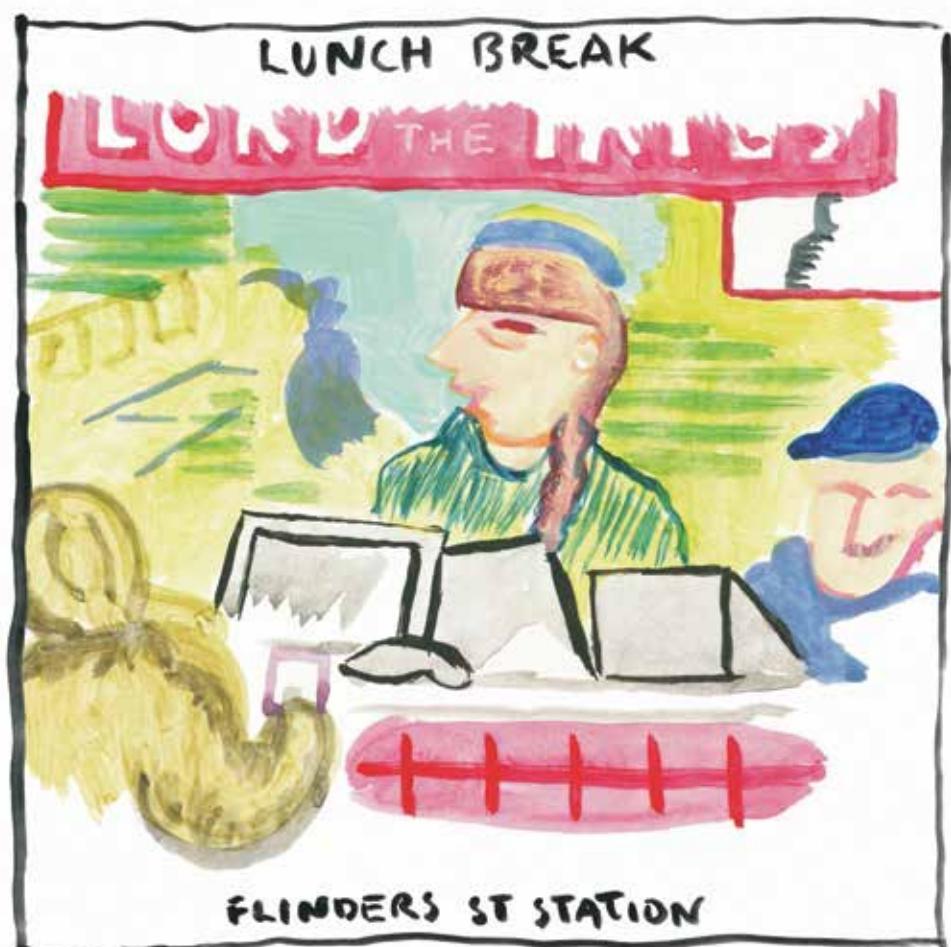
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MELBOURNE CBD

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Lunch Break



CBD Local

One of the mob

By Rhonda Dredge

The buildings are grander and more institutional if you approach the CBD from the north. Even the houses on the northern fringe have arched verandas.

These classical forms speak clearly of an early Melbourne that took itself seriously.

Old Melbourne Gaol on Russell St was the place you ended up if you were a "have-not" and the State Library was where the "haves" hung out.

Writer Peter Mares lives in a high-rise apartment on La Trobe St in the CBD legal district.

That makes him a "have" and he feels guilty about having made money during the property boom at the expense of others.

He comes to the State Library to do research and meet friends. You could say that the library is his lounge room.

He needn't feel privileged because the Russell St end of the library, recently revamped, is full of millennials also treating the place as home.

The crowd is friendly and noisy. People are constantly uploading documents, doing deals, eating chocolate, moving up to create room for others and ordering lattes with almond milk.

The library has evolved since its former,



elitist self. Anyone can enter and find a spot, even a homeless character from the street who might have been arrested as a vagrant in the past and thrown into gaol.

Government by the people for the people is a catch cry and the city is undeniably a place where public intellectuals like to gather.

Peter worked for 25 years on current affairs programs such as *The National Interest* for ABC radio and was a correspondent in Hanoi.

"These days I'm more of a writer. Working in radio can be quite useful because in radio you have to write directly. People have to understand you the first time. It's a very active language."

He owns two properties, one in Torquay, and that gives him a generational advantage.

"We feel incredibly lucky," he said. "People like me have done well out of the property boom without trying."

He thinks he should pay more land tax to fund community housing and has put his

ideas into a book *No Place Like Home*.

When he tried living in Torquay he missed the city and has moved back with his partner, artist Julie Shiels.

You'll sometimes see him sometimes chairing sessions at the Wheeler Centre.

"I don't regard myself as part of the literary establishment. I do think we have a responsibility as residents of the CBD and as citizens to get engaged."

He has written four books about social issues and works in ethical leadership.

SkyPad Living

Vertical village voting

Vertical villagers' voices might now be better heard, but voting remains vexed.

The key, we are told, to growing our sense of vertical village community lies with our willingness to participate – both inside and outside our residences. Current wisdom holds that we should keep ourselves informed about our residential and neighbourhood (or precinct) issues, express our opinions about these and also be open to responding to requests. On a more convivial note, neighbourly exchanges also go a long way to creating a sense of belonging, like being tipped off about forthcoming events – like fun runs. And in this vein, many vertical villages have established active social media groups, specifically to share these hyperlocal titbits.

Of more recent times, purpose-built engagement systems – like CommunitiLink™ – have entered our villages. These systems offer more timely ways for building management and residents to communicate, as well as platforms for selling items and booking facilities.

And increasingly these systems are being used to survey resident preferences – do you like grey or dark grey for the carpets? Should the plants be placed here or there? Would you support this recycling program?

Together, these engagement activities feed a growing expectation that residents' voices should be taken into consideration when decisions are made about their vertical village.

However, this is when the reality of our strata title regulatory system comes to the fore.

According to Consumer Affairs Victoria, there are strict requirements around certain decisions in our vertical villages, including who can make what decisions and how these decisions can be made.

For example, only lot owners can elect an owners' corporation (OC) committee, the key decision-making entity within (most) vertical villages.

Also, it is only lot owners who can vote upon resolutions affecting common property, which include many sustainability improvements. Added to this, some decisions require unanimous resolutions (i.e. they need 100 per cent agreement by all owners or their proxies). Such is the case for key decisions like selling common property, buying land, and altering boundaries, lot entitlement or lot liability.

These types of resolutions (in particular,

special resolutions) also often attract significant costs. Legal fees, printing and distribution expenses, along with management time for follow up communications, mean that these undertakings are both time consuming and expensive (especially when a significant portion of lot owners live interstate or overseas).

According to Christine Byrne, Green Strata president, it is these types of legacy regulations that are severely impeding the ability of vertical villages to undertake sustainability retrofits – regardless of resident support.

This means that despite claims that our common areas can use up to 60 per cent of the entire energy consumption of our apartment building, our ability to reduce these levels can be thwarted if the solution requires significant changes to common property.

But there are moves afoot.

One solution involves lowering voting thresholds – generally from a 75 per cent majority to a 50 per cent majority – and many

states are considering this option with the ACT leading the pack, followed closely by Western Australia.

Also helping are advances in areas such as digital voting, with products like StrataVote coming onto the market. These are tools that support (among other things) online voting, which is conducted in a manner that satisfies the requirements of the respective state. Once set up, these systems can reduce the time and cost associated with voting.

Together, these changes may make easier our path to sustainable innovation in our vertical villages – but acknowledging that care must also be taken to ensure that additional costs do not become burdens forced on those that cannot bear them.



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

Music

Bird Sounds

Prolific Melbourne singer/songwriter Emma Russack's fifth album *Winter Blues* will be launched at The Jazzlab on Wednesday August 7.

Russack will bring to the stage her full band line-up. The title track of *Winter Blues* is a plainspoken moody song underpinned by some beautiful, subtle piano playing, which is reminiscent of John Lennon's piano playing on *Imagine*. Russack singing about winter at the start of summer.

Russack has the knack of writing catchy pop tunes. Opening track *Horses* is a snappy tune to kickstart the album. The fourth track on the album that precedes the title track, *I Could Say*, is a very uplifting song. *Be Real* is a jaunty pop song that opens the second side of the record. This song has received airplay on RRR and PBS.

The show at The Jazzlab should be well worth catching. *Winter Blues*, engineered and produced in a crisp manner by John Lee at Phaedra Studios is the album that follows 2017's dreamy pop album *Permanent Vacation*, with the highlight song from that album being the ethereal *All My Dreaming*, which has a brilliant looping coda. Russack has also delivered a couple of albums with Lachlan Denton from The Ocean Party. Denton has an album out with Studio Magic entitled *A Brother*, and it is a tribute to his brother Zac. Musicians who appear on this tribute to Zac are Lachlan Denton, Ambrin Hasnain, Anila Hasnain, Rose Kean, Dainis

Lacey, and Liam Halliwell.

Touring UK and Europe at the moment is the very talented Didirri, who is playing songs from his catalogue. Didirri has the vocal delivery of someone like Tim Buckley; intelligent and heartfelt. His electric guitar playing has the taste of Ry Cooder and his crisp acoustic guitar playing has the folkloric vibe of Bert Jansch. You can hear this in Didirri's amazing cover of The Monkees' *Randy Scouse Git*. In this version Didirri has scaled back the Monkees' large music hall vibe, slowed down the tempo and delivered a subtle, sublime version of this song. His vocal delivery is brilliant, investing in totality the spirit of the song.

Didirri has an old school element to his performance. This is evidenced in the film clip of Didirri performing *Blind You* on a punt on the lakes of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens. This was Didirri's debut single from 2017 and it also appears on the *Measurements* vinyl record. In the film clip there is Didirri all nonchalant sitting back playing his acoustic guitar as the punt he is on glides along the serene waters.

Formaldehyde has the vocals way up front in the mix with plaintive piano playing beneath the vocals at the start of the song. Then with subtle brass entering the mix, the

song launches into the stratosphere at the chorus, with a great mix of trumpet acoustic guitars and rolling drumming lifting the feel. At the end, the song returns to Didirri's vocal upfront with the piano further back. It's a great production by Hayden Calnin. This song would be great towards the end of a set. *Formaldehyde* is from the *Measurements* vinyl record, which is available at all good record stores in the CBD. Didirri performed a great version of *Formaldehyde* at a TEDx Talks Sydney conference, sitting at the piano.

After performing in New Zealand, Didirri will be back in Melbourne on the *Tea Stains* Australian Tour performing at 170 Russell on August 30, with special guests Ro and Kat Edwards. Didirri and Ro have written a duet together called *Tea Stains*, and no doubt they will be performing this song together on the night.

Sensational flamenco heavy rock group Malcura have a great film clip for their track *Palais* filmed at the Palais Theatre and it is worth catching on YouTube. The trio is a busking legend of Bourke Street Mall and play gigs regularly around the city.

One of the best bands playing around Melbourne at the moment is the mercurial Heinous Hounds. They will be performing at the final Sunday Blues Sessions at ACDC

Lane on July 28. This is the best chance to catch Heinous Hounds on the basement stage at Cherry Bar before The Cherry Bar is relocated.

Archie Roach will be performing at the National Indigenous Music Awards on August 11. Also appearing will be Mojo Juju, Dan Sultan, Thelma Plum, Briggs, Jessica Mauboy, Tasman Keith and Baker Boy.

Gigs/Shows

- Boy And Bear - Forum Theatre, Friday, August 16
- Didirri - 170 Russell, Friday, August 30
- Charlie And The Chocolate Factory - Her Majesty's Theatre, August
- Heinous Hounds - Cherry Bar Blues Sessions - Sunday, July 28
- ACDShe - Cherry Bar, Sunday, July 28
- Respect The Rock - Thursday 2pm, 3RRR 102.7



Chris Mineral
email:
mineralsands@hotmail.com

Pet's Corner



Italian for kisses

On a cold winter's morning, CBD resident Roger Hersey is taking his two dogs Baci and Enzo on a walk through Flagstaff Gardens.

Baci is Italian for "kisses", he is the eldest of the two at 15 years, his younger brother Enzo is 13.

The two brothers are similar in size and share a similar coat, the thick, tight curls you would expect on a poodle that gets wavy around the ears. Baci is grey and Enzo is black.

Roger is a teacher and has lived in the

area for a while now. He said he usually walked the dogs at least three times a day, sometimes more.

Their special trick is eating on command, which Roger said was just about the only trick they had.

"They are very depressing to own because they are usually smarter than their owners. It is very annoying," Roger said.

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菜豆巷 新开张

维多利亚女王市场(QVM)揭开了墨尔本最新的巷道体验，菜豆巷于7月19日正式开业。

位于墨尔本最受欢迎的女王市场中心这个称之为豆巷之家，26个独立贸易商在定制的集装箱中营业，给购物者提供独特的购物体验。

菜豆巷的历史可以追溯到1936年，它的名字是为了纪念曾经出售绿色菜豆的巷道。

12个新商家与现有贸易商联手，提供各种当地设计、采购或生产的时装、古董、珠宝、艺术品、工艺品、护肤品、玩具、书籍等。

从独立书店玛丽·马丁图书到纸木公司的手工卡片和礼物，布朗小姐服饰的独特服装，手工巧克力制作商墨尔本可可，菜豆巷可真是尽顾客所想。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)说，位于L和M工棚之间的菜豆巷修建，是墨尔本市耗资2.5亿澳元重建女王市场区域的一部分。

市长说：“菜豆巷能让你寻找墨尔本最好的独立制作人、创作者、设计师和艺术家的新地方。”

“我们期望独特的购物体验和设施能够吸引更多的顾客进入这一市场，并为交易者提供气候保护和储物空间。”



市政拟定摩托车停车新规

撰稿 David Schout

墨尔本市政准备在中央商务区最繁忙的人行道上安装“不准停车”的标志，以缓解堵塞的城市人行道。

市政议员正在加紧工作，努力将“回归人行道”作为市政10年交通战略的一个关键支柱，摩托车和食品快递车的停车成了针对目标。

该战略的最终草案将很快提交给市议会，其中包括一项计划，即增加300个路边摩托车停车位，作为将它们从繁忙的人行道上移走的一种措施。

市政还表示，准备在繁忙的道路上安装“不准停车”的标志，以此作为遏制交通拥堵的进一步措施。

市政发言人说：“我们的目标是改善我们市区的街道，

让所有的用户更安全，包括行人和骑摩托车的人。”

他还说：“为了达到这个目标，我们会提供更多路边摩托车泊车设施，我们可能需要在一些高活动区域引入摩托车全天或部分时间不准停车的规定。”

墨尔本是澳大利亚唯一的一个可以合法在人行道上停车的首都城市。

骑车人只需在大楼外让开一辆摩托车的停车距离，就可以让行人自由通行了。

但是有关这项州法律近来引起了令人头疼的问题。研究证实，整个中央商务区的10次出行中有近9次是徒步完成的。

房主投诉奏效

撰稿 David Schout

居住在中央商务区公寓的一对退休夫妇，为了一个竖立在他们窗户外的龙门架向建筑商和市政进行了投诉抗争。

该竖起的龙门架影响他们公寓的隐私和自然采光，在7月当该龙门架被拆除时，他们持续几个月的发信和投诉终于得到了回报。

2月13日，朱迪思(Judith)和迈克尔·麦肯(Michael McCann)回到他们拉筹伯街(La Trobe)131号的大楼公寓，看到了在本内特巷(Bennetts)竖起了一台建筑工地的龙门架。

该夫妇在CBD已居住了15年之久，他们租出了这个受影响的公寓，但同时也居住在同一栋大楼里。

麦肯太太解释说：“我们甚至没有看到有关许可证，一次机会都没有。我们回来时龙门架已经架起来了，我们也无法问，为什么是那么高，或者要在那儿架多久。”

该许可证是墨尔本市政颁发的，授予建筑商汉密尔顿·马里诺(Hamilton Marino)12个月。

该龙门架竖起后不久，房客就决定搬出，因为工人们直接就在窗外工作，严重影响了他们的隐私。

这样一来，麦肯夫妇遭到了经济损失。麦肯太太当时说：“我们都是好市民，我们付了市政费，并且按章办事，我认为这太不公平了。”

建筑商曾经通知过大楼的业主公司有关要竖起龙门架之事，但是业主公司没能通知到麦肯夫妇。为此他们没有机会上述反对竖起该龙门架的意见。

豪瑟巷公寓只是一个门面

撰稿 Meg Hill

在即将召开的墨尔本市政会议上，对有争议的豪瑟巷(Hosier Lane)多层公寓大楼项目将进行辩论。

由布鲁斯·亨德森(Bruce Henderson)建筑事务所承建的这个1200万澳元的豪瑟巷7号的项目引来了众多的反对意见，由此引发了未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)对此进一步的审查。

此项目准备在一栋现有的三层遗产建筑上，增加八层。如果该项目得以实施，那么目前这座建筑里的“青年项目”包括青年慈善机构和庇护所很可能就得搬出去。

墨尔本遗产行动组织(MHA)表示，该项目建成后将高耸于豪瑟巷，威胁到其历史遗产的真实性，是所谓遗产保护“门面性”的一个例子，对其遗产的保留只剩下了外壳。

MHA说，该项目的色彩设计，以可怕和不真实的方式，模仿了那种街头层次的涂鸦。

新公寓平面图的一部分显示：“新的开放处和阳台周围设计了彩色的水平和垂直钢架，以创造一种随机的门面组合，将豪瑟巷的艺术‘涂鸦’感延伸至上层，并在现有建筑和新扩建部分之间建立视觉联系”。

自从去年街头服饰连锁店“文化之王”(Culture Kings)搬进小巷后，街头艺术家们对街头涂鸦文化进行商业化的推动而感到不安。

当商店管理层就街头艺术家未经正式许可在巷子里画画而报警时，这一长期被接受的做法变成了紧张的冲突。

现在“文化之王”委托为他们在小巷中的墙壁上作画，这进一步激怒了街头艺术家。

MHA对项目中的公寓提议表示担忧，因为其中包括将零售商搬到底层，将牵涉到禁止在墙上非委托绘画。



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.
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**EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2.30PM,
THE HUB, 506 ELIZABETH ST
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Contact John on **0459 398 358**

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

JOIN OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

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LANEWAY LEARNING

Cheap, fun classes in anything and everything. Weekday evenings in cafes, bars and other spaces around Melbourne. Classes usually have about 20 people to keep it friendly.

www.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,
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**2-4 PM, SUNDAY, 25 AUGUST,
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233 SYDNEY ROAD, BRUNSWICK**

CLADDING CONVERSATIONS

Builders Collective of Australia present a public event to discuss the causes, consequences and solutions. eventbrite.com.au/e/cladding-conversations-tickets-65666711903

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

EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB

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

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City on a Hill

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

Victorian Friends Centre

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

Collins Street Baptist Church

174 Collins St
Ph: 9650 1180
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
Ph: 9653 4333
Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm

St. Augustine's Catholic Church

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

Wesley Church

148 Lonsdale St
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11.00 am Morning Worship Service
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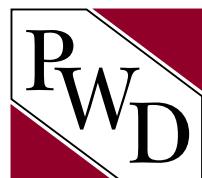
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Big awards for small businesses

The City of Melbourne recognised the contribution of small businesses to the city on June 27 through the 2019 Lord Mayor's Commendations.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said small businesses were the lifeblood of Melbourne's economy.

"The City of Melbourne is home to 13,700 small businesses whose creativity, vibrancy and flair are central to our economy," Cr Capp said.

"Small businesses make up more than 80 per cent of all the businesses operating in our city, employing almost 80,000 people."

Awards were given to 58 people representing 41 small businesses.

Hilda Simonds was one of 22 recipients of the 10-plus year award for small businesses that have operated continuously within the City of Melbourne.

Mrs Simonds is the owner of *Erika*, an independently-owned fashion boutique housed in Collins St's historic Stalbridge Chambers.

Erika will be celebrating its 10th year in the CBD this August.

The boutique offers a range of clothing, jewellery, millinery and accessories. Mrs



L-R: Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Nick Karagulidi of AA-Nika Engraving, owner of Erika Hilda Simonds and Cr Susan Riley.

Simonds said her vision is to dress women in unique pieces and she prides herself on styling outfits and matching accessories.

There were 14 winners in the 25-plus years category.

Nick Karagulidi of AA-Nika Engraving was one of the winners of the 25+ category. Mr Karagulidi has been operating his traditional hand engraving techniques in the city since 1992.

Mr Karagulidi studied wood carving and metal craft, the techniques of his Russian forefathers, at the University of St Petersburg before moving to Melbourne.

There were four recipients of the 40-plus years category, including Nondas and Maria Konstandakopoulos of Stalactites Restaurant.

Stalactites was established in 1978 and is famous as a part of the city's transition to a nightlife destination – the café is open 24 hours. It was also the first restaurant in the city to serve souvlaki.

The four recipients of the 50-plus years award include Bob van der Tooren, the owner of the prestigious Block Arcade Studio where he's been practicing photography since 1978.



Angela Louca from La Deli at the Queen Victoria Market.

And the generational award, for family businesses that have operated continuously in the city for at least three generations, went to Prosser's Family Seafood.

Damien, Geoff and Neil Prosser have been selling fresh seafood to the people of Melbourne from Queen Victoria Market (QVM) since 1931.

The recipients list featured eight other stores from QVM, including The Apple Corner, Tribal Tastes African Deli, The Chicken Pantry Shop, Bellerby Shoes, Wei Qiang Xu men's fashion, the Corner Chicken Shop, La Deli (pictured) and The Hat Project.

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