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Take to mask
Photo by John Tadigiri

As Melbourne was forced back into lockdown in July and wearing masks in public became mandatory, Arie showcased the importance of covering up to his friend Ray at a quiet Bourke Street Mall.

Council rejects injecting room site

City of Melbourne councillors have knocked back a proposed safe injecting room near Queen Victoria Market (QVM), and will request the state government remove it as its preferred site.

WORDS BY *David Schout*
HEALTH

In a U-turn decision, councillors unanimously voted to reject the “inappropriate and inadequate” site at the July 21 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, just four weeks after resolving to keep the cohealth facility at Victoria St on the negotiating table.

Strong concerns from residents next door at the Drill Hall affordable housing units, plus overwhelming displeasure from market traders, helped sway councillors to now reject the site.

Importantly, information also emerged to councillors that the City of Melbourne held a 299-year lease on the proposed site, leaving it in a strong negotiating position with the state government. In addition, cohealth only has 18 months remaining on its current lease, which doesn’t provide the state government with certainty for a proposed two-year trial at the site.

“This, in effect, means the MSIR (medically-supervised injecting room) cannot proceed at this location without council approval,” Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood’s motion read.

The move is likely to ruffle feathers at Spring St, which believes the northern CBD site is a best-fit.

In June, the findings of an independent report found Victoria’s one and only injecting facility in North Richmond had saved at least 21 lives

in 18 months, and needed help dealing with demand.

While the report merely recommended that a second Victorian facility should be located within the City of Melbourne, the government went a step further and nominated the cohealth site near the corner of Victoria and Elizabeth streets, without consulting with the council.

While pleased with the decision to reject the site — something he had unsuccessfully pushed for on June 23 — Cr Wood said the past month had created needless “confusion and fear” among residents.

He was critical of the government’s perceived lack of transparency on the issue, after it had reportedly failed to show relevant data to the council.

“Nothing was right about this site in terms of the location,” he said.

“The fact we’re sitting here after two requests for the information about what sites were assessed and what criteria was used, [but] we’re still waiting for that information. We don’t have it, yet we’re being asked to engage respectively.”

Several other councillors were highly critical of the state government.

Cr Jackie Watts said it was “appalling” that the council hadn’t seen relevant evidence, while Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley said they had “been treated with complete disdain”.

While the seven present councillors in Capp, Wood, Riley, Pinder, Reece, Frances-Gilley and Watts supported the motion, the two Greens

Continued on page 3.

Growing unease as extended building hours continue

WORDS BY *David Schout*
BUILDING

Weekday construction work on many CBD job sites will continue for 14 hours a day during Melbourne’s second coronavirus lockdown, despite growing frustration from mostly housebound residents.

As Victorians are being asked to stay indoors following a surge in COVID-19 cases, the impact of extended construction hours has taken its toll within the city.

Local councillors confirmed with *CBD News* they had received a “significant” number of complaints.

Since April 2, the City of Melbourne has allowed construction activity to take place from 6am to 8pm on weekdays as a way to “fast-track projects, save jobs and help limit the economic impact of COVID-19”.

The special exemption allows job sites, usually bound by 7am-7pm rules, extra time to offset the time lost to social distancing and other safety measures.

Normal 8am-3pm rules on Saturdays have also been

extended by three hours (from 7am to 5pm), giving the industry an additional 13 hours on site per week.

But McKillop St resident Michael Munson, who in May said that constant noise during the city’s first lockdown was “unbearable” when most of the community were confined inside, said the situation “continued to worsen”.

Procedurally, the move to extend construction hours has caused some disagreement at Town Hall.

The City of Melbourne made the decision “under delegation” earlier this year without going before councillors, a decision both the planning chair and deputy planning chair said was wrong.

“When COVID-19 hit there were a lot of decisions that were made very quickly. And with the benefit of hindsight, I think that decision is one which should have gone before a council meeting for proper consideration and endorsement,” planning chair Cr Nicholas Reece said.

His deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert went a step further.

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Labor calls for “culture change” at Town Hall

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
ELECTIONS

For the first time in recent memory, the Labor Party has formed a serious ticket in its bid for Town Hall in 2020 and its team says it wants to “change the culture” and create a “real city government”.

Led by Lord Mayoral candidate Phil Reed and Deputy Lord Mayoral candidate, businesswoman and multicultural campaigner Wesa Chau, Mr Reed said his team was looking to bring “good government” with a track record of delivery to Town Hall.

And Mr Reed, who currently works as head of government and stakeholder relations at Slater and Gordon, cited the City of Melbourne’s poor record of underspending its capital works budget as prime motivation to overhaul the council’s management.

“When you look at the stark contrast between the way the Andrews Government has got on with the job of delivering large capital projects like the metro rail tunnel, and the abject failure of council projects like the Southbank Boulevard parks, there’s a clear need for cultural change at Town Hall,” he said.

“We’re going to change the culture from that of a local council to a real city government where the decision makers and the bureaucrats have to take accountability for the full performance of their projects - not simply run a tender and then expect to turn up for the ribbon cutting.”

“My own background in executive management has taught me the importance of having proper accountability in management and it starts with making decisions, not excuses.”

“This is vitally important as we see a large amount of infrastructure spending proposed for the City of Melbourne, and we face a restructuring of city workforces and workplaces.”

The Labor ticket vying for office at the October 24 local government elections includes local resident and small business owner Davydd



▲ *Phil Reed and Wesa Chau.*

Griffiths, former Mayor of the City of Glen Eira Mary Delahunty and community liaison Hamdi Al.

Mr Reed said his team was busy putting the finishing touches on one of the most “comprehensive policy agendas” to be put before voters since the city’s governance structure was reshaped in the early 2000s.

He said the city needed policies that addressed a long-term vision for key issues such as transport and affordable housing, as well as the short-term challenges of economic recovery in the post COVID-19 environment.

“It is this real-life experience that will lead the City of Melbourne out of lockdown,” he said. “Labor has people on our ticket who understand business and what it means to live and work in our City of Melbourne communities.”

“Davvyd Griffiths’s pub has been shut down and lost trade like so many small businesses, Mary Delahunty works for one of the biggest Industry Super funds and understands the climate we need to create to stimulate activity, and Hamdi Ali lives and works in Carlton as a community leader among some of our most disadvantaged public housing communities.”

Mr Reed said his team was currently developing a set of policies called “COOL Melbourne”, which stood for “Coming out of Lockdown”.

With city businesses hopefully looking to emerge from lockdown in the last quarter of 2020, he said there were a lot of things “big and small” that could be done.

He wants to start by removing permit fees and restrictions for businesses who wish to promote their business at the front of their premises and overhaul the council’s website to become a “real community directory”.

He also said Labor naturally supported its state counterpart’s desire for a safe injecting room in the municipality, and was supportive of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) renewal project proceeding “largely as envisaged”.

“It [QVM renewal plan] still has some obvious challenges,” he said.

“The transport issues around car-parking still need a better solution and the key is to engage with the people who use the market and ensure money through the tills of the traders. If we can focus on what built form guarantees the experience and convenience for shoppers we’ll get a final result that works for everyone.”

Despite speculation of a preference deal being done with Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Mr Reed dismissed the claims, saying his team would wait to assess the “full field” of participants.

The Labor ticket is the first to be publicly announced ahead of the October 24 elections, which will be conducted by postal ballot.

While she is yet to reveal her ticket publicly, Lord Mayor Sally Capp is expected to run alongside Cr Nicholas Reece as her deputy, with Cr Kevin Louey understood to have earned a place on the ticket.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood is also yet to formally reveal his plans, with the futures of fellow incumbent councillors from former Lord Mayor Robert Doyle’s team Beverley Pinder and Susan Riley also unknown. Cr Jackie Watts is expected to run again on Gary Morgan’s ticket.

Cr Philip Le Liu is expected to run first on a Liberal Party ticket, while long-term Greens Cr Rohan Leppert will go around for another term. However, it’s understood his colleague Cathy Oke will not be contesting ●

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Council rejects injecting room site

Continued from page 1.

councillors Rohan Leppert and Cathy Oke, were forced to declare an indirect conflict of interest due to uncertainty surrounding an apartment owned by Cr Oke, which was understood to be potentially linked with the cohealth site. Councillors Kevin Louey and Philip Le Liu were absent from the meeting.

It's believed a big factor in convincing councillors to reject the site was a July 1 meeting with around 15 Drill Hall residents, who each relayed their concerns about an injecting room next door.

Issues raised at the forum included safety concerns, the impact on residents who have dealt with addiction in the past, and the amenity impact on the nearby community garden.

Soon after, a survey conducted by QVM's management revealed more than 90 per cent of traders and customers did not support the site.

It is believed the sharp community feedback, plus the previously unknown revelations about its long-term lease of the site, gave the council a strong mandate to outright reject the site.

Drill Hall Residents Association president Martin Mulvihill said he believed the collective voice of residents, of whom passionately articulated their issues with the proposal, was important to informing the position taken by councillors.

"I strongly welcome the fact that Sally Capp and Arron Wood got together on it, and I'm also glad that our forum we had with them seems to have been part of that process," Mr Mulvihill said.

"Our concerns were fairly central to both of them, which I obviously welcome."

Not all residents in the building were against the proposal for an injecting room, however.

James Lockwood, who volunteers at cohealth, said the facility remained an ideal location to address a vital community issue.

"There has been a consistent effort by multiple groups to frame the discussion of the proposed safe injecting room in a negative

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The fact we're sitting here after two requests for the information about what sites were assessed and what criteria was used, [but] we're still waiting for that information. We don't have it, yet we're being asked to engage respectively.

”

light, which I believe has contributed to this outcome," he said.

"While the concerns of the community do need to be heard and addressed, I do not believe they constitute a serious rebuttal for the implementation of the safe injecting room."

Councillors stressed that cohealth's track record had nothing to do with their rejection of the site.

"Cohealth and the services they provide are not in question. They do fantastic work right across the municipality," Cr Wood said.

In response, the state government maintained it was open to suggestions for a different site within the municipality.

"As we've previously said, if in our work consulting with the local council, they locate a different site that also meets the criteria ... then we'll remain open to that," Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley said.

The latest development comes as the



▲ The state government's preferred location for a safe injecting room at 53 Victoria St.

government-appointed former Police Commissioner Ken Lay to lead the rollout of the state's second injecting room.

"Mr Lay will work with health and drug reform experts to analyse data and evidence on drug harms within the City of Melbourne and oversee a public community engagement process, seeking the views of all interested parties on the government's preferred site."

Mr Lay is a vocal supporter of medically-safe injecting rooms, and admitted in 2017 that "we probably weren't brave enough" on the issue during his time as top cop from 2011 to 2015.

"Forget about trying to arrest your way out of this," he said.

"You need to invest in the front end, you need to invest in harm reduction, you need to invest in education and you need to wrap services around people who are basically sick - they're not criminals."

Working with health and drug reform

experts, Mr Lay will consult with relevant voices during the next five months before presenting his findings to the government by the end of 2020.

There were 51 heroin-related deaths between January 2015 and September 2019 within the City of Melbourne.

It has the second-highest ambulance attendances for heroin overdoses, behind the City of Yarra ●



David Schout

JOURNALIST

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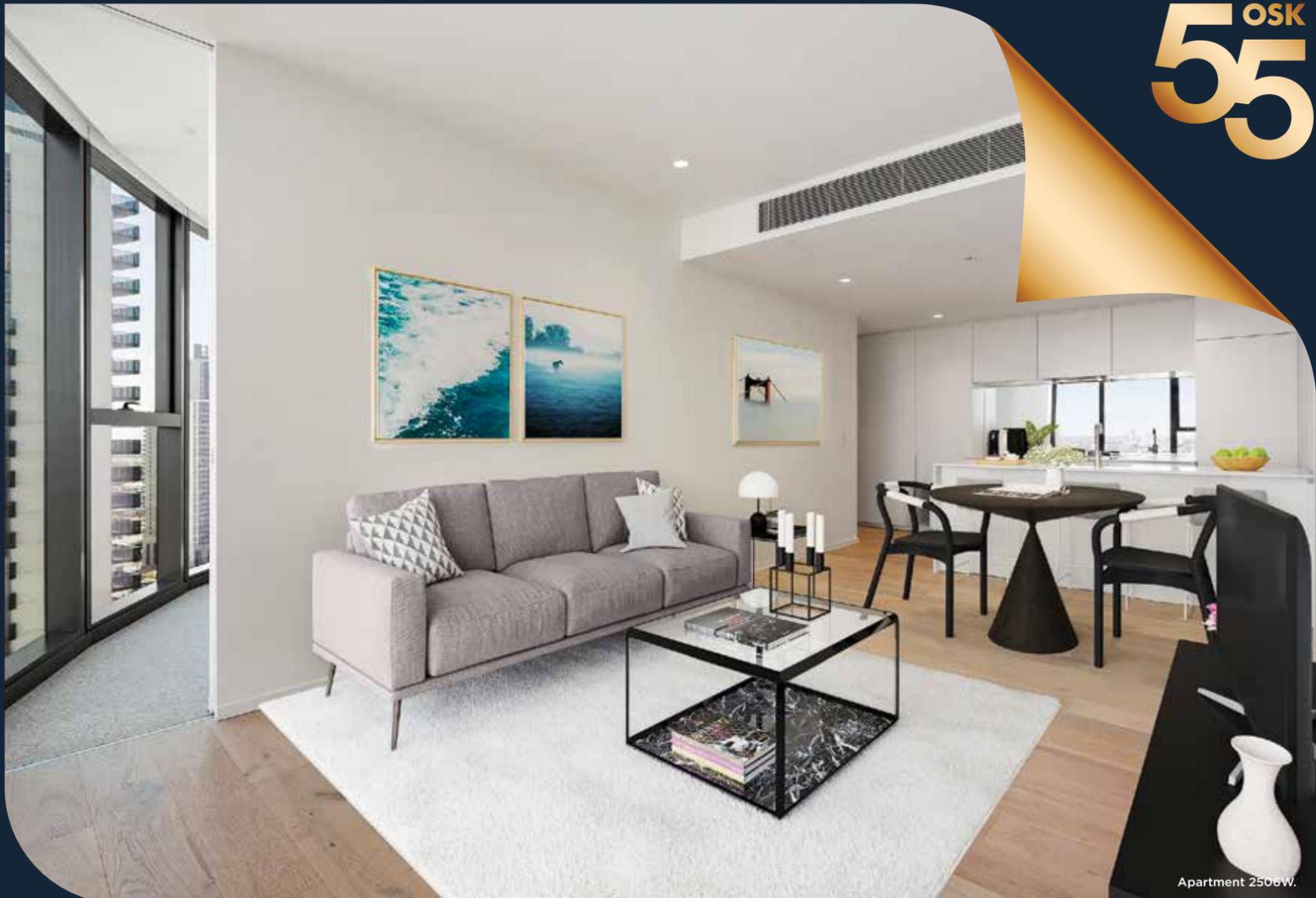
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Growing unease as extended building hours continue

Continued from page 1.

“It’s a terrible, terrible policy,” he said.

“It should have gone to council. If this is going to be a policy that lasts throughout the pandemic — and the pandemic is not going away for the rest of the year and the rest of 2021 at least — then yes, it should still come back to council. This isn’t a sustainable situation.”

A council spokesperson maintained that the special permits were considered on a case-by-case basis, and said it was sympathetic to residents’ current predicament.

“We understand construction work has an impact on residents so we have significantly increased proactive inspections to monitor compliance and enforce observed breaches,” the spokesperson said.

“Our inspectors are out every morning and night to ensure works do not start before permitted times and are consistent with the conditions of the out-of-hours permits.”

Those additional inspections saw the City of Melbourne issue 103 infringement notices to builders between May and July, an average of more than one per day.

Both councillors Leppert and Reece argued that the maximum penalty of \$2000 for breaching the local law was simply not enough of a deterrent.

And at the July 21 Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting, the pair put forward a motion calling on the state government to increase the fine.

“For the largest construction projects, it (the \$2000 fine) is simply being built into the cost of doing business,” Cr Leppert said.

“This isn’t about curtailing construction activity in the city, it’s about curtailing illegal construction activity.”

Cr Leppert said he was contacted about early morning construction noise “more than any other issue”, and argued there was a public health element to the issue while many residents were spending a significant amount of



▲ Photo by John Tadigiri.

time inside.

“There are 50,000 residential apartments in the CBD, Southbank and Docklands. Every central city resident knows that they live in a high-density area with plenty of construction activity. But we limit construction activity to daylight hours for a reason. The consequences of repetitive early morning breaches of construction hours on community health and wellbeing are significant.”

Cr Reece said repeat offenders should be held to account.

“We cannot have a situation where construction companies are openly flouting the rules and include the risk of copping a fine as part of business costs on a project,” he said.

“There are still too many issues of permit breaches of permit conditions occurring and we need to increase the fines to such a level that they create enough pain for builders to force them to comply.”

The motion was expected to pass ●

An end to facadism

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
HERITAGE

A move to modernise Melbourne’s heritage system has been approved by the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne, which ends the city’s controversial love affair with facadism.

Heritage policies in the City of Melbourne will be updated and a contemporary heritage category system introduced under Planning Scheme Amendment C258, which was adopted by the council in February and approved by the Minister for Planning in July.

Chair of the City of Melbourne heritage portfolio Councillor Rohan Leppert said the new policies would better protect heritage buildings and discourage facadism, where only the façade of a heritage building was preserved, while the rest of the building was replaced.

“We’ve modernised and updated the existing heritage protection system so it’s consistent with contemporary best practice and the system used by the majority of other councils in Victoria,” Cr Leppert said.

“This will provide more guidance, clarity and certainty for community, landowners and developers.”

Local heritage planning policies will be revised, and the A to D grading system will be replaced with the “significant/contributory/non-contributory” category system.

Cr Leppert said the new policies required any additions to a building to be setback to maintain the prominence of the building’s heritage.

“We’ve seen so many examples of facadism where heritage buildings are gutted and only the shell remains. We don’t want to see facadism become a style of this city,” Cr Leppert said.

“Under the previous system the mantra had set in that D means demolish. Those days are gone.”

“The buildings within the heritage overlay include everything from early Victorian houses and shops to grand commercial art deco buildings in the central city.”

“

We’ve seen so many examples of facadism where heritage buildings are gutted and only the shell remains. We don’t want to see facadism become a style of this city.

”

“The amendment also completely reviewed heritage places within the suburb of West Melbourne.

“Seventeen new significant places have been included in individual overlays in West Melbourne, and hundreds of other places have had their statements of significance and grading updated.”

“And at long last we are making it easier to install solar panels on the roofs of heritage buildings, so long as efforts are made to preserve the character of heritage places.”

Amendment C258 was placed on public exhibition from March 30 to May 12 in 2017. An independent panel then considered more than 100 submissions.

To assist landowners and the community understand the new policies, City of Melbourne also developed a Heritage Design Guide and Heritage Owners Guide which went to the Future Melbourne Committee as a draft in February 2020. The guide will now be finalised following the gazettal of C258 on July 10.

For more on the new heritage controls, read Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies’s regular column on page 21 ●

RATE RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES



The City of Melbourne is supporting businesses and residents through the COVID-19 pandemic with rate relief, and a zero percent average rate rise for 2020—21.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and need help paying your rates, you may be eligible for a waiver, reduction, suspension or deferral of fees through the city’s Rates Financial Hardship Policy. To apply for rate relief, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/rates

The City of Melbourne has also announced rate relief in its Recovery Budget for 2020—21 to fix costs for residents and businesses. Fees and charges for community services such as recreation centres and children’s services will also remain the same, and fees have been suspended while facilities remain closed. These are just some of the ways we are supporting residents and businesses during this current public health challenge.

Read the latest updates on our response by visiting melbourne.vic.gov.au



CITY OF MELBOURNE



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CITY OF MELBOURNE

Hotel on Hosier gets the nod

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

The City of Melbourne has given the green light to a controversial hotel development in the CBD's famous Hosier Lane.

The application outlined an eight-story addition to an existing three-story heritage building in the lane. Twenty-seven objections were received by the council after the application was made public.

Although the council heard from a number of objectors, and some councillors expressed reservations, the \$12 million development was given unanimous approval subject to a number of conditions at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on July 7.

The development, which includes ground floor detail and 36 serviced apartments at 7-9 Hosier Lane, was submitted by Parasol Investment Company.

Chair of the council's planning portfolio Cr Nicholas Reece said he understood why the application was controversial but supported it with amendments.

"While we love our Yarra River, it's fair to say that we don't have some of the grand natural assets that some of the other cities in Australia have, so very much our laneways and our street art are an integral part of how the world sees Melbourne and how we see ourselves," Cr Reece said.

"Hosier Lane is part of the DNA of the city, part of the fabric of the city, part of the vibe of Melbourne."

"So, it's not surprising that when an application comes before council, and it is quite a substantial one right in the middle of Hosier Lane, that it is going to get a lot of attention by councillors."

Cr Reece commended the retention of the heritage façade on the bottom three levels of the proposed development and the maintaining of street art.

However, he said that the "combination of



bulk and height" of the proposed building would have a detrimental impact, and it would need to be narrowed or lowered.

The council imposed conditions on the approval of the development which included further setbacks of the additional levels, further inclusion of art or murals and some redesign to respond to features of the heritage building below.

Objections were sent to the council from nearby residents and business representatives.

Flinders St resident Lisa Vuillermi raised concerns that included overshadowing and the brightly designed façade of the building addition.

A representative of business Bar Tini, located next to the proposed development, expressed that the operations of the business could disturb residential neighbours.

Ross Deam, the owner of a business at 167 Flinders St, objected to the proposal on the grounds that it did not fit into the heritage precinct and would detract from it.

Cr Rohan Leppert said he supported the proposal, with conditions.

"No doubt this is going to be hotly contested and I would not be at all surprised if this were a matter that isn't finalised today," he said.

"The thing about Hosier Lane though is that street art is ephemeral it is exceptionally difficult to apply planning controls to character and 'the vibe'."

"That laneway changes every single day and as government we have to be conscious that the more we try and lock in a particularly style sensibility or character the faster we are going towards probably regulating the space out of it being cool."

"What everyone can agree on is that the character of this laneway is unique, it needs to be taken care of, but we also need to adhere to the Melbourne Planning Scheme."



Meg Hill
JOURNALIST
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Apartment COVID safety clarity

STRATA

The state government has finally provided guidelines assisting residents and owners' corporations (OCs) living in apartment towers limit the transmission of the coronavirus in multi dwelling buildings.

The new guidelines follow two roundtable meetings conducted by the Department of Job, Precincts and Regions in July, which included Victoria Police, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Justice, City of Melbourne, as well as resident groups and student and community leaders.

While the guidelines provide a uniform model for how OCs should be approaching the management of coronavirus, they acknowledge that, "each property is unique and should develop a tailored plan based on the information contained in this guide".

The 14-page document, now available on the DHHS website, provides recommendations, actions and checklists on how to manage the likes of common property such as lifts and stairwells, visitors and deliveries, resident welfare and compliance.

EastEnders resident group president Dr Stan Capp urged all residents to share the guidelines with their building managers and OCs for their "immediate attention".

The DHHS has also released a new directive against short-stay accommodation in July due to COVID-19. For more information, read We Live Here's regular column on page 19 of this edition.

For more on the roundtable discussions regarding new COVID-19 guidelines for apartment buildings, read Dr Janette Corcoran's *Skypad Living* column on page 20.

For more information:
dhhs.vic.gov.au

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Let's bring light and love back into the city

WORDS BY Brendan Nottle
LYRICS BY Jim Curnow

INSPIRATION

From July 2 until August 11 Brendan Nottle and others will be tackling an ancient spiritual discipline by only taking one meal a day.

The fasting over a 40-day period is a way to help Brendan and the 614 team focus on our city and its current impending needs.

"The more I speak to people in Melbourne, the more I realise how devastating COVID-19 has been. The city is like a ghost town," Major Nottle said.

"I and many others want to bring light and love and positivity back into the city. We need to withdraw, focus, reflect, discuss, debate, collaborate and act if we want to see significant change and improvement. Could the city end up being a better place than it was pre COVID-19? I have no doubt - in fact, in many ways, it needs to be a better place.

Since March 1, the Salvos in the City have:

- In partnership with Victoria Police, City of Melbourne and Victoria Government, helped 216 people into temporary hotel accommodation.

- Along with several other agencies, distributed tens of thousands of meals (soups, main meals, fruit salads and cakes) cooked by the Parliament of Victoria kitchens (which have cooked more than 30,000 meals).

- Provided thousands of food parcels to people in need, as well as clothes and other assistance.

- Hosted primary care nurses from St Vincent's Hospital, who have given hundreds of instances

“
I and many others want to bring light and love and positivity back into the city.
”

of medical support to people in pain and discomfort at Salvos in the City at Bourke Street.

If you feel compelled to assist, please scan the QR code below with your phone camera to be taken to the Pray With Brendan website”.

praywithbrendan.com.au



**This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine**

**This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine**

**This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine**

**Let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine...**

This Little Light of Mine - Jim Curnow

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

- Matthew 5:16



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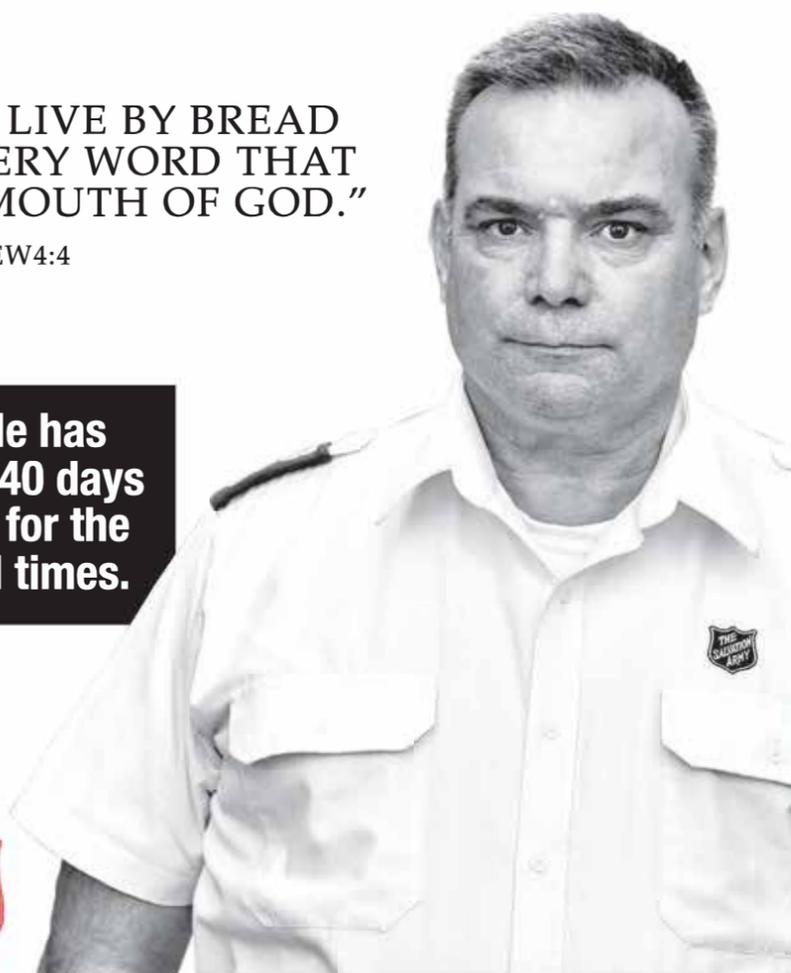
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“MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.”

- MATTHEW 4:4

Major Brendan Nottle has committed to fast for 40 days to pray and meditate for the city in these troubled times.



Business help amid “devastating” impact of lockdown

WORDS BY *David Schout & Sean Car*
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *John Tadigiri*
BUSINESS

CBD businesses will benefit from a \$20 million lifeline after the state government declared local businesses had been “uniquely hit” by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

In announcing further grants, the government’s CBD Business Support Fund aims to help businesses faced with a “large and sustained shock to their trading environments”.

The announcement came after a City of Melbourne survey before the second lockdown revealed around 15 per cent of businesses were either unsure of their futures or would close permanently as a result of the pandemic.

More than 80,000 businesses within metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire would be eligible for a new \$5000 grant.

But small and medium businesses within the CBD, including Docklands and Southbank, were set to see even greater support.

Details of the grants were yet to emerge at the time of publishing, but Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula said those in the CBD stood to benefit more from the package.

“There will be particular amounts that are applicable if you’re one kind of business, and higher grants if you’re a different type of business ... then a different amount again if you are in that category and in the CBD,” he said at the announcement.

A usually vibrant central Melbourne was again rendered desolate after stage three restrictions were re-imposed on July 9.

Pedestrian activity was down 81 per cent compared with this time last year.

Mr Pakula said the government was aware of the distinct problems faced by local business owners.

“The CBD has in some respects been uniquely hit by the fact that stay-at-home directives have particularly kept people away,” he said.

“And the absence of foot traffic in the CBD has meant many businesses in the city, and Docklands and Southbank, have been particularly affected by the restrictions that have been imposed on Victorians.”

The government said it would especially look to assist tourism operators and businesses associated with the night-time economy.

Mr Pakula said the latter had “suffered greatly”.

“It is a very important part, not just of Victoria’s economy, but of Melbourne’s culture. It is one of the things that has set Melbourne apart over many years; our bars, our restaurants, our laneways, our theatre district.

“And it’s why we’re providing specific support to the CBD because we want to see all of



▲ Foot traffic in the CBD has plummeted yet again, as highlighted by a usually packed Spencer St.

those businesses, or at least as many of them as possible, though to the other side. They’re going to be a crucial part of returning us to the Melbourne we love ... we want to see those businesses survive. There are some critical differences, and some critical responses needed, in particular for that night-time economy in the Melbourne CBD.”

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood, the council’s finance chair, said the package was “much-needed”, but acknowledged some businesses were on a knife’s edge during the second lockdown period.

“Our city has taken a massive hit,” Cr Wood said.

“The biggest of any capital city. We need bold thinking and ideas to get us through. Otherwise recovery will take years. My only worry is that this Victorian Government business support won’t be enough to see many struggling businesses through the next six weeks after impacts since March. Any help is absolutely welcome though.”

Cr Wood said the council would also issue temporary free parking permits to food premises to help them deliver takeaway meals during lockdown. The parking permits will be available from July 21 and will apply until further notice.

“We want to support restaurants and cafes to set up their own home delivery services,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

“Each business will be eligible for two passes so they can park for free in areas with green signs close to their business or near their customer’s delivery address where that address is within the City of Melbourne,” the Deputy Lord Mayor said.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while she was obviously pleased many Melburnians were

“

Our city has taken a massive hit

”

adhering to stay-at-home measures, the huge dip in CBD foot traffic had a “devastating impact” on businesses.

“We usually have about 950,000 people coming into the city every day, [but] with people listening and complying with the restrictions it means that we don’t have those hundreds and thousands of people coming in to support our local retailers and hospitality.”

On July 21, the federal government announced that it would be extending its JobKeeper program from September until March, but that fortnightly amounts would be scaled back to \$1200 a fortnight. A payment of \$750 will be provided to those working less than 20 hours per week. Businesses will also be required to report turnover quarterly to prove eligibility.

The JobSeeker unemployment benefit will also change, with the \$550 coronavirus supplement cut to \$250 through until the end of 2020.

City of Melbourne Business Concierge Hotline:
9658 9658

Lord Mayor launches new advisory board

The Bringing Melbourne Back Better advisory board was established by Lord Mayor Sally Capp last month to look at ways of reactivating the city amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its first meeting held in mid-July, the board, which includes the likes of trucking magnate Lindsay Fox and National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) director Tony Ellwood, highlighted three key actions in its first meeting:

Encouraging more cultural activity in key city parks and open spaces by hosting live performances and partnering with nearby local bricks-and-mortar businesses to expand their hospitality and retail offer outside;

Developing a “headquarters strategy” to target national and international companies to establish their head offices in Melbourne; and

Supporting the establishment of arts and creative hubs in vacant city office space.

It had been previously reported by some media outlets that the board would also be exploring the prospect of converting vacant commercial office space into housing, as well as installing projections onto city buildings during evenings.

But Lord Mayor Sally Capp said one idea discussed at the first meeting explored how local cafes, restaurants, bars and retail stores could benefit from a program of live performances held at inner-city public spaces.

She added that the headquarters strategy would help attract high-wage jobs back to Melbourne’s CBD, establishing arts and creative hubs throughout vacant commercial office and retail spaces would help attract more people into the city, at an appropriate time after restrictions had eased.

“The feedback from the Advisory Board was that many arts and creative organisations have always wanted to be based in the CBD but the cost of rent was prohibitive previously,” the Lord Mayor said. “By encouraging these artists and arts organisations and commercial landlords to work together to establish empty spaces will be invigorated and our city will become more vibrant.”

“This [headquarters] strategy will examine the best ways to encourage new global businesses to establish their headquarters in Melbourne’s CBD, which will help support our many cafes, restaurants, bars and boutique retail stores.”

The Lord Mayor said the advisory board would hold weekly meetings until late August to discuss short-, medium- and long-term solutions to revive Melbourne’s economy and cultural life.

“This is going to be a very tough period for many people in our community but I’m amazed at what can be achieved when Melburnians work together,” she said ●

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Melbourne City Council postal elections

Your Melbourne, your vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Melbourne City Council in October 2020. To be able to vote in this election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**. Two categories of voters can vote in the Melbourne City Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in the City of Melbourne **AND**
- you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in the City of Melbourne and you are not on the State electoral roll **OR**
- you have lived at your current residential address within the City of Melbourne for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

How can I check if I am State-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for everyone who is enrolled in the Melbourne City Council election, including non-Australian citizens and corporation voting representatives.

Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Melbourne City Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Melbourne City Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

This notice is published by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Registrar for the Melbourne City Council voters' roll.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are already enrolled for this election if you own or occupy rateable property within the municipality and live in Australia, but you are not a resident of the City of Melbourne. A maximum of two owners and two occupiers can be enrolled as Council-enrolled voters for any one property.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you own or occupy rateable property in the City of Melbourne and reside in the council area, but are not on the State electoral roll (includes non-Australian citizens) **OR**
- you own rateable property in the City of Melbourne but live outside Australia **OR**
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation (or hold an equivalent position in an Association) that occupies rateable property solely or jointly within the council area*.

*If a corporation that solely owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne does not validly appoint two voting representatives by **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**, Melbourne City Council is required by law to enrol the first two of the following (to be taken in alphabetical order):

- the company secretaries whose postal addresses are in Victoria
- the company secretaries whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia
- the directors whose postal addresses are in Victoria
- the directors whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia.

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427 or visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by Melbourne City Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details online from mid-August at melbourne.vic.gov.au/elections or anytime by contacting the Melbourne City Council election helpline on 1300 735 427.

Enrolment closes

4 pm Friday 28 August

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

@electionsvic   

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• ጎረቤት 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • **Bosanski** 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • **Hrvatski** 9209 0102 Croatian • دری 9209 0193 Dari
• **Dinka** 9209 0119 Dinka • **Ελληνικά** 9209 0103 Greek • **Italiano** 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • **한국어** 9209 0194 Korean • **Македонски** 9209 0105 Macedonian
• 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • **Русский** 9209 0196 Russian • **Српски** 9209 0107 Serbian • **Soomali** 9209 0108 Somali • **Español** 9209 0109 Spanish
• **Türkçe** 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 𐄎 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other **non-English** languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



Should government convert empty CBD Airbnbs into affordable housing?

WORDS BY *Katie Johnson*
HOUSING

As COVID-19 continues to restrict international and interstate travel, the once-bustling CBD has turned into a ghost town.

Thousands of short-stay apartments which would usually be full with tourists and visitors have been left vacant, leaving a question mark over what to do with these now indefinitely empty apartments.

In Lisbon, Portugal the government has sought to solve this problem by offering an incentive to landlords to convert their short-stay rentals into affordable long-term housing for locals. It's a scheme which could potentially be adopted in Melbourne where the issue of affordable housing is more pressing than ever.

Under the program, Lisbon landlords rent their apartment to the city for a minimum of five years, while the city takes on the burden of finding tenants through an affordable housing program targeted at young people and lower income families.

Rents are also capped at 30 per cent of the tenant's net income, as the city subsidises the difference between the tenant's payment and market rent.

Director of Housing All Australians (HAA) Rob Pradolin said that the Lisbon scheme had "a lot of merit" and that HAA was currently in talks with a major real estate firm interested in a similar deal.

"We haven't approached the City of Melbourne or state government yet, but it's very obvious to us that if the state or the city guaranteed the lease there's a lot of people who would take that guaranteed income rather than leave the apartment empty," Mr Pradolin said.

"There would be requirements in terms of occupants providing information about their income to make sure they qualify, but it's a smart way of using existing buildings that are sitting there empty."

Aside from Airbnbs, Mr Pradolin said that the scheme could also work for landlords seeking to fill their empty long-term rental apartments to help solve the housing affordability crisis facing the city.

This is a particularly pressing issue as the CBD's vacancy rate is currently sitting at around eight per cent, while Southbank's recently hit 16 per cent due to the unemployment and lack of tourism caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

"We've got an oversupply of apartments in the city and all these owners with empty apartments saying 'what are we going to do with them?'" Mr Pradolin said.

"So, assuming the state government is for

the idea, they could guarantee a rental for these apartments and forego the vacant residential land tax for foreign investors as well."

For CBD residents, the lack of regulation around short-stay rentals has been an ongoing issue for years and locals are looking for other solutions.

We Live Here representative and resident Barbara Francis said that until COVID-19 hit, residents had been "powerless" to stop commercial short-stay operators from damaging buildings and driving out potential renters.

"COVID-19 has turned Airbnb back to what they were intended to be, a vehicle for mums and dads to make a little bit of money which is what it should be instead of a commercial operation," she said.

Ms Francis said that while she and other residents would be open to a Lisbon-style solution, Melbourne had a long way to go with Airbnb regulation first.

"Lisbon made it difficult for Airbnb right from the outset with a registration process they had to go through, which is what we've always wanted but have never had," she said.

Dr Stan Capp, president of CBD residents group EastEnders, also said that locals were tired of commercial short-stay operators and were open to alternative solutions.

"The stories that we've heard from We Live Here are just horrific and the whole issue hasn't been addressed well by state government since it was brought up over five years ago," Dr Capp said.

"During COVID-19 Airbnb has been restricted and as a result many people have moved out of the short-stay business. For us this has been a good thing."

Mr Capp said that with proper planning, the Lisbon scheme could be a long-term solution for the city which should be explored.

"The big downside of the way we've developed apartment towers in Melbourne is we've not really been inclusive of social housing and there's a huge demand that needs to be aggressively met," Mr Capp said.

"This is not just for affordable housing but also for homelessness. In principle, the ability to make integrated social housing initiatives is one that I would support, however it needs to be carefully managed and have infrastructure suited to the task."

Currently social housing makes up only about 3.2 per cent of all housing in Victoria, well below the national average of 4.5 per cent.

And with thousands of CBD apartments sitting empty while over 80,000 people wait for social housing in Victoria, there's a clear opportunity for the state government to lend a hand to essential workers and vulnerable Victorians

during this crisis.

At the time of writing, not the council nor the state government were considering any such solutions to use the plethora of empty Airbnb's to combat the affordable housing crisis which has been exacerbated by COVID-19.

A spokesperson for Treasurer Tim Pallas said that there was already a number of schemes in place to address the issue of housing affordability, including the Homes for Victorians package, the HomesVic shared equity scheme and the Social Housing Growth Fund.

"There are all sorts of innovative ideas that we're only too happy to have a good look at. Right now, our focus is on fighting the coronavirus crisis and ensuring Victorians are safe and supported," the spokesperson said.

However, Mr Pradolin remains adamant the state government needs to work with the private sector now to make affordable housing an economically viable long-term solution.

"We need to get things done to scale and we need to do it now with the smarts from the private sector because we've got people struggling to make ends meet during this crisis," he said.

"Housing and the lack of housing is an economic issue and we will never solve homelessness unless we solve the upstream supply of non-market housing."

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said while the City of Melbourne continued to work with partners on long term accommodation options for our homeless community, it was also taking measures in response to COVID-19.

These measures included the roll-out of pop-up testing clinics, connecting Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness with culturally appropriate care and accommodation and establishing a network with Launch Housing and the Salvation Army.

"We commend the State Government's decisive action to accommodate up to 1000 vulnerable people in temporary accommodation across Melbourne," the Lord Mayor said

"Having almost everyone accommodated has provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-envision our approach to homelessness."

"We will continue to build on this momentum to secure a long-term approach in Melbourne"

The Victorian Government's initial crisis response is in place until the end of July. In light of the re-introduction of stage three restrictions, we strongly support the continuation of temporary accommodation beyond July to ensure that those who sleep rough on our streets are cared for during this pandemic."

"We continue to pursue the opportunity to refurbish buildings across inner metro municipalities to help create supported accommodation and wrap around services." ●



CBD's first new park in 40 years

WORDS BY *Marco Holden Jeffery*
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The first new park in the CBD in 40 years is nearing completion on Market St at the foot of the Collins Arch development.

In a promotional video for the project, Lord Mayor Sally Capp said it was more important than ever that Melburnians had access to "green, open spaces".

"As a growing city, we need to make sure for our residents, workers, students and visitors that we have lovely spaces for people to enjoy," she said.

The 1900 sqm open space - the first of its kind since City Square was built in 1980 - would include terraced lawns, tree coverage, a city garden, seating, a new bluestone pathway and a "playful terrace" area.

"It's incredibly rare to have the opportunity to design a public park of this size in the central city," Cr Capp said.

The City of Melbourne flagged opportunities for programmed events and performances in the park's central plaza once health restrictions permitted.

The project repurposed 1300 sqm of roadway on Market St to build the park as well as new parking spaces and a designated bicycle lane.

The Market St roadway would also only accommodate single direction southbound traffic after the council found works on Collins Arch weren't affecting traffic flow through the city.

The 42-storey Collins Arch skyscraper, which includes a mixed residential and commercial building along with a Marriott W Melbourne hotel due to open in December 2020, was recently completed.

The council was yet to announce a completion date for construction on the park but Cr Capp said, "more than 100 people are working on the project to get it completed as quickly as possible." ●

Connect with your local community

The CBD Community Hub is a free online space to connect with fellow CBD locals, stay in the know, post requests for help, share skills and local knowledge, ask for recommendations, discover local services, classes, retailers, events and more!

This Facebook group is owned by **CBD News**.

If you're a local resident or business you can join up here:

www.facebook.com/groups/melbournecbdcommunityhub/

f CBD
Community Hub



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Your City of Melbourne Community Update

10 VIRTUAL SERVICES FOR MELBURNIANS

Get access to business support, wellbeing services, inspiring conversations and more without leaving home thanks to the City of Melbourne's expanded virtual services.

As COVID-19 restrictions continue, here is some information from the City of Melbourne about just a few of the virtual services on offer.

1 Books, music, movies and more

Our digital library materials, including ebooks, audiobooks, music and movies, are extra popular at the moment, and our book clubs, conversation clubs and storytimes (for children and adults) are continuing online. If you need book recommendations, check out our podcasts or eBook Valet service. If you have borrowed books from our libraries, loans will be extended during the closure and no fines will accrue. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/libraries

Melbourne magazine online

To keep in touch with the latest news from the City of Melbourne, visit magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au and subscribe to our newsletter.

2 Business support

Our Business Concierge Hotline is here for all businesses affected by COVID-19. Simply phone 9658 9658 and press 1 for business from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query online at any time, and subscribe to our business e-newsletter, at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business

3 Online exercise

Keep moving while our recreation centres are closed, even if you aren't a member, by using our free Active Melbourne app and virtual classes, such as yoga and tai chi. We have also

continued to offer outdoor personal training as appropriate. For details, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/activemelbourne



Online exercise

4 Creative activities for kids

We are publishing videos and activities prepared by local artists to help keep kids entertained at home. To dive into some creative adventures, including circus skills and juggling, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay

5 Online council meetings

Council and Future Melbourne Committee meetings have moved online until further notice. The system allows councillors to vote, and members of the public to participate, from their homes. For details, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil

6 Telehealth consultations for parents

We continue to provide maternal and child health services to families via telehealth consultations, with face-to-face consultations for all infants aged up to 8 weeks. Immunisation services are available to all families at community sessions by appointment. New parents groups and parenting information programs are delivered via Zoom. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/families

7 Community Food Guide

We have updated our guide to finding healthy and affordable food in and around the City of Melbourne to reflect the current landscape, as many organisations have adjusted their operating models. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/communityfoodguide

8 Melbourne Conversations

In the coming months, hear from pros about future tech and how COVID-19 could spark a digital awakening, discuss future preparedness with an Australian Defence Force expert, and cast your mind forwards to a potential 'leisure society'. Visit Knowledge Melbourne on Facebook for livestream event dates.

What's On in Melbourne

Things are changing quickly in Melbourne as COVID-19 restrictions continue, and businesses and events launch innovative offerings. To keep up-to-date, visit whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au to subscribe to our weekly What's On newsletter.



Digital library materials



Telehealth is being used to provide maternal and child health services

9 Family violence support

We are providing support for people experiencing family violence during restrictions. If you are experiencing family violence, or if you are concerned for another person's safety, there is help available. Find out more at melbourne.vic.gov.au/familyviolencesupport

10 Virtual citizenship ceremonies

We have been holding online citizenship ceremonies for individuals and family groups. We usually hold six to eight in-person citizenship ceremonies each year, with about 100 new citizens participating in each ceremony.

To find out more about the City of Melbourne's response to COVID-19, including support for vulnerable people, and temporary closures and adjustments to services and facilities, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/coronavirus



Find healthy and affordable food using the refreshed Community Food Guide



Online creative activities for kids



Support for businesses

A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

As we continue to face the biggest public health challenge we've ever experienced, the City of Melbourne is here to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of our community remains at the heart of all our decision-making.

You can still count on us to continue to deliver services such as waste and recycling; support for the elderly, isolated and at risk; children's services; homelessness services and animal management. It's what we're here to do. We won't let you down.

We are committed to supporting all residents and businesses by delivering essential services and helping respond to the challenge of COVID-19.

To all Melbourne businesses: we know you're facing tough challenges. We are right beside you and are advocating on your behalf. We know businesses are the lifeblood of our city.

To help you find support and information, we're continuing our Business Concierge Hotline which has provided advice to thousands of businesses in recent months.

We will recover and together we will build a stronger city. For the latest on City of Melbourne support, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au

Take care, stay connected, and look out for each other.

Melbourne City Council



Photo taken before soc-before /al distancing restrictions

(From left) Cr Susan Riley, Cr Kevin Louey, Cr Beverley Pinder, Cr Nicolas Frances Gilley MBE, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Cr Nicholas Reece, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood AM, Cr Rohan Leppert, Cr Cathy Oke, Cr Philip Le Liu and Cr Jackie Watts.

HELP FOR BUSINESSES FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

The City of Melbourne's Business Concierge Hotline is here for all businesses in the municipality affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

The service has been expanded to cater for 300 calls a day, and it is staffed by a dedicated team of people who speak to small business owners directly and help them navigate the support options available.

This includes the Victorian Government's recently announced

\$534 million boosted relief package for businesses affected by the reinstatement of restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

To get support, call the Business Concierge Hotline on 9658 9658 (press 1 for business) from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. You can also submit your query anytime online, and subscribe to our business newsletter for regular updates, at melbourne.vic.gov.au/business



Council's vision

Find out more about the Council's shared vision for the city, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/councilplan

Connect with us

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Ovid in the time of Covid

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
ARTS & CULTURE

Everyone is trying to come up with an angle to beat the debilitating impact of the virus and small independent businesses are no exception.

No Vacancy is a gallery in the Queen Vic Centre that is coping with the second lockdown by accentuating its differences.

Usually galleries follow the white cube model but No Vacancy has a wall of windows and a café.

The gallery was closed for six weeks during the first lockdown after a booking fell through but they were ready for the second bout of restrictions.

The gallery had rented out the space on a commercial model with limited control over the quality of the work on show.

After a City of Melbourne grant to “refresh” their online marketing and communications, business partners Matthew Naturani and Hayley Haynes began asking questions.

“What sets us apart? Galleries are considered cold and sterile but we have a café and we’re in the CBD,” Mr Naturani told *CBD News*.

He had the hospitality experience and his partner the expertise in curating but they had only been working together for two years. “Nobody’s drowning from experience,” he said.

“I have a problem with authority. I’ve learned the most from bad relationships,” so the independence of small business suits his personality. “We’re the heart of the city but we would be closed down if it wasn’t for the grant.”

Haynes has curated two online exhibitions with themes related to the pandemic and this has had a flow-on effect in the actual gallery. The result is *Sunday Echoes*, one of the best shows the gallery has put on which is based on commission rather than rental.

Nothing is easy during the pandemic. The gallery is closed but the work is visible through the window or from the adjacent café, which is



▲ Matthew Naturani is testing out a new business model at No Vacancy.

selling coffee.

There’s a big difference between putting on a show with work you think might sell during a pandemic to one that explores the issues.

The paintings by Liam Haley are abstract landscapes related to memories of his home in northern rivers of New South Wales and to the autumnal sunshine of Melbourne.

Those of Elynor Smithwick are more related to her childhood backyard along the Murray, lawn mowers, lush blobs of trees, pink towels. They demonstrate the pulling power of images when fresh material is denied to you through isolation.

As people sink back into their own histories, the stylising effect of simplifying and blurring works well to evoke the mood. Happier times are elevated to the status of art.

“We really considered what we put together,” Mr Naturani said. One of the online exhibitions is called *Metamorph*, based on a poem from

Roman days, a tribute to the transformational powers of Ovid in the time of COVID-19.

“Too much is driven by fear,” he said, about the pandemic. “There has to be a logic – the capacity of hospitals. I believe there’s a number in a senior office, a set of criteria.”

The gallery uses art money, a system of after-pay in which the artist gets paid but the purchaser can eke out payments in instalments of 10 ●



Rhonda Dredge
JOURNALIST
RHONDA@CBDNEWS.COM.AU

Calls for local government reform

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Cr Jackie Watts has led a push by councillors calling on new Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane to undertake a review of the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*.

Mr Leane was appointed to the vacated portfolio in June following the sacking of previous minister Adem Somyurek following branch stacking allegations aired on *60 Minutes*.

The scandal followed the passing of the new *Local Government Act 2020*, however, not all of the reforms applied to the City of Melbourne, which has its own Act that Cr Watts noted had not been reviewed since its introduction.

Her motion, which went before councillors at the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting on July 21, called on the state government to commit to a review of the Act ahead of the 2024 council elections, which also considered representation of First Nations people.

“[Consider] An amendment to entitle Custodians of lands and waters within the Melbourne City Council municipal district to enrol to vote in [council] elections and to qualify as candidates to be a City of Melbourne councillor,” the motion stated.

Cr Watts also called for the implementation of a number of interim measures in time for the forthcoming council elections in October, including:

- The disclosure of any donation and/or in-kind gift within three business days of receipt;
- Restricting donations to candidates to be from persons on the Victorian electoral roll;
- Capping donations at not more than \$4000 from any one person or organisation within any 12-month period; and
- Prohibit taking donations from persons who personally own or hold controlling interests in companies that actively engage in the property or gambling industries ●



Swanston St sexual assault

CRIME

Melbourne Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team officers are hoping to identify a man following a sexual assault of a child in the CBD in July.

The incident occurred at a restaurant on Swanston St at around 6.30pm on July 1.

Police have been told a 15-year-old girl was entering the venue when an unknown man approached and grabbed her lower body area.

The teenage girl managed to run up the stairs and alerted friends who were already inside.

It is believed the same man harassed the other teenage girls when they entered the venue and followed them inside before being asked to leave by staff.

Investigators have released images of a man who they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

The man is perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, aged 40-50 years-old, with a solid build and long brown hair.

He was wearing a grey jumper and dark pants at the time ●

The chance to digitise

WORDS BY Meg Hill
COUNCIL AFFAIRS

The world has become increasingly digitised due to COVID-19 and a need to upgrade and enhance digital capabilities has become more important.

The City of Melbourne launched an economic support package for city businesses in March, offering \$5.5 million in grants for small- to-medium sized businesses and not-for-profit organisations to invest in online and e-commerce capabilities.

One recipient, the Committee for Melbourne (the Committee) – a not-for-profit based in the CBD, was able to collaborate with city-based agencies Design by Wolf and Efront to totally revamp its online presence.

The Committee was able to create a platform that can utilise and showcase its digital collaboration, connect with member organisations through e-networking and showcase their events on demand.

The Committee’s CEO, Martine Letts, said the website needed to reflect not only the Committee’s work, but also encompass the personality and brand of Greater Melbourne.

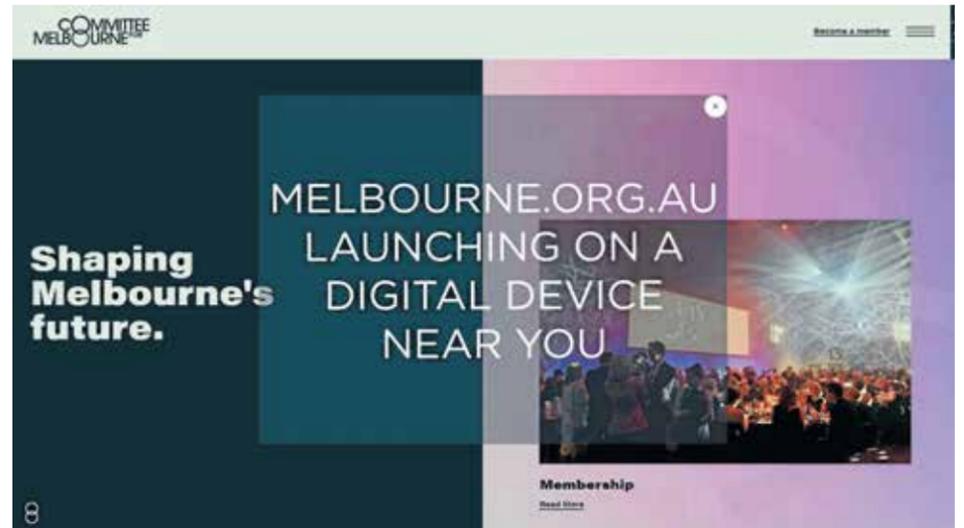
“Committee for Melbourne is proud to have collaborated with local Melbourne suppliers, Design by Wolf and E-front to launch our new website during COVID-19,” Ms Letts said.

“The City of Melbourne grant gave us the opportunity to innovate and embrace the growing digitisation of our society and economy.”

“Committee for Melbourne’s Competitive Internet Taskforce is addressing Melbourne’s digital capability and how we can ensure that Melbourne remains a technologically advanced and competitive city.”

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said the council’s business grants had provided \$5.5 million in financial support for local businesses to invest in online and e-commerce capabilities.

“We are pleased to be able to support



▲ A promotional infographic showcasing the Committee for Melbourne’s new home page.

businesses and organisations like Committee for Melbourne invest in changes to keep their services running and people employed,” the Lord Mayor said.

“The overwhelming response that we had to the grants goes to show that even in tough times, our local businesses and organisations are ready to tackle challenges head on, think differently and adapt.”

“The grants have now been fully allocated with 1266 small- and medium-sized businesses sharing in \$5.5 million in funding.”

“Importantly, local businesses that received these grants can now offer new online services and business changes to better serve their customers and clients.”

Efront is a digital agency located in the quirky green Melbourne laneway of Guildford Lane and has done the heavy lifting on the digital needs for Melbourne groups like Open House, Melbourne Fringe, Melbourne International Jazz Festival and of course Committee for

Melbourne.

Efront director Paul Borella said the city collaboration generated a sense of pride.

“Working with these groups generates a real sense of pride for the whole team who love nothing more than getting involved and sharing their fantastic work and initiatives” she said.

Design by Wolf worked on the design side of the project. Director Richard Campbell said it was a privilege.

“We are thrilled with the website that we have achieved together with Efront and the Committee for Melbourne. It has been a privilege to work with such great people and to provide a website that is truly representative of a company that strives to shape a better future for Melbourne,” he said.

“We couldn’t be happier with the final outcome and look forward to see the website evolving further into the future with the Committee’s new initiatives.” ●

Crime Stoppers:
1800 333 000

Falling under the category of “other”

WORDS BY *Sean Car*
FEATURE

John Walker was your regular Melbournian, complete with the house, the car, a family and a high-ranking job. But before he knew it, a rapid change in circumstances would see all of that taken away from him as he found himself using drugs and sleeping in the park.

While he has been clean of drugs for more than a year now, the past 10 years have seen his life completely uprooted from what once was. It's a story that highlights that anyone is at risk of falling on the sword of homelessness, or as John defines it, under the category of “other”.

It's a fact only compounded at present by the devastating impacts of last summer's bushfires and COVID-19, with rough sleeping and those without a home living in hotels and crisis accommodation escalating by the day.

Now 50 and living in a Magpie Nest provided by the Salvation Army and Collingwood Football Club, John's former life as a father of two living in a house in East Brunswick is now a distant memory. Having worked in a number of government and executive level roles in primary health and strategic planning at the time, it was a life one would associate with “normal”.

But at the age of 40, John came out as a gay man to his now former wife. The result was a breakup of his family that would leave him shattered as he was forced to endure a painful and often traumatising custody battle over the ensuing five years.

Playing out in a long and drawn out family court dispute, during which John said a psychologist reported that he “chose to be gay”, and by doing so, created a “hostile environment” for his children, it was an experience that left him deeply wounded and bereft of confidence.

“I went through family court and it was a really shocking family breakup and that process was traumatic; a really awful experience,” he said. “There are absolutely no winners.”

“I had some really bad experiences with it. I had some really shocking psychologists who reported to the court. One said that I ‘chose to be gay’ that it was a ‘lifestyle decision’ I made. That was really catastrophic for me.”

“She [the psychologist] referred to ‘choice’ about four times in the report and that when my son realised the choices that his father had made, he was going to need counselling. By the time the report was done I was 44. I'm 50 now.”

John said it would take another 12 months before a new psychology report was completed to supersede the original report; a time during which he said he had begun losing contact with his children.

And having stopped working for an extended period of time to focus on the court proceedings, he said he would eventually begin turning to drugs as a means of filling a void in his now broken life.

“I had an ex-partner who wasn't interested in me having access to the children. That was the main issue,” he said.

“I had family orders in place but if the other side doesn't follow them then your only recourse is to go back to court and there was a point that I reached where I said I wasn't going back to the court anymore. It was just too stressful.”

“That's when my drug use really started to take off. The conditions were right in that there was a really deep wound and drugs were, at first, a really good solution.”

From that point, John's mental and physical health quickly began to deteriorate.

Living alone in an inner-city apartment with a “big bucket” of money from selling his family home, he said his drug use would gradually increase from monthly, to weekly to every day.

“I was using [the drug] ice every day for about four years,” he said.

“I felt really justified with my drug use I felt like I've got real pain and I need to medicate. That drove a lot of my drug use and I came to a point where I thought I'd made it about me.”

“I think the difference with an addict is you cross a line or get to a tipping point and you can't say no. No matter what you do you can't stop using and you know there are going to be ramifications.”

“There are a million reasons why you shouldn't, but you still do. That's where you get in trouble when you're using against your own



best interests.”

Having shared his addiction with a GP who provided him with a phone number for rehabilitation services, he said it would be eight months until he would make the call to ask for help.

And he said that call would only be made when “the wheels fell off” after accidentally setting fire to his apartment and being subsequently evicted. While he would initially land on his friend's couch for a brief period, it wasn't long until he found himself living under a tree in Fitzroy Gardens while on waiting lists for a rehabilitation program and emergency accommodation.

“It [rough sleeping] was from turning into a person to turning into a nobody. It happens,” he said.

“That was the astonishing thing it was almost like an experiment. There was a reasonable level of self-esteem of achievement in the past. I've run marathons, I've done a master's degree, I've travelled a lot, so there was a sense of person that dissolved really quickly. You actually feel like less of a person.”

While John would eventually get the help he needed, he said for those who had experienced the lows of homelessness and addiction, asking for help and capitalising on rare windows of opportunity to follow through on that help, was incredibly challenging.

For him, he said the narcotics anonymous (NA) program run by Vincent Care he was still attending to this day had helped him stay clean for more than a year. But he admitted that he was one of the lucky few.

With an average of nine out of 10 people failing the program, he said “the odds are stacked against you”, but that these life-saving programs were too few, and not promoted enough to those who needed the support.

“For me there is a gap with people who need it and might not know about it. They don't advertise the program. That's what I'm here to do today,” he said.

“I don't know why there is such a high fail rate, but I can just talk about what's worked for me and that's been NA. It's been astonishing.”

With homelessness increasing daily as a result of COVID-19, John said that waiting lists for crisis accommodation and the struggle for long-term housing in Melbourne made the challenge of finding much-needed stability for people like him incredibly challenging.

According to recent data from the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP), around 2000 people currently living in hotel accommodation in Melbourne as a result of COVID-19 don't have any certainty about long-term housing options.

It's an issue exacerbated by the pandemic, with Victoria spending the least amount on public housing per head of population out of all Australian states and territories. But for John, one of the “lucky few”, he said the support of the Salvation Army's Magpie Nest program had been critical in allowing him time to get back on his feet.

“Again, it's really demoralising. It's not like going into a bank where you're welcomed, they're under the pump and it's really hard to ask for help. There was so many criteria. At that point I was hardly capable of finishing a

sentence. I was gone,” he said.

“It's [Magpie's Nest] amazing. It gives people like me a chance. I've had that reset moment and I still need time to try and find my feet and if I was forced to go into work or something, it just doesn't give you the time to heal.”

That stability of having a roof over his head has meant everything for John. Now clean and improving mentally day-by-day, his future looks bright again having been recently offered a scholarship to do a PhD.

He said if his experience of homelessness had taught him anything, it was that many of the things he once deemed important were, in fact, not important at all, and that the category of “other” was nothing more than a state of mind.

“Part of western culture is the idea of attaining things through purchasing and through material. Consumerism. Particularly house prices in Melbourne. You've got to have a well-paying job in order to get a house and I felt like there was so much pressure just to be normal or ‘average’ in that range,” he said.

“I think part of that defining of ‘I've made it’ or ‘I'm doing okay’ is saying, ‘who am I comparing myself to?’ So, you're making someone ‘other’. And at the bottom of that ‘other’ are people that are homeless.”

“So, in a sense, you define that you've made it by people who haven't and so casting someone as ‘other’ is putting a lot of pressure on them. In a sense though that's expected of you. To be part of this community that you have to treat someone as the other to kind of define who you are.”

“Through my experience of being the ‘other’ and being that homeless person that had gone through rehab and detox, my experience has been mild compared to a lot of people in terms of the trauma and the experiences they've had. I don't have that sense of there's an ‘other’. The idea is that this could be anyone. That could be me, that could be you.”

“So, I don't have fear around that. I have far more compassion. If I see someone on a train that is unkept and unwashed there's compassion and concern for them.”

“It's such a humbling experience going through addiction, because addiction hits anyone. And that's the beautiful thing about the Salvo's is that everyone gets treated the same. And we are all the same. I know that now.”

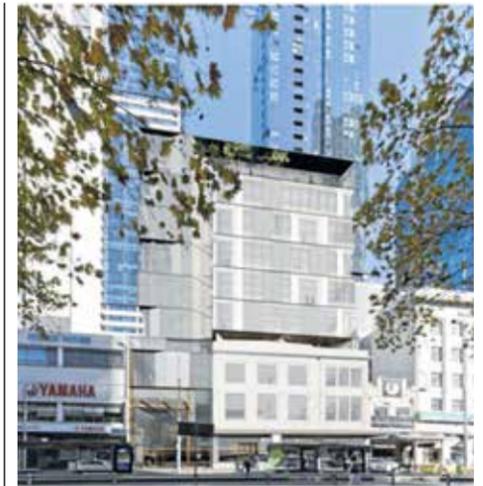
If you are experiencing addiction and need support, ring the alcohol and drug counselling and referral line on 1800 888 236 ●

Homelessness support:
salvationarmy.org.au/melbourne614



Sean Car
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A shift away from the promenade

WORDS BY *Meg Hill*
PLANNING

A new planning application submitted to the City of Melbourne would see a new “vertical retail building” erected behind a well-known strip of shop front on Elizabeth St.

An application on behalf of Triple M 333 outlines a \$14.3 million redevelopment plan of the site, which currently includes three buildings constructed in the 1920s occupied by Peter Stevens Motorcycles.

The proposal includes the full demolition of the existing building at 337-339 Elizabeth St, the partial demolition of the existing buildings at 341-345 and 347 Elizabeth St, and the construction of a multi-storey retail building.

The site at 337-339 Elizabeth St, a two-storey brick building, has a contributory heritage status under the Hardware and Guildford Laneways Heritage Amendment, while 347 Elizabeth St is a three-storey building that also has contributory status.

The new building would be 10 storeys high, and the proposal focuses on retention of the existing heritage façade and a “shift from the familiar promenade street mall and expanse of arcades across Melbourne's CBD to a more compact footprint of vertical retail”.

“The building has been designed to accommodate a variety of retail uses, including restaurants and shops within a strata format,” the application stated.

“The vision for a vertical retail building recognises the changing nature of retail which is driving an increased need for flexible and adaptive retail spaces, building activation and a consistent and holistic faced and tenant identity strategy.”

Cr Nicholas Reece, chair of the council's planning portfolio, said the application would be “very carefully considered” by the council's urban planners.

“Elizabeth St is usually one of our most popular thoroughfares as it links with Melbourne Central Station, Emporium Melbourne and the Queen Victoria Market,” he said. “Any development in this area should recognise the area's local character and history while showcasing quality architecture and design.”

Orion House plans

Plans for a face-lift on the CBD's Orion House, a 1921 12-storey art deco building at 22 William St, were submitted to the City of Melbourne in June.

The building – previously named Swann House – changed hands last year when it was sold by Orion International Group for \$52 million to the Fidinam Group.

Now a new owner, Coweley William Pty Ltd, has applied for partial demolition and reconstruction of the building.

Plans outline a new multi-storey addition to create new office space, while the ground floor will host a restaurant.

“The proposed building and works will provide an architecturally designed contemporary addition to the existing mixed-use building that respectfully showcases the identified heritage fabric associated with the site,” the planning application stated.

The building, which is subject to a heritage overlay, was built in 1921 as the offices of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria ●

CBD LOCAL

A perfect platform for café life

During the two successive lockdowns that have inhibited our café culture, some characters around the CBD have inspired others with their generosity and style.

If you look up the name Simon Hartley on Google you'll get a barrage of quotes about him.

He's been called a "legend" of the CBD culinary scene and someone who has led the charge on classic Italian dining.

You'll also discover that his company went into voluntary liquidation in 2014 and that a recent stint at a new George Colombaris venture lasted just two days before it closed its doors.

Melbourne's food scene is a volatile beast full of flamboyant chefs and restaurateurs who appear to love the celebrity status accorded to their industry.

When Hartley first opened Becco, which translates in Southern Italy as sticky beak in the kitchen, he did so with former wife, chef Liz Egan, a judge on TV's *My Kitchen Rules*.

Last year when the Becco lease in Crossley St came up for renewal, Chris Lucas of Chin Chin fame swooped and secured the lease for 2021.

Hartley was quoted in the press as saying, "Two years is a long time in restaurants. We've got a bit of fun ahead." Who would have predicted what 2020 would bring?

Anyone who has passed down Crossley St in the past few months would know what a stalwart Hartley has been, both to the local community and to those seeking the occasional buzz from a scene that still believed in the corporate power lunch.

▼Simon Hartley in Crossley St.



On July 16, a day everyone will remember because the tally of new cases in Victorian leapt to 317 before increasing again the following day, Simon was seated at his laptop, possibly doing his figures.

Just two days earlier he had been making short blacks for customers and bringing the cups out into the laneway himself.

He posed for *CBD News* beside the green tiles that still define the history of this great laneway and was generously commenting about his affection for them. "It's a great colour, so cool. It was on all of the shop fronts," he said.

No-one knows what the future will bring so there is no choice but to be resilient. During the first lockdown Hartley re-introduced his produce store, turning his visits to the Queen Victoria Market into foraging missions for local

customers.

A fortuitous decision to keep on the produce store when restrictions were eased means that he still had that innovation to fall back on.

He believes that Melbourne will cope with its current quarantine. "I think Melbourne's a living city, climactically based, and you see this in its cafes, restaurants and theatres because of the weather."

"In Sydney they go to the beach. We've got more of an indoor culture. I don't want to say we're more sophisticated than Sydney but we are. We've got a broader cultural spectrum as well."

Hartley grew up in Noosa so he knows about cultural differences. "All I cared about when I was growing up was having a surf and finding a beer garden," he said.

He was sent down to Melbourne for catering school and fell in love with the city. "In my industry Melbourne is the place to be. Noosa is beautiful but we have a lovely platform here for a great cultural city. There's such diversity. It's a perfect platform."

Hartley and his current wife live at "the poorer end of Spring St" just around the corner from the restaurant ●



Rhonda Dredge

JOURNALIST

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HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS

Housing All Australians – a new paradigm

Welcome to the first of our 12-part series which will attempt to explore the role that housing can and should play within Australian society and why it is important to our economy that we house all Australians, rich or poor.

This series intends to draw on a range of perspectives centred around housing and homelessness. We will hear a range of views from business, the not-for-profit sector and hopefully government, as to why they believe housing is an important social and economic building block for Australia's future prosperity.

Let me start by saying I do not believe that housing is a human right. That is a decision for an entire society to make. And if half the population agrees with that view, there is the other half that doesn't. This causes dissent and arguments and no conclusion. To get action, we need to achieve a consensus. And to get consensus, we need to ask the right question.

However, while housing may not be a human right, no one can deny that the provision of shelter is a fundamental human need. And without that need being met, we have unintended social and economic consequences that span generations.

Based on learnings over my career, I have come to a clear and unambiguous view that we are leaving a future society with a significant economic and social burden as a consequence of not investing in sufficient public, social and affordable housing. These consequences manifest themselves through the development of mental and physical health issues, family violence, policing, justice and then long-term welfare dependency. We need to invest in initiatives that prevent future social and economic consequences.

There is no silver bullet in solving this

housing challenge. That is why, as the conveyor of this column series, I am always open to hearing other people's perspectives as I believe we should always be open to new thoughts and ideas while having ours respectfully challenged. And in doing so, we need to be open to having our collective views evolve. No one has all the answers. And when we live in such a diverse society that is rich in opinions, consensus will always involve a degree of compromise.

I will also be approaching this topic with a commercial lens. Having been a residential property developer for my entire career, I have a reasonable understanding of what drives the market to deliver appropriate housing typologies. The shortfall in public, social and affordable housing is so significant that unless the market is involved with the solution, we will not achieve the scale needed to service the entire population and prevent the long-term consequences mentioned above. But there needs to be compromises. The housing needs to be funded.

The coronavirus pandemic has made us all realise that we are equal and all vulnerable to this invisible enemy that has declared war on humanity. The virus does not discriminate. Whether you are black or white, rich or poor, if you are exposed, you get infected.

To their credit, all our governments have reacted quickly and even the homeless that were inhabiting our streets were housed. The business community also responded with Quest Apartment Hotels, through the Salvation Army,

offering access to their serviced apartments at 140 locations, nationally, at cost. No profit. The Master Builders and the Unions issued a joint press release encouraging the creation of jobs through the construction of more social housing. This is a time where ideological differences need to be put aside so we can all work through this crisis together.

On the topic of homelessness, we have all heard that governments around the country are saying that we should not return to seeing homeless people on our streets. That sounds sensible but that means we need to build more housing and that does not happen overnight. So, what is the plan?

As a society we have to face the facts – there is a current chronic failure that results in people being out in the cold, being vulnerable and isolated. The reality is, when an individual faces challenges in their life that tests their purpose of being.

Without a safe place to gather your thoughts and without people around you that care about your wellbeing, those dreams and possibilities have nowhere to go. You become lonely and isolated. Without a stable and safe place to call home, how can an individual form a productive life? How can they work, study or raise a family properly? To continually fund the services needed becomes a very expensive burden for society as a whole. People need to be housed. Whether they are rich or poor.

So, we hope the series will result in different perspectives being presented and potential new

solutions emerging. Nothing significant has been done for decades and doing nothing now is NOT AN OPTION! We need to act and we need to act now. All of us need to be part of the solution so please feel free to write to me with your thoughts.

About Housing All Australians

A private sector for purpose organisation that believes it is in Australia's long-term economic interest to provide housing for all its people; rich or poor. It was established to facilitate a private sector voice and to reposition the discussion with an economic lens. It advocates that the provision of housing for all Australians is economic infrastructure, just as the provision of roads, schools and hospitals.

Any proceeds generated through this column series will be made as a donation to Housing All Australians to help end the fight against homelessness ●



Rob Pradolín

FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AT FRASERS PROPERTY AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDER OF HOUSING ALL AUSTRALIANS (HAA)

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METRO TUNNEL

Metro Tunnel lessons just a click away

The Metro Tunnel Project has stepped into the virtual classroom to help parents tackle the next few weeks of home schooling.

The project's online education resources have been refreshed to help students learn from home about the biggest public transport project in Victoria's history.

COVID-19 restrictions mean Metro Tunnel HQ – which hosts school groups – is temporarily closed but students can still complete fun and educational activities through our website.

Check out the virtual tour of Metro Tunnel HQ and videos explaining the new train line and the construction technology used to build it.

There are games, puzzles and challenges that will make you an expert in no time, and exercises are suitable for primary and high school students.

Mini Melbourne is a world-first resource brought to life for the Metro Tunnel Project. Rail Projects Victoria partnered with the Victorian Department of Education and Training to recreate 600,000 sqm of Melbourne's city centre in Minecraft. Any Minecraft user can download

the map and begin exploring.

A series of themed pages invite children to collect badges as they learn more about aspects of the project on their way to becoming a "Metro Tunnel Mastermind".

metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/education

Breakthroughs at Town Hall Station

Significant milestones have been reached in Melbourne's CBD with the completion of two tunnel breakthroughs under Swanston St for the new Town Hall Station.

Since late last year, three roadheaders have been operating 20-25 metres under Swanston St from access shafts at City Square, Federation Square and Flinders Quarter to excavate the station's central cavern and underground walkways.

In early June, the roadheader excavating from City Square broke through to the Flinders Quarter site. In late June, the roadheader operating from Federation Square broke through to



the central cavern (pictured), marking the completion of the first stage of station excavation.

Construction is continuing across all Metro Tunnel Project sites in accordance with the COVID-19 health and safety procedures in place ●

For more information:
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

SALVOS

“The more things change the more they stay the same”

I recently overheard a conversation between two older men. They were lamenting how dramatically life has changed in such a short space of time.

“No-one inside local businesses. Just a few people on the streets, and when you do see someone, most of their face is covered with a mask! No-one shaking hands, in fact, people generally avoiding one another.”

The other man responded by saying “... and Port Power sit on top of the AFL ladder! What has actually #*!# happened to our world?!”

The wise old sages have a point ... to an extent. The world has fundamentally and inexorably changed in a matter of months. Many are saying it has changed forever.

However, in many ways, the basic needs of we humans remain pretty much the same and has done so right throughout history.

The needs to be accepted for who we are, to be seen and heard, to be included and feel useful are needs that are deeply embedded in the psyche of every single human being. Significant increases in calls to organisations like Lifeline and Beyond Blue in recent weeks desperately highlights this point again.

Jean-Baptise Alphonse Karr, in 1849, the year after the French Revolution, apparently coined the phrase, “plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose”. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

How apt that saying is for the turbulent times

that we are all experiencing today.

A young man recently spoke with me and said, “I'm terrified. Not of COVID-19 or even dying, I just have no clue about how I will cope with being alone. I am actually frightened of the that idea. Terrified, in fact.”

It is easy at times like this to curl up in a ball and give up. But at times like this, our needs are often reflected in others. Many surrounding us also need to be heard, accepted, welcomed and valued.

It was Mohammed Ali who once said, “service to others is the rent you pay for your room on the earth”. That other great philosopher, Oprah Winfrey, took the concept a little further and once wrote, “helping others is the way to help ourselves.”

During these difficult and turbulent times, it is critical that we do not become, or remain, self-absorbed. Instead, as hard as it may be at times, we must lift up our eyes, look around and see that if we take the time to check in on others, listen to their story and value them as fellow human beings, we can have a profound impact on them as well as ourselves and our view of our current circumstances.

I encourage you to shine your light on others during these dark and difficult times ●



Service to others is the rent you pay for your room on the earth - Mohammed Ali



Major Brendan Nottle

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Coffee break

A home brew was the only option

Melbourne CBD

Reopened for business

Flora Indian Restaurant: 238 Flinders Street

As coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions start to ease, Flora is excited to welcome you back for an authentic Indian dining experience. Flora will continue to operate between 10am - 8pm in cooperation with social distancing protocols without sacrificing on their ever popular over-the-counter service style.

For more information, follow Flora on Facebook and Instagram or visit floraindian.com.au



More trains, more often

For more information, visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au



HISTORY



▲ Image credit: Bourke St from Russell St, c1950. A-559. RHSV Collection.

Looking at this streetscape today, the 11-storey building that dominates the left side (the south side) of this early 1950s photograph of Bourke St raises no eyebrows.

An early Melbourne high-rise

It is the Commonwealth Bank Building at 219-225 Bourke St and in its day it was something of a sky-scraper. It conformed to the height limit of the time (132 ft or 40 metres), but it stretched the rules because its tower, which used to house services to the building, took it to almost 52 metres. As you see here, it dwarfs the structures on either side of it. It was not until 1958 when construction was completed on the 19-storey ICI House on the corner of Albert and Nicholson street in East Melbourne that the term sky-scraper was used to describe what was Australia's tallest building of the time.

All along this section of Bourke St are rows of three- or four-storeyed buildings, complete with verandas and ornate facades and rooflines, a reminder of the 19th century. This structure, though, is in a different style altogether. It is modern, all straight lines, with little ornamentation. It is tall, stretching high into the sky, the windows and details on the front façade adding to the feeling of height. There is no hint that until 1934 this was the site of the Bijou Theatre, built in the 1870s and one of the many theatres in this part of the CBD, although by the time the photograph was taken, the theatres had given way to cinemas, only a few of which survive today.

In its way, the Commonwealth Bank building is remarkable. It was constructed between 1939 and 1941 in the first years of World War Two at a time when the nation's attention was on the war rather than civil construction. The importation of building materials was difficult and steel and the like were needed for the war effort, so this build relied on local materials and non-ferrous

metals wherever possible, the cladding made from sandstone from Stawell and granite from Dromana, for example.

Across the street, on the edges of the right-hand side of the image, is another building, constructed only a few years earlier. Not as tall as the bank building, it was owned by Sharpe Brothers, drapers, and it, too, had once been the site of a theatre. It was not as tall and its rounded windows create a softer edge to the building. This store, located at 200-204 Bourke St, was next door to Treadways, a department store. Not far away, on the corner of Bourke and Russell streets, was Norman's Corner Store, a drapery run by another Sharpe brother Norman. And just down the street was the well-known furniture store Maples, sponsors of the popular radio program the *Professional & Amateur Parade* (known to everyone as the P&A Parade), a talent quest broadcast on 3KZ for 27 years. At around the time this photograph was taken, Maples withdrew its sponsorship of the show and Swallows, makers of my childhood to-die-for biscuits Tic Tocs, took over, moving the show to the newly introduced format of television in the late 1950s. Today, the Sharpe Bros site is a police station.

We've all used the phrase "busier than Bourke St", but we see here a rather tamer scene. No bustling shoppers, no trams ringing their bells to warn vehicles and pedestrians that they have right of way. No traffic congestion. No motor bikes weaving in amongst the bigger vehicles. No bicycle riders braving the unpredictable behaviour of other road users. The cars travelling along the street are very much of their

time and although we're all used to seeing buses on Melbourne's streets, the presence of a double-decker bus might surprise modern-day Melburnians. There are no trams in sight, something unheard of in today's CBD. The cable tram tracks running along the centre of the street are still visible, but cable trams were replaced by double-decker buses along Bourke St in February 1940 and the buses continued to work the Northcote and East Brunswick routes until January 1954. This bus, number 235, painted in the tramway colours – green with numbers and letters in gold leaf – was destined for the Nicholson St Bus Depot in North Fitzroy, travelling along what is today's 96 tram route.

Apart from the vast expanse of sky to the west of the Commonwealth Bank Building, the most striking thing to me about this photo is the small number of overhead wires and the haphazard parking methods of some of the vans pictured here. And it was only when I enlarged the digital image that I realised that there is a cross street that runs across Bourke St just about where you see the "A" in the Sharpes sign and that is Swanston St. It doesn't look like there were traffic lights there, either. Almost impossible to imagine these days ●



Dr. Cheryl Griffin
ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

TRADER PROFILE

Market neighbours work through lockdown together

WORDS BY Marco Holden Jeffery

You might not think it, but the pharmacy and the cafe are natural allies.

Before the pandemic, Victoria Market Pharmacy owner Cheryl Lim said most of her regular customers were also regulars of cafe Coffea Coffee next door.

"A pharmacy and a cafe work very well together - people drop their scripts here, go have a coffee and come back and collect it when it's ready," she said.

The pandemic dealt the two businesses a blow - without tourism and office workers Cheryl said trade had dropped by "about half" - but regulars were still turning out to support the two Queen Victoria Market (QVM) stalwarts.

Victoria Market Pharmacy had been a fixture on Elizabeth St for 90 years before Cheryl took over six years ago.

"I used to work here as a student and as a pharmacist, and when the previous owners decided to sell they gave me the option to buy," she said.

Coffea Coffee hadn't quite been around as long as their neighbour but co-owner Lisa Costa said since opening in 2000 they'd managed to build a very loyal customer base.

"People have been coming every week or every day for 20 years - because of the location we get the regulars, we get the locals, and we get the tourists," she said.

Lisa stumbled upon the empty shopfront that would become Coffea Coffee one day while shopping at QVM.

Her and husband Fabio, who was then working as the master roaster at Grinders Coffee in Carlton, soon transformed the space into a coffee roaster and wholesaler before expanding into a cafe 18 months later.

Over the years, Coffea Coffee became well-known for its great customer service, hand-selected and freshly-packaged coffee, and famous castagnaccio - an Italian chestnut flower, pine

nut and rosemary cake.

But since the pandemic started, the staff at the cafe had been busy thinking of innovative new ways to get their product to their customers - shifting to takeaway food, an online ordering service through the market and pre-packaged coffee for take-home packs from their wholesale customers.

They had even found a solution for the famous cake.

"For our regulars who couldn't get here - and they're so addicted to that cake they buy it every day they're here - we've done a bake at home version," Lisa said.

"All the ingredients are in the box and they just need to take it home and follow the instructions."

A collaboration with their friends at the pharmacy next door was also in the works - customers would receive a free coffee at Coffea after spending a certain amount of money at the pharmacy - but the plan was put on hold when restrictions were tightened once again on July 9.

Both businesses had noticed natural shifts in what their customers wanted since lockdown - sales of at-home coffee equipment and decaf beans were up at Coffea, while Cheryl had stocked up on masks and sanitising products.

It was hard for both business owners to imagine surviving without the help of the City of Melbourne and QVM management - who had been providing 100 per cent rent relief for all tenants at the market since April. They said JobKeeper had also proved critical to their survival.

"But our regulars are the other major ingredient to making sure we can keep the door open," Lisa said.

"Our regular customers still support us, they don't come as regularly now with COVID-19 but they come when they can."

The future felt uncertain for the two small businesses, but both maintained a sense of



A collaboration with their friends at the pharmacy next door was also in the works - customers would receive a free coffee at Coffea after spending a certain amount of money at the pharmacy - but the plan was put on hold when restrictions were tightened once again on July 9.

optimism and even duty in the face of the pandemic.

"We just have to do what we have to do and everyone has to take a hit and do their bit," Lisa said.

For Cheryl, relatively new to owning a business, she was just happy to keep doing the job she loved.

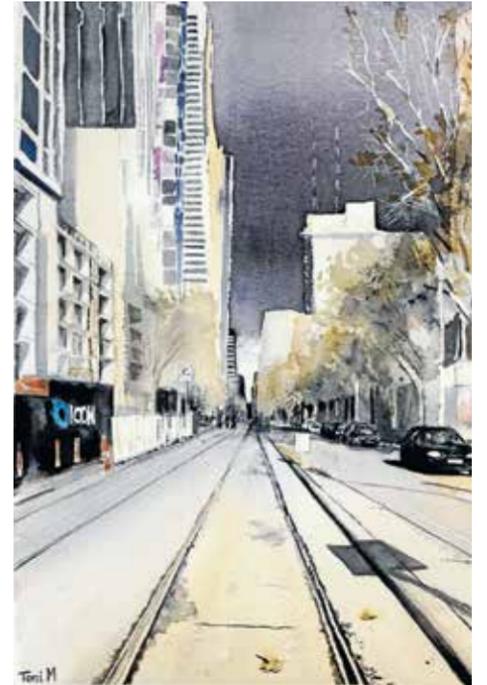
"I love serving my community, I love figuring out what issue a customer has and how to overcome it - that's what I love about my job," she said.

"I haven't experienced something like this as a business owner, but whatever it is we will have to make it work."

Coffea Coffee and Victoria Market Pharmacy are located at 521 and 523 Elizabeth St, respectively ●



For more information visit
coffeacoffee.com.au and
victoriamarketpharmacy.com



Brightening up our city



My childhood was spent (centuries ago), on a property in the far west of Victoria without television.



My mother was a teacher and had lots of fascinating and inspiring books about art and artists. When I wasn't outside, I was reading or drawing and despite life and my career taking other directions, I often returned to drawing, painting and printmaking.

Then in March 2020, when Melbourne is in Lockdown, I am struck by the unusual calm of the CBD, the empty spaces that are normally churning with humanity.

I start doing quick watercolours to record the images, trying to develop my technique as well as injecting some of my feelings about what I see. Very soon I am hooked and painting most hours of every day.

Living right on the site of the State Library Station Metro Tunnel works, I have a connection to the Metro/Cross Yarra Partnership creative team and I was pleased and surprised when they decided to enlarge images of a few of my paintings to display on the hoardings of the

Franklin St East shed.

I love living where I do. Sometimes it feels more like a village than a big city and never more than now. Most of my friends and workmates have been to look at my work in the Franklin St walkway and the workers at the Metro tunnel site have been smiling and joking to see one of the paintings is of their friendly traffic controllers.

This pandemic time is so difficult and challenging for city businesses and for those forced out of work. I'm very sorry for anyone having hard times or illness. I feel a bit guilty for loving the quietness and clear light of early winter in the streets, the market and our public areas. I hope that one day this series of paintings will make people smile and reminisce about a strange but fleeting time.

I am a committee member of Residents 3000 which is a social and community activity group for those of us who live here in the CBD and

they have been so interested and supportive of this project. Special thanks to our president, Raf, for encouragement and for posting a lot of my work including the hoardings images on Residents 3000 social media sites. Thank you too Artur, for showing me how to make and lay out my own Instagram page. It is **tonim_art** if anyone is interested

I am going to continue painting no matter what happens. I aspire to making a record of this city through the seasons, the good and bad times, the quiet and crazy times and I hope that people will enjoy my work as I go! ●

Toni Magor

COMMITTEE MEMBER OF RESIDENTS 3000 MELBOURNE



WE LIVE HERE

Stage 3 lockdown fines for short-stays

Reimposed COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and massive fines have the potential to damage the entire short-stay industry beyond recognition.

All operators of short-stays, including apartment owners and commercial operators (beyond just Airbnb), can now look forward to fines ranging from \$1652 to \$9913 for each booking, with each guest facing a fine of \$1652.

Prior to the current lockdown, the COVID-19 pandemic had already seen a dramatic collapse of the short-stay industry, especially among commercial operators managing numerous properties in high-rise residential buildings.

Short-stay operations have proven to be incompatible with controlling the spread of this highly infectious virus:

- short-term letting flouts social distancing rules; and
- the continual movement of strangers in and out of buildings increases the risk of spreading disease.

Since COVID-19 began, apartments previously used for short-stays either have been sold to owner-occupiers or have reverted to long-term rentals. Many buildings are now reporting to us that they have zero short-stay apartments.

Despite this extraordinary outcome and perhaps not surprisingly, We Live Here has been made aware of a few operators trying to find a way back into residential buildings.

Police have been in contact with Airbnb over concerns that the short-stay platform is continuing to operate illegally.

Now the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has jumped into the battle, releasing a new directive effectively banning Airbnb ...

The DHHS published the directive on its website. Section 11 (2) of the new directive specifically proscribes "private holiday rental facilities including Airbnb" and "serviced apartments" and only allows limited operations for emergency accommodation.

If you see any illegal short-stay activity in your building, report it immediately to the COVID-19 hotline on 131 144. Your owners' corporation (OC) should issue a breach notice to the lot owner.

If your OC rules are silent on health and safety, you can breach a holiday-let lot owner under the *Owners' Corporation Act 2006* model rules, which apply to all OCs in this scenario - rule 1.1: "A lot owner or occupier must not use the lot, or permit it to be used, so as to cause a hazard to the health, safety and security of an owner, occupier, or user of another lot."

You can also contact We Live Here if you require any advice or assistance.

Short-stay apartment dodges fines and tries again

If you needed proof that the short-stay industry lacks regulation, consider the case of 15 people who were slapped with \$1652 fines for partying in a short-stay apartment in Southbank just prior to the July lockdown.

Announcing the fines, Chief Commissioner Shane Patton labelled the actions of some Victorians "stupid, selfish and reckless".

Soon after, red-faced police were forced to reverse the fines. It turns out that restrictions at the time allowed for up to 20 people to gather

"at tourist accommodation."

Not content with dodging \$25,000 in fines, the same apartment was used for another potentially COVID-19-spreading party just days after the lockdown started.

With the new DHHS directive, we hope this time the fines stick!

Cladding – speak up

Does your building have combustible cladding and you haven't received a notice of inspection from the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) or a building order from your local council?

If you haven't heard anything, it means that you are not on the list of buildings to get financial assistance. You might be able to change this situation if you act quickly.

Email the VBA at customerservice@vba.vic.gov.au and let them know that you have combustible cladding and you want your building inspected.

In your email you are welcome to say that We Live Here referred you.

You may need to wait for up to six weeks to be advised of an inspection date. Let us know if there are excessive delays.

Minister Wynne's plan to fast-track cladding

In March this year, the Victorian government announced a plan to accelerate the cladding rectification program from 100 buildings per year to 400 over two years.

Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) was expected to work with a select group of reputable builders to work without profit.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said, "only reputable builders will be eligible for the

accelerated program. Those found to have done the wrong thing will not be able to participate."

"This is a chance for the original builders to become part of the solution and keep their workers employed during these challenging times."

No details were provided about costing or processes. It is difficult to see how the program could achieve its stated aim of doubling the speed of rectification.

An injection of funds to CSV to speed up the established program would perhaps be a better way to go.

Since the announcement of the plan no further information has been forthcoming from the government, and it looks as though it may have been quietly shelved.

Campaign donations

As a not-for-profit organisation, donations from individuals and buildings keep our campaigns going. To register as a supporter of We Live Here or to donate, please visit our website at welfare.net. We Live Here does not accept donations from commercial tourism interests ●



Barbara Francis & Rus Littleton

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LEARN MORE AT WELIVEHERE.NET



Strata office market shows no signs of slowing down

WORDS BY *Jack Hayes*
BUSINESS EDITOR

The CBD's strata office market has continued pushing through the uncertain times of a global pandemic with a strong first half of 2020 as investors sharpen their attention on bricks and mortar.

The past six months saw 12 Melbourne CBD strata offices in excess of \$1 million change hands.

Despite being down 25 per cent from this time last year Colliers International's Strata sales team, Chris Ling, Anthony Kirwan and George Davies remain positive that there will be a flurry of deals in the back half of this year.

"We're really happy with how the strata office market has responded over the last few months as it goes to show the sheer appetite for quality Melbourne CBD strata offices, even during times of uncertainty," Mr Ling said.

Of those 12 property transactions, which totalled \$20 million in sales, approximately 60 per cent of those properties were purchased by owner occupiers, with the remaining 40 per cent being snapped up by investors.

Buying enquiries have come from a mix of both local and offshore investors, viewing Melbourne as an investment safe haven.

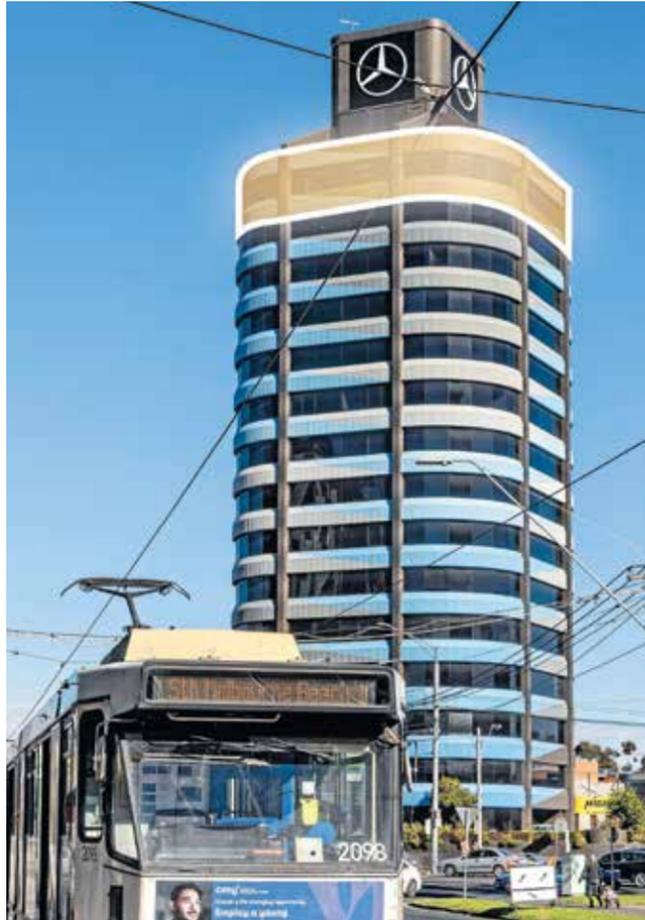
"Speaking with buyers in the market, it's clear that those who typically would have invested in the equities market are now looking to prime commercial property for its robust nature and ability to weather volatile times," Mr Davies said.

With more than 40 years of brand development, Colliers International is recognised as the world's fastest growing real estate services and investment management company.

"We are fortunate to have had such strong presence in Melbourne's CBD and City Fringe strata market over a long period of time, allowing us to work continuously with the most active buyers in the market," Mr Kirwan said.

In 2019 there were 27 strata office transactions in excess of \$1 million. Of those 27 transactions, the average capital value was \$12,591 sqm and average yield was 4.59 per cent.

The significant uplift in capital value was due to strong demand from owner occupiers looking to capitalise on record low interest



“

The past six months saw 12 Melbourne CBD strata offices in excess of \$1 million change hands

”

rates and severe lack of supply in the CBD.

The highest rate achieved was for Level 7, 2 Collins St which Colliers sold on a capital rate of \$26,667 sqm.

"The purchaser failed to buy the property when it came to market decades ago and therefore when it came around this time, he certainly was not going to miss out," Mr Kirwan said.

Colliers are now focussed on their current listings. In their stable is The Penthouse, 222 Kings Way, South Melbourne. A whole floor of approximately 356 sqm, with 360-degree panoramic views of the Melbourne CBD and Port Philip Bay.

"An asset of this calibre on the gateway to

Melbourne's CBD is nearly impossible to come by; the expansive floorplate, uninterrupted views and natural light along with its secure lease makes this one of the most exceptional investment opportunities to come to market this year," Mr Ling said.

"Opportunities of this kind are rare and as such, we are anticipating an extremely positive outcome for the vendor." ●

For more information visit:
colliers.com.au

SKYPAD LIVING

Finally, vertical villages are on government's radar – but is the focus right?

Mention was made in last month's column of a COVID-19 silver lining, especially that high-rise living was being recognised as a distinct and increasingly mainstream way of living.

And, over the past month, there has been a flurry of activity around high-rise apartment living.

This started with the Docklands Representative Group's (DRG's) webinar for owners' corporations, ironically entitled "Coming out of COVID-19 for OCs". This was a pragmatic question and answer session where the regulatory aspects of reopening common property and OC funding were discussed.

The next event of significance was the City of Melbourne's virtual session, entitled the Strata Community Workshop, held on June 25. An initiative of Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Cr Nicholas Reece, this session brought together a cross section of local community groups who discussed the challenges encountered in strata living during COVID-19. A follow up session has since been held to translate some of these issues into proposed actions. This marks a

much-needed return by the City of Melbourne to active engagement in the vertical living sector and, most encouragingly, there are signs that the specific nature of residential strata living is being appreciated, including a recognition of the regulatory environment that shapes what can and cannot be done.

Watch this space.

The state government has also awakened to the specific challenges of high-rise living during a pandemic. Provoked into action due to the events in local public housing towers, a hastily convened roundtable was hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on Monday, July 13. The stated focus on this session was upon the unique risks around COVID-19 infection control in high-rise apartment living. Significantly, the scope of the roundtable included several different types of high-rise living such as student accommodation as well as residential strata. The format of the roundtable was more mutual information exchange with DHHS staff available to answer – or take on notice – specific questions on health protocols.

It was openly acknowledged that DHHS was on a rapid learning curve about the complexity of high-rise living and was taking note that high-rise living was not a uniform sector – public high-rise apartments being very different to student high-rise accommodation which is very different to residential strata living. The point was strongly made that, for their advice

to be useful, the regulatory context must be taken into consideration. This is because how decisions are made and who has the authority to implement and enforce them, differ between these types of high-rise living. For example, the management of a student accommodation building can implement procedures in shared spaces that OCs in residential strata buildings may not have the authority to do (i.e. where lot owners have a legal stake in shared spaces).

Armed with this input, DHHS proposed to consider the material with a view to developing supporting guidelines.

Then, a second quickly convened session was hosted by DHHS on Friday, July 17.

The pace of this second session was not as frantic and more detailed scenarios were put to DHHS staff who, this time, were able to answer procedural questions with more certainty – such as the source of authority to ban short-stays.

The session closed with a commitment by the DHHS to produce guidelines specific to the high-rise sector on issues such as:

- General public health information and directions for high-rise apartment living;
- Specific public health advice for shared accommodation and communal areas;
- Approaches when residents in high-rise apartments test positive; and
- Issues of mental health and isolation.

However, what has been lost between the first and second sessions is an explicit recognition of the differences between types of high-rise living – that dedicated high-rise student accommodation shares little with high-rise residential strata. In particular, there are different ways that decisions are made which are embedded in very different legal structures.

And that, dear DHHS, is where we need assistance – not only in identifying the gold health standard but in translating this in terms of who has the responsibility or authority in relation to these guidelines (a tenant, an owner, a manager?) and to what extent can they / must they implement or enforce these? – or are they more "suggestions".

The devil is in the detail and thought must be given to the specific context for these guidelines – and, in particular, care must be taken not to undermine or circumvent existing ways of operating.

Hey City of Melbourne – perhaps this is something you can help your State colleagues in understanding! ●



Dr Janette Corcoran

APARTMENT LIVING EXPERT

LEARN MORE ON FACEBOOK.COM/
SKYPADLIVING/

CRITIC

The words of a true writer

A book that has strongly resurfaced from its 20th century cave is The Plague by Albert Camus, an account of an imaginary epidemic in the African town of Oran in Algeria.

The current popularity of this 1947 novel among Melbourne readers attests to their tough-mindedness.

One bookseller told *CBD News* that *The Plague* was more clear-sighted than other epidemic stories.

The Plague is written from the point of view of Dr Bernard Rieux, the chief medical officer of Oran whose job is to diagnose patients who have contracted the plague and isolate them.

The disease is spread by fleas and the symptoms are gruesome, including large swellings of the lymph glands which the doctor lances.

During the trajectory of the novel, the only resting points for the reader are the friendships Rieux forms with other members of the community.

The doctor enlists the help of a journalist, historian, civil servant and a suspected criminal, who put aside their private concerns to work on health teams with him.

The conversations between these characters as they tend patients through the harrowing fevers and predictable ups and downs of the infection drive the moral perspectives of the book.

The disease was seen as an allegory for the German occupation of France during the Second World War and perhaps makes predictions about the way all pestilences exact their tolls plus draw people together.

There are specific similarities between the situation faced in Melbourne and the one Camus's narrator documents so meticulously in Oran with its analysis of statistics, graphs and government policies.

We, too, are bombarded with regular updates on cases. We, too, suffer from despair before bouncing back. We, too, are locked up within a city and there is no foreseeable cure on the horizon.

During the Second World War, Camus was trapped in Oran, a town he reportedly disliked, being a native of Algiers. Here, he contracted tuberculosis, and was sent for convalescence to the French countryside then joined the French resistance.

He had lived through a harrowing time, separated from his wife and mother, and being an exile is a major theme in the epidemic Camus created. Both the fictional doctor and journalist were separated from their wives while living through the terror.

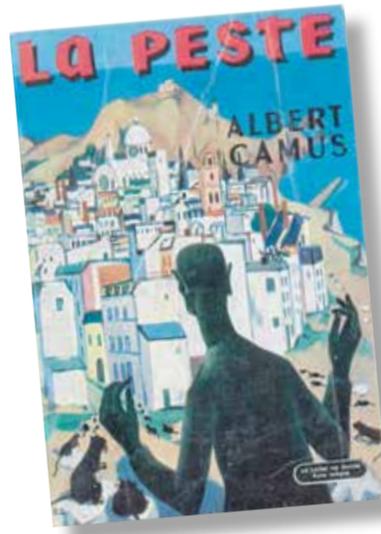
There is a strong message at the heart of *The Plague* that not everyone will buy.

Dr Rieux makes the point that there is no use being a saint nor a hero. The job of everyone is to fight the pestilence and survive. The doctor does this with a calm objectivity in which pity is of no use.

An even stronger point is made by a member of his team, Jean Tarrou, who has taken a stance against any form of killing including execution of criminals, and says that it is imperative to side with the victims.

While these positions were directed at the Vichy government and its appeasement policies under the occupation, they also have relevance for our own contemporary problem.

If you deliberately side with the victims of COVID-19 then your priority is elimination of the virus over all other concerns.



▲ *The Plague*, Albert Camus, Penguin Books, 2001

The economy of Oran suffered during the quarantine period with food shortages, escalation of prices and some smugglers making a tidy profit.

But the doctor makes no judgments about these responses and also refrains from eulogising those who formed the health teams with him.

Instead, he aimed to be an "historian of the heart-aches and soul-searching that the plague imposed on all fellow citizens at this time." ●



Rhonda Dredge
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MUSIC

The Sound

Yorta Yorta singer and composer Deborah Cheetham has composed a brilliant companion piece to Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Entitled *Datula the starry sky*, it was performed as a prelude to the 9th Symphony at the dazzling launch to the 2020 Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) season. The 9th is one of Beethoven's most popular works and *Datula* plays upon many of its themes and motifs. The MSO replayed this concert in the virtual world on July 16. Circa Contemporary Circus acrobats performed to the 9th in front of the Orchestra and, while on stage, Deborah Cheetham was front row second from left in the chorus. It made for compelling classical entertainment with edge.

The MSO will have a virtual concert on its website on July 30 of the Rimsky-Korsakov piece *Scheherazade*. This concert features Peruvian conductor Miguel Harth-Bedoya and the brilliant cello player from Finland Timo Veikko-Valve, a name suitable for a career in Formula 1. Veikko-Valve plays in the Australian Classical Chamber Orchestra. *Scheherazade* was written in 1888, two years before Carbone won the Melbourne Cup. *Scheherazade* is the beautiful, beguiling woman telling stories from the *Thousand and One Nights*.

Morricone exits cinema left. Versatile, prolific and talented film composer Ennio Morricone was a massive influence on Melbourne musicians such as Penny Iking and Rowland S Howard. His magnum Opus it could be argued was his operatic soundtrack to the ultimate spaghetti western *Once upon a Time in the West*. Penny Iking wrote a tribute to Morricone, stating that the eclectic instrumentation that could be found on her spellbinding rock creation *Tokyo* was inspired by Ennio Morricone. On *Tokyo*, Iking said that she played around with Morricone's idea to combine unusual instruments together.

Iking received a stellar review from Global Texan Chronicles for *Tokyo*. *Tokyo City* sounds like a Desert Sessions song.

"In the city when the sun goes down, electric lights on the avenue, shine so bright for me"; Jim Morrison-esque. There's a real exotic jungle edge at the North Pacific here.

There's shakuhachi, flute, strange eerie percussion sounds throughout *Tokyo*. Wind instruments combined with Iking's feedback infused ethereal overdriven reverbed guitar. Iking has always had a totality of sound and song.

Gold Rush starts with Chris Wilson-esque harmonica playing along with David Bridie in the orchestration. *Gin No Suzu* is pure poetics, a song Brewster could have written for The Angels. Doc Neeson's delivery in the vocal department, with lead guitar like Ian Moss or Martin Rotsey from Midnight Oil. The mixing and engineering on *Tokyo* is brilliant, swelling, surging, ebbing and dramatic. Ten outta Ten!

Morricone was featured on a special edition of Paul Harris' Film Buffs Forecast podcast. Recorded at Studio 9 at Sun Theatre, Yarraville, it is a great discussion about his music, and they mention his interesting autobiography. At the end of the tribute to Morricone they play a song from the 1974 film *My Name Is Nobody*, that features Henry Fonda. Music is always a feature of this show. Keep listening to Film Buffs Forecast, it is a five-star podcast.

The Sound, Sundays at 5:30 in the afternoon on ABC Television will be a Rock Music show with the Ringmaster being Jane Gazzo and it has a real buzz to it. Many musos, Mark Seymour included, are looking forward to it. The sound on the shoulders of *Countdown* ●



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HERITAGE

Celebrating new heritage controls

There was some great news for heritage this month, with Amendment C258 finally approved by the Minister of Planning Richard Wynne.

This amendment updates heritage guidelines for the first time in over 20 years, replacing a very vague system that has led to massively inappropriate developments on heritage sites, facadism which often keeps only the single front wall of a heritage building in a tokenistic way, and often many loopholes which have allowed developers to demolish heritage buildings altogether due to poor wording and an outdated grading system.

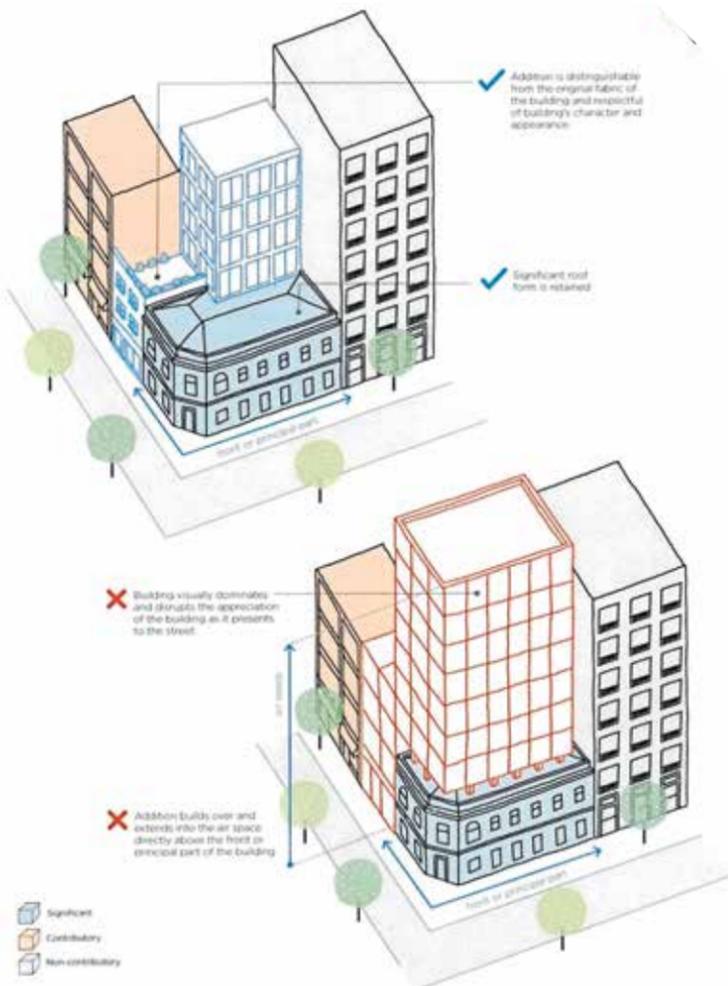
Think of the fate of the Palace Theatre, which at time of writing is now nothing more than a propped up front facade on Bourke St, an extreme facadism encouraged by the old guidelines.

Under the new guidelines we are much more likely to see good examples of heritage built on and over, but still respected, such as the Herald Sun Building on Flinders St or The Rialto Buildings on Collins St.

The guidelines now state that "significant" buildings - landmarks like the Manchester Unity Building for instance - should be retained entirely, and "contributory" buildings, like many of our smaller industrial buildings in laneway precincts, need to be retained with entire portions of at least eight metres depth, rather than just as hollow shells.

Towers build behind and above heritage buildings now also need to be properly set back from the street, with no more massive towers rising sheer above heritage facades, like with the fate of the Celtic Club on Queen St.

This is great news that should see a much better balance between the need to develop the city, and the need to keep all the best things about Melbourne and its heritage streetscapes intact, we look forward to seeing a future of innovative new design that strives for the best of both worlds, rather than tokenism and the bare minimum effort ●



Tristan Davies
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受疫情重创的商家获政府资助

由于新冠病毒(COVID-19)对地方商业的“特别的冲击”，CBD的商业将受益于州政府所宣布的2000万澳元的“救援”补助。

撰稿：David Schout

州政府在宣布其进一步的拨款时指出，这次州政府的对CBD商业支持拨款旨在帮助那些面临“对其商业环境有巨大和持续性冲击”的商业。

墨尔本市政在第二次封锁前进行的一项调查显示，由于这次疫情，约15%的商家不确定自己的未来，或将永久关闭。

墨尔本大都市区和米切尔郡(Mitchell Shire)的80000多家商业将有资格获得5000澳元的新资助。

墨尔本CBD内的中小型企业，包括Dockland 港区和Southbank区，将会得到更多的支持。

这个拨款的细节尚未公布，但是州政府主管“工业支持和恢复”部长马丁·帕库拉

(Martin Pakula) 表示，在CBD中的商业将受益更多。

他表示：“如果你属于某一种类型的商业，会有这种类型的特定补助，如果你是不同类型的商业，可能会有更高的补助……，如果你的商业属于这种类型，又是在CBD，则又会有不同的补助。”

第三阶段的封闭限制于7月9日重新实施后，通常充满活力的墨尔本市中心再次变得荒凉。与去年同期相比，行人活动减少了81%。

帕库拉表示，州政府意识到当地商业的业主面临着独特的困难。

他说：“CBD在某些方面，受到了特别的冲击，因为居家令使得人们无法上街。”

“CBD街上缺乏行人，这意味着该市中心，包括Docklands港区和Southland区的



许多商家，受到州政府限制措施的影响尤为严重。”

州政府表示，将特别关注和帮助旅游运

营商以及与夜间经济相关的商业。

帕库拉说，与夜间经济相关的商业“遭受了巨大冲击”。



涂鸦街上的酒店项目获批

撰稿：Meg Hill

墨尔本市政批准了一项具有争议的酒店开发项目，该项目位于CBD著名的涂鸦街(Hosier Lane)上。

该项目申请报告概述了这条街上现有的三层遗产建筑上将再增加八层的酒店建筑。申请公布后，市政收到了27个反对意见。

尽管市政听取了一些反对意见，也有一些议员表达了保留意见，但是7月7日举行的未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)会议上，这个1200万澳元的开发项目获得了一致（附带一些条件）的批准。

该开发项目由Parasol投资公司提交，

包括底层的细节和位于涂鸦街7-9号的36套酒店式公寓。

市政规划组合主管尼古拉斯·里斯(Nicholas Reece)议员说，他理解为什么此项目申请有争议，但还是支持修改后的申请。

里斯议员说：“我们热爱我们的雅拉河，但坦率地说，我们没有澳大利亚其他一些城市所拥有的自然资源，所以我们的巷道艺术和街道艺术是世界看待墨尔本和我们看待自己不可或缺的一部分。”

“涂鸦街是我们城市基因的一部分，城市结构的一部分，墨尔本氛围的一部分。”

“因此，毫不奇怪当这份项目申请提

交到市议会时，会引起市议员的极大关注，而这个项目建筑就在涂鸦街的正中央。”

里斯议员提到将保留拟建开发项目底部三层的传统立面，并保留其巷道艺术。

然而，他表示拟建建筑的“体积和高度的结合”将产生不利影响，需要缩小或降低。

市政在批准该开发项目时附加了一些条件，包括进一步降低附加层，进一步增加艺术或壁画，以及一些重新设计以符合下面三层遗产建筑的相应特征。

附近的市民和商业代表向市政提出了反对意见。

空置的短租房是否应该转换成经济适用房

由于COVID-19疫情，对国际和国内州际旅行的继续限制，一度繁华的中央商务区现在变成了一个鬼城。

撰稿：Katie Johnson

数以千计的短租公寓通常会被游客所租用，但现在却空置了，对于这些现在无限期空置的公寓该怎么办？

在葡萄牙里斯本，政府试图通过向房东提供激励措施来解决这个问题，鼓励他们短租房转换为当地人负担得起的长租房。在墨尔本，经济适用房问题比以往任何时候都更为紧迫，因此有可能采用这种方案。

根据该计划，里斯本的房东将他们的公寓出租给该市，租期至少为五年，而该市则通过一项针对年轻人和低收入家庭的经济适用房计划来承担寻找房客的责任。

租金也以租户净收入的30%为上限，因为由该市来补贴租户支付的租金和市场租金之间的差额。

全澳大利亚人住房组织(HAA)主管罗伯·普拉多林(Rob Pradolin)表示，里斯本计划具有“很多优点”，并且HAA目前正在与一家对类似交易感兴趣的大型房地产公司进行谈判。

普拉多林说：“我们还没有联系过墨尔本市或州政府，但很明显，如果州或市政府担保租赁，很多人会接受这种保证的收入，而不是让公寓空置。”

“居住者需要提供有关其收入的信息以确保他们有资格，但是使用空置的现有房屋是一个明智的方法。”

除了Airbnbs短租房，普拉多林还表示，该计划也可能适用于对寻求填补空置的长期租赁公寓的房东起作用，以帮助解决城市面临的住房负担危机。

这是一个特别紧迫的问题，由于COVID-19疫情限制导致的失业和旅游业的缺失，导致CBD的空置率目前约为8%，而Southbank的空置率最近达到了16%。

对于CBD的居民来说，短期租赁的缺乏监管是一个持续多年的问题，当地居民正在寻找其他的解决方案。

终止遗产建筑的立面化保护

撰稿：Sean Car

州规划部长理查德·韦恩(Richard Wynne)批准了墨尔本遗产系统现代化更新的举措，结束了这座城市对遗产建筑仅仅立面化的保护。

墨尔本市的遗产政策将得到更新，并根据规划方案修正案C258引入当代遗产分类系统，该修正案已于今年2月由市政通过，并于7月由州规划部长批准。

墨尔本市政遗产组合主管罗汉·莱珀特(Rohan Leppert)议员表示，新政策将更好地保护遗产建筑，阻止立面化的做法，所谓立面化就是只保留遗产建筑的正面外表，而其余部分则被替换。

莱珀特议员说：“我们对现有的遗产保护系统进行了现代化改造和更新，使其与当代最佳实践以及维多利亚州大多数其他市政议会使用的系统保持一致。”

“这将为社区、土地所有者和开发商提供更多的指导，更具有明确性和确定性。”

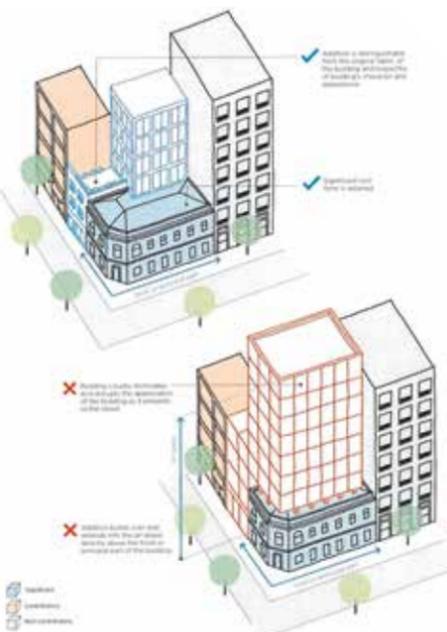
地方的遗产规划政策将进行修订，由“重要的/有作用的/没有作用的”类别制度取代原来从A到D的分级制度。

莱珀特议员说，新政策要求对任何建筑的扩建部分都要后置缩进，以保持遗产建筑的突出性。

莱珀特议员说：“我们已经看到了太多的立面化的例子，遗产建筑被掏空，只剩下了外壳。我们不想看到这种做法成为这个城市的一种风格。”

“在以前的系统中，经常会把遗产建筑里的东西归入D类，即为拆除。现在那种情况已经一去不复返了。”

“遗产保护建筑是包括一切从早期维多利亚时代的房屋和商店，到中心城市的大型商业装饰艺术建筑。”



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A bad day for all of us

WORDS BY Rhonda Dredge
BUSINESS

Values are changing swiftly in the laneways of the CBD as the second lockdown brings out a tougher streak in retailers and hospo workers forced to deal with the worsening health situation.

One café in the Treasury Gardens is offering an Over COVID Combo of banana bread and coffee to walkers still out and about.

But in the neighbourhood around Crossley St, baristas, booksellers and fashionistas are setting up a tougher click and collect aesthetic.

Gone are the days of long rants about novels in doorways or trying on vintage items at cool stores or even standing around beneath coffee windows to exchange ideas.

On July 16, Victoria reported 317 new cases and the tougher stance on browsers may never be reversed as workers become more cautious about protecting their livelihoods.

The only real inspiration to be had on this historically bad day was from a mannequin called Madam Virtue, who was standing in the middle of Crossley St in a pre-loved vintage outfit put together for the times.

In a look that owes more to Florence Nightingale than hip hop, she was wearing a chocolate brown Moschino leather skirt and Yves Saint-Laurent mini-trench coat, with a Chanel ruffle blouse, Gucci handbag and Chanel silk scarf, all for a price tag of less than \$3000.

Dresser and store manager Indigo Keane was busy taking a pic and uploading it on Instagram before rushing off home but she did have a few words to say about the new chic.

"It's for bloody Coles or at home. Where else can you wear it? I think we should get dressed up wherever we are."

Workers in the CBD are handling the crisis with their usual wit and flair, even though street life had waned to just one and Madam Virtue was the only humanoid around.

Crossley St baristas have been on the job all



▲ Barista Erin Doidge might safe in her little hideaway but she misses the freedom of New Zealand



▲ Madam Virtue in Crossley St.

week, working from a small window in the wall, and they're playing it cool about the crisis.

Barista Erin Doidge drives into the CBD from Riddells Creek, which is not under lockdown. She got the break before the second lockdown and is secretly pleased about the move to her rural hideaway.

"I'm pretty lucky," she said. "I can come to work. JobKeeper is keeping me working."

The down-to-earth New Zealander said she hadn't had any more or less chatting than normal but she does like listening to people's stories. "They're good to hear. Everyone gives you ideas."

Another barista Trei lives alone. Recently he had symptoms and got tested so he ordered \$100 worth of food from Coles to be delivered during his isolation. He was shocked to find that even individual pieces of fruit came packaged

in plastic.

"I guess I'll have to forget about the environment until after the pandemic," he reluctantly acknowledged.

Earlier during the week baristas were more sympathetic, particular with those from East Melbourne looking for consolation, but it's not an easy task for those in retail to keep up the morale of customers.

"Some people are wandering around the city in a pandemic, asking vague questions," said a woman at one of the doorways. "I don't like it."

Sales have traditionally been about making people feel welcome but now a level of impatience has entered the zeitgeist. The latest radical novels such as *Contagion* are displayed in shop windows and can be ordered without human contact.

The talk everywhere is of a tougher lockdown

and of the surplus of apartments for rent in the CBD. One resident of Spring St said an apartment on his floor was available at \$150 a week less than adjacent ones.

Has the allure gone out of Melbourne's laneway culture? One Sydneysider, who did not want to be named, found a good deal on an apartment in Flinders Lane during the first lockdown and moved in from Port Melbourne where she was sharing a house overlooking the sea.

Then she got a cold and had to be tested and the city went back into lockdown, leaving her living in the shadows. Like almost 40 per cent of residents in the CBD, she lives alone plus she's in exile from her home town.

Erin, who is from New Zealand, said she thought about home. "I'm pretty jealous of my friends. Life's got back to normal over there." ●

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