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Moomba Festival 2020: March 6 - 9
Photo by John Tadigiri.

While this year's Moomba Monarchs have been unveiled as comedians Nazeem Hussain (right) and Julia Morris (left), it was Mr Hussain's mother Mumtaz (centre) who stole the limelight at the festival launch on February 12 after being crowned a temporary Moomba Monarch! *Continued on page 2.*

What's it like to grow old in the CBD? Council strategy released

Inequality and disadvantage are affecting the CBD's senior residents in worrying areas, according to a new report by the City of Melbourne.

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

Thirty per cent of City of Melbourne residents aged 65 and over rely on an aged pension allowance, over a third of residents over 60 have no internet access, and a third also live alone.

Dementia is estimated to affect 970 people in the City of Melbourne, a number predicted to rise to 5800 by 2050.

Prevalence of elder abuse is estimated to be at 10 per cent in the area, and 25 per cent of residents aged over 60 are still renting.

The inner city's homelessness issue also adversely affects the older community, with statistics showing a 31 per cent increase in the number of older women experiencing homelessness between 2011 and 2016.

The statistics are included in the City of Melbourne's draft strategic plan A Great Place To Age.

The draft was released in December for a period of community consultation, which ended in January.

The report outlines the council's vision for older Melburnians and plans for the next four years, and identified seven key social priorities: ageism, dementia, elder abuse, end of life, life transitions, loneliness and social isolation and racism.

Chair of the people city portfolio Cr Beverley Pinder said it was "one of the most important strategies this council will vote on in months to come" when the report was endorsed in December.

"The plan is actually to challenge ageism and the negative attitudes that surround that and the behaviours toward it as well," Cr Pinder said.

"It endeavours to change the discourse on ageing, taking it from

invisibility and vulnerability to one of price, strength, positivity, activity, resilience and overall wellbeing and peace of mind."

Lan Ping, 63, said she witnessed these issues as a CBD resident and a volunteer with U3A – an educational institution for the senior community.

"A lot of people want to downsize and move to the city when they get to that age. Volunteering, I meet a lot of people who downsize from big inconveniently located houses, but they can't afford to buy," she said.

"So, they're renting in the city and they're renting really small places because they're so expensive."

"A lot of older people feel isolated in the city, and they feel bashful even about small things like asking for help with the internet, because they feel they've been left behind a bit."

Lan Ping said she thought a "dedicated seniors' centre" in the city would be the best way for the council to start solving some of the problems.

"There's a lot of great ideas in the report but I just think a more focused centre would be the best way to go," she said.

"In relation to the internet the council has a lot of libraries and computers, but librarians have a lot of work to do and often aren't available. We talk a lot about providing services but if you have a dedicated seniors' centre, you'd have seniors willing to help other seniors."

"It brings people out of their small apartments; they can make connections and feel less isolated."

"Even if it's only open one or two days a week, it would make a big difference. Right now, we have to go out to Fitzroy or somewhere else out of the city to access that kind of service." ●

City divided on free trams extension

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

As submissions closed on the parliamentary inquiry into expanding Melbourne's Free Tram Zone (FTZ), key lobby groups remain divided on whether the zone's boundary should be widened.

In detailed submissions to the inquiry, the influential Committee for Melbourne (CFM) were at odds with commuter group the Public Transport Users Association (PTUA) about the logic of extending the FTZ, which covers the CBD and Docklands.

There was also division in the higher offices at Town Hall, as the views of pro-extension Lord Mayor Sally Capp conflicted with those of her deputy Arron Wood.

In its fourth submission to government arguing for an extension, CFM claimed the FTZ should be extended to include prominent stops in the sports and arts precincts.

These included: The Arts Precinct, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Melbourne

Cricket Ground (MCG), Melbourne Museum and Melbourne and Olympic Parks.

"The FTZ is a significant part of Brand Melbourne and gives us a competitive advantage as an attractive, globally relevant and distinctive city," the submission, signed by CEO Martine Letts, stated.

"However, in some areas it falls short of its potential. That is why the Committee strongly supports the extension of the FTZ to include some of Melbourne's most important cultural and sporting institutions."

CFM first proposed free tram travel in the CBD in 2009, six years before the Andrews Labor Government formally introduced it in 2015.

But its call for the zone's extension was countered, perhaps surprisingly, by the PTUA, which said the zone has caused overcrowding and provided little benefit to paying users.

In fact, the commuter group is not only opposed to the zone's extension, but its presence altogether.

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Moomba launches

From page 1.

This year's Moomba Monarchs were unveiled as comedians Nazeem Hussain and Julia Morris on February 12.

Julia Morris, co-host of *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here* said she was humbled.

"The previous female monarchs are all women I aspire to be, and I'm honoured to be considered among them," she said.

Nazeem Hussain, who will jump in the Yarra as part of the Birdman Rally, said he grew up attending the festival with his family.

"I'm counting down the days until I get to don the Moomba crown. It's such an honour to be named a Monarch for 2020."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp unveiled the pair and said they were "natural fits for the royal roles".

"We're expecting more than 1.3 million people to attend the festival. The program features free activities for the whole family including the Birdman Rally, a water sports program, the carnival and Moomba Parade," the Lord Mayor said.

"We've also invited CFA volunteers and their families to take part in the Moomba Parade."

The festival, now in its 66th year, is owned and delivered by the City of Melbourne.

"Moomba generated \$34.7 million in benefit for our local economy as well as highlighting Melbourne's rich cultural diversity," the Lord Mayor said.

Australia's largest free community festival will take over Melbourne from Friday, March 6 to Monday, March 9 •

Virus hits local economy

WORDS BY Meg Hill

HEALTH

With politicians and economists predicting major hits for the Australian economy due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, local authorities are urging a proactive response.

Economists have warned of the impact on trade of industrial shutdowns in China, while the economy has already felt the impact of a travel ban stopping international students and workers, among other demographics, returning to Australia from Chinese New Year celebrations.

City of Melbourne councillors and staff took a trip to Chinatown on February 12 to dine with the community and highlight the low risk level



▲ Councillors and staff dine with Eng Lim and Danny Doom (fourth and fifth from right) and from the Chinatown Precinct Association on February 12.

in Melbourne.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said a number of businesses, especially those that catered to Chinese visitors, were experiencing a significant downturn in trade.

"We are working closely with these businesses to support them during this difficult period. We are also working on plans to support local businesses over the long term," the Lord Mayor said.

Chinatown's Shark Fin House closed indefinitely on February 9 after suffering a reported 80 per cent drop in customer numbers.



Chinatown's Shark Fin House closed indefinitely on February 9 after suffering a reported 80 per cent drop in customer numbers.

"We want to see people lining up to get a table at restaurants in Chinatown. I'm asking all locals to get out there and support our city businesses," the Lord Mayor said.

"The expert advice we've received from health agencies regarding novel coronavirus is that there is no increased risk in Melbourne at this stage. There's no reason for the general public to panic or change their normal activities or plans."

"People are encouraged to follow the expert advice on the Department of Health and Human Services website" •

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▲ (Left) Hosier Lane following the paint-bombing and (right) CCTV of some of the group members during the incident.

Green light for shed restoration

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Heritage Victoria has given the City of Melbourne the go-ahead to undertake major heritage restoration works to preserve Queen Victoria Market's historic open-air sheds.

As a key component of the council's \$250 million market renewal program, Heritage Victoria recently approved a permit for on-site restoration works, which Lord Mayor Sally Capp said would commence in May.

"These important conservation works will be carried out across 12 sheds – covering three hectares of the seven-hectare site – and will improve the heritage experience for customers and the operating environment for traders," Cr Capp said.

The permit approval for the major works follows an initial restoration trial that is currently nearing completion at the Peel St ends of sheds A and C.

The shed restoration was one of the recommendations made by the 40-member People's Panel in December 2018 and the Lord Mayor said it would be closely managed to reduce disruption to traders and customers.

"We'll be working closely with traders to ensure they have all the support they need to continue to run their businesses throughout the restoration, including signage and individual business mentoring through our \$8 million Trader Connect Program," she said.

A City of Melbourne spokesperson said that due to the "scale and complexity" of the heritage restoration, traders would need to be temporarily relocated, with works

“

We'll be working closely with traders to ensure they have all the support they need ...

”

to be undertaken in stages over "a number of years".

The council said that conservation works would include painting and restoring timber posts, beams, structural steel, gable ends and verandahs, while structural upgrades would include installing bracing components to areas that required reinforcing. A process to appoint a contractor to carry out the conservation project is still underway.

Listed on both the National Heritage List and Victorian Heritage Register, the council's chair of arts, culture and heritage portfolio Cr Rohan Leppert said all sheds would be repaired and restored.

"The open-air sheds are an important part of the market experience, with many of the sheds dating back to 1878 when the market had its grand opening," he said.

"These works are vitally important to ensure the sheds do not deteriorate beyond repair, and will preserve them with as minimal impact as possible."

"We want to retain the characteristics that reflect the historical use of the market, such as dints and grooves on posts that date back to when customers and traders hitched their horses to the posts 100 years ago" ●

Hosier incident polarises the city

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
LOCAL NEWS

On Monday, February 10, news broke that a masked group of people had paint-bombed half of Hosier Lane during the weekend.

Footage showed the group of about 10 spraying paint out of fire extinguishers, filming themselves with a drone.

The response, on one side, was to call the act vandalism and report it to the police. This was the approach taken by the City of Melbourne.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp recognised the nature of street art as "temporary, ephemeral and forever changing" but continued to describe the group as "vandals" and the behaviour "unacceptable and "not in keeping with the spirit of Hosier Lane".

The lane has long been considered a legal grey area, where tagging without explicit permission was tolerated largely due to the status of the lane as a tourism destination.

But the Council said it was considering revising guidelines for painting in the lane.

"While Hosier Lane is recognised as a long-standing street art site, written permission from the owner is still technically required to create street art on a private property within the laneway," a council spokesperson said.

"Building owners are within their rights to contact

Victoria Police if they're unhappy with street art being undertaken on their property."

The spokesperson said the spray-bombing was considered vandalism by the City of Melbourne "particularly given the damage they've done to the pavement and cobblestones".

"The City of Melbourne is currently considering the introduction of Street Art Guidelines to assist street artists and provide clarity for all parties."

But many street artists have shrugged off the drama and suggested being "painted over" was always the nature of the lane.

And in 2018 an uproar was triggered when Culture Kings, then new to the lane, reported artists painting without permission to the police.

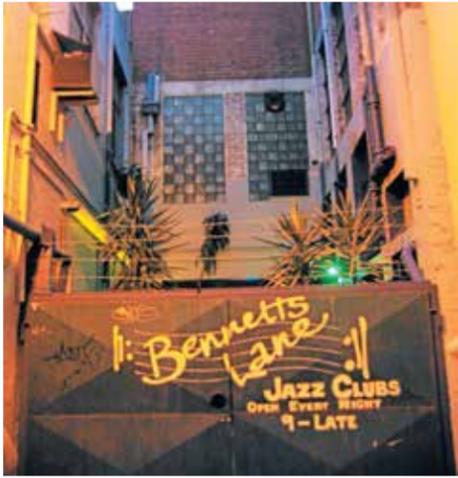
A filmmaker who claimed to be involved in the paint-bombing told *The Age* it was an artistic and political statement.

"[Hosier Lane] gets painted over every day," he said.

"It's just the shock and the awe of it. But people's emotional response gives it credence as art. Art is supposed to provoke emotion. But apparently that's a concept that goes over the top of a lot of people's heads."

Police have released CCTV footage of a group of people and said they were investigating the incident ●

For more read street artist *Adrian Doyle's* regular column on page 14.



Where is Marriner's Jazz Club?

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

The long-awaited reopening of world-renowned Bennetts Lane Jazz club remains uncertain despite two rounds of planning approval.

The club, dubbed by *Lonely Planet* as the world's best, first closed in 2015, when its original owner Michael Tortoni sold the Little Lonsdale St property for redevelopment.

Bennetts Lane had been operating for over two decades when it was sold to make way for a controversial apartment complex.

The intellectual rights to the club were subsequently purchased by property developer and theatre owner David Marriner.

Marriner reopened the club in its original building for a year while development on the site was yet to begin.

It closed again in early 2017, and Marriner then pursued plans to move the club to the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Flinders Lane.

Plans to redevelop part of the Grand Hyatt Hotel and reopen the club were approved by the City of Melbourne first in 2016 and again last year.

But work is still yet to begin.

A council spokesperson said the application went through two rounds of approval because the plans had been amended to make "refinements" to the development.

The spokesperson said the applicant's planning approval was still current.

CBD News understands Grand Hyatt owners had submitted objections to the original plans, and negotiations between Marriner and the hotel are ongoing.

Bennetts Lane Jazz Club management declined to provide comment to *CBD News*, and Grand Hyatt management did not respond to requests ●

Red bikes in as city retries cycle scheme

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

An Uber-owned company will deploy 400 electric bicycles onto Melbourne's streets in March to fill the casual cycling void in the city.

The City of Melbourne, alongside the Yarra and Port Phillip councils, announced the 12-month trial with Uber subsidiary Jump, whose dockless e-bikes are already being used in over 30 countries worldwide.

The three-gear electric bikes have a top speed of around 25 kilometres per hour, which Lord Mayor Sally Capp said was "terrific for those of us that needed a bit of help up the hills."

Booked using the Uber app, the bikes will cost \$1 to unlock, and 30 cents per minute to ride, and also come with a helmet.

The signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Jump and the three councils details strict guidelines to avoid a repeat of the oBike fiasco of 2018, where yellow bikes were strewn across city pavements, parks and waterways.

Chief among these are "resolution timeframes" for illegally park or dumped bikes that, if not met, could see the bikes impounded by the council.

For example, any "dangerously placed" bicycle causing a hazard must be relocated within two hours as stated in the MOU.

The public can report illegally parked bikes on a 24-hour complaints line.

Jump will charge users for parking the bikes incorrectly, and could also ban users from Uber and Uber Eats for repeated misuse.

Unlike oBikes, the e-bikes will be regularly attended to by maintenance workers for battery replacement and servicing.

Jump said the electric bicycles were expensive and that it was in its interests to keep each one in working order.

Despite the refined contingencies in place to avoid an oBike repeat, there is still an obligation on Melburnians to take care of the e-bikes, something Cr Capp touched on in an online video address.

"What we need from you is respect for these bikes, good management so that we can continue with this system, and make sure, please, that you don't abuse them and we don't see them end up in the Yarra. They're too good," she said.

In a positive move for the city, the e-bikes will be serviced and maintained by Good Cycles, a local bicycle shop and social enterprise that works with disadvantaged youth.

The company will operate on the ground for Jump, including regular servicing, repositioning and replacement of bicycle batteries.

Good Cycles, which had done a similar role with the previous blue bike scheme, employs



around 70 people at locations in the CBD and Docklands, as well as Geelong and Dandenong.

CEO Jaison Hoernel told *CBD News* around 25 to 30 of those are young people who have been through the youth justice system, drug rehabilitation, long-term unemployment or postcode disadvantage.

He said the partnership simply made sense. "It was just a great fit. We thought the product was a really strong product for Melbourne and for us a great chance to create those employment opportunities," he said.

"We can give a young person the opportunity to come work with us, figure out what it is they want to do, and most importantly give them a credible reference."

Mr Hoernel said Good Cycles would have a wider range of responsibilities with the electric bikes compared to the standard blue bikes.

He said that for the general public, e-bikes were a "massive point of difference".

"Good Cycles believes in bikes, and more people riding throughout the city. We particularly believe in e-bikes - these are really strong way to provide that active transport," he said.

"The big difference is that these are electric bikes. That's a game changer to anything that's been here before. Melbourne bike share was there for 10 years and obviously played a part in bike share and cycling. But this is a whole new product in a whole new time and that's, I think, the most exciting thing about it."

Since the state government scrapped the blue bike scheme in November, locals and tourists alike have had no access to casual cycling options in Melbourne.

The predicament was far from ideal for the City of Melbourne, whose recent 10-year transport strategy encouraged people out of cars and onto bikes.

Having agreed to the 12-month trial, Cr Capp said she was confident that it would deliver for the city ●



▲ Good Cycles CEO Jaison Hoernel.

“Share bike schemes are widely used around the world without the anti-social behaviour experienced previously in Melbourne. We believe locals and visitors will work with Jump and our councils to make this a success” - Lord Mayor Sally Capp.



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▲ Motorcycle Riders Association advisor John Nelson talks footpath parking with council staff.

Bike bans on busy footpaths

WORDS BY *David Schout*
TRANSPORT

Motorbikes will be banned from pedestrian hotspots in the CBD under a City of Melbourne plan to reclaim space for pedestrians.

On February 18 the council voted in favour of a plan to ban footpath parking in eight locations within the Hoddle Grid, including overcrowded areas outside Southern Cross, Flinders St, and Flagstaff stations.

To compensate motorcyclists in these areas, the council plans to convert 36 paid-for on-street car spaces into 151 free motorcycle spots, and a further 150 in coming years.

The move is part of a wider effort in the council's 10-year transport strategy to accommodate pedestrians, who make up an overwhelming majority of commuters in the central city.

Almost nine in 10 trips within the CBD are done on foot, and surveys have suggested many felt overcrowded during peak periods.

"Overcrowded spaces are unpleasant, uncomfortable and put at risk our reputation, liveability and economic productivity," the council report stated.

"During the morning and lunchtime peaks, 14 per cent of central city footpaths are so crowded that people have to walk on the kerb or roadway."

Transport portfolio chair Nicolas Frances Gilley said while motorbikes were space-efficient forms of transport, Victorian laws that allowed them to park on footpaths (the only state in Australia to do so) made things tricky.

"We welcome motorcycles to the city, but as our city becomes increasingly busy we need to reduce overcrowding on certain busy footpaths," he said.

"While a motorbike or scooter might not be in the way when it first pulls up early in the morning, a row of motorbikes parked throughout the day can create a real hazard during the commuter and lunch rush when people are often forced onto the road to get past. Overcrowding creates a real challenge for people with reduced mobility and those using

wheelchairs."

Under the plan, 176 parking spaces would be removed from busy footpaths, the majority of these in close proximity to Southern Cross (92 spaces removed) and Flinders Street (33) stations.

Cr Frances Gilley said the replacement with 151 on-street spots was a win-win.

"We're creating more safe space for people and providing an alternative place for motorcycle riders to park. As a rider I understand the need for dedicated motorcycle parking and I look forward to using it."

But the move was not received well by the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA), which said the plan "did not add up".

"In spite of a serious lack of rider education on and enforcement of riding-on-footpath and pedestrian obstruction rules, the system has worked very well for 40 years," spokesman Damien Codognotto said.

"The (council's) failure to provide adequate on-street and off-street parking and its failure to educate new/visiting riders and courier/fast food companies on footpath rules puts pressure on our footpaths. This pressure is not the fault of riders who commute and/or visit our CBD, it is the fault of city planners."

Mr Codognotto said the MRA was tired of being blamed for blocking disabled parking bays when rubbish bins were at fault "in the vast majority of cases".

He also said the group's calls for secure off-street parking with lockers for protective clothing, like those provided for bicycle riders, had been ignored.

The council expected to lose almost \$870,000 each year by converting paid-for parking spaces into free spots for motorcycles ●



David Schout
JOURNALIST
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Protecting nature in our city

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ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that the City of Melbourne is home to fluffy-pawed spiders, pobblebonk frogs and matchbox-sized microbats?

In fact, hundreds of different birds, reptiles, mammals, frogs, insects and fish species call our city home, along with a vast array of plants.

But climate change is placing significant pressure on our precious native animals and plants. That's why it's more important than ever to take care of our urban wildlife and vegetation.

Councillor Cathy Oke, chair of the environment portfolio, said the City of Melbourne had recently declared a climate and biodiversity emergency.

"We're leading the way on ambitious and urgent action on climate change. We know that rising temperatures mean we could lose 35 per cent of our trees in the next 20 years," Cr Oke said.

"Some species of elms and indigenous eucalypts won't survive – and these eucalypts are crucial habitat for many of the animals that live in our city."

"That's why we're greening the city. Every year, we plant at least 3000 trees to grow our urban forest. Not only does this help keep our city cool, but it also provides our wildlife with much needed habitat."

"We've also installed hollows in several trees across the city and over the past two years we've planted 16,000 sqm of new native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Both of these measures create more homes for our native animals."

Cr Oke said City of Melbourne had achieved a lot but more action was needed.

"We need to work at a faster pace to prevent irreversible damage to our city, people, animals and economy. We need to work together," she said.

"We need to protect our beautiful and important native plants and animals. Healthy ecosystems are vital for the liveability of our city: we need nature and nature needs us."

As part of this, the City of Melbourne is encouraging residents to help look after their urban wildlife, even if they only have a balcony.

From planting native wildflowers in pots and gardening organically, to installing bee hotels and nesting boxes in your garden, there are lots of easy ways to make your home more wildlife-friendly ●



"We need to work at a faster pace to prevent irreversible damage to our city, people, plants, animals and economy. We need to work together," Cr Oke said.



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Emmi van Harten Lesser long-eared bat (Nyctophilus geoffroyi)_CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

We can all play a part in protecting native wildlife and plants

What is City of Melbourne doing?

From tiny microbats to soaring peregrine falcons, thousands of different animals call Melbourne home. However, we're currently facing a climate and biodiversity emergency. That's why we're taking action to protect our precious native plants and animals. We do this by creating homes for wildlife, growing native grasses and wildflowers in our streets and parks, and planting trees better suited to a drier and warmer climate.

What can you do?

- From native plants in pots to bee hotels, it's easy to make your home more wildlife-friendly, even if you only have a balcony.
- Swap your thirsty lawn for native plants.
- Take the kids on a city safari to spot sacred kingfishers, peacock spiders and more.
- Become a Citizen Forester, Gardens for Wildlife guide or Nature Steward. Kids can join our Junior Ranger program.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbannature



Cities unite behind new climate targets

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Sean Car*
 ENVIRONMENT

The City of Melbourne is following Sydney's lead in adopting more ambitious targets to reduce its carbon emissions.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp was joined by Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore at Melbourne Town Hall on February 14 at the National Climate Emergency Summit, with the two leaders using the opportunity to promote accelerating climate action.

At its February 18 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, councillors supported a review of a range of possible actions as a result of the council's declaration of a climate emergency last year including:

- Reaching its zero emissions target for the municipality 10 years earlier by 2040;
- Moving all council operations out of fossil fuels such as gas and petrol;
- Fast-tracking the delivery of 44km of protected bike lanes;
- Stimulating circular economy solutions for waste; and
- Developing a policy to provide rates incentive for energy efficient buildings.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the Emergency Response documents codified and built on each city's climate emergency declaration.

"Preventing severe climate change is a global challenge and Australia must pull its weight. Sydney has just endorsed a new target for zero emissions by 2040 and Melbourne is looking to do the same," the Lord Mayor said.

"Our cities are taking action to cut emissions, embed cleaner energy and green our streets. Melbourne and Sydney will both be striving for the ambitious goal of zero net emissions by 2040."

"However, we can't do the heavy lifting alone – we need a serious national response to drive deep, effective change. Federal, state and local governments must work together if we are to avoid the worst impacts, which are already being experienced across our communities."

"There are also significant economic opportunities to be gained by taking strong action. As drivers of the national economy, the cities of Sydney and Melbourne will be examining what role they can play in further facilitating investment in and implementation of cleaner technology and encouraging behaviour change."

Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore said the documents allowed business units within each council to budget and determine the resourcing needed to deliver on key new priorities that addressed climate change.

"The bushfire crisis this summer has been a



▲ Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore (left) with Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp (right) on February 14.

"Melbourne and Sydney will both be striving for the ambitious goal of zero net emissions by 2040. However, we can't do the heavy lifting alone ..."



wake-up call for many people across Australia. The climate emergency that scientists have been warning us about has suddenly become very real," she said.

"But when it comes to reducing emissions and taking strong action on climate change, we are a global laggard. It's shameful. As one of the wealthiest nations on Earth, with access to some of the best renewable resources, and some of the world's most innovative and creative thinkers, it's our responsibility to move faster."

"Cities generate around 70 per cent of global emissions, so while national governments fail us, cities like Sydney and Melbourne getting on with the job can make a real difference. Reducing emissions is a global challenge that requires collective action."

More than 1300 councils across 26 countries have now made a climate emergency declaration

•



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CBD bar in court

WORDS BY *Nick Obst*
 COURTS

The Fair Work Ombudsman recently launched court action in the Federal Circuit Court against the operators of a rooftop cocktail bar in the CBD.

C&H Entertainment Pty Ltd, the operators of the Red Hummingbird bar at 246 Russell St, will face court in March alongside company director Don Haris Kumarage and manager Channa Dissanayake.

The company is alleged to have breached the *Fair Work Act (2009)* by failing to follow a compliance notice requiring the company to provide back pay to workers who were allegedly underpaid.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Mr Kumarage was involved in this breach.

A Fair Work Inspector issued the compliance notice last year following an investigation into the Red Hummingbird based on a request for assistance from a British national working at the bar on a working holiday visa.

The Fair Work Inspector suspected the company had underpaid casual loading and penalty rates under the Hospitality Industry (General) Award.

The company also allegedly breached record-keeping and pay slip laws.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Mr Kumarage and Mr Dissanayake were involved in these breaches.

Fair Work Ombudsman Sandra Parker said the regulator took alleged underpayments of migrant workers "particularly seriously".

"We know they can often be vulnerable due to their visa status, and [the Fair Work Ombudsman] will continue to use all its enforcement tools to ensure employers meet their lawful obligations," she said.

C&H Entertainment faces a maximum penalty of \$31,500 for the alleged compliance notice breach, while Mr Kumarage could face a penalty of up to \$6300.

The company could be fined up to \$63,000 per breach for the alleged record-keeping and pay slip breaches, while Mr Kumarage and Mr Dissanayake could face penalties of up to \$12,600 per breach.

CBD News contacted Red Hummingbird for comment but did not receive a response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is also seeking a court order requiring C&H Entertainment to comply with its compliance notice.

The company will face the Federal Circuit Court for a directions hearing on March 2 •

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Needless new record set for declaring conflicts of interest

WORDS BY *Stephen Mayne*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

While former Federal sports minister Bridget McKenzie and City of Casey councillors put on a masterclass when it comes to failing to declare or act upon conflicts of interest, the City of Melbourne councillors have gone to the other extreme.

At the February 4 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC), nine of the 10 councillors declared arguable conflicts and vacated the room when it came to voting on planning scheme amendment C278, which proposes much stronger protections for sunlight over public parks.

The amendment process was kicked off by a notice of motion from Greens Cr Cathy Oke in 2015 after a development was approved which overshadowed Gardiner Reserve in North Melbourne.

The CBD is already well protected, and Development Victoria disappointingly persuaded the Minister for Planning to carve out Docklands from the review, presumably to protect the value of large residual state government land holdings in Docklands.

However, a planning panel will now consider the proposed amendment for the rest of the municipality.

Reflecting the significance of what is being proposed, there were 119 submissions to council including from institutional heavyweights such as the AFL, Cricket Australia, Melbourne University, AFL clubs Carlton and Richmond, Lend Lease, the Department of Transport, Urbis, VicTrack, the Red Cross, Invest Victoria, the Property Council and the Royal Society.

However, none of these could be debated, commented upon or backed up at the February 4 committee meeting because every councillor with the exception of Nicolas Frances Gilley declared a conflict (Cr Jackie Watts was an apology) and left the room. It's worth

watching the webcast starting 21 minutes into proceedings and seeing how it played out over nine minutes as the councillors declared their conflicts and then the officers explained how they would progress the proposal to an independent planning panel using officer delegation powers.

Frankly, while the law is the law, the councillors have been too conservative here. It's like when you set rates, everyone is impacted but sometimes you do need to be a little pragmatic on conflict declarations. Besides, apart from the two councillors who work for Melbourne University, none of the councillors explained the detail of the conflict, namely who the donor was and why it caused a conflict.

It's a far-reaching amendment impacting on around 2000 properties, mainly by reducing future development potential. For instance, if the amendment passes, the state government would never be able to develop above Jolimont Station because this would overshadow the northern edges of Yarra Park.

There was only one request to speak (from Rupert Myer of Myer family fame) and 29 items of correspondence lodged before the meeting. It would have been much more but for the fact council officers contacted all 119 submitters a week earlier alerting them to the likely loss of quorum.

While campaign donations were a factor in eight of the nine conflict declarations (Cr Cathy Oke cited a conflict given her employer Melbourne University was impacted), *CBD News* can reveal that none of the donors were developers.

Indeed, the five residual Team Doyle councillors all vacated the room because their former colleague Tessa Sullivan, along with her husband Brendan Sullivan, owns a property in East Melbourne that was impacted and she had donated more than \$40,000 to the Team Doyle campaign in 2016.

But Brendan Sullivan knew nothing of the amendment and didn't even do a submission,

so why did four councillors needlessly declare a conflict?

Even since Robert Doyle foolishly accepted more than \$300,000 in donations from property developers for his 2012 campaign, loss of quorum has been a regular feature at City of Melbourne and this has undermined confidence in the council as a decision-making body.

Don't get me wrong, it is better to lose quorum from conflict declarations than having conflicted councillors voting, but, for example, the current council is unable to make any decision on Crown Melbourne or broader poker machine matters because both Team Doyle and Lord Mayor Sally Capp have accepted campaign donations from Crown personnel (Harold Mitchell and Anne Peacock), the Australian Hotels Association, AHA members or a combination of all three.

I'm not aware of any council anywhere which has lost quorum more than 10 times due to conflict declaration over a seven-year period. Sometimes, such as on February 4, it was unnecessary because councillors took the "if in doubt get out" mantra too far.

In light of this, compromising campaign donations should be avoided by all candidates as much as possible in the upcoming election campaign so that the 2020-24 council doesn't suffer the same regular loss of quorum.

Council still disclosing senior executive pay

Finally, I should correct this statement in the print version of my February *CBD News* column:

"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."

Council's major commercial subsidiary Citywide has indeed stopped disclosing board

and executive pay details but silly me failed to spot this data on page 127 of the 2018-19 City of Melbourne annual report:

Justin Hanney, CEO: \$498,000 package and contract expires January 13, 2023.

Rob Adams, Director City Design and Project: \$408,784 package and contract expires September 14, 2020.

Claire Ferres Miles, Director City Strategy and Place: \$368,377 package and contract expires May 6, 2021.

Katrina McKenzie, Director City Economy and Activation: \$368,377 package and contract expires February 28, 2020.

Linda Weatherston, Director City Operations: \$368,377 package and contract expires July 18, 2019.

Besides City of Manningham, no other Australian council voluntarily makes such transparent disclosures and Town Hall should be commended for maintaining the practice for six years now.

However, what wasn't revealed in 2018-19 was the remuneration arrangements for former CEO Ben Rimmer who left the building in December 2018 without any disclosure of his exit package. We'll bring you more on that next month, even though the Town Hall spin doctors have advised that "City of Melbourne does not comment on CEO remuneration or contract renewals" ●



Stephen Mayne
JOURNALIST AND FORMER CITY OF MELBOURNE COUNCILLOR
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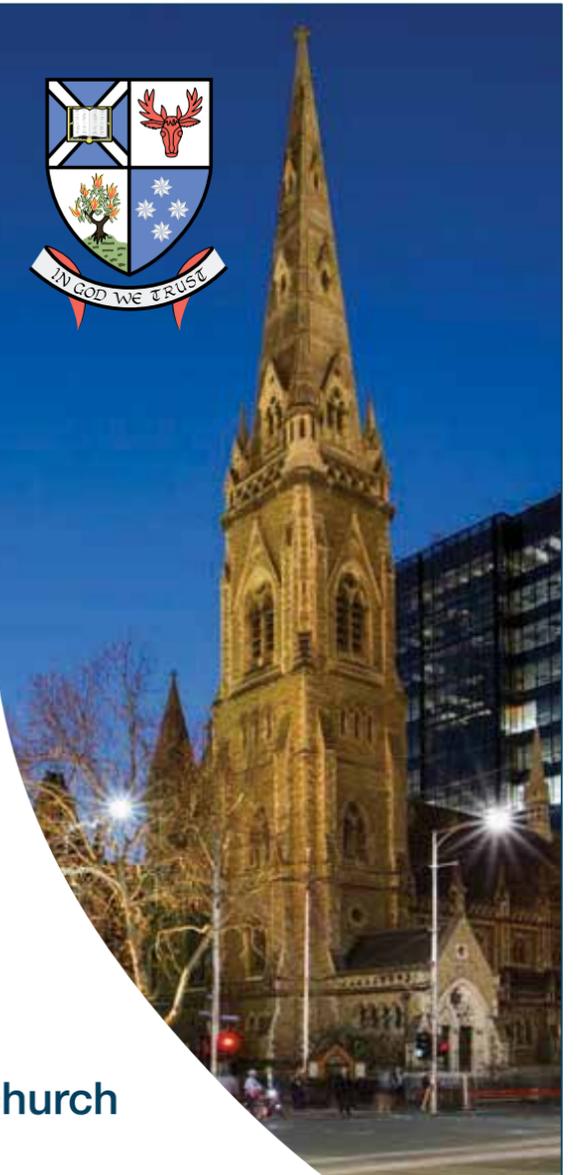
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▲ A render of the new-look Elizabeth St.

Pedestrian priority

WORDS BY *David Schout*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Plans for the busy southern end of Elizabeth St have been released by the City of Melbourne, including a basketball court-sized increase in space for pedestrians.

The designs signal the first step of a wider effort to pedestrianise several parts of the street, which the council has called a “primary pedestrian thoroughfare” in the CBD.

Between Flinders St and Flinders Lane, the southbound lane on Elizabeth St will permanently close by the end of 2020 to make room for those on foot, while the designs also included plans to “beautify the streetscape” and reduce flooding during heavy downpours.

Cars will continue to travel northbound after the changes.

The intersection at Flinders and Elizabeth streets is one of the busiest in the CBD, with up to 9000 people crossing during the morning and afternoon peaks.

In announcing the plans, Lord Mayor Sally Capp remained on-message with her plans to reassign space in busy parts of the city.

In recent years the council has made no secret of its effort to instil a merit-based approach to commuter areas within the CBD and more specifically, cutting down space-inefficient vehicles in the busiest parts of the city.

“Pedestrians outnumber all other street users on Elizabeth St but have the least amount of space,” Cr Capp said, before confirming a 400 sqm increase in space for those on foot at the southern end – roughly the size of a basketball court.

“This will reduce congestion access around key public transport interchanges at Flinders Street Station and the Elizabeth St tram terminus.”

Streetscape improvements as part of the designs include footpath upgrades, new street furniture, lighting and paving.

A new underground drain network will also be installed to alleviate the chance of flooding, the last of which occurred during 2011 when a severe rainstorm caused flash flooding and disruptions to transport.

“Elizabeth St was once a creek that flowed into the Yarra River and it has been the site of major flooding throughout Melbourne’s history,” Cr Capp said.

“We have seen how quickly and severely the weather can change this summer and we know the trends indicate that we will experience extreme weather events more frequently.”

“Intense storms lead to increased flash flooding and Elizabeth St remains a low point in the catchment so we have worked closely with authorities while designing this project.”

The council’s wider strategy for Elizabeth St, released last year, include plans to pedestrianise significant parts of the street from Little Collins St all the way to La Trobe St.

That report stated changes would “enhance both the civic experience and economic viability of the street by improving amenity, safety and accessibility”.

It aimed to progressively close car lanes to widen pedestrian space, subject to approval ●

Career moves for Wheeler Centre director

WORDS BY *Rhonda Dredge*
FEATURE

Wheeler Centre director Michael Williams has resigned after more than 10 years in the job and he spoke to *CBD News* about his decision.

The Williams era at Melbourne’s solid bluestone Wheeler Centre is coming to an end and it’s time to sum up a decade of talks, events and programs aimed at building a literary culture in the city.

Williams hasn’t written a report on his term of office. He prefers to have a chat in the Moat café.

You could say that conviviality has been the hallmark of his steorage.

If you rock up at the door of the Wheeler Centre they’ll always try and fit you in even if you don’t have a ticket, and all the people who work on the front desk love books.

“We have no illusion about privilege,” Williams told *CBD News*. “We’re a well-resourced piece of infrastructure.”

Some, such as Sydney writer Luke Carman, have been critical of what he called the “Melbourne voice”.

In an essay *Getting Square in a Jerking Circle* Carman likened Wheeler Centre staff to “lit-scene mobsters” who doled out praise to the undeserving.

Williams counters that claim by saying that they have been careful in their programming to try and find gaps, not to compete with or swallow up existing literary events.

He said if writers or thinkers already had loud megaphones then they didn’t need the Wheeler Centre to get their voices heard.

“I’ve worked hard not to make a closed shop,” he said. “You have to have fun and be willing to have some skin in the game. I’m enamoured by other people’s stories.”

Williams grew up in a bookish household and said it was hard to find a career for life for a bookish kid.

First, he went into publishing as an editor then joined the Wheeler Centre as program director.

He admits to being a reader rather than a writer, with a preference for fiction, and he is not leaving to write a novel even though he says that art is always more flattering than reality.

“There are clearly lots of people with wonderful voices and no stories



▲ *Michael Williams.*

“There are clearly lots of people with wonderful voices and no stories and vice versa. I love words and writing but don’t have a story to tell.”



and vice versa. I love words and writing but don’t have a story to tell.”

He does narrativise his own life though. Williams is in the job for a further two months while the Wheeler Centre seeks a new director.

“I’m using the next two months to handle separation anxiety so I’m feeling less bittersweet about walking away,” he said.

“People in their dream jobs often stay too long. The job’s bigger than any one person. Creative roles need renewal. I’m too in love with this place.”

He isn’t revealing what his next career move will be ●



Rhonda Dredge
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▲ The former Federal Coffee Palace building at 555 Collins St.



▲ A render of the proposal.

Coffee Palace tower endorsed

WORDS BY *David Schout*
PLANNING

A 34-storey office tower at the former Federal Coffee Palace site, one of the city's "most missed" buildings, has been endorsed by City of Melbourne councillors.

The \$1.5 billion proposal from Charter Hall at the corner of Collins and King streets features a plaza and laneway accessible to the public, with retail uses at ground level.

The site at 555 Collins St once housed the Federal Coffee House, a much-loved building controversially demolished in 1973.

The original building's name came from its teetotaling owners, who were part of the temperance movement and refused to serve alcohol.

Before praising the new project's design, the development of which is scheduled for completion by mid-



"God knows what they were thinking when they sat in this [Melbourne Town Hall] building back in 1973 and approved its demolition. [It was] An act of vandalism on our city."



2022, the council's planning portfolio chair Cr Nicholas Reece said the decision to demolish the old building still beggared belief.

"That was one of the most marvellous buildings of the 'Marvellous Melbourne' era," he said.

"The Federal Coffee House is often spoken about as the building that is most missed from that era. God knows what they were thinking when they sat in this [Melbourne Town Hall] building back in 1973 and approved its demolition. [It was] An act of vandalism on our city."

The site's current building – the 23-storey Enterprise House built in 1975 – will be pulled down by Charter Hall.

Cr Reece said the proposed development, now subject to approval from Minister Planning Richard Wynne, was an "ambitious proposal" with "a lot to like".

"It's very, very well designed which will achieve a very high standard for this end of the city," he said.

"For too long, Collins St has been known as having the Paris end and the 'other' end, but with what is happening next door at 559 [Collins St] and what is proposed, we're seeing a renaissance for the west end of Collins St, so it returns to its glory of the Marvellous Melbourne era."

Cr Reece said the public benefit of the development also stood out.

"It's particularly pleasing to see the new north-south laneway, which will offer 24 [hour] access along. It is a real, fair dinkum laneway where you'll be able to see sky – we like that. And also, it's going to have active frontage with retail, that's terrific and going to create another laneway for Melbourne."

At the February 4 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, Simon Haussegger from Cox Architects (the project's designer, alongside Gensler Architecture) said it wanted to pay homage to the "beautiful" Coffee House building.

"We established a deep learning of what was on the site last century," he said.

"We had this idea of creating 'place'. Some of the spaces in the Coffee Palace are about what we try to incorporate into buildings today: a grand arrival, fantastic social spaces, and really creating that sense of address and place. Our proposal was about carving out place, and creating pedestrian flows and desire lines that ensured those spaces are memorable."

The proposal comprises two connected individual towers, built in two stages, with 102,299 sqm of office space, 2299 sqm of retail uses, a 135-sqm publicly accessible plaza and a north-south laneway.

It will also provide 616 bicycle parking spaces – 195 more than what is required, something councillor Cathy Oke acknowledged as "very rare" ●



Armed robbery

CRIME

Melbourne Embona Robbery Taskforce detectives are appealing for witnesses after a watch worth more than \$100,000 was stolen during an armed robbery in Melbourne in February.

Investigators have been told a man entered a jewellery store on Collins St about 10.40am on Wednesday, February 5.

The man threatened staff with a syringe and smashed a glass display before stealing the watch.

It is believed the offender was wearing a wig and black rubber gloves and fled the area on a bicycle.

The man also has a distinctive tattoo on his left bicep.

Police have released CCTV and images of a man they believe may be able to assist with their investigation ●

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The day of the long report

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY Rhonda Dredge
 COUNCIL AFFAIRS

When councillors travel overseas on the public purse they usually cobble together a couple of pages to account for their time, hoping they won't end up in the tabloid press.

When Councillor Nicholas Reece went to Copenhagen last September he was so impressed he churned out a 40-page report complete with recommendations.

The report was whittled down to 30 pages and tabled at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) at its first meeting this year.

Cr Reece is claiming that his account, made up of 12 factsheets, is the longest post-travel councillor report in the council's 160 years of existence.

"I had a 'Come to Jesus' moment when I visited Copenhagen," he said. The city gave him so many ideas for Melbourne he had to record them.

He spoke to *CBD News* about his vision, having decided against formally tabling his recommendations.

Prime amongst the statistics he brought back from his dream city was the one that 50 per cent of journeys in Copenhagen are now by bike or foot.

"Copenhagen is world-renowned as a cycling-friendly city. It wasn't always like that," he said.

In the 20th century priority was given to cars in their transport system and squares were converted into carparks.

"In the 1970s with the oil shock they turned away from the automobile and converted them back to squares," Cr Reece said.

"The next step was new major bits of infrastructure for cycling and public transport. Over the decades one good decision has been built on another."

Cr Reece said the new Fishermans Bend bridge, mooted to go from Collins Landing to Point Park, should be public transport, cycling and pedestrians only for "that will deliver far

"This is not some green basket-weaver's fantasy. The Danes are not on a road to serfdom. New industries are engaged to help meet the standards"
 - Cr Nicholas Reece.



▲ Nicholas Reece and his travel report.

more trips a day across the Yarra."

Another idea is that the planned Metro Tunnel entrances at St Kilda Rd, Carlton and the City Square could be redesigned to be less obtrusive.

A week before Cr Reece arrived in Copenhagen, a new metro line was opened and the streetscape preserved by keeping the infrastructure underground.

"They've designed the station entrances differently to the Melbourne Metro," he said. "We have above-ground canopies."

The difference is that the escalators come up to ground level in Melbourne but in Copenhagen they've brought the escalators to a concourse then used stairs and a lift to ground level.

"The result is that they've saved money and it leads to better urban design."

He said the city had made some hard decisions and had a target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

"This is not some green basket-weaver's fantasy. The Danes are not on a road to serfdom. New industries are engaged to help meet the standards."

He said only three per cent of Copenhagen's waste ended up in landfill compared to 75 per cent in the CBD.

"The city calls itself a green superpower. The story that the Danes tell themselves is a clever one."

He said that Melbourne could do more with its livability image to market services.

And even the Yarra is in Cr Reece's sights after his life-changing visit. Denmark has swimming baths in its harbour. It took 20 years but Cr Reece can see a similar situation happening down at Victoria Harbour.

Cr Reece spent six days in Copenhagen while attending the C40 global mayor's summit and five pages a day of research is not a bad tally ●

City divided on free trams extension

From page 1.

"Data indicates the FTZ has increased tram usage at the expense of 'active' modes (walking and cycling) rather than driving, and appears to have encouraged more people to drive into the city and Docklands, while also resulting in delays due to overcrowding at tram stops," the group said.

Those who enter the city by trains or trams have already paid to do so – currently capped at \$9 for a daily fare in zones 1 and 2.

Spokesman Daniel Bowen said, as a result, those who benefited from the FTZ (aside from tourists) were almost always motorists, who can likely afford the fare.

"I'd love to think the government would be brave enough to get rid of the FTZ – to claw back some revenue, relieve crowding and stop encouraging CBD motorists – but unfortunately for paying passengers, we're probably stuck with it," he wrote in a blog post.

The CFM and PTUA letters were two of almost 400 submissions received by the Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

The inquiry was undertaken after the state upper house passed a motion in June 2019 from Transport Matters MP Rod Barton that



also asked to consider free public transport for students and seniors.

The zone's extension was a pre-election pledge in 2018 from Lord Mayor Sally Capp, who vowed it would cover the entire municipality if elected. But the initiative has seen repeated pushback from the Andrews Government and Capp has since put the issue on the backburner.

She has, however, remained steadfast in her view that widening the FTZ would have economic advantages for the city, and made a private submission (that is, not endorsed by the City of Melbourne) to the inquiry championing its benefits.

Her deputy Arron Wood, however, took to Twitter to reiterate that the Lord Mayor's views did not reflect the council's.

"Our own City of Melbourne data shows people spend more in our retail strips and hospitality venues when they walk, in addition to many other benefits. There's good reason why extending the free tram zone isn't council policy," he said.

A report, to be tabled in Parliament, will now be prepared by the committee ●



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An interior life

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

An exhibition on the fringe of the CBD is offering a glimpse into one of the country's best collections of "beautiful things" hidden inside an old house-museum.

Fairhall is a two-storey brick house built in East Melbourne in 1860. It's been open to the public as the home of The Johnston Collection since 1990.

William Robert Johnston, the 20th century collector, died in 1986 and gifted his accumulated belongings to "the people of Victoria".

Since then, the tucked-away museum has invited artists to re-interpret the collection through a regular program of re-installation and interventions of the permanent collection.

But until September the museum will offer a glimpse into the permanent collection and over 400 years of art history with *An Interior Life | William Johnston and his collection*.

The exhibition includes works on paper by one of the greatest printmakers of the 18th-century Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720 – 1778), and paintings by the acclaimed 18th century miniaturist James Scouler.

Fairhouse is one of the few exhibition-houses in Australia unfettered by ropes and barriers. Visitors will be guided through the museum, enjoying stories of travel and historical tales drawn from over 1400 objects, paintings, ceramics, furniture and objet d'art.

In the past the collection has been rearranged by fashion designer Akira Isogawa, architect Pascale Gomes-McNabb, fashion house Romance Was Born, artist Rosslynd Piggot and the artistic director of the Australian Ballet David McAllister AO – among many others.

Dorothy Morgan exhibited at the museum when she was president of the Embroidery Guild of Victoria.

She's spent 15 years there since then as a curatorial volunteer.

"I enjoy the intellectual challenge, the people, the objects. I was a librarian as a profession and curatorial work is quite similar," she said.

"It's the same logical and consistent approach. And knowing where things come from and what they mean. It's both creative and methodical."

The collection is celebrating 30 years of public show this year, and more than 150,000 visitors to Fairhall during that time ●



▲ Dorothy Morgan has volunteered at the collection for 15 years, after exhibiting there herself.

“

I enjoy the intellectual challenge, the people, the objects. I was a librarian as a profession and curatorial work is quite similar

”

An Interior Life runs from Feb 17 - Sep 22. Book here: johnstoncollection.org/What-s-On~120



Meg Hill
JOURNALIST
MEG@HYPERLOCALNEWS.COM.AU

Celebrating International Women's Day

LOCAL NEWS

Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) will host a week of activities and events from March 2 to 8 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Visitors to the QVWC, located in the heart of the CBD at 210 Lonsdale St, will experience a week-long celebration of women, culminating on International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8.

With a program offering "something for everyone," QVWC CEO Jo Porter said the centre would be the ultimate place for Victorian women and their supporters to celebrate a special day, all week long.

"Art and creative expression are our connective tissue," she said. "What better way to celebrate International Women's Day than to bring women from all walks of life together over one week to create art through a large-scale public artwork; make music as part of a pop-up choir; listen to a ground-breaking author; explore a new exhibition; enjoy some of Melbourne's best community choirs or peruse the range of products by Victorian women artists at the centre's new store?"

From March 2, the centre's historic façade will be transformed by the Slow Art Collective, an artistic collective that creates large-scale public artworks around ideas of environmental sustainability, DIY-culture and collaboration.

On March 4, Karachi-based author and journalist Sanam Maher will appear in conversation with feminist writer and activist Dr Jessamy Gleeson, before award-winning writer, performer and comedian Candy Bowers and mistress Jane York of the Big Feminist Sing will lead the International Women's Day BYO Picnic on March 5.

The centre will mark the day itself with the opening of SHOP! – the centre's new store that stocks work by Victorian women and non-binary artists providing a new retail opportunity in the CBD. For more visit qvwc.org.au ●



Skate park revamp

LOCAL NEWS

The City of Melbourne is calling for submissions on the redesign of iconic Melbourne skate park Riverslide.

The council's Skate Melbourne Plan 2017-2018 prioritised the upgrade of existing facilities, including the Riverslide park in Alexandra Gardens.

The redesign aims to better integrate skate

facilities with the surrounding infrastructure and environment, and ensure daily users have the best experience possible.

Members of the community are asked to submit their ideas through a number of potential avenues online and in person, including taking part in a design workshop or a reference group.

Drop-in sessions were held on Wednesday, February 12 ●



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CELEBRATING ALL WEEK: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

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WED 4 MARCH 6.30–7.30PM

Sanam's account of Qandeel Baloch's short life as a social media star is an illuminating investigation into Pakistan's class, gender and sexual mores, and the impact of social media on a country struggling with its contemporary identity.

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THU 5 MARCH 6–9PM

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SUN 8 MARCH 12–5PM
QV SQUARE

SHOP! like a feminist on International Women's Day

We're partying as we open the doors on our new retail venture featuring products created by Victorian women & non-binary people.

Image: Jamie Mumford Jewellery



ALL WEEK

SLOW ART COLLECTIVE
SIMONE THOMSON (Opens 5 March)

CHOIRS IN THE HALL

2 March
5:30pm LivingSong

4 March
5:30pm Heidelberg Mamas
6:10pm Brunswick Women's Choir

5 March
6:10pm Pagan Angels & Trolls

6 March
12.40pm Prana Mob



An interesting woman

When Lynne Wenig moved into one of the earliest office building conversions in 1995 she found the CBD quite bland but she soon discovered she had the skills to make a home here.

Her father had been a graphic designer in New York and she had lived in Manhattan during her formative years.

She was also a high-flyer herself and the city was the place to be for someone with corporate connections.

Now Lynne is 82 and has had 25 years of experience in dealing with both the annoyances and pleasures of a postcode 3000 address.

Most of the annoyances relate to garbage trucks but she thinks she's got them under control.

"We put in a request [to council] to restrict hours but every eight or nine months there's a new collector and we have to do it again."

The pleasures involve meeting friends and mentoring business people in management skills, particularly time.

Lynne likes to be punctual and time management is at the heart of her professional work. She has written two books on the topic, one for business and the other for the general public, a pretty, little how-to called *Saving Time*.

"I worked as an academic for a while," she said. "I sat down with my professor. Do I go and do a PhD or do I write a book about time management?"

"He asked how long would it take me to type 100,000 words and do 50 interviews? I decided it would be easier to do the book. I had a lot of ideas about time management."

Her witty suggestions include making a daily appointment with yourself to make sure you're doing okay and using primary colours for your

diaries so they're easily visible around the house.

Lynne's own decorating style is elegant, light and spacious. Her father's lovely little line painting of the famous New York skyline hangs in her study which in turn looks out through the upper branches towards a series of recently-built, modernist skyscrapers.

Directly ahead is the blue building, a perfectly rectangular structure with large tiles of different shades, and to the left are other residential buildings, which Lynne has watched grow.

"They came in the night and the floors slotted in. It took several nights," she said.

She's hoping she won't be closed in totally by buildings and she has to keep the windows shut to cut out the noise of construction across the street at the Paragon above the Celtic Club.

Lynne was a commissioner during the Kennett years when the councils of many municipalities were sacked to make way for amalgamation and she knows that managers have to make hard decisions.

Saying "no" is on her list of time-management strategies. Despite that, she sits on the boards of charities and is actually quite lenient when someone is late.

"The first time I accept it, and the second but the third? I've told people I can't cope with waiting more than 15 minutes," she said.

She was also trained in how to handle the press during her commissioner days.

"If a journalist asks you a question you



▲ Lynne Wenig.

make your answer boring, so uninteresting the journalist gives up and doesn't want to pursue it."

Thankfully Lynne has given up that practice and is better known in the city as an interesting woman, having organised lunches at Florentino's for up to 120 interesting women at a time ●



Rhonda Dredge
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STREET ART

Tourist location in total disrepair

Hosier Lane has been an unaesthetic free-for-all for many years now.

After Amac left the lane and shut Citylights and Until Never galleries in about 2008, The Banksys had already been painted over accidentally.

In 2009 I began running regular workshops twice a month with the young people through Signal. This meant that we would fix up any slashed artwork, which was mostly from artists we knew and respected, and try and keep the lane somewhat tidy.

In about 2010 the laneway started to get loads of media and became the lead advertising image for Destination Melbourne. It was around this time that *Lonely Planet* declared Hosier Lane to be the number one free tourist attraction in Australia.

Over the next few years Hosier Lane became world famous attracting close to 10,000 tourists a day. It became a free-for-all as everyone started painting all over the place and the quality of the art dropped.

In 2013 I painted the back laneway that runs off Hosier Lane with Empty-Nursery Blue. This artwork was playing with the idea of colour as a tag and made the entire lane into a giant empty swimming pool. Everything was painted, the ground, the bins, the windows, everything.

There was much backlash with this artwork. Partly because people thought it was government funded. It was not. But it was an artwork, which meant to add to the laneway and its history.

About six months later the main part of Hosier Lane was painted black by a residents' group, Hosier Inc, in the name of rejuvenation.



Nobody made much of a deal about this, all the history and the tiny stains of time, and art that had made Hosier its home was gone. The group hired high-end artists and painted up the lane. Then they gave it a makeover inviting all artists to come have a paint.

Since then Hosier has died off. I no longer run workshops there and nobody artistic has any say in what is happening on the ground. We still use the lane regularly on the Melbourne Street tours, as the laneway's history is as important as the art.

Now that Culture Kings has opened on Hosier things have a different feel (they called the cops on an artist two years ago). It's mostly

"art-vertising" and wedding proposals with the occasional gem.

So, when the cool kids came into Hosier Lane with their fire extinguishers and painted over all the art and all the walls last month they added to the history of the lane.

Regardless of their intention and the context, the act was brutal but kind.

Now we can talk about Hosier Lane in a frank and honest way. We have one of Australia's most important tourist attractions with almost 10,000 visitors per day and yet there is no kind of strategy on how to maintain and look after the lane. It is important to Melbourne and tourism. It seems everybody is upset when the

“

Now that we are talking about it, what, or who, is going to stand up and help save this most precious resource?

”



Adrian Doyle
ADRIAN DOYLE IS THE BLENDER STUDIOS
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More short-stay abuse - with no recourse for residents

Residents across Melbourne are reporting more horror stories of short-stay abuse – with little chance of any meaningful redress and still less of any resolution.

In our previous column we reported the case of an enterprising resident who won a victory in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) – albeit pyrrhic.

This month we report three more stories of ongoing abuse where the current law provides no recourse for residents.

Resident story one – Older couple feels unsafe

“When we moved into our apartment we enjoyed our new lifestyle - until our peace and enjoyment started to erode as more and more short-stays took over our building.”

“Eventually one third of the building became short-stay. Our lives changed dramatically for the worse – lifts, foyers and corridors were taken over by large groups of noisy guests with luggage. Large cleaning trolleys caused damage to the lifts and corridors, all paid for out of owners’ corporation (OC) levies.”

“There was no sense of community or caring for the building or its residents. Some of the guests made us, as older residents, feel unsafe.”

“We felt we had no choice but to put our apartment on the market and move away. This meant a large financial loss.”

Resident story two – Damage, abuse, burglary

“The effects of Airbnb in my apartment building include an increase in cost for extra security and extra maintenance of the common areas of the building. Body corporate fees were increased to cover these extra costs.”

“The swimming pool area and the change rooms, sauna, and spa area were damaged and gym equipment misused. Entrance was limited to residents only, which resulted in the security guards being abused and one guard spat upon by a disgruntled Airbnb guest. Key fobs were copied and sold on E-bay.”

“Airbnb guests used this unauthorised access to burgle an apartment. This matter was handled by the police. We have been forced to upgrade all fobs to deal with this security issue.”

Resident story three – Abuse, rubbish, sexual services

A resident in a third apartment tower reported a series of disturbing incidents occurring over the previous four-year period as an owner occupier. This resident always suffered from at least one Airbnb apartment on his floor and one directly above which constantly leaked water through his ceiling, the result of poor maintenance of the Airbnb apartment.

“One owner bragged at an annual general meeting (AGM) about operating 20 apartments as short-stays and wanting to add more to his portfolio,” the resident said.

“Drunken short-stay guests banged on my door mistaking my apartment for their short-stay because the floor layouts are similar - and became abusive when told of their mistake.”

“Bottles, rubbish and dirt are routinely left all over the lobbies and corridors, especially bad on party nights – Friday, Saturday, Sunday - and on every holiday or long weekend.”

“Lobbies and lifts are perpetually clogged with bags and suitcases; there is a constant stream of strangers moving in and out of short-stay apartments every day of the week.”

“Short-stay apartment cleaners, going from floor to floor, apartment to apartment, carrying racks of swipe cards and keys can access virtually any floor of a supposedly ‘secure’ building; In all likelihood these cleaners are paid cash-in-hand without any background checks. The building is basically a free-for-all hotel. The basement storage cages are frequently burgled and damaged.”

“The lack of consequences for the anti-social short-stay industry seems to have emboldened the worst elements in our society – apartments in this building are used as illegal boarding houses and even as brothels.”

Meanwhile, local councils take the lead

While the state government continues to bury its head in the sand about the dire impact of short-stays, two local councils have responded to community outrage and introduced new laws to regulate the industry.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has introduced a comprehensive Local Law that requires short-stay operators to register and pay an annual fee and to follow a code of conduct, with a provision for heavy fines and banning delinquent owners. The law covers communication with neighbours, noise limits and anti-social behaviour.

The Council says it has a zero-tolerance approach to party houses and will prosecute anyone who breaks the new rules.

Since the new law was introduced in 2018 more than 3000 owners have registered their “homes” as short-stay properties and 111 infringement notices have been issued.

In 2019 the first two owners were successfully prosecuted: one guilty of four offences was fined \$1500 and another guilty of 19 offences was fined \$2700 and compelled to sign a court undertaking.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor David Gill said, “Council takes this kind of act very seriously and will deal with property owners failing to comply with the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law”.

“These businesses operate in our residential neighbourhoods and anti-social and rowdy behaviour is not acceptable.”

Neighbouring Frankston City Council very recently passed its own local laws to regulate short stay rental properties, to allow the Council to “ensure an appropriate standard of management for short stay rental accommodation, to minimise the risk of nuisance to neighbouring properties.”

Frankston short-stay owners will be charged an annual registration fee of \$150 and failure to register could result in a fine of up to \$2000. An owner’s registration may be cancelled after three substantiated complaints or a single “severe” complaint.

Frankston City Council Mayor, Sandra Mayer, claims the Local Laws were needed to give the council remedies “currently not covered under any other legislation.”

That both Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Councils have been compelled to introduce their own Local Laws because the state laws are so inadequate is a ludicrous situation, and the state government has to step up and stop passing the buck to local councils.

We Live Here will continue to lobby for regulation of the short-stay industry until the government is shamed into doing something about it, and catch up with the rest of the world.

Thank you to those of you who have contributed the stories included in our previous two columns. We shall include more on short-stays in later columns, but next month we shall turn our attention to the rorts perpetuated by developers and others, and concerns that even if the proposed new legislation sees the light of day it will deal adequately with many of the issues highlighted by our readers.

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Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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BUSINESS

New offerings at The District Docklands Market Lane

While The District Docklands continues to expand, so too does the abundance of quality food offerings for shoppers.



After welcoming Woolworths, Dan Murphy’s, MarketPlace Fresh and The Butcher Club Epicurean late last year, The District has now added Empire Asian Supermarket, one of largest of its kind in the CBD, as well as the delicious China Bar, which serves the most popular tastes from Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan, and lastly Magic Cuisine, an affordable take-home meal option.

Throughout March, Market Lane will welcome a host of new eateries and stores including a deli, pharmacy and seafood store, making sure you’ll never leave empty-handed.

Open seven days a week until 7pm, with Woolworths open until 10pm, Market Lane is an urban market indulging the senses and fostering a sense of community and place.

The District Docklands CEO George Karabatsos said he hoped Market Lane would transform the way city shoppers got their daily groceries.

“We are thrilled to expand the offerings at Market Lane, fast becoming a go-to fresh food destination for Docklands and surrounding areas,” Mr Karabatsos said.

“These new additions provide even more fresh food options for the local shopper, representing diverse flavours from all over the world.”

To make the experience even more comfortable, customers who spend \$10 or more at Market Lane’s Woolworths, Dan Murphy’s or participating stores by validating their ticket are eligible for 90 minutes of free parking.

Market Lane opened in October 2019 and is the largest supermarket-based, fresh food and convenience precinct within a 5km radius of Melbourne’s CBD.



▲ Pictures: Nicole Cleary.

The \$70 million development is an extension of The District Docklands, formerly known as Harbour Town.

Spanning 9500 sqm and with 2250 car parks on site, Market Lane was designed by NH Architecture and Esquisse Design Studio ●



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For more information visit thedistrictdocklands.com.au

MUSIC

Soul A Go Go

The Melbourne-based Soul Messin Allstars, comprising some of the best producers and studio musicians who live and breathe soul, have a brand-new seven-inch single called *Soul A Go Go* with a film clip featuring choreographer Fortuna Kebebe.

This is a sonic delight that is now available at all good record stores in the CBD, as well as Northside Records in Fitzroy. If you love The JB's you will love the Soul Messin Allstars.

The seven-inch *Soul A Go Go* single is a black vinyl pressed in Germany with a Soul Messin disco sleeve. This song is a salute to the legendary Soul A Go Go night that happens every Thursday night at venues located both in and surrounding the CBD.

Written by Jake Mason from Cookin On Three Burners and Eric McCusker from Mondo Rock, *Soul A Go Go* will fine tune your chakras. Musicians from The Putbacks, Cookin' On Three Burners, The Teskey Brothers, Fulton Street, The Meltdown, The Wolfgramm Sisters and Cara Robinson performed on this track recorded on the leafy east side of the city.

Soul A Go Go the club night is a mainstay of Melbourne's soul music scene, with DJ Vince Peach and Pierre Baroni at the vanguard of great soul music selectors. Vince Peach of course has the superb Northern Soul music show on 3PBS.

Magic Dirt's second EP, *Life Was Better* was one of the sonic highlights of the grunge scene in the '90s. It propelled Magic Dirt onto the main stage of The Big Day Out festivals. *Life Was Better* was released in 1994 and is now available on orange and black deluxe vinyl wax. Magic Dirt at that time was Adalita (guitars, vocals), Dean Turner (bass guitar), Adam Robertson (drums) and Daniel Herring (guitars). This gem of an album will be a collector's item in years to come and all CBD record stores should have this great electrifying album available.

This is the type of rock music heard from the speakers of an orange-coloured Holden Torana SLR 5000 fanging it on the highway past Avalon in the '90s. Magic Dirt formed in 1991 in Geelong, and *Life Was Better* received four nominations at the 1995 Aria Awards. Magic Dirt played Big Day Out around Australia in the summer of 1995 playing songs from *Life Was Better* to great acclaim. Lindsay Gravina and Michael Alonso were at the desk engineering the sound for the band.

Emergency Music/Remote Control are issuing this edition of the album. The 10 minutes of feedback that follows the third track *Amoxycillin* is up there with Neil Young and Crazy Horse in terms of sonic mesmerisation, akin to Arc/Weld at its face-melting best. Neil Young and Crazy Horse's *Ragged Glory* from 1991 is an influence on the sonic approach of Magic Dirt. The thing about *Ragged Glory* is the way that many songs finished, in that, they didn't, as the band explored feedback potentialities. Many years ago, when Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds were playing Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Magic Dirt and Rowland S Howard played The Corner Hotel in Richmond on the same night. Rowland S Howard was playing with Brian Hooper on bass guitar and Mick Harvey on the drums, playing songs from his glorious *Teenage Snuff Film* album and they managed to win over the Magic Dirt crowd. The Magic Dirt posse stepped forward through the Rowland S Howard set, indicating that the Magic Dirt fans could appreciate the fineness and greatness of Rowland S Howard.

Later Magic Dirt blitzed the stage, rocking the house. Adalita has performed on the Pop Crimes night celebrating Rowland S Howards music, a highlight being her version of *Shivers*. She has also performed with many other bands including These Immortal Souls.

Before embarking upon a tour of the United States Melbourne band Amyl and the Sniffers will be performing at iconic rock and roll venue 170 Russell on Friday, March 27. They will be taking part in the Coachella Festival among a whole clutch of dates across America and Canada. It has been a busy year touring overseas for Amyl and the Sniffers and no doubt they will put on an awesome display of rock and roll before catching the jet plane across the equator. Their debut album is available on vinyl at all cool record stores in the city. Their version of *Monsoon Rock* on *Later... With Jools Holland* is well worth checking out, capturing the band at the height of its powers ●

Gigs:

- Aldous Harding: Forum Theatre – March 6
- The Darkness: 170 Russell – March 17
- Amyl and the Sniffers: 170 Russell – March 27
- Cherry Sunday Blues Sessions: Sunday Arvos in March, 5pm
- Breakfasters, 3RRR: Monday – Friday, 6am - 9am



Chris Mineral

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Lunch break



“We don't have chicken soup just chicken broth.”

Little Ramen Bar
Little Bourke St

SKYPAD LIVING

Vertical villages - an owners' corporation manager's view

Our vertical villages employ a host of workers – concierges, window washers, gardeners – but when it comes to the owners' corporation (OC) manager, some of us are less clear about their role, often asking “what's the difference between an OC manager and a building manager?”

OC managers play a distinct role in the high-rise ecosystem with Consumer Affairs Victoria describing their role as the management and administration of an OC's common property. This includes maintaining financial records, preparing budgets, organising insurance, arranging legally required audits and reports, collecting fees and generally ensuring compliance with the Owners' Corporations Act. A building manager is more hands-on, taking on the operational side of these activities, such as actually organising maintenance and repairs.

In view of the OC manager's central role in the vertical living sector, I thought it interesting to see how these administrators view our world of vertical villages.

For such a perspective, I spoke with Mr Cas Lukauskas, a senior OC manager with MICM Property and a 14-year veteran of the OC world.

Our chat started by my asking Cas what he saw as the best features of vertical living.

Somewhat surprisingly, Cas nominated a sense of community.

This surprised me because vertical villages are typically criticised for lacking community. But Cas disagrees, noting that there are many lonely people living on quarter-acre blocks who couldn't even identify their neighbours by sight.

In Cas's view, people in high-rise abodes can more easily – if they so choose – connect with other residents as there are many points for potential interaction.

“You can get to know people if you want – they are (literally) in arm's reach,” Cas said.

Changing gear, I asked about what he saw as

his biggest challenges when operating in this sector.

In terms of on-going issues, and somewhat unsurprisingly, Cas said that by far the biggest challenges he routinely encountered involved people, specifically, negotiating a large network of human relationships.

OC managers directly interact with building staff, insurers, legal advisors, suppliers, contractors and their staff, council and government departments, property managers, tenants, investors and, most importantly, the OC committee! And within this mix, Cas spends a great amount of time in mediating between people with disputes. As we well know, close proximity living coupled with shared amenities brings to the fore fundamental differences. Cas operates on the basis that strong opinions often spring from good intentions (e.g. a desire for sustainability), but these well-meant goals can get lost in how people try to execute their visions.

Regarding a more recent bugbear, Cas sighed, “short-stays”. As is well appreciated in vertical villages, Cas too is of the opinion that current legislation leaves OCs as “toothless tigers” with the available redress channels not dealing with the actual problem.

“Often times when owners attempt to enforce their rights, the application is left to the OC manager and our key tool is issuing breach notices – after the event,” he said.

The biggest problem group he sees are the new entrants into the short-stay market. Often these people just want a bit of quick cash without the overheads and so they take a “do it yourself approach”. But Cas warns that he has seen some severe consequences visited upon these short-term landlords, most especially in terms of insurance. When things go wrong, which according to Murphy, they do, these



In terms of on-going issues, and somewhat unsurprisingly, Cas said that by far the biggest challenges he routinely encountered involved people, specifically, negotiating a large network of human relationships.



unprepared short-stay landlords find that the building's insurance may not cover damages. But the real danger, Cas further warns, lies in their liability exposure from injury to their “guests” and/or residents.

So, how does he handle this?

In Cas's experience, by far the best way to resolution starts with talking directly to the owners – “face-to-face is best”. Also crucial is developing good working relations with property managers. This he sees as essential – “we must be on the same page”.

For the final question, I asked about the changes he sees on the “vertical” horizon.

Regarding changes already happening, Cas observed that the nature and composition of committees was becoming more sophisticated. This he attributed to the retirement of the Baby

Boomer generation and their move into the “high-life”. This group brings with it an array of workplace skills and valuable insights and it is also quite keen to have a say in how its home affairs are managed. I asked Cas's opinion about the need for targeted training for committee members as many have previously learned “on-the-job”, which has fuelled many misperceptions about actual roles and the operation of an OC. However, ever the diplomat, Cas reframed my question in terms of a more general observation about managing diverse interests and his sense of satisfaction in devising workable solutions which cater for these differences.

In terms of an emerging trend, Cas pointed to shifts in design preferences, specifically a notable demand for green amenities. In previous years, owners have looked for pools, gyms and tennis courts. Now he observes a strong and growing desire for rooftop gardens, courtyards and generally more relaxing (and even nurturing) spaces. This he attributes to the need of city dwellers for places of quiet enjoyment in the midst of a noisy concrete jungle.

So, take note developers and designers – it's not all about activation! ●



Janette Corcoran

JANETTE CORCORAN IS AN APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT.

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▲ Market Organics owner Wendy Edwards at her stall.

The apple doesn't fall far

WORDS BY David Schout

They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree but in the case of Market Organics owner Wendy Edwards, the phrase takes on a whole new meaning.

Since she was three weeks old, Wendy has been making the regular pilgrimage to Queen Victoria Market (QVM).

Her family's apple orchard in Red Hill on the Mornington Peninsula would sell their produce in the old wholesale market in C Shed, and they spent many an early morning at the Melbourne institution.

For Wendy, it was on the orchard that the hard work ethic was instilled, and to this day she works seven days a week.

Speaking to *CBD News* at her stall in I Shed, she doesn't stop to consider whether it's taking a toll.

"It's just what we do," she said with a shrug. "My brother does it, my Mum and Dad still do it. Dad turns 80 soon and he still works seven days on the orchard. I don't know whether it's a good work ethic, but it's definitely there!"

Twelve years ago the previous owner of the stall, who bought the family's apples wholesale, decided to sell, and Market Organics was born.

Wendy, who had worked for many years in a bank alongside helping out at the family's orchard, soon took over the stall and has been doing so ever since.

Alongside fresh produce, Market Organics sells a selection of organic, bio-dynamic, vegan and gluten-free grocery products.

This not only includes household staples such as bread, milk and eggs, but spices, nuts, pulses, grains, flours, tea, coffee, spreads and tofu.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, one particular line of

produce is the most popular.

"People like our apples. It's really nice when I hear them say 'your apples are beautiful'. It makes me feel great. I'll ring up my Dad and brother and say 'our apples are really good,'" she said with a smile.

Wendy said one of the pleasing parts of her role was seeing regulars come back to the store, and seeing young families grow over time.

She said that most of her customers travelled into the city, and that business had suffered from people seeking their fresh produce online rather than in-person.

While business was sometimes tough, she remains resilient.

"I know that at least I'm doing good for some people who need organic fruit and veg. Some people have allergies, some have other issues – at least I know we're providing a valuable service for them," she said.

Market Organics is one of just two certified organic retailers at QVM, something Wendy is proud of.

Unlike many businesses that fashionably splash "organic" branding on their products, her stall has been formally audited and certified, a process she said was "really hard".

She enjoys the varying seasons and the produce that comes with it.

"We've just finished cherry season and the cherries were beautiful this year. It's a good time of the year," she said.

But does she have a preferred season?

"It's all good. Actually, even though I don't like the cold so much the winter is probably better because the fruit and veg stand up a bit easier in the cool."

Market Organics is located under I Shed, stall 46-55 ●

METRO TUNNEL



State Library Station taking shape below Swanston St

Construction of the Metro Tunnel Project's new State Library Station is well underway, with the main cavern now excavated and work starting on the permanent station.

The cavern under the CBD has been excavated using three road headers, each of which excavate around 500 tonnes of rock every day. They are equipped with cutterheads that smash through rock three times harder than concrete.

The road headers have finished more than 12 months' work under the city, digging 36 metres under Swanston St while also excavating the station length between Franklin and La Trobe streets.

Later this year, the road headers will go back underground to dig out the rail tunnels on each side of the central station cavern.

The first permanent building works for the station are also now underway, with a concrete floor installed that will form part of the future platform.

State Library and Town Hall stations feature "trinocular caverns" – three overlapping tunnels dug by road headers to create an open space for passengers. This design allows the concourse and platforms to be integrated on one level.

State Library Station will be 240 metres long and 30 metres wide, and its 19-metre platforms will be some of the widest underground metro platforms in the world.

The new station will have three entrances, including the underground connection directly into Melbourne Central Station.

At street level, the main entrance will be located near the corner of Swanston and La Trobe streets, providing easy access to RMIT and the State Library of Victoria and

northwards to Literature Lane and Stewart St. Another entrance will be located on Franklin St near the corner of Swanston St, between RMIT and the Melbourne City Baths.

To minimise disruption during the construction of the new CBD stations, five access shafts have been built for State Library Station at A'Beckett St and Franklin St east and west, La Trobe St and Little La Trobe St. Three have been built for Town Hall Station at Federation Square, City Square and Flinders Quarter.

Acoustic sheds have also been constructed over access shafts at Federation Square, City Square, A'Beckett St, Franklin St west and east to minimise noise and dust during excavation.

A total of seven road headers will be used in the CBD as part of the project – four for State Library Station and three for Town Hall Station ●



Open for business

Vodafone: 256 Flinders Street

During construction of the new Town Hall Station, Vodafone Flinders Street will remain open for business. Vodafone Store in Flinders Street is offering exclusive deals, which includes a Bonus Drone (RRP \$79) when you sign up to any eligible Red and Red Plus Plan.

For more information visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

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More trains, more often



A different view from Eastern Hill

When you gather artists together you usually have controversy, even at the Victorian Artists' Society (VAS) in its lovely Romanesque building just east of the Hoddle Grid.

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge

Not many are aware of the pleasures of the society nor its illustrious history.

It was here in the late 1800s that the Heidelberg School painters used to meet.

Tom Roberts was a member, as was Frederick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton, and they were resisting the old styles of landscape painting from Europe.

They changed their palettes to represent the grey and dun blobs of the bush, ushering in an era of Antipodean art.

Later on, between the wars, president Max Meldrum defended tonal realism, which he taught at the Gallery School, in another artistic controversy.

Today, a VAS member has an exhibition in the front room of the premises in Albert St that some might call safe but which strikes to the heart of this democratic club of 500 members.

You can join the club for \$250 and pay \$10 per month per painting for exhibition space in a beautifully restored building.

The society has largely retreated from the mainstream art world, said Graeme Williams who is doing a PhD on its history.

"I'm surprised that academics have ignored the society because it was the place to exhibit for the first 50 odd years," he said. Members won 12 of the first 15 Archibald prizes. Albert Tucker took night classes in the 1930s. Many of the early exhibitors were women.



▲ Eileen Mackley in the former storage area

Current president Eileen Mackley is more upbeat about the society, accentuating its not-for-profit approach to the encouragement of art and creativity. 18 art classes are offered each week in the studio.

A \$2.5 million restoration has just been completed, with funds raised by the committee, uncovering the charm of the original Victorian interior.

"Either side of the staircase was blocked off and turned into storage," Ms Mackley said. "We opened it up and found lovely pillars were hidden beneath."

Beautiful arched windows had been covered over and there was no heating. Stairs were stripped back to their original slate, carpets pulled up, new glass doors installed, chandeliers cleaned and alcoves re-opened in the upstairs gallery.

The building may not have the pomp of the Royal Academy of Arts in London where the Heidelberg colonials exhibited but it does have the original bluestone studio with its paint-smattered wooden floors and easels.

The society was formed in 1870 as the Victorian Academy of Art and was granted



▲ A view of the city from the Victorian Artists' Society building in Albert St

Crown land by the colony. Ms Mackley does not deny the privilege.

"To be talented is a privilege," she said as she leafed through all the books and words that had been spilled on the battles for identity that had preoccupied members.

Ms Mackley acknowledged a certain faithfulness to the standards of the Victorian era. People of Eastern Hill used to look down on the mess on Elizabeth St. "Downtown was a bit grubby," she said ●

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MELBOURNE CBD

SWA113E

MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

What could your business achieve if it had a cash injection?

Alternatively, has your business been impacted by the recent bushfires? There are grants available to assist with both growth and recovery.

In March, the City of Melbourne launches the Small Business Grants for 2020. The program provides financial assistance to support market-ready products and services that enhance the City of Melbourne's reputation for innovation and creativity, and contribute to a thriving, sustainable business culture. (More information: <https://bit.ly/31UoEEE>)

Did you know that the State of Victoria is now offering grants to small businesses impacted by the bushfires? Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grants are grants of up to \$50,000 and are available to eligible Victorian small businesses and not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) affected by the Victorian bushfires commencing from November 21, 2019. These grants are intended to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of eligible small businesses that have suffered direct damage as a result of bushfires. (More information: <https://bit.ly/31Q5ZwM>)

B3000+ Awards

Awards are another way to achieve recognition and success for your business as they can provide further credibility or validation of what makes you unique in the market. Since 2004, the B3000+ Awards have been Melbourne's premier business awards program.

Managed by the Melbourne Business Network (MBN) and sponsored by the City of Melbourne, the B3000+ Awards recognise and celebrate the endeavours and successes of businesses operating in the City of Melbourne, across all precincts.

With categories for innovation, sustainability, social enterprise, female entrepreneur, customer experience, business of the year and many more, there is bound to be a category in which you or your business can shine.

For more details about this event, the B3000+ Awards categories or how to enter, visit b3000awards.org.au

For more details about becoming a member of the MBN or our many upcoming city-based events and workshops, visit melbournebusinessnetwork.org.au ●



Wendi Dawson

WENDI DAWSON IS PRESIDENT OF THE MELBOURNE BUSINESS NETWORK

HISTORY

The women at Manning's on the concourse at Flinders Street Station

March is Women's History Month so as I look closely at this photograph, taken in 1948 at Manning's Chemist on the concourse at Flinders Street Station, I'm thinking about these four young women and wondering what their lives were like in the years following the end of World War Two.

At some time in the past, the women have been identified as Miss Carter, Miss Pawsey, Miss Derham and Mrs Newell in that terribly formal way that was still the social convention years later in the 1960s when my friends' parents and mine called each other Mr This and Mrs That, never using first names, even though they knew each other quite well. And if Mrs Newell was identified by a given name or initials, it would be her husband's, not her own, unless she was a widow.

My generation was keen to push the boundaries and if we were lucky our parents encouraged us to go on to further education, but for most school children of the 1940s, boys and girls alike, their school lives ended around age 14 and they went out into the world of work whether they liked it or not. They went into apprenticeships or took up jobs in factories or shops or businesses or worked in outdoor labouring jobs. Very few went on to do further training. Girls might have gone to business college or teachers' college, but not many went to university.

On the day I reached the age of majority (still 21 for my generation), I sat my final university exam and looked forward to a future that offered financial security, independence and opportunities galore, or at least that was my

spin on things. Did these women look into their futures with hope? They had grown up during a time when their mothers, aunts, older sisters and friends struggled to keep households running despite the Depression of the 1930s and war shortages, rationing, brownouts and men, the traditional wage earners, being away at the war. Some had joined women's branches of the armed services or the Women's Land Army. Many, possibly even some of these women, had worked in factories, taking the places of men who were serving in the war. If they were still at school, they may have helped dig air raid trenches in the school playground and they would certainly have taken part in patriotic fund-raising activities.

As I look again at this image, I wonder whether the four women still lived at home? Were they young marrieds or maybe even war widows? There was a housing shortage just after the war. Besides, children generally stayed at home until they married, so yes, I think the three unmarried women probably did live at home, but under their beds or on top of their wardrobes there was probably a hope chest where they added items useful to their future lives as wives and mothers. There were bound to be tablecloths, runners and serviettes that they'd embroidered at school and family and



▲ Image courtesy RHSV. Image AL175-0008.

friends would add to the collection on birthdays and at Christmas. They might even have added some items from Manning's Chemist, especially if they were entitled to a staff discount.

These young women, who represent my mother's generation, are smiling. They look confidently at the camera and it feels as though the future is something they look forward to. They welcome it, just as they welcome their customers. They have jobs and with that comes economic independence, although it will be a long time before women receive equal pay or superannuation rights. If they marry and have children, they will probably leave the workforce, although they will possibly return one day, just as my own mother did in the 1960s. Since the entry of so many women into the workforce during the war years, they will have new issues to consider, such as the needs of working mothers, childcare provision and workplace opportunities. They will have to

juggle their private and working lives in a way their mothers did not, but in doing so, they will provide my generation, the Baby Boomers, with previously unheard-of opportunities.

It seems fitting, then, that the four women in this image worked for such forward-looking employers and that Jean Manning, whose husband Nigel Manning ran the Flinders Street Station pharmacy (and was later Dean of the College of Pharmacy), should be a working pharmacist herself, the mother of four children and the first woman elected to Hawthorn Council ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

RESIDENTS 3000

The air we breathe

The catastrophic fires this summer brought days of high air pollution to Melbourne and a heightened awareness of the effects of climate change. How are CBD residents to respond?

At the time, a friend suggested I use an app called Air Visual. It now sits right next to the weather app on my phone. I had the impression that air pollution was a problem for cities such as Beijing and Mumbai but here, in Melbourne, the air was good. And anyway, what harm is there in a little mist and smoke here and there? How wrong I was. Much to my surprise Melbourne is no better than many other cities around the world and polluted air is really bad for your health.

That is why you often see people walking around our streets wearing masks. It is not that they have a virus and that they are being socially responsible. No, it is to defend themselves from our bad air! However, we do not have bad air-days all the time. So how are we to know?

What is bad air anyway? As you are probably aware, humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. The air we breathe mainly comprises nitrogen (78 per cent), oxygen (21 per cent), carbon dioxide (0.04 per cent), argon (0.93 per cent), water vapour and fine, solid particles.

It is the "extras" in our air that are a problem for human health. They may be fine dust (less than 2.5 or up to 10 micrograms/cubic metre), pollen, smog (fog and smoke together), tobacco and industrial smoke. Among these extras are some other nasties that further injure our health, such as carbon monoxide (a result of incomplete combustion), nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone.

Carbon dioxide is a sleeper. We all know it as one of the greenhouse gases along with methane,



nitrous oxide, hydrofluoric carbons, perfluoro carbons and sulphur hexafluoride. These gases are added to the air we breathe due to human activity, like burning coal and running motor cars. (That is a big topic for another day!).

It only takes an increase in carbon dioxide from 0.04 per cent to 0.1 per cent concentration in the air we breathe to cause the demise of the human being. This is why the gas is often measured in closed spaces (a conference room, for example), where many people are busy exhaling carbon dioxide without knowing that it is this gas that is starting to make them feel sleepy. It can happen in your own home if there is insufficient ventilation.

Which brings me to the point of this article. Surely, we need to be more aware of the air we breathe and what we should do to protect ourselves. The first step is measurement. Environmental protection agencies and other interested parties, all use the Air Quality Index (AQI) as a scale of air pollution that indicates how clean the air is. The smart app

that I acquired, taps into various sources of AQI measurement, in many different locations locally and right throughout the planet. From these sources the app reports the AQI regularly for the user. It even notifies you in the morning what the air quality is!

The AQI is calculated from data relating to the five main pollutants. For each pollutant, the AQI is the data value expressed as a percentage of the level specified by the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air (NEPM) standard.

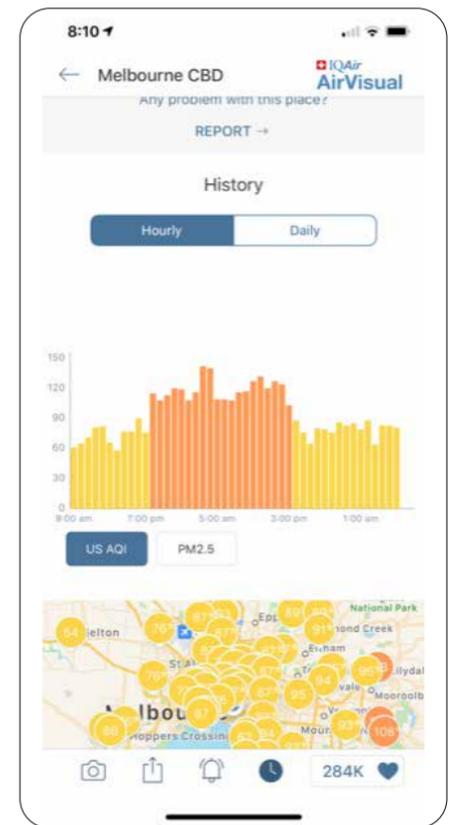
There are six AQI categories ranging from "very good" to "hazardous". Each category is shown in a different colour. A lower value indicates better air quality, and a higher value indicates poorer air quality.

Very good lies in the range 0-33, very poor would be in the range of 150-200 and hazardous would be anything greater than 200. Your health is affected when the AQI is more than 100. Only a few days ago Melbourne's AQI was 117!

What can a CBD resident do about this? My suggestions are to become more aware of pollution, take precautions when it is bad (like wearing a mask or staying indoors), grow lots of plants inside as they love your carbon dioxide. Consider installing an air filter inside or purchase an air quality monitor.

If you can afford it, buy an electric vehicle, scooter or bike or take the less costly option to use our wonderful, electric powered trams. Not a total solution of course. But all small steps help ●

▼ IQAir Airvisual



Sue Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT OF RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



▼ Jenny with her pet Mr Smith.



Pet's Corner

Meet Mr Smith



Jenni and her wirehaired dachshund Mr Smith both enjoy a stroll in the park at the end of a hard day's work.



WORDS BY *Nick Obst*

The walk home through Flagstaff Gardens is a highlight of Mr Smith's day, according to Jenni. At 11 years old, the wirehaired dachshund has slowed down a bit, but Jenni said he still enjoyed getting out.

He's not particularly boisterous though, and he's very amenable to being picked up and having a cuddle with his owner.

"He's a lap dog," Jenni told *CBD News* during their walk home. She brings Mr Smith to work with her every day

before returning via the park to her home in the CBD, and she said he was "very well adapted to city life".

Mr Smith is the just right size for a lap dog. As he and Jenni walk through the park he barely comes up to her ankles.

His scruffy grey hair and floppy ears make him a very cute companion for the commute home, and he clearly enjoys it too! ●

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HERITAGE

Taking the "D" out of demolition

The City of Melbourne last month voted to adopt two very important guidelines for heritage.

After years of debate, a new system of grading will be finally implemented on all heritage buildings across the city, with a building now either "contributory" to a heritage precinct or "significant" in its own right.

This replaced an outdated system of grading all heritage buildings with an A,B,C or D level of significance, often using simplified and outdated methodology, which over the years has seen so many "D-graded" buildings demolished by developers who have been able to argue that the lowest grading out of four must mean little worth.

The wording of "contributory" for anything previously graded B,C or D evens this out and using much more nuanced language too will see the "D for demolition" finally become a thing of the past, after the loss of so much contributory heritage in the city.

Some fantastic new visual guidelines are also set to be adopted too, with illustrations educating building owners, developers and members of the public about the distinctions in heritage protection, clear guidelines for additions and restorations, setbacks for towers from the street and how to better design infill buildings in heritage streetscapes.

One clear win in the new visual guidelines is a clear rejection of the wrong kinds of developments seen in the city in the past few years where "saving" a heritage building might

only involve keeping one wall of it, or plonking a tower directly on top of it.

This is the first time a whole set of guidelines and simple explanations for the heritage process have been made public by the City of Melbourne in one document; a great step for accessibility for the public in an often Byzantine system.

As Melbourne continues to grow, these guidelines are essential if we want to maintain all the things we love about where we live ●

Check our our website:
melbourneheritage.org.au for
links to both amendments

Tristan Davies
MELBOURNE HERITAGE ACTION
LEARN MORE ON:
MELBOURNEHERITAGE.ORG.AU



涂鸦街的风波

2月10日星期一，有突发新闻，一群蒙面人在周末用油漆爆喷了半个涂鸦街-霍西尔巷(Hosier Lane)。

录像显示，大约有10个人用灭火器来喷涂，并用无人机进行拍摄。

对于此事，墨尔本市政称这是故意的破坏行为，并向警方报了案。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)认为街头艺术的本质是“临时的、短暂的和永远变化的”，但是她还是将上述人员描述为“破坏分子”，其行为“不可接受”，而且“不符合霍西尔巷的精神”。

这条小巷长期以来被认为是一个法律上的灰色区域，因为是一个旅游目的地，没有明确许可的涂鸦在很大程度上是容忍的。

但是市政表示正在考虑修改涂鸦街上的涂画准则。

市政发言人说：“虽然霍西尔巷被认为是一个历史悠久的街头艺术遗址，但在技术上仍需要业主的书面许可，才能在巷道内的私人物业墙上创作街头艺术。”

“如果业主对他们墙上的街头艺术不满意，他们有权联系维多利亚警方。”

这位发言人说，市政认为这次油漆爆涂是故意破坏，“特别是对鹅卵石路面所造成的破坏”。

“墨尔本市政目前正在考虑制定街头艺术准则，以帮助街头绘画艺人并为所有各方提供清晰的信息。”

但是许多街头绘画艺人都对这个事件不屑一顾，认为“绘画涂鸦覆盖”始终就是这条小巷的本质。

2018年，当时新入巷的“文化之王(Culture Kings)”向警方举报了那些未经许可的绘画者，引发了一场轩然大波。

一名声称参与这次油漆爆涂的电影制作人告诉《时代报》，这次行动象征着一份艺术和政治的声明。

他说：“涂鸦街每天都有人在涂画。”

“这就是一种震撼和惊叹。人们的情感反应赋予了其艺术的可信度，艺术应该激发情感，但是很明显这是一个很多人都无法理解的概念。”

警方公布了有关路电视录像，并表示他们正在调查这起事件。



病毒袭击当地经济

由于政治家和经济学家预测冠状病毒的爆发对澳大利亚经济将造成重大冲击，地方市政敦促采取积极的应对措施。

经济学家警告称，中国的工业停业会对贸易产生影响，而我们的经济已经受到了旅行禁令的影响，该禁令使得许多国际学生和工人回国过年后无法返回澳大利亚。

墨尔本市政议员和市府工作人员于2月12日考察了唐人街，与当地社区人员一起进餐，并强调这次病毒在墨尔本市是处于低风险的水平。

市长萨利·卡普(Sally Capp)表示，许多商家正经历着营业额的大幅下滑，尤其是那些服务于中国游客的商家。

她说：“我们正与这些商家密切合作，在这一困难时期为他们提供支持。我们还在制定长期支持当地商家的计划。”

唐人街的“食为先”餐馆由于顾客数量下降了80%，在2月9日宣布了无限期关闭。

市长说：“我们希望看到人们在唐人街的餐馆里排队就餐。我要求所有的当地人都到那里去支持我们城市的商业。”

“我们从有关卫生部门得到的专家建议是，新型冠状病毒在墨尔本现阶段来说没有增加风险。公众没有理由恐慌或改变他们的正常活动或计划。”

“鼓励大家在健康与人类服务部的官网上遵循专家的建议。”

欲了解更多信息，请访问 dhhs.vic.gov.au

保护城市大自然

您是否知道墨尔本市是毛茸茸的蜘蛛、班卓琵琶青蛙和小蝙蝠的故乡？

事实上，数百种不同的鸟类、爬行动物、哺乳动物、青蛙、昆虫和鱼类以及大量的植物都以我们这个城市为家。

但是气候变化给这些珍贵的本土动植物带来了巨大的压力。这就是为什么保护城市野生动物和植被比以往任何时候都重要。

市政环境事务机构主管凯茜·奥克(Cathy Oke)说，墨尔本市政最近宣布了气候和生物多样性处于紧急状态。

“我们正在引领应对气候变化的雄心勃勃的紧急行动。我们知道，气温升高意味着在未来20年中，我们将失去35%的树木。”

“一些榆树和本地桉树种将无法生存——而这些桉树是我们城市中许多动物的重要栖息地。”

“这就是我们绿化城市的原因。我们每年至少种植3000棵树来提高我们的城市树林。这不仅有助于保持我们城市的凉爽，也为我们的野生动物提供了急需的栖息地。”

“我们还在城市的一些树上安置了洞穴；在过去两年中，我们还种植了16000平方米的新原生草，灌木和野花，这两项措施都为我们的本土动物创造了更多的家园。”

奥克议员说墨尔本市已经取得了很大的成就，但是还需要更多的行动。

她说：“我们需要加快步伐，防止对我们的城市、人民、植物、动物和经济造成不可逆转的损害。我们需要一起努力。”

“我们需要保护那些美丽又重要的本土植物和动物。健康的生态系统对我们城市的宜居性至关重要，我们需要大自然，大自然也需要我们。”



作为这个行动的一部分，墨尔本市政鼓励居民来帮助照顾这个城市的野生动物，即使家里只有一个阳台。

在花盆里有机地种植本土野花，或者在花园里安装蜜蜂旅馆和巢箱，有很多简单的方法可以让你的家更加适应野生动物。

要想了解如何在我们的城市里保护大自然，请访问 melbourne.vic.gov.au/urbannature

行人优先

撰稿：David Schout

墨尔本市政公布了伊丽莎白(Elizabeth)街繁忙南端的改造计划，包括增加一个篮球场大小的行人空间。

这些设计标志着市政所迈出的第一步，即更大努力地将道路的几个部分人行道化，市政称之为中央商务区(CBD)中的“主要行人通道”。

在弗林德斯(Flinders)街和弗林德斯巷之间，伊丽莎白街的南端行车道将在2020年底永久关闭，为步行者腾出空间，同时还将设计“美化街道景观”和减少暴雨期间洪水泛滥的计划。

改造后的伊丽莎白街，汽车可以继续向北行驶。

弗林德斯街和伊丽莎白街的交叉路口是中央商务区最繁忙的路口之一，在上午和下午的高峰时段有多达9000人穿越。

在宣布这项计划时，市长萨利·卡普重点表达她要在城市繁忙地区重新分配空间的计划。

近年来，市政局毫不掩饰地努力将基于绩效的方法引入CBD的通勤区域，更具体地说，是在城市最繁忙的地区削减空间效率低的车辆。

市长卡普说：“伊丽莎白街上的行人数量超过了所有其他街道，但空间最少”，随后她证实了伊丽莎白街南端将增加400平方米的行人空间，相当于一个篮球场的大小。

她还说：“这将减少弗林德斯街车站和伊丽莎白街有轨电车总站附近主要公共交通交汇处的拥堵。”

街景的改善也是这次设计的一部分，包括人行道升级、新的街道配置、新的照明和路面。

还将铺设一个新的地下排水管网，以减少洪水泛滥的可能性，最近一次洪水发生在2011年，当时一场严重的暴雨造成了洪水泛滥和交通中断。

What's On: March 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.
life.org.au/imlac
or call Dianne 0425 140 981

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

10.30AM-2PM WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 10AM-3PM SUNDAY,
326 LONSDALE ST
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.
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



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



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 ST
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 MELBOURNE PL
Residents 3000 forum
A community group to inform, connect and support CBD residents. Regular social events with speaker.
Details posted on residents3000.com.au



NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL @ QUEEN VIC MARKET
Queen Victoria Market will welcome some of Australia's leading sustainability innovators, entrepreneurs and initiatives until March 1. For more information and to find out what's on visit:
qvm.com.au/sustainability

1PM, EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY, LEVEL 1, YARRA BUILDING, FEDERATION SQUARE
Birrarung Wilam River Walk
Learn about how the land under Melbourne has changed over time and its significance to the local Kulin people.
\$33, book on fedsquare.com/shopvisit/birrarung-wilam-walk

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. Until March 15.

✝ Prayer Times

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

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

City on a Hill
Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm
Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central

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

Collins Street Baptist Church
174 Collins St
Ph: 9650 1180
Sundays services: 10.30am

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

Hillsong City Youth
Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne
Every Friday 7pm-9pm

Holy Cross Orthodox Mission
261/265 Spring St
www.australianorthodox.org

Scots' Church
156, Collins St
Ph: 9650 9903
Sundays 10:30am (Indonesian), 11:00am (Traditional) and 5:00pm (Contemporary)

St Francis' Church
326 Lonsdale St | 9663 2495
Sunday: 7am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am (St Francis' Choir) and 12.30, 1.30, 4.30, 6.00pm
Filipino Community Mass: Second Sunday of the month at 2.30pm
Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm

St Paul's Cathedral
Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets
Ph: 9653 4333
Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm

St. Augustine's Catholic Church
631 Bourke St. Melb
Ph: 9614 1722
Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm
Mon - Fri Mass: 1.05pm
Mon - Fri Confessions: 12.30pm

Wesley Church
148 Lonsdale St
9.15 am Gospel Hall Cantonese/Mandarin Service
11.00am Morning Worship Service
6.00pm Evening Worship Service

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Melbourne Food and Wine Festival 2020

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
EVENTS

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival (MFWF) is back for 2020 with more than 140 events featuring a star-studded international and homegrown line-up.

Running from March 19 to 29, the MFWF promises an unbridled 10-day journey through Melbourne's rich culinary landscape.

2020 will be the first year the festival will take place exclusively in Melbourne, doubled-up with a dedicated festival in regional Victoria to launch in October.

Food and Wine Victoria CEO Anthea Loucas Bosha announced a new home for the festival – one which should feel very familiar to many CBD locals.

"This year we're bringing the Festival fun to the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) – the new home of the festival's feature events in 2020. We're excited for festivalgoers to join us in celebrating all that's great about this city's food and drink culture at Melbourne's much-loved marketplace," Ms Loucas Bosha said.

"We'll be welcoming some of the world's hottest talent to Melbourne, including Fuchsia Dunlop, Ignacio Mattos, Michael Solomonov and Lee Tiernan along with our local heroes including Josh Niland, Shannon Martinez, Andrew McConnell and Pamela Clark."

A feature of this year's iteration is the abundance of affordable or free events.

From the Take the Cake exhibit, showcasing over 40 years and 500,000 copies of *The Australian Women's Weekly Children's Birthday Cake Book* to a philosophical discussion about community, resilience and what our future looks like, with Australia's most internationally renowned chef, Ben Shewry. All under the roof at QVM.

To add to the smorgasbord of free events at the market, the MFWF will hold a series of Shed X Talks over two weekends.

The talks will feature names such as American food writer and author, Alison



Roman; Ottolenghi pastry chef Helen Goh; and New Zealand's Ed Verner.

Regardless of your gastronomic predispositions, the MFWF is bound to have something to satisfy your tastebuds; a feature Food and Wine Victoria creative director Pat Nourse has been keen to publicise.

"We invite you to choose your own adventure at Queen Victoria Market, whether it's the spiciest Sichuan food outside Asia, or the city's best plant-based eating and drinking. If pasta is your thing, bring the whole family to The Big Spaghetti, or feed your mind with talks from some of the biggest movers and shakers in the business," Mr Nourse said.

To avoid breaking tradition, the much-loved Bank of Melbourne World's Longest Lunch returns on Friday, 20 March.

The lunch will bring together three of Melbourne's culinary masters, Stephanie Alexander, Philippe Mouchel and Jacques Reymond, to deliver an outdoor feast for more than 1600 guests in Melbourne's Treasury Gardens, set against the backdrop of the city skyline.

With the help of Australia's leading chefs, the MFWF has raised almost \$200,000 for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal, a number that is expected to soar in the lead-up and during the festival ●



For more information:
melbournefoodandwine.com.au
or qvm.com.au/whatson/mfwf-at-queen-vic-market/

To donate:
vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal

Creative Writing Awards to return

WORDS BY *Nick Obst*
LOCAL NEWS

The City of Melbourne will relaunch the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards this year after they were last held in 2017.

The awards are presented for six categories including short stories, narrative non-fiction and novellas, with prizes of up to \$12,000.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said she was looking forward to relaunching the awards.

"Our creative community is important to our city's culture and economy," Cr Capp said.

"We are a world-renowned city of literature; cultivating and fostering the next generation of writers is crucial."

"I am looking forward to reading the best of Melbourne's literary talent when the awards are held again," she said.

2017 winner Jack Callil welcomed the decision to relaunch the awards.

He said winning was a "hugely humbling experience" which "helped affirm" his writing and provided him with more opportunities.

"It makes you stand out," he said.

A date is yet to be confirmed for the awards' return ●

New council leader

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The City of Melbourne has announced the appointment of a new general manager of strategy, planning and climate change.

CEO Justin Hanney announced on February 14 that current Baw Baw Shire CEO Alison Leighton had been selected from a "strong field that attracted applicants from across Australia and internationally".

She will oversee areas including city strategy, planning and building, Aboriginal Melbourne, climate change action and Resilient Melbourne.

She will commence her role on March 30 ●

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