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Locals ripped off by developer bonuses

By Shane Scanlan

The state government looks set to reward developers who build commercial offices as a “defined community benefit” under new CBD planning rules.

The curiously-defined community benefit is included in a list of ways to allow developers to build bigger buildings in the CBD and Southbank.

The government revealed its new CBD planning amendment C270 on April 26. The amendment reduces the allowable floor area ratio to 18:1, down from 24:1 mandated in the current interim controls.

But developers will be able to claw this back by being awarded bonuses for providing “defined community benefits” via a floor area uplift (FAU) scheme.

The government’s prime architects of the FAU scheme, SGS Economics and Planning reported in February about the benefits of such a scheme.

SGS listed a number of obvious candidate

community benefits for a FAU scheme: Libraries, aquatic centres, art galleries, performance spaces, meeting rooms, kindergartens, social housing, open space, etc.

In setting parameters for locally relevant assets, SGS said they should be publicly owned and should “represent a permanent or long-lived enhancement of local community infrastructure”.

But between February and April the government had added to the list of defined community benefits provision of commercial office space as well as architecturally-designed buildings.

Given a choice, what developer would offer the gift of a childcare centre over the opportunity the clean up with high-yielding commercial offices?

No one has been able to say who will judge or how community benefit will be determined, but it appears it will be up to the developer to nominate what it will offer in return for FAU bonuses.

The Property Council says it wasn’t its idea, but it applauds Planning Minister Richard Wynne for the inclusion of office development on the list.

Continued page 11.

Domestic violence victims remembered

Victims of domestic violence were remembered at a candlelight vigil at Federation Square on May 6.

Organised by Safe Steps 24/7 Family Violence Response Centre, the vigial drew attention to our greatest social epidemic.

Safe Steps CEO Annette Gillespie, said: “Family violence is corroding the fabric of Australian society. The damage that it does to women’s ability to participate in everyday life is enormous.”

One in three women will experience violence at the hands of a male and two women a week are killed by a current or former partner, a statistic that has doubled since 2014.

Photo: Barry C. Douglas @barrytakesphotos



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those of the publishers.*

Like many other CBD residents, Rafael Camillo has a love/hate relationship with the city.

He loves the vibrancy and energy, but hates its diminishing amenity and, more particularly, the insensitivity and/or ignorance of the City of Melbourne's planning decision-makers.

Leaving aside the apartment boom and the associated issues of disappearing sunlight, tower separation, setbacks, privacy and the like, Rafa can speak with passion for hours about noise, exhaust fan fumes, garbage, beggars and other "on-the-ground" issues.

He feels ripped off that the City of Melbourne has, for the past couple of decades, encouraged people to make their homes in the CBD but does little to protect their quality of life.

Rafa has the misfortune to live near a 24-hour entertainment venue which can pretty much please itself how it operates. The resulting low-frequency, techno "doof" vibrates his walls. Complaints to the authorities have so far not achieved an outcome.

His building was there before the noisy venues and, adding insult to injury, he says they operate as nightclubs but can cheat the system by pretending to be art-venues or taverns by serving snacks or tapas.

What's even worse, he says, the bar owners are getting rich while residential ratepayers



Rafael Camillo ... not happy!

fund the daily clean-up of urine and vomit from the city's lanes.

"It all comes back to inadequate planning," he said. "I'm not against these-types of businesses. They are great for the city. But they are incompatible with residential living."

Mr Camillo said the City of Melbourne was diligent in pursuing and fining residents for any breach of regulation but was inclined to turn a blind eye to business breaches.

For example, he said, businesses were supposed to keep garbage within their premises and only put their bins out for collection immediately before and after an agreed time.

"They let any number of coffee shops open even if they don't have a place for their bins," he said.

And, while there are plenty of things that make him angry, the most vitriol is reserved for those who suggest he should move out if he doesn't like CBD living.

"This makes me really mad," he said. "Why should I move out? Why can't the council just do its planning properly?"

Mr Camillo is an executive member of Residents 3000 and is an active contributor to city life.

"I love living in the city, but I don't see why we have to put up with this shit," he said.

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City of Melbourne gravy train keeps rolling on

Editorial comment

Shane Scanlan



The City of Melbourne is embarking on a hiring binge, which will see another 80 staff swell its already top-heavy ranks in the coming financial year.

The bill for its 1400 staff will be \$151.6 million next year – \$12.2 million more than this year.

And an examination of its draft 2016-17 annual plan and budget reveals that ratepayers should not expect to get anything extra in return for being sluggish 5.6 per cent more next year.

The council will be taking 7.7 per cent more from residential ratepayers in 2016-17, while non-residential ratepayers can expect to pay 2.2 per cent more.

The total rate harvest will be \$257.3 million next year – \$13.6 million more than this year.

Somehow, the council has been able to spin this effort as a “modest rate increase of 2.5 per cent”.

Finance chair, Cr Stephen Mayne, said: “This is a disciplined budget that minimises the burden on ratepayers and provides the services and infrastructure appropriate for a booming capital city.”

“Our underlying cost increase in this budget is less than 2 per cent, which is expected to be below CPI. This means we have minimised the burden on the community while accommodating pressures associated with the city’s growth and the operation of new community facilities.”

The council’s spin continues throughout the draft document, specifically in what it considers to be “capital works”. While boasting a “total capital works expenditure of \$96.48 million”, a closer examination reveals some curious inclusions.

Two thirds of this figure is actually earmarked for maintenance and renewal. When addressing “new works”, it says: “For the 2016-17 year, \$19.15 million will be expended on new works. The more significant projects include, climate adaption urban landscapes (\$2.66 million), bicycle improvement program (\$1.56 million), green your laneway pilot projects (\$1.30 million), new flood mitigation works (\$1.00 million), implementation of Docklands community and place plan (\$1.00 million), Christmas Festival new decorations (\$0.60 million) and road safety program (\$0.56 million).”

Not surprisingly, the council does not draw attention to a \$13.2 million IT spend, which is also lists under its works program. And the spending doesn’t stop next year.

The council has flagged spending an extra \$14.8 million on IT in 2017/18, \$15.1 million more in 2018/19 and \$8.5 million in 2019/20.

It hasn’t said why it thinks it needs to spend in excess of \$50 million on IT. But, if the council was an organisation that concerned itself with internal efficiencies, it could be presumed that such a spend might result in staff savings down the track.

However, the city wants both the big IT spend as well as more staff in the future. Its

four-year plan predicts it will spend \$173 million to employ 1443 people by 2019/20.

In my view, the council didn’t need to raise the rate burden at all for 2016/17. With more than 5000 new properties coming on stream, it was destined for a \$6.52 million windfall based on projected building completions.

Unlike outer-fringe municipalities, the City of Melbourne is not required to provide costly infrastructure for these new (mostly) apartments. It’s a legacy of its prime location – a gift.

It doesn’t need to employ 80 new staff and it doesn’t need to budget for a \$15 million surplus. The fact that it has a \$320 million investment portfolio illustrates its vastly inappropriate wealth.

If the council was focused on investing its wealth in community outcomes, it would be a completely different story.

But the underlying story about the City of Melbourne is that it is a big, fat job creation program. Councillors have limited opportunity to influence this juggernaut.

Some 167 officers are on salaries of more than \$136,000, with directors being paid more than \$300,000 and the chief executive officer on \$460,000.

When I look at the City of Melbourne, I see a club run by a handful of obscenely-paid career bureaucrats who can’t believe how good they have it and are determined to keep it that way.

The council will be accepting submissions on its draft plan until June 3.

The document will go before the Future Melbourne Committee for endorsement on June 16.

Revaluations show property heat to the north of CBD

As development sites become harder to find in the CBD, land value to the north of the city is increasing faster than anywhere in the municipality.

The City of Melbourne’s draft annual plan and budget for next financial year shows that Kensington has been the hot spot for residential property increases in the last two years, followed closely by North Melbourne and Carlton.

Land was revalued this year for the purposes of determining how much the council will slug ratepayers over the next years until the next revaluation.

The council believes the total value of property within the municipality is \$41.7 billion.

Rateable net annual value (NAV) increased 10.4 per cent for Kensington residences between 2014 and 2016. In North Melbourne, the increase was 7.9 per cent, while Carlton experienced a 7.2 per cent increase in the value of residential property. In West Melbourne, the uplift was estimated at 6 per cent.

But the increase in residential property valuations were eclipsed by the increasing value of commercial property within the City of Melbourne.

Non-residential property in Docklands topped the table for higher values, increasing 13.8 per cent.

Commercial property increased in value consistently more than residential property across the municipality, except in Parkville, where it only increased 2.8 per cent compared with a 3.8 per cent uplift in the value of residential properties.



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Traders fear market decline is terminal

By Shane Scanlan

Generational businesses are walking away from the Queen Victoria Market (QVM), accusing the City of Melbourne of duplicity and bad faith.

They believe the council is deliberately killing the market and their businesses to ensure no compensation is payable under a redeveloped model, which does not include them.

They say that some businesses, which a few years ago were worth up to \$1 million, are now worthless because of high levels of vacancy and that this suits the council's ambition to gentrify and downsize the iconic open-air venue.

Storage facilities operators Ben and Ryan Moulton and Hanan Mark blame Lord Mayor Robert Doyle who, they say, has deliberately misconstrued a plea they made for help about five years ago.

"Our problems related to the way the market was being run and promoted," Mr Mark said. "The management was destroying the place. They have no retail experience, no business plan and no idea how to run a market. Walk through and see for yourself."

Mr Mark said their invitation for council intervention had backfired horribly and it now appeared apparent that "old school" traders were not part of the vision for a redeveloped market.

"Doyle despises this market. He told us that the only people who shop at the market are a bunch of bogans," Ben Moulton said.

The traders acknowledge that retail



Terry and Betty Jennings ... hanging on despite complaints about management.

consumer taste had evolved over time but sound market management was all that was required to fix their problems.

"Out-dated, restrictive licence practices affecting our competitiveness are not the answer. We hope that our new CEO, who has marketing retail experience, will be given free reign," Mr Mark said.

"Now we've got an imaginary figure of \$250 million redevelopment proposal which will result in a smaller market which will limit the number of family businesses."

Ryan Moulton said: "Look what we've got here. The biggest open-air market in the southern hemisphere. It doesn't need \$250 million to fix this."

Queen Victoria Market Advisory Committee trader representative Greg Smith takes a contrary view. Mr Smith said the market's problems were widely acknowledged but a good outcome was only going to be derived by traders and management working together.

He said the request to Cr Doyle was that the millions of dollars being remitted to the City of Melbourne each year be re-invested in the future of the market.

"Since then the council has decided to put the rents it collects back into the renewal fund," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the major reason for the decline of the market was a global retail revolution as well as a recession in the sector.

"It's unfair to lay the blame for the decline of the market at the feet of management or the City of Melbourne," he said. Mr Smith did admit, however, that the change in council's attitude had come too late.

He also said he had not detected any intention to move the focus of the market

away from small businesses.

Terry and Betty Jennings, however, say that bad management has ruined the market.

"It's a disaster," Mr Jennings said. "It used to be completely full and there was a list of 50 or 60 casuals in case one the permanents couldn't come in."

Mr Jennings said stall-holders leaving the market was now a weekly occurrence.

Mr Mark estimated that 131 stalls were vacant on Tuesdays, 146 were empty on Thursdays, 221 on Fridays and the weekends were even worse when up to 200 stalls could be unoccupied.

He said leases were only offered for 12 months and market management was unnecessarily prescriptive about what could be sold and where.

One trader who spoke anonymously for fear of reprisals said management sought to reduce competition amongst stall-holders.

"We want competition. It's competition which brings people here. It's what this place is all about," she said.

The traders are also resentful that their fees are used to advertise and subsidise the annual night-markets.

The City of Melbourne spokesperson said: "Renewal of the Queen Victoria Market precinct will help secure a long-term future for market trading and continue to provide a supportive environment for small business."

"We understand that there are many and varied views about the future of the market and we are working closely with all operators."

"The vast majority of traders and operators support the redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Market precinct and are well aware that we are working to improve the trader, customer and visitor experience through this project. The City of Melbourne and QVM management are committed to a strong, vibrant and attractive market now and into the future. Improvements to storage are among planned upgrades to trader facilities."



Hanan Marks, Ryan Moulton and Daniel Moulton ... they believe the City of Melbourne is trying to kill the market.

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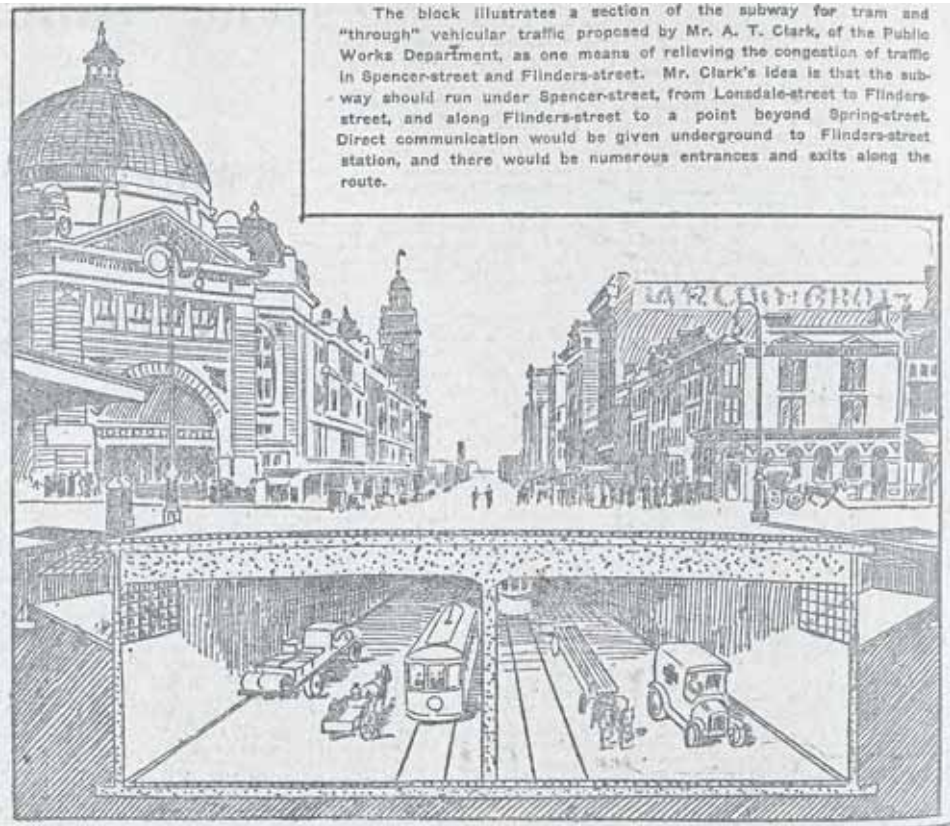
There's no such thing as a new idea. This image from "The Age" of June 6, 1918 shows that the current generation is not the first to want to move commuters underground.

The caption reads: "This block illustrates a section of subway for tram and 'through' vehicular traffic proposed by Mr A.T. Clark, of the Public Works Department, as one means of relieving the congestion of traffic in Spencer St and Flinders St."

"Mr Clark's idea is that the subway should run under Spencer St, from Lonsdale St to Flinders St to a point beyond Spring St. Direct communication would be given underground to Flinders Street Station, and there would be numerous entrances and exits along the route."

The illustration is one of many exhibits on display as part of the *A History of the Future: Imagining Melbourne* exhibition at the City Gallery at the front of Melbourne Town Hall in Swanston St.

Curator Clare Williamson has compiled an exhibition of building plans, underground roads and public art projects proposed by city planners, architects, artists and writers over the last 180 years that would have changed the city and how we engage with it.



The exhibition also features a 14-metre long panoramic wall drawing by artist Lewis Brownlie whose imagined Melbourne's cityscape brings some of these dreams and schemes to life.

Ms Williamson said the exhibition contained food for thought for anyone interested in Melbourne's past, present and future.

"In recent years, Melbourne has been transformed, not by towering landmarks, dramatic demolitions or elevated walkways, but by subtle adjustments to the fine grain of its urban fabric," Clare said.

The exhibition is open until Friday, August 12. For more information see www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citygallery

State's short-stay solution

The state government has passed responsibility for policing short-stay apartment operators to residential neighbours.

Under new laws, it will be up to neighbours to take the owners of problem apartments and their guests to VCAT.

Consumer Affairs Minister Jane Garrett says VCAT would also have new powers to award compensation of up to \$2000 to neighbours and ban apartments which are repeatedly used for unruly parties.

Guests could face fines of up to \$1100 for a range of conduct breaches.

The Watergate test case on the legality of short-stay apartments returned to the Supreme Court on May 18 and 19.

Lawyers representing the Watergate owners' corporation (OC) and Docklands Executive Apartments argued about VCAT member Linda Rowland's decision last June that OCs did not have the power to make rules limiting the length of stay.

The two-day hearing heard technical arguments for and against the ruling.

Justice Peter Riordan actively questioned both sides throughout. His decision is expected to take some months.

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What to do about homelessness?



By Cr Richard Foster
Chair, City of Melbourne
people portfolio

I celebrated when Melbourne topped the liveability rankings again in 2015, achieving top points from The Economist Intelligence Unit (ECIU).

In short, it's designed to tell global corporates where to base their international offices. This is incredibly important to Melbourne but let's not forget that winning the title does not of itself make Melbourne liveable for everyone.

The ECIU does not judge cities on how they treat the aged, the disabled, the poor, the homeless, so we have to wonder what the results would be like if they did.

The issue of homelessness is a complex one, but not so complex that we can't try to understand some of its most common causes and effects. I'll be brief.

The leading causes of homelessness



Photo: Barry C. Douglas @barrytakesphotos

are inadequately treated mental illness, drug and alcohol issues and domestic violence. Government resources in all these areas are sadly lacking, although the state government's response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence will now increase support for victims.

One of the myths about homelessness is that all beggars are aggressive and raking in hundreds of dollars a day. It's just not true. Sure, there are a small number of "professional" beggars just as a small number of them can be aggressive, but sensible Melburnians know they are a very small minority. To be clear, both these issues can, and should be, dealt with by police.

The stories I hear daily about those sleeping rough are confronting and distressing. I know of children as young as 10 who have been sleeping rough. I know of abhorrent physical abuse perpetrated on rough sleepers nightly. It is not something we can afford to ignore.

I know the visuality of the homeless problem is a bad look for Melbourne. It's bad for business and it can be bad for residential amenity. I agree that we must act.

The number of rough sleepers in Melbourne is not as low as the Lord Mayor claimed in his *Herald Sun* opinion piece on May 12. According to the last City of Melbourne street count, it's 142 and this was 50 per cent

higher than the previous count two years earlier.

With the next street count due in just a couple of months, I don't think we have any reason to suspect that the number has declined. But some local solutions are within our grasp.

To do nothing but seemingly endless media opportunities on the issue puts Melbourne into neutral, and possibly even into reverse. It also fails Melbourne's rough sleepers, the businesses who rely on Melbourne's image as a truly liveable city, our residents and visitors to the city we all love. The arms-in-the-air stagnation, saying that the problem is just too hard is failing us all.

This is a problem that we can't arrest our way out of and recent police operations also aren't as successful as the Lord Mayor claims. I'm told that 19 out of 26 alleged beggars either failed to attend court or failed to engage with service providers in the last operation. There are no shortage of examples of how the justice system is not the mechanism to treat social problems, so here is another one.

The welfare sector agrees that a local response to homelessness should be a commitment to crisis accommodation as well as medium and long-term transitional accommodation. Resources for long-term casework to back this up are also crucial to address an individual's cause of homelessness, we know that broad brush strokes just don't work.

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Councillors prepare for battle on Western Distributor

Melbourne councillors are finding voice to discredit the proposed Western Distributor road project.

At their meeting on May 17, councillors were scathing in their assessment of the damage the road would inflict on the city.

They were also upset that their officers found at least five things to like about the project.

Transport chair Cathy Oke said the project had no benefits at all.

"The impacts to the City of Melbourne are huge and this project is somewhat ridiculous," Cr Oke said. "We're not seeking to have more cars coming into the City of Melbourne at all. I can't see how this project aligns with what we are seeking to achieve."

Cr Rohan Leppert noted that the council and the state government were diametrically opposed in their positions.

"By my reading, our strategy calls for a decrease in car trips by 160,000 by 2030 and the Western Distributor plans for an increase in car trips to the CBD from Footscray and Dynon roads alone of 30,000," Cr Leppert said.

Councillors were debating how to respond to a council-management prepared document which concluded: "The main anticipated effects are the potential negative impact on land through the creation of demand for car parking and storage in the central city; on public amenity and safety due to increased numbers of cars in the city, particularly in streets and areas not designed to absorb the increased traffic and where there are significant numbers of vulnerable road users; greater traffic noise; air pollution; potentially undermining conditions for walking, cycling and public transport and possible impacts on the public realm such as trees."

Cr Arron Wood said: "At first glance, having a huge freeway project coming into the doorstep of the world's most liveable city isn't looking good for us so far."

He said he looked forward to officers speaking with the government and Transurban about ways to best mitigate the effects on the project.

Cr Wood acknowledged the desire to remove trucks from local roads in the western suburbs, but said the issue should be considered a freight problem.

"It should be solved as a freight issue and not cobbling together another freeway which

essentially dumps a whole heap of traffic on the doorstep of Melbourne."

Cr Ken Ong advocated not speaking with the government at all.

"Our transport policy is totally ignored by the project," he said. "This opportunistic proposal by Transurban on a West-East approach only benefits Transurban. It actually doesn't benefit the city at all."

"Why should we work with a government on a project that's not even a stated policy before the last elections? It's a terrible project. It's got all these negatives, but we want to work with them to get a better outcome? A better outcome for the city will probably not be a better outcome for Transurban. So what do you think is going to happen? We'll be pissing in the wind."

"In my view, we should tell the government 'sorry, we don't actually support this and we just don't want to work with you.'"

Cr Wood and Cr Jackie Watts both said the council had been in a similar position with the ill-fated East West Link proposal.

"We do feel like we've been down this path before with a certain other road. And we do advocate strongly that public transport is the best way to move mass commuters around," Cr Wood said.



Charity muggers

By Jack Hayes

Donating for charity is supposed to be an act of kindness and compassion, however a new breed of overly aggressive and incredibly intrusive "charity muggers" are plaguing the streets of Melbourne.

It has been reported that about 85 per cent of all first year donations end up in the accounts of recruitment companies, hired by charities, to employ the muggers.

According to a City of Melbourne spokesperson, complaints about street fundraising increased from 25 and 26 in 2013 and 2014 respectively, to 31 in 2015 – a roughly 20 per cent increase.

The most common complaints received were passers-by feeling harassed as they walked past, a perception that there are too many fundraising activities and in wrong locations and businesses claiming that fundraisers put their customers off.

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Public to reclaim their library

By Ellen Hill

The State Library of Victoria will get an \$83 million facelift, including the restoration of the historic Queens Hall.

Staged over five years, the project is expected to open a further 40 per cent of the building to the public.

The State Government has committed \$55.4 million to the project, with the library to raise the remaining funds through philanthropic donations.

The project will see Queens Hall reopen for the first time in more than 12 years.

It will be returned to its former glory as a reading room, with part of the renovation

involving opening skylights to flood the hall with natural light.

The redevelopment will also reopen the Russell St entrance to the public, create new exhibition spaces, education facilities and a rooftop garden terrace.

A consortium of international architects has been selected to undertake the project.

Multi-award winning Australasian design firm Architectus will collaborate with Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects, one of Scandinavia's most recognised architectural practices, to transform the building.

Creative Industries Minister Martin Foley said the redevelopment would improve the library for all Victorians.

"Our State Library is a centre of knowledge, inspiration and innovation. It's also Australia's oldest and most used public library," Mr Foley said.



Spencer St assault

Police want to hear from anyone who witnessed an assault outside a Spencer St bar at 1.45 am on March 24.

They say two men were involved in the incident and became aggressive after being refused re-entry to the premises.

One of the men punched one of the crowd controllers working for the venue, with the victim falling back and knocking his head against a wall.

The two men fled on foot and are believed to have moved south down Spencer St and then east along Flinders St.

One of the men is described as being of a slim build, in his early 20s and potentially of German background. He was wearing a blue cap, white shirt, a satchel bag and jeans. The other man was dressed in jeans and a blue jumper.

Anyone with information is urged to contact crime stoppers on **1800 333 000**.

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Conflict of interest debate heats up

The debate among Melbourne city councillors on conflict of interest reached new levels last month with accusations and counter-accusations flying.

Responding on May 17 to a motion from Cr Jackie Watts calling on councillors to refuse donations from the property, alcohol, gambling and tobacco industries, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle called out Cr Watts’ own record.

Implying hypocrisy, Cr Doyle connected Cr Watts to the very industries she suggested councillors should avoid donations from.

“There is an old saying in the law: If you are going to come to equity, come with clean hands,” Cr Doyle said.

“Cr Watts was funded in her election campaign by Gary Morgan or, more accurately, Roy Morgan Research. A simple internet search shows you that Roy Morgan Research, Cr Watts’ principal financial backer, has a large number of clients in each of those industries.”

“On gambling, their website says: Our gambling research sets the industry standard for consumer participation via poker machines, casino tables, wagering, sports betting, lotteries, scratchies and online gambling.”

“To the tobacco and alcohol industry, their website says they are an ‘invaluable resource for your market review, strategic planning,

advertising market campaign development and management reports.”

“A few examples of reports that Roy Morgan has produced: *Roll Your Own – Smokers’ Profile, Factory Made Cigarette Smokers’ Profile, Alcohol Currency Retail Report, Betters’ Profile, Club, Bar, Hotel, Poker Machine Players’ Profile.*”

“I’ve heard Gary Morgan and his CEO personally pitch their services to property developers.”

Team Doyle councillors and Cr Ken Ong have excluded themselves from participation many times since the 2012 election after declaring a conflict arising from electoral donations. It has often resulted in loss of quorum. But Cr Doyle argues that this practice, in fact, prevents conflicted councillors from influencing voting outcomes.

“This all goes to conflict of interest,” he said. “I’m a little confused about how you can argue that donations influence you when, in fact, they actually exclude you from considerations and voting. They do exactly the opposite, so I don’t get that argument.”

He said there had been a lot of scrutiny of donations made to his team and he wished

that the team that Cr Watts was part of was similarly scrutinised.

“The Morgan/Elliot Team, which included Cr Watts, and Michael Kennedy, who submitted to us on this matter, all submitted completely different election campaign donation returns,” he said.

“Gary Morgan’s return shows that his company, (not him personally) donated \$65, 588. Cr Watts’ return notes a donation from Gary Morgan but doesn’t list his company in the correct way and differs from Gary Morgan’s description despite adding up to the same amount.”

“Michael Kennedy, who was on the same team, declared \$500. John Elliot declared he’d received nothing, despite him being the deputy lord mayoral candidate on that ticket.”

On Cr Watts’ motion, Cr Doyle said: “I can’t support such a confused, muddled approach when the statutory obligations weren’t even met by her own ticket.”

Cr Arron Wood said he was “riled” that the motion appeared to be directed against Team Doyle councillors.

“I see this as a waged campaign in an

election year of constantly whacking the lord mayor and, indeed, Team Doyle,” Cr Wood said.

“It’s a vicious campaign that is constantly getting in the way of the real business of council. Week in, week out we have to put up with this crap.”

Cr Ken Ong accused Cr Watts of “political posturing”. “We have so many of these useless notices of motion,” Cr Ong said.

Cr Watts responded: “Goodness me, what a performance.”

“I’m bringing this motion in good faith in response to concerns the community has about this unacceptable level of conflict that has occurred on this council.”

“All we can do is step up and show some integrity. You accuse me of posturing? I say look at yourselves,” she said.

“The hysteria with which this motion has been greeted is a concern in itself.”

"Let’s just stop the hysteria and vote shall we?"

The motion was lost with councillors Leppert, Oke, Foster and Watts voting for it and councillors Doyle, Louey, Ong, Pinder-Mortimer and Wood voting against it.

MELBOURNE METRO

ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT 2016

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

The \$10.9 billion Metro Tunnel includes a new cross-city rail tunnel and five new underground stations. It will free up space in the City Loop, allowing more trains to run in and out of the city.

The project’s Environment Effects Statement is on exhibition from 25 May – 6 July 2016, and public submissions are invited during this period. Want to find out more? Come along to an information session to learn about Melbourne Metro.

Wednesday 1 June, 5-8pm: State Library of Victoria, Experimedia Room, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Thursday 2 June, 11am-2pm: University of Melbourne, Alan Gilbert Building, Room G20, 161 Barry Street, Carlton

Thursday 2 June, 5-8pm: Rydges on Swanston, 701 Swanston Street, Carlton

Saturday 4 June, 1-4pm: Kensington Recreation Centre, cnr Kensington Rd & Altona St, Kensington

Tuesday 7 June, 5-8pm: Punthill, 7 Yarra Street, South Yarra

Thursday 9 June, 5-8pm: Lithuanian Club, 44 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Wednesday 15 June, 5-8pm: Seasons Botanic Gardens, 348 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Saturday 18 June, 11am-2pm: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Tuesday 21 June, 11am-2pm: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Friday 24 June, 5-8pm: Kensington Recreation Centre, cnr Kensington Rd & Altona St, Kensington

Saturday 25 June, 11am-2pm: Punthill, 7 Yarra Street, South Yarra

Tuesday 28 June, 5-8pm: Seasons Botanic Gardens, 348 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

To find out more about Melbourne Metro and register for future updates:

-  melbournemetro.vic.gov.au
-  1800 551 927
-  @melbournemetro
-  Melbourne Metro Rail Authority
-  facebook.com/metrotunnel



Council support for pokie venue

The Mail Exchange Hotel is likely to be granted extra trading time from 1am until 3am, following support from the Melbourne City Council on May 3.

At its Future Melbourne Committee, councillors voted six to four to supply a letter supporting the hotel's application to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation.

Councillors who supported the application relied on planning regulations to justify their position. But those opposed predicted more misery would be caused by poker machine addiction.

Voting to support the application were councillors Doyle, Riley, Ong, Wood, Pinder-Mortimer and Louey. Voting against were councillors Leppert, Oke, Mayne and Foster.

Planning chair Cr Ken Ong said: "Council has had issues with gaming and this extra two hours means more gaming but, purely from a planning perspective, it ticks all the boxes and complies with the regulations."

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle concurred, adding: "In becoming a 24 hour city, particularly with 24 hour public transport on the weekends, we need to normalise the city and this is one of the changes that I think will do that - to make 2am to feel more like 11pm."

This view was further supported by Cr Arron Wood, who said: "We've got a planning decision which fits all the planning rules. For me, that's what this is all about."

But deputy planning chair Rohan Leppert

said council was not bound to make a decision on planning grounds.

"This is not a normal planning application. Council is able to express an opinion without reference to any policy," Cr Leppert said.

"We should have an electronic gaming machines policy coming back to us soon but we are entitled in this place, at this time, to express our opinions. My opinion is that I do not want to intensify access to gaming machines in this particular venue in this particular time," he said.

Cr Stephen Mayne said he could not, in conscience, support the extension.

"I guess the broader context here is that Australians lose more per capita from gambling than any other people in the world and the majority of that is from poker machines," he said.

Locals ripped off by developer bonuses

From page 1

CBD News asked the Minister's advisers and spokespersons how offices and architecturally-designed buildings ended up on the list of defined community benefits but did not receive a response.

Submissions on the C270 amendment close on May 30, but people will be able to submit to the panel hearing process, which starts on July 11. Mr Wynne is aiming to make the amendment law by September - at the same time as the introduction of a complementary set of new apartment design standards.

And local residents shouldn't look to the City of Melbourne for help in this area.

Firstly, the city is yet to appreciate that 33,000 people live within the Hoddle Grid and has no meaningful program to deliver badly-needed community infrastructure anyway.

When researching for appropriate potential examples of CBD community infrastructure, SGS found the council wants to replace the City Library in Flinders Lane, but had little ambition beyond that.

Secondly, the council is more concerned about who makes the decisions rather than how community benefit should be defined.

In a woefully inadequate submission (fewer than 1000 words, and addressing just three matters), the council outlined its concern that the FLA uplift bonus scheme "has the potential for these decisions to be developer driven or with a significant element of developer discretion".

The paucity of the council's response was not lost on deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert who told the May 17 Future Melbourne Committee meeting he found it "interesting" that the council was submitting just three pages.

Cr Leppert said: "This is, I think, the single most significant planning scheme amendment that we will be considering in this term of council in terms of its scope and what it will mean in terms of our municipality."

Planning chair Ken Ong wanted to ensure that small contributions could be pooled to allow for more significant projects.

Questioned by CBD News, Cr Ong said he would not consider spending contributions from CBD or Southbank developers in other parts of the municipality.

STREET LIFE



5.30 pm. Bourke St Mall. Photo by Barry C. Douglas @BarryTakesPhotos.com

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LUNCH TIME

AFTER WORK

THE WEEKEND



WITH JACQUI MOCEK

lifestyle@cbdnews.com.au
To be featured in this section call
8689 7980



LUNCH TIME

A ROYAL LUNCHTIME

Take shelter from the wintery weather and frenetic lunchtime foot-traffic in the historic Royal Arcade.

The Royal Arcade was the first arcade in Melbourne and is the oldest in Australia. Designed by Charles Webb, construction of the arcade started in June 1869 and was completed in May the following year. The arcade joins Little Collins, Elizabeth and Bourke streets, with entrances at each.

Start your visit to the Royal Arcade with a baguette at Caff  e Torta, the cosy cucina with plenty of Italian charm. After the eating part of lunchtime is out of the way, follow the checkerboard tiles further into the arcade and peruse the assorted retail and services outlets, beginning at high-end jewellers Canturi and making your way around the corner to grooming specialists Men's Biz and Miss Brow Bar.

Along the way, step into Somewhere boutique to indulge in some Nordic-inspired retail therapy and check out Woodstock Melbourne for the latest in men's international fashion. Be sure to head downstairs to the basement, where there are vintage treasures abound at the Brotherhood of St Laurence CBD store - a hidden gem that you won't be able to stay away from once you've found it. Habbot, an Australian-designed and Italian-made footwear boutique, and Silkstore, a specialist silk merchant, are also worth a visit.

If shopping for others is the task at hand, there are gift options to suit all ages and interests. Lifestyle boutique Hill and Dale stock a range of well-priced clothing and accessories, including gorgeous silk flowers.

The Melbourne Store is full of (Melbourne themed) Australian made gifts, souvenirs and decorations, and Mu Shop is perfect for distinctive and affordable trinkets and accessories.

Look no further than Koko Black or Chocamama for those who are partial to a sweet treat, and The Little Royal's macarons would be a regal addition to any morning or afternoon tea.

Jasper Junior is the place to visit for the little people in your life, with a great range of modern and educational toys. And if you're shopping for something out-of-the-ordinary, try a mystical potion or crystal from Spell Box.

Order a flat white to-go from Padre coffee on your way back to work and perhaps something sweet if you're anticipating a case of three-thirty-itis later in the day. The treats are from Don't Tell Charles and are definitely worth talking about.

On your way out, with coffee in hand, stop for a look-see in Babushkas. With so many sets of (large to small) smiling faces in the window, this corner shop is hard to miss. As you might've guessed, Babushkas specialises in Russian nesting dolls, called matryoshkas but fondly referred to as babushka dolls.



(Babushka is actually the Russian word for grandmother.) Matryoshkas of varying sizes fill every available surface of the shop and come in a range of designs, including a celebrity collection. Friends of die-hard Harry Potter fans take note!

Layer up before you step back onto the brisk and bustling CBD street, content with the knowledge that there is plenty more to explore next lunchtime at the Royal Arcade.

Royal Arcade is located at 335 Bourke St. Visit www.royalarcade.com.au for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS



Brooches at Erika

Let it snow! A winter wonderland of brooches to add a little sparkle to your wardrobe, available in store and online now at Erika.

437 Little Collins St, 9642 5911
www.erikaboutique.com.au



I Like Pretty Things

Leah Marie Mariani's exhibition explores modern society's obsession with women as beautiful objects through a series of provocative mixed media works on paper.

Open 8am - 7.45pm, Thursday, June 2 until Wednesday, June 29. City Library, 253 Flinders Lane, free, www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/libraries/whats-on



Organ-ic Lunch

Catch lunch over an organ concerto at this free farewell concert for organist Anthony Halliday before he jets off for a European summer.

1pm - 2pm, Wednesday, June 1.
Melbourne Town Hall, free, www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/grandorgan



Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Fundraising Lunch

The annual fundraising event for the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliaries, the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Luncheon seeks to support nursing development at the hospital.

11.30am - 2.30pm, Friday, June 3. RACV City Club, 501 Bourke St, tickets \$125, email laurel-leigh.lawson@rch.org.au



Her Place

Celebrate the achievements of nine inspiring women who have influenced Australia's social, cultural and economic story at Her Place, a Women's Museum pop-up exhibition.

Open 10am - 5pm, until Friday, June 3. Town Hall Room, Melbourne Town Hall, free, www.herplacemuseum.com



Exploration 16

Visit Flinders Lane Gallery's annual showcase of emerging artists, featuring thought-provoking works across a range of mediums, most of which have never been exhibited commercially.

Open 11am - 6pm, Tuesday to Saturday, from June 1 until June 18. Flinders Lane Gallery, free, www.flg.com.au



JAZZ IN THE CITY

The Melbourne International Jazz Festival returns this month and is set to electrify the city with a repertoire of local and international jazz greats.

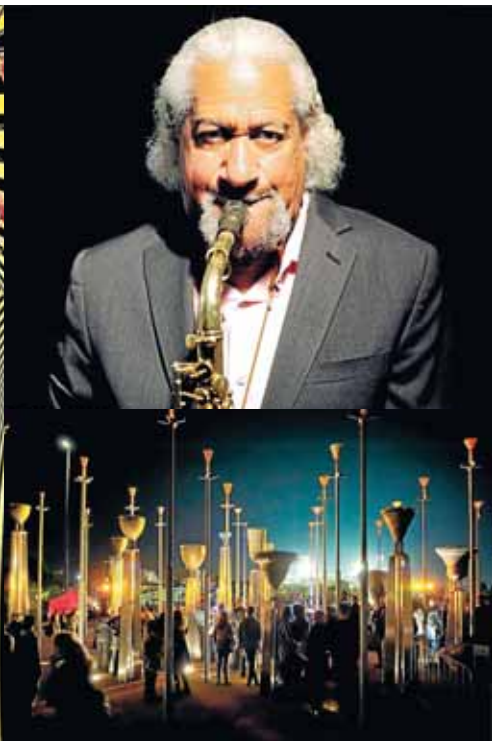
The festival is a world-class jazz presentation that provides a platform for performance, collaboration, education and engagement, encompassing both established and emerging artists. The extensive program attracts both young and old, from aficionados to novices and aims to increase the scope of the global jazz community.

Celebrating jazz as a fluid art form, the festival brings together golden-age greats and progressive new-age artists in the same program. It is a rare opportunity to experience the entire spectrum of modern-day jazz and hear some exciting collaborations.

The 2016 festival will run from Friday, June 3 to Sunday, June 12.

PROGRAM

The 2016 program is grouped into series – Modern Masters, Explorations in Jazz, Club Sessions, and Jazz Out West. A swag of international and local artists will be performing and there will be late-night jams, workshops, family events and free concerts. The schedule is extensive with a number of conflicting performances so it will pay to be organised. Make a shortlist and diarise



accordingly!

Performances and events will be held at a range of venues throughout the CBD and surrounds, including ArtPlay at Birrarung Marr, Federation Square Main Stage and Federation Bells, QVM and St James retail precincts and Bennetts Lane Jazz Club.

Drink and Dine

Make a night of it and grab a pre-theatre dinner beforehand or post-show cocktail

afterwards. There are a selection of restaurants and bars offering discounts for patrons during the festival. Our favourites are:

Burma Lane, 118 Little Collins St

This Burmese favourite has a pre-theatre/ dinner banquet available from \$29.50 per head and is offering a complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink on presentation of MIJF show ticket for the same evening.

Meat Fish Wine, 31 Artemis Lane

Seasonally driven and farm-to-table inspired, Meat Fish Wine in the QV precinct is offering a pre-theatre banquet from \$39 per head with a complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink on presentation of MIJF show ticket for the same evening.

The Moat Bar and Café, 176 Little Lonsdale St

The all-day European restaurant is offering a complimentary glass of wine with dinner on presentation of MIJF show ticket for the same evening.

TICKETING

There are a number of free events to take advantage of during the festival, most notably Los Cabrones at the Winter Night Market on June 8, otherwise ticket prices range from \$25 to \$120. If you're finding it difficult narrowing down the shortlist, it may be worthwhile booking a jazz package. You can save up to 20 per cent when booking multiple shows, however this deal is only applicable to a selection of 13 shows. Visit www.melbournejazz.com for more information and to book tickets

Indulge in the smooth tunes of one (or more) of the top international musicians in town for the festival or check out some of the local emerging talent. Either or, be sure to get out and about and enjoy the festival that will have all of Melbourne in a soulful trance this month.

HIGHLIGHTS



Melbourne Cabaret Festival Fringe

The Cabaret Festival Fringe will bring a range of seductive and soulful shows to the Butterfly Club this month, presented alongside the Melbourne Cabaret Festival.

Tuesday, June 14 until Sunday, June 26.
The Butterfly Club, 5 Carson Place, www.thebutterflyclub.com



Stand-Up and Be Counted

Comic and writer Toby Halligan is hosting a night of comedy designed to cure all cases of electoral dysfunction, pulling apart the antics of Canberra's finest.

7.30pm - 9pm, Thursday, June 30.
Athanaeum Theatre, 188 Collins St, tickets \$20, www.wheelercentre.com/events



Environment Day Awards

The UNAA World Environment Day Awards will bring together government ministers, industry members, UN representatives and environment leaders to celebrate the 2016 award recipients.

6.30pm - 10.30pm, Monday, June 6.
Zinc, Federation Square, tickets \$130 - \$180, www.unaavictoria.org.au



Winter Night Market

The Winter Night Market returns to QVM this month, bringing together the best of Melbourne's foodies, markers and entertainers every Wednesday night.

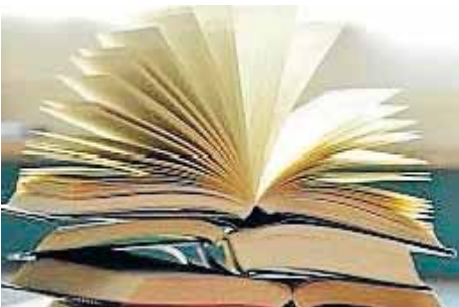
5pm - 10pm, Wednesday, from June 1 until August 31.
Queen Victoria Market, free, www.qvm.com.au



Take it from Me

Presented by The Wheeler Centre, Take it from Me is an opportunity for those lost-in-love to anonymously submit their romantic quandaries for panellists to offer (comical) ill-informed advice!

6.30pm - 7.30pm, Monday, June 27
The Toff in Town, 252 Swanston St, tickets \$10 www.wheelercentre.com/events



Introducing Teddy, The Transgender Bear

Jess Walton, author of Introducing Teddy, The Transgender Bear, discusses transgender issues and the need for gender diverse books for young readers with Sally Goldner.

6.15pm - 7.15pm, Thursday, June 2.
The Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale, free, www.wheelercentre.com/events



THE WEEKEND

NORTH SOUTH FEAST WEST

The Immigration Museum has played host to a feast of culture over the past year, bringing together migrant cuisine and culture through its innovative North South Feast West program.

The ongoing program, launched in January of 2015, has seen a number of food festivals take over the museum's courtyard focusing on the intrinsic collaboration of food and culture. The program is based on the idea that, just as migrants come from all over the world to Melbourne, so too do their traditions and cuisines. A number of one-day festivals and workshops have made up the North South Feast West season, each dedicated to a different food.

There have been festivals focussed on chocolate, chilli and coffee and tastings of Japanese sake and Belgian beer, in amongst cocktail and Mexican Day of the Dead workshops. These events brought together social enterprise with local vendors and migrant communities, sharing and communicating through the exchange of food.

In addition to festivals and workshops, the program also included a Friday Night Cantina over the summer period. The cantina, presented in association with PBS FM, featured a bar and food pop-ups set to



the beats of a line-up of DJs.

Next on the agenda for the North South Feast West program will be a special Brew Fest held in the courtyard on Sunday, June 19. The Brew Fest event will bring together ancient infusions and contemporary concoctions in an aim to "extract the flavours of the world". Visitors will be able to explore the origins of traditional beverages from

around the world through tastings and talks by stallholders from various cultural backgrounds.

The North South Feast West program runs alongside a number of dedicated and daily exhibitions currently showing at the museum. Special exhibitions currently showing include Vietnamese in Australia, which takes an in-depth look at the

migration story of Australia's first wave of Vietnamese migrants, 40 years on from resettlement and explores the concept of cultural identity from the perspective of young Vietnamese-Australians; and From Volcanoes we Sailed, which celebrates the Aeolian community of Victoria, a migrant group hailing from the volcanic archipelago of the Mediterranean.

There is also a highlights tour run daily by Immigration Museum staff, set in Old Customs House in Flinders St. The tour is a great way to see the best of the museum and discover unheard migration stories. Be sure to call ahead to confirm, as tours are subject to change and cancellation. Group bookings are essential.

The Immigration Museum is an autism-friendly museum, sharing social scripts on their website that are designed to assist families and teachers who are visiting with children on the autism spectrum. The scripts include photographs to show children what they will encounter during a visit to the Immigration Museum. A sensory friendly museum map is also available via the website, detailing high and low sensory areas so visits can be planned ahead.

Located at 400 Flinders St, the Immigration Museum is open daily from 10am until 5pm. Concession and children visit the museum free and general admission adult tickets are \$14. Visit www.museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum for more information or contact 13 11 02.

HIGHLIGHTS



Vocal Adventures

Follow famed violinist Kylie Morrigan and the wild multi-instrumentalist and beat-boxing songwriter Mal Webb on a musical journey for the young and young-at-heart.

2pm - 3pm, Sunday, June 5.

ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr, tickets \$10, www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay



TWENTYSIXTEEN

Marvel in awe through two hours of aerial antics and acrobatics at TWENTYSIXTEEN, the latest show from Circus Oz, in Melbourne for a strictly limited season.

Season runs from Wednesday, June 15 until Sunday, July 10. Circus Oz Big Top, Birrarung Marr, tickets \$22 - \$95, www.circusoz.com



Fed Square Book Market

Connect with bibliophiles, authors, illustrators and book dealers at the city's largest weekly book market. Featuring more than 5000 new and pre-loved titles.

11am - 5pm, Sunday, June 5.

The Atrium, Federation Square, free, www.fedsquare.com/books



Melbourne Design Market

Browse the creative wares of local and international designers at this much-loved biannual market, taking over Fed Square's undercover car park for one day only.

10am - 5pm, Sunday, June 19. Federation Square, free, www.melbournedesignmarket.com.au



Singers Festival

The Melbourne International Singers Festival will host workshops, performances and master-classes for choirs and vocal enthusiasts alike. Presented by the School of Hard Knocks.

Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. Federation Square, www.schoolofhardknocks.org.au



MYO Picture Perfect

Hear the Melbourne Youth Orchestra perform three classical pieces, including Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, alongside internationally renowned clarinetist Francesco Celata.

2.30pm - 4pm, Sunday, June 19. Deakin Edge, Federation Square, tickets \$14.50 - \$27.50, www.mym.org.au

Introducing the very unique Gigi

Gigi is a relative newcomer to the local street art scene and this is the first time we’ve had a chance to engage in conversation.

It was a wide-ranging discussion covering the many facets of life: puppetry, print making, art school, miniatures and society.

When Gigi turned 20, she went travelling by herself and spent three years abroad. It was a time spent exploring her European roots and connecting with Austrian relatives. And even though she’s Australian born, she experienced a feeling of coming home. Family aside, Gigi felt an immediate connection with Europe, its culture, aesthetics and cuisine.

Along the way she was to have many life-changing experiences that are only possible for the solo traveler.

“You’re out of your comfort zone and open to whatever comes your way. Forcing you to get out there and embrace life,” she said.

Although her younger years were brimming with creative enthusiasm, societal pressures and practical constraints restricted her in the pursuit of art as a career. For 10 years she dabbled in many things. However, a life-altering experience inspired her to follow her instincts and passion.

“I needed to stop listening to the nay-sayers and do what was right for me,” she said. “So I put a folio together and was accepted into NMITE. The rest is history!”

A Germanic heritage has had a definite influence on Gigi’s subject matter, with more than a slight nod to the darkness of Grimm’s fairytales. European aesthetics and values have come to the fore.

“Being non-judgemental and open to life experiences and cultural differences has helped me with my imagery – understanding, accepting and accommodating people’s idiosyncrasies and individuality. This comes from a feeling of

being suppressed and trying to conform to societal norms and constraints.”

“I was never going to be that person society was demanding me to be – living by other people’s rules. So my characters are a mixture of this individualism and the acceptance of others foibles.”

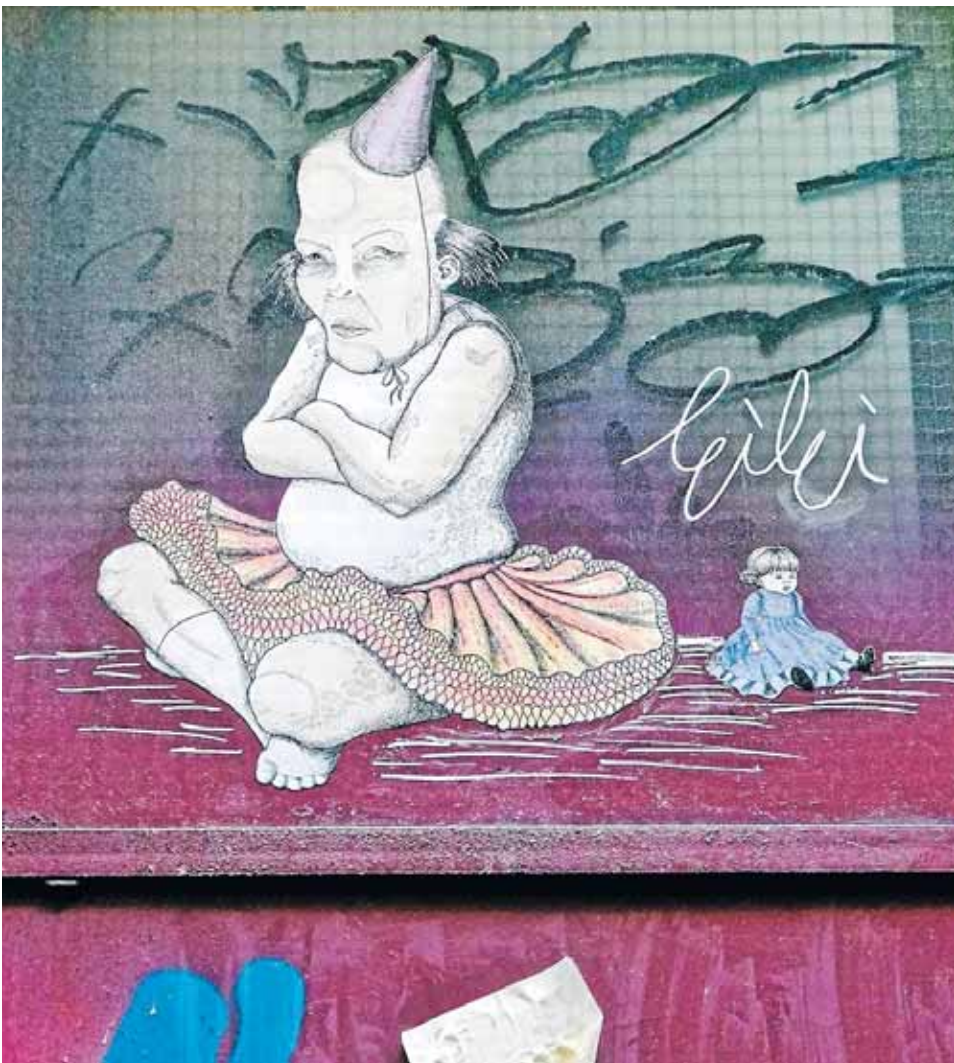
“My art is a way for me to express my individuality, as well as channeling that of others – the pleasures that we have that are kept secret for fear of disapproval. People on the margin of society – these characters that I create – are very much part of me. We should be allowed to enjoy what gives us pleasure, within limitations! To be able to act a certain way and accommodate differences.”

Some people find Gigi’s imagery unsettling yet humorous at the same time. She has the ability to create personalities within her characters that secretly make you smile.

As for street art, Gigi has been pasting up delicately-coloured and detailed one-off drawings featuring unique characters. Her medium of choice is fineliner and watercolour.

“The colour can’t be too intense as there will be a loss of detail. I’m possibly making them way too detailed and difficult to spot and photograph. However, I don’t have a problem with this, as I feel it forces the passer-by to stop and observe the smaller, as opposed to, bigger picture,” she said. “I really enjoy creating art for the street – that chance discovery thing.”

Gigi was exposed to animation during the year that she studied illustration at TAFE. Although the hand drawing of each cell was a time-consuming and laborious process, it was ultimately a pleasurable and magical experience to see her efforts come to life and the characters emerge.



This is a form of expression that Gigi is keen to explore further. And although it’s early days, she is considering branching out into 3D stop-motion animation. This will then become a means to bring her quirky and imperfect, yet endearing characters to life. Such creations will be something uniquely Gigi!



Lorraine Ellis
If you are interested in Melbourne street art there is more on my Facebook page, **StreetsmART**

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Docklands VIC 3000

T: +61 3 9097 1618

E: tom@stratatitlelawyers.com.au

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History

Great White Fleet visit to Melbourne

This photograph is a view of Flinders Street Station, as seen from Elizabeth St, in August 1908.

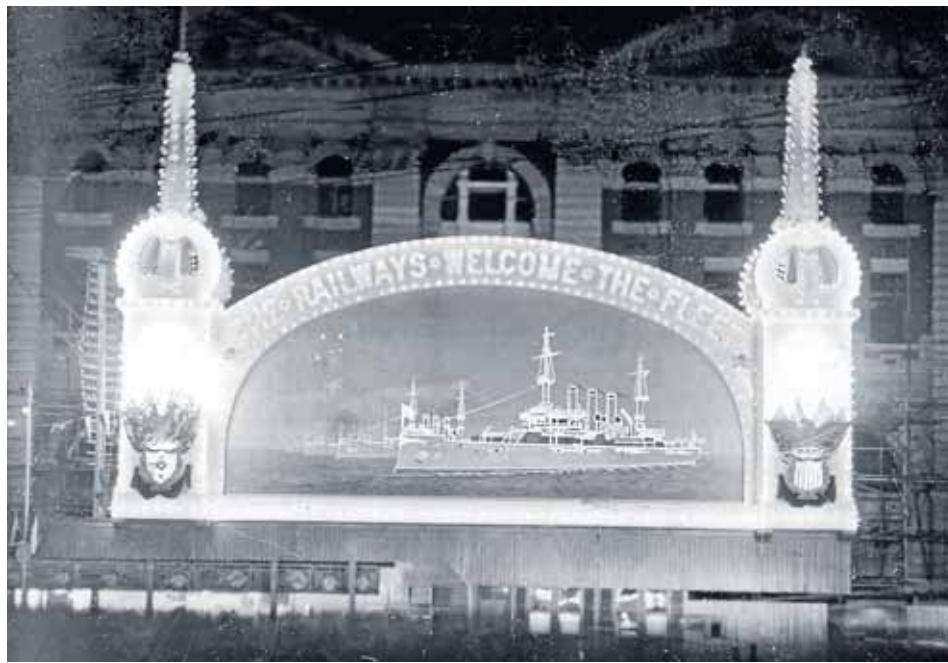
The Victorian Railways had erected this large painted and illuminated signboard to welcome a fleet of American battleships to Melbourne. The night photograph shows the hoarding with a prominent arch and symmetrical ends with flag crests, and an illustration of a ship sailing up the bay. Bright electric globes light up the structure.

The line of timetable clocks can be seen at the bottom left of the photograph.

The Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, had invited the American President, Theodore Roosevelt, to send a fleet of battleships to Australia as part of the country's early nationhood. This was a sign of Australia's strong connection to America and desires for naval and military protection.

There was therefore great excitement in Melbourne, on August 29, 1908, when 16 battleships glided through Port Phillip Heads and sailed into Hobsons Bay, as Port Phillip Bay was then known. The fleet became known as The Great White Fleet.

Led by the Kentucky and completed with the Connecticut the ships initially entered the bay, four abreast, then went down to two



Visit of the American Fleet: illustrated welcome banner at Elizabeth St entrance to Flinders Street Railway Station Melbourne, 1908.

abreast and finally in a single line of 16 ships as they arrived in Melbourne to dock.

The Age newspaper proclaimed a "great

pageant in the bay, 16 battleships in line, and an imposing spectacle with hundreds of thousands of spectators".

The paper reported that many pleasure steamers and other boats circled around the ships as they arrived, with bands playing the Star Spangled Banner.

The City of Melbourne and the whole of Victoria embraced the visit of the ships and their 13,500 crew. There were many celebrations in the city until the fleet's departure one week later. The visit of the fleet to Melbourne, under Admiral Charles S Sperry, was preceded by visits to Auckland and Sydney.

The RHSV is the historical society for the city of Melbourne.

Open Monday – Friday 10.00 – 4.00 at 239 A' Beckett St.

Visitors are always welcome.

For more information go to:
www.historyvictoria.org.au



Kate Prinsley

Kate Prinsley is executive officer of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria



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309 Little Collins St, 9654 7288.

Docklands:
(Opposite Etihad Stadium Gate 2), 9670 7400.



Critic

In the nick

By Rhonda Dredge

Is a poet idealistic or egotistical? When you have four girls and a wife who “support” you the second option may seem to be the most likely.

Nathan Curnow launched his latest book of poetry *The Apocalypse Awards* at the Collected Works bookshop last month to a loyal band of supporters.

The production of art is an economic event, said Miles Allinson who met the poet at university, and spoke about his work against the grid of parenthood – pitting controlled melancholy against the fortune of the functional family.

Mr Curnow is the son of a preacher, at home with “comic darkness, death and love” and the “Christian echo of the dramatic and the realistic”.

He went to a dark place into the suburb near his home, said his fellow writer, and dug with his fingernails until they bled. He touched something metallic and he let out a lot of radioactive power into the air in his nocturnal adventures.



A plague of inexplicable pregnancies was soon taking over the world, a reference to his partner, a midwife.

Curnow’s poems are not all connected to the personal realm. A marriage is consummated in one between two dead whales in the darkest part of the subconscious.

“Poetry got its hooks into me and swallowed me whole,” says Mr Curnow, who took up writing at Melbourne uni and has thrown himself into the allure of concepts depicted in *Escapology*, *Legoland* and *Back Paddock*.

He read of the “slow milk of dawn” and the “pale wafer on the tongue” and the “award-winning cinema in the making” at the launch.

This is Curnow’s fourth collection of poems. *The Apocalypse Awards* is published by Australian Scholarly Publishing.

City in Pieces



Pieces is the wide open spaces

Sometimes it's good to just take a break, and where better to do that than Federation Square.

This 3.2 hectares space was built in 2002. When it opened it was considered quite controversial.

Today however, Fed Square is one of Melbourne's biggest attractions, and a

great place to come and relax with friends.



Kalani Robinson

If you are interested in more pics check out Kalani's Instagram, [@CityInPieces](#)

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What if there was another way?

The Melbourne Metro Rail project, when completed, will transform the way that we move around the city of Melbourne and beyond. Travelling will be easier, faster once the proposed rail network is finished in 2026.

The Metro Rail Authority proposes to take over our City Square to construct the CBD South station from next January and plans to occupy it until 2023 and possibly beyond.

100 trucks per day will haul spoil (excavated material) and cart it out of the CBD along Swanston and Collins streets.

The City Square will be used as a construction site for the best part of a decade. There will be no trees, no public access, no community activities, no open space. It is envisaged that there will be dust, noise and congestion.

What if there was a better way to construct this project? What if there was a strategy in place that didn't dig up and destroy the City Square, Swanston St and the CBD for the next eight to 10 years?

We understand \$11 billion has been set aside for this infrastructure project. Already there are little white huts popping up around the city doing preliminary drilling tests to see what really lies below our feet. MMRA has \$1 billion allocated for pre-construction works.

What if there was a way to build this project on time, on budget without destroying the centre of the world's most liveable city?

What if we could work under the city, dragging out rocks and rubble via conveyor belts to a convoy of waiting trucks outside



the CBD, and construct the station from underground.

Would this not lessen the impact of building this important project with barely a peep from above, maintaining the lifestyle we

have all grown to love in our city.

The city of Delhi, India did just that a few years ago. An emerging economy using world's best practices to build an underground rail network with minimum

disruption.

They completed Stage One of the country's new subway system almost entirely from below the surface. All within budget and ahead of time.

Let's be clear on one thing. Without doubt we need more modern, faster public transport, but let's be smart. Let's use the very best skills and expertise we can muster. And let's not destroy our city that finally is ticking along in harmony.

Swanston Street works and the City Square is the only open space in the CBD for people to enjoy. What if we can preserve that space, preserve the ambiance of the city for residents, businesses and tourists?

"What ifs" are possible. All it takes is a little ingenuity and thinking outside the box by the people in charge. As Steve Jobs said, "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

What if we were leaders?



John Dall'Amico
President, Residents 3000
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Planning law failed to save Palace

The tribunal has granted a permit allowing for the demolition of the iconic Palace Theatre, though the facade will be retained.

The case provides an intriguing analysis of the relevance of cultural significance and social impacts under planning law.

Objectors, which included the National Trust, contended that buildings of social and historic significance are arguably more important than buildings of architectural significance as they have a wider meaning to a greater cross-section of the community, particularly if the significance was recent. This is because many individuals have a personal experience of the social or historic use of the place and the experience was personal to them and these experiences were the very fabric of our society. Hence, the

preservation of social significance is more dependent on retention of the use or at least the form of the building reflecting the use.

While the tribunal recognised the widespread value placed on the Palace by a large number of people as a venue for a night club, live music and other entertainment for nearly 100 years, it concluded that ensuring the ongoing use of the venue for such purpose is beyond the control of the planning scheme.

The tribunal was also constrained by the limited heritage value that had been placed on the building. It is not a building of individual heritage significance in the

Melbourne Planning Scheme. Rather, it merely forms part of a heritage precinct. The tribunal therefore found the demolition of the interior would have no effect on the heritage significance of the precinct.

It said: “In cases of this type, it is important to keep in mind the distinction between nostalgic recollection and an empirical assessment of heritage values.”

The City of Melbourne has been working on a planning scheme amendment that would have proposed assigning individual heritage significance to the Palace Theatre building. But that amendment has not progressed and the tribunal could not give any weight to it.

No doubt the closure of the Palace Theatre has been a huge disappointment to many performers and patrons alike. And its demolition will forever seal its fate. The retention of the facade may at least give some visual clue to what once was.



Mark Marsden
Managing editor
Victorian Planning
Reports
mark@vprs.com.au

Planning

New planning controls for CBD

Last month saw the Planning Minister unveil new draft permanent central city planning controls that are now to be sent to an independent planning panel, which will allow the public to make submissions.

Chief among the proposed planning controls for Melbourne's CBD and Southbank is the introduction of a floor area ratio (FAR) of 18:1. The interim controls released last year put in place a FAR of 24:1.

Projects will have the ability to exceed the maximum FAR in the central city if there is a demonstratable public benefit. The public benefits can take the form of public open space, office uses, public space inside the building or social housing contained within the building.

In the podium and setbacks space, by default podiums will be limited to 20 metres in height with the discretion to increase it to 40 metres to match existing streetscapes and on certain street corners. Towers will need to be set back at least five metres from the podium edge and, likewise, there will be a minimum side and rear setback of five metres for proposals, which include a tower measuring 80 metres or less.

For proposals which include a tower taller than 80m, side and rear setbacks of 6 per cent of the overall height will be required.

RMIT University is hoping to continue its substantial building program with a sizeable mixed-use tower set for a long held A'Beckett St address.

Entering planning during late 2015, the new proposal designed by Denton Corker Marshall would provide additional educational space and 11 levels of office space, most likely for ancillary university use. Located at 24-46 A'Beckett St, the project also represents Denton Corker Marshall's third tower in the RMIT precinct, joining two



Zaha Hadid's 54-storey tower on Collins St and Jean Nouvel's 70-storey tower on LaTrobe St



active large-scale student housing towers in development.

Although the proposal will result in the loss of an urban park, the site was always expected to be developed by RMIT and has been subject to a proposal as far back as a decade ago.

Meanwhile the owners of Hotel Lindrum are seeking approval for a high-rise tower set behind their historic former Romanesque tea warehouse, which fronts Flinders St.

Entity TMG Developments Pty Ltd is pursuing the development in part due to Hotel Lindrum's pending loss of guest car parking in the adjoining multi-level car park, which is subject to a development application. In addition to expanded hotel suites and residential apartments, guest car parking will be consolidated onsite under the proposal.

Bates Smart has conceived a slim tower of some 30 levels, substantially lower than the initial site application, which called for 53 levels.

In other news, the late Zaha Hadid's proposed 54-storey tower at 600 Collins St looks set to receive approval following support from the City of Melbourne. The 185m tower designed in collaboration with local firm Plus Architecture is envisaged as a series of three stacked vases. Despite a plot

ratio in excess of 24:1 the proposed tower meets all other requirements of Planning Scheme Control C262.

Melbourne looks set to gain another starchitect-designed tower this time by Pritzker prize winner Jean Nouvel, who was in Melbourne as part of the Melbourne School of Design's speaker series. The 70-storey, \$700m tower is earmarked for a site on LaTrobe St.



Laurence Dragomir
Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD
urbanmelbourne.info

We Live Here

Change.org petition

Our petition is now live. We need as many people as possible to sign it so that the government understands that short-term letting in residential buildings is an issue affecting many residents and our community at large. Remember every person can sign, not just you representing your apartment, family or building.

Please sign the petition now and encourage your friends, family, workmates and neighbours to also sign. www.welivehere.net

Meet the council forum

Though it was disappointing to have the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle cancel his attendance just hours prior to the start, we feel that the May 9 forum for residents to meet with the council was a worthwhile evening with more than 75 people attending.

We were fortunate to have councillors Richard Foster, Jackie Watts, Ken Ong and Cathy Oke attend as our very lively panel. They obviously enjoyed having the opportunity to genuinely engage with residents and Michael Kennedy was a very able moderator.

- The panel was asked to respond to and discuss a number of questions sent to them before the meeting. These included:

- What do the council see as the role of residents in the City of Melbourne, and how may they become more involved?
- How much weight is given to the views of residents compared with businesses, workers and visitors?
- How can more residents be encouraged to nominate for council?
- What steps are being taken to ensure that residents as well as businesses are on the electoral roll?
- At the last election businesses were granted two votes and residents one vote. Is this fair and should it continue?
- To ensure a level playing field for all voters do you believe attendance voting should be reintroduced as an option to the exclusive postal voting introduced in 2012. If not, what steps should be taken to prevent voters whose ballot papers do not arrive on time from being disenfranchised?
- Consumer Affairs, local council and owners’ corporations. Who should be responsible for dealing with short-term letting in residential buildings?
- A question and answer session followed and some lively discussion ensued. Some of the important issues raised on the night included.

- Lack of tram access for disabled persons or those with prams;
- Lack of public toilet facilities;
- Developer contributions; and
- Managing and supporting the homeless crisis.

As we approach the upcoming election it was great to see these four councillors give their time to meet with the residents they represent and to answer questions and understand their issues. Ring and write to your council members telling them of the issues that concern you. As Cr Watts said: if you don’t like something a councillor says, “tell them”.

A video of the night is available to view on our website at www.welivehere.net

and on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hitZqir8gFk

Stand for council

Local government elections will be held on October 22. If you’re interested in nominating for the Melbourne City Council there will be an information night held at the Town Hall administration building on Monday, May 30 from 6pm to 8pm. More information is available from www.standforcouncil.com.au

Our growing inner city community needs

more representation from residents with the time and passion to have our unique issues heard. Currently businesses within the City of Melbourne have two to one voting rights over residents, despite annual increases of 6500 to the residential population. So make sure you are enrolled and eligible to vote and ensure a greater proportion of residents are elected to council for the next four years.

Us being heard

We Live Here continues to grow and be a platform for residents’ voices. An example of being heard is our recently-received invitation to meet with Consumer Affairs Victoria for an opportunity to discuss our submissions to their review of the Owners Corporation Act 2006.

The We Live Here submission is available on our website at www.welive.net

Feedback

Please continue to send us your feedback and tell us of the issues that are important to you. We’d also be particularly interested to hear your ideas for future forum topics.



www.welivehere.net
emails to campaign@welivehere.net

Fashion

Melbourne’s homegrown talent

By Aleczonder Gamboa

Melbourne is often renowned as a city where creativity thrives. Everywhere you go there is always something artistically profound waiting to be discovered, from hypnotising laneways to the iconic arts and theatre spaces the city is home to.

As someone who works in the creative industry, I often utilise Melbourne’s eclectic space to garner inspiration, whether it be for my next article idea or whenever I’m stuck in a rut.

This is how I found myself at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and stumbling upon its latest exhibition paying homage to Henry Talbot, an iconic photographer who showcased the shifting face of Melbourne fashion during the 1960s.

Originally a European emigre artist from Germany, Talbot was renowned for bringing an invigorating international flare to Australian photography when he created his business in Melbourne’s very own Flinders Lane.

After securing big name clients including Sportscraft and the Australian Wool Board, his reputation as a dynamic force in fashion photography was established when his work was recognised by none other than Australian Vogue.

His extensive photography repertoire – specifically an extraordinary archive of more than 30,000 negatives – depicts the emerging youth culture that evolved synonymously with Melbourne’s thriving artistic scene during the ’60s.

From lamp-lit streets to our obsession with fast cars and luxury glam, Talbot often used these locations as backdrops to create arresting imagery that transformed the streets of Melbourne into scenes that looked like Paris, London and New York – a testament to his reputation for bringing an “international eye” to the world of Australian fashion.

In many ways, he set the standard for excellent fashion photography, so it only seemed natural that the NGV wanted to give him the recognition he so rightly deserved.

Talbot’s diverse range of works prompted me to think about how influential Melbourne is in nurturing home-grown talent. Since Talbot, the city has produced some of the biggest names in the Australian fashion industry, from Toni Matceviski, Alannah Hill, Nixi Killick and powerhouse duo Peter Strateas and Mario-Luca Carlucci – the list goes on forever.

So whether you’re a self-proclaimed fashionista or curious to see what all the hype is about, take a stroll through Henry Talbot’s colourful history at the NGV and get a rare insight into a fascinating world of 1960s luxury glamour.

The exhibitions runs from May 7 until August 21.



Untitled (Fashion illustration for Fibremakers, model Maggi Eckardt) 1966. Henry Talbot Fashion Photography Archive (119689) © Lynette Anne Talbot

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or call Carolyn on 9696 1090

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Interested in what we do? Join us for breakfast! We meet at the RACV City Club 501 Bourke St, Melbourne.

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

7.30pm- 1am - Friday, June 3. Thousand Pound Bend, 361 Little Lonsdale St.

CO-GROUND CROWDFUNDING

Campaign to raise \$40,000 for a mobile cafe van for education in the developing world.

Contact: Nicole Precel, 0423 917 704, nicole.precel@co-ground.org

10.30am to 2pm Wednesday – Friday – Sunday

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8am - 9am Fridays @ Fed Square

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Third Tuesday of each month

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eastendersinc@gmail.com

First Thursday of each month, 10am @ The Docklands Library

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Contact Sue on 0418 562 181 or weddsuzanne@gmail.com

7.30am - 8.30am Tuesdays @ Fed Square

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Start each week feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and energised with free Tai Chi, the Chinese martial art that promotes health and relaxation, at Fed Square (or The Atrium in wet weather).



3pm - 7pm, Sunday, June 19
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REFUGEE WEEK LAUNCH

The 2016 Refugee Week launch party will feature an exciting program of international speakers and performers on the main stage, alongside food and entertainment.

www.refugeeweek.org.au

8pm, Sunday, June 19

URBAN GROOVES

Indulge in a smooth Sunday session with Albare and his Urban Grooves Project at the CBD's new home of jazz, Bird's Basement.

Bird's Basement, 11 Singers Lane, tickets \$35.

www.birdsbasement.com

11am - 4pm, Saturday, until June 25.

SIGNAL MEDIA ARTISTS

Sign up for these free lab-style workshops for budding young artists, aged from 13 to 25, interested in 3D printing, mechanisms and media art.

Signal, Northbank, Flinders Walk, free.

signal@melbourne.vic.gov.au

7.30pm, Sunday, June 26.

ANIMATION FESTIVAL

Catch the cream of the Melbourne International Animation Festival as it culminates with this "Best Of" event highlighting home-grown and international animators. ACMI, Federation Square.

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PRAYER TIMES

<p>St Michael's 120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000 Ph: 9654 5120 Church times: Sunday Service at 10.00am Free organ recitals at 1.00pm on Thursdays. For more information please contact the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).</p> <p>Chabad of Melbourne Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St Ph: 9525-9929 Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.</p>	<p>City on a Hill Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm. Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central</p> <p>Collins Street Baptist Church 174 Collins St Ph: 9650 1180 Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm</p> <p>Hillsong City Youth Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Holy Cross Orthodox Mission 261/265 Spring St www.australianorthodox.org</p>	<p>Scots' Church 156, Collins St Ph: 9650 9903 Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)</p> <p>St Francis' Church 326 Lonsdale St 9663 2495 Sunday: 7am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am (St Francis' Choir) and 12.30, 1.30, 4.30, 6.00 pm Filipino Community Mass: Second Sunday of the month at 2.30pm Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm</p>	<p>St Paul's Cathedral Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets Ph: 9653 4333 Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm (Choral Evensong)</p> <p>St. Augustine's Catholic Church 631 Bourke St. Melb Ph: 9614 1722 Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm Mon-Fri: Mass 1.05pm Mon - Fri Confessions: 12.30pm</p>
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CBD NEWS

WE THINK
 INSIDE THE
 GRID

开发商受奖 社区利益受损

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

根据新的市中心（CBD）规划管制，州政府似乎会奖励那些建造“界定社区受益”办公楼的开发商。

这个奇怪的“界定社会受益”已包括在规划方案的列表中，允许开发商在CBD和南岸(Southbank)建造更大的建筑物。

4月26日，政府公布了其新的CBD规划的修正案C270。修订案降低

了允许的容积率，从当前临时管制规定的24:1下降到18:1。

但是开发商还是能够通过建筑面积提升（FAU）方案来获取建造“界定社区受益”建筑的奖金。

对于FAU方案中的政府一些主要建筑设计，SGS经济与规划在二月份报告了这个方案的好处。

SGS列举了FAU方案对一些明显特选社区的利益：图书馆、水族中心、艺术画廊、表演场所、会议室、幼儿园、保障性住房、开放的空间等等。

SGS表示，一些当地相关物业参数的设置，应该公共拥有，并应“代表永久或长期存在的当地社区基础设施。”

但在2月至4月期间，政府已把界定社区受益的商业办公空间和带建筑设计风格的建筑列入修正案之中。

如果给开发商一个选择，难道他们会提供建造托儿所这样一个礼物而放弃一个建造高回报的商业写字楼的机会？

墨尔本市政开支不断上升

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

在未来一个财政年度，墨尔本市政将准备大量雇人，这将在已经头重脚轻的行列里再增加80名新的工作人员。

明年其1400名工作人员的预算将是1.516亿澳元，比今年多出1220万澳元。

对2016-17年度计划草案和预算的审查表明，市政费交税者不要为明年猛增5.6%以上的市政费而期望能得到任何回报。

在2016-17年度，市政将从住户纳税人中多征收7.7%，非住户纳税人可能也要多交纳2.2%以上。

明年总的市政费收入将是2.573亿澳元，比今年多1360万澳元。

尽管如此，市政还是能够设法将此解释为“2.5%的温和速度递增”。

市政的这种解释贯穿于整个文件草案，特别是他们认为的这些“重要项目”。这些“重要项目”的总开支是9648万澳元，然而仔细观察一下，就会发现一些奇怪的因素。

这笔款项的三分之二实际上是专门用于维护和更新。当谈及“新的项目”时，文件指出：“在2016-17年度，1915万元将用在新的项目支出。更重要的项目包括，适应气候的城市景观（266万），自行车道改善项目（156万），巷道绿化试点项目（130万），新的防洪减灾工程（100万），道克兰社区和地方实施项目（100万），圣诞节节日新装饰（60万）和道路安全项目（56万）。”

毫不奇怪，市政并没有谈及1320万澳元的信息技术项目花费，而这个项目也在其重要项目列表之内。



关注家庭暴力受害者

在5月6日联邦广场的烛光晚上，家庭暴力受害者们将被铭记。

该活动由“应对家庭暴力安全步骤24/7中心”组织，这天晚上让人们对国家最大的社会弊病引起关注。

该组织执行总裁安妮特·吉莱斯皮（Annette Gillespie）说：“家庭暴力正在侵蚀澳大利亚的社会

结构。它对妇女参与日常生活的能力造成巨大的伤害，但是很多人都没有意识到这一点。”

三分之一的妇女会遭受男性的暴力，并且每周有两位女性被其现任或前任的伴侣杀害，自2014年以来，这个数字已经是过去的一倍。

照片由Barry C. Douglas提供

房地产重新评估 热点地区向北

由于在市中心已经难以找到房地产开发场地，其北面的土地价值增长得比都市的任何地方都快得多。

墨尔本市政的年度计划草案和下一财政年度预算显示，在过去的两年中，肯辛顿（Kensington）一直是住宅物业增长的热点，紧随其后的是北墨尔本（North Melbourne）和卡尔顿（Carlton）。

今年土地重新评估的目的，是为了在下次评估之前，市政可决定未来几年对市政费纳税人可征收多少市政费。

市政认为其市内的物业总价值是417亿澳元。

在2014年到2016年之间，肯辛顿住户的可交纳税费净年值（NAV）增加了10.4%。北墨尔本增加了7.9%，而卡尔顿的物业价值增加了7.2%。西墨尔本（West Melbourne）的增值估计是6%。

但是住宅物业的升值远远比不上墨尔本市中心商业地产的升值。

道克兰（Docklands）的非住宅物业荣登最高升值榜首，增值了13.8%。

在整个市政范围，商业地产的升值始终比住宅物业高。但是帕克维尔（Parkville）是例外，那儿的商业地产只增值了2.8%，而那儿的住宅物业却增值了3.8%。

商家担心女王市场终会清淡

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

世代相传的商家们正在离开维多利亚女王市场（QVM），指责墨尔本市政口是心非，而且不守信用。

他们认为墨尔本市政推行这样一个重建模式，是在故意扼杀市场以及他们的生意，迫使他们不得不离开，但又不给予赔偿。

他们说，一些生意在几年前价值百万澳元，但是现在不值钱了，因为空余位置相当之多，而这正符合市政的初衷，提高商业等级，缩小标志性的露天场地。

仓储设施管理员本（Ben）、瑞恩·莫尔顿（Ryan Moulton）和哈南·马克（Hanan Mark）指责市长罗伯特·道尔，说他故意曲解他们大约五年前提出的请愿求助。

马克先生说：“我们原来的问题是有关市场经营和促销方法。”

“管理者是在损害市场。他们没有零售经验，没有经营计划，也不知道如何经营市场。你们进市场看一下就知道了。”

马克先生说他们邀请市政的介入却事如愿违，现在看来，“老牌”商家显然不是市场重建远景计划的一部分了。

商家们承认零售消费者的口味随时间的推移而变化，但市场需要完善的管理以解决这个问题。

维多利亚女王市场顾问委员会商家代表格雷格·史密斯（Greg Smith）却持相反的观点。史密斯先生表示，市场的问题已有广泛认识，但是要想有一个好的结果，只能通过商家和管理层的共同努力。