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Chinese New Year 2020: January 24 - February 9
Lord Mayor Sally Capp (pictured centre) helped launch this year's Chinese New Year celebrations at the Immigration Museum on January 15. Find out what's in store as part of this year's festival on page 12.

Residents angered by "noxious" restaurant smoke

Residents of one CBD building say they've been dealing with a pollution issue in some ways worse than the bushfire smoke that's blanketed the city – it permeates double glazed windows and doors.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

Residents of the Little Hero apartment building on Russell Place said they had been dealing with regular occurrences of "thick, cloying, noxious smoke" since August last year when a neighbouring business began to operate a barbeque. "It smells toxic and it has the ability to permeate double glazed doors and windows, which is extraordinary," one resident said.

"I certainly didn't think I'd be living in a cabin in the woods when I moved into the city seven years ago." "I know the noise associated with city living, I know the traffic associated with it, and I know the smells associated with it. Up until August last year it had never been an issue."

A business located next to the apartment building – Treasure Star – runs karaoke and a bar and allegedly began emitting smoke in August when a barbeque was added to the business operations.

A short open chimney at the back of the business allegedly emits the smoke metres away from the apartments. Residents said they complained to the City of Melbourne on multiple occasions.

"I contacted the council in September. They sent health inspectors who stood in Russell Place with me and the smoke was all around us," a resident said.

"Although the only equipment they had was a phone to take photos, nothing to test the smoke or toxicity level, they gave the impression they were concerned."

"But when I got a formal response via email, they said it wasn't an issue."

A spokesperson for the business told *CBD News* they were compliant with laws and regulations.

"Health inspectors have visited us two or three times and they've found us to be compliant," the spokesperson said.

"We've done our best to minimise the effect on our neighbours, but we have a barbeque element so we can't stop the smoke completely."

"But if we're found to have any non-compliance issues, we're happy to change to be compliant, but we have been told we're compliant."

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said council staff had inspected the site twice.

"No smoke or odour was detected on the first visit in August 2019," the spokesperson said.

"Staff visited again in October 2019 and detected a slight odour; however, it was not considered unreasonable or enough to constitute a nuisance under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act [2008]*."

The spokesperson also said council staff were satisfied the business's cooking exhaust had been regularly cleaned, but they would continue to monitor the smoke.

But the resident said the smoke forced residents to close up their apartments, and nothing was working as a solution.

"We can't leave our apartments open at all, but we also get it inside making us feel sick even when we've had our apartments closed."

"It also means we can't use our balconies to do anything, including drying our clothing because it ends up smelling like toxic smoke." ●

Continued on page 9.

Market Square could honour the dead

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

An analysis of the community engagement for the future community space on the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) carpark has revealed a strong desire to honour those who lie beneath.

The carpark, which was built over the Old Melbourne Cemetery, will be transformed into a 1.5-hectare green space under the City of Melbourne's \$250 million market renewal program.

In October last year, the council launched an online public consultation program to seek the community's input on what the new public space should incorporate.

An analysis of the 135 respondents and two submissions by Global Research Limited has revealed high interest in a space that respects and fosters the Aboriginal community (of which a section of the old cemetery was dedicated to)

and recognises the cemetery beneath.

High importance was also placed in providing for informal recreational uses for local residents and workers, flexible space for curated festivals and events and "artistic, innovative and creative activities."

A charter for the square and details of the design process are due to go before a council meeting in March.

The community engagement report was presented to councillors at a council meeting on December 10, which followed the approval of a controversial plan to close part of Franklin St and a section of Queen St as part of the QVM renewal program.

Unanimously supported by councillors, the plan will see half of Franklin St closed to traffic between William and Queen streets to make way for a new development at the southern end of the future Market Square, which will include 500 new car parks.

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The deadline for the March edition is February 13.

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Your new look *CBD News*

As we enter a new decade, we thought it was high time that we refreshed your CBD News.

My team and I at Hyperlocal News are proud and humbled to be able to use this valuable community asset to keep our readers abreast with what's going on each month in postcode 3000.

While our original mastheads have served *CBD News* and sister publications *Docklands News* and *Southbank Local News* well for many years, we've gone with a fresh look that we feel more accurately matches the quality and keeps in tune with the changing needs of our city.

Same *CBD News*; different look and feel. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the team at Studio Hi Ho for guiding us through our redesign. It's been a great journey and we look forward to seeing where it continues.

And to our readers, contributors and advertisers; thank you for your continued support of *CBD News*. We hope you enjoy your new-look newspaper.

Sean Car
 Publisher
 Hyperlocal News

A message from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp ...

Melbourne is Australia's fastest-growing city and will be the biggest by the end of the decade. More people than ever before are choosing to live close to where they work and near the best places to unwind. And this is driving development throughout our CBD, Docklands and Southbank. Melbourne's economy has just reached a turnover of \$100 billion annually. Our workforce is brimming with skilled workers and entrepreneurs, teachers and nurses, artists and performers. We welcome a community with diverse skills, experiences and interests to support a bright future.

As our city changes and continues to grow it is important that we have effective ways to communicate and connect. Our local media has a significant role to play in meeting the changing needs of local communities.



In Melbourne we are lucky to have active and committed local publications that cover the CBD, Docklands and Southbank in depth.



I'd like to welcome readers to the new-look *CBD News*.

A great city is the product of long-term decision making based on evidence, listening to the ambitions of our residents and workers and understanding what makes each local community distinct.

In Melbourne we are lucky to have active

and committed local publications that cover the CBD, Docklands and Southbank in depth. The cares, concerns and pulse of our communities are recorded each month and this allows local issues to be debated and ideas to be presented.

These publications also create connections for people to get involved in issues and activities that they are interested in and enjoy. These connections build strong and vibrant communities.

I'd like to thank everyone who reads and contributes to *CBD News*, fostering a strong connection to their community.

Cr Sally Capp - Lord Mayor of Melbourne

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Council eagerly seeks share bike replacement

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

Without any form of share bikes throughout the CBD, the City of Melbourne has put the call out for new e-bike operators to fill the city's cycling void.

The council is seeking expressions of interest for electric bike companies to undertake a one-year trial in the CBD, assuring locals things will be much different than the oBike disaster of 2018.

Currently, the only bikes residents, workers and visitors can ride throughout the city are their own, with no casual options since the state government's blue bike initiative was scrapped in November.

Would-be cyclists have no option to get around the CBD except in cars or using the free tram zone.

And, after the council's recent 10-year transport strategy encouraged people out of cars and onto bikes, the predicament is far from ideal.

As such, it is desperate to provide an environmentally-friendly option to get people onto two wheels.

Transport chair Nic Frances Gilley said electric share bikes, which contained a small motor and could travel up to 25km/h, were "part of the future."

"This is a serious piece of transport to really enable the people of Melbourne to get around," Cr Frances Gilley said.

"It's very similar to a bike. It does mean, though, if I'm commuting and going up Collins St or some of



▲ Cr Nic Frances Gilley.

Would-be cyclists have no option to get around the CBD except in cars or using the free tram zone.



the hills in town, I can go from one meeting to the other and not arrive all sweaty and hot. It makes cycling around the city much easier."

He said that unlike oBikes – which were routinely strewn across footpaths, parks and more

infamously thrown into the Yarra River – a requirement would be that new providers "geofence" their bikes to prevent illegal dumping.

This technology, which creates a virtual geographic boundary, would mean that users would be charged unless the bicycle was parked in the correct location.

This contrasts with oBikes, where it was incumbent on users to park their bicycle in the correct position, yet faced no repercussions should they have failed to do so.

"There's a real difference between oBikes and e-bikes," Cr Frances Gilley said, adding that they would be regularly collected for charging and "cost a lot."

Ride-sharing giant Uber revealed in January that it had plans to launch their "Jump" e-bikes in several Australian cities, of which Melbourne is believed to be one.

Uber will be competing with a number of other providers to be permitted a trial period from the council.

The City of Melbourne was in discussions with neighbouring councils to widen the area in which users could ride the e-bikes.

Cr Frances Gilley hoped a viable provider could be brought forward to council in early 2020 ●



David Schout
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A step too far for Flinders Lane residents

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

A proposal floated last year to turn a Flinders Lane bar into a nightclub was quickly met with a cascade of backlash from embittered residents.

The application to turn the Randy Dragon at 313 Flinders Lane into a nightclub with live music was submitted to the City of Melbourne in December.

Exasperated by pre-existing issues, residents lamented what they described as a lack of respect.

Objections were quickly posted by residents of the area who complained of pre-existing issues with the applicant venue and the broader area.

A resident overlooking Flinders Court said the area had become a "dismal all-night den of drunkenness, human waste, noise, trash and thieves."

Another said they thought the venue's current operation and impact on the area should be investigated.

"My family has an apartment in Bligh Place opposite the proposed venue alteration. We form a growing community of people who have chosen to reside in the city, and I believe our combined presence contributes to making Melbourne the special city it is," the resident said.

"We understand the need and enjoy that we share the space with other people who are involved with the city in other uses, workers, café owners etc... the venue in question is already over-dominant in the area – they and their patrons do not respect the ecosystem that has been generated by our combined presence."



▲ The venue's entrance at 313 Flinders Lane.

The resident's complaint went on to highlight the high density of residential space in the area and said the council should not have a "free-for-all" policy allowing venues to develop "without restriction."

Another resident of Bligh Place, directly opposite the venue, said, "the residential nature of Bligh Place, stretching back to the 1990s, should be respected."

Residents complained of venue management showing "zero consideration" for residents, allowing overflow of patrons into Mill Place and little attempt to prevent noise pollution, as well as smoke alarms being set off by the venue's smoking area.

They also said the venue was not equipped to host live music, operating without an acoustic barrier and with only single glazed windows.

A spokesperson from the City of Melbourne said it would be inappropriate to comment as the application was still being assessed.

CBD News contacted the business for comment but did not receive a response ●



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Building a lead on climate change

ADVERTORIAL BY *Sean Car*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sean Car*
 ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne continues to demonstrate the urgency in reducing carbon emissions in our city, both through its own actions and influencing others to act in the community and other levels of government.

Thanks to major initiatives such as the Australian-first Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP), 100 per cent of the council's electricity comes from renewable energy. The project, a partnership with 13 other organisations, enabled a new wind farm to be built in Ararat to power our city's infrastructure. The council's operations are also certified as carbon neutral along with a number of events it delivers including Fashion Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week and Melbourne Music Week.

Through its Act Now campaign, environment portfolio chair Cr Cathy Oke said the City of Melbourne was part of a local and international movement of cities acting to reduce emissions and address climate change impacts.

"The City of Melbourne is already investing in renewable energy, green buildings and in better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure," Cr Oke said.

"The everyday choices we make in our cities and communities can affect the health of our environment, and we can all take meaningful action towards a more sustainable, resilient future."

"This could be purchasing 100 per cent GreenPower for your home or business, switching your superannuation or banking to a provider that has divested from fossil fuel, committing to reducing meat in your diet and sourcing your food locally, or choosing sustainable transport options."

"Melbourne is globally recognised for its credentials in environmental sustainability and through our Climate Change Mitigation Strategy we will continue to lead and inspire



▲ The City of Melbourne's co-director of climate change action Krista Milne on the rooftop of Positive Energy Places, 490 Spencer St.

ambitious and rapid climate change action among our residents, community organisations, businesses and beyond."

With its own Climate Change Mitigation Strategy setting a zero emissions target by 2050, council's co-director of Climate Change Action Krista Milne told *CBD News* last month that it couldn't achieve this goal without action by the community and other levels of government.

With 60 per cent of the emissions coming from the commercial buildings sector, and 18 per cent of emissions coming from transport, Ms Milne said action across these sectors is a particular focus.

"We're already experiencing the impacts of climate change in our city, so we need to accelerate action now. We need leadership and everyone acting together to contribute to the global efforts to reduce emissions," she said.

"Programs such as CitySwitch which work with office-based businesses are a key way to drive change to business-as-usual. We help

participants measure and report emissions, and develop and implement environmental action plans to reduce energy consumption, emissions and waste production and improve staff wellbeing. CitySwitch participants saved more than \$5 million from reduced energy consumption alone and avoided more than 23,000 tonnes of carbon emissions in the last reporting year."

As well as working with businesses to support the transition to renewables through programs such as MREP and now MREP2, the council has for many years required sustainable design outcomes and energy efficiency in new buildings through the planning scheme ●

For more information:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/climateaction



Smoke shuts down city construction

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
 LOCAL NEWS

Bushfire smoke blanketing the city in January caused construction to grind to a halt, as conditions became too dangerous for outside work.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) issued warnings of "very poor" and "hazardous" air quality in parts of Melbourne through different parts of January.

On January 15 the Construction Forestry Mining Electricity Union (CFMEU) warned against working in the conditions.

"If you look around the city skyline there are no cranes moving, most construction sites have been shut down," a CFMEU spokesperson told *CBD News*.

There are no existing agreements between the CFMEU and employers regarding air quality and work, but different sites had decided the conditions were too dangerous to work in.

A post on the CFMEU's Facebook page read: "No outdoor work while conditions are at hazardous or very poor ... this is making outdoor work dangerous and unhealthy."

"It is advised to have all personnel relocated to a healthier and safe environment."

"When air quality drops to poor and work can recommence, consideration should be given to those that have any medical conditions." ●

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Driven by support

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sean Car*
FEATURE

The Salvation Army is in Major Brendan Nottle's blood.

The commanding officer of the Salvos' Melbourne Project 614 needs little introduction. For 30 years he and wife Sandra have dedicated their lives to supporting our city's most vulnerable and much of that time has been concentrated in the CBD and its surrounds.

It's a humanitarian calling that manifested well before he was born. As he told *CBD News*, his association with the Salvos extends back to its support of his grandmother in their hometown of Northcote in 1928.

With three sons and pregnant with Brendan's mother, the early death of her gambling and alcohol addicted husband left the family without a father and, according to Brendan, with "two shillings in the bank."

"Her local church minister came around just after the death of her husband and said you've fallen behind in your giving ... being a good Irish woman she fired up and said, 'I'll never be back!'" Brendan said.

"The local Salvos in Northcote found out and came with some groceries and maintained the regular contact. Interestingly there was a woman training to be a Salvation Army officer in Northcote at the time, but they didn't have anywhere for her to stay for six months."

"So, the local Salvo guy said to my grandmother 'we'll pay you some rent if she can stay with you and she can help you out with the kids'"

As well as supporting himself and his family through the loss of both his parents at a young age, Brendan said it was the practical, tailored and non-judgemental care that the Salvos were renowned for that continued motivating him to give back.

Whether it be providing accommodation, protection, healthcare, employment, legal service or emergency relief, the organisation prides itself on offering real solutions to ending homelessness, violence and inequality in our city.

But it's the base level support that underpins it all. This experience can be witnessed at the heart of its operations at 69 Bourke St, where it operates the seven-day-a-week Lighthouse Café.

It's here that people can come enjoy the basics of a meal, shelter and just good conversation with anyone of the many patrons, staff or volunteers that pass through the café on a daily basis.

"It's a really interesting cross-section of people who access the café," Brendan said.



▲ Major Brendan Nottle at the Salvation Army's CBD headquarters last month.

"It's people that are homeless, who are at risk of becoming homeless or people who have accommodation but may not have access to cooking facilities. It's also people who are accommodated but are completely isolated, so they come to connect with others."

"There'll be people checking in and just having a chat to just normalise the situation. You really see people change ... 'oh you really want to have a conversation with me!'"

"Apart of trying to pick up on that is that we have corporate groups coming through five days a week. They help prepare the food and take orders – we don't have queues like they do at a soup kitchen. We try to instil that sense of dignity and respect."

The café is open for breakfast and lunch Monday to Friday and dinner seven days a week, while it runs a night café from 11pm to 7am funded by the City of Melbourne, who, according to Brendan, provide "fantastic support."

And from Victoria Police and St Vincent's Hospital to corporate groups and the likes of Collingwood Football Club and Melbourne Storm, the support for helping the Salvos end homelessness is far-reaching. However, Brendan said they were constantly on the lookout for more dedicated staff and volunteers.

"Because the work is quite intense you want particular kinds of people," he said. "You want people who are passionate about seeing significant change happening for people. It's not just a matter of coming along and opening the doors of the café and making it run. It's about really working with people and helping them get on their feet."

As for the year ahead, Brendan told *CBD News* that expanding its support services for youth through a number of initiatives was high on his agenda, so too was a new program focused on women's safety in the CBD ... watch this space!

To keep up to speed with the Salvos' efforts and find out how you can help visit salvationarmy.org.au/melbourne614 or keep an eye out for Brendan's new regular column in future editions of *CBD News*. ●

A boost to the senses

New beacons along Bourke and Swanston streets will use audio and messaging technology to help people with low vision or blindness navigate the city.

Chair of the people city portfolio Cr Beverley Pinder said the City of Melbourne had commissioned Guide Dogs Victoria to develop the program, which uses a phone app to provide information about intersections, construction and public transport.

"Accessibility is an important part of everything we do at the City of Melbourne, including helping people find their way around our city," Cr Pinder said.

"Melbourne is growing and as our city changes it's vital that we support people living with low vision, blindness or other disabilities to remain confident and independent getting around."

"We're embracing new ways of communicating with residents and visitors to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to experience everything our wonderful city has to offer."

The beacons use an existing phone app, BlindSquare, to provide detailed audio messages with information that is not available through other map-based tools such as Google Maps.

This includes the location of obstacles, such as bollards, and information about construction works in the area.

New virtual GPS beacons have been created at intersections along Bourke and Swanston streets and sections of Flinders Lane and Degraves St.

The technology also uses new physical beacons, installed in prominent locations including Ross House, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne Visitor Hub, City Library and the Degraves St underpass.

The technology uses GPS and Bluetooth in the user's phone to access audio messages from nearby beacons. It is designed to be used as an additional tool to complement other mobility aids such as a cane or guide dog.

The technology has been successfully implemented at all city loop train stations and the District Docklands shopping centre.

It's available in 25 different languages. ●



We don't have queues like they do at a soup kitchen. We try to instil that sense of dignity and respect.



Sean Car
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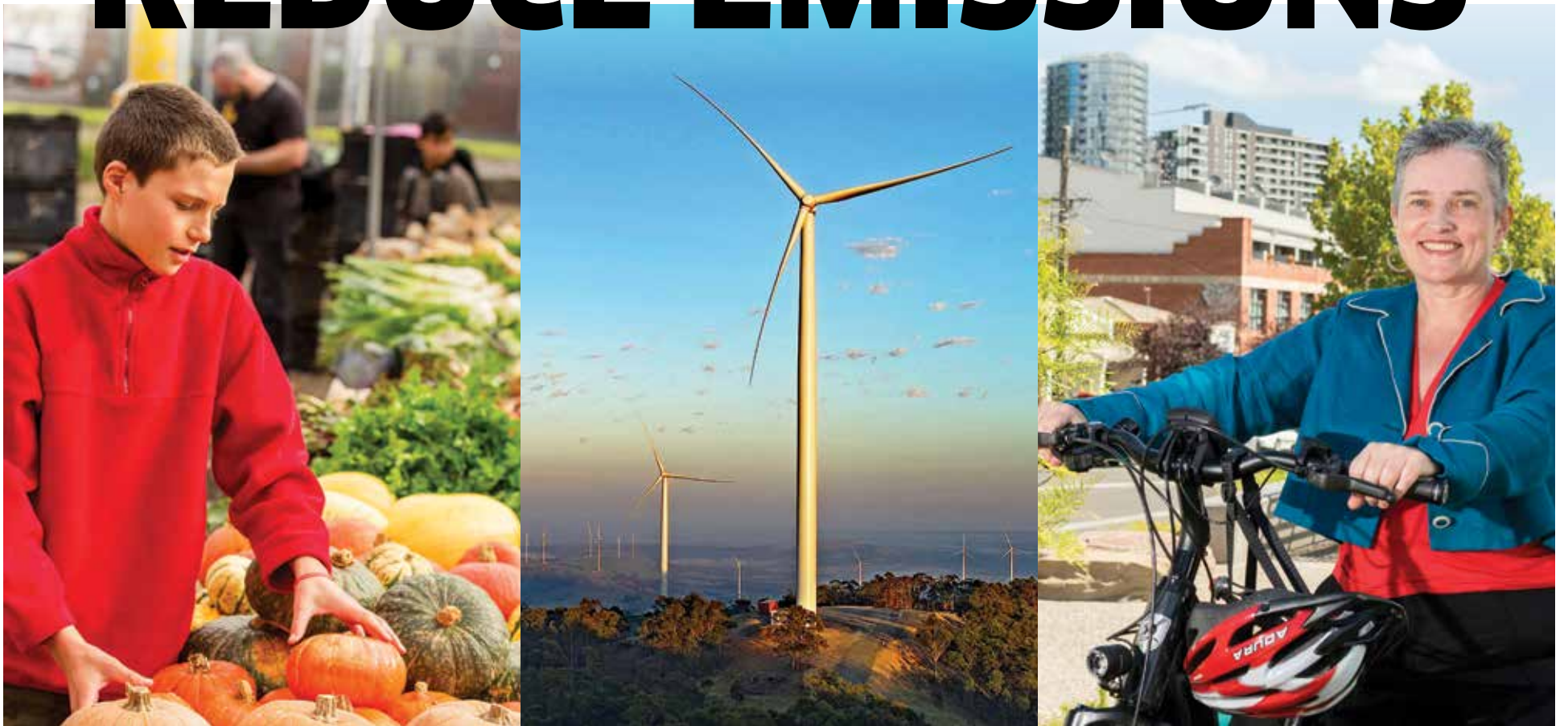


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- Reduce meat in your diet and source your food locally.
- Join CitySwitch to take action at work.
- Switch to renewable energy by choosing GreenPower.
- Look for more energy efficient appliances - they'll cost less to run too.
- Head to the Sustainable Living Festival in February to learn more about reducing your impact.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/climateaction



A big summer break but your councillors work hard

WORDS BY *Stephen Mayne*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Being a City of Melbourne councillor can be a time-consuming job but one thing that tends to happen over the silly season is that you get a decent break from public meetings.

Summer has certainly been a frenetic time for councillors in bushfire zones and they've even received a modest pay supplement from Spring St given the huge workload to help rebuild their communities.

At City of Melbourne, the last public gathering was the December 10 council meeting and the councillors won't be back together again in public until the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on February 4.

That's a break of seven straight Tuesdays, but don't worry, when it comes to public meetings, City of Melbourne councillors are close to the hardest working group in the country with three meetings a month for 11 months of the year.

There are still many councils across Australia which only meet once a month in public with all councillors attending, let alone have four separate 15 minute public question time sessions each month at the beginning and the end of the two FMC meetings.

So, what has been happening over summer?

In an election year, it's no surprise that the biggest point of consideration has been the jockeying and juggling around who is contesting the 2020 elections. Everyone is remaining publicly tight-lipped.

However, deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood has continued to canvas support for a Lord Mayor tilt among councillors and potential media backers and, if he commits to the biggest challenge of his political career, would be expected to line up a ticket with the old Team Doyle rump comprising some but not all of Susan Riley, Kevin Louey and Bev Pinder.

I reckon it would be a mistake for Arron

to run because it is time to move on from the Doyle era and incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp is doing a good job. There's no substantial case for her removal. However, he's giving it serious consideration.

The Lord Mayor is also believed to have been canvassing potential members of a Team Capp ticket and will want an injection of new talent with at least one incumbent on the team to demonstrate that she can work well with existing councillors. Nicholas Reece and Philip Le Liu are the two most likely incumbent councillors to get on board, but neither is assured or committed.

So, with council in recess, what else is there to write about?

As a former councillor, I thought we'd finish this month's column with a couple of nuggets from days gone and some predictions:

CEO Justin Hanney

The new boss is performing well. In light of this, one of my biggest regrets is not poaching him from the state government for the job earlier in 2015 when he was available. Indeed, don't be surprised if this class act CEO ends up emulating the great Elizabeth Proust who rose from CEO of City of Melbourne to secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet during the latter half of the Kennett era.

A new broom: The City of Melbourne executive ranks have long featured lots of long-serving officers. They are well paid too with 143 of them earning more than \$148,000 from ratepayers in 2018-19, according to the 2018-19 annual report. They are the best paid council staff in the country, a trend which first emerged during Andy Friend's period as CEO in the 1990s. Given this history, why would you leave? After a period of relative stability in the early months of the Hanney reign, he spilled a significant number of positions towards the end of last year. Never easy, but probably the right call to inject some new blood.

Citywide profits and leadership

Few people realise that Citywide is a business 100 per cent owned by City of Melbourne which provides a variety of services to councils, universities, state governments and the likes of VicRoads up and down the eastern seaboard. John Brumby was first appointed to the Citywide board in 2012, partly because then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle wanted to send then Premier Ted Baillieu a message after he overlooked the former Labor Premier for a position in the health sector. Brumby later succeeded Mark Birrell as Citywide chair in 2015 and has done an excellent job stabilising the place after the departure of long-serving CEO Kerry Osborne four years ago. The 2018-19 annual report reveals a pre-tax profit of \$6.8 million on revenues of \$235 million which was a solid result in a competitive operating environment.

“

I reckon it would be a mistake for Arron to run because it is time to move on from the Doyle era and incumbent Lord Mayor Sally Capp is doing a good job. There's no substantial case for her removal. However, he's giving it serious consideration.

”

Reducing pay disclosure

One disappointing development at Citywide was the decision to no longer precisely reveal the pay details of its board and management, something it did in the annual report from 2015 until 2018. CEO Chris Campbell is a former BHP executive who was paid 332k in 2015-16, 434k in 2016-17, 665k in 2017-18 and an undisclosed sum in 2018-19, although he was presumably the person disclosed as earning somewhere between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in council's annual report. Council itself has also regressed on pay disclosure, no longer revealing the contract terms and precise pay arrangements of its five most senior officers in the annual report. If City of Melbourne wants to retain its position as one of Australia's most open and transparent councils, it should avoid these sorts of regressions.

Dramatic drop in councillor motions: There was close to 150 motions from councillors over the previous council term from 2012-16 and I'll confess to being responsible for around 50 of them. However, a little tweak of rules early in the current term saw this number plunge, partly because you now need two councillors rather than just one to get a motion on the agenda. That said, in an election year you should expect a few more councillor motions in the months ahead, provided the proponent can find a fellow councillor to back the proposal so it is listed for debate ●



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Council pressures VicRoads on safety

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has called on VicRoads to reduce speed limits in a western pocket of the CBD after the failure of private requests to address safety issues late last year.

The request made on December 3 was to reduce the speed limit from 60km/h to 40km/h around the Dudley St roundabout on:

Peel St between Dudley St roundabout and Victoria St.

William St between Dudley St roundabout and La Trobe St.

Deputy Lord Mayor Aaron Wood said council had worked through the "proper channels" with VicRoads but "hadn't been able to get

there."

"So that's why this resolution is here," Cr Wood said.

"This has been going since 2010 so it does show you how long change takes to happen."

Traders at Queen Victoria Market made a formal request to reduce the speed limit more than two years ago.

A pedestrian was killed after being struck by a truck while crossing Peel St in June last year, and Cr Wood said the speed limit reductions had the "full support" of Victoria Police.

Council also pointed to statistics elsewhere in the CBD. Five years after the implementation of the 40km/h speed limit in the central city, collisions involving pedestrians had dropped by 36.5 per cent ●

Building system under review

PLANNING

The world-renowned building professional who led the review of high-rise regulation following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London will be part of an expert panel that leads comprehensive review of Victoria's building system. British engineer Dame Judith Hackitt will be part of the six-person panel that will provide recommendations to government on a more efficient, responsive and contemporary Building Act.

Dame Judith headed an independent British Government review into the regulatory system for high rise buildings in the wake of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in which 72 people lost their lives.

The panel will be chaired by Victoria's Better Regulation and Red Tape Commissioner Anna Cronin who has more than 25 years' experience

in policy development.

The panel will convene next year and includes experts Lauren Solomon, Melanie Fasham, Dr Gerry Ayers and Professor Ian Bailey AM SC.

"This panel has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is the first step towards delivering the most comprehensive review ever undertaken into Victoria's building system," Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said.

The panel's first task will be to establish overarching principles to guide the building system review and identify key themes to be investigated and addressed throughout the reform process.

The review will also address the recommendations of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce's July 2019 report and the Building Confident report by Professor Peter Shergold AC and Ms Bronwyn Weir ●



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Council more than just the three “Rs”: Expert

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

In 2019 the City of Melbourne was criticised for tackling issues beyond its authority, but a politics expert has moved to its defence, arguing the “roads, rates and rubbish” mandate on local government downplays the democratic role it undertakes.

In the past six months, the council has hotly debated state and federal issues such as climate change, Newstart allowances and pill testing, to the frustration of some critics who insisted it stays in its lane.

But Mark Chou, Associate Professor in Politics at Australian Catholic University, said councils had a responsibility to represent their constituents beyond mere services.

“Even if councils have no power to affect policy change, they do through their symbolic action bring these issues to the table for wider debate at the state and federal levels,” he said.

“It does bring these issues into the public domain. And that may be the objective.”

In November, City of Melbourne councillors were split seven to three on the prospect of a pill testing trial at music festivals within the city.

The long debate saw arguments on the ethics of on-site drug tests, but also council’s role in the discussion given the trials were already rejected by the state government and Victoria Police.

Cr Beverley Pinder said the debate belonged “in the chambers of Spring St”, not in Town Hall.

Soon after in December, the council then debated a federal issue in the form of raising the Newstart allowance.

Again, discussion turned to council’s role in a nationwide debate.

Deputy Mayor Arron Wood said at the time it would be remiss of the council to ignore the topic.

“I think the roads, rates and rubbish thing is something that I absolutely ascribe to. I think that we should really stick to the basics,” he said.

“But the health and wellbeing of our residents is absolutely one of the basics, and indeed local government has many roles in terms of the health and wellbeing of our residents and the people that use our city.”

In recent years Chou, along with colleague Dr Rachel Busbridge, have researched the role of local councils in ideologically contentious political questions.

In particular, they assessed the City of Yarra’s staunch position in the “change the date” debate regarding Australia Day, where it cancelled the annual citizenship ceremony on January 26, making national headlines.

Chou reinforced that the role of local government was always “tricky,” but said things had changed in recent years.

“Depending on which councillor, which council officer and which resident you ask, I think you’ll get a slightly different take,” he said.

“In the literature, there’s a general perception that traditionally, councils are there to service properties – that old mantra of “roads, rates and rubbish.” But increasingly there’s a shift in mentality and mandate for councils to provide services to people. This underscores that there’s always been a dual function of local government, which is to be a service provider and a vehicle for local democratic governance. I think the issue is quite split.”

In 2018, voter turnout for the City of Melbourne’s Lord Mayor by-election was just 56.61 per cent, compared with a Victorian average of 73.75 per cent recorded in 2016.

Chou said a prevailing notion that the council was a mere service provider contributed to the low turnout.

“In part that’s because of the view that they’re not doing very important things, and they’re just looking at our rubbish and rates. Things that are fine, but not things we want to pay attention to.”

He said addressing pertinent social topics at council level could see engagement – both positive and negative – increase and perhaps with it, more numbers at voting booths.

“When you start engaging in these issues I think there’s more involvement at the local level. Often, it’s to voice their discontent that local governments are getting involved, but it still makes them pay attention and that’s not a bad thing.” ●

EastEnders’ new president

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

The presidency of city resident group EastEnders has passed into new hands. Former president Jenny Eltham – president for three years – stepped down and long-time resident Dr Stan Capp has taken up the mantle.

Dr Capp has lived in the CBD for 19 years, moving from Geelong to work on Melbourne’s health system.

“I’ve spent my life as CEOs of hospitals and health services around Victoria,” he said. “When I was in Geelong, we created a vehicle called Barwon Health. It became the exemplar of how you run a coordinated and integrated health service.”

He was subsequently asked to do the same thing in Melbourne.

“We had a little farm out of Geelong with 30 acres and cattle, so it was a bit of a wrench to leave Geelong having achieved what we achieved there,” he said.

“We were given the use of an apartment for three months up in Spring St and decided living in the city was right for us.”

After four years, Dr Capp was offered a string of jobs reviewing and restructuring health systems around the Middle East, but always returned to the same apartment in Melbourne.

He said a key focus for EastEnders would be continuing its balance of functioning social elements and resident power.

“We have a latent power in these groups to actually influence and give our views which I think we can do, but we have to be careful not to overstep that and become a political group,” he said.

He pointed to a highlight from the 2019 EastEnders program – a guest appearance from former Federation Square CEO Jonathan Tribe.

“It was quite a fascinating insight into Federation Square and where it is now and where it was before, behind the scenes of the scandal type stuff,” Dr Capp said.

The first EastEnders meeting for the year will be held at 10am, February 18 at Trunk (corner of Exhibition and Little Lonsdale streets) with a presentation from the council’s chair of planning Cr Nicholas Reece ●

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▲ Operations manager of community health at Youth Projects Richie Goonan.

Living Room continues “no judgement” mantra

WORDS BY David Schout and Ruby Selwood-Thomas
PHOTOGRAPHY BY North Western Melbourne PHN
HOMELESSNESS

Entering its 19th year of operation, Hosier Lane’s Living Room continues to provide a vital free health service for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Its unique position in the heart of the CBD on an iconic Melbourne laneway ensures it remains a welcoming, go-to facility for those in a vulnerable position aged 18 and over.

The Youth Projects-run facility offers drop-in services that, at a basic level, include free showers and laundry, clothing, food, phone charging and internet access. More importantly, however, they combine medical care, mental health and drug counselling and pathways to training apprenticeships and jobs.

Richie Goonan, Operations Manager of Community Health at Youth Projects, said the clinic allowed clients to have quick access to healthcare in a non-judgemental setting, as opposed to the difficulties faced accessing care through facilities such as hospital emergency departments.

The Living Room’s “no judgement” motto remains to this day, avoiding the societal tendency to attribute blame on those who are in difficult circumstances. “We at the Living Room know that it’s structural and environmental factors that cause people to become homeless,” Mr Goonan said. “Being homeless doesn’t define who they are, it is just the circumstance they find themselves in at the moment.”

Medical staff are onsite during all opening hours, and over the past five years those opening hours have been extended to include Saturdays, thanks to funding from North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN).

“While there is a breadth of services Monday to Friday in the CBD, there are very few services after hours and on weekends,” Mr Goonan said. “The ability to have a safe space to go to are few and far between.”

Living Room’s value to those in need is summed up by the story of William* who, after years of sleeping rough in country Victoria with only his dog for company, decided it was time to seek a different life.

After jumping on a train and ending up at Flinders Street Station, William stumbled upon the Hosier Lane facility.

The clinic was able to organise crisis accommodation for him (and his dog) after his first visit and began the process of transferring his healthcare from rural Victoria to Melbourne.

Clinic staff were also able to help William with his application for permanent housing. After six weeks of receiving support from the Living Room, William had all his mental and physical healthcare transferred to local services, with help from the clinic’s mental health nurse, general practitioner and practice nurse.

He was also provided with counselling and treatment for his chronic health conditions, including diabetes and hepatitis C ●

Market Square could honour the dead

Continued from page 1.

Local residents and lobby group Friends of Queen Victoria Market (FQVM) had united against the plan, arguing that the Franklin St closure would “destroy the market as we know it.”

“The closure of Franklin St’s two lanes east bound between William and Queen streets will have a significant negative impact on the quality of life for thousands of residents and hundreds of businesses in the Queen Victoria Market precinct,” a submission from residents stated.

“There are currently three lanes of roads carrying traffic between William and Queen streets. The proposal is to direct all traffic in a circuitous route down a single lane in A’Beckett St. The traffic impact statement does not clearly address this issue.”

“Up to 600 cars an hour travel down the existing Franklin St. A 66 per cent reduction in capacity will create grid lock in the wider area.”

In response to these concerns, Cr Rohan Leppert included an amendment to the original motion from council management to investigate options to configure Franklin St west of Queen St as a two-way carriageway.

A traffic impact report conducted by Cardno for the City of Melbourne has shown a significant increase in two-way traffic on A’Beckett under the changes, which would provide the only means of accessing 500 new car parks in the Munro site on Queen St.

William St will also be reduced to single lane traffic to make way for new separated bicycle lanes, which residents argue will cause headaches for both them and future market customers.

“This is the major access route for the new 500 space car park in the Munro site,” the submission stated.

“There are thousands of new apartments with car parks being constructed in the precinct. Every new apartment, regardless of whether they are car owners, creates additional traffic.”

The new changes are expected to come into effect ahead of the beginning of construction of the southern development site, which is due to commence in 2022 following the completion of the Munro development ●

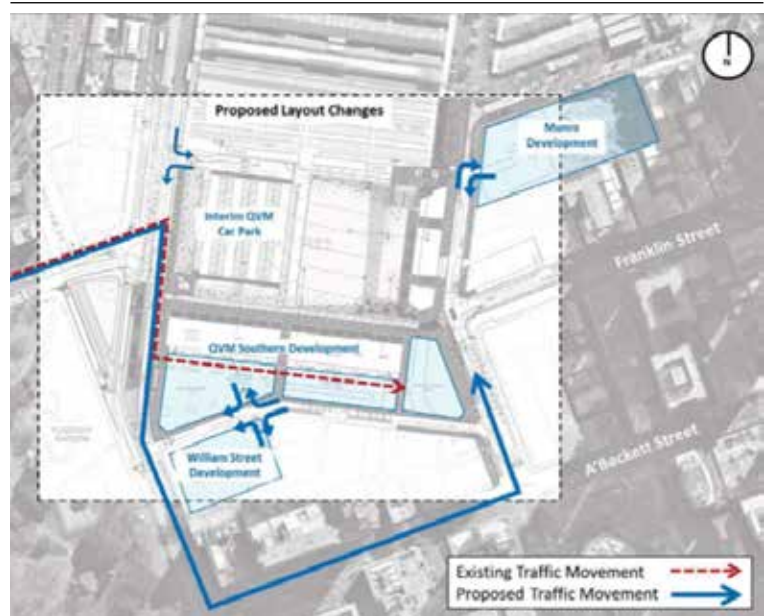


▲ An artist’s impression highlighting the future open space at Market Square.



“Up to 600 cars an hour travel down the existing Franklin St. A 66 per cent reduction in capacity will create grid lock in the wider area.”

▼ A diagram from the traffic impact report highlighting new traffic configurations as a result of council’s closure of parts of Franklin and Queen streets.



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Fed Square in the public eye

Federation Square's governance model and its connection to the Yarra River are priority concerns for the public according to the first report from the square's ongoing review.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

Melburnians also want a revamp of Federation Square to improve the site's overall connectivity, green space, accessibility, programming and hospitality offerings, the state government report showed.

Responses outlined a priority desire for "better connections to the Yarra River, Birrarung Marr, and the sporting and arts precincts beyond."

Connection to the river had been one of Apple's selling points in its proposal to demolish and replace the square's Yarra building.

As a result, *The Age* reported Our City, Our Square – the group that protested the Apple proposal – would oppose the new report's conclusion.

But the group responded to *The Age* to declare an open attitude to opening the square up to the river as long as it wasn't "at the expense of preserving the civic square as a gathering place."

"As we wrote in our submission to the review, Fed Square must be shaped in ways that enhance its public and heritage values."

Our City Our Square president Tania Davidge said that community and stakeholders agreed Federation Square "is a wonderful place."

"We look forward to the next stage of the review and hope that, in line with Fed Square's civic value as our public square, community voices will continue to be included in decision making processes at Fed Square."

The report also found the "management and governance of Federation Square requires priority attention."

Those surveyed tended to believe the square's current financial model was not sustainable and the square's management needed to offer better support for tenants and events.

It found the governance model required "clarification and improvement."

Many Melburnians were surprised to learn from the Apple proposal that the square was not publicly funded.

Local Melburnians, Victorians and other visitors to the Square were surveyed as community members, while stakeholders included tenants, heritage stakeholders, government agencies and festival, tourism and events personnel.

The report also highlighted desire for low-key alterations to the square's architecture and design, including more shade and greenery, and improved accessibility.

Minister for tourism, sport and major events Martin Pakula said the government was "delighted by the response" received from the review.

The final Federation Square review report will be provided to the government early this year •

Those surveyed tended to believe the square's current financial model was not sustainable and the square's management needed to offer better support for tenants and events. It found the governance model required "clarification and improvement."



Footy boots start-up tackling "shrink and pink" model

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *David Schout*
LOCAL NEWS

Elite level female athletes are still wearing boots designed for men or even kids, and one CBD-based start-up has said enough is enough. The stories are jarring and uncomfortable to hear; female footballers feeling studs going through the sole plate, experiencing chronic blisters and in the case of some elite women, playing for their country in kid's shoes.

Podiatrists hear of women making adjustments to get by pain-free, including shaving down studs or stuffing cotton wool down the heel.

Despite the rise of professional women's sport in Australia, there are still no football boots on the market designed specifically for the female foot.

Instead, sportswear companies – even billion-dollar multinationals – continue to take shortcuts by using a "shrink and pink" method for their female range.

That is, they merely shorten men's boots, tinker with the aesthetic and put that to market.

Ida Sports is a start-up based at the RMIT University entrepreneur hub that is tackling this issue by releasing its own female-specific football boot.

Co-founder Ben Sandhu said the female foot has "known anatomical differences", yet girls and women have little option but to buy ill-fitting boots.

"You have this situation where players at the professional level are literally running around in kid's shoes, with some pretty disastrous effects," he told CBD News.

"For a lot of men, we just don't experience an issue like this. But once you start looking into it, it's impossible to ignore."

In 2017, Ben returned from working in the UK and through a friend met Laura Youngson, his co-founder at Ida.

At the time, Laura had recently returned from breaking the Guinness World Record for playing in the highest altitude football match (atop Mt Kilimanjaro) to highlight gender inequality in sport.

The game featured 30 women from six continents, and it was then she realised almost all faced the same problem with their boots.

Chatting about the trip, Laura told Ben her next step was doing something to tackle the boot issue. Ben's background in entrepreneurship made an ideal partnership.

"I'm a passionate advocate for gender equality in general," he said.

"I could see how this was indicative of a whole lot of other things. So, we just sat down (in January 2018) and I was like, 'I'm in – how can I help?'"

Since then, they've spent two years designing, experimenting and now taking their boot to market, with the backing of podiatrists.

It's been a tough, yet gratifying ride. Ben described Laura as the "guinea pig" in trying the prototypes of the boot, the first of which affectionately called the "Frankenshoe" and was developed in Laura's kitchen.

The Frankenshoe now features in Ida's "shoeseum," a wall within their startup hub that charts the development and improvement of each version of the boot.

Their finalised version, the "Ultimate" football boot, is currently taking orders.

Ben expects 2020 to be a big year, and paid tribute to the help from both RMIT and the City of Melbourne which recently granted them a \$28,500 funding injection.

"It feels like we've put all these pieces in place, and it's now just a matter of getting it out there."

He said that Ida couldn't compete with the marketing budgets of bigger sportswear companies, which meant word of mouth at the grassroots level was critical.

"To be honest, as great as getting players (to wear the boot) at that top level is, the growth happens at the community level. What we know about players is that they talk to each other, they trust each other and spend lots of time together. If we create something that works, that is how we're going to compete."

The boot has been endorsed by podiatrists, too, who see its release as overdue.

"They see all sorts of issues come through their clinics ... all these different things that to be honest, are really preventable and have been known for some time. And the feedback has been given but for whatever reason, it's not being heard. There is a level of frustration there from a clinical perspective."

Ben said that while the positive PR coming out of women's sport hasn't translated to tangible investment in equipment, he was proud Ida could "walk the walk."

"We're just really focussed on what we want to do, and by having this pure focus on female athletes and their needs, there's a big enough market for us as a start-up. I don't view it as niche at all, and I think the female footballing community really respects that focus too."

He said the "Ultimate" boot will be available in time for the upcoming football and soccer seasons and would rely on players to provide feedback on everything from colours to technical specifications and materials.

"We want to be working with women from day one." •

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ACT UP in the city

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Meg Hill*
ARTS & CULTURE

“Being a young gay boy from Adelaide, landing in Melbourne in the 1990s was very exciting,” Brenton Geyer told *CBD News*.

“It was a period of cultural explosion.”

But the ‘90s wasn’t all fun for the LGBTI community; Australia was still experiencing an AIDS crisis.

ACT UP – the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power – was formed in New York in the late ‘80s as a political and activist response to the AIDS pandemic.

Branches spread throughout the world. Melbourne’s was launched in 1990 with a founding statement that opened: “It is time for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends to speak up.”

It was the same year that Brenton moved cities.

“I moved from Adelaide and I wanted to find a community. The gay scene was really exploding, and I jumped into that,” he said.

Brenton joined the (then-emerging) Midsumma Festival and ran a design and marketing agency from Majorca House in Flinders Lane.

“We housed Midsumma, and we went on to house other small community groups such as the Melbourne Gay Lesbian Film and Video Festival, as it was then called – now it’s the Melbourne Queer Film Festival,” he said.

“And we also took in ACT UP under the banner of the Queer output that I thought was essential to be a well-rounded Queer boy at the time.”

“We wanted to be involved in everything we could, culturally as well as in an activist sense.”

So, Brenton’s office on Flinders Lane acted as an administrative base for the activist group.

“It was really just a telephone and a fax machine, but we had a kind of Queer hub going



▲ Brenton outside Flinders Street Station, where an ACT UP die-in was held in the ‘90s.



▲ Flinders Street die-in: photo courtesy of The John Willis Collection, Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives.

“

Branches spread throughout the world. Melbourne’s was launched in 1990 with a founding statement that opened: “It is time for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends to speak up.”

”

on there and we’d use it as a base to set up activity and campaigns.”

Throughout the ‘90s, ACT UP ran a string of protests and stunts through the CBD and inner-city.

There were rallies at City Square, “zaps” outside homophobic clothing stores, die-ins

outside Flinders Street Station, and clandestine stunts.

A protest outside Melbourne’s Olympic Bid Headquarters on Spring St demanded “public health before public spectacle”. A poster told Melburnians:

“The Victorian government is happy to gamble millions of taxpayers’ dollars on the long shot of getting the 1996 Olympics, but it is refusing to wager one additional cent on preventing the certain spread of AIDS.”

And overnight on June 5, 1991, ACT UP activists were busy in multiple locations.

The front entrances to the Commonwealth Health Department on Lonsdale St were glued shut, and Southbank’s floral clock was “subverted”.

“The big protest, for me and I think for a lot of Melburnians, was the replacement of the flowers in the floral clock with wooden crosses to represent all those who had died of AIDS,” Brenton said.

“That was a clandestine operation, overnight, that got a lot of media attention – good and bad.”

Brenton now works for Living Positive Victoria, an organisation dedicated to advocacy, support and empowerment of those living with HIV/AIDS.

He said ACT UP won many of its demands

around healthcare, funding and research – but there’s still plenty of stigma that needs challenging.

“We want to lessen the panic that did exist 30 years ago, lessen it to the extent to guide the community with the understanding that it’s a manageable chronic illness much like diabetes is,” he said.

Brenton will be joined by New York ACT UP activist Dr Monica Pearl on January 24 to examine the cities’ ACT UP experiences as part of this year’s Midsumma Festival ●

For more information:
midsumma.org.au/whats-on/events/in-conversation-act-up/



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City arsonist

CRIME

Police charged a 27-year-old man after several allegedly suspicious fires in Melbourne's CBD on January 6.

Police received a report of a fire at a Lonsdale St hotel at 10.40am.

A fire was extinguished in the linen room of the hotel after the blaze caused extensive damage.

More than 40 people were evacuated as a precaution.

Within a short period of time emergency services also received reports of small paper fires outside buildings on Exhibition St, Haywood Lane and Russell St.

There was no damage in relation to these fires or any injuries reported. In total six fires were reported ●

Loop Bar extension rejected

PLANNING

A bid to extend trading hours at a rooftop bar that angered local residents in 2018 has been rejected by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).

The owners of Loop Bar on Meyers Place applied to extend the bar's trading hours from 1am to 3am on both weeknights and weekends.

Residents complained that the bar was already unreasonably disruptive, while Loop director Adam Bunny said the rooftop had been designed to provide acoustic protection.

The case also highlighted ambiguities in the city's rooftop regulations.

Planning scheme policy states that outdoor areas including rooftops should not be occupied past 1am, but rooftops Siglo Bar and Aer Bar have been permitted to trade until 3am ●

Store still taking wildlife knits

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Rhonda Dredge
LOCAL NEWS

It was all action at the counter of the Morris & Sons last week as people returning to work dropped by to find out what they could make for wildlife victims of the bushfires.

The shop on Collins St did not want to disappoint knitters, even though the call-out for garments has now closed.

The store is still providing free wool, patterns and a philosophical approach to the politics of craft.

Knitters were caring people, said staff member Tori Armes, and they rushed into help small, cuddly creatures. "We've sold a lot of wool," she said.

Ms Armes has just got back from the UK where everyone is knitting wildlife patterns but they're refraining from using post to save on fossil fuels, waiting instead for travellers to carry them back.

Many knitters and sewers got in early and began making well before the Christmas disaster period.

Staff member Teresa Redrup was staying up at Batemans Bay in December when the roads were still open and saw a little kangaroo with burnt paws.

"We called the local animal refuge people. It was terrible. I got quite teary," she said.

When she returned to Melbourne, Ms Redrup tore up a bed sheet and sewed some joey pouches to make herself feel better.

"Sheets are good because they don't care about what print or colour you use. I made a dozen in an afternoon."

Two weeks into January there was still a list of items from the Animal Rescue Collective Craft Guild on the Collins St counter.

Patterns were available for a knitted rescue nest, using four ply for summer, plus a bird jumpsuit with optional trousers and small holes for wings.

Koala mittens, bat wraps, rodent



▲ Tori Armes with a basket of free wildlife wool. Two balls makes a small pouch.

nests and hanging pouches were also on the list.

Facebook gives some perspective on the wildlife knitting craze. Before the bushfires there were 2000 makers. Now there are 170,000.

"I've got so many bat wraps I could feature on Hoarders," said Ann-Marie Holt, a customer who runs a wildlife hub.

Within 48 hours of news of the fires there were five different patterns from Guild members.

"We've been inundated from overseas. It's kind of scary. People

mean well," Ms Holt said.

The Americans have made so many pouches they want to charter a plane.

Ms Holt has made hundreds of items herself over the past three months, including pouches with liners.

Joey pouches are able to climb in and out of the prescribed designs.

Morris & Sons is still accepting wildlife knits. "We'll keep and hold them," Ms Armes said.

The store has a stockpile of penguin jumpers made by customers for a call-out earlier in the year ●

Seven charged following thieving in CBD

CRIME

Police have charged seven people following a series of pickpocketing and theft offences on train and tram networks and at popular shopping precincts across the CBD over the past two months.

As part of Operation Galeforce, detectives from the Melbourne Tasking Unit (MTU) charged seven people in January with theft-related offences.

"Operation Galeforce was an investigation led by the MTU along with our counterparts in Transit Safety Division," Sgt Chris O'Brien said.

"We investigated a series of organised and often opportunistic pickpocketing and thefts which were occurring for approximately two months across the city, in shopping precincts and on trams and trains."

"Rest assured Victoria Police takes this type of offending seriously, and our message to anyone out there looking to prey on those going about their everyday business is that you will be arrested and held to account."

Warrants were executed in Sunshine and Tarneit on January 16, where police arrested four of the seven, including:

- A 25-year-old female from India
 - A 26-year-old female from Sri Lanka
 - A 29-year-old male from Sri Lanka
 - A 32-year-old male from Sri Lanka
- The four charged on January 16 were bailed to appear at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on April 14. Warrants were also executed on January 7 in Albion, which resulted in the charging of three people on January 8, including:
- A 38-year-old male from Sri Lanka
 - A 32-year-old female from Sri Lanka
 - A 35-year-old male from India

The three charged on January 8 were bailed to appear at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on April 14 ●

Chinese New Year to emblazon the city

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Sean Car
ARTS & CULTURE

CBD locals rejoice! The Chinese New Year Melbourne Festival will soon welcome in the Lunar New Year in 2020.

For 16 days from January 24 to February 9, the city will erupt with colour and excitement as some of our most treasured local landmarks, such as the Immigration Museum and Queen Victoria Market, host spectacular events.

The celebrations will officially open at Queensbridge Square in Southbank on January 24 to celebrate the Year of the Rat with dazzling performances, exquisite clothing from an array of ancient dynasties, traditional Chinese cuisine, along with light show performances and a range of Chinese cultural activities for all ages.

The Dragon Boat Regatta at Victoria Harbour in Docklands is a must-see spectacle at this year's festival, where locals can form teams to race authentic dragon boats, followed by a competitive Dragon Boat Regatta run by Dragon Boat Victoria.

Queensbridge Square will feature parading traditional cultural performances, family activities and workshops, food stores and more on Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, January 26. Additional activities will include lion dances, a special dinner for international students, family days at various sites across the city, Chinese costume shows, stilt walking displays and opera performances ●



▲ Chinese New Year celebrations will kick off at Queensbridge Square on January 24.

For more information and the full festival program visit : cnymelbournefestival.com.au

STREET ART

The Future of creative Melbourne

One of my friends who was recently painting in a local laneway runs an important blog on street art. He's an interesting artist.

The laneway that he was painting in was Flinders Court; it's that laneway which runs behind Elizabeth St between Flinders St and Flinders Lane. It was painted up as part of an indigenous youth art project run through Blender Studios and Signal and funded by the City of Melbourne.

This project worked with disengaged and indigenous young people who went to school in the City of Melbourne. It was a great project which gave me the chance to work with some Aboriginal elders and we were lucky enough to be given a guided walking tour through many of the historical and culturally significant indigenous sites around the city.

The young people were each paired with a respected urban artist and they worked over a number of weeks to design an artwork. The council and the owners of the building gave permission for the project to be painted on the walls of Flinders Court. It was pretty tagged up (tags and graffiti) so a rejuvenation would make a huge difference to the amenity of the laneway.

We painted it over a weekend with the art taking over the entire lane. Everybody loved it. So many people came together to discuss the content and to talk to the young people and artists. The owner of Nando's even gave us all a free lunch! It was a very successful project.

The laneway has quickly become a new street art hotspot with spotters (people that photograph street art) and tourists breathing life into what was an ugly dirty and somewhat dangerous public space. After the youth project, Blender took on Flinders Court to keep it fresh and maintained. We look after a number of laneways in this manner. As the laneway gets tags and graffitied, we either fix the artwork or

more commonly we send in an artist to create a new artwork over the old one to keep it fresh and clean.

For many years now, Blender has been setting up and looking after the artistic integrity of many laneways in the CBD. These include Blender Lane, Loveland's, Maloney Lane, Flinders Court and many more. We generally try to send artists to trouble spots around the city. Many national and international artists who come to Melbourne contact Blender Studios to find out about the best spots to paint in the city. We always send them to one of the lanes we manage or to Hosier, AC DC or Croft Alley. This is super helpful in the upkeep of the lanes and the beautification of the city.

Melbourne is now so famous for its awesome lanes and art. If it wasn't for Blender helping to keep the lanes beautiful it would be very hard to find a laneway that is clean or interesting. It would all look like Union Lane, or worse AC DC lane precinct, were most of the space has been sold to advertisers. It is clear that the service that Blender Studios is providing is important and we require no funding or any other kind of support in order to do this. So, why am I writing this article?

Because someone called the police on my friend whom was painting in Flinders Court recently. And the police came, and my friend got in trouble for painting.

I know what we do is a grey area and it's a very divisive issue for local government. But it is crucial to the survival of the creative CBD and its urban culture. The tourism dollars street art generates is in the tens of millions so we need to look after it! How would it look if I sent a well-respected international artist to paint in

▼ Thai artist Mue Bon's contribution in Flinders Court. Photo courtesy @snappingthewalls



Flinders Court (like Thai artist Mue Bon, who painted Flinders Court late last year with our paint and ladder) and they were arrested? It's a bad look for Melbourne and terrible for Blender. So, I am stuck in this situation where one person that complains to the police or the council are given a very large voice. This has to stop.

I also have trouble at the new Blender Lane (Maloney) with one guy continuously calling the cops and wasting everybody's time. As we lose our laneway culture to gentrification and rich developers, we need to step back and think about our long-term goals for a future creative Melbourne. What it is that is important and what we are willing to sacrifice in the name of progress. At the moment, it seems like the person with the biggest wallet or who complains the loudest gets all the say.

These grumpy troublemakers paint a grim picture of a future they want to create: a dystopia Orwellian place where the rich control the police at their whim and creativity is some kind of thought crime.

It really is time that we took back control of our creative city ●



Adrian Doyle
ADRIAN DOYLE IS BENDER STUDIOS
LEARN MORE ON

The women's centre without walls

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

The Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) occupies the site of Melbourne's first hospital. Its first section opened in 1848. By the end of that century almost the entire block was forming Melbourne's medical precinct.

The precinct is gone now. Medical hubs were moved out of the CBD and most of the old buildings were demolished in the 1980s and '90s. One building remains as a sole relic.

It was turned into the QVWC in 1994 and has since hosted and supported an impressive range of women's organisations. Now, a new arts program will transform it into a creativity hub.

Jo Porter joined the centre as its new CEO last February, bringing with her a career in both the arts and social justice. She launched the new arts program.

"The QVWC has a long and iconic tradition of supporting the women of Victoria," she said.

"In the 21st century Melbourne women are more mobile and active than ever, yet increasing numbers of women experience depression, loneliness and isolation."

"We know that access to cultural activity, networking and connection can stave off these ills and our new program aims to bring together women of all backgrounds by providing ways for them to participate in learning, art, design and performance."

Like many Melburnians born before the 1980s, Jo was born in the precinct. Other than that, she had little experience with the centre before taking on the role.

But it fitted well with her career trajectory.

"I'd worked in London and New York in commercial theatre, and then I was the executive producer at the Malthouse Theatre in Southbank for three years," she said.



▲ Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) CEO Jo Porter.

"My career had a progression from theatre to, by the time I was leaving Malthouse, getting engaged in how social justice works with being creative and facilitating connections and so on."

Jo returned to university to study community development and freelanced with arts projects that focused on indigenous and rural communities.

"The centre had come to a similar conclusion about creativity and connection. We have organisations here that are really supporting women when things go bad, and there's a real drive toward initiative and connection," she said.

Resident organisations at the centre include CASA House (Centre Against Sexual Assault), Domestic Violence Victoria, Fitted For Work and the Council of Single Mothers and their Children.

The new arts program includes a partnership

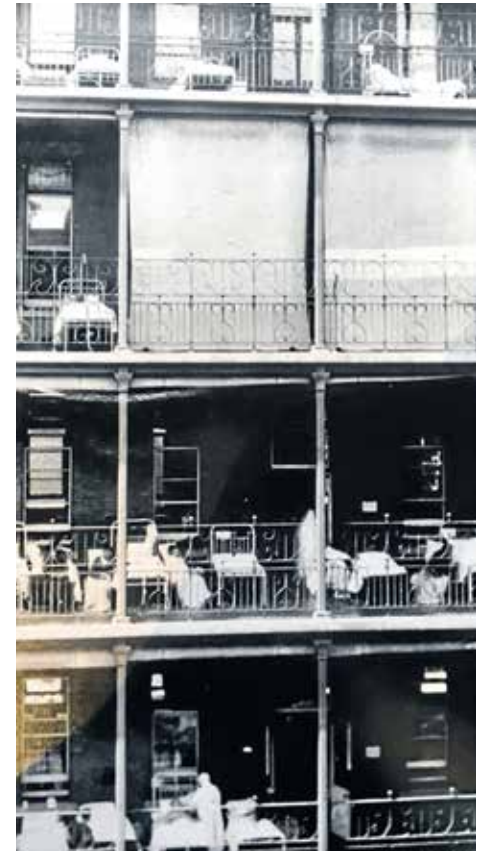
with the Comedy Festival and Melbourne Knowledge Week, a "thinker-in-residence" position and live art installations.

A new podcast series – Apocalypse – will feature queer women and non-binary people discussing survival in a climate apocalypse.

A project with the Foundation for Young Australians will produce a report on what a "women's centre without walls" and a "women's centre of the future" could be like.

"They're identifying the kind of things that, if they lived too far away or if they lived close by but wouldn't be able to get out of the house, what would they want to know was here and what would they want to use here in 20 or 30 years," Jo said.

"We want to get to a big picture idea of how we can be as useful in 20 or 30 years as we are now and even as it was in the past when it was a hospital for women run by women." ●



▲ Melbourne Hospital - makeshift wards c1920s. Photo courtesy of Royal Melbourne Hospital archives.

For more information:
qvwc.org.au

Museum quality work in Flinders Lane

When you are an artist, it's not just a case of getting the job done. It's the thought that goes into the work that counts because you want a viewer to retrace those steps.



▲ *Echidna Dish* by Cassie Leatham. Cassie collected her own pipe clay which she quarried on her own Country and fired in an earth oven.

In Cassie Leatham's *Echidna Dish* the materials include echidna quills, an abalone shell and pipe clay.

It's unlikely that Cassie just went down to the art shop to pick up a few supplies.

You can imagine her scouting through country where echidnas poke around, looking for a carcass. That might take some time.

The inclusion of an abalone shell suggests the coast but perhaps one not that far from the city where someone might appreciate the amusing idea of using it in a spikey dish for a makeup table.

The Mornington Peninsula is the meeting place for Cassie and the artists shown in *Reflecting Country, Recognising self*; an exhibition by Baluk Arts at Flinders Lane Gallery.

This is a brilliant show for those returning to the city from holidays down the coast and mourning the loss of habitat as they get closer to the man-made corridors of town.

In the city the discourse dominates and it must drive some people crazy. This is the kind of show you expect to see in a regional gallery

rather than in a commercial downtown space.

Each object on display has both a purpose and a story. There are beautiful little receptacles made out of bull kelp, dried and glistening with as much poetry as a shark's egg – Bull Kelp Water Carriers by Nannette Shaw.

A circular healing mat is made out of a native grass called Lomandra, a spiny-head mat-rush native to most of Australia. These mats were made for everyday use by indigenous people and they still seem relevant.

Both tradition and commentary combine in this exhibition and the objects were capturing the appreciation of visitors to the gallery when *CBD News* visited in early January.

"Echidnas are still quite common in the national park near St Andrews," said one visitor. "My daughter lives there." She pointed out the creative use of a remnant ghost net in another sculptural piece.

The prices reflect the value of the intellectual property of this work by indigenous artists.

Reflecting Country, Recognising Self, Flinders Lane Gallery, until February 1 ●

▼ *Water carrier* by Nannette Shaw. The last traditional Water Carrier was made in 1851. This traditional practice connects Nannette to Country. Kelp for this piece was collected at Beer Barrel Beach just before St Helens in Tasmania.



WE LIVE HERE

Short-stay abuse despite resident's VCAT win

Residents in a prestige Melbourne apartment tower report that they are living in fear of abuse and violent threats from out-of-control short-stay guests – despite a VCAT ruling in favour of a resident who complained.

In a legal first, VCAT issued consent orders against Melbourne Serviced Apartments Pty Ltd for a string of disturbing short-stay incidents. The resident who complained was awarded compensation by the tribunal.

Undeterred, another short-stay operator continues to create havoc in the same building.

Imagine living in a building where short-stay guests repeatedly vomit from balconies, where residents are abused by party-goers at 2 or 3am and where your children find used condoms in common areas the next morning.

This is a nightmare lived by thousands of Victorians who live in residential apartments.

And the so-called "Airbnb Act" has not tamed the terrifying incubus of short-stays.

The *Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Act 2018* promises a puny compensation of up to \$2000 to residents. Residents have Buckley's chance of getting anything like this amount.

The complainant in this case went to VCAT and won \$1000 as compensation for "loss of amenity."

\$1000 is small potatoes for a litany of grievances – recreational drugs, vomiting, blood stains, cigarette butts, condoms, abuse, threats, noise, sleepless nights, mail theft ...

Hypothetically, the Airbnb Act should award the victim up to \$2000 per incident – which in this case, with more than 10 separate incidents, could add up notionally to \$20,000 or more.

With this precedent-setting case and consent orders issued, we know now what the VCAT benchmark is: let's call it \$100 compensation for each time a drunk short-stay guest vomits on your balcony or abuses you at your apartment door or in the lift.

How's that for a reward for taking time off work to negotiate the VCAT legal maze over a period of more than six months?

As a resident you would want to be looking at the strategic advantage of a VCAT consent order and how that would help you stand up to the bully-tactics of unscrupulous short-stay corporations. The monetary compensation is risibly pathetic.

The worst part is the relentless continuation

of the incidents that are classified as loss of amenity.

Barely one month after this brave resident won VCAT consent orders, all hell broke loose.

The same apartment building was the scene of a violently abusive, riotous short-stay party.

An affected resident gave us this harrowing report:

"On a Saturday night in January, two apartments were rented out by Bella Manager Pty Ltd trading as Experience Hotel Apartments to a group of youths. About 50 people flooded the foyer and various floors with loud, drunken and abusive behaviour. I was threatened and abused by this group repeatedly. Police were called multiple times by scared residents. Security and police eventually evicted them. At around 5:30am the original group amazingly managed to re-enter the building."

"The safety of my family was compromised on Saturday. I am furious to learn that this group has caused problems in this building before and yet continue to be able to rent apartments with apparently little vetting and no proactive security checks in place."

"I chose to buy an apartment in a secure building, and I expected it to be secure. Short-stay providers operate a business model that blatantly compromises that security and the peaceful amenity of my home, while the managers of these businesses sleep soundly in their quiet beds."

We Live Here fought long and hard against the Mickey Mouse bill that is now enshrined in the OC Act 2018. A government media release on the day it became law stated: "Residents living in apartments next to short-stay accommodation shouldn't have to put up with rowdy parties and out-of-control guests – and that's what these tough new laws will deliver."

This case demonstrates how weak the legislation really is and with no review until 2021 what other recourse do residents have against the might of unscrupulous operators and an out-of-control and unregulated short-stay industry?

We will continue to lobby for regulation until the government catches up with the rest of the

Barely one month after this brave resident won VCAT consent orders, all hell broke loose. The same apartment building was the scene of a violently abusive, riotous short-stay party.



world. A good first start would be to actually listen to the voice of residents!

Airbnb memo: how not to pay GST

According to Neighbours Not Strangers (neighboursnotstrangers.com), Airbnb has emailed its landlords to offer advice on how to get out of paying GST on their host fees. GST applies to Airbnb's 3 per cent commission but, given Airbnb's massive turnover, this still represents what some refer to as a major "swindle" on taxpayers and residents.

Short-stay response to bushfires angers users
Users of short-stay platforms such as Airbnb have been posting their outrage over the "no-cancellation" policy of the providers.

Under Australian consumer law, when a "frustration of contract" occurs, guests are entitled to a full refund of all prior payments.

This includes situations where "the authorities have advised that the area is not safe to enter."

Providers have been reported as refusing to allow refunds.

Meanwhile, Airbnb is struggling to appear magnanimous in the face of the national bushfire emergency.

In what seems a cynical gesture, Airbnb is leaning on its hosts to offer free accommodation in areas outside the perimeter of the fire-affected areas. Airbnb's media release makes it clear that other people will cop the bill for its so-called beneficence.

Campaign donations

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



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What's to come in 2020

The Melbourne CBD middle market performed strongly throughout 2019, continuing its momentum from the preceding year, setting record capital value rates and sharp yields. This momentum is expected to continue in 2020.

BY Daniel Wolman, Colliers International

Overall, the market performed exceptionally well last year with a total of 15 middle market assets transacted between \$10 million - \$100 million. Total transaction volume for these sales was around \$529 million averaging a capital value rate of around \$13,000 and a sharp yield of 2.5 per cent.

The office investment market was fuelled by the record low vacancy rate of 3.3 per cent, one of the lowest vacancy rates we have experienced since 2008. This translated into the sustained rise in rents and capital values, which led to the further compression of yields.

The historical low cash rate that was cut to the current 0.75 per cent arguably fuelled the confidence of the commercial investment market, as it provided a lower cost of borrowing, coupled with an increased appetite for quality commercial property offerings from investors and add-value players.

The shortage of stock also saw institutional players entering the \$10 million - \$100 million price bracket traditionally not looked at by institutions, which further boosted demand.

Colliers International successfully transacted the sale of Swann House at 22 William St, which demonstrated a sharp yield of 2.55 per cent, in which sub three per cent yields have become increasingly common place. 45 Exhibition St

transacted in April 2019 also boasted a record high capital value rate of \$17,562 and a yield of 1.33 per cent. Another record yield and cap value achieved by the Colliers Melbourne City Sales team.

An overarching trend we saw in the market was the emergence of the build-to-rent development model, whereby developers and their financiers construct multi-unit developments, retain them and lease them out instead of selling them. This model presented an enormous opportunity for capital inflows into Australia and its feasibility was greatly improved with more favourable land tax and GST regulation changes in Australia.

Fund through transactions were another defining trend of 2019. Within the robust office leasing environment that was, fund through deals were heavily driven by pre-commitments. These transactions did not generally fall within the \$10 million - \$100 million price bracket, nonetheless they illustrated the emerging trend that was seen in the market and adopted predominantly by institutional players. Such transactions have become increasingly relevant in city fringe locations, such as Richmond and Cremorne where office leasing stock has been tightly held. The sale of 17-21 Harcourt Parade, Cremorne for \$100.1 million (by Colliers), where MYOB has pre-committed for 10 years epitomised this nature of transaction.

▼ 22 William - Dusk



Ultimately, the extremely tight nature of middle market assets within the Melbourne CBD, coupled with the record low cash rate, and positive investment sentiment will continue to fuel and provide continued momentum for another successful year.

2020 has already been earmarked by the market leaders as an even greater year than 2019 with several high-profile transactions and marketing campaigns expected to be announced to the public later in the first quarter ●

A slice of Italy in the heart of the CBD

Equitable Place is not the name that springs to mind when thinking of Melbourne's famous lanes and arcades.

It may not have the graffiti-sprawled walls of Hosier Lane or the terrazzo floor of Block Arcade. However, what it lacks in reputation and grandeur, it makes up for with simplicity and substance.

This attitude is exemplified through an authentic Italian approach to hospitality from Equitable Place's newest player, Valentini Caffè-E-Vini.

After selling his business in September 2018, Valentini Caffè-E-Vini owner Luigi Valeri spent the best part of last year searching the streets of Melbourne for the perfect venue.

"When I came across this place, it wasn't what you would call 100 per cent. I chose it because of the beautiful lane and the fact that there are no other Italian restaurants," Mr Valeri said.

"I've only been here for six months, so it is going to take some time to figure out who our customers are and what they like."

"We set ourselves apart from others because we offer great quality coffee, traditional food and above all, the kind of hospitality that turns customers into regulars."

A proud Australian-Italian, Mr Valeri's journey to Melbourne is not your typical migration story.

Growing up in New South Wales, Mr Valeri and his family travelled back to Italy when he was four, where he would spend much of his early years. That was until a natural disaster uprooted his life.

"An earthquake hit my home in the north of Italy on May 6, 1976. I lost everything and was very lucky to save my life," Mr Valeri said. "After a year trying to find my feet, I thought to myself 'I want to see where I was born'. So, I packed everything I had and moved back to Australia."

"I spent six months learning English at university, then immediately started working. My first job was with at Donnini's on Lygon St in 1978 - that was where I found my passion. Working with and around food is my passion,



▲ Luigi Valeri and Gigi Buono at Valentini's Caffè E-Vini.

and always will be."

Mr Valeri's refined approach to home-style Italian is a refreshing change in the fast-food laden streets of the CBD.

Showcasing the best produce from Victoria and Italy, Valentini's follows a simple mantra; less is more. Simple, fresh ingredients combine to create unique meals bursting with flavour.

"What we are trying to make is home-style food but turn the ordinary into extraordinary," said head chef Gigi Buono.

"We take two to three main ingredients and turn them into something that is going to give comfort and joy. It is a southern approach to Italian cooking that is much lighter and fresh."

Stepping into Valentini's, it is abundantly clear Mr Valeri, and Mr Buono love what they do, and that dedication is reflected through their food and hospitality.

You can find Valentini Caffè-E-Vini and its giant mural painted by Italian artist Giorgio Marzò, paying homage to Melbourne at 12 Equitable Place.

It is open Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm, and Saturday 7am to 2pm ●

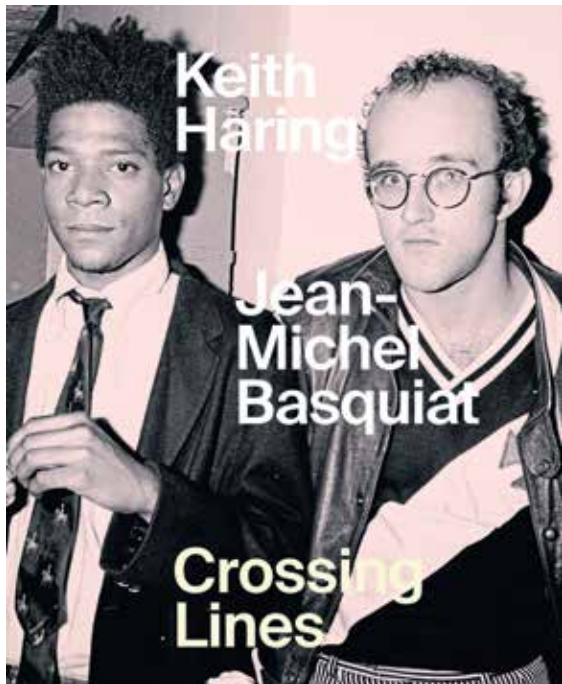
For more information:
valenticincaffeevini.com.au



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MUSIC

NGV Fridays



At the National Gallery Victoria (NGV) on St Kilda Rd, the live music of NGV Friday Nights has a reprise summer season to help celebrate the Keith Haring / Jean Michel Basquiat : Crossing Lines Exhibition.

At the iconic water wall at the front of the gallery there is a magnificent Keith Haring work, similar to one that appeared there in the 20th century. Haring was very much into music and turntablism and Soul Jazz Records released a phenomenal three-album set that included many great tunes that Keith Haring and his friends listened to back in the day in New York. This collection is called *The World Of Keith Haring*, and like all great Soul Jazz Records

releases there is a lavish presentation involved, with great pictures and superb essays detailing and contextualising the musical world that was around Keith Haring. DJs around Melbourne are listening to this superb set that includes music by Fab Five Freddy, Yoko Ono and The Golden Flamingo Orchestra.

Keith Haring was a member of an influential group of New York artists who helped redefine the New York art scene. This collection is available at all good vinyl record stores in Melbourne.

At NGV Fridays, Melbourne DJs will no doubt be playing influential music that is from and inspired by music on this Soul Jazz Records collection of Keith Haring's favourite music. They will be playing at the NGV rare disco, early electro and punk /dance tracks from the East Coast that is a representation of the exciting and curious sound of downtown New York in the 1980s. On Friday, February 21, the night is called Aural Dub and we will be hearing C.FRIM examining in intricate detail roots of dub, dembow and reggae, inspired by the New York musical universe that Keith Haring inhabited. C.FRIM is an up and coming DJ and no doubt she will be inspired to play a great set. Renee Delay will be performing on the night as well.

There will also be a talk from NGV guide Mandy Yencken discussing the shared interests of Haring and Basquiat including street art, performance and dance, semantics, racism and politics.

Afterwards there is an 80s dance floor in the NGV Garden to wrap up the night.

Sunnyboys will be performing at the Forum Theatre on February 8. Celebrating 40 years together Sunnyboys have a new album available that features four new tracks including the original recording of their new classic song *Alone With You*. Support will come from the notorious Painters and Dockers.

One of the best bands playing around Melbourne at the moment, The Heinous

Hounds, are playing at the new Cherry Bar on Sunday, February 5. The band plays some of the best rock and classic blues songs that you have ever heard, making for an intoxicating variety and cool, rich mixture of rock and blues songs. Heinous Hounds music just builds and builds through the night, like watching Fireball XL-5 launch into space.

Tones And I has announced a Bushfire Benefit Concert to be held on Tuesday, January 28 at 170 Russell. 100 per cent of proceeds from both ticket sales and merchandise will go to the Australian Red Cross, RFS and the CFA. There will be more details announced about special guests to join Tones on the night. This is a chance for us to support the fires and all the families that are affected by the bushfires ●

Gigs:

- Tones And I Bushfire Benefit Concert, January 28 at 170 Russell.
- Pop Crimes, The Songs of Rowland S Howard, January 26 at Corner Hotel.
- Sunday Arvo Blues Sessions, Cherry Bar, Little Collins St.
- Mahalia, February 4, 170 Russell
- Sunnyboys, February 8, Forum Theatre
- 3PBS Drive Live, 106.7 FM – February 5 to 9



Chris Mineral

EMAIL: MINERALSANDS@HOTMAIL.COM



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SKYPAD LIVING

Vertical living views – an agent's perspective

“What we see depends mainly on what we look for” - John Lubbock.

And what we look for in vertical villages is largely related to the role we play in the vertical living sector – developer, building manager, resident, investor, contractor, committee member or concierge – meaning that different things gain attention when viewing the world of vertical villages.

With this in mind, my column this year will seek to share some of these different perspectives of our vertical villages, with the aim of highlighting points of view other than “our” own. Who knows what might be brought to light!

To start this endeavour, I thought it fitting to talk with someone that vertical villagers typically first encounter when entering the high-rise, high-density sector – namely, the real estate agent.

And to see what captures the attention of those that know well the vertical village market (i.e. factors influencing buyers), I spoke with Cary Thornton. Cary is currently of LUCAS Docklands which unashamedly claims the title of vertical living specialists.

My first question to Cary was - what's so special about vertical living? He said the most striking feature of this sector was its diversity. In his experience, traditional suburbs tend to have a noticeable “sameness”, largely because birds of a feather flock together. This goes to the point that suburbs tend to attract people from the same socio-economic band and who are often on similar life paths. This results in not-a-lot-of-diversity within particular suburbs – there



aren't many backpackers in Toorak! This is not the case in our high-rise neighbourhoods, where most buildings contain apartments varying greatly in price – often starting in the mid-400,000s and reaching several million. Add to this different apartment sizes (one, two or three bedrooms), and it means most vertical villages have a mix of families, solos, retirees and visitors.

This point led nicely on to my second question about the key challenges confronting the sector. Cary then raised a point about the pragmatics of diversity, specifically in terms of challenges encountered by building management. This goes to the point that diversity means that different people value (or

consider normal practice) different things. We know well the differences of opinion regarding, for instance, late night activity where dancing on the ceiling (borrowing from Lionel Richie) becomes all too real for the person living below. Or framed in terms of vertical living - one person's floor is another person's ceiling and differences in lifestyle, combined with too little insulation, means that these differences can escalate to division.

A second area of challenge noted by Cary was the focus of owners' corporations (OCs) and the need for these key decision makers to have a vision for their building beyond just upkeep. According to Cary, “OCs need to be able to articulate what they want out of the building. And they need to have a long-term vision for where they see their building going.” Agreed.

In terms of challenges confronting the wider vertical living sector, Cary's opinion was that too often regulators were caught “on the back foot”, meaning that approaches to issues, such as short stays, have been largely reactive. “There is a wealth of experience around - and many issues could have been foreseen and helped by what has happened overseas. But there is a lag time in responding...”

Finally, Cary nominated the great need for tailored energy innovations. While he noted some signs of advances, such as the work undertaken by Lend Lease, Cary believes that greater attention needs to be given to this aspect of vertical living – and it needs to happen now!

With regards to what current innovations have impressed him, Cary noted the advances in communal space design. In the past, many buildings have sought to offer it all, which resulted in a small pool, a half sized court, a tiny gym, a small shared kitchen and a cramped lounge. Trying to offer all these facilities typically meant that nothing was done particularly well and so were underutilised. Cary's advice is to focus on one or two facilities and do these really well. And something done really well, which has captured his attention, is the use of animation (and maybe soon virtual reality?) in in-house sports simulation.

So, from the perspective of someone deeply involved in vertical living buying and selling, our sector has both the appeal and challenge of innate diversity and we are learning more about designing and managing communal space.

But what strongly came through to me from my chat with Cary was the growing need to be more future looking – both the OCs and regulators – with both groups needing to be more “on the front foot.” Maybe there could be an in-house simulation for this? ●



Janette Corcoran

JANETTE CORCORAN IS AN APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT.

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TRADER PROFILE



▲ Hayden Marks of Melbourne Bushfood.

Bushfood in the heart of the city

21-year-old Hayden Marks is passionate about native Australian bushfoods. His business Melbourne Bushfood has recently arrived in the organics section at Queen Victoria Market (QVM), adding to the market's already diverse range of fresh foods.

While much of what Hayden offers will be familiar to most of us, bushfoods are generally not found in most Australian pantries. Despite there being around 6500 bushfoods in Australia, the only one which is commonly eaten is the macadamia.

It's the mission of Melbourne Bushfood to change that and, in doing so, support and raise awareness of sustainable permaculture farming practices that have been adopted by our First Nations peoples for thousands of years.

"The reason I do this is because it's a lot more sustainable," Hayden told *CBD News*.

"I see what's happening in farming and 99 per cent of New South Wales is covered in drought yet we're planting watermelon, tomatoes and cotton along the Murray River, which are very water heavy crops. So, of course there are going to be droughts."

"With bushfoods you don't need heavy irrigation so it's a lot better for you and the environment. There are a lot of people in agriculture doing a lot of great things but the majority of the system we have is unsustainable."

Take two staples found in everyone's pantries, for example ... salt and pepper.

As Hayden explained, much of what we buy off the shelf is unsustainably farmed, imported from overseas and covered in things like micro toxins. Instead, Melbourne Bushfood offers healthy and sustainable alternatives in saltbush and pepperberry!

As well as offering a range of herbs and spices, why not try one of its many tea blends

using ingredients like lemon myrtle, fresh seasonal produce like finger limes or one of its delicious chocolates incorporating bushfoods such as strawberry gum and wattleseed.

With many of his ingredients sourced from Gippsland, Hayden said he was keen to use his new position at Queen Victoria Market to educate the public on the benefits of bushfoods and make them more accessible.

"For me it was about the botanicals and making them more accessible. No one is going to buy it at \$20 a packet so that's the main reason I got into it. I wanted to try and make it more mainstream," he said.

"I've learned so much. I've met so many farmers and engaged a lot with the Wurundjeri council but there's so much more to learn – there are 6500 species and there are hundreds of varieties of each one. There is so much growing everywhere and people just don't know about it."

"I've been at the market [QVM] for three months so not long, but it's been really fun getting to talk to people. I'm trying to get fresh produce to sell as well but that all takes time as everything is seasonal."

"Being in the organic section is great and everyone has been really helpful and lovely. The market is very Melbourne!"

Melbourne Bushfood can be found at QVM on weekends and selected weekdays throughout the year under I Shed. ●

For more information:
melbournebushfood.com.au or
 follow @melbournebushfood on
 Instagram.

METRO TUNNEL



Metro Tunnel HQ open all summer

Metro Tunnel HQ – the project's visitor centre on Swanston St – is open all summer.

A popular spot in the heart of the city, Metro Tunnel HQ has clocked more than 100,000 visitors since it opened in mid-2018, with numbers expected to top 200,000 by the end of the year.

January has already been a busy month for the HQ team, with more than 600 visitors recorded in a single day!

Head down and check out the latest archaeological display featuring Chinese artefacts from the Victorian mining boom. Items were excavated as part of a Metro Tunnel dig in 2018 that yielded interesting finds including an assortment of old teeth, children's toys and jewellery.

Visitors can continue to enjoy a virtual reality tour inside a tunnel and interactive activities for kids including a Mini Melbourne Minecraft game.

The HQ team is on hand seven days a week to answer questions about the project with maps and brochures to help illustrate progress to date.

Metro Tunnel HQ is located 125-133 Swanston St across the road from the Melbourne Town Hall.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Construction blitz

The Metro Tunnel project's eastern entrance at South Yarra is taking shape following a month-long construction blitz.

Project team members have worked around the clock throughout January to complete the roof slab and support structures for the Metro Tunnel's eastern entrance as well as rail systems upgrades between Caulfield and South Yarra to support future high capacity signalling and trains.

Major works during this period included:

Pouring more than 3500 cubic metres of concrete, including 1340 cubic metres for the roof slab;

Installing around 550 tonnes of steel reinforcement, 4000 tonnes of capping and backfill and 1650 linear metres of drainage; and

Removing and reinstating close to two kilometres track, overhead lines and signalling equipment.

Final works involve reinstallation of tracks and finishing touches to return services to the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Frankston lines.

Bus replacement services, which enabled the works to go ahead, will have transported more than 1.5 million passengers on the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Frankston lines between Flinders Street and Caulfield stations, as well as V/Line passengers on the Gippsland line, by the end of the construction blitz.

Bus replacement services also extended to Moorabbin and Westall for seven days early in the occupation ●



Open for business

Clementine's: 7 Degraeves Street

Throughout construction of the new Town Hall Station, Clementine's will remain open and accessible. Clementine's is your neighbourhood one stop shop where you will find that perfect gift, yummy treat or souvenir. Clementine's stock goods from small independent makers across Melbourne and regional Victoria. Visit us and support your local business.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



**More trains,
 more often**



Taking the turtle for a walk

A figure walks through the city. She's trying to feel her way into the spaces. She isn't sure where she is heading. A flash of colour or an open door might lead her astray.

Bronwen Kamasz could be in a movie, one of those slow motion sequences in which the moments seem to go on forever.

The trouble is that the rest of the city is moving a lot faster. People stop and stare.

"Some of the stares suggest destabilising discomfort in the viewer," Bronwen said. She doesn't mind. "I'm trying to create tiny little micro shifts in people's experience of place."

The walk Bronwen is doing is part of a performance piece-come-research project called *Taking the turtle for a walk* in which she leads another person through the streets near her studio in the Nicholas Building.

She is slowly moving away from her roots in Perth to become a CBD local. "I wouldn't feel comfortable doing this in Perth. The stares would feel pointed and troublesome."

The aim is to inhabit the city in an intimate way. "The more time you spend in it in an everyday, quotidian way, the less you are able to inhabit it," she says.

Every time she does the walk she notices something different. The issue is not to look for difference but to be open to the discovery of new things.

In St Collins Lane she discovered a ceiling full of glitzy reflections that she'd never seen before, prompting her to acknowledge the importance of abstract ideas in her practice.

After doing a Masters course at the Victorian College of the Arts, she's begun writing articles for an online dance magazine. She likes Walter

Benjamin as a thinker because his descriptions of the arcades of Paris have political underpinnings.

Her own, most recent slow journey through the CBD began on the footpath in Flinders Lane where she hugged the left-hand side close to the buildings.

The first diversion was into Scott Alley, where she noticed some small, metal receptacles at ground level plastered with poison warnings, which she took to be there to control rats.

She crossed Flinders Lane at Centre Place then continued until turning right into an unnamed arcade, which leads through to a beautiful pair of brass doors on Collins St.

A light show in St Collins Lane across the road was amazing as she ascended on an escalator, with rivers of light and a green galaxy of strangeness to meet her.

She followed the hand railing for a while, using her sense of touch to guide her. Large monumental forms hovered, shell-like, above her. The refracted roof was overwhelming.

After the here-I-am presence of this flamboyant architecture the street seemed dull and grey in comparison. Perhaps she got lost in a time warp. It took a couple of inviting shops on Little Collins to break her out.

Turning back towards Swanston St, she approached the Manchester Unity building from the back. This is where she looked most at ease, looking up as the light shone down from somewhere or other.



▲ Bronwen Kamasz on a slow walk through the city

Soon, an historical setting with old brass letterboxes was enticing her down some stairs to a dead end where an automatic light lit up the marble.

Back on Collins, she appreciated the overcast day but the temperature was dropping as she neared the end of the walk at the corner of Elizabeth.

"Thousands of people were walking past us," she said, as we settled for a conversation at a café she'd never seen before, "experiencing one place. It's fractured with a million pieces at any moment." ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

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SWA113E

MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

Welcome to 2020!

There is so much anticipation, expectation and hope at the beginning of each year for upcoming success.

Many of us will start with New Year's resolutions or goals for what we want to achieve. Some of us are disciplined enough to update and revise our business plans.

All of those are great and highly effective at providing a road map to success, however, what else might you need to achieve your goals?

Your mindset has a tremendous impact on whether you will succeed or not. Whether you see opportunities everywhere or obstacles. Whether you take a chance to grow or stay the same. It's the difference between a growth mindset and a fixed mindset.

So, what is a growth mindset? In essence, a growth mindset is the belief that success can be achieved through hard work, learning, collaboration, innovation and in seeing opportunities. A fixed mindset is the opposite; it's about being rigid, not taking risks, not encouraging or embracing new ideas and seeing barriers or limitations to success everywhere.

At the Melbourne Business Network (MBN), we believe that 2020 will be the best year for you and your business. We look forward to bringing more expert speakers to our members and community which will help you to achieve your goals. Additionally, we look forward to recognising and celebrating your successes.

B3000+ Awards

It's time to enter Melbourne's premier Business Awards program. Managed by the MBN, the B3000+ Awards have been celebrating the endeavours and successes of businesses operating in the City of Melbourne

since 2004, across all precincts. Join us for the launch of the 2020 B3000+ Awards on Thursday, February 20. For the event, we are delighted to have Chris Helder as a keynote speaker. Chris is one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in Australia when it comes to mastering the power of mindsets, genuine communication and influence. His book, *Useful Belief*, has become one of the highest selling Australian business books of all time. This is an event not to be missed ●

For more details about this event the B3000+ Awards categories or how to enter: go to melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au/events/b3000-awards



Wendi Dawson
WENDI DAWSON IS PRESIDENT OF THE MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

HISTORY

“A dizzying wave of colour”

It is difficult to imagine from the distance of almost 120 years, but for a short time in 1901 Melbourne became a city of arches built to commemorate the creation of Australia.

On January 1, 1901 Australia became a nation and Melbourne its capital city (at least until a new capital city, Canberra, could be built halfway between Melbourne and Sydney).

The arches were temporary structures designed to recognise and celebrate the contribution of a range of groups. The Age newspaper provided a word picture: “The arches rose over the great masses of the people in the gorgeousness of their colours like so many rainbows set against a cloudless sky. The senses were whirled away with the bewildering spectacle, and for moments together buildings, people and arches alike were blended in a dizzy hundred-tinted wave of colour.” (*The Age*, May 7, 1901)

The Chinese arch in Swanston St, close to Little Bourke St and at the western entrance to Chinatown, was paid for by the Victorian Chinese community and designed to look like a Chinese temple. Covered in beautiful silks and decorated with lanterns, flags and dragons, it bore the banner “Welcome by the Chinese Citizens.”

The welcome banner was probably meant to welcome the royal visitors, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, but it could also be seen as a welcome to the new nation, one in which the Chinese community had played a part since gold rush days. Chinatown had been around for nearly 50 years by then. After the gold rush it became the heart of the Chinese community where Chinese people lived, ate, worked and spent their leisure hours. There was a decline in the number of Chinese living in the area from the 1920s, particularly as a result of

Australia’s restrictive immigration policies, but it has remained the centre of activity for the community.

In this image, you can see the huge crowds and imagine the excitement of the time as street parades and other celebrations took over the city streets. The trams are not running, of course, but horses and buggies are making their way along the thoroughfare and if you look closely you will see a number of bicycles. There are children and adults in the foreground, so it is likely that this photograph was taken on a weekend or a public holiday during the first week of May when the first Federal Parliament was opened at the Exhibition Building in Carlton. There are flags aplenty and even the telegraph poles lining the street provide a decorative effect, as well as reminding us of the progress Melbourne had made since Victoria became a colony in its own right 50 years earlier. It must all have looked even more spectacular at night when the arches, ships on the bay and buildings in other parts of the city were illuminated.

Some things don’t change in 120 years. In 1901, there were those who lamented the waste of public money on such celebrations. Others saw the economic advantages and thought that at least they provided employment, however briefly. Others still saw the extravaganza put on for the royal visitors as tantamount to grovelling, *The Bulletin* complaining that there was “too much Cornwall-and-York and too little Commonwealth...” yet others admired the spectacle but wondered why more effort wasn’t made to build more permanent structures. It



▲ Chinese Arch, Swanston St during Federation Celebrations, 1901. Looking south along Swanston St. Mark James Daniel, photographer. RHSV GN-DGN-011.

seems as though some things never change.

100 years later, another Federation Arch was built on the Princes Bridge where Swanston St becomes St Kilda Rd, reimagining the arch that had stood there in 1901. Conceived by architect Peter Sandow, it was soon dubbed Pick up Sticks by its detractors and by 2003 it had been removed. Another piece of celebratory public art that has disappeared from view.

The image of the Chinese Federation arch featured here can be seen in two Royal Historical Society of Victoria publications – *Remembering Melbourne* (2016) and *Melbourne’s Twenty Decades* (2019). Both are

available for purchase from the RHSV. Phone: (03) 9326 9288. Email: office@historyvictoria.org.au. Online bookshop: www.historyvictoria.org.au/bookshop or visit us in person at 239 A’Beckett Street, Melbourne (opposite the Flagstaff Gardens), 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday ●

Dr. Cheryl Griffin

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

RESIDENTS 3000

Melbourne City Baths

On a cool Spring day, I’m standing at the side of the pool scanning the water and I get a feeling of contentment that I can’t remember having in any of my many former jobs.

I watch the lap swimmers powering down the lanes, the beginners wallowing and splashing and the children squealing with happiness as the sun, pouring through the skylights high above, catches the droplets and makes the air sparkle. If the cream tiled walls were sentient and could recall the 115 years since this building first opened to the public, I think they would have wonderful stories to tell.

The grand old Edwardian Melbourne City Baths on the corner of Swanston and Victoria streets houses two swimming pools, a gym and a number of training studios as well as a warren of now disused small rooms that used to provide baths for residents and visitors to the city. There is also a Mikvah bath which is still used for Jewish ritual purification ceremonies. I have been told it is the oldest Mikvah in Australia and keep meaning to verify this.

Patronage at the baths is as various as the population of Melbourne itself. It ranges from the lunchtime rush of city office workers coming for a workout or swim, to tourists from local hotels having a relaxing spa or sauna, to folk registered as homeless supported by city charities to take a shower.

The solid old walls would be long familiar with disadvantaged people needing a wash. The original baths were built in 1860 so men who were flocking to Melbourne to try their luck on the goldfields, didn’t need to bathe in the polluted Yarra and risk death from typhoid fever. When the new red and cream brick



▲ Melbourne City Baths

building was opened in 1904 swimming was becoming more fashionable but private baths were still the most important service offered.

So here I am now, watching the excited children of city workers, academics and students, (mostly from India, China or South East Asia), learn how to swim. I look up to the high windows on the next floor beside the pool letting in more sun from the outdoor training

deck and see the bobbing heads of ponytailed gym girls panting with strain as they follow the insistent rhythm of a fitness class.

There are just as many women working out and swimming here as men. The old building would remember when that wasn’t so. Originally, the big pool was for men only. The gender divide was literal: there was a wall between the women’s and men’s sides. The divided front stairs took women up to the left archway and men to the right. These arches are still labelled “WOMEN” and “MEN” although the entrance is now central and unisex. Men swam naked in the early days, but women had to wear thick woollen dresses and bloomers in their smaller shallow pool.

Then there is the way people swim. Staying on the left side of the lanes shouldn’t be that difficult and who would have thought aquatic lane rage was a thing (it really is!). Some people swim in such a weird way I watch in fascination and try not to laugh. Others create aquatic poetry in motion; just a few long slow strokes per lap and a whirl of ripple to mark their passing. Some splash so much it turns the old tiles round the edges into a slippery river. It is as if they are punishing the water - challenging it to take them under.

The Baths has a rich history of attendance by different sub-groups of our community. Many school children have learned to swim here. I have had older men fondly reminisce to me about school excursions to the Baths many years

ago. Not as often spoken about are the years when gay men found non-judgmental company within the aquatic areas. For many years the members’ (male and female) change rooms had private spa baths and saunas attached. These were removed about a decade ago leaving just one spa and a large sauna open to both genders in the public area.

So, I stand watching the swimmers for my allotted time, then walk around the brick red, glazed-tile edges beside 100 feet of clear, tepid water and I think how strange it is that my attempted retirement has brought me here as a lifeguard. I wonder if it is just my life coming around full circle. I loved swimming when I was a child in the western Wimmera. I would tow my little sister around in a dam being careful not to touch the bottom and stir up the fine clay mud. I haven’t had to test my rescue training by jumping in and doing a water tow so far and the only thing I’ve had to pull out is detached Band-aids, but I keep as fit as I can and hope I can walk the red tiles and watch the swimmers for a few more years yet ●

Toni Magor

COMMITTEE MEMBER OF RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



Pet's Corner

Sweet like chocolate

“

It was hard to miss the bright faces of Jude, a psychology student and Coco, a 12-year-old chocolate Labrador on a mild summer day in Flagstaff Gardens. There is a clear bond between these two.

”



▼ Jude and his chocolate Labrador Coco



WORDS BY Aphrodite Feros-Fooke

“We have had her since she was six weeks old,” Jude said. Jude is originally from England and moved to Melbourne with his family in 2007. Upon arriving they rescued Daisy, a golden retriever from the RSPCA at the ripe age of 15, and not long after decided to get a puppy.

“I took a day off school to see Coco and she was just adorable, like my little baby,” Jude said.

His parents live in Portland, Victoria, a coastal town four hours west of Melbourne.

According to Jude, Coco had predominantly lived in the country on a 15-acre farm where she had free roam to

do whatever she wanted.

Consequently, she wasn't so good on a lead, however *CBD News* observed Coco being very restrained during their park stroll.

“She is getting a bit lazy in her old age,” Jude said.

Jude lives in the CBD and Coco is currently transitioning to live in the city, to an apartment on the 17th floor.

“She doesn't like the balcony,” he said. She has no issues with the elevator though.

Coco's father was a black lab and mother was chocolate. Her fur is a warm reddish-brown and despite not showing many signs of her 12 years (70 in dog years) some grey hairs on her muzzle give her maturity away ●

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Lunch break

In a world of his own

Terry is hard at work. He has just three words to go before getting out the daily crossword. The wordsmith from Flemington comes to Barbarella's, off the Walk Arcade, once or twice a week. "It's out of the way of everything," he said.



▲ Cr Nic Frances Gilley.

市政急切寻求 替代共享自行车

撰稿: David Schout

目前整个中央商务区没有任何形式的共享自行车, 墨尔本市政呼吁新的电动自行车运营商家来填补市区共享自行车的空白。

市政正在寻求有意向在中央商务区进行为期一年运营试验的电动自行车公司, 并向当地人们保证这次将与2018年共享单车灾难大不相同。

由于州政府在去年11月取消了蓝色共享自行车项目, 市区居民、工作者和游客只能骑自己的自行车穿越市区, 而没有其他的选择。

想要在中央商务区骑自行车也别无选择, 只能开车或乘坐免费电车。

市政最近的十年交通战略是鼓励人们放

弃开车, 骑上自行车, 可是目前的境况远非理想。

为此, 迫切希望提供一个环保的选择, 让人们骑上两个轮子的单车。

交通主管尼克·弗朗西斯·吉利(Nic Frances Gilley)说, 电动共享自行车是“未来的一部分”, 它包含一个小马达, 时速可达25公里。

他表示: “这是真正能使墨尔本人能够出行的重要交通工具。”

“电动自行车就像一般的自行车。这意味着如果我在市区骑车通勤, 去柯林斯街或路过市区中的一些小坡道, 我可以从一个会议地点骑车到另一个会议地点, 到达时也不会汗流浹背, 这样在市区骑车变得更容易了。”

感官效应 大大增加

在伯克 (Bourke) 和斯旺斯顿 (Swanston) 街上的新信标将使用音频和信息传递技术来帮助弱视或失明的人们在市区导航。

市政府的人民城市管理部门主管贝弗利·平德 (Beverley Pinder) 表示, 墨尔本市政已经委托维多利亚导盲狗机构(Guide Dogs Victoria)开发这一程序, 该程序使用电话应用程序提供有关交叉路口, 建筑工地和公共交通的信息。

平德议员说: “无障碍环境是我们在墨尔本市所做一切工作的重要组成部分, 包括帮助人们找到市区的道路。”

“墨尔本城市在发展, 随着城市的变化, 至关重要的是, 我们必须支持弱视, 失明或其他残疾的人保持自信和独立生活。”

“我们正在采用与居民和游客交流的新方式, 以确保每个人都有平等的机会来体验我

们这座美丽城市所提供的一切。”

新信标使用现有的电话应用程序, 盲人导航系统(BlindSquare)来提供详细的音频信息, 这些是其它地图工具 (如谷歌地图) 无法获得的。

这包括障碍物的位置, 如安全护柱, 以及该区域建筑工程的信息。

新的虚拟全球定位系统信标已经在伯克街和斯旺斯顿街交叉路口以及弗林德斯巷和德格拉斯(Degraves)街路段建立起来。

这项技术还使用了新的实物信标, 安装在一些显眼的地方, 包括罗斯大厦(Ross House)、墨尔本市政厅、墨尔本游客中心、城市图书馆和德格拉斯街地下通道。



市政不仅限于“3R”

撰稿: David Schout

2019年, 墨尔本市政因处理超越其权限的问题而受到批评, 但一位政治评论家为其辩护, 认为地方政府的3R, 即“道路, 费率和垃圾”的授权淡化了他们所发挥的民主作用。

在过去的6个月, 市政一直就州政府和联

邦政府诸如气候变化, 新开始津贴 (Newstart) 和毒品检测问题进行激烈地辩论, 遭到一些认为市政不应超出其权限的批评。

但是澳大利亚天主教大学政治学副教授马克·周(Mark Chou)说, 市政有责任为选民说话, 而不仅仅是提供服务。

他说: “即使市政无权影响政策变化, 他们也通过其象征性行动将这些问题带到州

和联邦层面进行更广泛的辩论。”

“这些问题确实带入了公共领域, 这可能就是个目的。”

11月, 墨尔本市政议员在讨论未来市中心音乐会进行毒品检测问题形成七比三的投票对比。

这场漫长的辩论引发了关于现场毒品测试伦理的争论, 但由于现场毒品测试试点方

案已经被州政府和维多利亚警方拒绝, 因而市政在这场辩论中的作用也受到了质疑。

市政议员贝弗利·平德 (Beverley Pinder) 说, 这场辩论应该在“Spring 街的州政府会议厅”进行, 而不是在市政厅讨论。

在12月之后不久, 市政又对提高联邦政府的新开始津贴的形式展开了辩论。

公众眼中的联邦广场

根据第一份联邦广场持续审查报告显示, 联邦广场的治理模式以及与雅拉(Yarra)河的连接是公众优先关注的问题。

这份州政府报告还显示, 墨尔本人希望进一步改造联邦广场, 以改善其整体连通性、绿化空间、无障碍环境、多种活动和服务的提供。

该报告列出了人们对“更好地连接雅拉河、比拉朗玛尔(Birrarung Marr)以及与之相邻的体育和艺术区域”的优先愿望。

提出拆除和替换联邦广场的雅拉 (Yarra) 建筑, 从而与雅拉河连接, 一直是苹果项目的卖点之一。

因此, 《时代报》报道称抗议苹果项目的团体“我们的城市、我们的广场”, 将反对新报告的结论。

但是该组织回应了《时代报》, 宣布其开放联邦广场延至雅拉河的态度, 并指出只

要不失去“保留这个民间广场作为集会场所为代价”。

“正如我们在提交的评估报告中指出, 联邦广场必须以增强其公共和历史遗产价值的方式来塑造。”

这个团体 (我们的城市、我们的广场) 的主席塔尼亚·大卫吉(Tania Davidge)说, 社区和利益相关者一致认为联邦广场“是一个美好的地方”

“我们期待着下一阶段的审查, 并希望根据联邦广场作为公共广场的公民价值, 社区的声音将应继续纳入联邦广场的决策过程。”

该报告还显示: “联邦广场的管理和治理需要优先关注”。



What's On: February 2020

Community Calendar



7.30PM WEDNESDAYS,
16 CORRS LANE
Crab Lab
Comedy in the city at the House of
Maxion with well-known performers
from radio and TV plus some new talent.
Free. 0422 686 933

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

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

7.20AM FOR A 7.40AM START,
TUESDAYS
Rotary Central Sunrise
Interested in what we do? Join us for
breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club
501 Bourke St, Melbourne.

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY & FRI-
DAY 10AM-3PM SUNDAY,
326 LONSDALE STREET
Meet up with friends
Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for
\$2.00. Meet up with friends or enjoy
meeting others at St Francis Pastoral
Centre (entry next to the book shop in the
church yard). 9663 2495

4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.
LUNCHTIME, ST PETER'S EAST
MELBOURNE
Austral Salon Of Music
Listen to music from talented young
musicians. Make new friends.

www.australsalon.org
0449 727 910

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 2.30PM,
THE HUB, 506 ELIZABETH ST
Film Club
The film club has some of the best film
noir classics including 1962 French classic
and two time Cannes winner *Sundays and
Cybelle*, coffee provided.

Free. Contact John on 0459 398 358



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

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EVERY WEDNESDAY, FROM 6PM.
MELBOURNE CENTRAL LION HOTEL
Language Swap
Speak another language but no one to
practice with? Come along to the free
language exchange and meet like-minded
people who love language.

Bookings www.NewToMelbourne.or

7-9PM, EVERY *WEDNESDAY, WELSH
CHURCH, 320 LA TROBE STREET
Men's Choir Practice
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

10AM, 3RD TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH, THE RINTEL ROOM,
"PEPES"(FORMERLY TRUNK), 275
EXHIBITION ST.
EastEnders Inc
Come along and join the company of
friends and neighbours. Meet new people
and be informed.

eastendersinc@gmail.com

4PM - 10PM, SECOND AND FOURTH
SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH,
HEFFERNAN LANE IN CHINATOWN
Chinatown Market Day
Hawker-style stalls selling dumplings and
noodles, cakes and souvenirs. Stay until
night falls, for the twinkling night market.

Free



6PM, 1ST THURSDAY OF THE
MONTH, THE KELVIN CLUB, 14 MEL-
BOURNE PL
Residents 3000 forum
A community group to inform, connect
and support CBD residents.
Regular social events with speaker.
Details posted on residents3000.com.au



10AM - 5PM, IAN POTTER CENTRE,
NGV, FEDERATION SQUARE
Petrina Hicks: Bleached Gothic Exhibition
More than forty photograph and video
works. Shimmering and often hyperreal
compositions convey the inherent
ambiguity and complexity of the female
experience.

Free

1PM, EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
LEVEL 1, YARRA BUILDING,
FEDERATION SQUARE
Birrarrung Wilam River Walk
Learn about how the land under
Melbourne has changed over time and its
significance to the local Kulin people.

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

10.30-11.15AM, EVERY 3RD SATUR-
DAY, CITY LIBRARY
Once Upon A Tune
An interactive musical adventure that
features live music by Beethoven, Brahms
and Brumby. Suitable for children aged
from 5-12 years.

Free

✝ Prayer Times

<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 Hoyts 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 10:30am (Indonesian), 11:00am (Traditional) and 5:00pm (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, 6.00pm 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 11.00am Morning Worship Service 6.00pm Evening Worship Service</p>
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Puppeteers bring Regent back to life with *War Horse*

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Brinkhoff Monenburg*
 ARTS & CULTURE

The Regent Theatre has reopened with the award-winning *War Horse* after an almost year-long closure for restoration works.

The \$19.4 million refurbishment was a partnership between the state government, the City of Melbourne and Marriner Group. A team of architects, theatre designers, specialist builders, expert trades and craftspeople worked on the 89-year-old theatre in collaboration with Heritage Victoria.

War Horse, a theatrical production from the National Theatre of Great Britain, opened at the theatre on January 10. The show has won more than 25 international awards for its story set against the backdrop of World War I.

Set around a young boy (Albert) and his horse (Joey), the show features ground-breaking puppetry work by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping horses to life on stage.

Puppetry director Gareth Aled said the show had achieved something special.

"Our puppets live, think, feel and are imbued with life," he said.

"When an actor walks on stage the audience don't doubt that they're living, investing in their character, and the story can begin immediately."

"When a puppet enters a space, before any story is told, the audience has to be convinced that it's living. This often requires the puppeteer to work really hard technically and physically. If they do their job correctly an audience will forget that they exist."

The story line follows Joey as he is shipped to fight in France. After being caught in enemy fire, he ends up serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land.

Albert, not yet old enough to enlist, embarks on a mission to bring him home.

"Joey is made out of cane, mesh, leather, aluminium and steel, all of which have a very



▲ The restored Regent Theatre.

different relationship to gravity compared to the weight of a real "half thoroughbred, half draft" adult horse," Gareth said.

"Convincing the audience of muscle, weight and power is a constant challenge."

"It takes three puppeteers to operate Joey: a head, heart and hind. They each have a technical task and an emotional indicator."

Puppeteer Rianna Ash, who operates Joey's head, said she had to have intensive personal training to build up the upper-body strength needed for the task.

"Our training also included study of horse movement including their gait, head positioning in certain movements as well as studying their psychology," she said.

"A lot of the rehearsal process also revolved around working as a team, such as activities based around listening, using peripheral vision and focus."

"We can't communicate through words while performing. Instead, we pick up on

each other's impulses, whether that be a slight push to indicate we're moving or what we call an 'inspiration breath' which is a short sharp intake."

"We literally breathe and think together."

But it's not just the technical side that resonates with audiences and won the show its swathe of awards.

"It's because of the universality of suffering and the futility of war – themes of community, love, loss, loyalty," Gareth said. "An animal doesn't engage with politics. Nor does it understand human language (English, French, German). It responds to tone, intonation, kindness and vulnerability."

"These ideas translate to all people, all over the world. I think this is partly why the play is so impactful."

War Horse will run until February 7 at the Regent Theatre, followed by *Billy Elliot the Musical* ●



▲ War Horse - New London Theatre.

For more information:
marrinergroup.com.au/shows/war-horse

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