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FREE

CBD NEWS

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Cash for containers

A "Spring Clean" of the CBD on September 21 called on the state government to establish a container deposit scheme (CDS) in Victoria.

As part of World Clean Up Day, more than 300 volunteers picked up 6120 litres of rubbish in the CBD over just two hours. One third of what was collected were beverage containers, which would be exchanged for money in all other states and territories.

"There's an urgent need for the government to start a CDS," vice president of Beach Patrol Australia Dr Ross Headifen said. "When plastic bottles are given a value, they will not be treated as garbage because people get a reward for returning containers."



A young volunteer holds up novelty 10 cent coins in front of a giant coke bottle as part of a campaign for a container deposit scheme (CDS) for Victoria.

Photo: John Tadigiri.

New homelessness deal on the table

By Meg Hill

The City of Melbourne is close to securing a deal from the state government as part of a new approach to homelessness, according to comments made by the Lord Mayor.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp told a Residents 3000 meeting on September 5 that the state government had agreed to help fund a new program initiated to acquire fit-for-purpose buildings for rough sleepers.

"I went to see the premier and I told him it wasn't strictly our responsibility but if we don't do something about it, it just won't happen, and asked if he would agree to the ongoing funding for these facilities and he had agreed to that," the Lord Mayor said.

The Lord Mayor said that local councils had few "levers to pull" when it came to homelessness and the City of Melbourne had been lobbying the federal and state governments to act.

But she said the issue of rough sleeping in the CBD was "something that speaks to our culture and society and we decided we needed to do something more active about it".

The state government will join the City of Melbourne and other municipal councils in inner Melbourne, service providers such as St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army, and the private sector to repurpose a number of buildings.

In a statement later issued to *CBD News*, the Lord Mayor said: "The City of Melbourne is bringing together stakeholders, including state government, the corporate sector, philanthropists, service providers and local governments, to talk about how we can best work together to take urgent action to help people who are sleeping on our streets."

"Together, we're looking at how we can share our knowledge and our assets, such as

buildings, to help people who are sleeping rough get the support they need to find a pathway out of homelessness."

"To do this we need a coordinated approach that addresses the complex drivers of homelessness, while providing services and support for people in crisis."

A report last year suggested an extra 400 crisis accommodation beds were needed every night in the City of Melbourne and immediate surrounds.

The Lord Mayor said the accommodation would be provided with "wraparound"

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Uncertainty rises despite improvements

By Sean Car

The City of Melbourne's latest renewal plans detailing the provision of new infrastructure at Queen Victoria Market (QVM) have failed to ease growing trader concerns of a day market on the decline.

Councillors unanimously endorsed \$38.9 million plans for new market infrastructure on September 17 in what Cr Rohan Leppert described as "putting the meat on the bones" of the council's \$250 million renewal project.

Key features of the plan include a new "Northern Shed" on Queen St, complete with centralised waste management facilities, the "Queen's Corner Building" for operational and events storage and new refrigeration for fresh produce traders.

A new "trader shed," or G-Shed, complete with three levels of basement storage, two levels of operational space and new trader amenities, such as a lunch room and lockers, was the fourth major component of the plan.

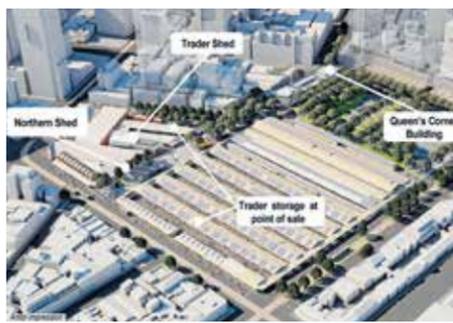
The council's program director of QVM's renewal Joanne Wandel was quick to highlight at the September 17 meeting that the plans had emanated from the 40-member People's Panel process, which consisted of traders, customers, residents and key stakeholders.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said that everyone involved in the process had "the same goals."

"We want a thriving market," Cr Capp said.

"The plan will deliver dedicated loading and recycling facilities on Queen St to improve safety and logistics for traders, and to make the market function better for everyone who works and shops there."

While noting that the revised proposal was an improvement to the "original grandiose overdevelopment put forward by [former



A graphic highlighting the new market infrastructure.

Lord Mayor] Robert Doyle", Friends of QVM's Mary-Lou Howie said there still "many issues" with the "process for change."

"I've never heard of the term 'Northern Shed," she told the meeting.

"Much mention was made of the People's Panel and its recommendations, but that process was far from perfect."

"There is a gaping disconnect between what I read from council and QVM management, and what I hear from the market floor."

"Disturbed" by the disconnect, Cr Beverley Pinder-Mortimer asked QVM CEO Stan Liacos at the meeting what "percentage of acceptance" the plans had among traders.

"Of nearly 600 day traders and nearly 150 night traders that's a difficult question to answer," Mr Liacos replied. "My guess is that the vast majority would be saying that it's a very sound scheme."

In August, QVM management announced a new partnership with online shopping and delivery service YourGrocer, allowing locals to order fresh produce from the market and have it delivered to their home.

This move, in addition to the latest plans for fixed refrigeration and storage, as well as new opening hours (effective from October 29), is all about "adapting to the changing retail landscape," according to Mr Liacos.

While further work will now be carried out with traders to co-design storage and refrigeration facilities to use at their stalls, Friends of QVM's Miriam Faine said stockpiling produce would lead to the

market's demise.

With the Night Market attracting more than 1.2 million visitors to QVM every year, management has placed a strong emphasis on the event in recent times, complemented by the opening of String Bean Alley with 26 new retailers in shipping containers in July.

Trader Leah Moore told the meeting that the current plans had "very little benefit" for general merchandise day traders.

"We are weary, and businesses are struggling, and we may not make it until 2021 unless there is some serious injection of energy to make the market a viable proposition for all traders," she said.

The latest staged infrastructure plans follow April's council meeting, which saw the overall precinct renewal program endorsed by councillors. The transformation of the current car park into a new 1.5-hectare public "Market Square", continues to divide traders.

While 500 new car underground parks are currently being installed as part of the Munro development on Queen St, a further 500 are understood to be included as part of council's next "southern development" on Franklin St.

The council has moved to shorten Franklin and Queen streets to free up land for the development; a decision being questioned by many local residents and traders.

Jo Wandel said the renewal program's four key priorities from now were to restore the heritage sheds, provide better weather protection, move forward with the southern development site and investigate the provision of 500 new car parks.

Ms Wandel said that as part of its public consultation process, a charter for the creation of the new Market Square would be prepared in the next few months, which Cr Leppert said would provide for "an extraordinary" new public space.

"Let's get right what Federation Square got wrong. I'm so excited about this project," Cr Leppert said.

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Butts banned on Bourke

By David Schout

Bourke Street Mall will be smoke-free from October 4 after overwhelming community support for a ban led City of Melbourne councillors to vote for its implementation.

Over 3000 people and 160 businesses were surveyed about a prospective ban earlier this year, including 1000 personal interviews on Bourke St.

Four in five people supported the ban, which will be enforced on the popular pedestrian thoroughfare between Elizabeth St and Russell Place.

More surprisingly, only a third of the 467 smokers interviewed were against the ban. People caught smoking in Bourke Street Mall could now face a fine of \$100.

The newest smoke-free area becomes the ninth CBD zone to prohibit smokers after The Causeway was the first to do so in 2014.

The decision to ban smokers in Bourke Street Mall – an area that accommodates 60,000 visitors, residents and workers daily – is the first large-scale area where the practice is prohibited in the CBD. It is now the city's highest-profile smoke-free zone.



Smoking at Bourke Street Mall is now a thing of the past.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the move was part of the city's commitment to protect people from passive smoking.

"Smoking takes a terrible toll on our community; it costs lives, damages health and affects the wellbeing of thousands of people," she said.

Cr Capp admitted on ABC radio that the ban was "difficult to enforce", and the council had issued only 15 fines in 2019.

She said, however, capital cities banning smoking "isn't an unusual phenomenon", and the council had a focus on education.

"There are plenty of places around the city where you can still smoke. What we are doing is raising people's awareness of the impacts that smoking has on themselves – so we hope it makes them think about that – but also on others. And that's really important to us."

She confirmed that while vaping was not part of the new policy, it was currently weighing up evidence whether to include it.

But some councillors said the incremental bans throughout the CBD were overly tolerant, and protracted consultation processes were halting wider bans.

"As far as I'm concerned it doesn't go far enough, it isn't big enough," Cr Jackie Watts said.

"We're not progressing this smoke-free environment for our community as fast as it could go. So, it bothers me that the process we are taking, although it's rigorous ... it does allow this toxicity to continue in our city for way too long."

"It is my hope that we can get on with this in a much speedier manner. The data is out there smoking is dangerous we don't want any of our people to do it. It costs the community in so many ways."

But Greens councillor Rohan Leppert said a city-wide ban was unreasonable.

"The reason we don't revert the entire municipality into an entire smoke-free zone overnight is that it's an enforcement impossibility. And as soon as you have an enforcement impossibility, it becomes acceptable again to breach that law."

Cr Leppert said while he was also keen to expand smoke-free zones, heavy-fisted smoking bans like those in Singapore were excessive.

Recycling resumes

The City of Melbourne and two other local councils restarted household recycling pick-ups on Monday, September 23 after SKM's biggest processing plant reopened.

KordaMentha took over the site and cleared 10,000 tonnes of stockpiled waste and received a loan from the state government.

The City of Melbourne was one of 33 local councils that had its recycling processes completely disrupted by the collapse of recycling company SKM in July.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council had reached an agreement with KordaMentha.

"The short-term arrangement to process household recycling was reached while Kordamentha seeks to finalise the sale of SKM," she said.

"We urge the community to continue separating their waste and recycling. It's vital that general waste not be mixed in with recycling to ensure recycling services are sustainable and viable."

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Wednesday (Seasonal)	5pm – 10pm The Night Market
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MORE AT QVM.COM.AU/VISIT-US



Lord Mayor Sally Capp addresses Residents 3000 last month.

New homelessness deal on the table

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services for the people who are at their most vulnerable.

Wraparound services target the connected and often causal issues related to rough sleeping – like mental health, domestic violence and unemployment.

“40 per cent present with financial hardship, the next 30 per cent which is the fastest growing are people experiencing domestic violence, and then we go into issues of mental health and substance abuse,” the Lord Mayor said.

“It’s a vicious cycle in terms of how it pushes people lower and lower in our society.”

The City of Melbourne hopes to launch the project later this year.

“By this time next year our aim is to be well

advanced in delivering those 400 extra beds.”

But the Lord Mayor said the issue was much broader than crisis housing and had been created by four decades of government investing less in public housing.

The Lord Mayor and the other capital city Lord Mayors have this year advocated for the federal government to address the issue.

“Victoria is now at the lowest availability of public housing per capita than any other state in Australia and we’re the fastest growing state,” she said.

She said government needed to “reset the agenda so that housing is considered as economic infrastructure that has value as much as new trains, new roads, new hospitals and other economic and social infrastructure”.

A grand donation

By Spencer Fowler Steen

Developer Cbus Property has donated hundreds of furniture items from a recently closed four-star hotel on Spring St to homes set up by The Salvation Army across Melbourne.



Beds, couches, ironing boards, lamps and other pieces of furniture were lugged out of the 164-room Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens hotel in late August to make way for Cbus’ \$300 million luxury residential tower, 17 Spring Street.

Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle said he was “proud” to work with Cbus Property to move the furniture to the Salvation Army’s Magpie Nest homes.

“The quality of the furniture sends a powerful message to the Magpie Nest residents that they are valued and being treated with dignity and respect,” he said.

The 45 three- and four-bedroom houses are located in inner Melbourne, Fitzroy, Footscray, Preston, Reservoir, Collingwood and Sunshine.

They accommodate 94 adults and 24 children who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Cbus Property CEO Adrian Pozzo said the most “responsible, community-minded” option was to repurpose the luxurious furniture – in line with the company’s recent involvement in philanthropic programs such as *Sleep at the G*.

“The Salvation Army is doing amazing things to help Melbourne’s people in need, by offering services for accommodation and homelessness, addiction recovery, aged care, disaster recovery and emergency relief, chaplaincy, and employment”, Mr Pozzo said.

Cbus and Coles volunteers worked together in three-hour shifts across two days to remove and relocate the furniture, with up to 50 volunteers on site at any one time.

The move was one of the biggest corporate contributions in Victoria this year, Cbus said.

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A green transformation of our city

Advertorial by Sean Car

Director of City Design and Projects at the City of Melbourne, Professor Rob Adams, knows that changing the city doesn't happen overnight.

The lead architect and urban planner has been helping drive the vision for sustainable development in the city since the 1980s.

With inner-Melbourne's population forecast to double by 2040, the need to provide more open space for a growing city and mitigate the impacts of climate change have never been more important.

While Prof Adams said the city's transformation from a relatively empty CBD in the 1980s was "remarkable," there was still a long way to go to address our most significant challenges.

"We've got two real problems in Melbourne. The really big hairy ones are rapid population growth and climate change," he said.

"I don't want to demean any of the other things we're doing but if we don't deal with those two, the other things are going to become more and more acute anyway. That's



Prof Rob Adams at Southbank Boulevard.

where we're heading."

When developing its Open Space Strategy nearly 10 years ago, the City of Melbourne identified that in order to manage population growth, the equivalent of \$700 million in open space would need to be purchased.

Naturally, without that sort of money lying around, a different approach was required to find more space, which is where the resolve to reuse and repurpose underutilised assets, such as roads, which started on a small scale in the 1980s, was now ramped up.

While the council has a number of greening

initiatives and strategies it is rolling out across the city, Prof Adams caught up with *CBD News* last month in Southbank, where one city boulevard is currently being transformed on a large scale.

"People would be surprised to hear us say 'underutilised' but Southbank Boulevard is an example," Prof Adams said. "When the bottom of Southbank Boulevard was closed during the Commonwealth Games to create Queensbridge Square, traffic dropped off from 30,000 to 13,000 cars a day. So, there is an opportunity to recalibrate that space."

And that's exactly what council is doing. By closing half the road between City and St Kilda roads, a new 2.5-hectare linear park, complete with new bike lanes, wider footpaths and outdoor spaces for the community to enjoy, is being created.

A historic example of this strategy in action includes the reclamation of land from former railyards and roadway to create eight hectares of new open space at Birrarung Marr next to Federation Square. Other current transformations include the closure of two streets to create a bigger University Square in Carlton, as well as the closure of Market St to create a new park in the CBD as part of the new Collins Arch development.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would be transforming more than half of Southbank Boulevard and taking over two local roads to expand University Square,"

Prof Adams said. "I thought it would be change on a much lesser scale but it has built momentum and people have seen the benefits."

"We're a bit of a pilot for the rest of metropolitan Melbourne and even other global cities. We didn't expect to become a pilot but even cities like New York, through Jan Gehl, sought our advice and have followed our approach for taking roadway to extend public space for people."

In addition to building new parks, such as Boyd Park in Southbank or Ron Barrassi Snr Park in Docklands, greening the CBD's laneways and rooftops, expanding our urban forest and investing in renewable energy, the city is making a good fist of fighting climate change.

But while pointing out that Melbourne still had a long way to go to becoming a carbon neutral city, he said the City of Melbourne, with the support of the community, was doing everything in its power to get there.

"The beauty of having an ambition target is that opportunities will come along and allow you to realise it. We've got a zero-carbon policy to achieve by 2030. Will we actually get there? I'm not sure, just as in 1985 we were not sure we would get 8000 new residents to live downtown; well, we overachieved that target so I have every confidence, with the help of our communities and other agencies, that we can achieve this urgent target."

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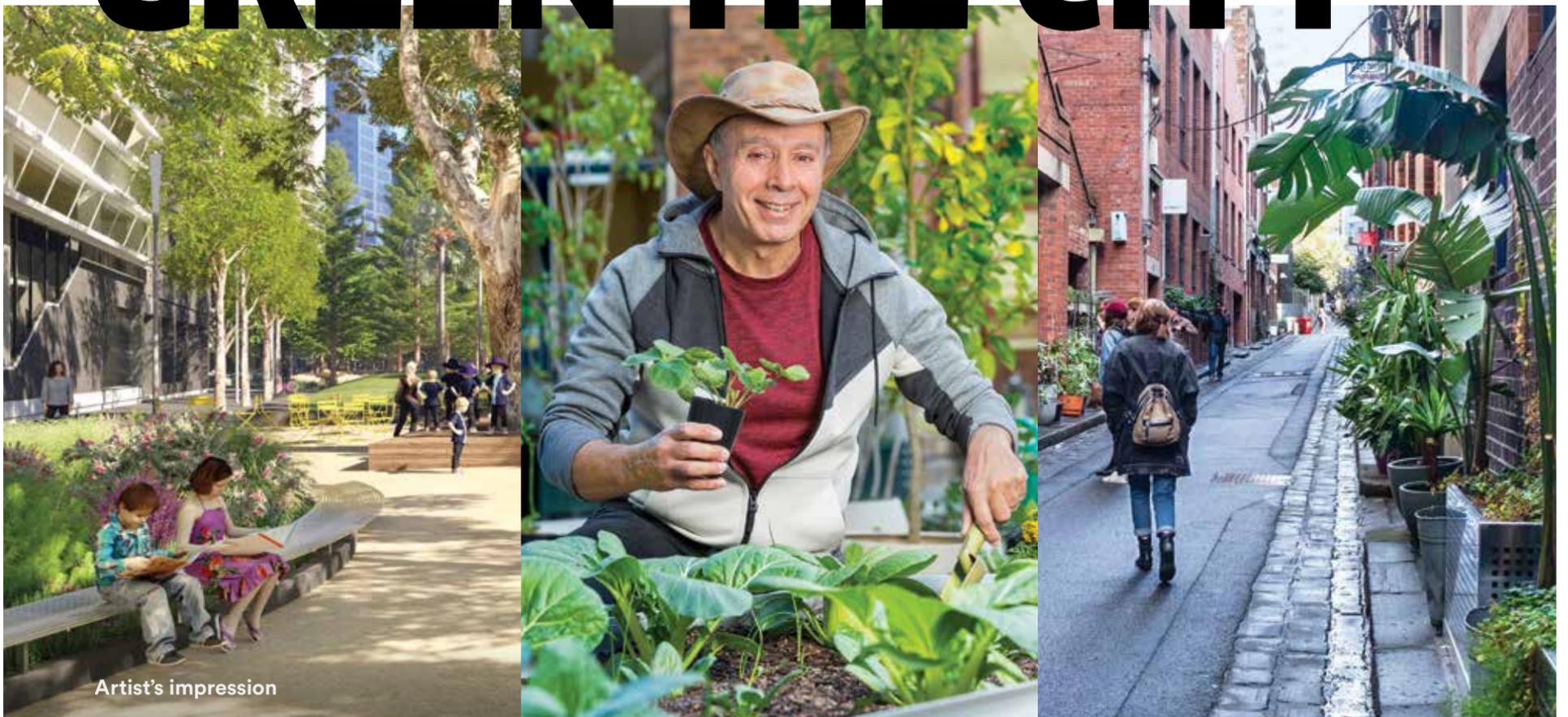
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- Nominate trees for the Exceptional Tree Register.
- Donate to the Urban Forest Fund.

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Big property write-downs but Town Hall's finances remain strong

By Stephen Mayne



One of the reasons the council's cash position remains strong is that Town Hall continues the long-term trend of under-spending its promised capital budget, which is not a welcome trend.

Only \$140.7 million was expended on capital works in 2018-19, against a budget of \$172.2 million. The underspend has been attributed by council officers to "delays due to issues with service agencies and changes to scope experienced by QVM, Lady Huntingfield Children's Centre in North Melbourne, Southbank Boulevard, Lincoln Square and Enterprize Park".

Asset sales are also helping the council with the Boyd School development site in Southbank recently sold to developer PDG for \$16 million and a further \$9 million expected in 2019-20 from the sale of various laneways.

Under the stable leadership of chairman John Brumby and CEO Chris Campbell, Citywide also appears to be performing well. This is a strategic operating asset with a service footprint across Victoria, NSW and Queensland which could easily be sold for more than \$100 million if the council ever needed to raise some funds.

CoM did choose to exit its investment in the Sustainable Melbourne Fund (SMF) last year and this has proved to be a great success after council recovered its \$10 million loan, along with \$5.6 million worth of units in the SMF Trust.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood explained that free of council constraints, the financier of energy-efficient building upgrades had flourished with finance now provided by Bank Australia.

"Council divested as it was strategically important for both SMF and the CoM," Cr Wood said. "Divestment has allowed the fund to grow to \$200 million and expand its operations beyond the initial intent of SMF. The Sustainable Australia Fund is a very good news story in terms of CoM efforts to seed a new market."

On the debt front, the CoM has not needed to draw down on a \$75 million loan facility with ANZ and may choose to go debt-free by paying back a \$28.5 million loan from the

federal government's Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC).

This fall is due in late 2020 but a council spokesperson said they would "consider early repayment of the CEFC loan in the first quarter of 2020". With net assets of \$4.45 billion, even after the property write-downs, council's balance sheet remains strong and returning to a formal debt-free position would reinforce that point.

On the spending front, there are still some big lumpy items. For instance, a hefty \$15.1 million was spent on computers and telecommunication in 2018-19, which is only just below the total budget for roads, bridges, footpaths and cycleways.

This was defended on the grounds of investment in "business change" and "mobile solutions" for staff to keep them in the field for longer.

That hasn't been evident on the parking front given that fines revenue tumbled from \$44.3 million to \$38.5 million, partly due to officers now working in pairs to improve safety outcomes in the face of angry motorists contesting tickets. Increased compliance courtesy of the use of apps such as PayStay is another factor in falling parking ticket revenue.

Thankfully for council's finance department, the recent increase in parking fees propelled parking fee revenue from \$46.6 million in 2017-18 to a record \$54.5 million in 2018-19, more than offsetting the \$5.8 million drop in parking fines revenue.

There's even been some good news for ratepayers on the executive pay front. In 2017-18, the three highest paid executives received approximately \$435,000, \$455,000 and \$515,000, but this dropped in 2018-19 when the highest paid executive collected \$415,000.

The 2017-18 payments were impacted by some "termination payments", presumably including to former CEO Ben Rimmer. The new CEO, Justin Hanney, was only on board for about half of the 2018-19 financial year.

Stephen Mayne is a journalist and former councillor, who chaired the City of Melbourne finance committee from 2012-16.

Security upgrades complete

By Edward McLeish

Pedestrians now have additional protection along the Bourke Street Mall, following the completion of security upgrades by the state government.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville joined the City of Melbourne and Victoria Police to celebrate the state government's \$52.5 million CBD security upgrades.

"We've worked closely with the City of Melbourne, Victoria Police and security experts to ensure everyone can still enjoy the Bourke Street Mall, while also creating important pedestrian protection zones," Minister Neville said.

A total of 131 steel bollards have been installed, enabling all temporary concrete blocks to be removed from the mall.

The bollards work together with street furniture, planter boxes and other measures to form a protective pedestrian zone on each side of the thoroughfare and shopping strip.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the works created a more welcoming space for the thousands of people who visited the area each day.

"These steel bollards will make our city safer and improve the streetscape along Bourke St," Cr Capp said.

This is the third site to be completed as part of the state government's investment in CBD security, with Princes Bridge and Flinders Street Station works completed earlier this year.

Security upgrades at Federation Square, Southbank Promenade, Southern Cross Station, the State Library, Queen Victoria Market and Olympic Boulevard are ongoing with high priority areas due to be installed later this year.

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E-scooters for summer?

By Meg Hill

While the state government is yet to let e-scooters into Melbourne, Lime is gunning for a summer trial in either the City of Melbourne (CoM) or the City of Port Phillip.



The company has conceded to City of Melbourne concerns about the Hoddle Grid to further negotiations in the city while the City of Port Phillip has volunteered to run a trial.

Lime's director of government affairs and strategy APAC Mitchell Price said the company would make the Hoddle Grid non-operational.

"Perhaps we make our operations zone outside the Hoddle Grid so that scooters wouldn't be zipping around right in the middle of the epicentre where there are some problems with food delivery bikes, cars, trams, a whole range of different things," Mr Price said.

"For the moment I think what we'd be willing to do is make some concessions and say how about we start with the outer City of Melbourne ring. We obviously want to be in the CBD but what we haven't got is data that shows usage and people wanting to use the service."

Lime has used technology to create out-of-bounds areas, where scooters can't operate. The technology also makes speed limits tailored to specific areas unbreakable.

"In Brisbane what we've done is deployed technology that has slow speed zones. Scooters automatically slow from 25 kilometres an hour to 10 or even to walking pace when they enter certain areas."

Mr Price said that once scooters were available in inner city suburbs like Richmond and Fitzroy, data would show that the scooters were being used to travel to the CBD and Lime would be able to "shrink that operating no-go zone to be smaller and smaller".

"City of Melbourne has been pretty up front with the Hoddle Grid, and I understand their

issues because they've got lots of different things, cars, bikes, motorbikes, food delivery bikes, mopeds and people," he said.

At the same time, the City of Port Phillip are pushing the state government to regulate e-scooters so it can be the first to trial Lime.

Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross announced the decision at a panel discussion about e-scooters on September 17 where Mitchell Price was also speaking on behalf of Lime.

But the offer is redundant unless the state government moves to regulate e-scooter use.

"What we've learnt today is that Port Phillip are really keen to do a trial of e-scooters and they were the first council to pass a motion in support," Mr Price said.

"I think Port Phillip is ideal. Not only is it a tourist hub in summer but is also provides an opportunity to run a proof-of-concept trial in Melbourne."

"Now it's up to the state to provide the regulatory framework and we ask the minister [for transport] to strongly consider this."

CBD News understands the state government is participating in a national investigation by the National Transport Commission to investigate the safe use of innovative vehicles and motorised mobility devices.

A Department of Transport spokesperson said safety was the government's top priority "and any trial would need to consider this".



New CE at cohealth

By Edward McLeish

Victoria St based health organisation cohealth has announced the appointment of Nicole Bartholomeusz as its new chief executive (CE).

Ms Bartholomeusz said it was a privilege to be appointed to the role.

"I look forward to ensuring that cohealth remains a vibrant, agile and responsive organisation serving communities with the best quality care and experience," she said.

Ms Bartholomeusz has been interim CE following Lyn Morgain's departure to Oxfam Australia and prior to this, held the deputy CE role since 2014.

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The harms of gambling

By Spencer Fowler Steen

Anna Bardsley lost ten years of her life gambling in Melbourne's CBD.

During this time she spent tens of thousands of dollars on pokies - money she said she never would've dreamed of spending.

But now, Ms Bardsley is performing in a play called *What's Your Gamble* at the Melbourne Fringe Festival, starring a cast of recovering gambling addicts who act out their stories in an effort to aid recovery and speak out for those who can't.

In the play, she sings lines such as: "welcome to the Tabaret" and "back yourself, you're a winner" with mock razzmatazz designed to highlight the insidious allure of gambling.

"There's no stereotype of the 'problem gambler' - it could be anyone," Ms Bardsley said. "I was a business woman at the time."

"There are no visible signs and the shame and stigma is enormous. It makes it really hard for people to ask for help."

Paul is another performer in the play who introduces his story by announcing his past gambling habits like a caller at a horse race.

"See the lonely mechanic heading to the pokies and he's just lost another thousand," he said.

Paul played low-stakes gambling games with his family and friends from a young age.

In his teenage years, he started gambling in the CBD at places such as the Gold Nugget on Lonsdale St, and Clocks, conveniently located near Flinders Street Station where he caught the train.

Paul's gambling addiction culminated in a two-week gambling spree in which he lost a million dollars from a trust fund set up for him and his brother on online betting sites.

"We didn't speak for almost three years," Paul said.

"But eventually we came to an understanding that we've invested that money into rebuilding our relationship and our family."

Paul said the night after the spree, broke with nowhere to go, he headed to Crown Casino to watch the footy because he felt like it was a "warm, friendly" place.

Louise, another performer, said she used to gamble at gaming venues in the city such as the Black Opal on Swanston St after trying to escape pokies in the south-eastern suburbs where she lived.

"I pretty much came to a standstill, I wasn't looking to date or meet anyone," she said.

"I ended up in dead-end jobs to get money. My life stagnated."

As the play demonstrates, gambling harm isn't inflicted on just the gambler.

Fellow performer Sunenna Shama acted out her experience of having her life turned upside down by her gambling addicted partner.

At one stage, she couldn't afford



Louise and Anna (background) in *What's Your Gamble*.

kindergarten for her children due to her partner's gambling addiction, so she traded a place to live for someone to look after her kids while she worked full time in a factory to make ends meet.

One day, Ms Shama came home from work to discover her children's carer packing her bags. The carer was claiming she had stolen her money.

The bank statement she handed Ms Sharma confirmed that Ms Sharma's husband had indeed withdrawn money from her account.

Stuart McDonald, a schoolteacher from Preston, is another Melbournian recovering from a gambling addiction which largely played out in the CBD.

A diehard Bulldogs fan, Mr McDonald spent thousands of dollars - sometimes his whole pay packet - at the pokies inside Marvel Stadium every home game they played. "Places like The Welcome Stranger were also right next to the tram back to Preston, so I just popped in," Mr McDonald said.

He said simple reforms such as stricter service of alcohol at pokies venues and maximum bets of one dollar per spin - which would limit people's ability to chase their money - would go a long way in minimising harm in the CBD.

Australians spend more per person on gambling than any other country in the world - almost double that of New Zealand, according to the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

In 2017, the Australian gambling industry pocketed \$24 billion, largely from Australians who can least afford it.

The City of Melbourne is currently reviewing its gaming policy to minimise gambling related damage in the CBD.

But the proposals are still being considered by council and will not affect Crown Casino, a popular haunt for gambling addicts.

Ms Bardsley hasn't gambled for 14 years thanks to a writing program started by acclaimed Australian writer, educator and human rights advocate, Arnold Zable.

Mr Zable said "responsible gambling" was a "bullshit" term.

"We cannot forget that it's an industry that preys on misery, that preys on addiction, that preys on people's trauma and fear and draws them in to this vortex which leads to so much suffering and so much ruin," he says.

"We always have to be aware that behind this lurks a monster. And this monster is the gambling industry."



Bike polo in action at Flagstaff Gardens.

Photo: wrenphoto.com.au

Pedal power polo

By David Schout

Described as a mix between the horseback version of the sport and ice hockey, bike polo's entrance into Melbourne's sporting fabric is a fascinating tale of how an organically developed sport made its way around the world.

Developed in Seattle, America in the 1990s by a group of couriers on their work break, the hardcourt version of the game has been played in Melbourne since 2007.

And unlike the swankier version of polo played on the Mornington Peninsula, bike polo is for everyone.

The sport, as Melbourne Hardcourt Bike Polo president David Corrin explained to *CBD News*, is both simple in its basic rules, and nuanced in its skill execution.

Played on a 40- x 20-metre court, mixed teams of three ride on modified bikes (typically single-speeds with short, flat handlebars) with a home-made mallet in hand (made of ski poles and plastic pipe), trying to hit a street hockey ball into the 1m x 6m goals.

The ball must be struck with the end of the mallet, while rebalancing with your foot (called a "dab") incurs a time penalty whereby the player can't resume play until they ride to the halfway line to restart.

David said that, like all good local sport, it mixed healthy competition with inclusivity and social interaction.

"It's certainly a sport for everyone. I'd say we're one of the more inclusive sports gender and skill wise. We do our best to accommodate everyone," he said.

While those walking past games at Flagstaff Gardens may look on slightly perplexed, David said it was a sport people could pick up quickly.

"The learning curve is actually quite steep. Where you start depends on your competence on bicycles, your hand-eye coordination, knowledge of team play, and placement on the court. If you have any one of those foundational skills, you can improve quite quickly."

"It can be challenging, but most people have one, if not more of those skills."

And contrary to perception, the sport is actually quite safe.

"There are collisions, like in many sports," David explained.

"But we try and downplay that as a feature of the sport because, in fact, they're quite rare and over-represented in the media."

While bike polo was developed in the 19th century on grassed playing surfaces (a version still played today) the comparatively new hardcourt game has risen sharply in popularity since the turn of the century.

David was first encouraged to try his hand at bike polo back in 2013, when a friend's urging eventually won him over.

A strong cyclist who had played several ball sports, he said he had warmed to it quickly.

"I had a friend who played, and he was staying with me," he explained.

"I've been a cyclist since I was first conscious, more or less, and I'd also played field hockey and unicycle hockey. I actually wasn't that keen at the time, because I had other hobbies but that soon changed."

David's experience on mountain bikes and with numerous ball sports meant he had, in his own words, "the perfect pedigree" to play bike polo.

In retrospect, the close affinity he developed with the sport was unsurprising.

What was surprising, however, was that within three months of playing for the first time, David was playing in a World Championship event.

Just last month, he travelled to Argentina for another international event, where he was set to play with and against other bike polo players from Europe and North America.

Like most sports, game styles and tactics were geographically dependent.

"The biggest difference is between Europe and North America, and Australia is a bit of a bastard child of both," David said with a laugh.

"I tend to be more influenced from Seattle. It's a heavy passing game, and very offensive. In Europe it's more defensive with more mallet interference. But their style is also competitively quite successful."

David's passion for the game led to him not only becoming president of the Melbourne club, but also delving into business around the sport.

His business Lightfoot Polo sells hardcourt bike polo frames and equipment.

Those interested in joining the club (including information about new player nights) or going along to watch a game in action, visit melbournebikepolo.org.

For more information about local sporting clubs in the CBD and Docklands, visit The Hub at 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands.

Tower approved for biotech giants

By David Schout

The City of Melbourne has approved plans for a 17-storey tower at the north end of Elizabeth St, paving the way for biotechnology company CSL to move its global headquarters into the purpose-built facility in 2024.

The 86-metre approved project, on a site owned by private developer PDG, significantly exceeded the preferred height limit of 60 metres for Elizabeth St North.

But councillors were willing to make exceptions for a development it deemed a "huge community benefit".

"It's fair to say this development does not strictly comply with the preferred heights and setbacks (of the area)," planning portfolio chair Nicholas Reece said.

"However, the land use that is proposed here, being an R&D (research and development) centre means that it will make a very significant contribution to a nationally significant area of economic activity for Australia."

The new headquarters, at the northernmost



A render of the new building approved for Elizabeth St.

point of the CBD just south of the Haymarket roundabout, will sit within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, which includes the University of Melbourne, alongside several research facilities and hospitals.

The building will include seven floors of office workspace and nine floors of laboratories and research and clinical phase production suites.

Cr Rohan Leppert said the council approved the development not on the basis of the tenant, but the research and development conditions attached to the site.

"We're supporting this not because it's CSL,

but obviously the great benefit to having CSL in this location is undisputed," he said.

"This is a world-class biomedical and research and development precinct and we want it to remain that way."

PDG has proposed two towers on the Elizabeth Street site, of which the new CSL headquarters comprises "stage two".

The first stage, on the site of the Melford Motors building, is now almost fully committed, with Toyota and Melbourne University's Trinity College set to take the space.

Councillors were also pleased with the

heritage outcome for the 1928 Melford Motors building.

The new development signals a significant shift in plans for the site, after a 1008-dwelling project (698 of which were student units) was approved by planning minister Richard Wynne in 2017.

"The transition from student housing to what it is now as a research and development hub, I think is fantastic for the CBD and also the precinct," Cox Architecture director Phillip Rowe said.

CSL's CEO and managing director Paul Perreault said the location of the new world-class facility was a pointed one.

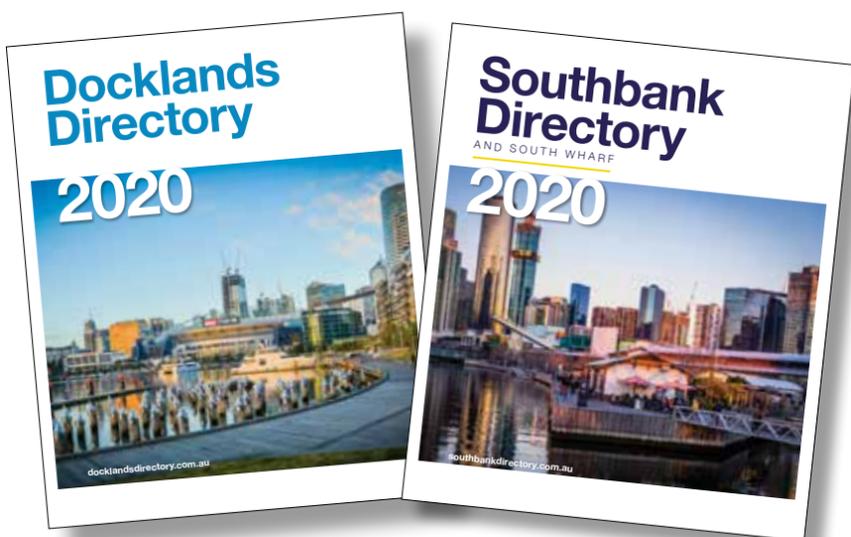
"Melbourne's reputation as a world class centre of biomedical research excellence is well established," he said.

"(The northern CBD/Parkville area) is considered a world-class medical precinct and a significant research presence in global terms."

CSL is the third-largest publicly listed company on the Australian Stock Exchange and, according to its website, is "a leading global biotechnology company with a dynamic portfolio of life-saving medicines".

The new development will accommodate more than 800 CSL employees.

"There really are few companies that have come out of Melbourne as globally famous as CSL," Cr Reece said.



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Carshare offers interim recycling solution

A popular car-share company is working with the City of Melbourne to offer an interim solution to Victoria's recycling crisis in September.

On September 17, GoGet announced that members of its service would be provided free-of-charge access to vans to transport their recycling to their nearest waste transfer centre.

GoGet Victoria and South Australia general manager Justin Passaportis said with approximately 15,000 members within the City of Melbourne, GoGet reached around 17 per cent of households in the municipality.

"We face a crisis with regards to recycling across Victoria. There's been a shutdown of one of the major players in recycling and what that has meant is that city councils who were using this recycler is that their recycling is going to landfill," Mr Passaportis said.

"It dawned on us that we have a very



Justin Passaportis (left) and Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley (right).

close working relationship with council because they help facilitate the provision of carsharing."

"We have a membership base of tens of thousands of people across greater Melbourne who are engaged people and want to do the right thing about the environment, and we also have a network of vans, so we thought we were uniquely placed

to do the right thing about the environment."

The offer was also made available to members within the City of Port Phillip and City of Moonee Valley.

City of Melbourne councillor and chair of transport Nicolas Frances Gilley said the strategy combined two council-backed initiatives.

"As a council we support increasing the number of car share spaces in the city. Every car share vehicle removes nine privately owned cars off the road," he said.

"Our community cares about reducing waste so this is a fantastic initiative that gives people more ability to take their recycling to a transfer station."

GoGet and both local councils are members of Committee for Melbourne, a not-for-profit organisation with over 150 member organisations from Melbourne's business, academic and community sectors.

The organisation launched a Melbourne 4.0 taskforce in 2016 to help prepare the city for an accelerating speed of innovation and disruption. One of the key agenda items is an ongoing transport taskforce.

Committee for Melbourne communications and stakeholder engagement manager Laura Melvin said GoGet had worked "tirelessly" within that space for an integrated and innovative transport solution.

Regular recycling pick-ups resumed in the City of Melbourne on September 23.

GoBoat arrives

A new boating operator has landed on the lower Yarra River at the Banana Alley berth, offering customers a unique way of travelling on our river.



GoBoat Melbourne co-owner Oliver Swan.

Having won a 10-year overnight berthing license from Parks Victoria in July, GoBoat Melbourne has since relocated its business from Docklands to Banana Alley just in time for the warmer months.

Originating from Copenhagen, Denmark, the electric European-style boats provide groups of up to eight people with the opportunity to hire a boat for up to three hours and navigate their own experience on the Yarra.

Because the boats are set to speeds of under four knots, a designated driver can operate a GoBoat without a boating license. BYO food and drink is also encouraged, however, there are strict limits on alcohol.

With all boats made from recycled plastic bottles and running on very quiet electric motors, they're also good for the environment.

Having first established its first Australian location on Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra in 2017, GoBoat Melbourne co-owners Oliver Swan and Andrew Ferguson said they had seen a great opportunity to bring the experience to Melbourne.

"I had always been in the entertainment and experience kind of game so I made contact with Nick from Canberra, who is the owner of GoBoat Australia, and we got chatting about the possibility of Melbourne," Oliver said.

"In August 2018, we made enquiries with

Melbourne City Council and spoke to a lot of the people in the industry down here and found out about the Parks Victoria tender process, but when we spoke to the council we were originally offered the spots down in Docklands."

"We submitted our tender [to Parks Victoria] on February 1 and then we were notified that we'd be offered Banana Alley and two berths up the river, which is a fantastic opportunity for GoBoat."

With a fleet of 10 boats, the addition of GoBoat Melbourne to the lower Yarra represents an exciting prospect for the local business community and provides a new and different experience to what is currently on offer on the river.

He added that its new position at Banana Alley was advantageous for its customers as it was directly linked to the CBD and Southbank and provided access to what he considered to be the best part of the Yarra.

And by encouraging a social experience where "the customer could make it their own," he said the model was proving successful for bringing new demographics to the river.

"One of the most amazing things that has come out of this is that over 50 per cent of our passengers are women and over 75 per cent of customers that book are female and we believe it's a new demographic to the river and that's really good."

goboat.com.au/melbourne

Blue bikes scrapped

By David Schout

After the state government's decision to scrap the blue bikes scheme, there will soon be no casual cycling options in the CBD.

Just over a year since share bike company oBike packed its bags, the joint state government and RACV blue bike initiative will be removed on November 30 after it found the bikes were being used on average just once a day.

Roads minister Jaala Pulford said the bikes had "reached the end of their functional life" but their removal would in fact be a positive within the Hoddle Grid.

"By phasing out the bike share scheme we will create more space on our footpaths for pedestrians and bike parking, which is what regular cyclists and pedestrians tell us is needed in the CBD," she said.

But the government refused to answer questions posed by *CBD News* about the future of share bikes in Melbourne, including whether there were plans for a renewed scheme.

Launched in 2010, the bikes were never truly embraced by Melburnians, for a host of reasons.

Some cited mandatory helmet laws for the low uptake, while the introduction of the free tram zone in 2015 was also said to have contributed to its failure.

The Victorian Greens slammed the decision to remove what it called the "half-cooked" scheme, and said Melbourne was falling behind other cities.

"A successful bike share scheme is an essential element of any world class city,"



Photo: Bron Hamilton.

transport spokesperson Sam Hibbins said.

"It's a lazy decision by the government to scrap the Melbourne bike share scheme and it will damage Melbourne's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities."

"Every other world class city has a successful bike share scheme, Melbourne should be no different."

Bicycle Network general manager of public affairs Anthea Hargreaves said the scheme never received the investment needed to succeed.

"A small network of docks and bikes in Melbourne was the number one reason for the failure of the program," she said.

"The key to a successful bike share scheme is accessibility, location and scale."

Ms Hargreaves said successful programs in cities such as London, Paris and Barcelona suggest it could work in Melbourne.

"We know that bike share schemes can work, we just have to get it right. As well as the right number of bikes and docks we also need high quality, connected bike lanes and infrastructure."

The RACV, who operated the scheme on behalf of the government, were disappointed the blue bikes were to be discontinued.



L-R: Sally Capp, Jennifer Eltham and Rafael Camillo.

Meet the Lord Mayor

Lord Mayor Sally Capp made back-to-back appearances at CBD resident group meetings in September.

Cr Capp was the guest speaker at Residents 3000's annual general meeting (AGM) on September 5 at the Kelvin Club, and then again at EastEnders' informal "Meet the Lord Mayor" event on September 9 at Quest Apartments.

EastEnders president Jennifer Eltham said the Lord Mayor engaged well with residents.

"For once we've actually had a Lord Mayor who we've seen on the trams, who we've seen out on the streets, who actually wants to come to our residents' meetings and get to know us and for that I say congratulations," Mrs Eltham said.

When the music stops

By Meg Hill

The entrance bell at Lewis' Music crackled. Sometimes it got stuck and kept ringing for a few minutes.

"I just saw the sign, you're retiring?" a customer, who had come for guitar strings, asked.

Roger Lewis had been running the shop on Russell St for over 55 years. Newly painted text on his front window announced his retirement sale.

"Yes. It's got to happen one day; this week looks good," he said.

His last day was Friday, September 20.

Roger said he had originally opened his shop directly across the road "three buildings ago" in 1963.

44 years ago, he crossed the road to his space at 124 Russell St – he was the building's first tenant. It will be knocked down sometime next year to make way for a hotel.

Another customer walked in and said she was a music teacher. The shop had been recommended to her by a friend and she hurried to visit when she heard about Roger's retirement.



Roger Lewis is shutting the door on his music shop after more than 55 years in the CBD.

"I'm looking for something percussion and easy that I can hand to students," she said.

Roger's stock had been drying up quickly. He hadn't much percussion left, but he picked up two clapping sticks and demonstrated.

"Two sticks you bang together is pretty easy," he said with a laugh.

Roger said he was retiring because of old age, but that the redevelopment made it an opportune time.

He began as an instrument repairer, travelling to London for an apprenticeship. It was one of the few places in the world you could do one.

When he returned, he opened his music shop.

"There used to be six music shops on Russell St, this is the last one, and 16 in the city of which there is only one left," he said.

He said the first thing he'd do in retirement was figure out what to do with all the stuff from the shop that hadn't been sold.

He pointed to a guitar on the wall and said it was one of a few items he'd keep for a while. It was made in 1870 and rimmed with pearl.

"I've had that for 40 odd years," he said.

"It just came into the shop one day."

Subbed-station

By Meg Hill

Development plans worth \$16.7 million may erase a small part of Melbourne's industrial charm that's been "left out" of heritage studies.

A planning application for 202-204 A'Beckett St submitted in August sought permission to demolish a decommissioned substation warehouse on the property to make way for a 14-storey multi-use building.

Melbourne's old electrical substations have been incorporated into a number of heritage reviews and protected for historic and aesthetic significance.

But the substation on this property – which was owned by the City of Melbourne and later CitiPower – is unprotected and unresearched.

The substation sits on a narrow section of land wedged between two larger developments. The property was advertised for sale late last year.

Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies said the group would be "disappointed to see the demolition of such a character-filled substation, likely dating to a similar time as other 1930s substations in the CBD".

"We believe the substation here was left out of the recent City North Heritage Review



due to its lack of grading in previous studies done decades ago when heritage values were different," he said.

Mr Davies said the substation was relatively modest but had "art deco industrial charm".

"It seems a massive shame to not adaptively be re-used as a bar, café, arts space or other unique venue instead of simply demolished to bring profit to the developer of the site," he said.

"The recent CBD heritage review has seen historic brick substations in George Parade and Tavistock Place given heritage protection, and great examples of adaptive use of a former substation can be seen at the old Spencer St Power Plant site."

"It's sad to see this one of similar age and charm fall through the cracks."

Heritage statements for those sites highlight their significance in sharing a common history in the City of Melbourne's electricity supply development that's complemented by their industrial aesthetic.

The development plans would build a 14-storey building on the property comprising of a ground floor restaurant, a medical centre, six levels of offices and topped with two residential floors.

New information could save heritage

By David Schout

A last-ditch effort to save a 1940s office building on Little Bourke St has succeeded, after the state government afforded it temporary heritage protection.

Chart House, a "representative example of an interwar office building", was overlooked in a recent heritage review of the Guildford and Hardware Lane areas in the CBD.

But since the study concluded, Melbourne Heritage Action Group (MHA) brought forward information that proved the building was of historical significance.

Specifically, the original study said the building's unique windows were not original.

MHA then revealed evidence to the contrary to the City of Melbourne, who will now put the building to an independent panel which will decide whether to afford it a permanent heritage overlay.

MHA vice president Rohan Storey detailed the mix-up in a heritage column in the September edition of *CBD News*.

"The study erroneously labelled Chart House as non-contributory to the heritage streetscape," he wrote.



Chart House on Little Bourke St. Photo: The Age.

"MHA has provided evidence proving the building is intact and built earlier than the study found, which has subsequently been accepted."

Mr Storey described Chart House as a "unique 1940s building with its original shopfronts and early modernist design".

Heritage portfolio chair Rohan Leppert said at a recent council meeting that while the council was pleased the building may be added to the heritage register, the timing was problematic.

"The problem is that new information that arose about Chart House came after we went through the statutory process to assess the heritage significance of all the buildings within the study area," he said.

"That was an incredibly difficult decision because we had already gone through the process."

Street Art

Stop complaining about culture

It's been a while since I have written an article. That's because I have been busy getting Blender Studios set up in its permanent home just near Flagstaff Gardens.

As a kid, I always dreamed of one day living in the CBD. And then I moved into my first CBD factory at about 20 in Leicester St near the Vic Market.

It was an old car dealership and mechanics and it was huge! I built a shower and brought a table tennis table and for the next two years I was lucky enough to have the biggest studio I could have ever imagined. You could kick a footy in there. It was awesome.

I was so young and had so much energy, but no experience. It was the second studio that I had opened and I managed to hang onto it for nearly two years before I was moved out so that it could be developed. It was then that I was offered a space on Franklin St.

It was a very large space but at that time, it was not unusual for people to rent out their warehouse or factory to artists, while planning permits and development details were sorted out by the council. As the city has grown and changed, this kind of opportunity for artists has disappeared. This is a shame.

I began to think about ways in which we as a community can facilitate a growing, changing and vibrant city. With the population of Melbourne doubling in the last 15 years and continued growth expected, how do we grow and maintain our cultural integrity?

I went to a Thai restaurant, that opened this week, on Peel St opposite the Vic Market. It's a cool sort of place that has a beer garden out the front, tapas food and, I assume, live music. Anyway, this place has taken at least 10 months to set up and so I asked the owner why it took so long. She told me that there was an elderly man that lived behind her, and that he had complained to the council at each stage of the development of her restaurant and nearly every day about the restaurant, which was causing her big obstacles. This restaurant will only add to the cultural landscape of Melbourne's inner-city and bring people and action to an otherwise struggling shopping strip. This old man with all his free time has made something great nearly not go ahead.

Why does one person in this situation have so much power? It seems that everyone has become so risk adverse that nothing can get done. This has happened to me while setting up street art lanes in the past where one person can stop something important from happening. A few years ago, I set up a second studio in Fitzroy and had to contend with just one crazy rich guy with lots of free time. Needless to say, I no longer have a studio in Fitzroy.

I guess what I am saying is that we need to let people do more interesting stuff and rather than make it harder for awesome new projects we should facilitate and help the projects come to fruition. I think we give



people the ability to complain and we jump at their every whim.

A good example of this is people that complain about the live music, because they bought an apartment close to a live music venue; one that may have been there for years and then someone complains and life gets hard for the music venue. It's hard enough to create a cool new project on your own. You put in the hard work, money and creativity. These people that are doing important stuff for Melbourne are taking huge risks to make the community better. These people are not spending their time complaining, and should be supported and helped to achieve their vision, as their vision is all our vision: a vision for a better city.

These small businesses are the ones contributing to our cultural currency and making Melbourne awesome. As the city grows and we will have to put up with all the disruptions from new infrastructure projects, we will have close neighbours and have to make compromises. The city is changing so quickly now that it is the time to reflect on what Melbourne could be, what it needs and what will be sacrificed. Melbourne is a cultural leader known throughout the world for its amazing art, lanes, galleries, designer shops, live music and food. It's a creative and cultural melting pot and it's important for us to realise what it is that we all love about our city.

Let's stop giving the loudest voice the most control. If people don't like the city and all that comes with it then they should move back to the suburbs or to Sydney. Melbourne needs to embrace its cultural community as it's what helps to makes Melbourne great.



Adrian Doyle
Street Artist
Blender Studios founder and director

Music

Zevon Wagons

Alternative country muso Henry Wagons will be performing on stage at The Athenaeum Theatre in *Zevon, Accidentally Like A Martyr* from October 16 to 26.

One of David Letterman's favourite musicians was Warren Zevon, declaring him one of the most intelligent writers and performers on the music scene. This show at The Athenaeum is devoted to celebrating the cult musician's music and songwriting style.

Zevon is celebrated in the realm of Townes Van Zandt as a brilliant songwriter by many musicians.

Zevon's third album *Excitable Boy* from 1978 contained several of his most popular songs including *Werewolves Of London*. His cover of Prince's *Raspberry Beret* performed on David Letterman is worth catching on YouTube.

Zevon was also in a group called Hindu Love Gods which featured some musicians from the band REM. Henry Wagons, a brilliant songwriter himself, will be interpreting with gusto and verve the songbook of Warren Zevon, and perhaps even *Raspberry Beret*.

The show's music director will be country muso and Ringo Starr fan Lachlan Bryan, and will be presented by Beatroot Services. Bob Dylan cited *Desperadoes Under The Eaves* as one of his favourite Warren Zevon songs. The song is from the Warren Zevon's self-titled album from 1976.

Bruce Springsteen fan Henry Wagons has a radio show on Mondays from 8pm to 10 pm on Double J playing Americana, alt-country, bluegrass, rock and roll and folk. His most recent album *Songs From The Aftermath* is magnificent and is available from all good record stores in Melbourne. *Keep On Coming Back* is a rollicking tune featuring great lyrics about Leonard Cohen, the song is set somewhere in California, the film clip is an animation clip art by Grant Haffner and animation by Thomas Rawle. It has fauvist colours depicting a journey along the highway.

Berta Brozgul played a sublime selection of classical piano music at the Scots Church on Tuesday, September 3. The program included Schumann: *Kinderszenen - Scenes from Childhood*; Chopin: *Ballade no 4 in F minor*; Scriabin: *Sonata no 5*. Scriabin wrote this music in 1907 while living in Lausanne. Sviatoslav Richter described this piece by Scriabin as one of the most technically demanding works in the entire piano repertory, and the brilliant Brozgul was able to scale the magnificent musical peaks with a sensational languid delivery of supreme musicianship. The well-credentialed Brozgul has the fantastic ability to play with great clarity and passion and after an excellent Chopin, the Scriabin entered into an otherworld realm with distinguished languid passages. On the first Tuesday of every month there is a classical musical performance at The Scots Church on the corner of Collins and Russell streets in the CBD between March and November. The music is always of an impeccable standard.

Gifted Millingimbi and Maningrida rapper-songwriter from East Arnhem Land

Baker Boy is curating a superb night of music and dance at 170 Russell during the Red Bull Music Conference on Sunday, October 20. Popular all over the world and prominent in Scandinavia, Baker Boy has been grinding away at rehearsals, building up a great show and this should be an awesome night of music and dance featuring Electric Fields Music, Rebecca Hatch and Drmngnow. In Yolngu culture dance plays a prominent role in culture. Baker Boy won the Artist Of the Year Award at the most recent National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMA). He first came to prominence for many people with his positive uplifting song *Marryunna Lets Dance*. Baker Boy's song *Cool As Hell* from 2019 is the vibe of a hip hop artist performing at his best. The choreography in the film clip is awesome and is worth checking out. *Cool As Hell* was written by Baker Boy, hip hop greats Thundamentals and writer-producer Carl Dimataga. Baker Boy got his name from his uncle and father who performed as a dancing group called Baker Boys and he sees himself as being the next generation of performers. Baker Boy raps in Yolngu Matha, one of many native languages in Australia and is keeping his language strong by embracing his culture.

Sampa The Great has a superb new album out that is being acclaimed as a superb album by many critics called *The Return*. This is a debut album, although Sampa The Great did give us a collection of music last year called *The Birds And The BEE9*. Born in Zambia and raised in Botswana, she will be performing her superb neo soul hip hop music aligned with great visuals at The Red Bull Music Festival at The Forum Theatre on Friday, October 18, bringing *The Return* album to life.

Gigs/Shows

- Nicholas Young/ Gemma Kneale - Scots Church, Tuesday, October 1.
- Dandelion Wine, USER, Light Magnetic, Duet - The Spotted Mallard, October 4.
- The Cat Empire - Forum Theatre, Saturday, October 12.
- Sampa The Great - Forum Theatre, Friday, October 18.
- Baker Boy - 170 Russell Street, Sunday, October 20.
- Randy Feltface - The Toff In Town, Wednesday, October 23.
- Zevon, Accidentally Like A Martyr - Athenaeum Theatre, October 16 to 26.
- Henry Wagons Radio - Double J, Monday nights.



Chris Mineral
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Residents 3000

Writing from China

This month your correspondent is travelling as a tourist in China. It is impossible not to draw comparisons between how the Chinese organise their society compared to ours.

China is a country as large as Australia but without the vast deserts that we have. One is constantly aware of the pressure that a population of 1.4 billion people brings (that is over 50 times the population of Australia.) Compare the cities that I have visited so far - Beijing with 18 million people, Xi'an with a "mere" 10 million, Chengdu with 15 million and Chongqing with 37 million.

Of course, you can say that with a much larger population and bigger economy that comparison is not relevant. Nevertheless, closing our eyes and not learning from others does not allow for advancement or innovation. After all, our population in the cities is growing constantly and we need to plan well for bigger cities in the future.

Being residents of a relatively large city by Australian standards, one cannot help but to focus on the cities. Take everything you know and multiply it by 10. To Australian eyes, the cities are huge. But they are clean and spacious with plenty of green spaces. Buildings have adequate space between them. There is not much variety in design like in our cities. I find that a bit depressing actually, but the emphasis in China, no doubt, is on efficiency of construction to cater for so many people. At least the developments are clustered into separate smaller communities. There is construction going on everywhere.

The roads in general are magnificent. Beijing has six ring roads around the city helping to move people from one site to the other. The traffic, nevertheless, is congested. However, it seems, not worse than ours in the peak hours. China's traffic seems to work although the road rules appear to be chaotic. It would be tough for an Australian driver to handle the China traffic, I would think.

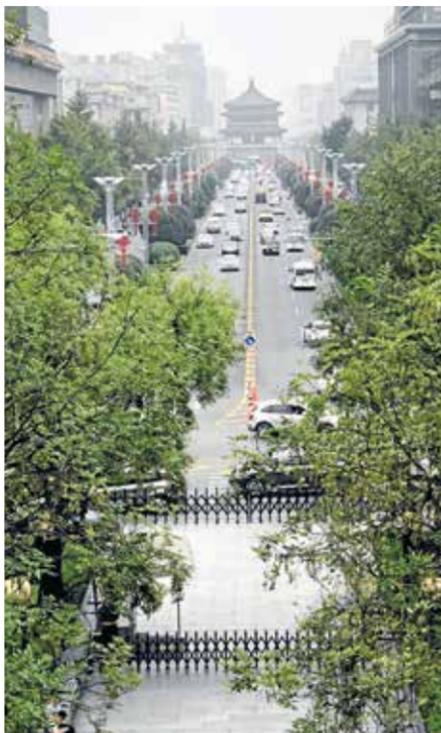
The Chinese are working hard to reduce pollution in the cities. In Beijing, I did not notice that the air was particularly polluted but in Xi'an it seemed to be quite bad. All the bicycles, scooters and small vehicles are electric. You can see quite a large number of electric cars that are distinguished by their green number plates. Electric vehicles will help reduce pollution. China has also banned people in cities burning coal in open fireplaces.

Significantly, there are no vagabonds sleeping in the street and no graffiti anywhere. One feels safe walking around. Police presence is evident but not obtrusive. CCTV is all around.

Your correspondent has been on three of the fast trains so far. These are smooth, energy efficient and extremely fast. 305 km/hour. I am currently writing this article on the fast train from Chengdu to Chongqing. Currently the speed is 295km/hour.

One cannot help but wonder why, in Australia we do not have fast trains between Melbourne and Sydney and then onto Brisbane. They are energy efficient and good for the environment.

Melbourne's CBD has to do better with its cleanliness. And in a country that is supposed to be prosperous, why do we have people sleeping on the streets? It must be such a shock for our overseas visitors to



experience the beggars and people lying in the streets during the day without (it appears) purpose in their lives.

As an observer of life in Chinese cities, I see people moving about with apparent purpose. Most that I have seen are well dressed and everyone seems to have a mobile phone. Streets are divided into bike/scooter/small vehicle lanes on the outside, then several lanes in both directions. But in many cases, there are trees and shrubs running down the centre and/or along the edges of the roadways. While busy and crowded, the streets are spacious along the main routes.

The Chinese have taken care to preserve some areas that are traditional to display their rich culture and characteristic building designs. Some poorer areas have not yet caught up with the modern housing developments. These areas are a bit depressing for the outside observer.

The countryside is wonderful. Mountainous and lush. Food is, well, Chinese; just like we are familiar with in Australia. However, the quality is excellent even when we went out into the countryside and stopped by a local restaurant. However, when you go into a snack shop, it is hard for an Australian to recognise the food on offer and to find something that we are comfortable to eat.

The people that I have met are friendly and helpful, despite the fact that we speak different languages. We do try to use the language translation apps available on our phones but with limited success. However, you can see that the technology is getting there and such translation services will be handy for travellers in the future.

It is so important as world citizens to allow lots of cultural interchange. China is a great place to visit and even if an Australian cannot absorb all the complexity of the Chinese way of life, at least we can appreciate that in many regards we are the same. Australian lower school children are now having the opportunity to learn Mandarin. In China, all primary school children learn English from grade one thanks to policies introduced between 2000-2005.

Such policies can only help to bring the people of our world closer together. We need to understand each other better and to appreciate that cultural differences just make our life experience richer.



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Men's Shed



We're expanding

Melbourne Men's Shed (the Shed) continues to grow both in numbers and in meeting its basic objectives.

With the number of members now approaching 90, the Shed is looking to expand its hours to cater for everyone. While the Shed has excellent woodworking facilities, chairman Andrew Stefanetti is quick to point out the variety of activities available.

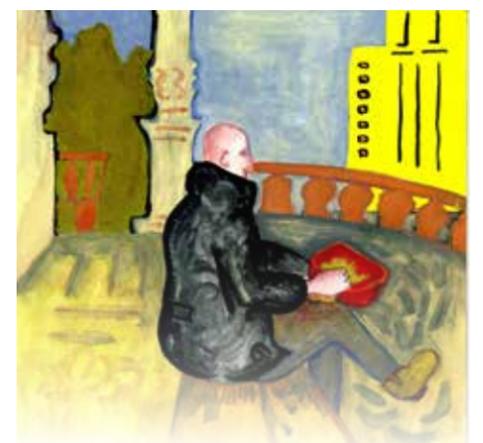
There is a kitchen producing excellent meals fortnightly under the guidance of qualified chef member Graham, computers for general use with assistance available, kayaking and digital photography. Also, a Heart Foundation-approved walking group operates weekly and undertakes an extra-long exploratory walk monthly.

The Shed is slowly cementing itself in the community, with many service requests successfully completed. Examples include the repair of the Bureau of Meteorology's historic instrument boxes, toys produced each year for the Royal Children's Hospital, local schools and charities benefiting from repairs and new small items such as planter and sports equipment boxes constructed at an affordable cost. Members can also work on their own small projects.

At the heart of Men's Sheds is the objective of improving members' health, mental and physical.

If you are interested in finding out more visit melbournemensshed.org

Lunch Break



Rob said he prefers his own cooking

*Treasury steps
Spring Street*

Barbering is in the blood

By Sean Car

For the manager and “head barber” of Queen Victoria Market’s (QVM’s) new barbershop Edwin Squires, hairdressing runs in the family.

It’s a theme engrained in Another Man Barber and Shop, which has recently established in one of the many bespoke shipping containers that make up the market’s funky new String Bean Alley.

Open from Thursdays to Sundays, its presence as QVM’s only barbershop comes as welcome news for the market’s many gentlemen, adding to the already vibrant mix of new independent traders one can find along String Bean.

Owned by third-generation Italian barber Amleto Mariani, who also runs a barbershop in Caulfield North, the business brings more than 70 years of hairdressing experience to the market.

Adding to that experience is Edwin, a second-generation barber in his own right and man for all your grooming needs, who described Another Man’s service as a “real fine-dining of barbering.”

“Making people feel good. That’s the goal,” Edwin said.



Edwin Squires.

“Giving someone a good cut is all about seeing the smile on their face and making them feel good about themselves. Getting to spend half an hour with someone every time you cut their hair means you get to know them really well too.”

“A lot of dudes also don’t have that knowledge of how to look after their skin, their hair or their beards so it’s great when you can teach them what would make them look best for the shape of their face, their overall silhouette or adding texture to their hair.”

Most blokes know there are few greater feelings than being looked after by a barber and few know how to do that better than

Edwin and his team. Not only does Another Man provide the best tailored care for your head, but it does so in a unique open-air environment where you’re immersed in the colour and activity of the market.

Offering everything from hot towel face shaves, beard trims and head massages to haircuts, skin fades and mohawks, local gentleman seeking some “manscaping” needn’t look any further than Another Man.

In addition, it also provides a wide range of its own organically and locally made grooming products, which Edwin said was another side of barbering that was becoming increasingly sought after by more and more men.

“There’s that side of barbering that’s coming into play as well with the overall ‘manscaping,’ by looking after your skin and moisturising,” he said.

“So many dudes torture their skin all day, such as tradies, and they just rub soap into it at the end of the day which is just dehydrating it. You see the small differences and you get addicted to them whether it be having clear skin, a shiny beard or the right product in your hair.”

It’s all part of the barbershop’s motto that barbering shouldn’t just be about cutting hair but leaving every man feeling fresh, transformed and looking their best. And as Melbourne heads into the warmer months when the market takes on a new lease of life, there’s no better time to be paying Edwin a visit.

“It’s exciting working in the markets. It’s an exciting part of Melbourne’s story,” Edwin said. “The food is amazing obviously so lunch breaks have been incredible. It’s just nice to be in an outdoor environment.”

“People at the market have been amazing and all the other stallholders are really supportive as we are of them. There’s the new Brick Lane Brewery opening directly opposite us soon as well and that will complement us a lot. Summer time will be fun time, we’ll have a cold beer for everyone so, life is good.”

Another Man Barber and Shop is located at Shop 24, String Bean Alley.
anothermanbarber.com

History

The Old Melbourne Cemetery at QVM

By Cheryl Griffin

It seems impossible to believe now, but Melbourne’s main cemetery was once located on the site of the iconic Queen Victoria Market (QVM), mostly under what is now the market’s car park.

In 1837 it relocated from a very small burial ground on Flagstaff Hill (in today’s Flagstaff Gardens). At the time the Old Melbourne Cemetery was thought to be “out in the bush”. Isaac Selby, who compiled its history, recorded that when it relocated there was no fence around the cemetery, so the graves (and the newly planted avenue of elms at its entrance) were in danger of being trodden down by sheep and cattle. Eventually, the funds were raised to put up a fence with iron railings and bluestone foundations to surround the cemetery’s nearly 10,000 burials.

The Old Melbourne Cemetery closed in 1867. Although burials continued on the site until 1917, the rapid expansion and overcrowding of the QVM site meant that the cemetery came under pressure and the controversial decision was made to move

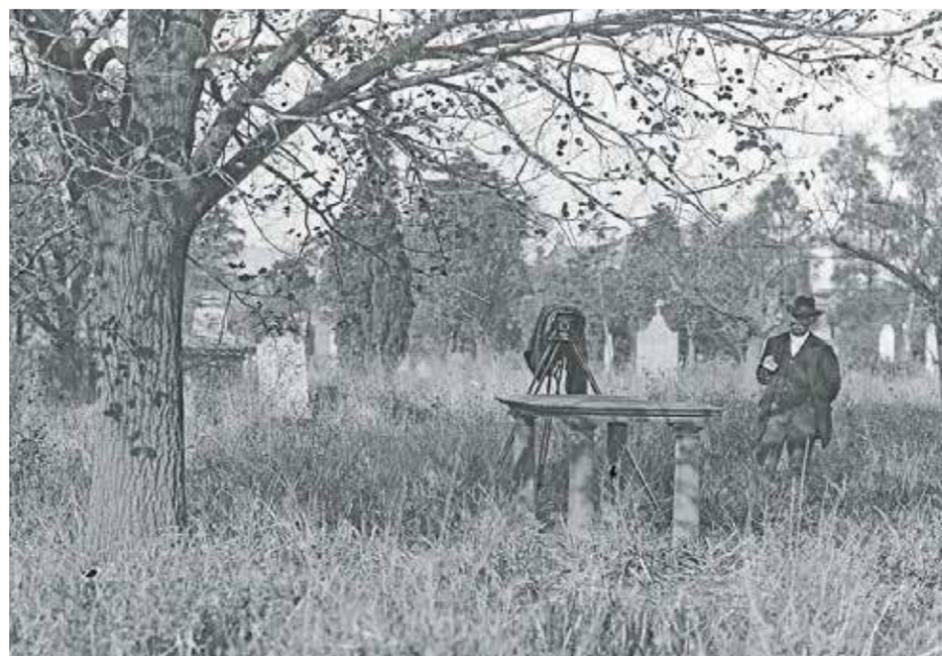


Image: Isaac Selby standing beside a cast iron table memorial to Evans Fawcus, Old Melbourne Cemetery, 1920. Photographer E. Studley Miller. RHSV AL046-0042

the headstones so the market could expand. And so, from 1921 headstones and remains were transferred or distributed according to family wishes.

Before their removal, though, the headstones were photographed by Everard Studley Miller and Isaac Selby, both

Historical Society of Victoria members and strong supporters of the retention of the cemetery on that site.

The photograph you see here was taken in 1920 by Miller. It’s of Selby standing beside a distinctive cast-iron memorial to 22-year-old Evans Fawcus, a native of Stockton-on-Tees

in Durham, who died at Flagstaff Hill in 1853 after only six months in the colony. Behind the memorial is a camera, reminding us of the massive task these two men undertook in recording the headstones before they were removed.

Selby and his supporters worked tirelessly to save the Old Melbourne Cemetery. It was a long and often bitter campaign. “Progress” could not be stopped, but his work did lead to the formation of the Old Pioneers’ Memorial Association, with Selby as secretary and 220 of the headstones like those you see in this photograph were moved to the Pioneers Section of Fawkner Memorial Park where they can still be found.

Selby lived a long and colourful life. If you would like to know more about his life and interests, *Isaac Selby: Lecturer, Historian, Assassin!* is a must-see exhibition curated by Alison Cameron. It can be seen at RHSV’s Gallery Downstairs, History House, 239 A’Beckett Street (Cnr of William St, opposite Flagstaff Gardens) until the end of the year. The exhibition tells the story of Selby’s life in his own words and images echoing his distinctive scrapbook style. For more information visit historyvictoria.org.au

Dr. Cheryl Griffin
Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Metro Tunnel

New milestone for Metro Tunnel HQ

Metro Tunnel headquarters (HQ) on Swanston St notched up its latest milestone when it passed the 100,000 visitor mark recently.

The honour went collectively to grade five and six students from Garfield Primary School, south-east of the city, who celebrated with gift bags and party poppers, while they learned about the Metro Tunnel project.

Virtual reality goggles were popular, which the children used to see what it was like to be on a tunnel boring machine or to be involved in the archaeological dig that was an early part of the project.

Grade five student Chloe was excited to be part of the trip to Metro Tunnel HQ.

"It's pretty cool," she said. "I love the colours on the roof, and I love the plan because if my dad takes the train it'll be a lot easier for him. I'm really excited because I love trains."

Teacher Jan Forward described the trip to Metro Tunnel HQ as a great addition to the school's Melbourne Camp.

"The kids are so excited about being the 100,000th visitors," she said. "We weren't expecting this much attention. After a three-day camp the kids are tired, but they're engaged with what they're learning."

Another recent highlight for the Metro



Tunnel Project has been the innovative Flinders Quarter Augmented Art Walk, which runs until October 31, giving people the chance to see art as they'd never seen it before through the free *EyeJack* app.

Rail Projects Victoria's director of development and delivery Peter Wilkinson joined artists and business owners at the official launch of the art walk, describing it as a great business support activation.

"It's in recognition of an area that's well known," he said. "This is the place you bring your interstate and overseas friends to and this is a great complementary addition to this already eclectic area."

Through the *EyeJack* app, the famous *Chloe* painting at the Young & Jackson pub is surrounded by floating love letters as music plays in the background.

More recent art from the likes of The



Huxleys and Adele Varcoe has sparked the attention of locals and tourists alike as they add an extra splash of moving colour to the busy quarter.

The activities are the latest in the vibrant Flinders Quarter, which remains the place to be as work continues to deliver the Metro Tunnel.

Heritage

Heritage laying idle

As the development boom slows, a number of heritage sites slated for demolition and re-development sit idle like ghosts in the middle of the city.

These sites are either caught between real estate flipping, land banking or a lack of development funds, robbing Melbourne of much-loved and -needed cultural and historic spaces

Walk past the Duke of Kent Hotel on La

Trobe St, for instance; a 1920s Neo-Egyptian pub, once home to the influential New Theatre, now standing empty for over two years with broken windows and boarded doors since the Minister for Planning approved its demolition for an apartment tower. However, it's recently been flipped to another buyer and its future remains undetermined. Currently it sits needlessly empty where a pub could have clearly kept trading in the interim.

Similarly, the Campbell Arcade sits in a sad state with half its tenants removed early by the Metro Rail Authority (MRA) ahead of tunnel construction works below Flinders St. Despite no approval for any

works from Heritage Victoria being given for the demolition of half the arcade and its placement behind ticket barriers where there has been little in the way of community consultation, a creative hub sits lingering where it could still be thriving.

Most egregious though is the state of the Palace Theatre on Bourke St; a popular and successful live music venue shut out of spite by a developer five years ago, needlessly stripped of its heritage interior and still sitting as an empty shell, with no sign at all of development taking place. Imagine how many great gigs could have taken place in the interim, enriching the live music culture of Melbourne and supporting nearby

businesses. Instead a single developer is allowed to keep an important heritage building derelict when it could be full of life.

Seeing a heritage building and all the uses and life it could contain in a ghost state with its fate uncertain is almost as tragic as the demolition itself.



Rohan Storey
Vice President
Melbourne Heritage Action

Open for business

Flora Indian Restaurant: 238 Flinders Street

During construction of the new Town Hall Station, Flora will remain open for business. Flora is a no-frills counter-service diner serving delicious and authentic Indian cuisine. Try the local favourite Butter Chicken or grab yourself a popular small combo dish for under \$11. Open everyday until late, come in for lunch, dinner or even a late-night snack!

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



More trains,
more often



Seniors Festival

The 37th annual Victorian Seniors Festival returns to Melbourne this October, with a number of free and low-cost events throughout the CBD.

This year's theme, *Get into it!* encourages older Victorians to both learn new skills and establish new friendships.

The program kicks off on Sunday, October 6 at Federation Square, where from 10.30am to 4pm the area will be filled with choirs, dance groups and performers.

The festival hub is at Melbourne Town Hall, and will feature daily concerts from Monday, October 7 to Friday, October 11.

In fact, Town Hall will host some of the festival's major events, including the Big Band Dance and Organ Concert.

Both these events, like many others on the festival program, are free. There are hundreds of other events dotted around the city. For more information visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

We Live Here

Owners' corporation bill

The long-awaited Owners' Corporation (OC) Amendment Bill has been introduced into parliament.

The most significant change, and one we had been advocating for, is the creation of tiers of OC relating to the size of the development. The *OC Act 2006* failed to distinguish between small and large developments, but now five tiers have been created with Tier One developments of less than 100 occupiable lots down to Tier Five a two-lot subdivision or a services-only OC.

While the roll of the developer at handover and financial governance has been addressed, disappointingly the bill still has no new remedies for the thousands of Victorian apartment owners saddled with patently unfair building management and facilities management contracts, with multi-generational tenures of 25 to 99 years. This sort must not be allowed to continue and we call on the state government to urgently introduce constraints on every type of contract. All contracts must be limited to a reasonable maximum number of years.

Another egregiously unfair clause that sneaked in is the "get out of jail" card for short-stay apartment owners. All an owner needs to do to get off scot-free is to give an overnight guest a copy of the OC rules and,

just like magic, the owner is not liable for any breach committed by a short-stay guest! The entire Division 1A on short-stays is a travesty that strips residents of reasonable rights.

Lord Mayor plans community forum

We Live Here met with Lord Mayor Sally Capp recently to discuss two of the most pressing issues affecting apartment residents - cladding and short-term rentals.

On the combustible cladding issue, we had the opportunity to talk about the inconsistent information emanating from council, the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) and various experts.

The Lord Mayor said the City of Melbourne would organise a community forum, to allow council to provide accurate and up-to-date information. We welcome the forum proposal and we are certain it will be a very well-attended event.

We were also encouraged by the Lord Mayor's acknowledgement that there needs to be proper regulation of the short-stay industry so there is a level playing field for all. At present, OCs have to bear the cost of increased wear and tear on their buildings caused primarily by commercial short-stay operations.

Government cladding fund will help "up to 40 buildings"

In last month's column, we estimated 30 buildings could benefit from the government's belated largesse.

However, information from the Victorian Treasury has revealed that the state government plans to help fund the removal of flammable cladding on "up to 40 buildings".

The other 800-plus Victorian apartment buildings identified as having cladding that is a risk to life, will presumably not get any funding assistance at all.

The list of apartment buildings to be denied assistance includes more than 30 that are classified as posing an extreme risk to life and more than 400 classified as high-risk.

The state government's May budget figures show that it had estimated that cladding-affected buildings would need an average of \$11 million each for rectification works.

On June 16, the government pledged \$300 million of state funds to address the cladding issue, following the release of the Cladding Taskforce June report. Of that \$300 million, just over \$165 million was officially earmarked in the May budget for state government-owned buildings such as hospitals and schools.

This leaves less than \$135 million to help at-risk apartment buildings.

Premier Andrews' request for another \$300 million from the Commonwealth was immediately rejected both by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews.

To make up the shortfall, the state government announced an increase in a levy on building permits for projects with works over \$800,000.

If the government hopes to raise about

\$2000 extra per average apartment lot, it could take a very long time to raise \$300 million. Let's work it out: A new apartment project with 100 lots might raise \$200,000 in additional levies - so Victoria will need 150 new such projects approved, starting now, for the requisite funds to roll in. According to building figures available at City of Melbourne's open data platform, around 25 such projects will be completed in 2019. Even at that rate, which has been abating, it would take up to six years to raise the cash needed.

When or if the additional money is raised, the fund is supposed to total around \$435 million. Based on Treasury estimates, that's enough to help only about 40 buildings of the 1069 identified as having dangerous cladding.

About 32 extreme-risk buildings, 409 high-risk buildings and 388 moderate-risk buildings will not receive any assistance.

Using the Treasury budget estimates as a basis, the cost of fixing all 1069 affected apartment buildings could exceed \$12 billion. Whether the government eventually contributes \$400 million, which seems exceedingly unlikely, the contribution will be less than 5 per cent of what it will cost Victorians living in dangerously clad buildings.

While Melbourne burns . . .

In June, Daniel Andrews was reported as wanting a "national partnership" on combustible cladding and for the issue be "put on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agenda" at its August meeting in Cairns.

While a "national partnership" seemed to be a euphemism for mendacity - to beg alms from Canberra - our interest was piqued by the prospect of having all the Premiers confer on the cladding issue at the 47th COAG meeting.

How did it work out? Well, COAG's tropical August meeting came and went and the cladding issue was not a hot topic. Cladding does not appear to have been a COAG topic at all, not rating a mention in the official "Communiqué", the quaintly aggrandised moniker of the post-COAG media release. It is disappointing because the COAG meeting was claimed to be about "improving the lives of all Australians" - apparently with the exception of those living in dangerously-clad apartments.

Did Premier Andrews simply forget to raise the combustible cladding issue at the Cairns conflagration? A subequatorial clime and its attendant refreshments could be distracting but surely our Premier's minders could have remembered to slot in the cladding issue, ad hoc, under "business arising".

What's happening while Melbourne burns? Is Nero fiddling?

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Seniors out of the suburbs

By Meg Hill

Bill Clark has Melbourne's Peregrine falcon livestream playing on the computer in his apartment. After a while, the falcon stands up, revealing the nest at the top of 367 Collins St.

The 74-year-old's life fits into his small apartment in Elm Tower on Little Lonsdale St, and a look around the room starts to piece it together.

The stickers on his fridge, for example, tell you a few things. An "If you can read this thank a teacher" sticker sits above three different flags – Eureka, Palestinian and Aboriginal.

Or from his bookshelf ... "You'll find my politics there if you start looking," Bill said.

It's all observable in one scan of the apartment. That's partly why Bill wants to change perceptions around apartments and seniors.

"These apartments are the best places for people like me to live. There's this incorrect idea that seniors belong out in the suburbs in big houses," he said.

"Firstly, it's the security and safety, that's really important for old people. Many of us feel vulnerable."

Bill said that apartment buildings were the most secure places to live as they weren't accessible to those that didn't live in them, while technology added to a resident's control.

"I can see whoever it is that buzzes my number from nine floors away. And when I get in the elevator, I can only go to the floor that I live on with my security card," he said.

Owners' Corporations (OCs) and caretakers are available on call and maintenance is done for free, the space



Bill in his apartment with his cat Matty.

is small and easy to clean, and most apartments are pet friendly. His cat Matty is a favourite on the Elm Tower's ninth floor.

Bill sold his car because he doesn't use it anymore. He said all his shopping and health needs are within walking distance, as are most leisure activities. If not, they're only a short tram ride away.

He moved to the city 11 years ago after eight years "in the bush". The story takes you back to the stickers on his fridge.

"I was a teacher for 30 years," Bill said. "Before the Kennett thing happened"

He had been a principal at two inner-city public primary schools. During Jeff Kennett's reign as Premier public-school funding was slashed. Hundreds of schools shut down and inner-city schools were some of the worst hit.

"That was the disaster of my career. When that happened, I decided to leave Northcote where I was living and have a complete tree change."

"So, I went away to the bush and lived in a little hut with my son. We set up an olive grove."

"It took eight years for the olive grove to get going, to actually have fruit, all we had to do then was prune and pick the olives."

And after that, he moved to the CBD.

Bill isn't as politically active as he once was, but he still goes to marches and rallies. His favourites are climate change and refugee rallies.

"The marches are right here; they start at the end of our street."

His interests are broad – reflected back through his bookshelf where books about dadaism and surrealism, Simone de Beauvoir and Germaine Greer, Oliver Sacks, and Marx converge.

His higher education included both fine arts and Monash University's first-ever feminist course.

And even so, he said Flinders Lane's City Library was the best he'd ever come across.

"I've been a member of Northcote library and Bendigo library, for example, and they're good, but this is the best one I've ever come across."

He particularly enjoys the piano on the mezzanine that's played by members of the public as he selects his books.

Everything that Bill talks about is sewn back into a focus: a senior's community in the city. He knows the Hoddle Grid well and how it fits with his demographic, and lobbies for the cause: all part of a triumphant return to the inner city post-tree change.

Critic

Tweet or deWitt: that is the question

By Rhonda Dredge

Standing in a queue for a book signing is one of the hidden pleasures of the Melbourne Writers Festival, a place where you can hang out to pick up tips from great storytellers or just get close to fans.

Near the front of the queue for the clever author of *French Exit* was Antoni Jach; a well-known academic in the creative writing field.

At the end of the queue was a computer programmer called Oliver who was trying to keep a low profile.

Neither of them had read the book, having been persuaded by the power of the talk at Storey Hall to invest in a copy and have it signed by its Canadian author, Patrick deWitt.

French Exit tells the story of a stylish woman who travels to Paris with her soft son



and difficult cat, the latter containing the soul of her dead entrepreneurial husband.

The device of the pet cat could have been cute and overplayed but in the hands of deWitt, the cat's adventures give the husband a second chance of baring his claws.

"An ancient baseness took hold of him and

he became known among the barbarous fraternity of Parisian strays as an animal deranged in its violence," deWitt wrote in a sentence that summed up his approach to the craft. He doesn't mind telling the reader a thing or two in appropriate places rather than leaving you to miss the point.

The wife in this comedy of manners is equally arch, an amusing snob hell-bent on having fun according to her own whims and fancies and her copious expenditure drives the novel to its inevitable end. The term "French Exit" means leaving a party without saying goodbye.

Antoni Jach swiftly moved towards the signing, after expressing deference towards the author and the festival, for getting deWitt to Melbourne when there were so many other festivals for an author to choose from.

"Melbourne in early spring is a chilly place and not that attractive to overseas visitors," he said.

Night was descending by the time the queue of 40 had been satisfied but there were no complaints even though ushers in red t-shirts tried to expedite proceedings by getting readers to write their names on sticky

notes. The author politely gave each person in the queue his or her due.

Oliver, the computer programmer, grew a bit nervous as the queue got shorter and he made a confession before his moment of reckoning arrived. It turns out that he hadn't read a novel for three years.

"Often I don't get very far into a book," he admitted. He had once read fiction as a child, then swapped over to non-fiction during his studies but now all he ever does for literary enjoyment is lurk on Twitter looking for the perfect comment.

"I like reading tweets. I like to scroll through and every now and then get an intermittent reward."

The same could be said for a novel; DeWitt's treatment of the antagonistic husband to boot.

Mostly it takes about 30 minutes a day for Oliver to get his reward but last weekend, he was taking it easy in bed and after three hours he still hadn't found anything worthwhile.

"I felt quite drained," he said, looking pale and far too weak to be carrying something as heavy as an entire book.

Neighbourhood Watch for vertical villages

With our high-rise precincts already well monitored, do our vertical villages need more watching?

Following the 2017 Bourke St incident, the state government expanded its CCTV network, bringing to 65 the number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed throughout the city.

These cameras feed into the City of Melbourne's Safe City network and are scrutinised by a 24-hour monitoring hub which notify police of incidents as they occur. The stated purpose of these cameras is to help create a safer environment and reduce crime levels by deterring potential offenders and assisting crime detection.

And perhaps we should feel even more safe now as data from such CCTV networks can be correlated with our Victorian driver's licences - as these have recently been uploaded to a national facial recognition database. While previously the state government had concerns about civil liberties and privacy, we are assured that the data will only be available to state-based agencies - initially VicRoads and Victoria Police. Use by federal authorities and other states, we are told, will not be authorised until the state government is satisfied with the proposed Identity-matching services Bill which is currently before federal parliament. Continuing this concern for our safety,

suppliers of security services to high-rise residential buildings are also advocating a move away from our traditional "human intervened" security services and a move towards technology such as facial recognition. They suggest we begin by focusing on the many non-residents who regularly seek access to our vertical villages, such as contractors, suppliers, visitors, etc. A key selling point is that such facial technology can identify known criminals (but only if there is access to a relevant identify database methinks!).

The next step then is to apply this technology to residents. The argument here is that many of us are already comfortable with using our thumbprint to access our mobile devices - so why not for our front doors? It would make losing your keys harder to do! One option is to have separate entrances. For example, the main entrance could be equipped with biometric identification for use by residents, allowing entry at will. A separate entrance with different security measures would then operate for others seeking access - such as food deliverers who would be required to remove their helmet before entering.

But does this make us - or make us feel - safer?

Not necessarily, according to Bambi Gordon, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch (NW).

Bambi believes that safety - and our feelings of being safe - emanate more from our sense of connectedness with both whom and where we live.

This means that feeling connected - belonging - manifest differently for different groups in different contexts and will likely change over time.

For example, the city of Ballarat has a long-established NW group but these days, some members are less physically active. While appreciating a preference for aging-in-place, the local NW group has altered its approach to include regular phone chats to their less active members.

This suits the people involved and strengthens feelings of being connected. Bambi also sees something different emerging for us vertical villagers.

In a sector criticised for lacking a sense of community and where diversity is the order of the day, the challenge here is to craft ways of connecting that suits our various lifestyles

and is not seen as intrusive.

This is where Safety Alliance Victoria (SAV) comes into play. This a collaboration between NW, Crime Stoppers Victoria, Federation University, RACV and Victoria Police - and has the aim of creating pilot programs to reduce residential burglary and motor vehicle crime. And one pilot program will look at how real connections and a sense of neighbourhood can be nurtured in high-rise, high-density residences. This program will encompass surveys of residents in selected buildings to establish how safe they feel in their space and how much connection they have to their neighbours. Initiatives will then be trialled, such as improved signage, safe storage, information sessions and ways of noting suspicious behaviour.

This pilot is likely to happen in mid to late 2020 - so until then, stay safe!



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
[facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/](https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/)

Pet's Corner



A multilingual dog

By Spencer Fowler Steen

Meet Max, the multilingual golden retriever who many city workers know well.

Karen Zhou, who works locally at ANZ, has been minding Max, seven, for the past half-year while his owner is away in China.

She walks him every day at Flagstaff Gardens where city workers nearby know him by name and say "hi".

"He's the nicest dog I've ever met, he never barks and he's friendly towards everyone," Karen said.

"But he can't really take care of the house because he's too friendly."

Karen said Max responded to Mandarin, English, and more recently, "a little Korean" because her Korean housemate spoke it to him.

She also said Max helped his owner chat to girls at Flagstaff Gardens.

"If he sees a pretty girl in the park, he says 'Max go to her' in Mandarin," she said.

Very much a dog of the people, Max was picked from a litter of golden retriever puppies on a farm.

"His owner wasn't planning on getting him - he was planning on getting a husky," Karen said.

"But when he saw baby Max, who put a paw on his shoulder and looked at him, he thought 'this dog is the right one.'"

Although Max has never been on a plane, he'll be heading to Los Angeles in December once his owner returns to Australia.

It's a fair way from his usual Flagstaff Gardens, but Karen's positive he'll be just as popular over there.

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解决无家可归者新方案

撰稿 Meg Hill

根据市长的评论，墨尔本市政即将从维州政府获得一项合作协议，作为解决无家可归问题新方法的一部分。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)在9月5日的“居民3000”会议上说，州政府已经同意资助一个新项目，该项目旨在购买适合露宿者居住的建筑。

市长说：“我去见了州长，告诉他从严格意义上来说，这并不是我们的责任，但如果我们不做点什么，那就不会有所改进，我向他提出州政府是否能为这些设施持续提供资金，他已经同意了。”

市长说，在无家可归者的问题上，地方市政议会没有更多“可采取的措施”了，墨尔本市政一直在游说联邦和州政府采取行动。

但她表示，在中央商务区露宿街头的问题是“与我们的文化和社会有关的事情，我们决定对此采取更积极的措施”。



维州政府将与墨尔本市政，墨尔本城区的其他一些市政、圣文森特·德·保罗和救世军等服务提供机构以及私营机构一起，重新规划一些可用的建筑。

市长在随后发给《都市新闻报》的一份声明中表示：“墨尔

本市政正在召集利益相关单位，包括州政府、企业部门、慈善机构、服务提供单位和地方政府，讨论我们如何才能最好地合作，采取紧急行动来帮助露宿街头的人们。”

取消蓝色共享自行车，下一步呢？

撰稿 David Schout

在州政府决定废除蓝色共享自行车计划之后，中央商务区将很快不再有骑共享单车的选择了。

自共享单车公司oBike停止运营以来仅一年多，州政府和RACV蓝色共享自行车联合计划也将于11月30日取消，因为发现这些共享自行车平均每天仅使用一次。

维州主管道路的厅长贾拉·普尔福德(Jaala Pulford)表示该共享自行车“已达到其功能寿命的终点”，废除运行对市中心道路网来说是有积极作用的。

她说：“计划逐步取消共享单车，我们在人行道上为行人和自行车停放创造更多的空间，这也是常规骑车者和行人在中央商务区所提出的需求。”

但州政府拒绝回答本报提出的关于墨尔本共享单车未来的问题，包括是否有更新计划。

我们城市的绿色转变

广告社论 Sean Car

墨尔本城市设计和项目主任罗布·亚当斯(Rob Adams)教授知道改变城市不是一夜之间的事。

自20世纪80年代以来，这位首席建筑师和城市规划师一直在帮助推动城市的可持续发展愿景。

预计到2040年，墨尔本城区的人口将增加一倍，因此为城市提供更多开放空间并减轻气候变化影响，这种日益发展的需求变得尤为重要。

亚当斯教授说，从20世纪80年代这座城市相对空旷的中央商务区转变至今已经是相当“巨大的”的变化了，但要应对我们最重大的挑战，还有很长的路要走。

他说：“墨尔本面临着两个令人毛骨悚然的大问题，也就是快速的人口增长和气候变化带来的问题。”

“我不想贬低我们正在做的任何其他事情，但如果我们不应在这两个大问题，其他事情无论如何都会变得越来越难以处理。这就是我们的工作方向。”

10年前墨尔本在制定开放空间战略时就确定，为了控制人口增长，需要购买相当于7亿澳元的开放空间。

如果没有这笔钱的话，就自

然需要一种不同的方法来寻找更多的空间，这就是重新启用和重新利用未充分利用的资产（例如道路），这些道路在80年代就开始小规模发展，如今已经得到了加强。

市政在市中心有许多绿化举措和战略，亚当斯教授上月在南岸对《都市新闻报》说，目前正在对一条城市大道进行大规模改造。

亚当斯教授说：“听到我们说‘未充分利用’，人们会感到惊讶，0但南岸大道就是一个例子。在英联邦运动会期间关闭南岸大道的底部以修建皇后桥广场时，每天的车流量从30000辆减少到13000辆。因此，有机会重新校准该空间了。”



墨市夏天会有电动滑板车吗？

撰稿 Meg Hill

虽然州政府还尚未允许电动滑板车进入墨尔本，但莱姆(Lime)公司正准备在墨尔本(CoM)或菲利普港湾市(Port Phillip)进行夏季试运行。

该公司承认墨尔本市政对在市中心道路网(Hoddle Grid)运行的担忧，并将进一步为此跟市政洽谈，但菲利普港湾市却主动愿意参加试运行。

莱姆公司政府事务和亚太地区(APAC)战略总监米切尔·普莱斯(Mitchell Price)表示，其公司将不在市中心道路网区域运行。

普莱斯说：“我们也许在市中心道路网之外运行操作，这样滑板车就不会在最繁忙的交通中间滑行，那里有各种不同车辆的问题，如食品配送电动自行车，汽车，电车。”

“我认为目前我们愿意做的是作出一些让步，比如我们先从墨尔本市中心外围开始运行。毫无疑问我们是要进入中央商务区的，但我们还没有得到有关数据显示使用的情况以及要使用该服务的人数。”



莱姆公司已经利用技术建立了滑板车无法行驶的禁区。该技术还针对特定区域限制特定的行驶速度。

普莱斯说：“在布里斯班，我们所做的是部署具有慢速区的的技术。滑板车在进入某些区域时会自动从每小时25公里减速到10公里，甚至是步行速度。”

一旦滑板车进入城区如里士满(Richmond)和菲茨罗伊(Fitzroy)，数据将显示滑板车被用于前往CBD，这时莱姆公司就能够“缩小其可操作禁区的范围，使其越来越小”。

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

<p>10AM - 4PM, FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH ACMI, FEDERATION SQUARE ACMI FAMILY SUNDAYS</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7.30PM WEDNESDAYS, 16 CORRS LANE CRAB LAB</p> <p>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</p>	<p>INNER MELBOURNE LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUB</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7.20AM FOR A 7.40AM START, TUESDAYS ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE</p> <p>Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne. rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au</p>
<p>10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 10AM-3PM SUNDAY, 326 LONSDALE STREET MEET UP WITH FRIENDS</p> <p>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</p>	<p>MONDAYS 8.30PM, 41 BOURKE STREET COMEDY AT SPLEEN</p> <p>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</p>	<p>4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. LUNCHTIME, ST PETER'S EAST MELBOURNE AUSTRAL SALON OF MUSIC</p> <p>Listen to music from talented young musicians. Make new friends. www.australsalon.org 0449 727 910</p>	<p>EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2.30PM, THE HUB, 506 ELIZABETH ST FILM CLUB</p> <p>The film club has some of the best film noir classics including 1962 French classic and two time Cannes winner <i>Sundays and Cybelle</i>. FREE, coffee provided. Contact John on 0459 398 358</p>
<p>6:30PM EVERY MONDAY, ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, 326 LONSDALE STREET JOIN OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY</p> <p>Students with no family in Melbourne, are welcome to pray for each other. It is a unique gathering of learning to walk in faith and hope. After prayer we share concerns and network. FREE. 9663 2495</p>	<p>LANEWAY LEARNING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>EVERY WEDNESDAY, FROM 6PM. MELBOURNE CENTRAL LION HOTEL LANGUAGE SWAP</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7-9PM, EVERY *WEDNESDAY, WELSH CHURCH, 320 LA TROBE STREET MEN'S CHOIR PRACTISE</p> <p>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</p>
<p>EVERY THURSDAY FROM 1PM, ST MICHAEL'S, 120 COLLINS ST ST MICHAEL'S RECITAL</p> <p>Experience spectacular music as the St Michael's grand organ comes to life for a free 30-minute recital every Thursday. No booking required. 9654 5120</p>	<p>4PM – 10PM, SECOND AND FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, HEFFERNAN LANE IN CHINATOWN CHINATOWN MARKET DAY</p> <p>Packed with the heady fragrance of hawker-style stalls selling dumplings and noodles, cakes and souvenirs. Stay until night falls, to see the twinkling night market. FREE</p>	<p>10AM, EVERY 3RD TUESDAY, POMODORO SARDO RESTAURANT, 111 LONSDALE ST EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB</p> <p>Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed. eastendersinc@gmail.com</p>	<p>6PM, 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH THE KELVIN CLUB, 14 MELBOURNE PL RESIDENTS 3000 FORUM</p> <p>A community group to inform, connect and support CBD residents. Regular social events with speaker. Details posted on residents3000.com.au</p>
<p>4-6PM, EVERY SUNDAY, CAMPARI HOUSE, 23-25 HARDWARE LANE TRIVIA ON THE ROOF</p> <p>A retractable roof and drink specials will help warm up your brain for Sunday trivia. Bookings not required. 9600 1574 or info@camparihouse.com.au</p>	<p>10AM – 5PM, IAN POTTER CENTRE, NGV, FEDERATION SQUARE PETRINA HICKS: BLEACHED GOTHIC EXHIBITION</p> <p>More than forty photograph and video works. Shimmering and often hyperreal compositions convey the inherent ambiguity and complexity of the female experience. FREE</p>	<p>1PM, EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY, LEVEL 1, YARRA BUILDING, FEDERATION SQUARE BIRRARUNG WILAM RIVER WALK</p> <p>Learn about how the land under Melbourne has changed over time and its significance to the local Kulin people. \$33, book on fedsquare.com/shopvisit/birrarung-wilam-walk</p>	<p>10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATURDAY, CITY LIBRARY ONCE UPON A TUNE</p> <p>An interactive musical adventure that features live music by Beethoven, Brahms and Brumby. Suitable for children aged from 5-12 years. FREE</p>

✚ PRAYER TIMES

<p>St Michael's 120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000 Ph: 9654 5120 Church times: Sunday Service at 10.00am</p> <p>Chabad of Melbourne Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St Ph: 9525-9929 Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.</p> <p>City on a Hill Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm. Hoys Cinemas, Melbourne Central</p> <p>Victorian Friends Centre 484 William Street, West Melbourne Quaker Meetings for Worship: Sunday 10.30am</p>	<p>Collins Street Baptist Church 174 Collins St Ph: 9650 1180 Sundays services: 10.30am</p> <p>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</p> <p>Hillsong City Youth Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>Holy Cross Orthodox Mission 261/265 Spring St www.australianorthodox.org</p> <p>Scots' Church 156, Collins St Ph: 9650 9903 Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>St Paul's Cathedral Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets Ph: 9653 4333 Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm</p> <p>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</p> <p>Wesley Church 148 Lonsdale St 9.15 am Gospel Hall Cantonese/Mandarin Service 11.00 am Morning Worship Service 6.00 pm Evening Worship Service</p>
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MBN marks new era

The Melbourne Business Network (MBN) unveiled its new committee at an event at Victory Lounge on Collins St on September 19.

Following the recent resignations of MBN's much-loved pair Bev Friend (president) and the retiring executive officer and "Mr Melbourne" John Stock, the organisation is now embracing a new era under new leadership.

Former committee member and national brand manager of Victory Offices Wendi Dawson takes over from Bev Friend as president, while CEO of InterAct Melbourne Anita Bowtell assumes the role of executive officer.

The rest of the committee consists of Libby Dale (vice-president), Brian Jones (secretary and treasurer) and Dianne Schmidtke, Frank Gambera and Grant Leibbrandt (committee members).

Having joined MBN in late 2017, president-elect Wendi Dawson told *CBD News* that she was delighted to be taking on the role and said she believed a "bright and exciting future" lay ahead for the organisation.

"With change comes opportunity," Ms Dawson said. "The committee already has new faces from diverse backgrounds, and we are looking to recruit a few more."



Back (L-R): Dianne Schmidtke, Anita Bowtell, Wendi Dawson, Brian Jones. Front (L-R) Libby Dale and Grant Leibbrandt.

"We want to be representative of those we serve so that we are much closer to the challenges faced by those organisations and are better able to source and deliver solutions."

"Additionally, we are fortunate to have Anita Bowtell as our new executive officer who brings even more skills, expertise and insights to the group. Based on the feedback from our recent event, we are overwhelming on a path that resonates with our members."

Having collaborated and worked closely with the now retired John Stock, who was given a formal send off at an event on August 24, Ms Dawson said the committee would continue working with John's same passion for creating value for its members.

melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au

Little guys get their say

By Rhonda Dredge

It's not often that the little guys have a chance to hit back at government but Melbourne's strike for climate change gave them a chance.

Many cut short their last day of school to get to Treasury Gardens to have their say.

Country kids from Echuca and Gisborne left first thing on Friday morning.

"We've been here all day," said Years 8 and 9 students from Echuca. "We got the train at 7am and will get home at 9pm."

Emily O'Meara, a Year 9 student from Gisborne Secondary College, said the event was "pretty important" for their future.

Their banner took a critical look at teenage preoccupations with the storming of Area 51 in Nevada to see aliens on the same day as the rally.

"We would have gone but this is more important," Emily said, using humour to get the point across.

Around 100,000 people joined the march and took over the top end of town, reducing traffic to a trickle on Little Collins St.

The turnout in Melbourne's CBD topped other Australian cities as protesters streamed up Collins and along Spring St,



First-grader Lexie Henderson from Yarra Valley Primary School

determined to speak their minds.

First-grader Lexie Henderson joined a mob of older students, firmly standing with her placard above her head so it could be seen.

The Yarra Valley Primary School student insisted upon painting the letters "There is No Planet B", her mum Rachel said proudly.

"All of her friends were meeting at the park after school but she's a huge animal fan. She's interested in looking after the environment and their habitat."

Other students used the occasion to test out their slogans. Seven students from Warrandyte Primary School arrived early and posed on the steps of Treasury. "I've seen smarter cabinets at Ikea," said one placard.

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