

The voice of postcode 3000

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Councillor position saga to continue

By Shane Scanlan

Melbourne could be without an 11th and final city councillor for months, thanks to an attempt by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to overturn a decision made by a magistrate last year.

On December 5 magistrate Michael Smith ruled that the councillor vacancy be resolved by countback, which would likely have resulted in Southbank's Joe Sarraf being offered the position.

But on December 8 the VEC appealed his decision to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the matter is due to be heard on February 21.

VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle appear to share the same view on how the matter should be resolved – a recount which would likely also see Mr Sarraf added but Cr Michael Caiafa lose his position in favour of former deputy lord mayor Susan Riley. Team Doyle would acquire a majority under this scenario.

Mr Gately says Cr Doyle phoned him twice – the first time, on November 9, to gain an understanding of the implications of the vacancy and the second time on December 6, commenting on the outcome of Magistrate Smith's decision.

A spokesperson for Mr Gately said: "The Electoral Commissioner listened to the Lord Mayor and explained that he was considering his options, had not reached a position and would comment no further."

Cr Doyle acknowledges the conversations but says their content is confidential.

When ruling on the matter on December 5, Magistrate Smith said what the VEC was asking for was "simply not tenable".

The final councillor position remains unfilled following the discovery that elected candidate Brooke Wandin was ineligible to stand because she was not correctly enrolled.

Ms Wandin and former councillor Richard Foster were due to front court in late January charged with the unlawful nomination and false declaration by Ms Wandin during the October elections.

On August 24, Ms Wandin enrolled herself at Mr Foster's Kensington address. The VEC was alerted to the matter on October 22 via a complaint from Mr Foster.

Documents released via Freedom of Information reveal that Mr Foster told the VEC: "Ms Wandin has never resided at the address in question, nor is it likely that she would ever reside at the address in question. I believe this to be the case as this is my residential address which I have occupied for approximately three and a half years."

Ms Wandin was supposed to enroll in the Lord Mayoral section of the election as part

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Too close to home

January 20's Bourke St horror will be with us for a long time.

The mass-murder is particularly haunting for those who live and work in the city. It sharpens an already razor-like edge to life within postcode 3000.

Melbourne's CBD is as close to life in the raw that can be experienced in this privileged country. We've seen it with street violence and with rough sleepers.

It's a magnet because it is truly the centre of Melbourne – a city that lost its innocence decades ago.

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It was the shopping experience that presumably brought some of the hapless victims to our suburb. There's

no substitute for the CBD. It's authentic – the real thing.

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The CBD knows tragedy. There was Russell St and then Queen St. And now there's Bourke St.

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Councillor position saga to continue

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is Thursday, February 16.

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20,000 copies are printed and
distributed exclusively within
Melbourne's CBD each month. *CBD
News* works for advertisers because
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of Mr Foster's team but ended up running
against Mr Foster by mistake.

On December 5 Magistrate Smith formally
declared on Ms Wandin "not duly elected".
Another part of his Municipal Electoral
Tribunal (MET) ruling was that the vacancy
should be filled using procedures associated
with an extraordinary vacancy.

Under this method, voters who chose Ms
Wandin would have their next preference
counted, with running mate Nic Frances
Gilley expected to be offered the position.

CBD News understands that Mr Frances
Gilley has removed himself from the roll and
is no longer eligible or interested. The most
likely next in line is Mr Saffaf (who polled
805 votes between himself and his team
mate Miroslav Zverina).

Commissioner Gately wants VCAT to
endorse a counting method which has been
predicted to disenfranchise Cr Caiafa and
reinstate Ms Riley as a councillor.

Mr Gately has asked: "that a 'special
count' of the votes cast in the election be
undertaken as if Ms Wandin was a retired
or deceased candidate within the meaning
of clause 8 and 9 or Schedule 2 of the Local
Government Act 1989."

In his December 5 decision, Magistrate
Smith specifically rejected this method: "At
no time did Ms Wandin retire. Once the poll
has been declared the relevant provisions

concerning the powers of a returning office
upon the retirement of a candidate no longer
apply. That candidate, eligible or otherwise
has been declared elected. ... There is,
moreover, a legislative basis in the Act for
proceeding in accordance with sections
46(1)(a) and 46(3). Of the alternatives
discussed I am clearly of the view that this is
the better of them."

Neither Magistrate Smith, nor anyone else
from the MET, will be attending VCAT to
defend his decision.

Cr Caiafa will be represented and has flagged
that, should the VEC win and he loses his
councillor position, he will be appealing to
the Supreme Court. If this happens, it will be
months before the 11th councillor position is
determined.

Former councillor Stephen Mayne is also
involved. Mr Mayne has a chance to be
offered the position should VCAT take the
view that the whole Indigenous Voice team
be disqualified.

Commissioner Gately says a recount without
Ms Wandin's votes included is the best way
to determine the outcome.

A spokesperson told *CBD News*: "That
(solution) suggested by Magistrate Smith
removes Ms Wandin's first preferences only.
The other preferences of those who voted for
her would follow Ms Wandin's how-to-vote
card would still be in play and could thus be
considered tainted."

"Mr Gately's suggestion removes all of the

votes for Ms Wandin entirely as if she had
never stood (given she was not entitled
to stand), thereby removing any potential
tainted votes."

In his public comments, Mr Gately said:
"Although the tribunal addressed Ms
Wandin's declaration, its decision neither
addressed, nor resolved, broader matters
associated with the election."

On the same day he spoke with Mr Gately
(December 6), Cr Doyle told *CBD News*: "I
don't think this matter is at a close. I think
the Electoral Commissioner indicated that
the process was tainted. I am not sure that
the Electoral Tribunal has resolved that
issue by simply saying 'please proceed' and
I will await to see whether the Electoral
Commissioner himself, or indeed any of the
44 candidates who missed out on election,
chooses to appeal that decision to VCAT,
which in fact is possible within seven days of
the tribunal's decision and I will await those
developments."

"I think the comment by the tribunal that
this may affect councillors who have already
been elected is irrelevant, to be honest.
That is my personal view. The result should
be beyond reproach. I have no doubt that
the result, at the moment, is not beyond
reproach and I would wish to see that
all councillors were elected with the full
confidence of the community, that due
process has been followed and that the
electoral process has not been deliberately
perverted."



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Homeless epidemic divides the city

By Khiara Elliott

Homeless camps around the CBD are drawing national attention and people are divided on what to do about them.

One of the larger camps outside of Flinders St Station has sparked a number of complaints from the public as well as residents and retailers around the area.

It's been reported that the homeless choose this spot due to the amount of passers by heading to the Australian Open.

Rough sleepers of the camp said they are "taken care of" by the general public, receiving donations of food and even camping supplies.

But are those helping the homeless, hindering our city? Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has urged the public not to make such donations as it only results in rubbish littered across our city streets.

"People who donate these doonas and mattresses aren't thinking it through. They're actually entrenching people in homelessness," he said.

Cr Doyle also said that after cleaning up six camps, rubbish including soiled mattresses,



tents and syringes were found and left for council to take care of.

Many feel that a harder approach to homelessness is needed and that the obvious answer is for authorities to come in and clear these camps. But within that "answer" only lies more problems.

Firstly, it is currently not illegal to sleep on the street in Victoria - a point Victoria Police Superintendent David Clayton reiterated in a media conference last month.

Although Victoria Police are able to charge for offences like public drug use and erecting larger structures such as tents, sleeping on the street is legally acceptable.

"It's important to remember that sleeping on the street is not a crime. We have no power

to remove people who are not committing offences," he said.

Is there then a need to reinstate the move-on laws? Superintendent Clayton says no.

"There's previously been comprehensive move-on powers, but those powers are not particularly helpful when it comes to assisting us with the homelessness problem. They were designed when we were experiencing public disorder issues around licensed venues and nightclubs."

However Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton is pushing for a tougher approach on moving homeless people and is meeting with council to discuss laws to help do so.

Cr Doyle offered his full support to Chief Commissioner Ashton, stating that he

planned to present harsher laws to council at the earliest opportunity.

"There's a further cohort of people who are not homeless at all, who are kind of just here for sport. They do need a response where the city perhaps needs to offer more powers to our officers," Cr Doyle said.

"I've made the commitment although I can't guarantee that council will agree, that I will put before council at the earliest possible opportunity either a new bylaw or an amendment to our bylaws to allow our officers, with police support, to clean up these encampments in their entirety. Not just the major structures that we're allowed to take away now, but all that property."

This change of heart came a mere two days after it was reported that Cr Doyle said harsher laws would not solve the CBD's homelessness problem and that he was not convinced police needed any more power in moving homeless people away from high-traffic areas.

How are we as a city meant to progress when our leaders have not defined a plan of action? Or rather, decided on *one* plan of action.

CBD News believes it is important to not degrade the homeless by assumptions. Not every homeless person is a drug addict. Not every homeless person is aggressive. Although the answer is for now unclear, it is certain that there is no one size fits all solution to this massive problem.



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Hall of secrets

Comment

Shane Scanlan



The level of secrecy adopted by the City of Melbourne has been brought into sharp focus by recent inquiries about its approach to filling the 11th councillor vacancy.

Its culture of non-disclosure has long been disturbing, but has not really been measurable because there has been nothing to compare it with.

But in this instance, *CBD News* had cause to ask the same questions of another government agency – the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) – and the responses could not have been more different.

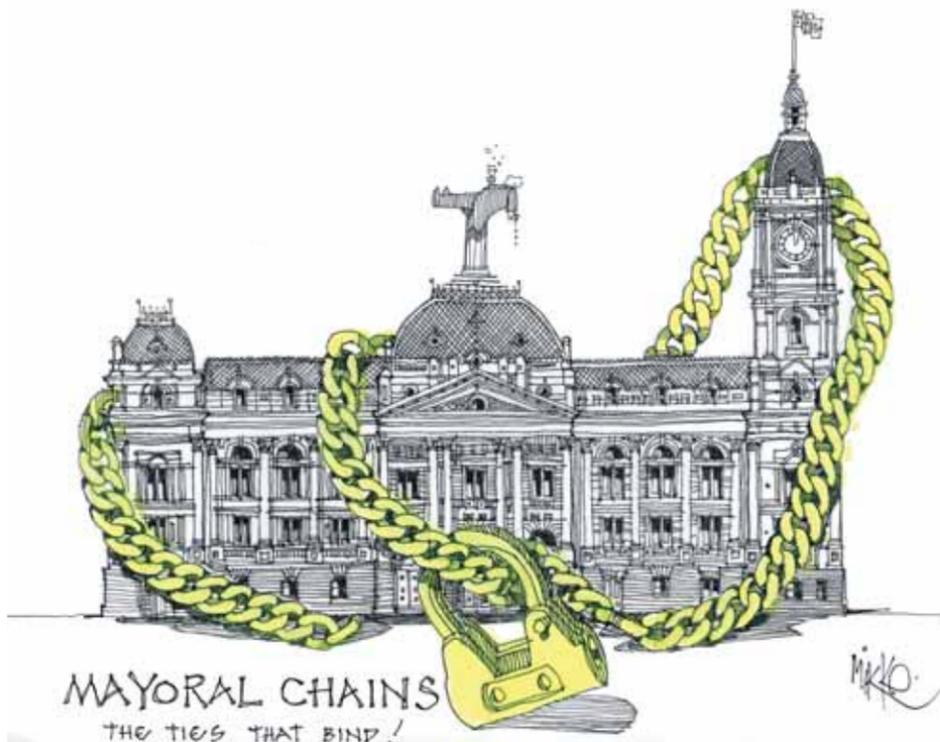
The question was, essentially, “what have the two agencies said to each other about how to resolve this matter?”

The public interest in this matter is extreme. If the VEC wins its appeal against a magistrate’s ruling then Lord Mayor Robert Doyle looks like winning a majority number of councillors. It is most reasonable to ask how and why the VEC and Cr Doyle have come to the same conclusion about the best way to resolve it.

Freedom of Information (FoI) requests were lodged with both agencies on December 6 seeking relevant documents (people might well ask why FoI was necessary!).

The VEC responded with copies of 20 documents in the mail before Christmas. There was no hesitation, no obstruction, no fuss. It did, however, delete the mobile phone numbers of officers. Fair enough.

In contrast, the council took the view that the public servants involved have the right to decide whether or not they want their names included. They interpret this as “personal affairs information” and, therefore, potentially exempt. Should the council decide to release any documents including



their names, the relevant council officers will be given 60 days to appeal this decision. On January 23, the council sent an invoice for the time it took to search the documents.

A further question was asked of both agencies on January 16 – what conversations had taken place between Cr Doyle and VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately.

The VEC responded promptly with dates and details of two conversations. The council, on the other hand, said Cr Doyle was on leave and would not be back until after Australia Day. It later confirmed the two conversations but said Cr Doyle considered them confidential.

This example is not extraordinary in itself, but it well illustrates the town hall’s culture. The rot starts at the top and permeates every level of the organisation.

Far from celebrating transparency as one of the basics of local democracy, it resents public interest as an intrusion of its apparent right to run the council as an exclusive club.

Rank and file councillors are briefed on a needs-to-know basis and, should they lose the trust of officers, are punished via an information freeze.

Sadly, extreme secrecy has become normal.

It’s old reporters who can remember different norms who are out of step.

The council employs a small army of former journalists who are collectively paid about \$1 million per year to carefully craft meaningless responses to media inquiries.

Recent examples that have yielded refusals have included: the specifics of the Lord Mayor’s declared conflict of interest from November 22’s Future Melbourne Committee; whether or not CEO Ben Rimmer is still being paid by the council after being on sick leave since the middle of last year; and the specific events nominated by the company which won a council tender.

It is customary to seek a response from all parties when writing a news story but, when it comes to the City of Melbourne, it is almost pointless.

The council has long lost its way and feels little obligation or accountability to the people it is supposed to represent and who pay them.

Of course, this decay in democratic standards is not confined to the City of Melbourne. It’s a global phenomenon against which citizens feel affronted but largely powerless to influence.

Looking for a social conscience

By Rhonda Dredge

These days everyone likes to advertise their differences including Marcus Dixon, the Big Issue seller in Flinders Lane, who makes up a little riff about the magazine to amuse buyers.

In early December that riff got Mr Dixon into trouble when a tourist misunderstood his intentions and complained to the *Big Issue* office, leading to his suspension for two weeks.

The street felt empty during December despite the Christmas cheer. There was no-one to catch your eye on the corner of Degrafs St as you rushed past.

Marcus has occupied the same spot for 14 years. The enterprising salesman convinces seven people an hour that the magazine is a good buy. Once he has sold you an issue, he never forgets your face.

“I’ve rented a flat in Swanston St,” he told *CBD News* before he disappeared.

On the day he was due to return, another vendor was standing in his place. “Marcus will be back on Monday,” the new vendor said. “He’s just taking a break.”

At the vendor support office in Donkey Wheel House, a spokeswoman declined to go into details. “He’s very popular,” she said. “Every day people call and ask how he’s going.”

Nearby vendors are also big fans of the amusing Mr Dixon. James Mission at Crampler has coffee with the seller regularly. “I guarantee that no vendors or shop owners have complained,” he said.

At *Big Issue* head office in Collins St, a spokeswoman suggested Mr Dixon had breached “a code of conduct” and she was unwilling to “share personal information”.

Come January and Mr Dixon has been seen back on the street but he has yet to resume his full-time position.

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VCAT out of reach of locals

By Shane Scanlan

CBD locals are despondent that serious financial risk has prevented them from challenging a controversial City of Melbourne planning decision late last year.

Maureen Capp and other Regency Towers residents wanted to challenge the council's decision on November 22 to grant a permit to Brady Jones Pty Ltd for a 60 metre hotel in Little Lonsdale St.

Specialist planning barrister Tom Pikusa assessed the residents' chances at 50:50 to win at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) but warned they could be up for more than \$70,000 if they lost.

Mr Pikusa said the developer would likely spend that amount on a legal team and the residents would pay if they lost.

He said parties generally funded their own cases at VCAT but, in the Capital City Zone and in cases where council decisions are challenged, it was usual to award costs against the losers.

Ms Capp said: "Residents in the Capital City Zone are held to ransom by developers who can bluff their way through with their expensive legal teams, because VCAT can



CBD local Maureen Capp

direct residents to pay the legal costs of the developer should they lose the case."

"Has the world gone mad? VCAT was never intended to be a costly legal option, rather a low cost judicial option for ordinary citizens to have an avenue for dispute resolution."

The VCAT website says: "VCAT is less formal than a court. In most cases, you do not need a lawyer or professional representative."

Ms Capp said: "As long as developers with unlimited funds employ their expensive QCs and legal teams, they will win every time against residents who are not risk takers, who are not equipped to meet such

a financial challenge, and who are not prepared to lose sleepless nights knowing that, firstly this could be a costly bluff on the part of the developer, and secondly that the very clear message from VCAT's history is that the decision usually comes down on the side of the developer."

The residents believe council planners were wrong to grant the developer a "secondary consent" amendment after an earlier permit for an adjoining site had expired.

At the November 22 Future Melbourne Committee meeting the council's planning practice leader Jane Birmingham agreed that it was not possible to approve such an amendment after a permit had expired.

But, she said, the permit was considered active because work had started on the site.

Residents are furious that council officers did not actually inspect the extent of the work on the site and allege that the removal of three brick window sills was the extent of the demolition work.

Ms Birmingham said: "The question is not one of whether substantial progress has been made, it is a question of whether works have commenced under the planning permit and the bar is not set particularly high."

"The works, in terms of removing the window sills and the internal works, although it's not a substantial amount of works, is considered to constitute commencement under that planning permit."

"There are a number of VCAT cases on this matter and most conclude that you don't have to have done a substantial amount of work for the permit to be considered acted upon," she said.

Adding insult to injury for the residents was that councillors did not debate the issue because five of the 10 present declared a conflict and left the chamber causing a loss of quorum.

The Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood and Cr Kevin Louey excused themselves because they received campaign donations from a "partner of the owner" in 2012.

Cr Philip Le Liu declared a "residential amenity" conflict and Cr Jackie Watts left the room because she received \$500 from election running mate Michael Kennedy who lives opposite the site.

Acting director city operations Linda Weatherson announced to the meeting that she would decide the matter under delegation in accordance with the planning officers' recommendations.

Ms Capp called the situation a farce and questioned on who's behalf council officers were working. She said the developer would not have been granted such a big development had the council officers not granted the secondary consent.

She said this was because a new application would have to have been considered until stricter new planning controls.

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And in fake news ...



Melbourne President Donald Doyle reveals his new 2017 look.

Third party rights back in spotlight

Third party planning notification and appeal rights for CBD residents are back on the agenda.

The panel which last year examined the latest central city controls, Amendment C270, recommended that the issue be looked at again.

In its October 26 report to the Minister for Planning, the panel said the issue was outside the scope of what it was asked to do on C270 but warranted further consideration.

Under the current arrangement, residents within the Capital City Zone are not required to be notified of planning applications that may affect them and they don't have appeal rights.

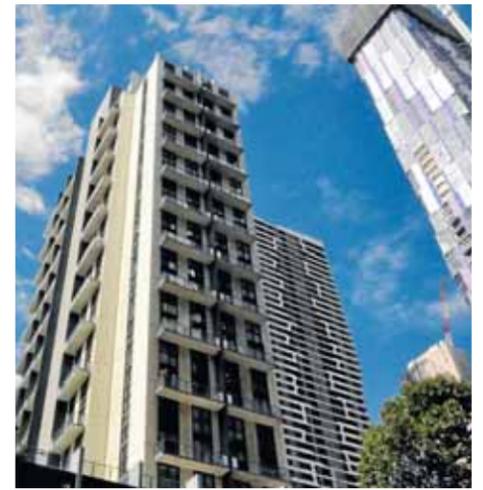
The traditional rationale for this arrangement is that granting residents rights would impede the development of the capital city.

Planning expert Prof Michael Buxton had contended to the panel: "The rights of Melbourne's CBD residents under the Capital City Zone arguably have been the most seriously disadvantaged of any group in Victoria."

The panel, comprising Brett Davis (chair), Jenny Moles, Jim Holdsworth and Katherine Navarro, pointed out that the CBD had fundamentally changed since the 1990s.

"While it continues to be a place for government, business, retail and entertainment, some two decades later the CBD now has a substantial resident population - in large part encouraged by the council's Postcode 3000 campaign," it said.

"The CBD can no longer be viewed as a place where residents are few and transitory - predominantly tertiary students, overseas and interstate visitors. Rather there are and



will continue to be tens of thousands of residents living permanently in the CBD."

"It has become a residential neighbourhood for that community. It is only to be expected that the residents will become increasingly disenchanted about the absence of opportunity for formal input to decisions affecting their neighbourhood."

"While any recommended changes to third party rights in relation to central city development applications would go beyond the scope of the exhibited amendment, the panel suggests that this is a matter which warrants further consideration and possible future action."

However, the suggestions from the panel have fallen on deaf ears, with the State Government refusing to entertain the idea.

A spokesperson for acting Planning Minister Lisa Neville said: "There are no plans to change the long-standing appeal rules in place for CBD developments."

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Apartment standards have been relaxed

By Shane Scanlan

Victoria's new apartment standards to become law next month are significantly more relaxed than the draft that was circulated in the middle of last year.

The Property Council of Australia has taken the credit for securing "big wins" following the release by Planning Minister Richard Wynne of the new rules before Christmas.

Property Council of Australia CEO, Ken Morrison, in an email to members, said: "In Victoria we carved out the most harmful impacts of foreign investment taxes (for a second time), influenced the revamp of CBD planning controls and secured big wins in new apartment standards."

A comparison between the draft and final document illustrates Mr Morrison's point.

Gone are minimum defined building setbacks which featured in the draft document. Now a "reasonable distance" needs to be determined to ensure similarly-non-defined outcomes such as "adequate" daylight and "reasonable" views (called in the final document "visual connection to the external environment").



There are still no minimum apartment sizes. But, new to the discussion, is the introduction of minimum room sizes. Bedrooms must be at least 3x3 metres (with master bedrooms needing an extra 400cm to accommodate a wardrobe) and living areas (excluding dining and kitchen areas) must be at least 10sqm for studios and one-bedders and 12sqm if the apartment has more than two bedrooms.

Minimum dimensions for lightwells have also disappeared and standards around

windows have been softened.

In the draft document, windows needed to be visible from any point in a habitable room, but this requirement has been dropped.

Standards protecting from external noise have also been relaxed and now only apply to new apartments built within certain distances of industrial zones, roads and railways. Whereas the draft standards applied a blanket ban on external noise in all new bedrooms above 35dB at night, the final document only mandates these limits near so-called (and very limited) "noise influence areas".

Standards have been relaxed regarding how much communal open space should receive sunlight too. The draft standards stipulated that 50 per cent needed to receive at least two hours between 9am and 3pm on June 1. The final document relaxes the 50 per cent stipulation for areas greater than 250sqm - introducing a 125sqm alternative.

The government has also chosen a different approach to ensuring adequate natural ventilation. The draft document stipulated opening windows in all habitable rooms less than 80m above the ground. It suggested that 60 per cent of apartments less than 35m from the ground be naturally cross ventilated. These formulas have been replaced with a rule that 40 per cent of apartments in a development "achieve

effective cross ventilation".

Minimum balcony sizes (private open space) have been tinkered with too, with a slight increase in minimum area for two-bedroom apartments (from 8 to 10sqm), also a slight increase in minimum dimension for three-bedroom apartments (from 2m to 2.4m) but a decrease of dimension for studio and one-bedroom balconies (from 2m to 1.8m).

Disabled access rules will now apply to only 50 per cent of dwellings. The draft standards were to apply to all apartments, with the exception of 25 per cent of two-bedroom units.

On the other side of the coin, the standards have also been strengthened in a few areas.

The rules are firmer about protecting privacy stating that designs must: "Avoid direct views into habitable room windows and private open space of new and existing dwellings."

The final standards have also increased the minimum storage space in new units. A studio apartment will require at least five cubic metres inside and a further three cubic metres elsewhere. For three-bedrooms units or larger, the required minimum storage space rises to 12 cubic metres inside and a further six cubic metres elsewhere.

The final document mandates more communal open space for large apartment complexes. While the draft set a minimum of 100sqm, the new standard is a minimum of 250sqm.

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Plenty of Chinese New Year choices

CBD residents have plenty of choices this Chinese New Year, which gets underway on Friday, January 27 and concludes on February 12.

And the events are not confined to Chinatown either. This year even more events are spreading around and beyond the inner city.

As in previous years, the Dai Loong dragon will be awoken from 11.30am and will be taken through Chinatown on February 29 with the usual colour, noise and action.

This year another major hub will be the

Queen Victoria Market. The market is hosting a Hongboa wishing wall, traditional performances, a Lunar New Year banquet on January 28, special performances at the February 1 night market and a lantern festival on February 11 and 12.

Emporium Melbourne is hosting interactive installations and the Chinese Museum in Cohen Place is also a major festival hub.

Other events in surrounding Southbank and Docklands (and even Melbourne Zoo) can be found at the Chinese New Year United website - www.cnymelbourne.com.au. Regional centres of Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo are also starting to feature in a statewide co-ordinated effort.

Launching the festival on January 23, Tourism and Major Events Minister John

Eren pointed out that China did \$20 billion worth of annual trade with Victoria.

He said 565,000 Chinese visitors came to Victoria last year, which generated \$2.3 billion worth of economic activity.

This year, the festival is reaching out to Victoria's 176,000 international students, many of whom have volunteered to help with the 17-day festival.

Mr Eren praised the united approach adopted by the participants and predicted that Victoria's Chinese New Year festival would soon be the best in the world.

Federation of Chinese Associations president Junxi Su thanked Minister Eren for the State Government's support.

"Minister, your money is well spent," she said.



Chinese New Year United chair and vice-chair Jane Nathan and Junxi Su get into the swing of things.

STREET LIFE



12.30 Bourke St.

Photo by Barry C. Douglas @ BarryTakesPhotos.com

Food delivery revolution

By Melissa Chung

Local businesses are adopting the latest food delivery digital technologies - which is great news for residents and workers.

CBD News research shows at least 24 local businesses are now using Uber Eats, 66 use Menulog, 42 use Deliveroo and many more use Foodora.

CBD restaurants that have joined the food delivery game include local Australian restaurants, European restaurants, Asian restaurants, cafes, salad places, ice-cream stores, juice bars and burger joints.

Apart from food delivery apps, alcohol delivery apps have also popped up in the home delivery industry, for example, Tipple.

A wide range of food delivery apps were launched last year. They act as a third-party for restaurants to expand their businesses.

These services differ from traditional food delivery where orders used to be made online and sent to the restaurant via fax. Now customers order food on their phones just with a few clicks.

St Michael's North Melbourne "Where I'm Known"



OPEN DAY
Wednesday 15th March 2017

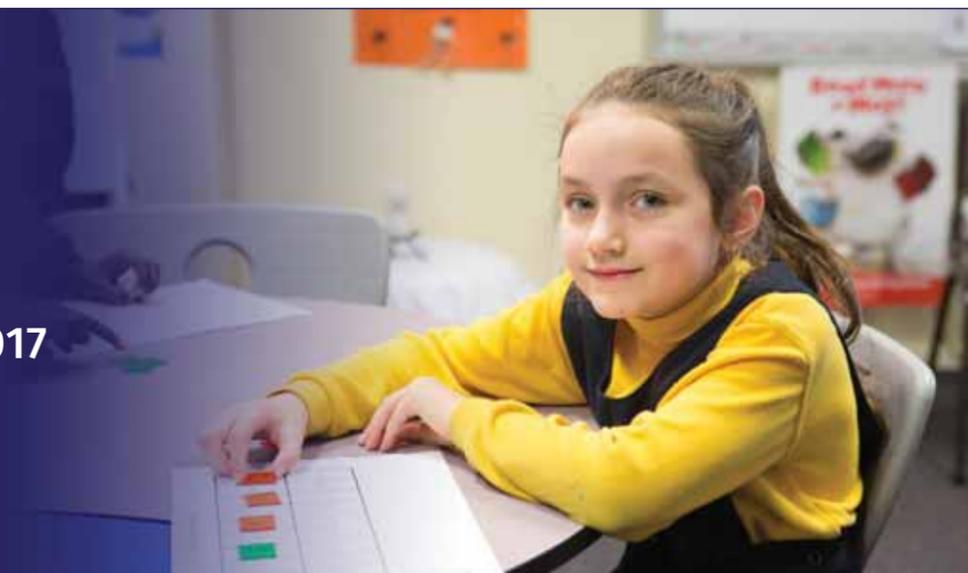
- 9:15am-10:15am
- 12:15pm-1:15pm
- 6:15pm-7:15pm

Please call to make a booking.

www.smnthmelbourne.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Denise Hussey

Phone: 93299206



\$8 million gallery gift

An \$8 million donation from the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation is enabling the State Library of Victoria to build a new gallery.

With five million items in its archives, the State Library can only display 3 per cent of its content at a time. State Library CEO Kate Torney promised the Victoria Gallery will showcase only the best of Victoria's history.

"The donation from the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation is extraordinary and incredibly generous to Victorian's now and for the generations to come," she said. "The Victoria Gallery is an opportunity to display the best of the best of our items and to really tell their stories".

Items on display will include pieces of CBD history such as photographs of Flinders St railway yards from around 1917.

The donation will also go towards reopening the Library's Russell St entrance which has been closed for 15 years.

This end of the building will also be transformed into a brand new technology hub, including an entrepreneurs' space where aspiring business men and women will have access to the technology they need to get their ideas off the ground, a children's library to cater for the 300 children and carers that attend the library's weekly reading sessions and a youth space for the library's growing under 30 population.

"It's about recognising what the library



State Library CEO Kate Torney ... grateful for the Wylie donation.

is now," Ms Torney said. "It's a place of connectivity. We want to create both a social and a knowledge hub."

Library Board of Victoria president and John

and Myriam Wylie Foundation director John Wylie is proud of the library now, but is excited for its future too.

"In our view, the State Library of Victoria is

not just the greatest library in Australia but one of the greatest in the world," he said.

"This transformational project will take the library to another level and we're proud to be supporting it in a substantial way."

An extra \$5 million has been donated by the State Government and will be used to upgrade all three entry points as well as the surrounding streetscape.

The Victoria Gallery and reopening of the Russell St doors are part of the library's \$88.1 million Vision 2020 project.

Announced in 2015, construction on the project is due to start mid-year and will be completed by 2020. Ms Torney said the current discussions on the best way to keep the library open during construction were the final step before building begins.

The State Government is investing \$60.4 million into the library's redevelopment, leaving the remaining \$27.7 million to be raised by the library through fundraising and donations.

The biggest donation received was \$10 million from the Ian Potter Foundation. The generous foundation will see the restoration of the iconic Queens Hall. The project will honour Sir Ian Potter by renaming the room the Ian Potter Queen's Hall.



ROAD CLOSURES FRANKLIN ST AND A'BECKETT ST

Franklin Street is now closed to vehicle traffic between Victoria Street and Swanston Street.

A'Beckett Street is now closed to vehicle traffic between Swanston Street and Stewart Street.

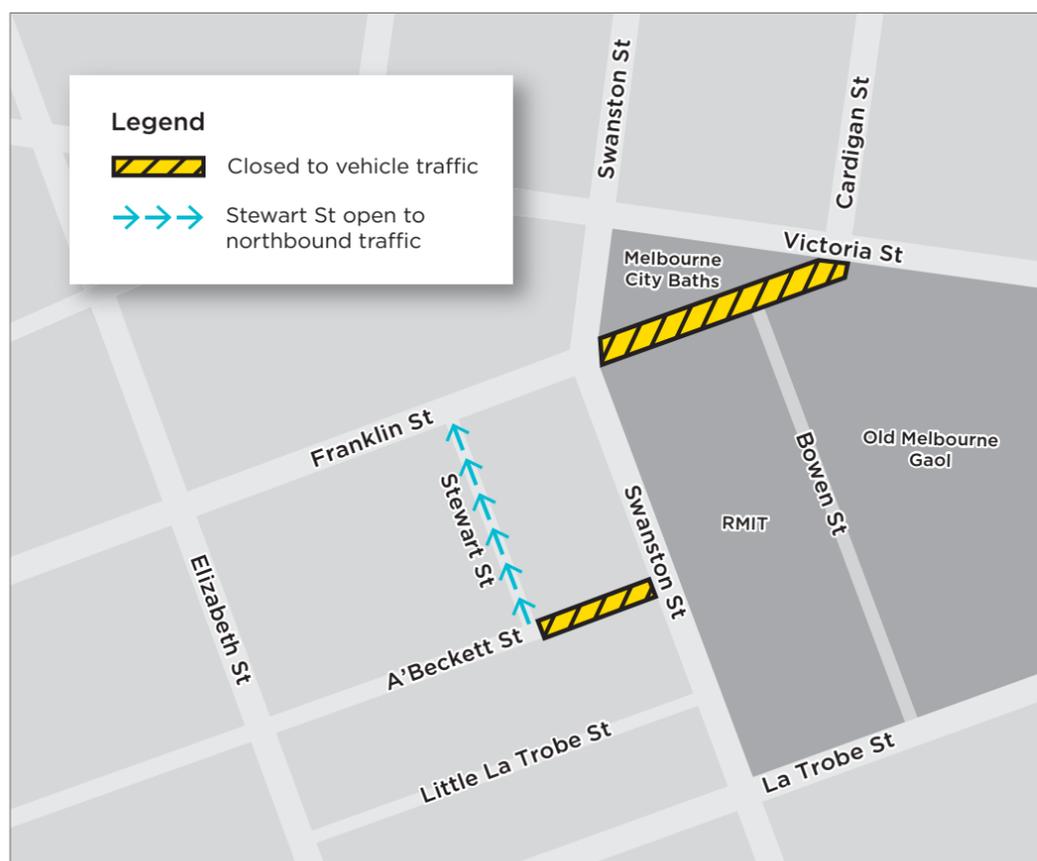
Stewart Street has been opened to one way traffic northbound between A'Beckett Street and Franklin Street.

These changes are in place for the construction of the new CBD North station, which will connect directly to Melbourne Central station as part of the Metro Tunnel Project.

The Metro Tunnel will free up space in the City Loop to run more trains, more often on lines across Melbourne.

More information

To find out more, visit metrotunnel.vic.gov.au.



Construction partners:



Authorised and published by Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.





Nia and Ben take a break from their artistic program.

Developing young talent

Young Melbourne artists developed their skills alongside professionals last month at the CBC-based Signal Summer Program.

Starting January 9, the youngsters create works that were displayed at the Northbank studio's January 20 showcase.

Artists between the ages of 13 and 25 who participated in the two-week program created works of spoken word, sculpture, dance, sound and interactive animation under the guidance of working professionals.

Nia Dove-Adotey is a 16-year-old participant of Signal Summer's Poetic License workshop. Poetic License, led by not-for-profit performing arts company Outer Urban Projects, teaches young artists the power of words through song, rap, beat-boxing, storytelling, poetry and performance.

The workshop is led by a professional beatboxer, a spoken word artist and a rap artist.

"Classes at first were more interactive, like word association games or freestyle rap games. Even games where you just had to keep a constant stream of talking for a really long time," Nia said.

"Eventually it got to creating your own content and rehearsing and doing full run throughs in the lead up to the event."

Ben Chesler, also 16, participated in the Automata workshop.

Led by Cake Industries, Automata helped young artists create abstract mechanical sculptures.

"I'm working on a sort of working music box at the moment," Ben said.

"I've been interested in music for a while and thought of a music box as a way to blend sound and engineering. It'll have a music based component of course, as well as a more electronic pulley-based component."

Signal's impact on the artistic community of Melbourne is significant and it seems all those involved are grateful for the opportunity.

"I think it's pretty lucky that we get to work with very skilled artists. They're very good at what they do and they offer great advice. Signal itself is well decked out as a studio. I just wish there were more of them around," Ben said.

"It's great to have a space like Signal. You get to work with not just professionals but also people who have completely contrasting styles to you. You learn from that, you evolve your own talent and I think it's a great environment," Nia said.

Professional artist and one half of the duo behind the Electric Karaoke program Ghostpatrol, also known as David Booth, has been involved with Signal before.

Although he is a teacher, Mr Booth learns from its programs and his time spent with the younger participants too.

"The program we're using can recognise your lips moving on your face and super impose that onto your computer-generated character. It's really amazing to watch. I don't totally understand the back end of it, but that's what's so great about Signal and these programs. I feel like I'm getting taught things as well," he said.

"All the kids are really talented and passionate and optimistic. It's a really, really nice environment to be in. You know, there's not just one path to being creative, you don't just have to go to art school. We're really privileged to have stuff like Signal."

Mass exodus by community staff

The City of Melbourne's placemaking and engagement branch, which focuses on strengthening our local community, has recently been the subject of major staff losses.

The upheaval resulted from a council review of the branch in early 2016. Placemaking and engagement staff were informed of the findings in September.

CBD News understands that out of the branch's 15 staff, 11 were offered redundancies or redeployment. Of these, 10 accepted redundancy, while one took on another role within the branch. However, a council spokesperson said the number of affected staff was eight and not 11.

CBD News also understands that other staff members have since left the City of Melbourne or relocated to other branches.

The Placemaking and Engagement branch was changed from Community Strengthening in July 2015. This was the result of the result of an amalgamation of three teams within the branch.

Council's spokesperson said the review was undertaken in consultation with staff to determine a new purpose and focus for the

branch.

"We took a closer look at the way they (staff) operated to determine a new purpose and focus that would increase council's capacity for city-wide and neighbourhood engagement on a broader range of matters," the spokesperson said.

"This process benchmarked the branch against placemaking and community engagement in other government jurisdictions."

According to the spokesperson, the new branch will comprise 15 positions, with the majority of staff already appointed and due to start work in February.

The spokesperson said the council would also employ five community engagement partners, with one of the five to be appointed to the CBD and Docklands area next month.

"We will employ five community engagement partners, whose roles include understanding community needs and expectations, and empowering the community to influence council decisions," the spokesperson said.

"We also plan to build our online portal, Participate Melbourne, to provide communities with more integrated information from government and enable them to engage more deeply with each other."

Crime wrap



Sexual assault

Police are searching for a man who allegedly sexually assaulted a woman at a night club in Melbourne on Sunday, December 4.

Between the hours of 1.15am and 2:30am, the man allegedly sexually assaulted the 20-year-old woman on two separate occasions at the King St venue.

Police have released CCTV images of a man whom they believe may be able to assist in their inquiries.

The man is perceived to have tanned skin and was approximately 190cm tall with a beard and Afro hair.

He was wearing a blue and red white checked shirt.



Theft

Police are looking to identify a man who is alleged to have stolen a laptop from outside a shop on Little Bourke St in the Melbourne CBD on Wednesday, November 23.

The victim left the laptop unattended on a chair outside whilst he entered the shop to make a purchase just before 11am.

A passing male pedestrian has picked up the laptop and fled into a nearby shopping centre.

Police have released this CCTV image of a man they believe may be able to assist in their enquiries.

He is perceived as Caucasian, of slim build with light brown hair and fair complexion.

Making a splash!

Young and old celebrated summer with a supersized inflatable slip 'n' slide at Federation Square last month.

Toyota's "Slide the Square" ran for 12 days from January 4 - 15 with last year's success prompting it to run for an extra week.

The slide was open from 10 am until 8 pm and sessions ran for 50 minutes. As tickets started at just \$20, the lines were long but the laughs were plentiful!

Slide the Square was just one attraction of Federation Square's summer events program that was held in the lead up to the Australian Open that began on January 16.

Photo: Marco Papageorgiou.



CBD tops the 2016 residential sales list

The CBD has taken out the number one spot for the highest total value of residential unit sales for 2016.

In his report released in December, head of research for Property Data and Analytics company CoreLogic, Tim Lawless, summarised how the national real estate market performed in the 12 months leading up to September last year.

With a total of \$739.7 million worth of residential units sold in the region, the CBD had the highest gross value in the nation by far - a result that managing director of CBRE residential projects Victoria, Andrew Leoncelli, expected.

"The CBD market would easily have the highest gross revenue for apartments given the sheer volume of product that gets sold in the CBD each year," he said.

Mr Leoncelli said that CBRE had more than \$1 billion in gross sales from a single CBD development in 2015.

CBD unit prices were the lowest of the top 10

list, with a median price of \$470,055.

Managing director of NPM, Sam Nathan, attributed this to the varied types of apartments available in the CBD.

"The CBD apartment market is a diverse environment, spanning from entry-level studio investment stock through to high-value owner occupied accommodation," he said.

"This explains that, despite the high-volume of sales, the price points at which apartments are traded in the CBD are justifiably less than the median price for established/landed property in the city fringe and inner suburbs," he said.

The CBD also impressed in the area of highest gross rental yields, taking out the second spot in Victoria.

With a gross income of 5.7 per cent for unit

investments, the CBD was just topped by Carlton with a gross rental yield of 6.3 per cent.

Mr Lawless expects to see a decrease in unit sales during the year to come.

"Overall, in 2017 we expect capital city growth rates to be lower compared with 2016 due to factors ranging from higher supply levels, increasing affordability pressures, higher mortgage rates and softer investment demand due to regulatory changes," he said.

Despite this, Mr Leoncelli believes that the CBD will continue to produce a high volume of sales.

"The city will always deliver and cater for the highest number of apartments well into the future. The city fringe suburban locations are very much characterised by lower density developments very deliberately and will never out gross the city market," he said.

New CBD SkyBus to Avalon Airport

From February 1, a new SkyBus service will run between Southern Cross Station and Avalon Airport.

The new service, named SkyBus Avalon Express will replace all current transport services between the CBD and Avalon.

A quicker, easier and cheaper mode of transport to Avalon was needed as the growing Airport now caters to more than 900,000 seats flying in and out each year.

Passengers using the SkyBus Avalon Express service will also have access to the Airport Gateway facilities at Southern Cross Station, including self serve ticket booths and free Wi-Fi.

Tourism Minister John Eren is in full support of Avalon Express.

"SkyBus' decision to extend its services to Avalon Airport is a vote of confidence in the region and the airport," he said. "This is fabulous news for the airport and the local community."

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Finale for artists' building?

By Rhonda Dredge

Lawyers are advising tenants of the Nicholas Building to think about exit strategies, following gazettal by the Minister for Planning in January of the project land area for the Metro Tunnel.

Several hundred tenants occupy the building, which is one of nine included in a planning scheme amendment that paves the way for construction of the new CBD South station.

Compulsory acquisition notices will be posted this month, said Peta Olive, a principal lawyer with Aitken Partners. The company is representing several tenants in the Port Phillip Arcade and last month leafleted the 10-storey building in Swanston St.

"Sometimes tenants are kept out of the loop," Ms Olive said. "This is a move to keep people informed."

The Nicholas Building is adjacent to the site for the new station and many of the artists, designers, gallerists and small business people that occupy the building are in favour of public transport.

Few realised the impact the Metro Tunnel project would have on their lives. "We didn't discuss things," said one tenant.

An independent panel has recommended to the Planning Minister that the station be located four metres deeper and the number of properties acquired be reduced by two to lower the impact on the community.

"The Nicholas Building won't be acquired," Ms Olive said. "But anyone within the designated project land area may have rights. You could be next door to the Port Phillip Arcade and running a business for the next five years and have to put up with dust, noise and restricted access."

In other public projects such as the replacement of suburban railway crossings, businesses have not been compensated. The January gazettal is a positive step for the properties in Swanston St, Ms Olive said, because they are part of the designated project land.

Businesses may be able to make a claim for compensation if they suffer a loss or experience restricted access. The company has already assisted businesses from the City Square relocate.

Compulsory acquisition occurs in stages. Notices of intention to acquire will be posted this month. The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority will wait two months before gazetting the notices. The works then go out to tender, with timing controlled by the authority.

"The demolition of the carpark at City Square will occur in 2017," said MMRA spokesman Peter de Luca.

Metro Tunnel gets underway

The first major works of the Melbourne Metro Tunnel project started last month with the closure of Franklin and A'Beckett streets.

Franklin St between Swanston and Victoria streets and A'Beckett St between Swanston and Stewart streets will remain closed for the next five years to make way for construction of the new CBD North Station.

In preparation for the station construction, managing contractor John Holland will relocate more than 100 underground utility services.

The relocation of utilities such as power, gas, water and telecommunications is expected to take six months ending in July, although the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) states that these time frames are indicative and are subject to change.

Over the next six months, high and low voltage electric cabling will be installed along Franklin and A'Beckett streets and across Swanston and Victoria streets.

Gas main installation will take place along Victoria, Swanston, A'Beckett, Stewart, Franklin and Elizabeth streets.

Sewerage mains, water mains and stormwater drains will be relocated and installed along A'Beckett and Franklin streets.

And finally, telecommunication services will be relocated along A'Beckett St. All relocation of these services will be done via open cut trenching and boring.

Other early works include the excavation of two shafts at Franklin and A'Beckett streets.

Steel and concrete structures will be driven into the ground to create supporting walls for the excavation. These materials will also be used to construct the foundation of the temporary acoustic sheds that will be built around the site to minimise noise and dust pollution while the excavation takes place.

The Minister for Public Transport Jacinta



CBD locals will have to get used to taking different routes following the road closures.

Allan and the Minister for Roads Luke Donnellan announced late last year that more than \$25 million was going towards road and traffic management upgrades to facilitate the closures.

In an effort to ease traffic flow around the area, Stewart St will reopen to allow for one-way northbound traffic from A'Beckett St.

LaTrobe St will also face some changes, with parallel car parks between King and Exhibition streets being removed, and three new parking bays being constructed between Swanston and Russell streets.

The timing of traffic light signals will also be adjusted, as will the width of median strips along LaTrobe St.

Some 73 of the parallel parking spaces and eight of the loading bays along Victoria St between Leicester and Nicholson streets will

also turn into a "No Stopping" zone from 7am – 9.30 am during the week to provide an alternative traffic route to compensate for the closure of Franklin St.

"These small changes will keep Melbourne moving while we build the Metro Tunnel and a better transport system for Victoria," Mr Donnellan said.

Preparation for the CBD South precinct was conducted over January and involved installing safety hoarding around the empty retail area beneath the Westin Hotel. John Holland has taken over the space as a secure area for work crews to use during construction.

Hours of construction are 7am – 6pm during the week, and 7am – 1pm Saturdays. *CBD News* will update the local community with the latest information as the Metro Tunnel works continue.

Night market outperforms



The Victoria Market's summer night market is performing beyond expectations with unofficial reports of a 40 per cent growth on last year.

It is understood that between 40,000 and 50,000 people are attending each Wednesday night, and there are plenty of nights left in the 16-week season.

Some of the themed nights coming up are Lunar New Year (February 1); Caribbean Night (February 8); Singles Night (February 15); Cure MDN (February 22); New Orleans Mardi Gras (March 1); and International Women's Day (March 8).

Some 750,000 people are expected to experience the night market this season – drawn by great food and unique artisan merchandise stalls.

Community comes together after tragedy

Amidst the loss and devastation, the city came together to remember those who passed on Friday, January 20.



A young boy pays his respects and lays flowers outside the steps of H&M.



A child places a candle on the Australian flag at the Federation Square tribute on January 23.



The community shares a minutes silence for those lost in the tragedy.



Thousands attended the Fed Square tribute.



A therapy dog at the tribute.

Favourite spot for thieves and deceivers

By Khiara Elliott

Data released by the Crime Statistics Agency Victoria shows that the top crimes in the CBD during 2016 were theft related.

"Obtaining benefit by deception" was the top crime in postcode 3000, with 3309 cases being reported over the last year. This was closely followed by "theft other", with a total of 3172 reports made.

Melbourne East Police Station's Sen-Sgt Adam Tanner explained the terms and how the crimes usually occur in the CBD.

"Obtaining benefit by deception is largely a type of fraud," he said. "The use of stolen credit cards is an example. When stolen credits are used to purchase goods, that's obtaining benefit by deception."

According to Sen-Sgt Tanner, theft other means the theft of someone's personal

property that does not include an act of violence.

"For example, you might use your laptop at the library, move away from your desk and have your laptop taken. That's an example of theft other," he said.

Sen-Sgt Tanner said the crimes were usually linked to each other, beginning with an act such as the stealing of a handbag, and resulting in a case of obtaining benefit by deception once the thief has gone through the purse and begun using the victim's credit cards.

"The motivation for any thief is obviously money, so they'll use these cards to purchase items of high value and then resell them, or they'll try and withdraw cash," he said.

An unfortunate, yet perfect, example of theft other turning into obtaining benefit by deception happened to 27-year-old Amy Li after she used "secured" lockers at Flinders St Station.

Ms Li was out with friends and decided to place her backpack, which held her iPad, inside the locker to avoid lugging the heavy bag around with her.

When she returned a few hours later, Ms Li found that, despite her locker still being locked, her bag was open and her iPad had been taken.

A few months later, Ms Li received a phone call from a stranger claiming to have purchased her iPad on classified website Gumtree.

The woman, who claimed to be a single mother on a disability pension was having trouble using the iPad as Ms Li had reported it as stolen and Apple had taken it offline.

As the iPad was still linked to Ms Li's Apple account, the woman began asking Ms Li for her account log in details so that she could log on and change the settings.

However this was a huge red flag for Ms Li who felt uneasy about allowing a stranger access to her private account information that included personal and financial details.

Instead Ms Li unlocked the device through Apple. She has not heard from the woman since.

"Particularly with our electronic devices

such as mobile phones and iPads, so much personal information is contained in them," Sen-Sgt Tanner said.

"If people can gain access to this information, it can lead to further offences such as identity theft which is obviously a major concern."

Sen-Sgt Tanner said that there would be a continued focus on theft other crimes in the CBD.

"It's about making sure people are aware of their property," he said.

"We want people to make sure their valuables are secured and that they know where their valuables are at all times, even when they're just walking down the street."

And if you have the same misfortune as Ms Li, Sen-Sgt Tanner recommends you remain proactive.

"We encourage anyone who has property stolen, particularly mobile phones and credit cards to disable their accounts or devices as soon as they're aware of it. That defuses the situation and prevents criminals furthering that crime," he said.



LUNCH TIME

LUNCH TIME AFTER WORK THE WEEKEND



WITH KHIARA ELLIOTT

khiara@cbdnews.com.au

To be featured in this section call
8689 7980

Get active this summer at Federation Square!

With a large program of participatory events aimed at getting everyone up and moving, you can now squeeze in a fun, free work out during your lunch break.

Join the world-renowned dance party that is Zumba! Burn calories to the exhilarating Latin beats. Classes are presented by Healthy Lifestyle Lounge and run every Thursday from February 9 until March 16, 12pm – 12.45pm, St Paul's Court.

Looking for a lunch time work out with a twist? Summer In Motion has you covered with fortnightly belly dancing lessons. Taught by professional instructor Trisnasari, the aerobic-inspired dance focuses on toning and strengthening core muscles. All ages and skill levels are invited to join in on the fun. Every second Thursday from January 12 until February 23, The Atrium, 1pm – 1.30 pm.

Embracing Melbourne's multiculturalism, Summer In Motion is also offering Irish folk dancing lessons. Presented by Melbourne Comhaltas and Fed Square, experienced instructors welcome beginners of all ages to learn steps to the Irish jig and traditional folk dancing every Sunday from January 29 until February 19, St Paul's Court, 2pm – 3pm.

If you'd rather make the beat than dance to it, Asanti Dance Theatre is also inviting you to take part in its African Drumming Workshops. Asanti Dance Theatre is an



internationally recognised African drum and dance performance company based right here in Melbourne. Workshops run every Wednesday from January 11 until March 1, St Paul's Court, 4.30pm- 6pm.

Young and old alike can improve their coordination and sharpen their concentration with juggling lessons led by an expert juggler. Lessons are held every Monday and go for an hour. January 9 until February 13, St Paul's Court, 5pm – 6pm.

Bring your friends and partners and join the dancers from Barefoot Swing for West Coast

Swing Lessons. Taking a casual approach to swing dancing, West Coast Swing lessons are suitable for both experienced and beginner dancers. Move your feet to a selection of everything from Motown melodies up to today's top 40. Every Tuesday from January 10 until March 7, St Paul's Court, 6pm – 7pm.

Presented by Fed Square and Asanti Dance Theatre, BoomSa African Dance is here! This cardio and endurance based dance style welcomes people of all skill levels to join them. Every Thursday from January 12 until February 23 at St Paul's Court, 5pm - 6.15pm.

HIGHLIGHTS



Luminous Realms

Luminous Realms is an immersive, experimental installation by artist Kate Rohde. Using colourful contemporary materials and technology, Rohde explores her imagining of the Baroque and Rococo movement.

11am – 6pm Monday to Friday, 10am – 5pm Saturday. CRAFT, 31 Flinders Lane, www.craft.org.au. Free.



Between The Lines

Non-profit organisation fortyfivedownstairs and Open Canvas have partnered to present Between The Lines, an exhibition featuring work from artists who have experienced homelessness, a disability or other adversities.

February 27 – March 18, Tuesday – Friday 11am – 5pm, Saturday 12pm – 4pm. Fortyfivedownstairs Inc, Basement 45 Flinders Lane, www.fortyfivedownstairs.com. Free.



Brooches at Erika

Looking for a Valentines Day gift that lasts longer than a bunch of flowers? How about a crystal brooch from Erika? Prices from \$20. 437 Little Collins St

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www.erikaboutique.com.au**



The Bureau for the Organisation of Origins (BOO)

BOO is an exhibit exploring Australia's national identity in the lead up to Australia Day. The gallery will also be used as a workshop and meeting space.

January 25 - February 11, 12pm – 6pm. Blindside Gallery, Room 14, Level 7, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St, blindside.org.au. Free.



Art Is A Prayer

Indonesian artist Tisna Sanjaya is using the State Library forecourt as his canvas. Join Mr Sanjaya over five days as he creates a collaborative art practice about invention, performance and social conscience.

February 27 – March 3, 10am – 4pm. State Library of Victoria forecourt, 328 Swanston St. Free.



Priest, Preacher, Painter

A retrospective of works of arts by Father Patrick Negri (1935-2016). After Fr Pat's death, his brother Michael "unearthed" more than 50 of his paintings. Fr Pat supported refugees and wanted proceeds from his art be donated to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project.

February 10 – March 9, St Francis Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale St.



AFTER WORK

LET THE LONELY SOCK DO THE WORK FOR YOU

Father and son-in-law duo Kevin Bevans and Danny Wheeler understand the fast pace of the CBD and its residents. So when it comes to after-work laundry duties, they're happy to do the work for you.

The Lonely Sock at 11 Rose Lane, opposite Southern Cross Station, is a brand new purpose built laundrette that Mr Wheeler says is catering to a forgotten market.

"The CBD residential population is growing at about 6 per cent per annum," he said.

"We identify this service as a forgotten service that isn't readily available in the CBD and that was one of the major factors in us deciding to set up here. If we can work with everyone who lives here well, that's just a bonus for everybody."

Recognising that fewer and fewer people are carrying cash these days, Mr Bevans and Mr Wheeler have installed brand new, large capacity, entirely cashless machines throughout The Lonely Sock. Customers can pay by credit card, debit or MasterCard, Visa, Paywave or Apple Pay.

"The prices of machines in laundrettes now makes it difficult to use coins. Everything is restricted to a dollar so people are bothering local vendors for change and change machines get broken into all the time. The security aspect of going cashless is a lot better too," Mr Bevans said.

Creating a bright, colourful and comfortable user experience, The Lonely Sock also features free WiFi and internet access, a television, multiple device charging points, modern furniture and a book swap – all set against a living wall garden.

The book swap aims to create a relaxed environment for everyone, including the multicultural residents of the Upper West Side Midtown Tower apartments that The Lonely Sock sits next to.

"We want to get some Chinese and Vietnamese and French books in here as well. We want to cater to everyone," Mr Bevans said.

Everyone, indeed. The Lonely Sock also cares for short-stay apartment owners and customers through its commercial laundry service.

Understanding that time is of the essence, customers seeking serviced washing can drop their items to The Lonely Sock before midday for same day service. Dry cleaning items can be dropped off before midday for a two-day service. Ironing is also available.

To ensure no one is left standing and



Kevin Bevans and Danny Wheeler at The Lonely Sock in Rose Lane.

waiting, customers of The Lonely Sock can receive updates on not only the status of their laundry, but also when a machine has become free. All you need to provide is your email address and let Mr Bevans and Mr Wheeler take care of the rest.

The Lonely Sock is open seven days a week, from 7am-10pm, with staff there until 6pm Monday - Friday excluding public holidays. The laundrette is monitored through video surveillance 24 hours a day.

Residents of the Upper West Side apartments

have 24/7 card access.

As an introductory offer, The Lonely Sock is offering washing from just \$5 and drying from just \$4, and every customer receives a free washing bag on arrival!

The Lonely Sock
11 Rose Lane, just off the western end of Little Bourke St.
Seven days a week, 7am - 10pm, 24 hour access for Upper West Side residents.

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M A S S A G E

View the full City of Melbourne Eco City program online at: slf.org.au

Powering Up

Building momentum for community power

Across Victoria people are getting together to take renewable energy into their own hands.

During the Sustainable Living Festival, the City of Melbourne will be hosting three public information sessions to generate momentum towards community energy in Melbourne.

Come along to discover the latest on community-led renewable power, connect with like-minded people and learn about the Community Energy Congress that will conclude this year's SLF.

Event times:	Kathleen Syme Community Centre	Library at the Dock
Boyd Community Hub	Carlton	Docklands
Southbank	Sunday 12th February	Tuesday 14th February
Thursday 9th February	6:30-7:30pm	6:30-7:30pm

For more information and to register, visit: www.slf.org.au



ASIA POP COURTYARD

Finish your week with a burst of fun, food, and Asian pop fusion every Friday night at the Asia Pop Courtyard.

As part of the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts (TOPA) festival, the Immigration Museum courtyard will be transformed into one giant dance floor.

Featuring performances from SBS Pop Asia DJs and performances from K pop dancers, Asia Pop Courtyard is a celebration of Australia's connections with contemporary Asia.

DJs Japandaman and Silhouette will be spinning tunes by international K Pop and J Pop sensations Got7, NEWS, GFriend, AKB48, I.O.I, PAPP, Red Velvet, 2ne1 and Big Bang.

Refuel from all the dancing you'll be doing with an icy cold brew from the Asian beer bar and delight in the street food delicacies of Lil Nom Nom's, Kimu Korean Japanese eatery and more.

If you're feeling inspired by the K Pop and J Pop artists, you can hold your own performance in the Asia Pop Courtyard karaoke lounge. immortalise your performance or just take a happy snap in the photo booth too!

Continuing the celebration of culture

indoors, the Immigration Museum will showcase *Kung Fu Motion*, a martial arts exhibition.

Immerse yourself in the action and watch a re-creation of Hong Kong Kung Fu masters as they create precise and deadly movements in this moving video installation.

Using motion capture and ultra-high speed video, *Kung Fu Motion* presents the intricate movements of traditional Hakka Kung Fu.

City University of Hong Kong and International Guosho Association have partnered with Hing Chao, Sarah Kenderdine and Jeffrey Shaw to create this visual masterpiece for the Immigration Museum.

Kung Fu Motion tickets are \$14 throughout the week, but entry is free to Asia Pop Courtyard visitors on Friday evenings.

Asia Pop Courtyard is a free event series, and if you need a break from all the excitement you can also enjoy a complimentary visit through the Immigration Museum all night.

Asia TOPA and Asia Pop Courtyard is presented by the Sidney Myer Fund and Arts Centre Melbourne.

5pm - 9pm, every Friday night, February 3- 24.

Immigration Museum Courtyard, 400 - 424 Flinders St. Free.



HIGHLIGHTS



Fellowships Program Information Night

The State Library invites all potential fellowship program applicants to join them for a Q&A session with previous fellows on how to apply, selection criteria and application date information.

6pm - 7.30pm, Tuesday February 28.

Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston St. Free.



Lunar New Year

Celebrate the Year of the Rooster at the Summer Night Market! Bring the family and enjoy traditional performances from local and international acts.

5pm - 10pm, Wednesday, February 1.
Queen Victoria Market. Free.



Courageous Conversations

Celebrating 25 years of courageous conversations with the LGBTIQ community, Switchboard brings Melbourne-based psychotherapist Carol-Ann Allen back to Midsumma Festival to tackle the subject: How to begin a courageous conversation.

6.30pm - 8pm, Wednesday, February 1.

Magnet, Level 2, 640 Bourke St. Free, requires registration. www.midsumma.org.au



Be eSmart at City Library

Join the discussion with senior trainer Greg Gebhart from the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner about safe internet use strategies and cyber security.

6pm - 7.30pm, Monday, February 13.
City Library, 253 Flinders Lane. Free.



Adult Story Lounge

Sit back and enjoy hand-picked stories and poems read aloud by adults, for adults. This month's Adult Story Lounge includes a special guest reading from the LGBTIQ community as a part of the Melbourne Library Service Midsumma program.

6.30pm - 7.30pm, Wednesday, February 1.
City Library, 253 Flinders Lane. Free.



Private Dining Room

A six course meal with matched beverages by IDES Melbourne sous chef Zackary Leon Furst, with the mystery of a secret location. Details will be sent to diners via SMS on the day.

7pm - 11pm, Tuesday February 21.
Secret Location, \$165. Book online at www.privatediningroom.com.au



THE WEEKEND

WHITE NIGHT MELBOURNE

Watch the city transform from dusk til dawn!

White Night was originally founded in 2002 in Paris. Since then, more than 20 major cities around the world have held a White Night event. Melbourne joined the party in 2013 and thanks to the State Government, White Night Melbourne is back to take over the CBD starting at 7pm on February 18 and finishing 7am on February 19.

In a celebration of creativity, White Night Melbourne uses installation, lighting, exhibitions, film, music, street performances and interactive events to transform the city into something made of pure magic.

This year's theme, according to the White Night website was motivated by a quote from French writer, poet, aristocrat and journalist Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

"Night, the beloved. Night, when words fade and things come alive. When the destructive analysis of day is gone, and all that is truly important becomes whole and sound again."

The theme will focus on the four pillars of creativity: inclusion, accessibility, engagement and innovation.

With a variety of events on the 2017 program, there's sure to be something to tickle everyone's fancy.

Dive into the fun of Seadragon's Lair by Sheree Marris and Lisa Greenaway, a totally



immersive underwater experience set in the State Library's famous LaTrobe Reading Room. Watch as the dome disappears under a wall of water and you come face to face with schools of fish and explosive sea sponges.

Through the use of animation, soundscapes and underwater cinematography, you are instantly transported to Port Phillip Bay and all the beauty that lurks beneath its waters. Just watch out for the armies of spider crabs!

Pay tribute to Prince and take part in *Purple Rain* on Little Lonsdale St. French artist

Pierre Ardouvin is back with his popular sensory exhibition that invites participants to pick up an umbrella and literally walk through purple coloured rain showers.

If you're needing a little break from all the excitement, White Night has you covered. You can find a community of couches on Lonsdale St at the Lonsdale Lounge Cinema. Family movies will be shown from 7pm - 11pm, and from 11pm onwards it's short films, documentaries and animations for the big kids.

Dance to the music of Melbourne's

multiculturalism at *The World - Live*. 12 hours of live music and dance from a selection of the 140 cultures found in the City of Melbourne will be held at Birrarung Marr on the Lower Terrace.

Melbourne's history is memorialised in its statues, but for one night only you can see who these immortalised men want to be or could have been today. *The Secret Life of Statues* by Mitch Gow and Eloise Kent transforms the Melbourne pioneers into mermaids, punks, queens and astronauts through installations all over the CBD!

HIGHLIGHTS



Bubble Soccer World Cup

Hosted by Corporate Bubble Soccer, 10 nations will compete in this fundraising competition. Live music, food trucks, soapy soccer and human foosball fun will also be available for all ages to enjoy.

All day, Saturday, February 4. Birrarung Marr. Free.



30th Lonsdale St Greek Festival

Join in on free entertainment across two stages, including a performance from an international artist, pop up bars, Greek street food, activities for the kids and cooking demonstrations.

11am - late Saturday, 11am - 10.30pm Sunday, February 25 - 26. Greek Precinct, 168 Lonsdale St. Free.



Speed Hating

Experience a first date like no other with regular host Dean Acuri and comedian Kirsty Webeck along for the ride. Presented by MidSumma Festival.

3pm - 5.30pm, Sunday, February 5. The Carlton Club, Palms Rooftop. 193 Bourke St. \$20. Same sex attractions only.



Creative Embellishment

Learn how to turn old and recycled fabrics into wearable fashion and accessories with hand sewing and construction technique lessons.

1pm - 4pm, Saturdays, February 4 until February 25. City Library, 253 Flinders Lane. Free.



Chinese New Year Festival

The year of the Rooster brings 17 days of celebrations. Listen to the sounds of celebratory firecrackers exploding behind the QVM sheds and receive a message of prosperity from the Hongbao wall.

All day, Everyday, January 27 until February 12. Queen Victoria Market. Free.



Japanese Summer Festival

Street food, crafts, games and live performances will be on show at the 2017 Japanese Summer Festival, as well as prizes for best dressed and a chance to win business class tickets to Japan thanks to Qantas and Jetstar!

12pm - 6pm, Sunday February 26. Federation Square. Free.

Heritage

It's not just about the Corkman Inn

One thing the illegal demolition of the Corkman Inn late last year showed us was the deep connection many Melburnians have to historic pubs and the shock at seeing them disappear needlessly to development and gentification.

The Lord Mayor and the Planning Minister were right to express outrage, but we can't forget that under their watch a number of equally significant pubs are currently slated for demolition or under threat in the city.

Pubs in the CBD have been gradually vanishing in the last 20 years, but the pace is accelerating, due to demolition, facadism, or being turned into other uses.

The Stork Hotel, a meeting place and poetry corner opposite the Queen Victoria Market for over 150 years, was approved for demolition in 2008 (and is now replaced with a generic apartment tower), because charming art deco alterations meant it wasn't "original" enough to protect.

The Queensbridge Hotel was doomed to a

similar fate at this time despite being the only historic building still extant along in Southbank within sight of the Yarra. In 2012 the Celtic Club (originally the 1872 West Bourke Hotel), was approved to be completely facaded for an apartment tower that may not include the club.

Then came the closure of the Elms Family Hotel last year which, despite heritage listing and its social history going back to the 1850s, will soon become just facades on the podium to an office tower behind, a fate perhaps just as bad as outright demolition.

Soon after news of the Elms, we learned the Duke of Kent Hotel on LaTrobe St, with its unique Greco-Egyptian facade, and storied history as the pre-war birthplace of

Australian avant-garde theatre in the upstairs New Theatre, is to be completely erased for another apartment tower and driveway, with no objection from the City of Melbourne or Planning Minister since it had never been heritage listed.

Then just before Christmas, a planning application to completely demolish the gold-rush era bluestone Greater Western Hotel on King St was lodged which, despite a history as full as the Corkman Inn, also has no heritage protection and seems likely to be destroyed for an apartment tower.

We hear something on the grapevine that Metropolitan in William St may also be threatened. That would leave only seven pubs in the CBD that operate like pubs, but

only Young & Jacksons is really completely safe.

While the outrage shown by those in power over the illegal loss of the Corkman was warranted, we wish more thought would be given to the equally significant but unprotected pubs that are steadily being lost to the wreckers with the full approval of those who could do more to protect these quintessentially Melbourne icons.



Tristan Davies
President
Melbourne Heritage
Action

Planning

City-changing projects getting underway

Looking forward to the year ahead, a number of works are set to get underway which will enable a couple of significant city changing projects to proceed.

Already streets and spaces are beginning to be closed off as contractor John Holland commences enabling works and site preparation for the multi-billion dollar Melbourne Metro project. A'Beckett and Franklin streets will remain closed for about five years to allow for the excavation and construction of the station shafts for CBD North Station.

City Square will also shut for the same period to facilitate demolition works within the City Square below-ground car park, which requires the protection and potential relocation of adjacent utilities, including gas, power and telecommunications services. Excavation and construction will then follow on one of the station shafts for CBD South.

It is also expected that a number of buildings along Swanston St will be formally acquired later this year with demolition then commencing in 2018 to enable construction of the new CBD stations as the centre of the city begins to resemble a huge construction zone.

In addition to the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, the City of Melbourne's \$250m Queen Victoria Market renewal project will start following the announcement of a market pavilion with an elevated greenhouse to accommodate for traders during the redevelopment.

The 260m long structure will be located on the corner of Queen and Franklin streets when it opens later this year and has been



CBD South Station - indicative concourse image.

designed by Breathe Architecture.

Development plans for a high-rise tower on the Munro site in addition to parking and community facilities by developer PDG are yet to be released.

In addition to the above projects further private investment is expected in 2017 with

a significant number of high-rises set to top out or finish while others are due to commence construction including Mirvac's Olderfleet, QIC's 80 Collins St, Premier Tower, the dual tower Queens Place, The Ritz Carlton at West Side Place and a whole host of others which would take too long to mention individually.

Here's hoping for a safe and prosperous 2017!



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

CBD Local

Suited to life in the CBD

Although 24-year-old international affairs client liaison manager Briar Lloyd is used to working side by side with some of the world's most major cities, her love for ours is quite possibly the strongest.

Migrating from New Zealand in 2010 for her studies, Ms Lloyd completed a Bachelor of Arts, Media and Communications and Politics and International Affairs at Melbourne University.

After completing her studies, Ms Lloyd bounced around the outskirting suburbs before moving into her own apartment right in the heart of the CBD three years ago.

"I'm smack bang in the city now, on Collins St. Sort of between Swanston and Elizabeth," she said.

"This is the place I've been at for the longest. I'm very settled and comfortable there."

When she made the decision to move out of a share house and live on her own, Ms Lloyd said she originally did not contemplate the CBD as an option.

"I was looking at different places in different suburbs but I found that when it comes to living by yourself, the CBD is actually more affordable and there's better spaces available, which is quite surprising!"

Ms Lloyd, who has worked in the CBD since she moved to Melbourne, says that living here has had a major impact on her day-to-day, both professionally and socially.

"I save so much money and time on public transport," she said.

"I don't have any major commutes at all. It's very easy and convenient to do everything now, I feel so much more productive and I can get a lot of things done."

Some people might find apartment living



Briar Lloyd ... loves living in the CBD.

a bit crowded, but Ms Lloyd says she appreciates the security.

"I feel really safe in the city. There's always people out and about and I feel fine walking down the streets by myself. Especially because I live by myself I enjoy that feeling of always being around people," she said.

Ms Lloyd not only lives and works in the CBD, but she is a committee member of several CBD social groups as well.

She is a member of private social group Henley Club and is also a leader of its arts and culture working group.

For Ms Lloyd, the CBD has everything she needs.

"It's so convenient, there's so many shops and you see more grocery stores opening up all the time. It's so close to so many attractions like the Royal Botanic Gardens. It was a really good choice moving here."

Pet's Corner

CBD's favourite office pet

By Nadia Dimattina

Take-your-dog-to-work-day is part of everyday lifestyle for city goer and pet owner, Paul Clayton.

Abbey, a nine-year-old Shiba Inu may not live in the city but gets to experience city life by commuting to the CBD each day.

Abbey's companion, Paul takes her to work where she gets a lot of attention from everyone in the office.

"It's good, the staff enjoy having her around, they all come up and give her a pat so I think it gives a good feeling of wellbeing in the business," he said.

Paul says he spends a lot of time in Flagstaff

Gardens enjoying the park environment in the CBD.

"Every day I come here and enjoy the park for about 10-20 minutes and then we go back to work," he said.

Abbey's owner was pretty satisfied with the amount of parks and gardens available for pet owners in the CBD.

"I think we are lucky we have so many parks around, it keeps her amused. It's not just a concrete jungle so we are pretty lucky with what we have got," he said.

However, there is still something that needs improvement in Flagstaff Gardens.

"The only thing is I wouldn't mind there being somewhere in this park for them to drink water. They put new fountains in but there is no pet bowls at the bottom of it, not one of them," Paul said.



Describing Abbey as a great house dog who is very clean and playful, Paul said she was his favourite pet.

"I love her company, she helps the day go by. It's nice having your best friend with you," he said.

We Live Here

A big year for We Live Here

We Live Here recently celebrated its first birthday and what a year it has been!

As readers of this column will know, the We Live Here movement arose from the long-running but ultimately unsuccessful case against short-stays involving Watergate Apartments in Docklands.

Since its genesis at a very well attended launch in December 2015, We Live Here has tapped into widespread community frustration about issues of high-density living that are not being adequately addressed by politicians and law makers, and has become a recognised voice for owners and residents in strata communities throughout the greater Melbourne area affected by these issues.

In our first We Live Here column in February 2016 we identified some of the issues as being related to town planning, health and safety, fire safety, disability access, parking, equitable levies, insurance, serious building defects, shortage of schools etc.

However the need for regulation of short-stay apartments in residential buildings, the reason for We Live Here coming into being in the first place, was the issue identified from our rapidly-growing supporter base of 180 buildings and 400 individuals as causing the most wide-spread concern, and where we directed most of our energy and resources.

So what has We Live Here achieved in the first 12 months?

- The defeat of the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 in the Legislative Council in November, that would have only benefited the short-stay operators at the expense of residents. The parliamentary debate focused on the submission presented by We Live Here and is now recorded in Hansard;
- The Bill has now been referred to the Environment and Planning Committee for an open and wide-ranging enquiry, which is what we had been lobbying for;
- Through this process close relationships have been developed with Liberal shadow ministers, the Greens and other cross-benchers;
- Tentative first meetings with government ministers, previously impossible before We Live Here was formed;
- Getting to know our councillors through individual meetings and inviting their participation in a number of forums;
- 86 per cent of candidates standing for council at the October election responded to a We Live Here survey on short-stays, with all but one team in support of regulation (i.e. a minimum of 30-day stays). The high profile candidate who did not support regulation and was not elected to council later commented that he had learned his lesson ... "don't annoy residents groups";
- We contribute a monthly column to the *CBD News*, *Southbank Local News* and *Docklands News* - this one is the 12th - which has enabled us to regularly report

on issues affecting residents, and readers of the column are a valuable source of new supporters; and

- Provided active support for the City Schools for City Kids Campaign and the Docklands residents who have been campaigning long and hard about the lack of consultation in the development of Harbour Esplanade Master Plan.

What lies ahead in the second year of We Live Here?

The major focus for the first few months of 2017 will be to:

- Carry out an extensive review of We Live Here, its aims and objectives, and to set goals for the year ahead; and
- To participate in the wide-ranging enquiry into short-stays to be chaired by the Shadow Minister for Planning, David Davis. We will be inviting supporters of We Live Here to make submissions to the enquiry - to tell their story.

Short stays are here to stay. However, there needs to be good legislation that can guide us along the right path so as not to be detrimental to owners and residents who choose to make apartments their home.

Legislation should also provide owners' corporations with the powers to take appropriate action on those who abuse the facilities.

Amendments to the planning laws to protect owners and residents rights are required.

It's not a case of saying "not in my back yard", apartment owners are more concerned with "not at my front door, in my lift lobby, swimming pool or car park, unless I get to choose when and how often". After all we do live in a democracy and should not be overruled by a minority.

The Bill proposed was clearly written by people who have never had to pursue a strata by-law breach, even when you know who has done what and which law they were breaking.

Currently the short operators are not responsible or accountable for their guests. Trying to chase down party animals and their elusive guests who don't confirm to OC rules leaving us all to pick up the costs of repairs and damage, etc is a joke as the short-term offender is long gone.

Please write to campaign@welfare.net.au if you would like to make a submission and more information will be sent to you as it comes to hand.

Funding

Finally a not-for-profit advocacy group such as We Live Here needs financial support to survive.



www.welfare.net
emails to campaign@welfare.net

Letters to the Editor

Bad taste

I note there is usually very little in this lightweight paper, especially reading the latest edition. Rarely is there anything about the homeless adorning the streets of Melbourne.

All the spruiking electoral candidates carefully sidestepped any reference to this huge problem. Or perhaps I missed it?

Whatever the public and traders think about this situation of the homeless, it is nevertheless confronting and disturbing and distressing as the problem seems to be growing.

Consequently, it is in extremely bad taste to find a vacuous article featuring a young woman from Hong Kong who obviously just doesn't know what to do with her life, having SO much money, ("her monthly allowance can easily exceed a person's savings") partying and drinking, having to console herself with distractions like Prada and Louis Vuitton, dreading the day she may actually have to work for a living!

There are many hundreds of students throughout the city who I am sure are not in this position, and would find this article as tacky as I did.

I am equally sure she is not representative

of the "newcomers" either. That would be a sad indictment.

There are students from other countries besides Hong Kong, who have struggling parents, putting all their money into their children's education whilst they are in Australia.

There are hundreds of young people from India and Pakistan whose lives are not easy and indulgent and who can hardly afford breakfast.

Perhaps your magazine could spend a bit of time interviewing some of these students, and we could read something of substance for a change.

Sally



Send your letters to
news@cbdnews.com.au

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Street Art



Mimby in action.

Colour and movement = Mimby

Mimby Jones-Robinson is a vibrantly dressed and vivacious woman who adds considerable colour to our streets – not only with her art but in her manner of dressing. She is her own canvas!

Although Mimby had been painting on the streets for 10 years, her participation in *All Your Walls*, a street art event in Hosier and Rutledge Lanes, in 2013 was the first public showcasing of her work. It earned this much-loved artist a devoted following and a place in the Melbourne scene.

Mimby always wanted to be an artist and her early years were spent as a hairdresser.

"I saw it as a form of sculpture: shaping and forming. Although I found it to be an awesome experience, after a few years I left to go to art school," she said.

"But instead of it being a nurturing and cultivating experience, it diminished my creativity. I felt that I was becoming institutionalised. It was soul destroying and stopped me painting for a while."

However, Mimby wasn't deterred for too long as nothing was going to stop her painting!

She travelled for some time, living a gypsy lifestyle. "On my return to Australia, I relocated from Adelaide to Melbourne. It felt like home! During the early stages of

my pregnancy with our first child, I felt quite isolated. The one thing that got me through this period was to walk the streets – especially those of Fitzroy – looking at the art. It was inspiring. It had such a vibrancy and a sense of community to it," she said.

The female image has always been Mimby's chosen subject. "I've been painting goddesses, both on the street and canvas for over 10 years. I see them as a celebration of all women – be they mothers, daughters, sisters or grandmothers. There's a lot of myself in them. They are an extension of my world!" she said.

Although there's been some difficult times, through her painting, a colourful, cheerful and lively Mimby has emerged. Her *joie de vivre* is reflected in her work.

Mimby's mediums of choice are acrylic, poscas, a little aerosol and sometimes stencils. She often uses a combination of paste-up and spray.

"As a young mother, time is such a precious commodity. I paint between sleeps and

utilise every second. It's very important to make the most of these times," she said.

Mimby and I went on to discuss the local street art scene and the role of female artists in it.

"There's a dearth of female artists. They are there but not being showcased or taken seriously. It's still very much a male orientated scene."

"I'm frequently asked by young women: 'where are the females?' I tell them to be positive and inspired that I'm out there and getting it up. To go home, start creating and bring your own personality to the streets. Gifting your art to the world and leaving your mark. It may be tough but attempt to make a living from it,"

"Sometimes the street art rules and the clandestine nature of it can be very restrictive. I originally thought the tagging of pieces in Hosier worked: it created a balance. But it's been overdone and become too much."

"That said, I'm not precious about the length

of time my work stays up. It is the street after all. Most people appreciate street art but once you put yourself out there, you're vulnerable. It can be a courageous thing to do and subject to a lot of criticism."

"Hosier Lane has been a very effective billboard for me, generating commissioned work. It has become my exhibition space. A great publicity outlet! I've gained international recognition through my Hosier exposure."

Since my chat with Mimby, she and her family have returned to South Australia. Adelaide's gain is Melbourne's loss. A lot of the colour has disappeared from our streets.



Lorraine Ellis

If you are interested in Melbourne street art there is more on my Facebook page, [StreetsmART](#)



STREET FASHION



Fashion on the streets of CBD

Amy Sutton, 30

LOCATION: Little Collins St.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Dress from Country Road, shoes from Wittner and handbag from Longchamp.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: Any sort of dress, mainly from Gorman or Mars.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CBD:

I work here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Generally a colourful dress. During the week is corporate. During the weekend is more casual.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Something comfortable that can be easily put together in the morning.

Katrina Kim, 21

LOCATION: QV.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: Jumpsuit and thin jacket I think.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: I like jumpsuits. I like tops, pretty tops.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CBD:

Just travelling and studying right now, but I also live nearby.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Fits well for tall people, because I like long jumpsuits and long scarfs. It's just like my own style.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

Height. Many people say pretty face makes a good outfit though. But I don't know about fashion at all so I don't know what to say about it. But it should be easily put together in the morning.

Vanee Vu, 25

LOCATION: Swanston St.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE

WEARING: I'm just wearing a white shirt from Top Shop and girlfriend jeans from H&M. I also play around the little sunnies from Gentle Monster and choker from Top Shop.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE

OF CLOTHING: I think it's about the top. I really like loose clothes like bomber jacket.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CBD:

I'm studying a course here.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE

YOUR STYLE: Simple but a bit trendy and chic as well. I don't like boring outfits. I like to stand out using the accessories, like the sunnies that I'm wearing today.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD OUTFIT:

I think it's about the balance between clothes and the accessories. It shouldn't be like wearing too many accessories, which will make your outfit look so messy.



Lingerie on the outside

The corset of the 18th and 19th century that was worn under dresses has evolved from a tradition, to a special occasion piece of lingerie and now, to an accessory.

Thanks to Prada, who utilised the corset to frame its fur coats like a belt for its Fall Winter 2016-2017 collection, the corset is now being worn on the outside.

Hollywood girls Kylie Jenner, Gigi Hadid and Hailey Baldwin have all been spotted wearing their corsets on the outside of oversized shirts, so we expect this trend to be big in 2017.

The key to this trend is all in the layering. Choose the right type of corset (whether it be a full upper body cover in leather or a suede waist type) and keep it casual over a tall tee, or keep it streamlined and dominant by wearing your corset over a thick strap singlet with wide leg pants.

Thankfully, the corset shirt trend has trickled down from the runways of Prada to the more affordable sites we know and love. Here's three places you can pick up a corset combo for less than \$40.

Inspired by Kim Kardashian's beige tie up corset, white shirt and denim jacket combo, PrettyLittleThing is selling a ribbed crop top style corset for just \$30. Available in nude or black, search "Kimmey Nude Lace Up Corset Crop Top" at www.prettylittlething.com.au

Although you'll have to pay the \$16 international shipping fee, LA-based brand Fashion Nova has a variety of corset belts on offer starting from just \$13. More detailed designs can reach up to \$33, but search the "Accessories" section at www.fashionnova.com to access leather, suede, denim and camo corsets.

If you're looking for the complete corset-over-tee package, then Boohoo.com has you covered. For \$36 you can buy an oversized tee and black leather look tie up corset belt. Search "Faye 2 in 1 Corset Belt T-Shirt Dress" at www.boohoo.com



Khara Elliott
khara@cbdnews.com.au

Modular means flexible vertical living

There is no time like the summer holidays to test our design ingenuity as we organise and reorganise our compact apartments to accommodate hordes of visiting friends and relations (e.g. Christmas dinner for 15 at my place?).

As summer also sees our local unis enjoying a break, I looked to see what students on the other side of the world could contribute to our “vertical” entertaining challenges.

One who is shedding new light (literally) is James Vanderpant who hails from the University of Brighton. Perhaps taking inspiration from the long dark days of the northern hemisphere, James’s final year (studying product design) saw him develop a modular lighting system.

James’s story is that, while displaying his final year project in a student exhibition, it was noticed by a businessman who subsequently partnered with James. A Kickstarter campaign ensued which saw 1008 backers pledge £128,931 (about A\$211,000) to bring this project to life.

Called Helios Touch, it comprises a series of small, moveable hexagon panels that are activated, as the name suggests, through touch. Each panel can be turned on and off independently, meaning that the level of lighting can be adjusted to suit the task at hand. So if you need more light for your craft activities, touch all the panels, but if your



EverBlocks.

guests would like more ambient lighting, then swipe to turn a few panels off. Magnets located on each panel’s edge allow them to be pieced together into any honeycomb pattern that appeals.

Helios Touch is not alone in bringing the benefits of modularity to apartment living, as can be seen in the recent viral video featuring the EverBlocks System.

Comprising essentially of a range of oversized plastic blocks, they can be used – just like their smaller cousins – to construct all types of objects without the need for tools, glue or heavy equipment. According to EverBlocks, it uses include modular room dividers, interlocking partitions, temporary and permanent enclosures, windscreens, visual blockers and architectural accent walls.

The appearance of these blocks seems particularly well suited to newer apartment buildings and those liking a funky vibe.

Also, the temporary and mobile nature of EverBlocks may be particularly appealing to those renting, as the blocks “do no harm” to apartment walls and can subsequently be disassembled and relocated, along with everything else,

when the lease is finished.

But the real kicker is their reconfigurable nature. Because they are literally building blocks, their versatility means you can take them apart anytime to construct something different – move your wall’s location, change its size and/or appearance and/or take out a few blocks and create occasional furniture (like guest stools!).

Returning to our entertaining challenge, these blocks could be used day-to-day as a dividing wall to screen off your utilities room – but then when friends and relations visit en masse and additional space is needed, the wall can simply be moved further back or, more radically, dismantled and the same blocks used to make a serving bar for the day, a play pen for little guests or some much needed additional seating (just add a bit of cushioning!).

The key appeal of both Helios Touch and EverBlocks is that they are modular and moveable, meaning that these products can be tailored by the user and, in fact, they could be quite interesting as companion products.

As regards vertical living, this ability to separate and recombine individual components in new ways (without taking additional space) seems well suited to our high-rise lifestyle.

Next month this column will return to our own shores to see what our well-rested university sector can offer for the betterment of our vertical lifestyles. In the meantime, if you would like links to the organisations mentioned, please visit and like SkyPad Living on Facebook.



Janette Corcoran
Apartment living expert
<https://www.facebook.com/SkyPadLiving/>



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History

Fish Market c. 1890

Between 1865 and 1892, the Melbourne Fish Market occupied the Flinders and Swanston streets south-west corner.

It was of white brick and stucco with a large central chamber 16m high surrounded by 14 slate slatted stalls, fountains for washing fish, an arcade and room for carts to enter at auction time.

The building housed railway officials attached to Flinders Street Station and, along its Flinders St frontage, refreshment rooms, a newsagency, a tobacconist and a fruiterer.

The needs of the railway, improved health regulations and congestion spurred the move to new premises on the south side of Flinders St between Market and Spencer streets in 1892.

The building housed Hanton's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market and Bicycle Stables until it was demolished in 1900 to make way for the new Flinders Street Station.

This photograph comes from the collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

The RHSV is the historical society for the city of Melbourne. It is open to the public and presents exhibitions, talks, has a bookshop, and provides opportunities for research.

Open Monday to Thursday between 10am and 4pm and Friday between 10am and 3pm.

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Further information: www.historyvictoria.org.au



Kate Prinsley

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



Critic

Making a comeback

The CBD corporate world is more known for its vast foyers, elevators and symbols of power than its dark humour.

Former federal minister and local member Lindsay Tanner works on the 33rd floor of one of Melbourne's most excessive towers, 101 Collins St and he gets a kick out of lampooning it.

The water is sparkling across the bayside suburbs during the Christmas break but Mr Tanner granted *CBD News* an exclusive interview in his office at Lazards to promote his forthcoming novel.

Jack, the hero of Mr Tanner's first novel *Comfort Zone* is back in a sequel, due for release by Scribe later this year. Jack still drives a taxi but has dropped his CBD connections, instead teaming up with a love interest called Emily who draws him further into the political intrigue of the Carlton Estate.

"Jack is a mate," Mr Tanner says of his main character. "Mates you see only every six months. You bump into them at the pub. When you do see them you catch up."

Opposite 101 Collins is a CBD hang-out called Garden City which is the antithesis of a Jack-style pub. There's a queue out the front at 5 pm on a Friday. "It's like a mosh pit," Mr Tanner says.

Different kinds of characters hang out at Garden City. "These CBD places have potential for stories," Mr Tanner said. He created a character called Matt who worked at 101 and played the role of feint in *Comfort Zone*.

"I deliberately kept him a bit opaque. He was a cardboard cut-out young banker and everything Jack wasn't. Jack was a bit mesmerised by him. He had natural authority."

"Matt was a bit of a climber, putting on an act. You don't know the real him. He's a believable character for a high-rise corporate. His dad had a used car yard."

Mr Tanner's ironic depiction of the social mobility that drives the CBD corporate type make him an amusing and important commentator on contemporary city life.

Matt turned out to be a cocaine dealer and did the dirty on Jack. The city slicker was adept at upfront charm but hadn't got his act together in terms of mates and the raw honesty that drives them.

"You won't find a place like Garden City in Vermont or Coburg," Mr Tanner said. "It's a CBD thing - full of the Matts of the world."

Mr Tanner makes the most of the tension between city and suburban characters in his fictional work. An analogy could be drawn between factions in politics. "Matt might have a comeback in a future novel," he joked.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au



Resident 3000

Residents 3000 look forward to 2017

Residents 3000 has an active year planned continuing to develop community awareness of Melbourne's wonders plus the issues that we need to address to keep liveability to a high standard.

The first meeting of Residents 3000 will bring members and guests up-to-date with works on the Metro Tunnel.

As with last year the community group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6pm at the Kelvin Club (Melbourne Place). Our meetings were so successful last year that we have already planned events going out for the whole year. As an example, the March meeting will be another popular Trivia Night and in April we will be tackling the important issue of homelessness in the Melbourne CBD.

Other events will address the planned upgrade of the iconic QV Market and topics such as the greening of laneways and waste management.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 2 at the Kelvin Club. Future meetings are posted on our web site.

Have you seen it?

If you stand on the corner of Little Collins

and Russell streets you will see a new art work on the Hero apartment building. The work is entitled *Bushrangers* created by Raafat Ishak and is based on William Strutt's 1887 painting entitled *Bushrangers, Victoria, Australia, 1852*, a collection of the University of Melbourne. The current work was photographed by Zoe Ali in Royal Park, Melbourne, October 2016.

Strutt's bushrangers painting provided the perfect picture for that setting, it depicts two groups of people with similar aspirations, wealth in a newly-colonised territory but with different ideas about how to obtain it.



Susan Saunders
vice president
Ph: 0412 566 606
email: sue@residents3000.com.au



Bushrangers Victoria, Australia, 1852.

VCAT Watch

Melbourne's new built form controls – an end to hyper density?

Melbourne's high-rise boom has resulted in higher density in parts of the city than other mega cities like New York and Hong Kong.

Amendment C270 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme, approved by the Minister before Christmas, seeks to rein this in.

The amendment introduces new built form controls that impose new limits on building height, tower separation and podium setbacks.

There are two types of areas that directs different development outcomes:

- General development areas (GDA) – where the emphasis is on growth and more intensive development. This is primarily where towers are envisaged, and will be encouraged, to be located; and
- Special character areas (SCAs) – where the emphasis is to protect specific valued attributes, including a relatively lower built form scale appropriate for each area. There is commonality and overlap between some of the SCAs and heritage precincts or sites with individual heritage protection.

In addition, the amendment introduces two new concepts into the planning scheme –

floor area ratios (FARs) and a floor area uplift (FAU) scheme.

The FAR will apply in the GDA and propose a ratio of 18:1. For example, if the site area is 2000 sqm the allowable floor area is 36,000 sqm. Anything exceeding this figure will trigger the FAU scheme.

The FAU allows for higher density than the FAR of 1:18 in parts of central Melbourne if the developer provides certain public benefits. These public benefits include:

- Competitive design process (design excellence);
- Commercial office use on site for minimum 10 years;
- Social housing on site;
- Publicly accessible enclosed areas on site; and
- Publicly accessible open space on the site.

The panel that was appointed to consider the public submissions on the amendment concluded that the FAR of 18:1 was the upper limit in terms of density impacts.

However, it did not support the FAU scheme, concluding that:

- It fails to clearly apply the principles of equality, consistency, accountability and transparency to the securing of benefits;
- Its implementation, including the guidelines, is vague and may be open to misinterpretation;
- The strategic justification for the scope of public benefits is absent; and
- There are too many opportunities for inconsistent outcomes in the "negotiation" of agreements for public benefits.

Despite the panel's findings, the minister approved the amendment with the FAU scheme.

Another interesting issue raised by the panel was third-party rights. The Capital City Zone has virtually no rights for third parties to object to and appeal against development applications, even though there is now a very large residential population.

The panel suggested that the minister revisit

the issue, however no changes have been made by the minister.

The panel report on the amendment can be obtained on the Austlii web site, see Melbourne C270 (PSA) [2016] PPV 133.

There should be some confidence that Amendment 270 will avoid the worst excesses of the tower buildings constructed over the last 10 years.

However, it will be interesting to see whether the FAU scheme will result in the trading off for potential community benefits without impacting adversely on the public realm, particularly given the built form controls in the GDA are discretionary and matters like preferred height can be exceeded.



Mark Marsden
Managing editor
Victorian Planning Reports
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Events are posted on our web site at: www.residents3000.com.au

Meets second Tuesday of the month
7pm - 8pm, Boyd Centre,
207 City Rd, Southbank

MELBOURNE CITY SOUTHBANK LIONS CLUB

Contact: chengji1214@gmail.com

Third Tuesday of each month

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eastendersinc@gmail.com

First Thursday of each month,
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Contact John on 0459 398 358



Thursday, February 23, 6.30 – 9.30pm
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MELBOURNE SOCIAL CLUB DRINKS NIGHT

Come along, meet some of the hosts and club members of the Melbourne Social Club at their "Fun, Food and Friendship" end of month event.

Contact: info@funff.com.au

Sunday, February 12
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www.australianorthodox.org

Scots' Church

156, Collins St

Ph: 9650 9903

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St Francis' Church

326 Lonsdale St | 9663 2495

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Indonesian Community Mass: Third Sunday of the month at 2.30pm

St Paul's Cathedral

Cnr Flinders and Swanston Streets

Ph: 9653 4333

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St. Augustine's Catholic Church

631 Bourke St. Melb

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Mon - Fri Mass: 1.05pm

Mon - Fri Confessions: 12.30pm

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CBD NEWS

市政议员 空缺未补

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

由于维多利亚州选举委员会(VEC)试图推翻地方法官去年作出的裁决,墨尔本市政可能在数月内没有第11位即最后一位市政议员。

12月5日,地方法官迈克尔·史密斯(Michael Smith)裁定议员的空缺通过倒计选票解决,这可能导致Southbank的杰尔·萨拉夫(Joe Sarraf)被提名。

但12月8日,VEC向维州民事和行政法庭(VCAT)提出上诉,此事将于2月21日审理。

VEC专员沃里克·盖特利(Warwick Gately)和市长罗伯特·道尔(Robert Doyle)似乎在如何解决这个问题上有相同的观点 - 重计选票可能会看到萨拉夫加进来,但迈克尔·凯法(Michael Caiifa)议员会失去他赞成前副市长苏珊·莱利(Susan Riley)的立场。在这种情况下,道尔的团队将获得议会的多数议席。

盖特利先生说,道尔市长给他打了两次电话,第一次在11月9日,

以了解议员空缺的影响,第二次在12月6日,评论法官史密斯裁决的结果。

当选的候选人布鲁克·婉丁(Brooke Wandin)由于没有正确注册而没有资格当选议员,最后的议员职位仍然没有填补。

婉丁女士和前议员理查德·福斯特(Richard Foster)应于1月底到庭应诉,被指控在去年10月选举期间的非法提名和虚假声明。

维州民事及行政法庭不解民情

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

对于一个去年年底有争议的墨尔本城市规划决定,中央商务区居民由于严重的财务风险使他们无法对此进行挑战,而感到沮丧。

莫琳·凯珀(Maureen Capp)和其他丽晶大厦(Regency Towers)的居民想要挑战市政在去年11月22日作出的决定,该决定批准了Brady Jones有限公司在Lt Lonsdale街建造一个60米高酒店的许可证。

规划专家大律师汤姆·皮库萨(Tom Pikusa)评估了居民在维多利亚民事和行政法庭(VCAT)上的赢率是50:50,但他警告说,如果输了的话,他们可能要支付超过\$70000的费用。

皮库萨先生说,开发商可能会用这笔钱花费在法律团队上,但是如果居民输了,得要自己付这笔费用。

他说,在VCAT通常各方资助自己的案件费用,但在都市城区,当市政的决定受到挑战的情况下,通常是输家赔偿成本。

凯珀女士说:“都市城区的居民被开发商要挟赎金,开发商可以用昂贵的法律团队费用来吓唬居民,因为VCAT可以指定居民在败诉的情况下需支付开发商的法律费用。”

“这个世界疯了吗?VCAT从来不会试图采取一个昂贵的法律选择,而对解决普通公民有这样争议的途径往往会采取一个低成本的司法选择。”

VCAT网站说:“VCAT没有法院正式。在大多数情况下,你不需要律师或专业代表。”

居民认为,在邻近场地较早的许可证已过期之后,市政规划者错误地授予开发商这个“再次同意”的修正许可。

在去年11月22日的墨尔本未来委员会会议上,市政的规划操作主管简·伯明翰(Jane Birmingham)同意,在许可证过期后,不可能批准这样的修正许可。

但是,她说这个许可证还是被认为是有效的,因为工作已经在现场开始了。

居民感到愤怒的是,市政官员实际上并没有检查现场的工作范围,并指责拆除三个砖砌窗台是拆迁工作的延伸。

第三方权利列入议程

墨尔本中央商务区(CBD)居民的第三方规划通知和上诉权利回到了议程。

去年,审查最新中央城市控制修正案C270的专家小组建议再次审视这个问题。

在10月26日向规划厅长提交的报告中,专家组说这个问题超出了C270的要求范围,但值得进一步考量。

在现今的条款下,都市城区内的居民不必被通知可能影响他们的规划申请,而且他们也没有上诉权。

这种条款的传统理念是,给予居民权利将阻碍都市的发展。

规划专家迈克尔·布克斯顿(Michael Buxton)向专家小组辩述:“CBD居民在都市城区范围的权利可能是维多利亚州任何一个群体中最弱势的。”

该专家小组成员布赖特·戴维斯(Brett Davis)主席、杰妮·莫尔斯(Jenny Moles)、吉姆·侯思沃斯(Jim Holdsworth)和凯撒琳·拿法鲁(Katherine Navarro),他们都指出CBD自1990年以来发生了根本性的变化。

他们说:“虽然CBD仍然是政府、商业、零售和娱乐的地方,但是二十年来CBD已有相当的居住人口,这在很大程度上是受到市政的邮编3000运动的鼓舞。”

“CBD不能再被视为居民很少,主要是大学生,来自海外和其它州访客的短暂居住之处,而相反现在已有并且继续会有数以万计的居民长期居住。”

惨剧发生 太近家门

1月20日发生在Bourke街的恐怖一幕将让我们留下很长时间的阴影。

这起大规模杀戮尤其对在墨尔本市中心生活和工作的人带来了恐惧。在邮政编码3000以内的市区范围,这个尖锐化的问题已达到了一个极度的边缘。

在这个优越的国家,可以明显体验到墨尔本中央商务区的嘈杂与居民生活如此接近。我们看到了街头暴力以及粗鲁的睡街者。

这是一个磁铁,因为它是真正的墨尔本中心 - 这个城市失去了几十年前的那种纯清。

同样的象征,它也提供了一切最好的东西。美好的事情在这里发生。

正是这种购物体验给城区带来了一些不幸的受害者。没有其他可以替代CBD,它是真实的而又实实在在的。

CBD经历了悲剧的发生。先是在Russell街,然后是Queen街。现在又是Bourke街。

今天,CBD的社区在哭泣,疤痕不会愈合,但生活仍要继续。这里的生活比其他任何地方都更加充满生气,这不会改变。

美好时光将会回来。

公寓标准放宽

Shane Scanlan 撰稿

维多利亚州的新公寓标准下个月将成为法律,这个新标准要比去年年中发布的公寓标准草案要宽松得多。

州规划厅长理查德·韦恩(Richard Wynne)在圣诞节前发布了新规则,澳大利亚物业委员会在这一举措中取得了“巨大胜利”。

澳大利亚物业委员会首席执行官肯·莫里森(Ken Morrison)在给其成员电子邮件中说道:“在维多利亚,我们去除了外国投资税带来的最有害的影响(这是第二次了),影响了CBD规划控制的改革,保证了这次新公寓标准的出台”。

公寓标准草案和最终文件之间的比较说明了莫里森先生的观点。

在草案中的最低建筑收进线限度已经不见了。取而代之的是需要

确定一个“合理的距离”,以确保类似的未定义的结果,如“充分的”日光和“合理的”视觉(在最终文件中称为“与外部环境的视觉连接”)。

仍然没有最低公寓面积。但是已经讨论了房间的最小面积。卧室必须不少于3 x 3米(主卧室需要额外400厘米以容纳一个衣橱),对于一居室和单卧室的生活区域(不包括餐饮和厨房区域)必须不少于10平方米,如果是两个卧室也不能少于12平方米。

光道的最小尺寸也没有了,窗户周围的标准已经软化。

在草案中,需要从可居住房间的任何一点可看见窗户,但这个要求已经放弃。

防止外部噪声的标准也已放宽,而现在只适用于在工业区,道路和铁路的某些距离内建造新公寓。