

The voice of postcode 3000

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Welcome home for heroes

The CBD welcomed Australia's paralympians home in style in the Bourke St Mall on October 5. The disabled athletes were strongly cheered by the grateful crowd for their achievements. The national paralympian team won 81 medals at the Rio games.

CBD: an electoral powerhouse

By Shane Scanlan

October's Melbourne City Council election is likely to be determined right here in the CBD, despite fewer than one in five residents being enrolled to vote.

The CBD punches well above its weight in political terms. The tiny postcode 3000 contains more than a third of the city's 133,805 eligible votes.

With 42,151 eligible votes within the CBD, the election's outcome rests on how these judge the performance of incumbent candidates and the potential of new aspirants.

But Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) figures show that the postcode's voting strength is not with its 33,000 residents. Only 7968 are on the state electoral roll. It's the CBD's 34,183 non-resident voters who provide the muscle at the municipal election.

The bulk of these voters are investors who own property here, but don't live in the City of Melbourne. There are 23,346 in this category, and they can only be reached by election hopefuls via expensive postage – putting them out of reach of all but the most cashed-up candidates.

There are also more than 10,000 eligible votes awarded to corporations within the CBD.

Even though postal voting closes on October 22, the election results won't be known until sometime between Monday, October 31 and Friday, November 4.

The VEC is allowing more time this year to reflect the falling delivery standards of Australia Post.

The city's urban renewal areas of CBD, Docklands and Southbank account for more than half of the voting entitlement, with 71,732 votes.

Whatever the outcome, the City of Melbourne's unique voting allocation system is bound to come in for criticism from unsuccessful candidates.

Chief among likely complaints is a prejudice which awards two votes to property-based voting categories, compared with only a single vote for voters on the VEC's roll.

It is possible for four votes to be awarded to a single property under Melbourne's voting system – two for the property's owners and two for the business occupying the premises.

There are five categories which attract two votes – Non-resident owner; resident owner (who is not on VEC roll); occupier ratepayer; corporation (owner); and corporation (occupier). These voters appear on what is known as the Melbourne CEO's list.

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Candidate Phil Cleary explains a finer point during a fund-raising event in North Melbourne.

CBD: an electoral powerhouse

Continued from page 1

The City of Melbourne actively surveys properties to maintain this list. Overall, there are more voter entitlements on the CEO list (57,616) than the 54,790 on the electoral roll.

The postal voting system itself is also likely to come under renewed criticism. Critics point out that it is easy to steal or otherwise intercept the ballots, particularly when they are delivered to non-secure mail boxes.

They also point out that the system is open to potential abuse when bulk ballots are delivered to agents representing property owners.

One Southbank agent had 1212 ballots delivered to pass on to property owners.

Such complications resulted in less than 60 per cent of eligible votes being received at the last election in 2012.

Spending by candidates would appear to be significantly down on 2012. This year, a voluntary disclosure of donations received is being maintained by *The Age* newspaper.

The registered showed on October 17 that Team Doyle was leading the donations tally with \$127,000 declared so far. Ken Ong's team has declared \$102,000 with most of it (\$73,008) coming from the candidate himself.

Gary Morgan has stumped up \$8855, The Greens have declared \$26,633 and Phil Cleary's team looks like it will have at least \$60,000 to spend.

CBD dodges congestion tax

Premier Daniel Andrews has rejected Infrastructure Victoria's proposed inner-city congestion tax.

Infrastructure Victoria proposed transport network pricing to be introduced all over Victoria. More specifically, a congestion tax was suggested for the CBD, which would have cost residents \$5 every time they left or arrived home.

The congestion tax would work via a double cordon model, charging drivers \$2 to enter the outer ring (areas such as South Yarra and Clifton Hill) and then an additional \$3 to enter the CBD.

Premier Andrews shot down the idea just hours after the draft report was released, saying that Infrastructure Victoria was not the government and that he would not support the taxing of pre existing roads.

"We've had a very consistent policy about not tolling existing roads," he said. "That remains our policy and that won't be changing."

The report said a congestion tax would slash inner-city congestion by 35 per cent.

Opposition Leader Matthew Guy condemned the congestion tax as "madness" and expressed he felt it would deter people from living within the CBD.

Central City - A Maturing but Still Young Market



Sam Nathan
Managing Director

Understanding the current and likely future position of a property in our rapidly maturing CBD real estate market requires a deeper awareness of neighbourhood, domestic and international factors than was previously necessary.

This goes well beyond the notion of what a property may be "worth", and embodies a full appreciation of the factors influencing the property across the economic, political and social contexts, and the maturity of the sub-market in which it sits.

Melbourne is a mature, emerging World City. However, the medium and higher density markets remain in their relative infancy. It was only in the early-mid 1990s that apartment conversions and small scale developments emerged in the CBD as building owners, developers and Government (State and City of Melbourne) sought ways to generate economic returns and increase the residential population via reuse of obsolete commercial buildings impacted by the recession.

In seeking to understand the broader aspects of our market, it is time we looked towards more mature cities that Melbourne will inevitably reflect in the future. We may think New York, London et al are World Cities beyond our comparison, however their inner city environments are a window to our own future. Their apartment purchaser and occupant profiles are more clearly defined, buildings are designed to reflect the needs of residents within a particular location, and each neighbourhood within the central city is well defined by its culture, ambience and streetscape.

Despite many of the early CBD conversions and projects then (and still) appealing to owner occupiers, the emergence of the CBD residential market has, to date, been underwritten by investors. More recently however, the changing structure of Melbourne's housing markets and evolving social preferences have matured ... we are at the beginning of the next evolution of the central city.

This step-change is re-igniting demand from first and second home buyers in established buildings up to \$1M. In the higher value sector (\$1M+), the market is beginning to recognise the embedded value in established exclusive and luxury buildings. New landmark projects are incorporating higher levels of design and amenity reflective of the needs of sophisticated owner-occupiers, selling strongly off-the-plan to predominantly local purchasers who understand the context of these projects.

The shift towards higher owner occupation of apartments (across all price points) will be the single most significant factor in the future evolution of the higher density market in Melbourne, and is of very high relevance to intending vendors and purchasers. This will be particularly evident in the central city, as future housing demand is drawn to the vibrant core.

Understanding how each building and individual property fits within the market is critical for decision making and planning for both investors and owner-occupiers alike. NPM is committed to leveraging our experience, perspective and thought leadership to fully engage the market on behalf of vendors, ensuring the full narrative of your property is represented to prospective buyers. Further, if you are a looking to purchase, our experience is now available to assist buyers understand the market and identify neighbourhoods, buildings and individual properties relevant to your needs. Feel free to initiate a conversation with us.

Deal or no deal?

In the pre-election environment everyone was running away from a reported Queen Victoria Market deal between building unions and the Lord Mayor – everyone, that is, except Team Doyle.

The Age newspaper had earlier run a prominent story about an alleged secret deal to ensure the QVM redevelopment.

Council administration distanced itself from the suggestion that such a deal was actually possible. The alleged offer from Team Doyle was already council policy (championed by

The Greens). And the unions involved felt compelled to front traders on October 18 to claim that no such deal had been done.

Team Doyle didn't need to say anything. It had been heroically portrayed as saving the market from (mythical) militant green bans. Can we have some normality, post-election?



Trades Hall secretary Luke Hilakari, election candidate Michael Caiafa and CFMEU boss John Setka address traders.

Council inconsistent on apartment design standards

By Khiara Elliott

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has changed its tune on the State Government's attempt to establish standards for the design and construction of apartments.

When it first told the government its position in July 2015, the council deliberately promoted general principles. But, after the matter came before the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) on September 20, it appears that it now wants specific measurements.

The standards were expected to be finalised and released last month but, according to Planning Minister Richard Wynne, have been delayed until the end of the year.

In its initial submission to the government's draft *Better Apartments* discussion paper, the council in 2015 was vague in its language, and shrouded in fluff when calling for "adequate" residential densities, "well designed" common areas and "appropriate sunlight".

Councillor Ken Ong, at the time, considered this approach to be more than sufficient.

"We're focusing on performance criteria of apartment design rather than specific numbers to be applied," he said.

"Whether it focuses on the amenities, the layout, the natural light ... I think those are all the interesting, useful criteria."

However, now that another submission has been made in response to the latest *Better Apartments Draft Design Standards* document, the council has raised a number of objections.

Key issues identified from the latest submission are based around the need for stricter guidelines – quite an opposite view to the one it took last year.

Key issue 5.5 from the officers' report to the September 20 FMC meeting states: "The planning provisions should be as clear and measurable as possible to provide sufficient certainty, be easily understood and applied consistently."

The report goes on to say: "While the draft standards propose minimum dimensions for bedrooms, bathrooms and storage, there is no minimum dimension for living areas or objective regarding the layout and functionality of these spaces."

CBD News contacted Cr Ong about his current opinion on the draft standards.

"In order to enable clear compliance, there

must be clear measurement criteria," he said.

"I believe that with the draft standards, there needs to be some refinement in terms of how the measurement of the performance requirements of these new standards are done."

Cr Ong continued on to say that some standards within the draft were now too clearly defined and that this also posed a problem.

"It is also my opinion that some parts of the standards are overly prescriptive, which can actually stifle innovative design," he said.

"It prescribes light requirement for kitchens and its distance from the windows/light access, this actually does not make sense. It seems like a specific view of what kitchen design should be."

Deputy planning chair Cr Rohan Leppert is also unhappy with the latest standards document.

"These apartment guidelines have been such a long time coming. On the one hand, they are far too late, but on the other, the draft still needs a lot more work until the industry and community are going to be confident that they will improve on the status quo. This is frustrating," he said.

Cr Leppert was also critical of the process.

"It's disappointing that the Minister didn't

release the draft objectives alongside the draft standards," he said.

"It's difficult to predict how successful this performance-based policy is going to be without knowing the strength of the text of the objectives."

"All of the rhetoric from the Minister when announcing the apartment guidelines process was around the decreasing quality of central city apartments. Yet the draft guidelines are really one-size-fits-all guidelines for apartments across the state, which aren't going to improve upon the existing central city development overlays anywhere near as much as we were all led to believe."

As Cr Leppert noted, the apartment standards guidelines have been in the works for a long time.

Craig Yelland, director from Plus Architecture gave a speech on the need for better apartment standards at a CBD Business Networking International (BNI) lunch on September 29.

Within the first five minutes of his speech, Mr Yelland noted the ambiguity of the current draft standards.

"Actually, they don't talk about size. There's no minimum size," he said. "But if you abide by the rules then they're all bigger, so go figure."

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John Dall'Amico receives Residents 3000's award from Acting Inspector Stephen Wilson on October 6.

Award for apartment safety project

Residents 3000 president John Dall'Amico and Leading Sen-Constable Glenn McFarlane have together created a new security assessment program for apartment buildings.

To commend his efforts in the development and assessment of residential apartment security, Mr Dall'Amico was last month presented with an award on behalf of Residents 3000.

The award was presented by Acting Inspector Stephen Wilson at the Residents 3000 annual general meeting on October 6.

Leading Sen-Constable McFarlane and Mr Dall'Amico established their friendship through CBD group Residents 3000, where Leading Sen-Constable McFarlane engages with the local community and informs them of the latest police focuses.

Some two years ago, Leading Sen-Constable McFarlane approached Mr Dall'Amico, who is also director of property management company CBD Facility Management, about whether he and Residents 3000 would be prepared to help in the designing of a program targeting security checks for apartment buildings.

"I identified John as having the experience and expertise that I was after," Leading Sen-Constable McFarlane said.

Mr Dall'Amico was more than willing to help.

"The fact that I'm a resident of the city, well, I want to feel safe myself," he said.

"My job is to ensure the safety of buildings. I learnt so many things in a professional sense that I otherwise wouldn't have known about."

Together, they created two separate assessment documents: one for residents and one for owners' corporations.

"Initially, Glenn had a program that was specifically targeted at residents. I think that's because he's from suburbia," said Mr Dall'Amico.

"In suburbia, you look after your own place, whereas in the city, it's more of a community. There's some questions that only building managers or owners' corporation committees would know the answers to. So that's where we came up with the idea for two programs."

Each document includes a detailed checklist to be filled out. The checklists are broken down into sections regarding areas such as property identification, intruder alarm systems and building access points.

Dog's death raises welfare concerns

By Sunny Liu

A dog (pictured) was brutally beaten and suffocated to death at CBD apartment Upper West Side last month.

It is alleged that the one-year-old Husky was killed by its temporary carer when its owner, a Chinese international student, was on holiday in China.

A source told *CBD News* the dog's alleged killer, also a Chinese student and a resident of Upper West Side, beat the dog, stuffed it inside a suitcase and dumped the suitcase inside a bin room on level 12. Blood was found in the staircases on level 13 and 14.

The source claimed the dog's killer had been physically abusing the dog for months and killed the dog when the dog was "making a mess in the apartment".

CBD News understands when the Husky's owner checked up on his dog, the carer said the dog had been poisoned and was buried in a backyard. But when the owner insisted on seeing the body, the carer allegedly replied that he threw the body away.

The building owners' corporation sent out an email to residents after the incident, appealing for information.

The dog's body has been sent to the RSPCA for examination. The RSPCA is investigating the case and expects to lay charges.

RSPCA prosecution co-ordinator Daniel Bode said there had been an alarming increase of violence towards animals.

"There is no circumstances under which it is acceptable for pet owners to take it upon themselves to violently end an animal's life," he said. "If an owner decides they just can't manage an animal's needs, then RSPCA Victoria will take any surrendered animal - no question asked."

Lead candidate of the Animal Justice Party in the Melbourne City Council elections, Bruce Poon, said international students and



migrants needed to be more educated about the responsibilities of owning a pet.

"They need to know what it takes to look after an animal and they need to be aware of the options to help re-home their pets that they can't take care of anymore," Mr Poon said.

The Animal Justice Party is calling for closure of a pet store at Melbourne Central Shopping Centre.

"Pet stores need to help re-home rescue animals, not promote impulsive buying of animals," Mr Poon said.

"Many Melbourne people want the council to step up its game to provide a better habitat for animals."

An independent review into the RSPCA Inspectorate to improve its operational performances and efficiency has been released.

The State Government has recently revealed its Draft Animal Welfare Action plan, which is now out for public consultation.

The Victorian Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford, said animal welfare was a collective responsibility.

"It's on us all to treat pets, livestock and other animals under our care in a way that meets community expectations and standards," she said. "Bringing a proactive welfare agenda to Victoria is about more than simply the prevention of cruelty to animals, it is about making sure our community knows what else needs to be done."

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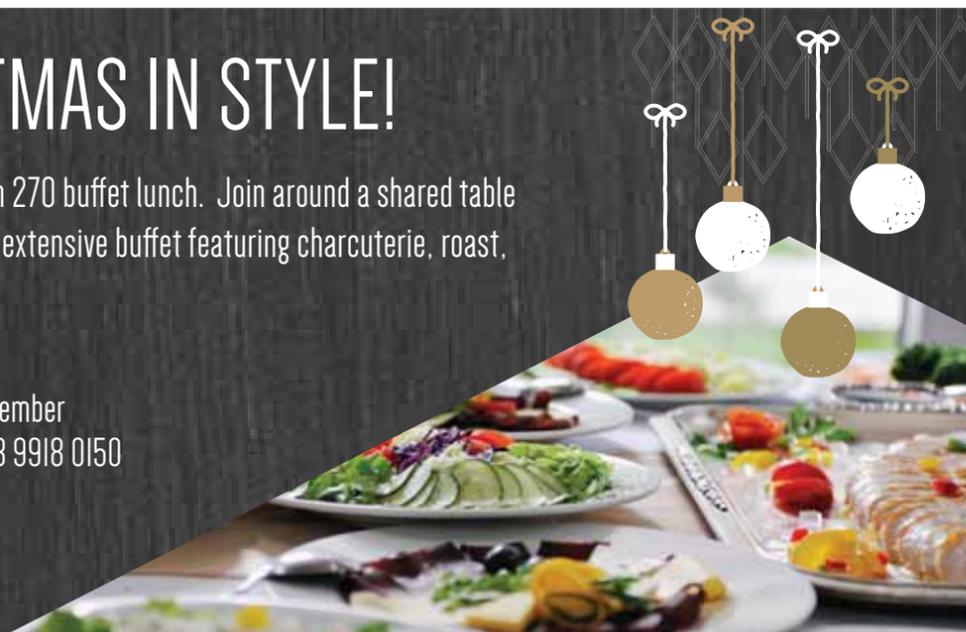
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Soldiers of Odin: heroes or vigilantes?

By Khiara Elliott

A group of men named Soldiers of Odin (SOO) have taken it upon themselves to patrol the CBD streets, believing that more protection is needed.

Dressed in distinctive black jackets with their emblem – an image of Odin, the Norse god of war masked in an Australian flag – Soldiers of Odin have been patrolling areas within the CBD in response to the rising levels of crime, specifically targeting movements like the Apex gang.

It has been reported that SOO members patrol Federation Square, Birrarung Marr, the Bourke St Mall and outside train stations at night.

According to its Facebook page, SOO is officially sanctioned by the founder of the Finnish parent-group, Mike Ranta, who is reported online to be a white supremacist.

The page states it is not a racist group. It says it is “critical of immigration”.

“The government, it seems, is flooding our suburbs with uncivilised immigration. We need to be realists here, the current cultures and ethnicities in which our suburbs are being filled with is detrimental to the safety of our citizens and communities,” it says.



Soldiers of Odin members outside Melbourne Town Hall in Swanston St. (Picture - Facebook).

Sen-Sgt Adam Tanner of Melbourne East Police Station told *CBD News* police were aware of SOO's presence, but suggested that policing was best left to the established authorities.

“I do not recommend people confront offenders as this places you at risk of harm,” he said. “Victoria Police members have extensive training which equips them with the skills and resources needed to respond to safety issues. We urge everyone to ring 000 if they are in danger or witness a crime.”

After an influx of media requests, SOO

chose not to directly respond any further with media, instead releasing an official statement via its Facebook page that rejects any claims of racist activity.

The statement also requests that people not compare SOO divisions from other countries with the one here in Melbourne.

“We are a worldwide organisation, a worldwide voice of collective nations all with their own issues but also with a shared, common problem and all wanting the best for our individual countries and the communities we live in. However, please do

not compare us,” it reads.

In another statement, SOO detailed it was against Islam, and: “the fact that it is okay to be proud to be black, proud to be Asian, proud to be homosexual or transgender, yet it is not acceptable and you are considered racist if you are proud to be Australian.”

Public posts such as these have prompted followers of the page to reply in support with graphics of Nazi propaganda. Another comment expressed irritation with the Victorian Government, labelling Premier Daniel Andrews a “lefty maggot”.

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Residents fight redevelopment plans

Residents at the Royal Flagstaff Apartments on LaTrobe St are standing united against redevelopment plans that would compromise their living standards.

Property owner Spacious Property Development Group plans to develop the next-door property at 488-494 LaTrobe St into a 64.9m residential tower, but residents have vowed to fight all the way to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

And it's not the first time they have banded together to fight development of that site. Two years ago, Spacious attempted to develop a 100m tower but the residents objected and won at VCAT.

The September 20 Future Melbourne Committee heard that 34 objections to the new plan were received - mostly relating to height, amenity and overshadowing.

Nine Royal Flagstaff residents attended the meeting and spoke against the permit application.

Council officers had recommended granting Spacious its permit, subject to 25 conditions. Councillors, however, were divided on the issue and ended up not making a decision.

Planning chair Ken Ong moved to accept the officers' recommendation. And Cr Rohan Leppert foreshadowed an alternative motion, refusing the permit.

But, before coming to a conclusion, Lord



Residents of Royal Flagstaff express their solidarity to protect their amenity.

Mayor Robert Doyle successfully moved that a decision be deferred - effectively, leaving the decision to council officers.

After the council's non-decision, *CBD News* contacted Royal Flagstaff residents about their ongoing plight.

"We have a very strong sense of community here," began resident Simon Mitchell.

Residents are concerned with wind impacts. They say the height and structure of the

proposed tower would funnel wind around to their shared outside area containing their playground and tennis court.

"A lot of people meet out here after work and play on the playground with their children, or use the barbecue area or the tennis courts. The wind impact would make it inappropriate to use," he said.

"We couldn't stand here and watch our kids play. The gusts of wind would be at an uncomfortable level."

All surrounding buildings, including residential and educational, have been built to a 40m height restriction and a minimum of a six-metre set-back rule. Spacious's plans for its site would not. It would be built right up to the boundary of the Royal Flagstaff Apartments and cast a shadow on several apartments from as early as 1pm.

"You'll notice that all the buildings nearby don't exceed 40m and they all have set-backs. What that does is create a sense of openness," Mr Mitchell said. "This sense of openness, we think, is fundamentally a part of the character of the area."

"When you put something right on our boundaries of that size, it becomes very imposing," said resident Sharon Vladusic.

The sense of family within the Royal Flagstaff Apartments is undeniable, with many current residents opting to purchase three bedroom apartments to accommodate for their expanding families.

"I'm so excited and passionate about this building and its residents," said resident Pranav Garg. "I bought a two-bedroom apartment when I first moved in here, but now my wife and I are thinking about starting a family. With that in mind we bought a three-bedroom apartment."

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CBD tax woes

By Khiara Elliott

CBD property owners are facing massive land tax hikes and may be further hit if recommendations are adopted for another metro rail project.

Land tax assessments for 2017 based on councils valuations for 2016 predict that some land tax bills will increase by as much as 180 per cent.

According to figures provided by CBRE, the land value of Exhibition St is up by 160 per cent, and Queen St by 156 per cent, more than 10 times the state average.

This increase is largely due to the purchase of the Telstra site by Malaysian developer SP Setia, for a staggering \$101 million.

CBRE data also suggests that a land value increase of 50 per cent would create a land tax increase of 57 per cent.

A report by Infrastructure Victoria and Ernst & Young suggests that if a future Metro 2 project was built, up to 30 per cent of its costs could be funded by taxing nearby property owners.

The suggested Melbourne Metro 2 project would connect Southern Cross Station to areas such as Clifton Hill, Newport, Parkville and Fishermans Bend via a new train tunnel through the CBD.

Infrastructure Victoria estimates that the total cost for the project would be in the range of \$15-22 billion. Construction will occur over six years, starting in 2034.

The report says that tax figures were assessed on the nature of each project and its predicted productivity.

Analysis of the Melbourne Metro 2 project suggests that permanent increases in taxes "could be in the range of 20-30 per cent of project costs, with the majority following to the Federal Government and not the State Government as funder of the project."

The report study considered the distance

from the property to the railway station, the frequency of services at the station and the distance to the railway line when determining the impact of rail transport on real estate prices.

"It was found that dwellings very close to the station are on average about 25 per cent more expensive than those 15kms or more distant. This percentage ranges between 19 per cent for low frequency stations, and 33 per cent for high frequency stations," states the report.

Key findings of the report indicated that more than one levy would potentially be needed to cover construction costs.

"The application of one or more betterment levies is the only way to generate significant funding in the order of 25 per cent of project costs," it reads.

"The complexities involved in applying targeted betterment levies suggest that hybrid value capture/ tax mechanisms are required."

The Infrastructure Victoria proposal drew a stern rebuke for the Property Council of Victoria, which pointed out that the property industry currently paid 54 per cent of Victorian taxes despite being only 11 per cent of the economy.

Executive director, Sally Capp, said the new taxes would increase house prices, business costs and rents at a time when these are already unaffordable for many.

"Under the betterment levy idea for Melbourne Metro 2, a 40,000 sqm office tower with a \$21 per sqm rate will face a tax increase of approximately \$800,000 each year for 30 years. Clearly, this is unsustainable," she said.



Union members display protest signs outside Melbourne Town Hall.

Workers demonise Mr 'Cutter-hands'

By Khiara Elliott

The Australian Services Union (ASU) held a protest outside the town hall in late September over the City of Melbourne's (CoM) failure to meet and agree on a new enterprise agreement (EA) for staff.

ASU organiser Ty Lockwood said he felt the need to take further action after the union offered to meet with management every day in the lead up to the AFL grand final weekend, but to no avail.

"We have reached out to meet in our attempt to further negotiations before any planned

industrial action commenced this week," Mr Lockwood said.

Workers and protestors gathered outside town hall armed with posters of acting CEO Martin Cutter's head superimposed onto Edward Scissorhands's body, naming him "Martin Cutter-hands". Other signs condemned his "slashing" of entitlements.

Acting CEO Martin Cutter told *CBD News* he felt the ASU's claims on the impact of industrial action over seven days of work bans were overstated.

"The impact of the work bans to the CoM's direct parking infringement revenue is nowhere near the \$250,000 per day estimated by the ASU," he said.

It seems, however, that the protest and bans have got the ball rolling on negotiations, with the enterprise agreement now being discussed.

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Pokemon players preyed on

An increasing rate of phone theft has been seen throughout the CBD, says Sen-Sgt Adam Tanner.

Sen-Sgt Tanner from the Melbourne East Police Station as well as Leading Sen Constable Glenn McFarlane said thieves were becoming more confident in their approach to stealing phones, taking them straight out of victim's hands.

Sen Constable McFarlane especially warned players of the Pokemon Go app, as the game urges players to walk through areas whilst staring at their phone screen, unaware of their surroundings.

"They see the light shine on your face as

you're reading a text or walking around playing Pokemon Go and that is an indicator to them that you are not paying total attention," began Sen Constable McFarlane.

"When they snatch it, it's already unlocked so they don't need your pass code to gain entry. Then they reset your factory settings and it's basically a brand new phone."

Another significant issue raised by Sen-Sgt Tanner was theft from cars. According to Sen-Sgt Tanner, items that may seem of little value to drivers are enough to cause a thief to break in.

"It's the little things like charger cables or aux cords too," he said.

Again, particularly within the CBD, police have seen a spike in bike theft.

He urged cyclists to buy a decent lock.

"Bikes need to be secured appropriately and the comment I'll make here is: what you spend on a good quality lock is what will save you a lot of problems within the city," he said.

"It doesn't matter if the bike is particularly valuable or not. If they're not secured appropriately or with a very thin, wire cable, they're an easy target."

Sen-Sgt Tanner encouraged cyclists to use D-locks or something of a similar design, and asked them not to secure their bike to anything other than the racks provided.

Ultimately, police are urging residents and visitors alike to be attentive and alert in securing their personal property.

"It's about people being vigilant, people being aware of their surroundings, making sure they're not leaving anything

CBD first to access free Wi-Fi

The nation's fastest and largest free public Wi-Fi network was launched in the CBD on September 29.

The Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade, Phillip Dalidakis, the City of Melbourne's chief digital officer Michelle Fitzgerald and TPG fibre operations group general manager Reggie Naik came together at Southern Cross Station to announce the roll out of the new network.

The network, known as VicFreeWiFi, comes as part of the State Government's \$11 million Victorian Free WiFi Pilot.

Activated hot spots include all Melbourne CBD train stations, the Bourke St Mall, the Queen Victoria Market, and South Wharf Promenade at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The project is being managed by TPG and will run for five years. It allows for up to 250MB worth of data per device, per day.

Another attractive feature is that it doesn't require any personal information to log in, nor does it allow pop-up advertising, ensuring an easy, relaxed experience for users.

Ms Fitzgerald is confident the Wi-Fi network will only add to the city's already established reputation.

"Free Wi-Fi will further strengthen Melbourne's reputation as a leading city and allow more residents and visitors to access information, share their experiences and promote our city as a global tourist destination," she said.

More access points in areas such as Docklands will be set up over the coming months. The full network is estimated to be operational by the end of the year.

Once the full network is complete it will be the largest of its kind in Australia, covering an area of 600,000 sqm across Melbourne, Bendigo and Ballarat.

STREET LIFE



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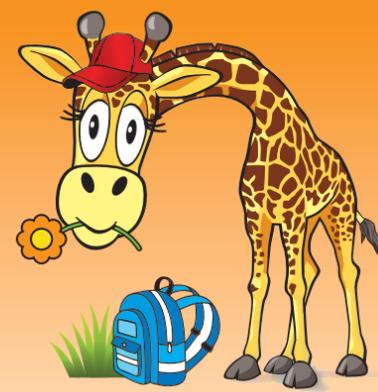
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Surprising CBD garden haven

By Khiara Elliott

A makeshift garden sited at the Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is to potentially receive a major upgrade.

The garden forms a triangle at the corner of Victoria and Therry streets in the hall's forecourt.

Local residents and business owners of the Victoria Square precinct are working with the City of Melbourne to transform it into a lush, green sanctuary for all to use.

Surrounding businesses involved in the project include the AMES Australia Multicultural Hub, Cohealth and Activia Hair Fashion.

CBD News spoke with residents, designers and businesses around the precinct about why they believed the garden would be such an uplifting, integral part of the community.

"The idea of upgrading the garden is to support the residents and to provide a space where the whole community can come together," Cohealth manager Ian Symmons said.

Although in need of major upheaval, the space has a come a long way.

"It was simply an abandoned space,"



Residents, sponsors and other interested people gather at the Drill Hall garden.

explained president of the Drill Hall Residents Association (DHRA) Martin Mulvihill.

"I think at one point it was just a car park. It was chained off, so access was not very easy and there was some uncertainty about ownership so no one really knew how to get things going," he said.

The upgraded garden is proposed to also provide a safe place for those who do not necessarily have one. Cohealth Health

Centre provides services to people with all kinds of needs. Mr Symmons works with the homeless in particular and hopes that the upgraded garden will become a refuge for his clientele.

"We want the homeless community to come together and see the space as somewhere they feel safe and welcome, where there's resources and where there's an opportunity for residents in social housing and residents from the local area to use this garden as a meeting space as well," he said.

The garden has thus far acted as a makeshift vegetable patch of sorts, comprising a few donated planter boxes and a recently-added worm farm. Although the addition of the worm farm has added some green to the space, the site is still quite cold and barren – a problem the upgrade is intended to fix.

"Enhancing the space with built-in resources will make a big, big difference and really provide a focal point for the community to come together," Mr Symmons said.

To brighten up the garden with colour, Drill Hall Community Garden is seeking advice from Wonderment Walk Victoria and McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery on a potential artwork to add to the space.

The precinct members' plans to add more green to the CBD doesn't stop with the Drill Hall garden. Ideas about adding plants to the surrounding vicinity around Therry and Victoria streets have also been discussed.

"We're trying to make it more of a precinct. We're trying to use the garden as a focal point for some of the potential redevelopment of Therry St and also Victoria St in terms of greening the space," Mr Symmons said.

"Greenery is sorely needed in the city," said garden upgrade designer Elliott Summers.

"You've got a lot of apartments coming up everywhere, but there's a real lack of open space."

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Positive potential for lane

By Rhianna Busler

After years of neglect, there is still hope for Jones Lane to become one of Melbourne's unique laneways.

EastEnders Inc, a group formed in 1998 to promote meeting fellow residents and a place to discuss local community issues, is urging attention be brought to the long-forgotten Jones Lane.

As an area recognised by the City of Melbourne (CoM) as a high-density residential precinct, EastEnders said it was sad to see the lane's deterioration.

Situated between Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale streets west of Exhibition St, EastEnders said: "Jones Lane has become an area of unglamorous and socially undesirable activities."

"With the imminent development of the Wesley Church and Princess Mary Club heritage building, it is timely for the City of Melbourne to work with the developer to ensure this space becomes one of Melbourne's hidden gems," the group said.

The Princess Mary Club was built in 1926 and will soon be knocked down and converted into a 34-level office tower, right next to Wesley Church.



EastEnders members in Jones Lane. They are looking for positive improvements.

A spokesperson for the developer Charter Hall said: "We are working with the responsible authority regarding the upgrade of Jones Lane as part of the development which will include retail activation and upgraded finishes consistent with the Melbourne City pallet of materials."

EastEnders Inc has made efforts to interest CoM councillors Jackie Watts and Ken Ong and local MLA Ellen Sandell in ways to bring Jones Lane back to life and have received positive responses.

EastEnders vice-president Jenny Eltham said the group was currently drawing up ideas that it hoped to suggest to Cr Ong at their

next meeting.

Some of these ideas include artwork on buildings walls and a coffee shop with the theme of celebrating women to resemble what was once the Princess Mary Club.

Although EastEnders is saddened by the loss of the Princess Mary Club, it sees this development as having the potential to positively affect the neighbourhood and utilise Jones Lane.

It says the lane has a long history of waste disposal issues from overflowing bins to being an illegal dumping ground and was used as a "cut through" by drivers looking to circumvent city traffic snarls.

New medical centre for the CBD?

The City of Melbourne has received an application for a new medical centre to be built on Franklin St.

The application for 58-64 Franklin St was received on October 7.

Currently, the site is home to a Priceline Supermarket and a post office but the application proposes that it be turned into a medical centre where three practitioners will provide X-ray, pathology and dentistry services.

An on-site pharmacy is also included in the proposed plans.

After viewing the application, *CBD News* has learned that the application has now been closed and archived due to it not being needed.

"... pursuant to the provisions of the Melbourne Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the proposed use. Accordingly, the application has been closed," read a letter addressed to the applicant, sent from planning officer Adam Birch.

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A place in the new city

Rhonda Dredge

The hail was falling in Flinders Lane last month and passers-by were taking shelter in Ross House, an historic building with three friendly interfaces to the street – a coffee shop, a meeting place and lifts to offices for community groups.

Two girls were hovering in the warm glow of the doorway as the streets glistened with rain. An office worker rushed out with his takeaway as soon as there was a lull.

This was community life in Flinders Lane on a typical weekday. Seven meetings were chalked up on a board just inside.

Soon this area, known colloquially as the Flinders Quarter, will become a demolition site. Visually impaired visitors to Ross House will have to learn new routes from the station while dodging hoardings, heavy equipment, drillers, trucks and workers employed to cut through the fabric of the city.

Ross House stands adjacent to the 3000 sqm construction site nominated by the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) for the new CBD South station. Other buildings between this section of Flinders Lane and the station will be compulsorily acquired.

It is difficult to imagine a less appropriate place for a brand new station for the commuter city. Why strike at Melbourne's communal heart instead of using the City Square as the place to demonstrate the power of the engineers' vision? A construction period of up to 10 years with



sustained levels of noise at 90 decibels and more will make way for a deluge of commuters rushing to reach the corporate sector located outside the quarter.

"Construction of a cabin station is meant to minimise surface disruption," said Michelle Blackburn for McDonalds Australia, which opposed the acquisition. "The cabin goes in through an access shaft."

By comparison, Flagstaff Station has an above ground footprint of 400 sqm.

"It needs to be explained why such a large

site is being acquired for CBD South," Ms Blackburn told the inquiry into the project.

Owners of affected buildings, including the Commonwealth Bank, Hungry Jack's, McDonalds, the Port Phillip Arcade, Bible House, Ross House and others had their say at an environmental effects statement (EES) hearing which finished last month.

Amber Moore, development program manager for Ross House, said the viability of Australia's only self-managed social justice building would be threatened by the project.

The building offers subsidised rent to 50 community organisations, many of which cater for people with disabilities, brain injuries, visual impairment and old age.

"We have 70,000 visitors each year who need access to Flinders Lane and Royston Place," Ms Moore said. "They need taxi drop-off, pedestrian access. Some visually impaired clients count the exact number of steps to reach Ross House."

The McDonalds store in Swanston St is the most profitable in the city, opening 24 hours and employing a young workforce.

"The most likely outcome is retrenchment of 175 employees," Ms Blackburn said.

Residents of Bible House, the second building in the city to be converted from commercial to residential, will overlook the new rail entrance to CBD South.

Resident Margaret Bray said: "This is a case of David and Goliath. We've owned an apartment in Bible House since 2003. It's an iconic building in an historically significant area. Degrafs St wasn't a café place when Bible House was refurbished. The City Library wasn't there. It's not an easy thing to build a community."

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New players vow to shake-up city real estate market

The CBD has a new real estate player with the recent arrival to Collins St of First National Platinum.

Coming from a development project background, principal Maurice Romano is convinced that the new agency is the best way to expand.

The franchise has already secured the rights to 16 Asian countries, so the move from a small retail space in North Melbourne to 405 Collins St is just the first step.

Sales and leasing director Debbie O'Bryan is the architect of the move. Already deep-entrenched in First National, Ms O'Bryan negotiated the deals, fitted out new premises and is charting the way forward with new service offerings.

Ms O'Bryan explained that the new business was keen to continue and expand its off-the-plan sales and marketing role for other developers.

She is particularly excited about a boutique project in Moreland Rd, West Brunswick, called Cornwall.



Debbie O'Bryan and Maurice Romano outside their new premises in Collins St.

Purchasers here have unprecedented capacity of shaping their future loft-style apartments, with an almost unlimited potential for customisation.

Ms O'Bryan explained that building quality apartments for owner-occupiers to ensure capital growth was the key to the future for the development industry.

"It makes sense on so many levels," she said. "Not the least is the attractiveness of this approach to the banks."

And, while the new agency is well-versed in apartment development, it also has considerable expertise in green-fields house and land sales and marketing.

"One of the reasons for locating here in Collins St is to be convenient for city workers who may want to talk to someone who's knowledgeable about the housing market in the outer suburbs," Ms O'Bryan said.

When you also add commercial sales and leasing to the list of specialties, you start to see just how rounded this one-stop-shop is.

Mr Romano established his Romano Property Group in 2005. Prior to that he had held various senior roles in the corporate world.

The ambitious group managing director is now talking the international market, with plans to open offices in China, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Singapore.

One of the benefits of joining the First National group is that its name translates to "Number One" in Chinese.

First National is at 405 Collins St, Melbourne, phone 9614 7667.



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Continuing market traditions for the next generation



By Malcolm McCullough
Queen Victoria Market
chief executive officer

The Queen Victoria Market community – traders, loyal customers and indeed management, all agree that the market's future prosperity should be built on our unique history and the important role the market has and will continue to play in bringing the people of Melbourne together.

It's been evolving to meet the needs of Melburnians for over 138 years and we all want to see the market perform that important role long into the future. However, you cannot operate a 21st century marketplace in a 19th century environment.

Continuing the tradition of market trading in a contemporary city requires necessary upgrades to facilities and investment in the customer experience to ensure its long term viability.

The challenge with the Queen Vic Market is that our upgrades need to be done very sensitively and in a way that protects our heritage buildings and unique market atmosphere. Adding to this challenge is our commitment to continue trading during renewal works recognising the reliance that so many have on our market as a regular place to shop, trade and connect.

It's a balancing act but we have to get it right because we know that the most important thing about the Vic Market is its authenticity and character. It's the traders, the produce, the wonderful mix of sights, smells, sounds and tastes that make the market what it is.

In business terms, it's our unique selling proposition. And we're not about to do anything to compromise that. Our plans for renewal will result in an even better marketplace, equipping our traders with the infrastructure they need to be more efficient and profitable in a contemporary city.

Moving market operations below ground will give traders access to cool rooms, storage, waste management facilities and dedicated delivery zones, improving working conditions and making the site a safer, more pedestrian friendly place for all.

The renewed Queen Vic Market will be open more often, with more on offer for customers. But it isn't about asking traders to work around the clock.

Having a more flexible marketplace will enable more businesses to trade at the market at different times, complementing the traditional market offering. We'll be keeping things affordable and giving customers more choices.

There will never be a supermarket at the Vic Market. Nor will there be sterile, franchised offers. Our future will be clearly built on family-based small businesses, innovative start-ups and social enterprise just the way it always has been.

The revitalised market will be surrounded by great streets and tree-lined spaces with more room for pedestrians, cyclists and improved access to public transport. There will still be plenty of car parking but it will be moved below ground so that the current car park can be transformed to "Market Square" – a 1.5 hectare backyard for all Melburnians to enjoy.

Through renewal, we will restore and return the market's heritage sheds to where they stand today. The much-loved food halls will be just as they are with only some minor restoration and renovation works.

The Queen Victoria Market has an important place in the community and culture of our city and we want this to continue for the next 138 years. Everything we do is about protecting the history, people and future of the market and ensuring its legacy lives on for generations.

Visit the Queen Victoria Market Information Hub at 452 Queen St between 9am – noon on market days for more information of the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal.

Our commitment

We will:

- Continue to trade throughout renewal;
- Create a more efficient and safer place to work and visit;
- Retain the unique atmosphere and authenticity;
- Restore and return the market's heritage sheds to where they stand today;
- Leave the much-loved food halls just as they are, with only some minor restoration and renovation works; and
- Never build a supermarket or shopping mall at the Queen Vic Market.



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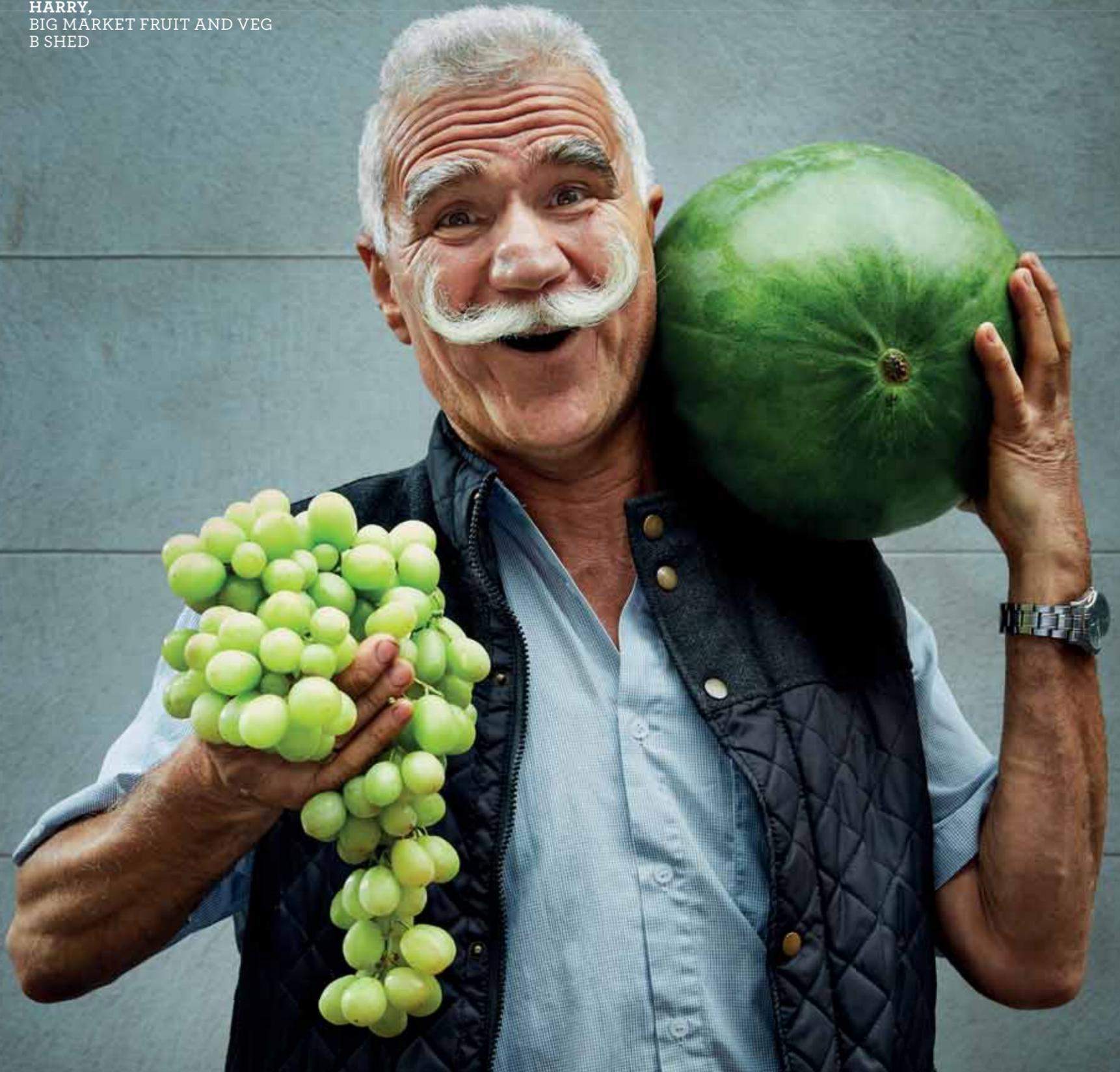
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**LUNCH TIME****OH MY HAT**

Whether you're in search of black and white for Derby or a pop of colour for Oaks or The Cup, look no further than the CBD for a "Fashions on the Field" worthy ensemble this Spring Racing Carnival.

With race-wear popping up in a range of boutiques across the city, options are aplenty and putting together a distinctive outfit (or two) is easily achievable in a lunchtime shopping trip.

A successful race day ensemble should be simplistic and complementary – it is advisable to start with one element and style from there. Traditionally, hemlines should be kept below the knee and colour palettes are dependent on the day, however, conservative is forgettable so don't be afraid to take a risk on a headpiece or item of clothing and embrace personal style.

Local milliner Louise Macdonald creates gorgeous hats and fascinators from her studio in the Nicholas Building on Swanston St. Her designs have made celebrity appearances at the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival and Dubai World Cup and she runs weekend and week-long millinery classes where budding hat-makers can learn traditional and new techniques. Her studio is open for business Monday to Friday, but an appointment is required so be sure to pre-book. Louise Macdonald Milliner, Level 8 Nicholas Building, www.millinery.com.au



Also in the Nicholas Building, you'll find Serena Lindeman Millinery, specialising in fine bespoke headwear. Serena Lindeman creates made to order pieces for racing events and a range of other occasions, but also has a range of ready-to-wear hats available for purchase. Her studio is open for business from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Serena Lindeman Millinery, Level 6 Nicholas Building, www.serenalindeman.com.au

Madame Virtue and Co. boutique is a haute couture haven, stocking a range of designer, one-off and vintage handbags, clothing and accessories. With pieces from Balenciaga, Karl Lagerfeld, YSL, Comme des Garçons (in addition to its own Madam Virtue Red Carpet Collection) and a range of vintage and archival Chanel and Hermes, Madame Virtue is the boutique of choice for an exclusive outfit. Madame Virtue and Co. 5 Crossley St, www.madamvirtue.com.au

Home to more than 100 local and independent designers, with a range of clothing, accessories and jewellery, the Design a Space CBD boutique is a one-stop shop for Australian designers. The Design a Space concept provides an opportunity for designers to rent out high-profile retail to showcase their work - so you can shop local and find a one-off piece. Design a Space, 20 Manchester Lane, www.designspace.com.au

As for the gents, in keeping with tradition, Derby Day calls for a black suit, however, the other race days are open to interpretation and usually the brighter the better – within reason! A matching shoe and belt combination signifies a well-styled ensemble. For suiting requirements, we recommend Oscar Hunt tailors on Hardware Lane. Affordable, tailor-made and tried and tested by *CBD News* editor, Shane. Oscar Hunt, 43 Hardware Lane, www.oscarhunt.com.au

HIGHLIGHTS**Pop Up Patch**

Featuring over 140 veggie crates rented by residents, restaurants and businesses, Pop Up Patch is a CBD community gardening paradise. It's also open to the public with a mini-shop on site.

10am - 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday.
Rooftop Carpark, Fed Square, www.popuppatch.com

**The Power of Story**

In this exhibition from the Indonesian Arts, a collection of pictures, maps, sculptures and jewellery portray the power of story and the diverse realm of narrative communication forms.

10am - 4pm, daily until November 25. Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery, 141 Queen St, free, www.melb.artgallery@gmail.com

**Making the Australian Quilt**

This exhibition features more than 80 quilting works from around Australia, including key works by renowned makers and a number of recently discovered pieces not exhibited before.

10am - 5pm, daily until November 6. Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Fed Square, entry \$7, www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/

**Mailbox Art Space**

Mailbox is an alternative public art space that invites artists to create site-specific work for a strip of restored mailboxes in the entrance foyer of 141 Flinders Ln.

8am - 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
Foyer, 141 Flinders Ln, www.mailboxartspace.com

**IMPerfect Creation**

Award-winning contemporary Malaysian sculptor, Ch'ng Huck Theng, brings 11 bronze works concerning the perception of beauty and ugly to the CBD in his new exhibition *IMPerfect Creation*.

11am - 5pm, Monday to Saturday until November 12. SpACE@Collins, Lvl 1, 278 Collins St, free, www.chngart.com

**Lunch Box**

Enjoys some tunes over lunch at one of Melbourne Music Week's free Lunch Box gigs held at the State Library Victoria.

12.30pm - 1.30pm, Monday to Friday, November 14 to 18.



MUSIC IN THE STREETS

The city streets will be filled with noise and sounds in celebration of our world-renowned music scene as Melbourne Music Week takes over the CBD from 11 to 19 November.

The nine-day program is dedicated to illuminating connections between music, people and places within the city, and will feature events in 40 locations across the CBD. With more than 100 events scheduled and 240 local and international artists involved, Melbourne Music Week (MMW) is set to captivate our city.

The MMW Hub will be located at the State Library Victoria. The traditional silence of the iconic library will be broken as it transforms into the heart of Melbourne's music scene, with events being held in the outdoor forecourt and the LaTrobe Reading Room, and the historic Queen's Hall acting as the hub's main stage – a rare opportunity to visit this majestic room that hasn't been opened to the public in over 10 years.

Hub highlights include a show by New Zealand rockers Shihad on Monday, November 14, a hip-hop, soul and R&B fest with sets by Elliphant, Yeo, UV boi and more on Tuesday, November 15, and an epic free party featuring Allday, Northeast Party House, Ali Barter and Alex Lahey hosted by Triple J to celebrate 10 years of Triple J Unearthed on Friday, November 18.



The forecourt will also host a series of *Sun Sets*, with a line-up of local musicians playing tunes to while away the evenings. The Coopers Beer Garden and Captain Morgan's Rum Deck will be set up for knock-off drinks and in-between-set nibbles.

Other events across the CBD include an intimate gig with a mystery musician aboard one of Melbourne's trams in *Tram Jam* on Tuesday, November 15, and *Hush: An Evening of Quiet Music*, on Tuesday, November 15 and Wednesday November 16, that will see some of the nation's prolific

songwriters perform in Parliament House's Queens Hall, Federation and Library rooms.

There'll be a New Orleans-inspired party at Fed Square on Thursday, November 17 from 5.30pm, featuring seven piece brass street band Horns of Leroy and food truck Gumbo Kitchen, followed by the third Live Music Safari event hosted at 1000 Pound Bend, featuring a line-up of three emerging local hip-hop acts – Baro, Milwaukee Banks and ESESE.

And for those less enamoured by noise,

the Tower Records documentary *All Things Must Pass* will screen at Rooftop Cinema on Thursday November 17, and Emporium Melbourne will feature photography exhibition *Her Sound, Her Story*, celebrating the rich diversity of female talent over five decades of music history, that will be open for the length of the program.

Tickets can be purchased online or at a dedicated ticket booth located at the State Library Victoria forecourt. To view the program and find our more visit mmw.melbourne.vic.gov.au.

HIGHLIGHTS



Songs of a War Boy

Lawyer Deng Adut shares his incredible story of growing up a child soldier in Africa and how he came to be Western Sydney University's Youtube star in conversation with Ben Mckelvey.

6.15pm - 7.15pm Thursday, November 3
The Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale St, free, www.wheelercentre.com



Blender Lane Artists Market

Setting up shop in a vibrant laneway off Franklin St every Wednesday night, the summertime market features stalls, workshops, studio visits, performing arts and live music.

5pm - 10pm every Wednesday, from November 16 until March 1, 2017.
Blender Lane, 110 Franklin St, free, www.theblenderstudios.com



Story Lounge

Indulge your inner-child at the City Library's Story Lounge, an after work story time for adults with hand-selected stories and poems read aloud followed by casual discussion.

6pm - 7pm Wednesday, November 9.
City Library, 253 Flinders Lane, free, www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/libraries



Environment and Place in Writing

Hear award-winning author Richard Flanagan discuss the role the environment plays in his writing process at this special event.

6pm - 7pm Monday, November 21.
State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston St, free, www.slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on



Density

Cinema under the stars, MPavillion style, Density is a night of films investigating the role of urban design in the creation and destruction of healthy social environments.

8.30pm - 10pm Wednesday, November 9.
MPavillion, Queen Victoria Gardens, free, info@mpavillion.org



Deluxe Design Market

Buy Melbourne-made gifts this Christmas from a range of seventy-five independent designers gathered together under one roof for your shopping delight.

5pm - 10pm Friday, November 25.
The Atrium, Fed Square, free, www.melbournemysterymarket.tumblr.com



THE WEEKEND

A FOODIES DELIGHT

As if the decision wasn't hard enough choosing where to eat on any given day in Melbourne, in November the options are 10-fold as Good Food Month returns with a top line-up of drool-worthy events.

A Good Food Month favourite, the Night Noodle Markets are back in 2016 on the banks of the Yarra at Birrarung Marr with more delicious Asian hawker-style food offerings, drinks and live entertainment.

Crowd pleasers Chin Chin, Wonderboar and Gelato Messina will return to the event, and be joined by newcomers Aunty Franklee and Ok-Nomi. There'll be dragon dancers, chef demonstrations and live DJ's to have a post-dinner boogie.

Arrive early to access reserved seating and a dedicated bar – it's well worth it. Open daily from November 10 to 27, from 5pm weekdays and 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

The five-course Young Chefs lunch at Oter will highlight the talents of five emerging chefs set to take over the Melbourne dining scene. Chefs Jake Kellie from Lakeside Mill, Jasper Avent from Carlton's Town Mouse, Alex Xinis from the Press Club, the 2016 Young Chef of the Year, Jarrod Di Blasi from Ezard and Oter's own David Boyle will cook for the event. Tickets \$190 including five canapes and five courses with matched wines. 12pm - 3pm Sunday, November 20.



Celebrate Chinese cuisine and culture with Flower Drum's Anthony Lui and Hong Kong-based Kei Lum Chan and Dora Fong Chan at a special five-course lunch banquet hosted by Flower Drum. The banquet will feature some Flower Drum signature dishes alongside recipes from the Chan's new book *China: The Cookbook*. Tickets \$140 including five courses with matched wines and a copy of the book. 12pm Saturday, November 26.

Acclaimed chef and author of *Nose to Tail*, Fergus Henderson, will be visiting the French Saloon for a four-course dinner with paired drinks to chat about all things

animal – and we mean everything. Food will be cooked by Todd Moses, Peter Sheldon and the French Saloon team, and will feature classics from Henderson's London restaurant St John Bread and Wine. Tickets \$160 including five courses with matched drinks. 6.30pm Saturday, November 26.

Pop in to Trattoria Emilia on Saturdays to experience a taste of Modena with their Modenese Lunch special. Choose between gnocchi fritto with mortadella mousse or pork sausage and balsamic risotto, each dish paired with a glass of red or white, for a

modest \$35. From 12pm - 3pm Saturdays in November.

Take a bagel-making masterclass with masters at 5 & Dime Bagel and learn how to roll, boil and bake your very own traditional bagels at home. The class includes lesson and lunch – just in case your bready creation isn't as tasty as you'd hoped. Tickets \$100 including lesson and lunch. 11am - 2pm Sunday, November 27.

To view the full program and book tickets visit www.goodfoodmonth.com/melbourne. Happy eating Melburnians!

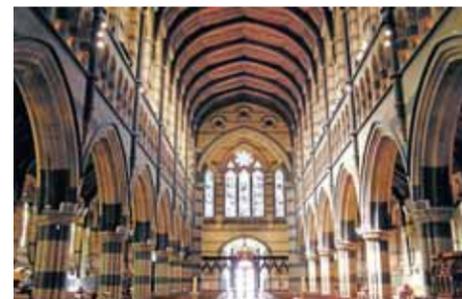
HIGHLIGHTS



Another World

An exhibition of other-worldly works by a group of female photographers. All proceeds from the show to the One Girl charity, promoting education for girls around the world.

11am - 6pm Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5. Magnet Galleries Melbourne, Lvl 2 640 Bourke St, free, www.magnet.org.au



Requiem

Polyphonic Voices will be joined by the award-winning Adelaide Chamber Singers for a performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem Op.48 in this final show for 2016. **7.30pm - 9.30pm Saturday, November 12. St Paul's Cathedral, tickets from \$40, www.polyphonicvoices.com/requiem**



Air Force Band – In Memoriam

Join the Air Force Band for a special concert of remembrance, reflection and inspiration in the lead up to Remembrance Day on November 11.

2pm - 3pm Sunday, November 6. Melbourne Town Hall, 90 Swanston St, free, www.airforce.gov.au/band



Club Kids Music Academy

Children are invited to experiment with samplers, drum machines and keyboards at the Club Kids Music Academy, designed to allow kids to share in the joy of electronic music.

11am - 3pm Saturday, November 19. MPavillion, Queen Victoria Gardens, free, info@mpavillion.org



Polish Festival

A showcase of Poland's hospitality, hearty food and romantic traditions, the 12th annual Polish Festival will feature live music, culinary delights and market stalls.

10.30am - 5pm Sunday, November 13. Federation Square, free, www.polishfestival.com.au



Thessaloniki Sister City Festival

The Thessaloniki Association is hosting a celebratory festival with Greek dancing food to mark the 32nd Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Melbourne and Thessaloniki.

12.15pm - 8pm Sunday, November 27. Fed Square, free, www.thessaloniki.org.au

Some surprises from the Planning Minister

The month of October saw a few surprise approvals from within the department of Planning Minister Richard Wynne, with the most notable being that of Fragrance Group's 555 Collins St proposal.

Singaporean outfit Fragrance Group has managed to gain approval for a 147m residential tower at 555 Collins St which would comprise 625 apartments and a retail plaza at ground level that connects to the adjacent 567 Collins St retail laneway. The development would have a floor area ratio/plot ratio of 1:24, which is significantly more than the requirements of Planning Scheme Amendment C270 but in line with the interim controls of C262.

Long after notions of a 400 metre commercial tower and, in the wake of Fragrance Group's early ambitions for a 300 metre mixed-use monolith on the site, the revised Bates Smart-designed residential scheme has been given the green light by Mr Wynne. This process of approval has taken place in conjunction with the site being offered for sale.

After failing to win approval for its initial scheme, Fragrance Group appointed Knight Frank in the early stages of 2016 as handling agent for what still is currently a vacant office tower with prime Collins St frontage, known as Enterprise House.

The initial Bates Smart-designed tower for the site sought approval for 1020 apartments,

11,280sqm office space and 300 hotel rooms over 91 levels.

Another project to receive a favourable decision from the minister is 140 King St, a 58-storey, 188m residential tower designed by Rothelowman for Besgate Group. The glazed black tower is inspired by a luxury watch, or more specifically, a solid link wrist band.

Arranged in an interwoven pattern, 140 King St's continuous facade is designed to provide a unified and formal response to the site's surrounds. The tower will accommodate 271 apartments within a tapering form and is welcome news for Besgate after its 86-storey tower at 640 Bourke St stalled following unanimous derision from City of Melbourne due to height and lack of adequate setbacks. It is believed 640 Bourke St is undergoing redesign to address council's concerns.

In other news, Tong Eng Group has shown firm intentions regarding its tower at 111-125 A'Beckett St which it has christened Myriad Melbourne. The Singaporean developer's first Australian foray, Myriad has yet to receive the sign-off from the Planning Minister. It seems that once it does, sales won't be too far behind.



555 Collins St.

And finally, Aurumstone Group has been revealed as the purchaser of 295-309 King St. CBRE City Sales successfully negotiated terms for the 1292sqm site, which also has approval for a Plus Architecture-designed 66 level residential tower.

While Aurumstone is pursuing a hefty 60-level skyscraper in New York, 295-309 King St is a significant step up for the

developer whose projects across Melbourne to date have been relatively modest.



Laurence Dragomir

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

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SKYPAD Living

Use your apartment space better

Space may well be the final frontier, but it is the lack of it that is the daily challenge for many high-rise residents.

While the Tiny House and Compact Life movements are promoting the virtues of stripped down living, many vertical dwellers don't aspire to such ambitious minimalism.

In fact space, and specifically storage space, continue to be major bugbears for high-rise residents.

There are, however, some clever products emerging that use space-age technology to help vertical dwellers make their available space work harder for them.

One such range is movable internal walls, which are not as popular as might be expected. In their simplest manifestation, a wall, such as one dividing a lounge and a second bedroom, travels compactus-like along a predetermined pathway to the other side of the apartment. Depending upon direction of travel, this could increase the entertaining space or, by moving it in the opposite direction, reveal a work space, an exercise area or guest sleeping quarters.

Stepping up a notch, the moving wall itself may feature inbuilt storage, taking on the appearance of an integrated unit.

While there are several variations to

these movable walls, some pivot to reveal entertainment units on one-side and work spaces on the other. One issue of concern is the physical effort required to slide these wall-units.

Enter ORI, which has announced that its new modular system will be available in 2017.

Deriving its name from origami (the Japanese art of folding paper), ORI's offerings are interesting for two reasons.

Firstly, they utilise robotic technology to transform internal space, activated through the touch of a button – the harder the button is pressed, the faster the unit travels. Included in this robotic unit is, on one side, a closet and a bed that retracts into the unit, and on the other side is a home office and an entertainment suite.

The second point of interest is that these transforming robotic units were the result of a partnership between MIT Media Lab and the designer, Yves Béhar.

In Australia, we bemoan the gap between the fine minds at our universities and the pragmatic needs of our economy. It is offerings such as those by ORI that show just



Clever furniture can mean the difference between being comfortable or cramped.

how well this gap can be bridged with the right partnerships.

Over the next months, this column will keep watch on our universities and our local designers to discover Australian innovations that boldly go where none have gone before to the benefit of our vertical dwellers.



Janette Corcoran
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Our building has worms ...

What did you say? The Hero apartment building in Russell St has installed a communal worm farm to reduce general waste and to provide compost for residents' gardens.

Earlier this year (February/March), the Hero Owners' Corporation took part in a City of Melbourne initiative to trial the effectiveness and practicality of installing a worm farm for a residential high-rise building that has (in this case) 150 apartments of which 40 comprise an apartment hotel.

Initially there were 37 apartments that signed up for the trial. Each apartment was allocated an attractive kitchen bin (at no cost) for the collection of vegetable waste to feed a large colony of worms.

Initially a series of nine Hungry Bins from Wormlovers (www.wormlovers.com.au) were installed in the car park. Each bin came with a colony of 2000 worms that multiplied to around 10,000 per bin after four to five months. These worms go about eating waste vegetable material including shredded non-glossy paper, which they love! Generally, once a worm farm is established, each Hungry Bin is able to process up to 2 kg per day of food waste.

Every eight to 12 weeks the Hungry Bins produce a rich soil known as the "castings". On a continuous basis the worms produce a "juice" that is a potent fertiliser for apartment plants and rooftop gardens. The worm juice needs to be diluted by one part to five parts water. The castings can be added to normal soil making a mixture that is excellent for growing vegetables and all manner of plants and trees.

You might think that busy CBD residents would not be bothered to separate out their vegetable waste as well as their normal recyclables, but this has not been the experience. After only a month or so the waste load was greater than expected and four more Hungry Bins had to be added to the initial nine. At the same time, a 100 litre drum was included so that residents could help themselves to the worm juice.

After the trial period, Hero's worms are doing just fine. Over the past few months, residents have made use of 350 litres of worm juice and, shortly, the first batch of castings will be



Hungry Bin and Worm Juice 100 litre tank.



Hungry Bins in the car park.



Kitchen caddy to store waste vegetable matter.

available.

From personal experience, developing the habit of saving vegetable waste (not citrus or onions) for the worms was easy. The bonus is that your main waste bin does not have to be emptied so often. I even find myself chopping up some items knowing that the little creatures like smaller pieces. I think that if these worms help my plants to thrive then I want to see that they are well fed

and that they are happy. By the way, my apartment garden is doing well on its worm juice fertiliser and I am contributing in a small way to reducing my carbon footprint.

After the study was finished a month or two ago, the Hero Owners' Corporation decided to support the on-going maintenance of the worm farm for another 12 months. Wormlovers visits the property every two weeks to check on the worm's health, keep

the bins clean and to reset the signs on the top of the bins to indicate which worms need more food and which bins are full.

One thing that is important is to see that the food waste is not fermenting and that there is plenty of shredded paper included to balance the acidity of the mixture. Note that old newspaper and shredded documents from the home office are ideal.

The advantage of having the worm farm as part of common amenity is that individual apartments may not have enough waste to support their own Hungry Bin, whereas bins for the community make sense. The owners' corporation benefits by significantly reducing the quantity of general waste and hence the cost of taking it away.

The City of Melbourne encourages CBD dwellers to embrace composting. Go to www.compostrevolution.com.au/melbourne/ to learn about an offer of 25-35 per cent off the retail price of a worm farm (plus worms!).

They quote that the total waste diverted from land-fill under their program is 3,455,494 kg equivalent to 28,795 standard wheely bins.

Given the large number of apartment buildings and with the many food outlets in the CBD, it seems that reducing the cost of processing waste, could free up public money to be spent on furthering other city amenity projects, like beautifying laneways and adding green areas to soften, oxygenate and cool the concrete jungle.

Composting via food waste could also lead to realizing the dream of more balcony and roof top gardens to make our city even more beautiful.



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Dr. David Izon

MBBch, MRCGP (UK), FRACGP,
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Critic

All work and no play

By Rhonda Dredge

The lovely anarchic sensibility of painter Bill Hay is on show at fortyfivedownstairs, inviting visitors to join in the fun.

While other shows around town present a thesis for the viewer's interpretation, Hay has his slogan printed on a document for all to see.

Twenty gouaches on paper take advantage of the fluidity of paint and ideas, drawing on images from birds at Royal Park to old typewriters with attractive innards and black keys.

Hay taps vigorously on his keyboard, enjoying the syncopated rhythm of the words "All work and no play" as they appear in ironic letters on his inner screen.

"I read Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* in 1980," he says. "There's a character in the book who mixes a colour that has never been seen before. I'm attempting to do the same thing."

Tertiary colours are mixed twice. "You have to select and choose, not allowing the tube to select for you," he said. "You have to make the decision on colour relationships."



Hay and fellow-painter Cathy Drummond have a show at fortyfivedownstairs in Flinders Lane every two to three years. "I think it's the best space in Melbourne," Hay said. "It's the architect's equivalent of the Golden Mean."

Drummond's painting records all of the detail but her material is nostalgia for the door has closed on Sam Bear's, according to the internet.

Mary Lou Jelbart, the artistic director of the gallery, first met Hay as a young anarchist artist when she was on St Kilda City Council. "He made me feel nervous," she told the crowd at opening night.

Bill Hay and Cathy Drummond are showing at fortyfivedownstairs until October 22.

History



Scotts Hotel, Melbourne

This photograph was taken in c. 1950 within the saloon bar of Scotts Hotel, Melbourne.

Scotts Hotel was situated at 444 Collins St, built in 1860 and substantially remodelled in 1913-14 under a design by the architect, Arthur H Fisher.

The hotel was originally known as "the city home of country people" and stood on the north side of Collins St opposite the western market of Melbourne, defined today by Market St.

The site was first occupied by the Lamb Inn in 1837, renovated as the Clarendon Family Hotel in 1852 and then purchased by Edward Scott in 1860.

Scotts Hotel was renowned for the pastoral property auctions held there, as the gathering place for racehorse owners and breeders, as the Melbourne residence of English cricketers like WG Grace and as Dame Nellie Melba's favourite hotel.

The prestige of the hotel had diminished by the mid-20th century and ceased trading in 1961 when the building was purchased by the Royal Insurance Company, ending its claim to be the oldest continuously licensed site in Victoria.

The photograph, by Edwin G Adamson (1895-1974) shows male customers in the saloon bar where prices were higher than in the public bar with barmaids coping with

demand for drinks before the rigidly enforced 6 o'clock closing and "Time, gentlemen, please".

Scotts Hotel was demolished in 1962, before 10 o'clock closing came to Melbourne in February 1966.

This photograph is one of the many held at The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the city of Melbourne's historical society.

Currently on display at the RHSV is the exhibition *Remembering the 'burbs 1850 - 1960* - a reflection on the changing suburban industry, economy, recreation and buildings of 22 of Melbourne's suburbs. Drawn from local historical societies the exhibition showcases the vanishing lifestyle of Melbourne's suburbs.

The RHSV is open Monday - Thursday 10am - 4pm. Friday 10am - 3pm
239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne
www.historyvictoria.org.au



Kate Prinsley

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

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Heritage

How will heritage fare with the next council?

With only a matter of days left before final voting in the council election, it's worth looking briefly at how heritage has fared under the current council, and what may be in store in the next term.

The city's lack of a proper heritage review in decades and council inertia when sites fall under threat has seen numerous unprotected buildings including the iconic Palace Theatre, 40 LaTrobe Street, the Duke of Kent Hotel and most recently parts of the Little Lon precinct all fallen victim to needless destruction.

The inertia is notably due to the Lord Mayor and other councillors saying they don't want to "change the rules midway" by considering heritage listing when an unprotected place urgently needs it.

A proactive council could have ensured better compromises between heritage and

development rather than simply letting the process run though based on out-dated rules and information.

Dozens of planning applications, a number involving heritage, also lost quorum this term due to a majority of councillors and the entire Doyle ticket having accepted donations from applicant developers, effectively silencing all councillors and public objectors as the public vote and debate was made impossible.

However, during this past term we've also seen some major steps forward, with updated heritage guidelines, heritage studies of the Guildford and Hardware Lane

precincts, City North and, most importantly, a commitment to the first comprehensive study of the CBD and Southbank in over 30 years were all achieved after the lobbying of MHA and successful motions by Greens councillor Rohan Leppert.

We've also seen commitments by the Lord Mayor and his team not to take developer donations, ensuring more planning applications can be debated next term if the Lord Mayor is returned.

With all these studies (above) to go before council as amendments next term and an election that has seen heritage at the forefront of the Queen Victoria Market

debate, a strong Greens campaign, and excitingly, a new Heritage Agenda team vying for a spot, the next four years should prove to be equally as busy as the last for heritage advocacy, with more positive outcomes.



Tristan Davies

President
Melbourne Heritage
Action

We Live Here

City Schools for City Kids

The State Government announced on Tuesday, October 11 that it is going to buy land to build a primary school in Docklands and also to build new schools in North Melbourne and Fishermans Bend.

At last the government has decided to act. Families throughout the greater Melbourne area (including Docklands, the CBD and Southbank) have been waiting for years to have desperately needed schools in the inner city.

Whilst on the surface this announcement seems to be great news, local families and residents must now keep up the pressure on the Andrews Labour Government to quickly get on with purchasing land and getting these schools built.

A tireless campaign run by the City Schools for City Kids group and supported by the We Live Here movement has been conducted over a long period of time.

It shows that ongoing pressure by these groups is working. These ongoing efforts appear to be now reaping the rewards that inner city residents deserve and that their voice is at last being heard.

You the resident have a voice and are a voter.

Council elections

On Friday, October 7 the We Live Here movement had a meeting with Mr Phil Cleary, a candidate for the Lord Mayor's position at the upcoming City of Melbourne council election. Mr Cleary was also given a tour of a residential building.

We would like to thank Mr Cleary for showing great interest and taking time out of his busy schedule to see for himself and understand the problems that residential buildings across the city have with unregulated short-stay operators.

The We Live Here movement supports and embraces Airbnb and the mum and dad investors embracing sharing economy ideals.

We do not support the unregulated commercial short stay industry and their operators. They are not part of the "sharing economy" but of the "taking economy". The We Live Here movement encourages all residents, before voting, to carefully consider what the candidates are going to do for residents and what their policies are on short-stays in residential buildings. Make sure your voice counts.

Survey of candidates

To canvas the opinion of candidates on the issue of short-stays we sent a short questionnaire to all 58 candidates for lord mayoral and councillor positions.

The questions asked were:

1. Are you or anyone or entity associated with you engaged in commercial short-stay operations?
2. If elected would you support amendments to the Melbourne Planning Scheme to insert the requirement for a planning permit to be obtained before apartments in residential buildings can be used for commercial short-stay operations, including those using Airbnb?
3. Would you support the regulation of short-stay accommodation in residential buildings so owners' corporations have a right to determine the use of their building and to create a level playing field for the accommodation industry?

Summary of the preliminary findings:

- A total of 11/14 teams (85.7 per cent) responded to the questionnaire; and
- 1/3 of the ungrouped candidates also responded.
- A partial response (1/4 candidates) was received from The Light on the Hill and this team was excluded from the analysis. No response was received from The Heritage Agenda, or An Indigenous Voice for Council.

Results:

10/14 teams said no to Q1 and yes to Q2 and Q3.

One team (Together Melbourne) said yes to Q1 and one team (Melburnian Voice) gave a qualified yes to Q1 because short-stays had infiltrated the building where they lived. Both teams said yes to Q2 and Q3.

One team (Animal Justice) said yes to Q1, was not sure how to answer question 2, but said yes to Q3.

One team (Stephen Mayne: Transparency, Independence, Accountability, Experience) said no to Q1, Q2 and Q3.

Conclusions:

We Live Here is delighted with the response to the questionnaire: thank you so much to everyone who took the time to participate.

We were also very gratified to see the level of support shown for one of the major aims of We Live Here, which is to see regulation of the short-stay industry in residential buildings. It was, therefore surprising and

disappointing to see that just one team - Stephen Mayne's - did not share those views.

Detailed results, including additional comments provided by some of the teams, will be posted on the We Live Here website in due course.

"We live here" buildings



Supporters of We Live Here

The supporter base of We Live Here continues to grow. As at August 31, a total of 141 buildings (see diagram below) and more than 350 individuals had registered on our website at www.welivehere.net.

Supporters are the first to hear breaking news and details of forthcoming events. We also welcome your feed-back and suggestions about issues that can be aired in this column or on our website. Please send to campaign@welivehere.net.

Contributions are also very welcome and can be made online at www.welivehere.net



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

Street Art

The world according to Barek

It's an engaging and mystical world. One that is naive and charming, whimsical yet poignant.

This much-loved Brisbane artist has a large fan base here in Melbourne and a visit from him is a much anticipated street treat. It seems we can't get enough of him!

About 10 years ago, Barek embarked on a lifestyle change deciding to make a living from his art. A prolific artist, his contribution to the street is primarily paste-ups.

Last year I spoke to him on the eve of his third and, what turned out to be, a very successful exhibition at Off the Kerb Gallery in Collingwood. It was a new direction for him – with paintings, drawings and sculptures inspired by Japanese folklore including monsters and ghost stories, tree spirits and water gods.

"My intention is to educate people making them appreciate a different culture," he said.

The chameleon was a reoccurring image. Perhaps this was a metaphor for the artist?

Barek's surfaces are manifold. He enhances wallpaper offcuts and magazines and knitting books with his images.

"Part of my experience when I come to Melbourne is a pilgrimage to Hosier Lane. The Brisbane scene is not like the Melbourne one. Street art isn't condoned and there are very few places to get one's work up! However, I find that because of their size and placement knee level or below, they tend to survive from visit to visit. I also save my best work for these trips south."

His pieces are one-offs – originals, not photocopies.

"It's art that's actually made for the street, with every piece being hand-drawn. Originality tends to get lost in a photocopy. I



love the drawing process and it's something I'm committed to doing every day – to perfect my craft. I enjoy making stuff and would be depriving myself of this pleasure if it was to become mass-produced," he said.

"Painting is such a liberating experience for me. My foray onto the street has been with small steps. Growing from stickers but with a move, because of size limitations, to wheat pastes. Originally I didn't put a name to the work. It was just something I did. But it began to be noticed, with people 'faving' it on Flickr and this encouraged me to keep going."

Barek's work is original and very personal. "I never imagined that anyone would buy it! I feel very blessed that they do and with

everything that has happened to me, I'm amazed by the journey it has taken me on."

"My popularity has had a momentum of its own. It's something that I innocently blundered into it. I've seen other artists who've been painting for a lot longer, still struggling for recognition. So I feel very lucky with my success."

"It has taken me by surprise. I try only to make art that I like. And, although I appreciate photo-realism, I've come to realise that with my work, it's my vision, this childish naivety, that people are interested in."

"I don't have any outside influences and my work is generated from my imagination. It was quite a turning point when I realised

that people wanted my version of the world and not how it really is!"

"I don't feel the need to be famous but just to make enough money that enables me to survive and keep on painting. This will be enough to make me happy."

Fast forward to Barek's forthcoming, and fourth, Melbourne exhibition. I revisited him for an update.

For his *World of his Own* exhibition he has chosen to slow down, technique-wise. Loosely based on a tribal theme, the works have crisp finishes with less "drippy" effects. For some pieces he has chosen to combine realism with his trademark simplistic style.

He has been experimenting with acrylics, combined with ink and paper cut-outs to create a 3D effect and he uses double glazing to create shadows. Some are on timber, others on canvas.

"My aim is introduce something different and original into each exhibition. I know what works and what's popular," he said.

Once accused of living in his own world, he has turned this into a positive and created a "Barek" world. Art has given Barek a voice. Long may he be vocal!

World of His Own is showing at Off The Kerb Gallery in Collingwood from October 21 October until November 3.



Lorraine Ellis

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

VCAT Watch

Minister gives mixed signals on apartment sizes

In a recent VCAT case, *Port Melbourne Land Custodians Pty Ltd v Minister for Planning [2016] VCAT 1643*, developers lodged an appeal against a decision by the Minister for Planning to refuse a number of amendments to a planning permit for a proposed multi-tower apartment development in Plummer St Port Melbourne.

Interestingly, one of his grounds of refusal was the small apartment sizes – an issue the minister decided was not important enough to include in the draft apartment design guidelines released for public comment in August.

The original permit was for three towers containing a mix of 447 dwellings and 13 townhouses. Part of the amendments included reconfiguring apartment layouts; increasing the number of apartments to 536; reducing the number of townhouses to 11; removing all borrowed-light bedrooms; reducing the floor-to-floor levels to 2.95m (was 3.2m); redesigning the podium landscaping and roof top facilities; increasing the communal areas from 2396

sqm to 4056 sqm; and revising the lifts, stairs and services core.

The minister considered that the proposed additional apartments were being achieved at the expense of a reduction in internal amenity. Specifically, the concerns related to:

The tribunal found there was, in fact, no reduced separation between the towers and that the curved facades resulted in a slight increase.

The applicant called a planning expert witness and he also considered there needed to be a number of improvements to the internal amenity of the apartments, including:

The tribunal agreed that the above modifications should be applied to achieve an acceptable outcome. However, it did not agree with increasing the minimum apartments sizes and balcony sizes and said: "Provided the internal area of an apartment is useable, I do not consider it is necessary to require a one or two bedroom dwelling to have a minimum area or to require all balconies to be eight square metres with a minimum dimension of two metres."

The tribunal made reference to draft Better Apartments Draft Design Standards that was exhibited by the minister at the time of the hearing, but gave little weight to this document as it "has yet to be fully considered and implemented".

There is an overdue need for minimum standards on the internal amenity for apartments. The lack of standards has caused difficulty for the tribunal in deciding what is acceptable and there are many examples of poor quality apartments. It will be interesting to see whether the minister includes standards on minimum apartment sizes, given his stance in this matter.



Mark Marsden

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Victorian Planning
Reports
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Putting your sleep health first

Forty Winks South Wharf is teaming up with a leading bedding manufacturer as part of its mission to improve the lives of locals via a better night's sleep.

According to the ABC's 2016 study *Reboot Your Life*, 75 per cent of Australians are currently having trouble falling asleep, while only 12 per cent are waking up feeling refreshed.

Forty Winks South Wharf owner Virginia Williams said the brand had teamed up with a leading bedding manufacturer AH Beard to provide customers with the best advice on how to consistently get a good night's shut-eye.

According to AH Beard, the top five tips for helping people waking up feeling wonderful are:

Make sure you have a comfortable mattress that provides the correct support;

Make sleep a priority – sticking to a schedule helps reinforce your body's sleep-wake cycle and can help you to fall asleep;

Create the ideal sleep environment – create a room that's ideal for sleeping to create a suitable environment for you;

Avoid caffeine before bed time – your body doesn't store caffeine but it takes many hours to eliminate the stimulant and its effects; and

Wind down and keep a routine – do the same things each night to tell your body it's time to wind down. Take a warm bath or shower, read a book or listen to soothing music.

With many inner-city locals leading busy and high-pressure working lives, Virginia said Forty Winks South Wharf was committed to providing a holistic approach to helping customers to get a good sleep.

Having operated at South Wharf for seven years, she said the team was well equipped to providing the right advice, service and of course, beds to the local community!

"All our team are sleep experts. Most of our team have been in the bedding industry for many years," she said. "All our team has extensive product knowledge to help customers select the right mattress for their needs."

"Like any industry, there are constantly new developments and new innovative technology so training and education is ongoing. This means our team can offer our customers the very best sleep solution."

The store will host free sleep education seminars on November 12 and 13 between 2pm and 3pm with leading sleep educator Gillian Wise, who will share her insights and information on how to transform peoples' sleeping habits.

Customers can also currently enjoy great deals across the King Koil bedding range, including package deals with adjustable bases, an up-size offer, two free King Koil pocket spring pillows upon purchase, free delivery with every purchase over \$1000 and the chance to win a King Koil mattress.

Forty Winks South Wharf is located on level 1 of the DFO Homemaker Centre.

To RSVP to the free health seminar call **9682 4425** or email fortywinks@southwharf.com.au



Spencer Nagy, Dr Pietas Nyamayaro, Emma Cholakiens and Dr David Izon.

Strength to strength

The Southbank Medical Clinic's philosophy is providing an accessible and patient-focused "one-stop-shop" for the local communities of Southbank, South Melbourne and the CBD.

Its charismatic lead GP, Dr David Izon, explained that the clinic's key focus was providing medical treatment of the highest quality whilst being in a relaxed environment which is both patient-centred and convenient.

"Our surgery is very patient-orientated. When we created this clinic, we looked at not only high quality care but the 'patient journey' from booking an appointment across a number of media, to accessing a number of services including typical general practice services, therapists e.g. psychologists and dieticians, to specialist services such as skin cancer surveillance, surgery and non-surgical cosmetic treatments. We offer a travel clinic and are a recognised yellow fever centre," Dr Izon said.

"We are also in the final stages of developing a weight loss clinic which comprises a dietician, exercise physiologist, psychologist and physician in a multidisciplinary approach."

"You can book an appointment online via your PC, iPhone or Android device via a specific app and also notify your arrival via tablets located at reception in the practice if the receptionist is busy. Tea and coffee are complimentary."

"Our population is very diverse. Our aim is to be able to service these populations with high quality medicine."

Given Southbank Family Medical Clinic's broad set of health services, including general practice services, therapy services, travel clinic and occupational health services, the clinic is rapidly becoming Southbank's go-to medical practice.

Dr Izon, originally an English general practitioner trained in the UK, is also part of a medical team comprising a regular female GP Dr Pietas Nyamayaro who also trained as a general practitioner in the UK.

They are both complimented by Dr Ivor Davis, a very experienced Australian practitioner who has worked in the local area for many years.

The surgery typically runs to time. As Dr

Izon explained: "There is nothing worse than going to the doctor and waiting 45 minutes for your appointment. That is not okay."

"At our practice, you can log in electronically, grab a cup of coffee and put your feet up in the waiting room watching TV. It's an opportunity to chill out.

The idea of not being rushed is important, as occasionally an emergency may make doctors run a little late," he said.

Dr Izon is also a qualified skin cancer sub-specialist. He offers both skin cancer surveillance via mole mapping as well as surgery in house.

"There are no other clinics locally that offer such a doctor-led service. Many other skin clinics offer nurse-led mole mapping and rely on a doctor to look at photographs and interpret them," Dr Izon said.

"We offer a boutique-style approach where you see the same doctor on each visit."

With Southbank's local community growing rapidly, Dr Izon seems really enthusiastic about growing Southbank Family Medical Clinic to meet growing demand.

"We have an eclectic population of upper-middle class owners, young professional families and students with their own specific health needs. The area is largely under-doctored, in a soon to be high-density population. It is the perfect environment, as we offer all of these services, and we are growing. Onwards and upwards!"

For more information on Southbank Family Medical Clinic, its staff and its services, please go to www.southbankmedical.com.au

Look for Australian Family Medical Centre Group on The App Store or Google Play.

Letters to the Editor

Council must help animals

A recent (September 28) report in *The Age* highlighted a local case of extreme animal cruelty that the RSPCA is investigating in Melbourne's CBD.

A dog was stuffed into a suitcase and dumped in a garbage room of an apartment tower. This dog has been abused over a long period and ultimately met a violent and horrific death.

The RSPCA statistics also show Melbourne council area to have the third highest number of cruelty complaints, despite having relatively fewer domestic animals than comparable councils.

This shows the need for leadership from town hall. Melbourne's council plan for the next period must include greater provision for animal welfare. It is not just a city for people, but for animals as well. We need greater education provided to our resident population, which includes a greater number of people with limited time in residence. We also need more people to speak up when they see animals at risk

and assistance provided for animals when people are sometimes forced to emigrate or leave the municipality.

As well as the RSPCA inquiry, the police in Melbourne can be more effective in their response to animal cruelty cases, which they are entitled to follow up, as well as council rangers, with delegated powers under the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals act.

The Animal Justice Party is running for council on behalf of the animals of Melbourne, on a platform of improved companion animal management, an end to horse-drawn carriages on city streets and fairer rates for residents and business.

Bruce Poon, Victorian Convenor of the Animal Justice Party

15 Exploration Lane, Melbourne

Pet's Corner



Fluffy flatmate

By Rhianna Busler

Aki, the two-year-old Japanese Spitz pup is nothing but a white ball of friendly fluff.

Z Dai and his flat mate have owned Aki since he was born and love having the playful pup around.

"I moved to Melbourne from China two years ago because I study over here and I love how convenient living in the city is to everything, especially RMIT the university I go to," Dai said.

Admitting that Aki is usually pretty chilled out at home, Dai said Aki loved his daily walks and was always on the look out to make new human friends.

"My flat mate owns Aki but I'm always out walking him. We come to Flagstaff Gardens everyday. It's his favourite place to walk," Dai said.

Dai said that the popular gardens were always filled with other dog owners when

the duo hit the CBD streets on weekends.

"I would say the city is quite an animal-friendly area, especially in this garden. I'm always seeing people walking their dogs," he said.

While Aki sits with his tail in the mud munching on the grass, Dai admits that the pup's pristine white fur can sometimes need a good shampooing.

"Aki is a really good apartment dog and loves lots going on around him. Living in the CBD is so local to everything and it's nice having the gardens so close to where I live," Dai said.

Describing Aki as a naive, crazy and cute pup, Dai said he was the favourite flatmate.

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

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

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

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

10.30am to 2pm Wednesday – Friday – Sunday

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326 Lonsdale St, 9663 2495

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✚ PRAYER TIMES

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| <p>St Michael's 120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000 Ph: 9654 5120 Church times: Sunday Service at 10.00am Free organ recitals at 1.00pm on Thursdays. For more information please contact the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).</p> <p>Chabad of Melbourne Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St Ph: 9525-9929 Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.</p> | <p>City on a Hill Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm. Hoys Cinemas, Melbourne Central</p> <p>Collins Street Baptist Church 174 Collins St Ph: 9650 1180 Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm</p> <p>Hillsong City Youth Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane, Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Holy Cross Orthodox Mission 261/265 Spring St www.australianorthodox.org</p> | <p>Scots' Church 156, Collins St Ph: 9650 9903 Sundays 10:30 am (Indonesian), 11:00 am (Traditional) and 5:00 pm (Contemporary)</p> <p>St Francis' Church 326 Lonsdale St 9663 2495 Sunday: 7am, 8am, 9:30am, 11am (St Francis' Choir) and 12.30, 1.30, 4.30, 6.00 pm Filipino Community Mass: Second Sunday of the month at 2.30pm Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm</p> | <p>St Paul's Cathedral Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets Ph: 9653 4333 Sundays: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm (Choral Evensong)</p> <p>St. Augustine's Catholic Church 631 Bourke St. Melb Ph: 9614 1722 Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm Mon - Fri Mass: 1.05pm Mon - Fri Confessions: 12.30pm</p> |
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市中心CBD是一个选举重地

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

10月份的墨尔本市议会选举结果很可能就在市中心确定，尽管少于五分之一的居民登记投票。

CBD的冲击远远超过其在政治上的重量。微妙的邮政编码3000包含了该市区133805名有资格选民的三分之一以上。

CBD内有资格的选民为42151

人，选举结果将取决于这些人如何判断现任候选人的表现和新候选人的潜力。

但是维多利亚选举委员会(VEC)的数据显示，依据邮政编码号选举的强度并不在其中的33000名居民。因为其中只有7968人在州选民名册上注册，而实际上这次市政的

选举重量来自34183名非居住选民。

这些选民大多数在墨尔本市中心投资，拥有物业，并不居住在这儿。这一类别的人数有23346人，唯有选举才能通过昂贵的邮资接触到他们，平时从不联系，但他们可是最能兑现的候选者。

另外CBD还有来自于企业公司

的1万张有资格选票。

尽管邮寄投票于10月22日关闭，但是选举结果要在10月31日周一和11月4日周五之间知晓。

为了应付今年澳大利亚邮局降低投递标准，维多利亚选举委员会将允许等待更长时间。

市政公寓标准不一

Khiara Elliott撰稿

对州政府试图建立的公寓设计和建造标准，墨尔本市政改变了其看法。

2015年7月市政第一次表明其立场时，故意提出要建立一般的标准。可是在9月20日该事宜提交于未来墨尔本委员会(FMC)之后，现在市政似乎想要的是具体的测评标准。

这些标准预计于上个月完成并公布，但根据州规划厅长理查德·温恩(Richard Wynne)，这些标准要推迟到年底完成。

在最初提交给政府的“更佳公寓设计标准草案”的讨论文件中，市政在2015年呼吁其“充足”住宅密度，“设计良好”的公共区域和“适当的阳光”时，其语言含糊不清，甚至有所隐瞒。

当时的市政议员肯·翁(Ken Ong)认为这种方法已足够了。

他说：“我们关注的是公寓设计的性能标准，而不是具体的数字。”

“无论对设施，布局，自然光的关注...我认为这些都是有益和有用的标准。”

然而，针对最新的更佳公寓设计标准草案文件，市政又提交了另一份材料，提出了一些反对意见。

这份最近提交的材料中，关键问题就是需要更严格的准则，这与去年市政所持的观点相反。



欢迎凯旋而归

10月5日在市中心伯克(Bourke)街的购物中心举行了欢迎参加残奥会的澳大利亚运动员凯旋而归的仪式。

欢迎人群为残疾运动员的成就而热烈地欢呼。国家残奥队在里约的残奥会比赛中共赢得了81枚奖牌。

市中心业主将受到双重税的冲击

Khiara Elliott撰稿

市中心业主正面临着大幅度的土地税上涨，如果采纳了另一个城市地铁轨道项目的建议，那可能会受到进一步冲击。

根据2016年的市政评估预测，2017年的一些土地税收将上涨多达180%。

根据世邦魏理仕(CBRE)提供的数据，Exhibition街的土地价值上升了160%，而Queen街的土地价值上升了156%，是整个州平均水平的10倍以上。

这一上涨主要是由于马来西亚开发商SP Setia用惊人的1.01亿澳元购买了原Telstra的场地。

世邦魏理仕数据还表明，土地价值增长50%将导致土地税增加57%。

维多利亚基础设施机构和安永会计师事务所的一份报告表明，如果未来的城市地铁轨道项目建成，那么30%的项目成本将可能通过对附近业主的征税来资助。

这个墨尔本地铁轨道项目将建造一个通过市中心的新地铁隧道，该地铁项目将连接南十字星(Southern Cross)火车站到克利夫顿山(Clifton Hill)，纽波特(Newport)，帕克维尔(Parkville)和渔人弯(Fisherman's Bend)。

维多利亚基础设施机构估计，该项目的总成本将在150-220亿澳元的范围内，从2034年开始，项目建设将持续6年。

奥丁士兵：是英雄还是治安团体？

Khiara Elliott撰稿

一个取名为奥丁士兵(SOO)的一群男士，自行组织起来在市中心街道巡逻，认为这些地方需要更多保护。

他们穿着独特的黑色夹克衫，带有他们的徽章：上面是奥丁的图像，在澳大利亚的旗帜上画着诺尔战神像。奥丁的士兵们已经在市中心内巡逻，以应对不断上升的犯罪率，特别针对艾派克斯(Apex)团伙

的行动。

据报道奥丁士兵成员们在晚上巡逻联邦广场(Federation Square)，Birrarung Marr公园，伯克(Bourke)商业大街以及火车站外面。

根据奥丁士兵的脸书记载，奥丁士兵已正式获得芬兰上级团体创始人迈克·兰塔(Mike Ranta)的官方认可，迈克在网上被广泛报道为白人至上主义者。

虽然奥丁士兵的脸书声明，他

们不是一个种族主义的团体，但同时又说“移民会带来重大的问题”。

该脸书说：“政府现在是让不文明的移民像洪水般地泛滥我们的住区。我们在这儿需要成为现实主义者，我们的住区目前所充满的文化和种族，对我们的公民和社区的安全都是有害的。”

墨尔本东区警察局高级警官亚当·坦纳(Adam Tanner)告诉本报(CBD新闻报)，警察已了解奥丁士兵

的存在情况，但建议治安管理最好由已有的法定机构来管理。

他说：“我不建议大家与罪犯面对面，因为这会给你带来伤害的危险。”

“维多利亚警察接受了大量的培训，使他们掌握了应对安全问题所需的技能和资源。如果遇到危险或目击犯罪，我们要求大家打000电话。”