

The voice of postcode 3000

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FREE CBD TOWN NEWS

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Non-augmented reality!

Why settle for virtual Pokemon when you can have the real thing?

Our photographer Barry C Douglas snapped these delivery-Pokemon in Bourke St on August 12.

Barry reports that he didn't try to catch them!

93% council rates gouge

Some CBD residents are reeling from rates gouging of up to 93 per cent by the City of Melbourne.

Despite claiming to have "rate capped" rate rises this year to just 2.5 per cent, a random sample of 10 CBD residential properties tells a very different story.

The 93 per cent rise was the most extreme, but other residents have suffered 35 per cent, 24 per cent and 22 per cent rises.

The sample did reveal three with rate reductions: being -1.6 per cent; -1.7 per cent and -4.6 per cent. Three others reported negligible rate increases.

Of course, not everyone is happy with a rates reduction either. The resident with the -1.6 per cent drop says it is related to a \$50,000 reduction in the value of his property.

"I have been trying to sell my apartment," the resident said. "While there has been good interest, eight out of 10 are not willing to make an offer because of the adjacent development. All my windows will be covered."

The couple which suffered the 93 per cent increase say it was based on a 104 per cent increase in the council's estimated value of their home (capital improve value - CIV) since the last valuation in 2014.

But city real estate agents say this is clearly impossible.

Hocking Stuart principal Scott McElroy said: "It's just not fair to claim that property values have risen by that much in two years."

He said even the most exclusive, boutique property in the best area could not have risen by more than 30 per cent in that period.

Mr McElroy said residential prices boomed in the city during 2010-11 but had been generally flat since. He did, concede, however that some well-located, unique, owner-occupied properties would have continued to appreciate well in past two years.

The owner of the property from whom the council is demanding 35 per cent more in rates reported only \$1100 between what the council valued his land and his residence.

"They value my land at \$1,295,00 and my CIV at \$1,296,100," he said.

Mr McElroy said land values had risen dramatically within the CBD, but this did not necessarily make small blocks more valuable.

Continued page 11.

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Matt and Denis Sabbadini ... maintaining the tradition.

Like father, like son

Long before the rise of the hipster, word-of-mouth reputation cemented the Sabbadini family as culinary colonists of Melbourne's lanes.

In the 1970s, like now, signs were unnecessary for those in the know. Down the lane and up the stairs to a plain white door which concealed the Waiters Restaurant in Meyers Place.

Denis Sabbadini's parents Carlo and Fernanda started the dynasty which this month is being recognised with a Generational Lord Mayor's Commendation.

Today Denis's kids Nicole, 44, Jessie, 24, Luke, 23, and Matt, 19, continue the tradition known to certain, privileged older Melburnians as the Italian Waiters Club.

Denis is humbled and grateful for the award, which recognises the contribution that small businesses have made to the social and economic fabric of the City of Melbourne.

The post-war immigrant family settled in Fitzroy in 1950 and Carlo started working in Melbourne's hospitality scene.

Denis recalls with horror climbing the rickety wooden steps in the mid '70s when Carlo proudly showed his family his new business purchase.

"My god Dad, what have you done!" Denis said. "There was nothing in this lane. There were tumbleweeds out there."

But, like other successful "clubs", it wasn't the decor and location that held the business together. Simple Italian fare, Spartan surrounds and a straight-forward approach was a winning formula.

Back in the day, knowing about the "Waiters" gave you cred. Actually being welcomed by the legendary brusque waiter Paolo was a badge of honour.

Denis recalls that, as much as the young uni student told his dad that the family business was not for him, Carlo predicted it would be his future.

"He was right. I love doing this," he said.

Mr Sabbadini says Melbourne's famed laneway culture started here. And he can pinpoint the date.

"I remember Six Degrees coming to us in 1992 to ask if they could start a bar downstairs," he said. "These guys had the vision. It was a good vision too."

The building recently underwent a renovation, but it wasn't deliberate. The building needed structural repair. As much as the clientele balked at the freshly-painted walls and the 21st century lighting which replaced the fluorescent tubes, they've started to get used to it.

The menu, though, has hardly changed. It's still brilliant. But glasses (the customers call them Vegemite jars) have replaced plastic beakers and the serving of liquor is above board these days.

It's families like the Sabbadinis that weave the CBD's cultural fabric. The spirit that flows through the generations ensures a continuity that Melburnians love.

All CBD awardees

Some 32 businesses have been honoured this year with Lord Mayor's Commendations.

The commendations are awarded each year to recognise the contribution that small businesses make to the life of the city.

The commendations will be awarded at a ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall on September 7.

Generational

Denis Sabbadini, The Waiters Restaurant; and Ralph Plarre, Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses.

Gold (50 years)

Dennis Burke, D&J Burke Diamond Setters; Jill Gould, Indigo; and David Beanham, Modak Motorcycles.

Silver (25 years)

Sofia Basile, Unico Hair; Bill Batzogiannis, International Cakes; Edmond Lobaza, Dr Edmond Lobaza Periodontist; Colin Paraskevas, Minotaur Entertainment; Bruce Pham, Bruce Goose; Tony Tenuta, Transit Newsagency; Fred Tsindos, Tsindos; Gabrielle Wallace, Gazelle; and Malcolm Wulf, Oxford Scholar Hotel.

Bronze (10 years)

Robin Billen, Horton International; Scott Maidment, Strut & Fret Production House; Jack Poon, Karaoke Box Hit Studio; Neil Balthasar, Balthasar Jewellery; Kara Jeffers, French Pink; Jodie Coall, Melbourne Natural Wellness; Ewan Tremellen, Ewan Tremellen Jeweller; Chelsea McIntosh, Spoilt Gift & Homewares; Suzanne Bennett, The Basement Discs; Rodney Jacobs, The Basement Discs; Terence Woods, Vic Meat Supply; Adam Bunny, Loop; Spiro Caras, Caras Emporium; Leanne Dang, Wing Cheong Chinatown; Vijay Sivaraj, Drums Cafe; Yuk Chun Yip, City BBQ Chinese Restaurant; Lori Valentine, Jasper Junior; and Marilyn Parker, Jasper Junior.

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CBD exempt from some apartment standards

By Shane Scanlan

High-rise inner-city apartments are exempt from some of Planning Minister Richard Wynne's recently-released new apartment standards.

Strict rules on cross-ventilation and mandatory balconies will not apply to apartments more than 35 metres above the ground. And openable windows are only mandated below 80 metres.

The new standards set a minimum 2.5sqm per residence of communal open space for blocks of less than 20 apartments. But, by stipulating a maximum 100sqm upper limit, in a 1000-apartment complex, each residence would be granted just 10 square centimetres of communal open space.

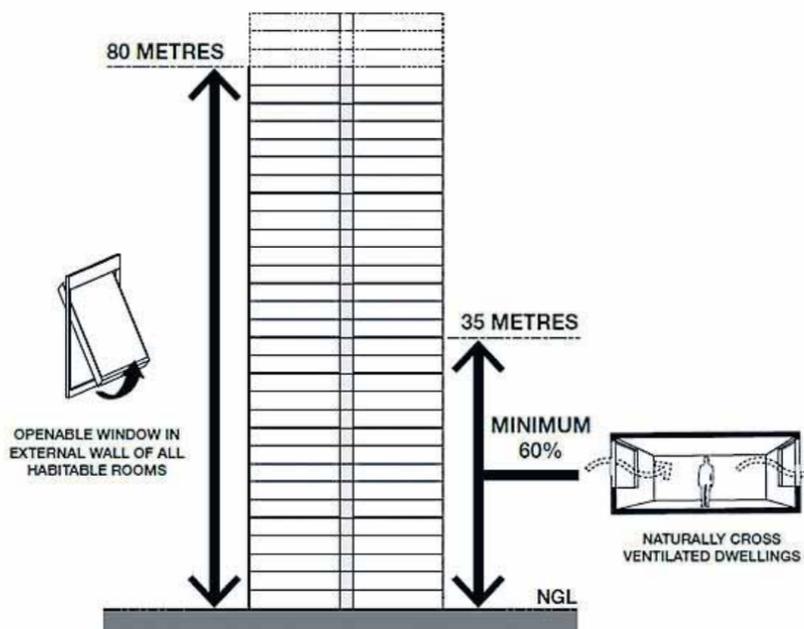
But it's not all plain sailing for CBD developers. On large sites (more than 2500sqm) they will be required to give up 15 per cent to plant trees. With CBD land costing tens of thousands of dollars per square metre, the trees in the 2500sqm site example could cost tens of millions of dollars – a cost that would, inevitably, be passed on to purchasers.

It is also harder for high-rise developers to address new rules about direct sunlight to apartments and protection from noise is also more challenging in the city.

Under the new proposals, light wells will be banned above 36 metres. "Borrowed" light is similarly banned, so larger apartments will be easier to design and build in the future than smaller ones. Noise protection rules also point developers towards larger apartments.

These new rules help explain why the government has not found it necessary to mandate minimum apartment sizes. The "dog boxes" have, effectively been designed out of existence.

But bigger, better apartments cost more – an outcome not lost on the Property Council.



Ventilation is just one of the new standards that will not be totally applicable within a CBD context.

Acting executive director Asher Judah told CBD News he expected apartment prices to rise by tens of thousands of dollars.

He said cross ventilation and borrowed light standards were mostly to blame.

Mr Judah concedes that new apartments will use less energy but, he says, they will cost more.

"Is it worth the effort if mortgages cost so much more over the life of a loan? Who's winning here," he said.

Nevertheless, Mr Judah said the draft standards struck a fair balance between market demand, amenity and affordability. He said the Property Council scored the standards as "seven out of 10".

Under the new standards, residents should not experience more than 35 decibels of noise from the street from their bedrooms (with the windows shut). The maximum allowed in other living areas will be 40 dB under the proposed standards.

Given the level of ambient noise in CBD apartments is generally well above these levels, these rules will be particularly

challenging for CBD developers.

Designers will also have to combat noise coming from within apartment complexes with the draft standards saying: "Using bathrooms, laundries and kitchen spaces as a buffer to noise-sensitive spaces (such as bedrooms or living rooms) from noise sources is encouraged. Noise transfer between apartments (above, below, and adjoining) can be mitigated by configuring bedrooms and living rooms back-to-back respectively."

The draft standards address the need to provide adequate daylight, storage, ventilation, energy and waste efficiency and minimise noise once final controls are adopted. They also address building setbacks, room depth, accessibility, waste and water, energy efficiency, storage, open space and noise minimisation.

Consultation on the draft standards is open for community and stakeholder feedback for five weeks, closing 16 September 2016.

More information on the draft standards is available at <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/better-apartments>

City Square closing soon

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) is set to take over City Square from early next year, when work begins on the City South Station.

MMRA will compulsorily acquire both the square and three-level car park below it from City of Melbourne and will occupy it from February 2017.

The entire square will be used as an excavation area to allow the construction of the City South Station below Swanston St. The MMRA is expected to return the City Square to the council once work is complete.

City of Melbourne councillors voted to support the early occupation of City Square, subject to appropriate compensation, at the August 2 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Councillors expressed their support for the Metro Tunnel project and unanimously agreed to support the early occupation of City Square to facilitate the project.

However, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle noted the matter of compensation for businesses affected by the decision.

"That's going to be very important for those businesses," Cr Doyle said.

City Square trader Gerard Kelly, who runs three hospitality businesses in the area, says he has been in conversation with MMRA since last year.

"At this point we haven't received any confirmation about compensation or assistance with relocation," Mr Kelly said.

Mr Kelly said his businesses had been operating at City Square for 12 years and employed up to 60 people.

"We would love to be able to continue operating even if that meant relocation to a new location within the CBD," Mr Kelly.

However, Mr Kelly said that, without assistance from the MMRA, relocation would not be possible.

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Home is where the heart is

By Rhianna Busler

According to Deanne Butterworth the only label you can put on the CBD is that you can't label it.

"The CBD is an indefinable demographic. It's continually shifting but I think the sense of community always stays," Deanne said.

Deanne has lived in the heart of Melbourne for the last six years and has no plan to move anytime soon. As a new mum, she loves strolling the city's busy streets with her two-year-old son and seeing familiar surrounds as if for the first time.

"There is always so much going on in the city. I'm always walking around going to art galleries and bumping into people I know."

Deanne's work as a choreographer sees her working constantly in and around the city, so the ease of public transport is highly appealing and makes getting around very stress free.

"My time spent travelling is minimal and I never have to worry about traffic," she said.

Like a lot of city-goers, work was the main attraction for Deanne's move to the CBD back in 2010.

Having grown up in Perth, relying on cars to get around and living on a bigger footprint, Deanne said: "Realising one could live with much less very easily and very happily is what attracted me to Melbourne's city life."

Currently working on a project for the City of Melbourne's (CoM) Creative Spaces program, Deanne is working on a CBD project, but is based in Southbank.

Her current project aims to develop a choreographed response to sculptures within the Hoddle Grid and Deanne encourages locals to engage with the project to help her research.

As the central city booms, Deanne



Deanne Butterworth loves the sense of community within the CBD.

acknowledges that, while buildings contribute to the growth, more thought could go into how local Melburnians feel about the interior and exterior of these buildings.

"What do you feel when you look at a building?" she asked.

Describing the CBD as a "friendly, affordable, eclectic city that retains a sense of community", it is no wonder Deanne loves her apartment lifestyle so much.

And her creativity doesn't stop with sculpture and dance. She advocates for communal organic compost bins.

"On a visit to New York I saw they had one.

I think Melbourne could really benefit from having compost bins and maybe fewer rubbish trucks - there is always so many on the streets," she said.

With such proximity to green spaces and numerous art galleries within walking distance, she says car ownership is not necessary.

The National Gallery of Victoria and the Flagstaff Gardens' open and well-utilised space are some of Deanne's favourite local spots in the heart of the city.

Being able to escape from the busy streets up to her apartment, Deanne happily calls Melbourne city home.

Water tank will protect from floods

A two million litre water tank is being installed in Carlton to protect Elizabeth St from future flooding.

The \$3 million tank is set to be installed in Lincoln Square, and is just one of many proposed actions the State Government and City of Melbourne are undertaking to reduce the flood risk in Elizabeth St from extreme to high.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said Elizabeth St had been a major flooding site throughout Melbourne's history, resulting in several fatalities and thousands of people being left homeless.

"By installing a two million litre tank at the top of the catchment we can reduce rainwater collecting around Flinders Street Station, which is one of the busiest areas in the central city," Cr Doyle said.

New technology will allow the water to then be either purged or recycled to be used by the community.

"We will harvest this water to keep Carlton's heritage squares lush and green during Melbourne's long, hot summers," the Lord Mayor continued.

Excavation works to install the tanks are currently underway and are expected to be completed this month.



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CBD throws up a local aspirant

The CBD has its very own local candidate for the City of Melbourne's October 22 election.

Apsara Sabaratnam has lived within the Hoddle Grid for 15 years now and offers a refreshing perspective – someone who actually appreciates high-rise apartment living!

She and her partner chose living in the beating heart of the city because of its vibrancy, diversity and excitement.

Apsara says it's about time that the City of Melbourne recognised that city dwellers needed community services, just like their suburban counterparts enjoy.

"People need public space. They need schools and access to childcare," she said. "Where's the maternal health centre? The way things are, it's very difficult for families to live here, but it should be for everyone."

Ms Sabaratnam says developers need to pay their fair share towards the provision of services for inner-city residents.

"They've got to start giving back if we are going to build a sustainable city with a sustainable community," she said.



Council election hopeful Apsara Sabaratnam.

And, while our city is lacking in some things, she wouldn't live anywhere else.

Being Sri Lankan and growing up in Zambia and Zimbabwe before immigrating with her parents to finish high school in Melbourne, Ms Sabaratnam knows a vibrant community when she sees one.

She says central Melbourne is even better than New York and Paris because it has the added benefit of extreme cultural diversity.

"We've got everything right here on our doorstep," she said. "I just love the life on our streets. I just couldn't stand living in the suburbs."

Candidates coy on intentions

With nominations for the City of Melbourne council elections closing on September 20, the field of candidates remains largely unknown.

All eyes are on Lord Mayor Robert Doyle who, at the time of printing, had declared his intention to contest the October 22 postal ballot but was yet to reveal his team.

Members of his own team were largely none the wiser whether they would be invited back for the 2016/20 council team. Most interest surrounds the deputy lord mayoral position, with incumbent Susan Riley interested in staying on but public speculation that another will be given the nod.

The only other fully-declared candidates for the lord mayoralty are perennial hopeful Gary Morgan and Greens candidate Olivia Ball.

Mr Morgan is offering first place on his councillor ticket to current councillor Jackie Watts. He says he is also happy to support former councillor Peter Clarke, should he wish to stand. Mr Clarke says he is "unlikely" to stand.

The Greens have revealed their full team. Headed by Dr Ball and deputy lord mayoral candidate, Roxane Ingleton, the party's councillor ticket is being led by incumbents Rohan Leppert and Cathy Oke. Filling the rest of the positions are Apsara Sabaratnam, Jenny Pitts and Benjamin Curnow.

Former independent federal parliamentarian Phil Cleary has been asked to stand but is yet to commit.

Former footballer and TV personality Sam Newman has not replied to *CBD News's* questions on the matter, despite rumours that he is interested in throwing his hat into the ring.

Another football personality also rumoured to be interested, Michael Malthouse, has told *CBD News* categorically that he was not interested.

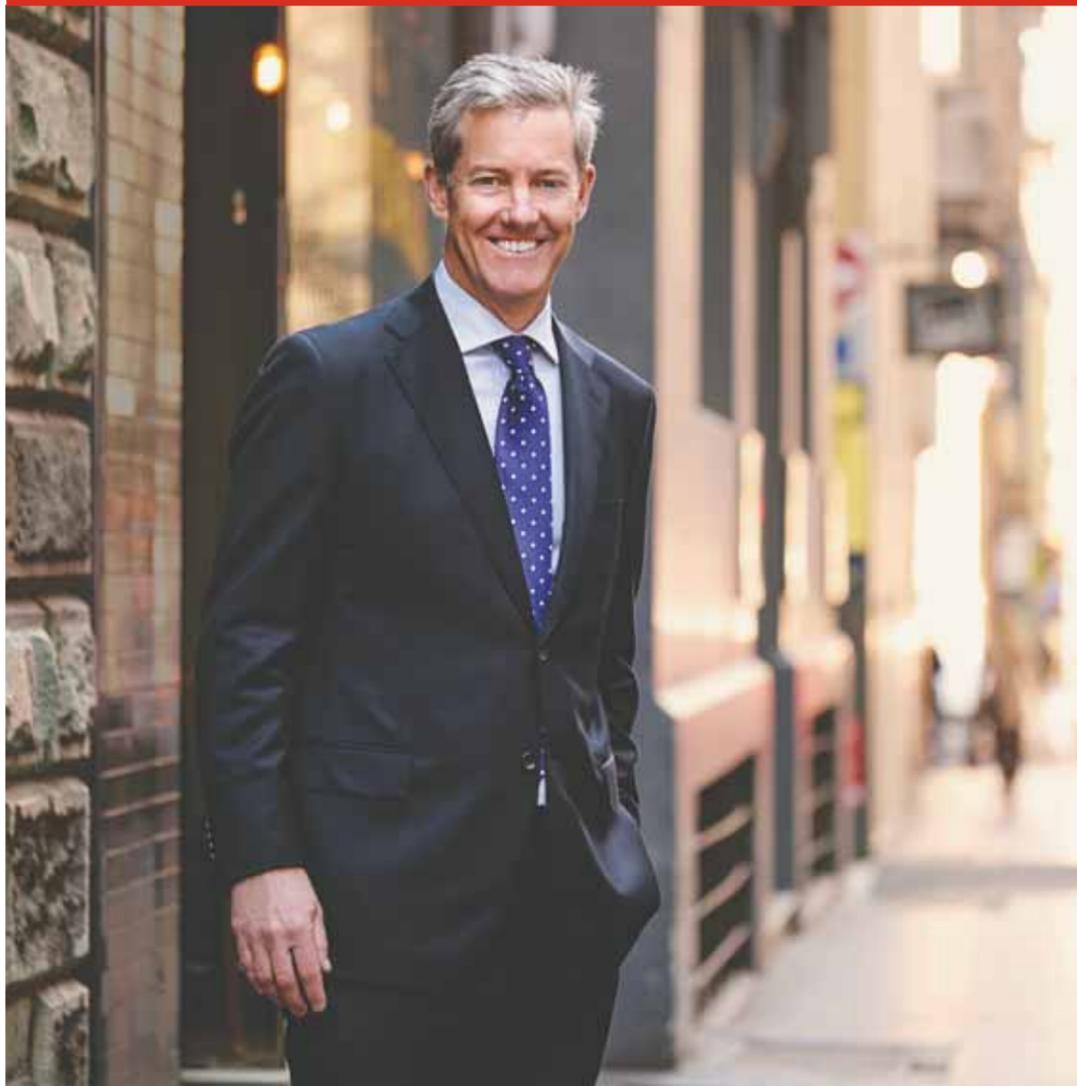
Without lord mayoral tickets, aspiring councillors have a harder road in front of them.

Incumbent councillor Ken Ong says he is interested in remaining a councillor but had not given much thought to joining or forming a ticket.

And independent Stephen Mayne said he was still undecided about his candidacy.

Labor councillor Richard Foster said he was similarly undecided.

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On the need to "Dump Doyle", they are all agreed.



Former MHR Phil Cleary attempt to whip up a "mighty storm".

Market debate has become ridiculous

Comment
Shane Scanlan



There is no doubt about the passion being expressed about the future of the Queen Victoria Market.

But what is less clear is whether this passion is based on deliberate or genuine ignorance. A public meeting last month was explosive. Some people are really angry. Many provocative claims were made. But, curiously, no one was able to clearly articulate precisely what the problem is. At times, the meeting at the Therry St Drill Hall on August 11 seemed to be a contest about who loved the market the most. But of course everyone loves the market. Who doesn't? The question has to be asked though: if you love the market, why would you resist efforts to ensure its future? There is clearly a reluctance by some to accept that the market is in terminal decline.



Some idealistic folks believe that it doesn't need fixing because it isn't broken. They shop at the market, so therefore, it must continue to prosper. Others accept that there is a problem, but say the council's plan to spend \$250 million to fix it is over-reach. This is a more compelling argument but, again, if you really loved the market, why would you knock back a \$250 million ratepayer-funded gift to be spent on its 728 small business owners? If anyone should have an issue with this, it should be the tens of thousands of City of Melbourne ratepayers who don't give a toss about the QVM. With serious cost-blowouts already admitted, it is the finances that don't add up with this project, not its intentions.

Sadly, the debate about the future of the market has become ridiculous. The August 11 meeting concluded that the way to "save the market" was to "dump Doyle" at the upcoming council elections. This is cynically and transparently shallow. Despite the booming rhetoric, there are no "grubby deals with developers". The council doesn't need to be sacked. Dumping rotten fruit in Swanston St won't help. And green bans don't need to be resurrected from the Norm Gallagher days. As a shopping centre, the market is a basket case. The council is at fault. It has treated it as a cash-cow for so long, it has drained all but subsistence operating revenue.

And, as a landlord, the council has presided over a culture where its tenants believe they should have permanent tenure. Imagine a Westfield or Chadstone store-owner demanding a lease forever! This misguided sense of entitlement has seen about 200 small businesses join the National Union of Workers, which is now part of the coalition leading the "Dump Doyle" campaign. Two Melbourne councillors, Cr Richard Foster and Jacqui Watts, are on the bandwagon. Former federal independent parliamentarian Phil Cleary rants about the community "rising up high as a mighty storm". Even the normally-considered Melbourne MLA Ellen Sandell is talking about not letting "Robert Doyle and his developer mates destroy the market". The problem for management is that it wants to retain the spirit, heart and soul of the market. It well understands that this is its point of retailing difference. It gets the value of heritage and, in fact, its final vision looks and feels just like today's market. The only difference is that the renewed market will have a financially-viable future. Management's problem is that politically motivated interests have hijacked the issue and don't want to listen. This will change after the council election on October 22. But, until then, don't expect a lot of sensible discussion.

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Elizabeth St closure on the cards

The City of Melbourne could close part of Elizabeth St to traffic as part of revamp plans for the southern end of the street.

The council could close to cars the eastern side of Elizabeth St, between Flinders St and Flinders Lane, making the area more pedestrian friendly.

Council investigated stakeholders' thoughts on the proposed closure during targeted community consultation conducted in August as part of the Draft Elizabeth Street Strategic Opportunities Plan.

According to a report presented to the August 2 Future Melbourne Committee meeting, traffic analysis shows there are very low motor vehicle volumes in the eastern section of Elizabeth Street, particularly heading southbound.

Accordingly, council says there is an opportunity to use this section of road and parking to provide more space for pedestrians.

The council says, despite being one of the most important entry points to the city, Elizabeth St south is characterised by poor urban design and is difficult for pedestrians to move through.

It says design improvements could include street lighting, tree planting, landscaping and furniture placement.

Councillors unanimously endorsed the

targeted stakeholder engagement, which focused on government authorities, emergency services, local businesses and traders, residents, community groups, transport groups, cultural heritage stakeholders and users of the area, at the August 2 Future Melbourne Committee meeting.

Speaking at the meeting Cr Ken Ong said the council should "be brave" and close the southern section of Elizabeth St to cars.

However, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the council's traffic data did not support the

closure of the western side of Elizabeth St.

Cr Doyle said there were significant volumes of traffic turning from Flinders St onto Elizabeth St and then turning at Flinders Lane to access major city car parks.

"So it's a very important traffic conduit for cars coming into the city," Cr Doyle said.

Alongside consulting about plans to close part of Elizabeth St to traffic, the council is also speaking to stakeholders in order to develop design options for Elizabeth St south and develop a further engagement process for the wider community.



An artist's impression of how Elizabeth St South could look with a partial closure to traffic.



Traders brave it out

It was business as usual last month as traders in the Port Phillip Arcade braved out private negotiations with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority over potential compensation.

A decision to drive a southern entrance through the arcade into the new CBD South Station will see tenants evicted within 18 months. The only ones going on record for the MMRA are Peter De Luca and Lachlan Lee-Archer who say that "a unique circumstance needs to be treated as a case by case situation".

Critic Rhonda Dredge captured the lunchtime queue in the arcade.

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Research into high-rise living and resident satisfaction

By Mindy Gill

A Melbourne researcher is investigating the link between resident satisfaction and the indoor environment in high-rise apartment buildings in Melbourne's CBD.

The University of Adelaide's Dr Andrew Carre is leading the research, with results potentially placing architects, developers and builders in a better position to develop quality design and construction.

"Indoor environment - the light, the noise, the air quality, the thermal environment - plays a significant role in determining our satisfaction with our dwelling," he told *CBD News*.

People adapt their apartments to try and achieve the outcomes that they're looking for, Dr Carre said, and it's a balancing act that requires investigation.

"On one hand, you're looking for good access to natural light. On the other hand, you don't want your apartment to overheat.



Dr Andrew Carre is seeking volunteers to help him research high-rise living.

How can we best abide for comfortable environments for people?" he said.

Set against the striking proliferation of residential city skyscrapers over the last 20 years, the study comes amidst concerns over whether high-density growth can deliver long-term liveable outcomes.

A report, written by former City of Melbourne planner Leanne Hodyl as part of

a Churchill Fellowship, found that high-rise apartments were being built in Melbourne at four times the maximum densities allowed in places like Hong Kong, New York and Tokyo - some of the highest density cities in the world.

"Increasing the supply of housing in the central city close to jobs and transport brings numerous benefits to the city and should be supported," the report says. "The high-rise

apartment tower plays an important role in delivering this supply."

But construction has been approved with "little regard on the effect on the residents within, the impact on the streets below or on the value of neighbouring properties," the report found.

Dr Carre said the desire to bring people back into Melbourne started in the 1990s as a way to reinvigorate the city with public benefits through density bonuses such as parks, plazas and community facilities like childcare.

"All of a sudden, when you go to the park, you're not going by yourself. There's other people there. Your living room becomes the cafe on the ground floor. You want to go throw the Frisbee or kick the football, you go to the park to do it. You don't do it in your backyard. You're far more connected with your fellow citizens."

With a preliminary trial centred around one-hour focus group sessions, Dr Carre wants to speak with residents of high-rise buildings.

Focus groups will run on September 6 and 13 at RMIT University (corner of LaTrobe and Swanston streets). To register for a session, visit <http://bit.ly/IEQfocus>

WesternDISTRIBUTOR

We're touring the west – come visit us

The Western Distributor project is entering a detailed planning and development phase with the release of the Reference design. During August and September we'll be popping up in local communities with information on the design and planning process and to answer your questions. Visit us at a location near you.

Upcoming locations:

- **Spotswood** - Donald McLean Reserve, The Avenue, Spotswood on Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 August
- **Yarraville** - Yarraville Pop-up Park, Ballarat Street (btw Murray and Canterbury Street) on Tuesday 30 August to Sunday 4 September
- **Docklands** - Harbour Esplanade South on Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 September
- **North Melbourne** - Australia Post Shop, 70 Errol St, North Melbourne on Tuesday 13 to Saturday 17 September

For detailed times jump online today at westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au or call us on 1300 280 939.

The Project

The Western Distributor will provide a much needed alternative to the West Gate Bridge, enhance freight connections and take thousands of trucks out of local streets in Melbourne's inner west.

Arabic

يبدأ مشروع الموزع الغربي (Western Distributor) مرحلة التخطيط والتطوير المفصلة مع الإفراج عن التصميم المرجعي خلال شهري آب/أغسطس وأيلول/سبتمبر سوف نقوم بزيارة المجتمعات المحلية مع معلومات عن عملية التصميم والتخطيط وللإجابة على استفسارك لمعرفة المواعيد المفصلة أنظروا في الانترنت اليوم في westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au أو اتصلوا بنا على الرقم 1300 280 939. خدمة الترجمة الشفوية: 13 14 50

Chinese

公布设计参考方案后，Western Distributor (西区疏通项目) 即进入具体规划和开发阶段。8月份和9月份我们将走访本地社区，介绍项目设计和规划流程，回答您的提问。具体时间请上网查询：westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au 或拨打 1300 280 939。翻译服务：13 14 50

Greek

Το έργο Western Distributor μπαίνει τώρα σε φάση λεπτομερούς σχεδιασμού και ανάπτυξης με την ανακοίνωση του Προσχεδίου. Κατά τη διάρκεια του Αυγούστου και Σεπτεμβρίου θα εγκαταστήσουμε πρόχειρα περίπτερα στις δημοτικές περιοχές με πληροφορίες σχετικά με τη διαδικασία του σχεδιασμού και πολεοδομίας και για να απαντήσουμε στις ερωτήσεις σας. Για λεπτομερές ωράριο δείτε σήμερα τον ιστοχώρο westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au ή καλέστε 1300 280 939. Υπηρεσία διερμηνέων: 13 14 50

Italian

Il progetto di Western Distributor sta entrando in una fase di progettazione e sviluppo dettagliati con la pubblicazione del progetto di riferimento. Nel corso dei mesi d'agosto e settembre andremo a trovare le comunità locali per dare informazioni sul progetto e sul processo di progettazione e per rispondere alle tue domande. Per orari più dettagliati consulta oggi stesso il sito web westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au oppure chiamaci al 1300 280 939. Servizio interpreti: 13 14 50

Vietnamese

Dự Án Western Distributor đang đi vào giai đoạn thiết kế chi tiết và phát triển với việc công bố thiết kế Tham Chiếu. Trong tháng Tám và tháng Chín, chúng tôi sẽ xuất hiện ở nhiều cộng đồng địa phương với thông tin về thiết kế và trình tự quy hoạch và để trả lời các câu hỏi của bạn. Để biết thời gian chi tiết xin vào trang nhà westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au hoặc điện thoại cho chúng tôi số 1300 280 939. Dịch vụ thông ngôn: 13 14 50



Make up students got to live out their darkest fantasies on July 27.

Other-worldly morning tea

Makeup artists from the Australian College of Hair Design and Beauty showcased their skills in late July.

With many students choosing to exhibit in the “underworld prosthetics characters” category, the Collins St studio was turned into a very spooky place.

The serious side to the exhibition was the

training, practise and creativity required to achieve such realistic transformations.

Many students achieved the required “out-of-this-world” standards they were looking for.

We’ve done it again

By Sunny Liu

Melbourne has been ranked as the world’s most liveable city by The Economist for the sixth year in a row.

The Economist ranks cities around the world every year based on 30 factors, including safety, health care, educational resources, infrastructure and environment.

Melbourne scored 97.5 out of 100 in liveability, with near perfect scores in infrastructure, healthcare and education.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the ranking was a “fantastic accolade” for Melbourne.

“It’s an exciting time in Melbourne. We’ve got many major infrastructure projects underway including the Metro Tunnel and the proposed new renewal of the Queen Victoria Market,” Mr Doyle said.

Laura Cavallo, CEO of Destination Melbourne, applauded the city’s achievement.

“It’s gold for Melbourne to continue to be the world’s most liveable city,” she said. “Everyone that comes here just likes how our city’s so friendly and safe.”

As Melburnians are celebrating another year living in the most liveable city, Sydney has fallen from seventh place in 2015 to the 11th this year.

“We offer a depth of opportunities and experiences that maybe Sydney does not,” Ms Cavallo said.

While Melbourne has maintained its overall liveability scores, the overall liveability of the 140 cities assessed has dropped by 1 per cent.

Terrorism and conflicts in countries like Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine have been blamed for the drop.

The city that never sleeps

By Rhianna Busler

After a popular trial run, city goers can rest assured that all night weekend public transport in and out of the CBD has been extended for a further six months.

The State Government last month announced that the all-night public transport, which started at the beginning of this year, would continue to run on Friday and Saturday nights through next summer and autumn.

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Now Open At: **414 La Trobe Street, Melbourne CBD**

More CBD supermarkets needed

By Sunny Liu

CBD residents are finding it harder to shop for groceries near populated apartment buildings.

Terry McKenzie lives in a 16-storey building on King St and, over recent years, has found it harder to buy groceries.

“If you go to Coles at five or six in the evening, there’s no in and there’s no out, because there are too many people,” he said.

“If you go there at eight, it’s just an empty shop. Nothing’s left,” Mr McKenzie said.

When he moved to the CBD he sold his car because public transport was so easily



Mr McKenzie gets in early before the shelves empty.

accessible. But he recently bought another after realising he could not possibly “take 15 grocery bags on a tram”.

Mr McKenzie chooses not to shop at his nearest supermarket on Spencer St due to overcrowding and limited supply.

High parking fees also make big shopping

centres like Melbourne Central unattractive, he said. Mr McKenzie said he often drove out of town to North Melbourne so he could have more choices with his groceries.

According to Mr McKenzie, Melbourne’s CBD does not have enough infrastructure.

“People always think of infrastructure as public transport or housing, but they’ve got to think of food. Where should we get our groceries?” he asked.

Four new residential towers have been constructed opposite Southern Cross Station, creating 2500 apartments.

Five supermarkets and convenience stores are available within a 15-minute walk from the area but, according to Mr McKenzie, they are either too crowded or under-supplied.



Police have released this computer-generated representation of a man they wish to talk to in relation to an alleged sexual assault.

Sexual assault

Melbourne Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team detectives are investigating an assault which occurred in a Melbourne shopping centre in July.

They say a man assaulted a female on the lower ground floor of the LaTrobe Street complex at about 10.10am on Saturday, July 26.

Police have released a digital facial composite of a man they wish to speak to.

The man is perceived to be Caucasian, aged between 25 and 35-years-old, with long dark blonde hair, a weathered complexion and was unshaven.

At the time of the assault he was wearing a black hooded top, black pants and was carrying a black backpack with red motifs.

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** or make a confidential report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

STREET LIFE



2.30 pm. Little Collins St.

Photo by Barry C. Douglas @BarryTakesPhotos.com

THE NEXT 10 YEARS

What can Australia *learn* from Europe and the United States?

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- entertainment
- travel
- population growth
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- religion

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7pm - 9pm Friday, October 7th



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(Corner of Swanston and Latrobe Street)

*Appropriate for all age groups and education levels

FREE EVENT

WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS? HOW WILL YOU MANAGE?



93% council rates gouge

Continued from page 1

"The value of land has clearly risen within the CBD, but surely this has to be tempered by what it is possible to do with that land," Mr McElroy said. "It's not as if this bloke can put up a 40-storey tower."

In its 2017 budget, the City of Melbourne said residential rates within the CBD would, on average, rise 5.4 per cent this year.

Finance chair Cr Stephen Mayne stood by this figure, claiming that individual rate rises would be off-set by rate reductions – averaging out at a 5.4 per cent increase.

Across the municipality, the council will be taking 7.7 per cent more from residential ratepayers this year, while non-residential ratepayers will pay just 2.2 per cent more.

The 2017 rates take will be \$257.3 million – \$13.6 million (5.6 per cent) more than 2016.

The couple with the 22 per cent rate increase said: "A 22 per cent increase in rates, when inflation is at record lows and wages are stagnant, is way beyond what I'd expect."

"I'm not aware of council providing any justification or explanation for such a rate rise. I also don't know how the hike in Melbourne's rates compares to other councils across Melbourne."

"I certainly don't see any improvement in service delivery by the City of Melbourne to warrant such an increase."

"Could it be that council needs to start recovering the costs of the contentious redevelopment proposed for the Queen Victoria Market, which senior council planning staff (i.e. Rob Adams) are already conceding in public meetings have blown out from \$250 million to \$300 million?"

A council spokesperson said: "Valuations shown on the 2016-17 Valuation and Rate Notice are a market assessment as at January 1, 2016 and are based on an analysis of market evidence of sales and rents."

"The 2016 general valuation of the municipality has resulted in non-uniform rate variations for individual ratepayers."

"The rates for an individual property may have increased or decreased by a percentage amount following the revaluation of that property relative to the valuation of other properties in the municipal district."

Amendment C270 update

The State Government is getting closer to finalising new central city planning controls, with hearings continuing during August in response to proposed Planning Amendment C270. The last submission to the expert panel assessing the amendment was due on August 31. The panel then has up to 40 days to present its findings. Here *CBD News* reports summaries from just two of the numerous submissions – from the Property Council and from local resident Bill Allan.

Residential voices are faint

Local resident Bill Allan told the panel assessing Amendment C270 that CBD residential voices were often not heard.

"I will suggest ways in which residents could (and should) be given more opportunities to be involved in the planning and development process and help implement a better vision for the CBD," Mr Allan said.

"To be clear, I, and I think most residents, support the C270 amendment and the use of 3D modelling to ensure that built form controls are stronger and applied more

rigorously in the CBD."

"The case I want to make, however, is that the reforms do not provide for either improved definition of CBD residents' amenity rights or better resident access to up-to-date information on planned and approved neighbourhood developments."

"In Melbourne CBD in particular, residents not only have little formal rights of appeal, at present it's not very easy to find out what's going on."

"Planning applications have to be researched by individual residents from City of Melbourne (CoM) application files and most residents have limited professional expertise in going through complex plans and architectural drawings."

Need to nurture commercial

The Property Council wants CBD commercial property to be treated differently than residential under the new planning regime.

In the proposed amendment, no distinction is made between commercial and residential development but Property Council acting executive director Asher Judah says this will disadvantage Melbourne as a centre of commerce.

Speaking at the recent seminar, Mr Judah pointed out that the planning review was prompted by widespread concern

at the uncontained growth of residential development in the city.

"The government should avoid any regulatory outcome which discourages investment in commercial development," he said.

"We call on the government to maintain the 24:1 plot ratio, exempt commercial property from the proposed setbacks and building separation controls and increase the flexibility in how developers can provide the required public benefits."

"While the residential development will continue to play an important role in shaping our global city, the primacy of the city's commercial nature must never be forgotten."



Mr Ren hands out printed material in Swanston St.

Banished faith finds home in Melbourne

By Sunny Liu

Non-Mandarin speaking CBD residents might be puzzled.

Do they know what the yellow banners displaying Chinese characters and "Falun Dafa" are and why some middle-aged Chinese people are handing out leaflets in Chinatown and on Swanston St?

They are promoting a faith that has been labeled a cult in China.

Falun Dafa or Falun Gong is a spiritual belief and practice formed in China in the '90s. The members gather and practice Qigong, which they believe can improve their health. However, there is more to it.

"For us, it's both a religion and an exercise," Falun Gong practitioner Mr Ren said when questioned in Swanston St last month.

Mr Ren, who does not want his first name disclosed, distributes materials and claims the Chinese Government has "harvested Falun Gong practitioners' organs" as part of the prosecution of the group.

Falun Dafa is banned in China, and anyone involved in it can face prosecution.

Visiting scholar at Melbourne University Qinduo Xu thinks there is good reason to believe Falun Dafa is a cult.

"If you look at Daosim, Buddhism, Christian practice, Catholic or Protestant, all are in China and they are not banned, and they were not outlawed, why Falun Gong? Obviously, there's a problem," he said.

THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT AND THE PROMISE OF SPRING

Over four lectures Professor Camilleri addresses one of the most critical yet poorly understood ailments of our time, the psychology and culture of violence, and its remedies.

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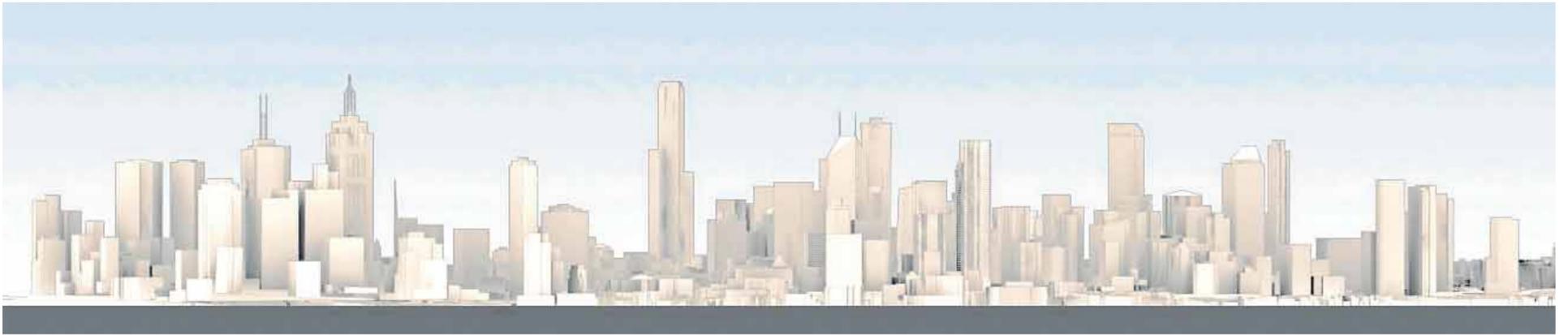
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The pictures tell the story

Urban Melbourne has recently updated its 3-D model showing approved and proposed development within the CBD.

The top picture shows the existing skyline, when viewed from the north. The bottom picture shows proposed (red), approved (blue) and buildings under construction (green).

If a picture tells 1000 words, the combination here says at least 2000 words about what is happening to our city. Need we say more? See www.urban.melbourne



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LUNCH TIME

LUNCH TIME

AFTER WORK

THE WEEKEND



WITH JACQUI MOCEK

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 To be featured in this section call
 8689 7980

THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL

MIFF may be done and dusted for another year but cinema fans need not despair as September brings a truly inclusive film event to the CBD.

The Other Film Festival (TOFF) is back in 2016 and will be presented at the State Library of Victoria from September 28 to 30. The event is Australia's leading disability film festival and features compelling local and international cinema about the lived experience of disability and the deaf community.

The festival aims to change the way disability is thought about and viewed within the community by presenting challenging films from around the world concerning actual experiences of those who live with disability. The 2016 program will feature engaging shorts and a series of thoughtful presentations about diversity in screen culture.

TOFF will present two 120-minute screenings on Thursday, September 29 and Friday, September 30 - Our World, Our Shorts on Thursday at 2pm featuring shorts by emerging Australian filmmakers with a disability and What Are You Looking At? on Friday at 12pm with works by local and international artists.

The festival will include industry workshops and presentations such as Respect, Portrayal and Inclusion - a forum with artists who have worked in film and television and



a short disability awareness training workshop, and #deafalent - a provocative talk about authentic casting with Jules Dameron, a deaf filmmaker from the US.

There will also be individual screening pods set up to facilitate personal and authentic engagement with the content.

The biannual festival has been running for over a decade, challenging perceptions and questioning the inclusiveness and authenticity of film culture since 2004. TOFF is deaf and disability led and produced by

Arts Access Victoria.

Guaranteed to engage and inspire, block out a long lunch and attend a screening to gain a fresh perspective on disability at TOFF this month.

TOFF will run from Wednesday, September 28 until Friday, September 30 at Experimedia at the State Library of Victoria. All screenings are Auslan interpreted, captioned and audio described and the venue is fully accessible. For program information visit www.otherfilmfestival.com

HIGHLIGHTS



Brooches at Erika

This Spring Racing Carnival, we will be featuring hats by iconic milliner Peter Jago alongside our unique collection of brooches and accessories to complete your race-day outfit.

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



Digital Self Defence

Presented by the City Library as part of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation's National eSmart Week, this workshop teaches basics ways to stay safe and secure online.

2pm - 3.30pm, Monday, September 5.
 City Library, 253 Flinders Ln, free, 9658 9500



Worth It

A new exhibition of portrait paintings by emerging local artist Gabriella Moxey including her 2014 Archibald entry of Melbourne soprano Merlyn Quaife.

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday until September 20. Art at St Francis, 326 Lonsdale St, www.stfrancismelbourne.org.au



Off Grid

This exhibition brings together works that push beyond the cloth grid and challenge the tradition of textiles in art and craft, incorporating technology, sculpture and performance.

12pm - 6pm, Tuesday to Saturday from September 14 until October 1.
 Blindside Gallery, Nicholas Bldg, www.blindside.org.au



eCLICKtic

The first exhibition from the 15-member CLICK group, eCLICKtic is a collection of photographic images representing journeys of self-discovery and collaboration.

11am - 6pm, Tuesday to Sunday until September 4. Magnet Galleries, Lvl 2, 640 Bourke St, magnet.org.au



Moon Festival Stories

Hosted by the Chinese Museum as part of the Fringe Festival, this special Moon Festival workshop shares Chinese legends, cultural traditions and teaches paper craft.

11am - 12pm, Monday, September 19.
 Chinese Museum, 22 Cohen Pl, admission \$10, www.chinesemuseum.com.au



ART AFTER DARK

Take the long way home and prepare to expect the unexpected at **BLINDSIDE's 2016 festival On The Verge**, taking over the alleyways and byways of the CBD at the start of the month.

An experimental art festival presented by not-for-profit, artist-run space **BLINDSIDE**, On The Verge is contemporary art in its most creative and progressive form.

Starting on August 24 and running until September 3, On The Verge invites attendees to look, explore and experience the CBD in a different and more meaningful way through chance encounters, immersive soundscapes and creative exchanges. For 11 days, art will materialise in Melbourne's laneways, transforming spaces we traverse and take for granted on daily basis.

The 2016 festival features the talents of 30 emerging and established artists, across 18 sites in the CBD, and all exhibitions, events and experiences are free.

Artist Billie Justice Thomson will create a one-of-a-kind home in the CBD with a large scale, site-specific work, on display 24 hours a day for the duration of the festival. You can catch a glimpse of the work, and gain an insight into domestic life, through the lounge room window at 116 Little Lonsdale St.

Guerilla Theatre is bringing performance art to the streets (and a range of other unexpected city sites) with a series of social



and politically-focussed plays and skits popping up around the CBD for the length of the festival. Featuring international and local artists, performances range from the absurd to the comedic, interactive and emotionally charged. Check the performance guide online for dates and times, or go for a wander and stumble across (or into) a show.

Video work *Idyll* – filmed over a seven-year period beginning in New York's Central Park and concluding in Melbourne and Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens – will be projected from 6pm each night in the level 1 window of

the Nicholas Building at 37 Swanston St.

Award-winning performance artist Sarah Rudledge will create live song loops throughout the city in *Repeat 1*, and Cassandra Smith and Morgan Jones will explore the relationship between poetry, people and public space in roaming poetry project *A poem, of course, is always open for business*.

The **BLINDSIDE** gallery space will host the festival hub, complete with comfy chairs, cups of tea and a space to hang out and

reflect on the exhibition.

BLINDSIDE gallery presents a range of experimental creative practices and supports the artists, writers and creators behind these works by connecting them with the community. Works cover a range of contemporary art practices, from sculpture, drawing and performance art to new media, video, sound and installation.

To plan your On The Verge festival journey and view the full program visit www.blindside.org.au

HIGHLIGHTS



RMIT Design Market

Browse one-of-a-kind wares and designer pieces from Melbourne's next generation of artists and makers at the RMIT Design Market at Melbourne Central.

4pm - 10pm, Friday, September 2.

Lvl 2, Link Bridge, Melbourne Central.



Song Writing with Young People

Artists Nina Laitala and Yung Phily lead this interactive workshop where children, young people and families work together to create their own group-composed song.

5.30pm - 7pm, Tuesday, September 13.

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



The Second Mother

ACMI is hosting a special screening of the award-winning film, challenging class, privilege and the maternal role, from Brazilian director Anna Muylaert.

7pm - 10pm, Tuesday, September 6.

ACMI, tickets \$17, filmoteca@melbournefilmoteca.org



Spirit of Punk

A wordslam/reading event open to all who are prepared to have a go. Come prepared or improvise, all genres and styles welcome, just keep it to one-page.

From 6.30pm, Wednesday, September 14.

The Unknown Union, 361 Little Lonsdale St, free, www.thousandpoundbend.com.au



A Royal Affair

Sip champagne and indulge in fine food and live entertainment whilst raising funds for cancer research and palliative care at the Cabrini cocktail event.

7pm - 10pm, Thursday, September 8.

Royal Arcade, 331-339 Bourke St, tickets \$85, www.cabrini.com.au



Environmental Film Festival Australia

The EFFA presents a program of film screenings, discussions and debates that will entertain, inspire and challenge the way you think about the natural world.

6pm - late, Thursday, September 29 until Friday, October 7. ACMI, tickets \$19.50, www.ffa.org.au



THE WEEKEND

MELBOURNE FRINGE

A unique celebration of artistic expression and cultural diversity, the Melbourne Fringe Festival returns this month to shake up the CBD.

Melbourne Fringe brings together more than 6000 artists performing over 400 events across 160 venues in the most inclusive, out-there, eclectic multi-disciplinary festival in the country. Revelling in the weird and wonderful, the festival facilitates a platform for a diverse range of voices to be heard across all art forms.

The festival kicks off with an impressive display of illumination and sound in Sky Light, a city-scale installation that connects Melbourne's CBD buildings across the Yarra using beams of laser light. Follow the light as it fades and reappears by the river and connect with various sound stations along the way. The installation will light up the city skyline from dusk until 11pm on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18.

The 2016 program is extensive and covers all forms, practices and amalgams of art; including cabaret, circus, dance, music, visual and live art, performance, and words and literature. Events will be held in various venues across the CBD – from gallery spaces to theatres, museums and the city streets.

The Spotlight Stage at Fed Square will be hosting a variety showcase from 12.30pm on Sunday, September 18 and will feature a range of acts across the Fringe spectrum – a



great place to start your festival journey if you're feeling a little spoilt for choice. And, if the thought of picking sends you into a spin, pay a visit the Festival Fortune Teller at the City Square ticket booth to have your palm read and be set on the path to the event you were destined to see.

The little people in our lives are invited to attend the party too, with a series of family-friendly shows and a new Kids Club, where kids are free to run amok and engage with a

series of creative performances.

The interactive musical installation Bellbird at Polyglot Theatre is a delight for both young and old, offering the opportunity to create your own soundtrack as you wander through an enchanted forest of sound with only your senses to guide you.

The youngest attendees are also encouraged to respond to the festival by taking part in the podcast series Kids vs Art, where the critiquing tables are turned and kids will be

asked to review shows and interview artists.

Melbourne Fringe calls for risk-taking and stepping out of your comfort zone to see yourself and your city in a new light. Embrace a sense of adventure and prepare to be surprised.

The festival runs from September 15 until October 2. Visit www.melbournefringe.com.au for festival info and to view the 2016 program.

HIGHLIGHTS



The Pirate Market

Celebrate "International Talk Like A Pirate Day" at the Pirate Market and Tavern with family-friendly activities, live music, and the 2nd Annual Swashbucklers Sword Fighting Tournament.

1pm - 11pm, Saturday, September 17. The Bull and Bear Tavern, 347 Flinders Ln, tickets from \$5, hastanley@gmail.com



Unleashed

The Foundation for Young Australians presents Unleashed, the nation's leading youth social change festival, featuring speakers, film screenings and live music.

12pm - 6pm, Saturday September 24. Fed Square, free, www.unleashedfestival.com



The Kingdom

Melbourne Bach Choir, alongside soloists and orchestra conducted by Rick Prakhoff, present a revival of Sir Edwards Elgar's magnificent oratorio in this special performance.

2.30pm, Sunday September 18. Melbourne Town Hall, tickets from \$45, trybooking.com/MCDT



Bend and Snap Market

The Bend and Snap Market turns five this September. Celebrate with local fashion designers, illustrators, jewellers and artists at the beloved indoor design market.

11am - 4pm, Sunday, September 25. 1000 £ Bend, 361 Little Lonsdale St, free, www.thousandpoundbend.com.au



The Yeats Family

Ross House presents a series of talks on the poet, playwright and Nobel Laureate William Butler Yeats and his family, each Saturday in September.

12.30pm - 2.30pm, Saturday from September 3 to September 24. Ross House, 247 Flinders Ln, tickets \$15, www.wbyeatspoetryprize.com



Little Sparrow Market

Featuring local emerging and established designers, makers and artists, the Little Sparrow Market is a one-stop-shop for unique and high-profile art, craft and fashion.

10.30am - 4.30pm, Sunday September 25. Fed Square, www.littlesparrowmarket.com

Size does matter

For the past 18 months I've been intrigued and enchanted by the emergence of miniature art pieces on our streets.

So I decided to speak to some of the local exponents of this phenomenon, Joshua Smith, Tinky and Goon Hugs.

Joshua Smith, formally a gallery owner in Adelaide, makes frequent trips to our city, to curate exhibitions and bestow our laneways with his art. Prior to his new-found enthusiasm for making miniatures, Joshua was a much-lauded stencil artist.

So what has been Joshua's motivation?

"Firstly, I've always liked customised stuff e.g. vinyl toys and, secondly, the lack of progression as far as the stencil community is concerned," he said.

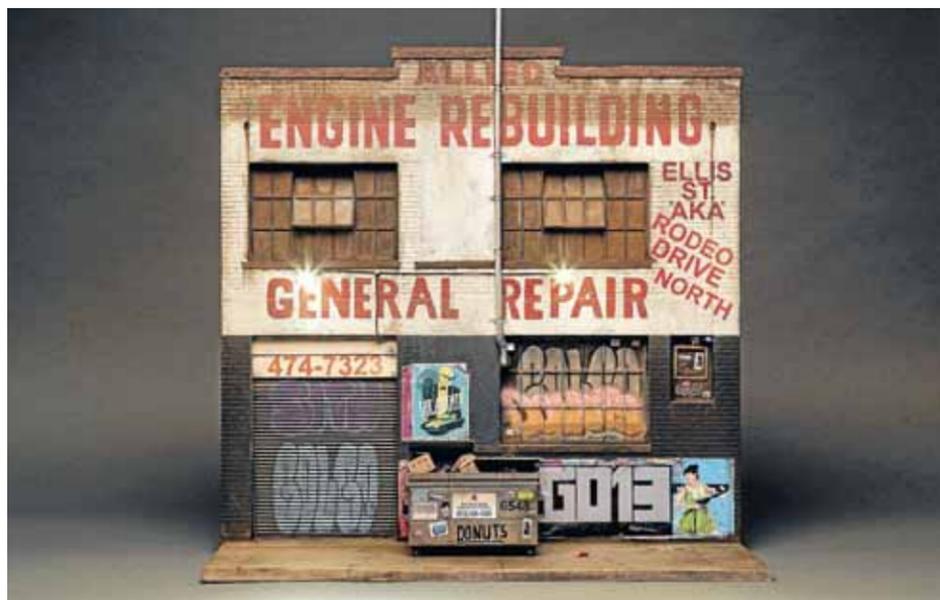
"After 17 years as a participant, I've become disillusioned by the scene. Artists are rehashing concepts and relying on Photoshop - resulting in a lack of individualism and a sameness that makes it hard to differentiate between them." After exhibiting in a couple of (what turned out to be) disheartening exhibitions where hardly anyone was pushing the medium, Joshua thought: "OK, people are making stencils of buildings! Why aren't they making models of buildings with stencils on them?"

He said: "This occurred to me as an interesting concept. So, slowly, a shift began with my work and I started to make miniature realistic buildings, complete with all the grime and detritus of a city."

"Exploring the details of the world around me - the fabric of the urban environment that often goes unnoticed: gum on the footpath, cigarette butts, rust etc. all adding to the realism of a piece."

"The graffiti, signage and posters on my pieces are all fictional. They are based on my own tags and past works. I did this to prevent criticism and to live vicariously through this miniature scene."

"Hours are spent building up layers, textures and surfaces to create weathering, rust,



Top: Joshua Smith. Bottom Left: Tinky. Bottom Right: Goon Hugs.

Photograph courtesy of Andrew Beveridge/ASB Creative.

decay and the grime that gives a city its character. It can't be too clean. This makes it a very long but ultimately rewarding process. My buildings tell a story. Give me a decrepit alley any day!"

Tinky is a very recent, enthusiastic and welcome addition to the scene.

It was an installation of bronze miniatures by Dorota Mytych, at the McClelland Sculpture Park, that became her source of inspiration.

"It just blew me away! It was such a magical piece for me that I keep revisiting it."

"Subconsciously, I think it was the smallness of it that gained my interest," she said.

"And then, over a year ago, I had my 'light-bulb' moment! I decided that what I wanted to do was create miniature dioramas for the street using found or bought objects. It was an inexplicable force that drove me to install my first work in Collingwood and I remember this rush of joy after I'd done so. I thought: 'this is what I'm meant to be doing!'"

"The obsession to create means that I'm constantly on the lookout for appropriate

cracks and crevices that would be perfect for a miniature scene. To amuse is my aim: the unexpected that brings pleasure to the viewer. I do it because I love to."

Tinky's dioramas were featured in Channel 7's coverage of *Meeting of Styles, Melbourne*, a street-art event held in April this year.

Goon Hugs, the third miniaturist, has recently staged his much-anticipated first solo and sell out exhibition at Dark Horse Experiment, Melbourne. Known for his prolific and energetic "getting up" of stickers and paste-ups, Goon Hugs, in what can best be described as his day job, has faithfully replicated empty shops, "abandos" and buildings around Melbourne and Toyko.

The meticulous attention to detail is awe inspiring: complete with the grime, weeds, bin bags, dumpsters and, of course, Goon Hugs' slaps. A painstaking process, I believe some of these pieces were 250 hours in the making.

Unlike Joshua Smith, Goon Hugs' miniatures are a faithful replica of his urban environment where he has employed a simple but inventive use of materials and tools in their creation.

His pieces were a delight to behold! Just when I thought I'd discovered all there was, something else caught my eye. This could be my favourite exhibition for 2016!

The works produced by the three artists featured this month demand that we pay attention, because it is only in doing so that the detail emerges and engages us. In noting the small, we see the bigger picture!



Lorraine Ellis

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

Blurb-ing about nothing

By Rhonda Dredge

Melbourne's premier literary event, the Melbourne Writers Festival (MWF), is on our doorstep and its blurb-writers are inviting commentary.

Take the blurb for Geoff Dyer, who has just released a collection of travel narratives called *White Sands*. The MWF program promises us an analysis of existential questions about place, self and life.

Yet the actual book, which begins with an account of Dyer's visit to Tahiti to celebrate the centenary of Gauguin's residence there, refers to Tahitian women as "babes" and to Gauguin as a hairy old goat.

If the existential question being asked is whether travellers chew up places and then turn them into ironic morsels for the entertainment of others then the answer must be "yes". By contrast, Molly Crabapple has "chronicled our changing world" through her art from Occupy Wall St to ISIS to Guantanamo Bay. Her memoir-manifesto *Drawing Blood* records her presence at these places and events.

The book starts out with her sitting in the

courtroom at Guantanamo Naval Base watching a hearing for the 9/11 military commission and she is sketching the alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohamed.

The accused sits behind glass and he is watching her as she does his portrait. She notes that he has dyed his beard orange with fruit juice.

"To draw is to objectify, to go momentarily to a place where aesthetics means more than morality," Crabapple writes.

She does several sketches, exaggerating the curl of Mohamed's beard. She makes no claims about the truth or otherwise of the allegations, although she has clearly been attracted to this site of conflict.

The difference between the two chroniclers is that Crabapple is recording an experience that can't be paraphrased whereas Dyer is enjoying the egotistical pleasure of scoring points off a proto-hippy's trajectory across the oceans in search of a simpler life.

Did the blurb writer who was expecting insights about the self actually read Dyer's book? Dyer, himself, confesses to have lost the definitive biography on Gauguin on the way to Tahiti. Perhaps a similar mishap occurred between the bookstore and MWF headquarters.

Geoff Dyer will speak at Deakin Edge on Saturday, August 27 and Molly Crabapple on Friday, September 2.

Fashion



Jewellery is a girl's best friend

Melbourne is set to be bedazzled by the latest exhibition from the National Gallery of Victoria.

Beginning at the end of September, the NGV will open its doors to its *Italian Jewels: Bulgari Style* exhibition, a spectacular display of jewels that brings more than 80 pieces featured in iconic films and photography.

Drawn from Bulgari's remarkable archives, the exhibition pays homage to its long-standing relationships with stars of Hollywood and Italian cinema.

Standout features include emerald and diamond jewellery from the personal collection of Elizabeth Taylor, along with a ruby and diamond necklace worn by Sophia Loren. The exhibition sets its focus on the extravagant *Dolce Vita* period of the '50s and '60s, when Rome was a popular location for Hollywood films.

"Spanning from the 1930s until today, the works illustrate a strong design heritage and aesthetic evolution, deeply entrenched in Italian history and artisanal traditions.

Italian Jewels: Bulgari Style showcases the glamour of a golden age of cinema and design, and represents Bulgari's constant experimentation and inimitable aesthetic codes," said Bulgari brand and heritage curator Lucia Boscaini.

Major highlights of the exhibition include jewels presented to Taylor by her fifth husband Richard Burton - the emerald ring he gifted to her during her time on the set of *Cleopatra* - as well as unique creations worn by Hollywood stars from the likes of Grace Kelly, Anita Ekberg and Keira Knightley.

Such an exhibition has been a long time coming for Bulgari. With a rich history stretching back more than a century, its humble beginnings emerged when Greek silversmith Sotirio Bulgari came to Rome and opened his first shop in 1884. Its luxurious aesthetic fast became a favourite among royalty, actresses and high society alike. To this day, Bulgari remains an emblem of Italian excellence and creativity.

Italian Jewels: Bulgari Style will be displayed at NGV International from September 30, 2016 until January 29, 2017. Entry is free to the public.



Aleczaender Gamboa
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Letters to the Editor

Precarious and insensitive

I came across the most recent edition of your publication and noticed that there is an image of two young indigenous children on the cover.

Two things concerned me, was permission sought from the parents of these two children to photograph and publish?

Another concern is the caption of the image. The fact that NAIDOC week takes place once a year and has been observed since 1956 cannot be surmised to be the single most reason for the social improvement of indigenous Australians' (including children) livelihood.

Given the recent news of yet more physical atrocities against indigenous children in this country, I don't think it's a fair call to say that because of a week-long event that these children will have a better future. It certainly hasn't prevented what is happening currently.

Furthermore, the caption of "no one being born on the wrong side of the tracks" assumes that indigenous people are.

I think this is a precarious and insensitive caption. It makes me question how well informed your news publication is on Indigenous history and matters.

Lisa

Keep up the good work

Thank you for the CBD News. Your article "Walls go up on CBD space" was very interesting.

I live opposite the Little Collins St site. A planning application was approved for a 16-storey office building on this site in 2011 which, thankfully, fell through (although it will remain current for some years).

At the time of the application I spoke to the head of open spaces at MCC and he was unaware of the approved application. The square is smack bang in the middle of the Future Melbourne Committee report, as is

447 Collins St.

I put it to him that the MCC should buy the Little Collins St land and turn it into a city park. Dexus had just lost a major lease and it may have been possible.

As for 447 Collins St, the head of open spaces was very positive about turning over half of Market St to public space but wouldn't recognise that the new space was still a lot smaller than the original.

Keep up the good work.

Michael

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AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF HAIR DESIGN + BEAUTY

Keen to join our community

With demand for quality childcare constantly on the rise, local workers and residents will be happy to learn a new early learning centre has opened in nearby Docklands.

Located at the end of the 86 and 70 tram routes at Harbour Town Melbourne, Giraffe Early Learning Centre caters for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

According to owner Jacqui Scheinberg, the centre aims to become a key part of the local community.

“We really aim to create an environment that’s very supportive for the children and families.”

“Having four kids myself, I have a real vision of what I would have liked for my own children and that’s what I’ve created here,” Ms Scheinberg said.

Having opened her first childcare centre in Sydney in 2009, the new centre in Melbourne caters to the growing number of inner-city families, along with parents working in the city.

The Docklands centre opened in July this year and Ms Scheinberg said spaces were still available but were expected to fill quickly.

With its convenient Harbour Town location, Ms Scheinberg said working parents could find cheap parking at the shopping centre, drop their children off at Giraffe Early Learning Centre and then jump on the free

tram and head to work.

Ms Scheinberg said the centre was focused on ensuring children were comfortable and settled in their new environment.

“Something we do that a lot of centres don’t is our long transition periods into the centre. We encourage families to visit as many times as they need to in order for their children to feel comfortable with us,” Ms Scheinberg said.

She said the centre’s purpose-built, open-plan classrooms also promoted a sense of community across the centre.

At the same time, the “magnificent” rooftop outdoor play area is also a highlight, Ms Scheinberg said.

With play equipment, a sensory garden, a sandpit and plenty of space to run around, the space offers children a great play environment.

“Many of the children we care for live in apartments and have very little outdoor play space at home, so having such a big outdoor area for them here was so important,” Ms Scheinberg said.

Giraffe Early Learning Centre currently has childcare places available and welcomes enquiries.



Giraffe Early Learning Centre owner Jacqui Scheinberg welcomes new families to the centre.

The centre is located at level 1, 25 Star Crescent at Harbour Town Melbourne in Docklands.

Visit www.giraffedocklands.com.au or call the centre on 9670 0880 for more information.

Planning

32-44 Flinders Street

Following last month’s approval of a number of significant buildings within the CBD, another can be added to the list with the formal approval of a Dexus-owned, SJB-designed, twin-tower at 32-44 Flinders St.

Rising 56-storeys and 11-storeys for total heights of 181m and 44m respectively, the approval comes after a significant reduction in height of the main tower from the 65-storeys and 212m initially proposed. Dexus has yet to reveal its intentions for the site now that a permit has been granted.

Meanwhile, three consortia have been shortlisted by the State Government to deliver the new Melbourne Metro Rail tunnels and five underground stations. Shortlisted bidders for the private-public partnership (PPP) component of the project will be asked to submit formal proposals early next year with the contract expected to be awarded in 2017 and tunnelling due to start in 2018.

This follows the appointment of John Holland in June for the early works contract which includes excavating massive shafts in the centre of Melbourne as part of preparations for the tunnel and the new underground stations in the CBD.

The last month also saw the release of draft apartment standards for a final round of consultation before they are implemented at the end of the year. While there has been no

minimum apartment size dictated, a range of other measures to ensure adequate daylight and natural ventilation requirements to all habitable rooms are achieved.

In other news, the race to develop the City of Melbourne-owned Munro site as part of the Queen Victoria Market Renewal program has seemingly drawn to a close with Chbus Property dropping out of the running, leaving just PDG Corp to bid for the rights to develop the site.

A 60-storey-plus, mixed-use project including 56 affordable housing units, a 120-place childcare facility, family and children’s services centre, community centre and kitchen, artist studio and city room gallery, and customer car parking is expected.

However, the City of Melbourne and Planning Minister Richard Wynne already appear to be at loggerheads over the size and scale of the development with the Minister suggesting he wouldn’t approve a 200m tower adjacent to the market.

Additionally, the City of Melbourne has started investigating options for the



pedestrianisation and overall improvement of the southern end of Elizabeth St. Depending on the feedback received during community engagement, the partial or full closure of Elizabeth St south of Flinders Lane may be the outcome.

And lastly, Melbourne has been recognised as the world’s most liveable city for the sixth

year in a row by The Economist with an overall score of 97.5, just edging out serial runner up Vienna.



Laurence Dragomir

Laurence is an Urban Melbourne director with expertise in the CBD www.urban.melbourne

Heritage

To market to market ...

The Queen Victoria Market was built in 1869 on its present site just north of the Old Melbourne Cemetery. It has been Melbourne's main fresh produce market ever since.

The market, like much of the 19th century heritage Melbourne treasures today was threatened a number of times in the latter half of the 20th century.

Many of the original 1930s sheds were demolished in the late 1960s for car parking and, briefly in 1964, the entire site was earmarked to be flattened for the same.

Now controversy swirls again, with the City of Melbourne looking to facilitate arguably the most radical changes to the market's operations in its near 150-year history.

Where the Lord Mayor began with a stated intent to "refresh the tired old lady", the recently revealed plans appear to be more about broader precinct renewal than heritage.

The latest plans include a proposal to temporarily dismantle many of the sheds to allow construction of a service basement, and to replace the fresh produce next to the dairy hall with food venues and takeaways.

Council has already spent millions acquiring the neighbouring former Munro site bordered by Therry, Franklin and Queen streets to facilitate and help fund the renewal.

That site is host to a number of former low-rise red brick buildings that are of significant heritage value, but are mostly unprotected. The site is now earmarked by council for an apartment tower development of up to 200m high.

MHA, the National Trust, many stall holders and the Friends of the Queen Victoria Market hold significant concerns about what sort of market will emerge from this process.



While final plans are yet to be released, and the proposed reconstruction of the protected sheds would be unlikely to present heritage issues, the market's core heritage values are all oriented around open space and clear sightlines.

MHA holds significant concerns that a 200m tower on the Munro site may permanently compromise those values. We also oppose any significant demolition of the Munro buildings, which contribute greatly to the scale and character of the precinct.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne will now have the final say on any development.



Adam Ford

Melbourne Heritage Action
<http://melbourneheritage.org.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneHeritageAction>

History



Independent Chapel Collins Street 1860

This chapel stood on the corner of Collins and Russell streets. Following the arrival of Reverend William Waterfield, planning started to construct an Independent chapel in what was then known as the Port Phillip District.

The chapel was designed by architect Alexander Sims and built by John Morrison. The style is Georgian, featuring simple unadorned walls and windows. The new chapel could seat about 300 people.

Construction was completed in 1840 and the opening ceremony took place on January 1, 1841. The first service of the day was held by Reverend Waterfield in the morning, followed by James Forbes, who was Presbyterian, in the afternoon and the final service was held in the evening by Joseph Orton, who was Wesleyan.

In 1843 repairs were needed, especially on the roof. In 1847 it was decided by the committee that it needed to increase its seating capacity and, with the addition of a front porch, gallery and cedar pews this was able to be accomplished without having to expand the walls of the chapel.

The chapel was demolished in 1866 to make way for the new and larger Independent Church that stands today on the corner of Collins and Russell streets.

The RHSV is the historical Society for the City of Melbourne.

It is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm.

The RHSV welcomes visitors to its exhibitions, library and programmes.

For further information visit: www.historyvictoria.org.au



Kate Prinsley

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

Residents 3000

Melbourne – the Most Liveable City 2016

If you are a Melburnian, you have probably heard the catch phrase – "Melbourne is the World's Most Liveable City".

It has been a point of distinction and a civic mantra for our dynamic city over the past five years. It is, therefore, no shock to learn that in August, when the 2016 listing for The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) World's Most Liveable City was announced, Melbourne was again confirmed as number one for a sixth consecutive year.

The Economist is an internationally-renowned British publication with a primary focus on world events, politics and business. Its Intelligence Unit has a history of integrity with analysis and their "liveability study" is one of three that are used internationally to

rate the standard of living in global cities.

The EIU liveable city ranking provides scores for lifestyle challenges in 140 cities worldwide. This index rates for stability, healthcare and environment, education and infrastructure and uses a value score of 100 points.

"Although the top five cities remain unchanged, the past year has seen increasing instability across the world, causing volatility in the scores of many cities," the report said.

Since 2014 liveability across the world is estimated to have fallen by 1 per cent, led by a 2.2 per cent fall in the score for stability and safety. While this may seem marginal, it highlights that 57 of the cities surveyed have seen declines in liveability over the last five years. Incidences of terrorist shootings in France and Tunisia have been compounded by civil unrest in the US and ongoing conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and Libya.

The 2016 report owed the high rankings of both Australian and Canadian cities to their wealth and medium density that can "foster a range of recreational activities without leading to high crime levels or overburdened infrastructure". Melbourne received a total score of 97.5 per cent (.1 per cent higher than number-two-positioned Vienna).

Victorians are a healthy group it would seem, with a life expectancy that is amongst the highest in the world. The EIU considers Melbourne to have high quality public and private hospitals, as well as community health services, ambulance and dental services. Melbourne has received a perfect score for healthcare for each of the past five years on the Liveability Index.

In 2016 Melbourne achieved perfect scores in healthcare, education and infrastructure, while we outranked Sydney in the areas of stability, culture and environment.

Other Australian cities to make the top 20 ranking were Adelaide at fifth, Perth which came in seventh, and Sydney which was this year ranked eleventh.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said retaining the title was a fantastic accolade. "We do not take this title for granted and are constantly planning and implementing policies that will continue to improve our quality of life," he said.

It is international achievements like this that make us proud to be residents of postcode 3000.



Robyn Bunting
 Executive member,
 Residents 3000

www.residents3000.com.au



The public face of Bennetts Lane Jazz Club

By Mindy Gill

Megg Evans is the public face and creative inspiration behind Melbourne's longest standing jazz club – Bennetts Lane.

With a petite frame and sweet, husky voice, Ms Evans is a central player in shaping its impact on the jazz scene.

"Although we're only open about five or so hours a night, the work that we do requires a life-long devotion," Ms Evans said.

Waking up every morning with thoughts about the day ahead – which bands are coming in for rehearsal, what times the rehearsals are scheduled, making sure the rooms are cleared.

"I think, to a certain degree, living what it is you do is a part of identifying who you are," Ms Evans said.

Growing up listening to The Beatles, Chris de Burgh, Tchaikovsky and Mozart, she gravitated towards jazz with a streak of rebellion.

"I had a mother who said saxophones are only for big, black American men. So being white, female, young and Australian didn't really cut it for her."

Set to prove her mother wrong, Ms Evans was strikingly independent from an early age and resolutely learnt how to play the saxophone through school.

Following that, she started performing at gigs at 14, moved out of home at 15 and, at 17, left Perth for Melbourne in search of new horizons.

By the end of the year, she was the 18-year-old manager of Bennetts Lane Jazz Club.

Reflecting on her relationship with the venue, Ms Evans said she was as deeply connected to the iconic Bennetts Lane Jazz Club as it was to her.

"Perhaps it was from an original misplacement of security that I built my security into Bennetts Lane," she said.

And after 20 odd years in the job, Ms Evans



said the club had become her identity.

"In my early years I used to be called the 'blow-up barmaid' because I only existed in Bennetts," she said. "Outside of Bennett's, I didn't know who I was."

To the shock of Ms Evans, staff and the local jazz community, the venue closed its doors, apparently for the last time, in June 2015, following the sale of the real estate by owner and founder Michael Tortoni.

"I think that's why it was so shocking when it closed, this idea that my security could just be sold like that," Ms Evans said. "That Bennetts was just bricks and mortar."

Purchased by the Marriner group, which operates the Forum, Regent and Princess theatres, it continues to operate and is

Melbourne's longest running jazz club with the distinct reputation of a space where the music comes first and the venue second.

With humble beginnings in the early 90s, patrons were often uncertain where they were heading before the lane had any lighting.

"People used to walk up a dead-end alley, with no street lights, with a curious fascination for what might be there, but with a very real fear that something might happen to them on the way there. And the shock was that they would come into this beautiful oasis with these beautiful enchanting musicians talking about music and how it can save their soul."

Ms Evans said Bennetts Lane changed the

music industry for jazz musicians.

"No longer was a band put in a venue to draw people – i.e. here's a light, let's get all the insects in – it became actually the reverse. We put on a band to play what it was that they wanted to play – to develop an art form – and, in so doing, helped find their audience."

Developing this concept over the first five years, Ms Evans said she had to educate patrons who thought they had just come to a space to drink, smoke and casually listen to some music.

With endorsement by the City of Melbourne for its cultural contribution to the arts scene, it meaningfully engages audiences, hosting jazz every single night of the week and enforcing the rule that all patrons remain quiet while music is playing.

After completing a masters degree in interior design in 2006, Ms Evans became critical of the privatisation of public space.

"To deposit ourselves in our urban environment is the best way people can feel connected to it," she said. "And on that point, the club offers a public space for patrons to share in a semi-private experience."

And shifting between living in one room or another within the club itself, Ms Evans said she felt safer and more integrated within Melbourne CBD than in a house in the suburbs.

"In the suburbs you get more of a castle concept: this is my land, this is my space. We don't come off the sidewalk to walk into somebody else's front yard. We do in the CBD. There's a lot more public space."

Bennett's Lane embodies a shift from entertainment into art and Ms Evans continues to nurture the club as a space that respects and cares for the musicians as well as the audience.

Pet's Corner

Flash as

By Rhianna Busler

This four-legged champion just loves the city's busy streets.

Being a small dog in a big city you'd think you might get overlooked, but not for reigning Spring Fling champion Flash.

Suci Ida Bagus loves her eight-year-old Shih Tzu and takes her out for a run around the popular Flagstaff Gardens everyday.

The 30-year-old has been living in the city for a number of years and loves living locally.

"I've owned Flash for about six years and she loves it here in the city," Suci said.

Last year they attended North Melbourne's Spring Fling Festival and took out first place in the annual dog show.

Set to compete again in October, Suci and Flash are hoping to keep their championship title.

"I just dress her up and then we do a routine. It's sort of like a stop, drop and roll with a handshake in between," Suci said.

Flash remains pretty chilled out at home but

gets very energetic when she knows she's coming to the park.

"I've been out here running with her for about 20 minutes now. Because she's so small, she's suited to the apartment life and loves it. But it's nice for both of us to get out and come down to the park."

With a few months until competition the duo is working hard on their routine. "She's really good at tricks and absolutely loves people," Suci said.



VCAT Watch

Queen Victoria Market planning controls

In this month's column, we comment on a report by Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) rather than a VCAT decision.

PPV is a body that exists within the state Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning (DELWP).

It conducts public hearings to consider submissions on planning scheme amendments, environmental effects statements or on matters that the minister requests. It reports back to the body that requested the panel (usually a council or the minister) with recommendations which are not binding.

PPV comprises a chief panel member, full-time senior members and a pool of about 80 sessional members with expertise in a wide range of areas, such as planning, environment, architecture, urban design and transport.

Further information about PPV is available on the State Government's planning page web site.

A panel report on the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) precinct rezoning and built form controls was released in July. The City of Melbourne requested the appointment of the panel to consider the 158 submissions that had been received following exhibition of the draft planning controls (known as Amendment C245).

The overall aim of the built form controls as put by the City of Melbourne was to safeguard the future of the QVM and enhance its surrounds.

Key findings of the panel were that on

balance, the majority of the proposed built form controls should be supported. The panel recommended some changes as to which of the controls should be mandatory and which should be discretionary, and also some changes to the specified podium heights and overall building heights, and side and rear setbacks.

The panel was not convinced of the merits of the proposed rezoning of the majority of the Queen Victoria Market land and Queen St extension currently zoned Capital City Zone (CCZ1) to the Public Use Zone (PUZ7), and recommended abandonment of that part of the amendment.

Interestingly, the panel recommended that the Minister for Planning assume the status

of responsible authority for approval of any development proposal under the proposed planning controls in order to provide a greater level of independence in the decision-making and governance process.

The next step in the process is for the City of Melbourne to consider the panel's recommendations before seeking approval from the minister.



Mark Marsden
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We Live Here

Call for action on court ruling

Apartment residents, the hotel industry and developers of high-rise apartment buildings are under threat unless the State Government acts.

In a decision released in the Supreme Court on July 22, Justice Riorden invalidated an original rule created by the developer of the Watergate building, meaning that owners' corporations throughout Victoria are unable to prohibit owners from letting out their units to short-term guests.

In his judgement Justice Riorden said: "In my opinion, the prohibition of businesses generally and specifically businesses related to short-term letting exceeded the scope of what was intended by the Parliament in enacting the Owners Corporation Act 2006."

The State Government needs to act quickly to amend planning laws and to legislate to regulate short-stay accommodation in residential buildings, otherwise:

- Inner city apartment buildings will be overrun with party guests, holiday makers, boarding houses, backpackers, etc with fewer owner-occupiers and long-term residents and Melbourne could quickly become a city of ghettos in the sky;
- The tourism and hotel industry will be severely affected: hotel revenue will decline substantially and tourism jobs will be lost; and

- Property developers will have difficulty providing guarantees to potential owner occupiers that their homes would not be turned into quasi hotels.

Owners' corporations Trojan Horse

To date, the only response from the State Government to the Supreme Court ruling has been to reintroduce into State Parliament, for a second reading (Tuesday, August 18) its Bill on short-stays, which was first introduced into Parliament on May 23.

This Bill merely addresses the issue of noisy guests and nothing else and arose from the findings of a flawed "Independent" Panel set up by the former Minister for Consumer Affairs, which was compromised by conflicts of interest among some panel members.

On the panel was a short-stay operator but there was no representation from community or relevant resident groups and no consultation with these groups at any time.

During the second reading, held late in the day when very few MPs were in the House, all the government speakers followed the party line in saying how wonderful the Bill was and that it would address current problems in the short-stay industry. The

common theme was that the ALP was meeting an election promise and they were feeling pretty good about it.

Clearly the new Minister for Consumer Affairs, like the previous minister, is totally unaware of or doesn't want to know about the real issues and problems surrounding short-stays in residential buildings.

The one ray of light during the second reading was the contributions by Ellen Sandell, the sitting Member for Melbourne and Russell Northe, the Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs both of whom had spoken at length to We Live Here and had an excellent grasp of the issues.

What can we do about it?

We Live Here is already in discussions with the City of Melbourne about amendments to local planning laws, which is a good start as it does understand the issues.

We now need to have discussions with the State Government.

Letters have been sent to the Premier, Ministers and all other ALP members requesting them to reconsider the Bill and to meet with us to discuss the regulation of the

short-stay industry so there is a level playing field for all.

To date there has been no response and all previous attempts to meet with the Ministers for Planning and Consumer Affairs over the past 18 months have largely been ignored or hand-balled to one another.

We will keep up the fight until the government begins to engage with us. We now ask those of you who are affected by short-stays to also write to the government. The more pressure we bring to bear the better.

A meeting to discuss the issues will be held at Parliament House on Wednesday, August 31 from 6pm until 7.30pm to which all are invited. A flyer will be sent out shortly.

To assist us in maintaining the fight, please donate to our fighting fund which can be accessed via the We Live Here website at www.welivehere.net



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

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

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

7:20am for a 7:40am start, Tuesdays

ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE

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

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

10.30am to 2pm Wednesday – Friday – Sunday

MEET UP WITH FRIENDS

Instant coffee or tea with a biscuit for \$1.00 Meet up with friends or enjoy meeting others at St Francis Pastoral Centre (entry next to the book shop in the church yard).

326 Lonsdale St, 9663 2495

11am - 5pm Saturdays @ Fed Square

BOOK MARKET

Join Melbourne's bibliophiles at the city's largest weekly book market, in The Atrium at Fed Square.

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).



Meets second Tuesday of the month
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Contact: chengji1214@gmail.com

Fourth Monday of each month. Lunchtime @ St Peter's East Melbourne

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eastendersinc@gmail.com

1pm, Mon 19 Sep – Violin and Piano
1pm, Tue 20 Sep – Flute and Organ
1pm, Wed 21 Sep – Isa Harp
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Join our Events Drinks Night on the first Thursday of each month - 6pm at the Kelvin Club, 14 Melbourne Pl.

A community group that connects, supports and represents residents of Melbourne's CBD.

Events are posted on our web site at:
www.residents3000.com.au

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

SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

Probus Clubs for over 50s. Keep your mind active, meet new friends, share interests and enjoy activities.

Contact Sue on 0418 562 181 or mshpc.docklands@gmail.com

Monday, September 5 @ Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne

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Featuring Annabel Crabb and David Marr.
<http://www.wheelercentre.com/events/crabb-and-marr-power-and-personality>

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Wednesday, September 7 @ Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne

WATCH IT!: WRITING FOR TV, THEN AND NOW

Featuring Elise McCredie and Andrew Knight
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Chabad of Melbourne
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Ph: 9525-9929
Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.

City on a Hill
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Collins Street Baptist Church
174 Collins St
Ph: 9650 1180
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Hillsong City Youth
Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm

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

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

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

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

St. Augustine's Catholic Church
631 Bourke St. Melb
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CBD NEWS

女王市场的辩论 荒谬可笑

编辑评论Shane Scanlan

毫无疑问大家对维多利亚女王市场的未来都表示出激情。但是不清楚这个激情是故意的还真是太无知的。

上个月一次公开会议炸开了锅。有些人很愤怒，说了不少挑衅性的话，但好奇的是，没人能够清楚地说明问题到底在哪儿。

8月11日在特瑞(Therry)街Drill大厅举行的会议似乎是比赛谁最热爱维多利亚女王市场。那么谁又不呢？

然而问题应该这样问：如果你热爱维多利亚女王市场，为什么你要抵制为确保其未来而作出的努力？

很显然有些人不愿意接受该市场已经到了末期衰落。有些理想主义者认为因为市场还没损坏，所以不需要修理；他们还在那儿购物，所以依然会继续会繁荣。

其他人承认市场是有问题，但认为市政计划斥资2.5亿来修复实属过分。这倒是一个更有说服力的论据，但同样，如果你真正爱这个市场，为什么要拒绝一个花费在728个小生意业主身上由纳税人出资2.5亿的礼物呢？

如果说有人对此有看法，那应该是成千上万个墨尔本市中心的纳税人，他们对维多利亚女王市场却根本不在乎。都知道有如此严重的透资，这个项目并不能增加财政，也没有这个意图。

遗憾的是，这场对该市场未来的辩论实在荒谬可笑。

8月11日的会议最终得出一个“拯救女王市场”的方法，就是在即将到来的市政选举中“摒弃道尔(Doyale)”。这是一种明显玩世不恭的肤浅想法。

伊丽莎白街可能 关闭汽车行驶

墨尔本市政可能关闭部分伊丽莎白(Elizabeth)街的交通车辆作为街道南端改造计划的一部分。

在弗林德斯(Flinders)街和弗林德斯(Flinders)巷之间，市政可能关闭伊丽莎白街东边的车辆，使该路段更加便利行人。

作为伊丽莎白街战略机遇计划草案的一部分，8月份市政在与相关社区协商期间就此关闭提议调查了利益相关方的想法。

根据8月2日在墨尔本未来委员会上提交的一份报告，其交通分析显示伊丽莎白街该路段的东边车流量非常低，尤其是朝南行驶。

因此市政表示，这样有机会利用该路段的道路和停车处为行人提供更多空间。

市政表示，尽管伊丽莎白街南端是进入市区最重要的入口处之一，但此处由于糟糕的城市设计，行人流通很困难。

市政表示设计上的改进可以包括路灯、植树、景观和装饰摆设的改进。

市政物 业税增 加高达 93%

一些市中心居民抱怨墨尔本市政增加了高达93%的市政物业税。

尽管声称今年的市政物业税只有2.5%的增加封顶，但随机抽样的10个市中心住宅却不是如此。

虽然增加93%的市政物业税是一个极端的例子，可其他住户的市政物业税都有35%、24%和22%的增加。

这个随机抽样也反映了其中三个物业的市政物业税各减少了1.6%、1.7和4.6%。另外三个物业的市政物业税增加可以忽略不计。

受到增加93%市政物业税的这对夫妇说，这是由于自2014年来，市政对他们住宅的物业评估(物业资产评估值CIV)增加了104%。

但是城市房产中介表示，这显然是不可能的。

房产公司(Hocking Stuart)主管斯科特·麦克罗伊(Scott McElroy)说：“在两年内物业价值上升了这么多是不公平的说法。”

他说在那个时期，即使在最佳地段的最特别精致的物业，其涨幅也不会超过30%。

那位市政要求多交35%市政物业税的物主说，他收到市政对他的物业评估里，他的土地价值和他的住宅物业评估值只差\$1100。

他说：“他们评估我的土地为\$1295000，而我的物业评估值(CIV)为\$1296100。”

麦克罗伊先生说，在市中心内土地价值已经急剧上升，但这并不一定能使小块土地更有价值。

麦克罗伊说：“土地的价值已经在市中心内明显上升，但当然这要看在这块土地上能做什么，而似乎在那块地上是不能造40层的高楼。”

墨尔本市政在其2017年的预算中指出，市中心的住房市政物业税会平均上涨5.4%。

财政主管斯蒂芬·梅恩(Stephen Mayne)议员还是坚持这个涨幅数字的说法，声称个别的市政物业税上涨会和某些下调相抵消，平均的上涨幅度是5.4%。

全市范围内，今年市政将会从住宅纳税者中多收7.7%的市政物业税，而非住宅的纳税者只多交2.2%。

今年市政物业税的收入将是2.573亿澳元，比去年多收1.36千万澳元，也就是增加5.6%。

公寓楼新标准 不适用于 市中心

州规划厅长理查德·怀恩(Richard Wynne)最近公布了公寓楼建造新标准，可是市区内的一些公寓高楼将不受其限制。

对前后通风和强制性阳台的严格规定将不适用35米以上的公寓。可开启的窗户只规定在低于80米的公寓。

新标准规定对低于20户公寓的公寓楼，每户居住的公共开放空间不能小于2.5平方米。但是又规定了最高100平方米的上限，也就是说，在有1000个住户的公寓楼里，每个住户的公共开放空间只有10平方厘米。

但是对市中心开发商来说，也不是一帆风顺的。在开发大块土地(超过2500平方米)时，规定要求留出15%的植树面积。由于CBD土地成本为每平方米数万澳元，在2500平方米的这块地上植树可能花费数千澳元 - 这笔开销将不可避免地转嫁到购买者头上。

对于在市中心建造高层公寓楼的开发商来说，要达到新规定的有关阳光直射和防噪音要求也是非常之难的。

根据新的建议，将取缔36米以上的光井。采用光也同时被禁止，因此将来大的公寓要比小的公寓容易设计。防噪音的新规定也使得开发商瞄准大的公寓。

这些新规则有助于解释为什么政府没有必要强制规定最小面积的公寓。“狗箱”式的小公寓实际上已不再设计了。

非增强现实！

当你可以拥有真实东西的时候为什么要去满足虚拟宠物小精灵呢？

8月12日我们的摄影师巴里·道格拉斯(Barry C Douglas)在伯

克(Bourke)街抢拍到的送达-小精灵。

巴里报道说，他并没有试图去抓小精灵！

