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Enhancing links with Asia

By Sunny Liu

CBD resident Natalie Kyriacou founded social enterprise My Green World when she noticed the disconnection between children and nature.

My Green World is a provider of children's education programs focused on the protection and preservation of wildlife and the environment.

The organisation has launched a mobile game, *World of the Wild*, the theme of which is to protect and save wildlife, in contrast to the prevalent hunting and shooting themed games.

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Natalie Kyriacou (right) and some other A2ELP participants at the Henley Club.

Caiafa booted off council. Riley back

By Shane Scanlan

A judge has removed City of Melbourne councillor and Queen Victoria Market trader Michael Caiafa and replaced him with former Team Doyle councillor Susan Riley.

On March 14, Justice Greg Garde removed

Mr Caiafa, simultaneously acknowledging that he had done nothing wrong and even suggesting that the council cover his legal costs.

Justice Garde said: "His conduct has been exemplary. He has done all that an elected councillor can do since he was declared elected. His position is affected by the actions of another candidate over whom he had no control, and for whom he has no responsibility."

Justice Garde acted on the suggestion of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC),

which appealed an early decision of the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET) dealing with the disqualification of successful candidate Brooke Wandin.

Ms Wandin was declared elected in the October 22, 2016 council election but was later found to be incorrectly enrolled.

On December 5, MET Magistrate Michael Smith ordered a "countback" of votes, which would likely have preserved Cr Caiafa's position but added Ms Wandin's running mate Nic Frances Gilley to the council.

But the VEC successfully appealed to the

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) where Justice Garde ordered a "recount". Mr Frances Gilley was also successful using this method of counting and had now become a councillor. He and Susan Riley were sworn in on March 21.

Explaining his decision, Justice Garde said: "Exercise of a discretion often involves competing factors. Each must be given the weight considered appropriate. Whilst acknowledging the effect of the ineligibility of Ms Wandin on the other candidates,

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Caiafa booted off council. Riley back

Continued from page 1

particularly Mr Caiafa, the tribunal must ensure that effect is given as far as possible to the votes of the electors as cast in the ballot.”

“This duty is at the heart of the democratic system of local government. It is the factor that deserves greatest weight in the exercise of the Tribunal’s discretion.”

Justice Garde went on to say: “While the tribunal undoubtedly has power to declare unelected a candidate who was elected and who is qualified to be elected and has acted properly, it is a power to be approached cautiously and only exercised where necessary.”

“No previous instance of such a nature in the case of a multi-member electorate was cited to the tribunal. Nonetheless I am satisfied that it is necessary in this case to give effect to the votes and preferences cast in the ballot, as determined on the recount. There is no alternative if the two candidates who were elected on the recount are to serve on the council.”

Justice Garde’s action grants Lord Mayor Robert Doyle a majority of councillors in the 11-member chamber.

Cr Doyle had been critical of Magistrate Smith’s decision and had publicly advocated for the methodology championed by the VEC. Cr Doyle admits to speaking with VEC Commissioner Warwick Gately on two occasions but both men deny any influence was brought to bear on the VEC’s decision to appeal the matter to VCAT.



Michael Caiafa.

Mr Caiafa told *CBD News* he considered his legal options and determined it was too hard to appeal Justice Garde’s decision to the Supreme Court.

“I greatly appreciate the comments and the overwhelming support shown to me from other councillors, council staff and members of the public,” he said.

“Obviously, the outcome is terribly disappointing for me. Despite this disappointment and my great desire to continue in my role as councillor for the remaining three and a half years of the term, I do not wish to cause more uncertainty and interruption to the work of the council by pursuing any appeals against the VCAT decision.”

“I remain passionate about the Queen



Councillor Susan Riley.

Victoria Market and, while I am not able to serve out my time as an elected councillor, I want to continue to serve the people of Melbourne and all those who wish to see the market thrive and develop long into the future.”

“I would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the council to achieve that outcome.”

Cr Jackie Watts told *CBD News* the decision was further evidence of the need to reform the municipal electoral system.

“It’s most unjust and is very concerning that our democracy has malfunctioned to this extent,” she said.

Cr Watts has written to the VEC with 32 questions arising from the conduct of the October 22 election.

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Be Wary of Broad Market Statements



Sam Nathan
Managing Director

As Melbourne’s apartment market matures, it is to be expected that we will witness a broader range of analysis from a diverse range of sources. Like all markets subject to financial and economic interest (and particularly due to the direct social impact of housing on our city), the apartment sector is subject to commentary based in various forms of fact, opinion, perception and interest.

The majority of commentary and ‘analysis’ of the medium and higher density housing markets is data-led. This may be relevant in some instances of when looking at big-picture considerations, however, in the general context, most of this commentary fails to incorporate a critical element of the discussion ... the ability to interpret the dynamic and disparate influences on these market segments, and apply an educated narrative to allow a greater understanding of the market and the position of your particular property.

Valuable discussion of the apartment market requires acknowledgement that the market does not operate in isolation, but is influenced, either simultaneously or at times individually, by the impact of social drivers and patterns, political cycles and decisions, and economic circumstances. Only by understanding how these factors influence the market, and position of individual buildings within same, can a true discussion be had about the circumstances influencing a property from the perspective of both a vendor or purchaser.

A common topic of conversation I’m having currently, is that surrounding the level of rental demand for apartments throughout central Melbourne relative to the volume of new construction completions. Much commentary relates to the rental market as a whole, but fails to recognise that just like purchaser demand, the rental market is multi-segmented and driven by a diverse range of factors.

Discussion around the potential for rapidly growing vacancy rates, swathes of involuntarily vacant apartments and falling rents are: a) unfounded, and b) demonstrate the reliance of much commentary on pure data and associated forecasts, rather than an inherent understanding of the operation of the market.

Melbourne’s growth story is set to continue, as is demand for inner city rental accommodation. It is now apparent that with a scarcity of new long-term development opportunities remaining, inner city tenants in established, high demand locations will continue to not only be price takers, but also accommodation takers with respect to the nature of accommodation able to be occupied for the ‘affordable’ price point. It is a phenomenon experienced in Global Cities throughout the world, where the costs of housing (rental or purchase), and accommodation trade-offs required to be close to the core of vibrant cities, bear witness to the reality of living in such Global Cities.

As NPM expands our footprint, we look forward to assisting landlords and owner occupiers understand the position of your property in the market, working with you to achieve your desired objectives, and de-mystifying the increasingly complex market in which we live.

Hot box apartments are a health risk

By Sean Car

CBD residents face growing health risks associated with heat stress due to poor Australian apartment design standards, a new study by the University of Melbourne has shown.

The *Living Well – Apartments, Comfort and Resilience in Climate Change* study has found that Australian apartments don't comply with international standards when it comes to protecting inhabitants from extreme heat.

It looked at how apartments would perform in "free running mode" without mechanical cooling systems or air conditioning, such as in the event of a black out.

Researchers tested six common apartment building types ranging from high-rise and low-rise apartments to brick buildings and apartments considered as "best-practice" in the context of current Australian standards.

The study modeled how apartment designs could cope with excessively high temperatures by testing them against the heat wave conditions that hit Melbourne in January and February 2009, which included the Black Saturday bushfire disaster.

It also chose a worst-case scenario by modeling west-facing apartments that are most exposed to the sun. All six apartment samples failed the four standards they were tested against.

Two building types tested that were typical of most apartments in the CBD – being high-

rise heavyweight apartments made almost entirely of concrete – measured as the worst performing.

While current overseas building standards in countries such as France and Germany enforce strict rules on mitigating heat impacts, it is not currently addressed within the Building Code of Australia.

The study's lead researcher and construction scientist Chris Jensen said the results were a wake up call, particularly with scientists predicting longer and more frequent heat waves in the future.

"The research highlights to the public that heat stress inside apartments is a real issue and that we need to do more to control this, not only in new buildings, but also for existing buildings," he said.

One of the study's key recommendations calls on the national building regulator to adopt standards that protect people against heat stress by considering variables such as air temperature, humidity, air velocity, metabolic rate and clothing insulation.

The State Government's *Better Apartment Standards*, released in December, includes a maximum cooling load, which is calculated

using the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) standards. However, Mr Jensen told *CBD News* these standards didn't go far enough in addressing heat stress.

"We're calling on a range of different policy changes," he said. "It's addressed really well overseas but it's not currently addressed in Australia. The apartment standards guidelines don't address heat stress – the maximum cooling load uses computer energy modeling and doesn't capture peak temperatures."

Apartments currently considered best-practice encourage natural ventilation for adaptive comfort, while others recommend windows be kept closed during heat waves.

Many of the inner city's high-rise apartments don't have opening windows, posing particular dangers for residents in the event of power blackouts. And not all apartment buildings have back-up generators.

According to the building manager of Freshwater Place in Southbank, Mike Zverina, generators only ensured that power was maintained to lights, air supply, lifts and water. All appliances, including air conditioning, are not connected to the emergency loop.

However, while some generators, such as those installed at Freshwater Place, ensure a temperate pressurised average air of 22 degrees, Mr Zverina said not all buildings had temperate air provided by the central system.

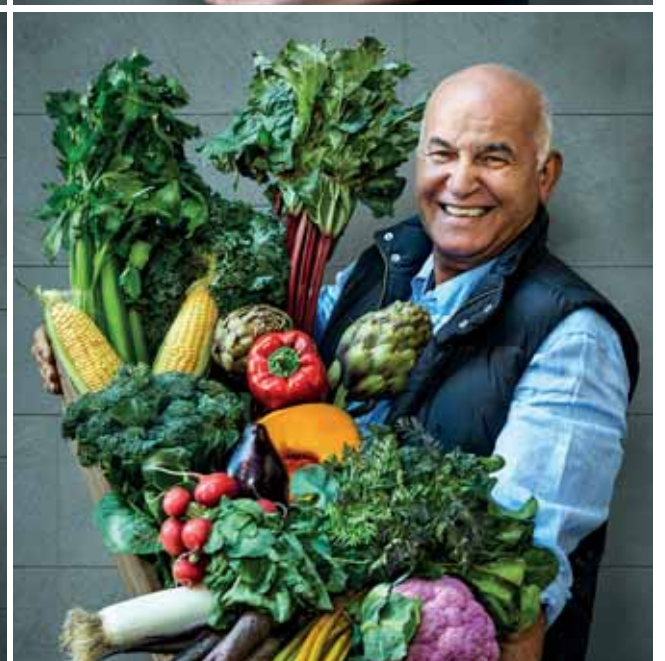
A spokesperson for the Australian Building Codes Board said the National Construction Code did not regulate backup power supply other than for emergency safety equipment.

"The provision of a generator for backup power is a matter that is at the discretion of the building owner/developer or building manager having regard to the nature and use of the building," the spokesperson said.

"A building does not get sold or occupied without a power source, so it is not something that needs to be regulated."

The *Living Well* study recommended a number of retrofit options, which included increasing thermal mass, added insulation, light colouring of external walls, improved ventilation and window shading.

However, the study found that even with the addition of all of these retrofits, some apartments would still fail to comply with some international standards.



Small business recognition

The City of Melbourne is seeking nominations from eligible small businesses for its 12th annual Lord Mayor's Commendations.

The commendations celebrate and recognise the contribution that small businesses make to the success of the city. More than 500 City of Melbourne-based small business owners have so far been recognised.

Applications are open until Friday, May 19, with a ceremony to be held on Wednesday, August 23.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said small businesses played a huge role in building the prosperity and cultural fabric of our city.

"Small businesses are the engine room of our economy. Their energy, creativity and passion help to make Melbourne the world's most liveable city," the Lord Mayor said.

"The City of Melbourne is home to 13,000 small businesses which employ 75,000 people. Small businesses make up more than 80 per cent of all the businesses operating in the City of Melbourne."

"The dedication and passion of the people who run small businesses should be recognised and that's what this program is all about."

The Lord Mayor's Commendations are free to enter and are open to any business proprietor within the City of Melbourne municipality that employs 20 people or less and has operated continuously for more than 10 years.

Commendations for small business proprietors include: 50+ years; 40+ years; 25+ years; and 10+ years.

For more information on the Lord Mayor's Commendations, including how to apply or nominate an eligible small business, or call 9658 9658 or visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/commendations.

Melbourne's lucky day

By Shane Scanlan

The City of Melbourne has just got lucky with the chance inclusion of Nicholas Frances Gilley as its 11th councillor.

The most-impressive social entrepreneur's "election" to council is an accidental, but fortunate, outcome of a bizarre chain of events, which started before the October council election.

Never really expecting to get elected, Mr Frances Gilley and running mate Brooke Wandin were supposed to contest the deputy and lord mayoral positions and attract votes for former councillor Richard Foster.

However, a simple mistake saw them enter the wrong part of the election, which led to a bitter falling out with Mr Foster and resulted in both Mr Foster and Ms Wandin facing criminal charges over Ms Wandin's enrolment address.

These matters are still before the courts. The authorities are currently working with Ms Wandin on ways to avoid a conviction. By contrast, Mr Foster is pleading not guilty, and the matter is due for further mention in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on July 18.

Ms Wandin was elected to the council (largely on preferences) but was later stripped of the position when it became clear that she was ineligible to stand.

Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) president Justice Greg Garde on March 14 declared Mr Frances Gilley elected in her place. And while he was initially not interested in the position, Mr Frances Gilley said he decided to take up the opportunity to honour his commitment to Ms Wandin (in whom he was "in awe of").

He says he will work towards reforming the electoral process so that indigenous people, such as Ms Wandin, in future can be automatically eligible for election no matter where they live. He calls this "paternal right" and offers the treaty that John Batman signed with the Wurundjeri tribe in 1835 as the basis of his rationale.

Mr Frances Gilley denies this is "idealistic", saying that, in fact, it's a pragmatic ambition because it can be achieved by simply adding



New councillor Nicholas Frances Gilley.

a tick-box to candidate enrolment forms for indigenous Australians.

And while this sounds like "pie in the sky", Mr Frances Gilley's track record for getting things done suggests it just might happen.

He's been a CEO since he was 25, has been ordained an Anglican priest and was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) for charitable achievements in Britain before coming to Australia in 1998 where he became the executive director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

He is on boards, writes books, speaks internationally and is well connected with the World Economic Forum. He is also an environmental player on the world stage.

The thought of his intelligent and passionate contribution to the direction of our city within the council chamber is exhilarating.

"I have skills," he said modestly, pointing to

the obvious areas of homelessness and the environment as where he can contribute most.

And he's not daunted by his ignorance of local government policies, processes and powers.

"It's a board position, isn't it?" he said, explaining that his strategic thinking was the best thing he could contribute and vowing to steer clear of the detail.

"You've got to trust the people who do the detail. What I will do will be within the context of that detail," he said.

"My style is to pose questions such as: 'would this be a good goal for us?'"

He's also not embarrassed that he and Ms Wandin's team attracted only 1534 votes.

"It's the system, isn't it? We've ended up with a consequence that neither of us expected, but I'm now in the job."

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A Doyle majority – what will it mean?

By Stephen
Mayne



Cr Jackie Watts, a Labor Party member and persistent Doyle critic, will gain little traction in the new council and has already been the subject of at least one formal complaint to state government oversight bodies.

However, just because we have a business-backed and Liberal-led council, don't expect an immediate move on the 17 per cent loading that business pays above the level of rates paid by residents. That set-and-forget differential has been in place for more than two decades and won't be changed, largely because business has not complained.

Similarly, even if debt blows out delivering the \$300 million-plus Queen Victoria Market precinct redevelopment, you'll never see a Doyle-controlled council asking for an exemption from rate capping.

That said, Cr Doyle is very conscious of the fact he rules over most of Adam Bandt's federal seat of Melbourne, long recognised as the most left wing federal seat in the country. The Lord Mayor jokes about being in a Green-Liberal Coalition and is very proud of being the spiritual leader of the so-called "Hamer Liberals" – the progressive, moderate group who look after the environment and embrace minorities whilst also keeping the budget balanced.

The Lord Mayor is unlikely to alienate the two Greens on council, Rohan Leppert and Cathy Oke, given they are both impressive individuals who have worked constructively with him in the past.

But he will no doubt be tempted to use some of his new-found power and the biggest risk relates to the conga line of rent-seekers who will ask for favourable treatment.

News Corp provided the worst example in the last council when it prevailed on the Lord Mayor to dish out almost \$300,000 of ratepayer cash to assist with their Good Friday Appeal. It was a dud investment which wasn't repeated, but there will be many others seeking favours, such as James Packer's Crown Resorts with its plan to build the biggest building in the southern hemisphere on the Queensbridge Hotel site.

The controversial removal of QVM trader Michael Caiafa, after serving for almost 150 days, will raise legitimacy questions about the Lord Mayor's majority.

Why did it happen? No legitimately elected councillor or politician in Australia has ever been removed from office mid-term by the same electoral authority which declared them elected in the first place.

The VEC is meant to be a sober independent authority which responds to events as necessary – not an interventionist litigant triggering unprecedented electoral outcomes with major political implications.

As *CBD News* has previously reported, the Lord Mayor and Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately had two telephone conversations during the Brooke Wandin imbroglio. What did they talk about?

As a party to the proceedings who followed

all submissions before Magistrate Michael Smith at the Municipal Electoral Tribunal and before Justice Garde at the VCAT appeal, I did not see or hear any convincing argument supporting the VEC position.

In my opinion, Magistrate Smith got it right and the VEC should never have appealed. Given that the VEC had declared Brooke Wandin elected, there should have been a vacancy declared and a countback which elected her running mate Nicholas Frances Gilley, who only received 14 primary votes.

But no, the VEC persisted with an alternative argument of assuming Ms Wandin had withdrawn before the election, when she hadn't.

The VEC approach didn't stop Brooke Wandin's tainted votes being used to elect her running mate, and it had the additional impact of delivering a Doyle majority (which the clear majority of voters did not want) and removing a serving councillor who scored the fourth highest vote with 7.78 per cent.

This is a travesty of democracy which, assuming no successful appeal, will effectively martyr Michael Caiafa and further boost the already powerful political movement opposing council's QVM redevelopment plans.

Don't be surprised if all this plays out at the 2018 state election as Planning Minister Dick Wynne, a critic of council's QVM plans, desperately tries to fend off a Green challenge in his seat of Richmond.

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Doyle running out of options in market chess game

By Shane Scanlan

The merits of the Queen Victoria Market (QVM) renewal have sunk to the bottom of a political swamp dominated by misinformation and brinkmanship.

In March, the City of Melbourne attempted to break an impasse with Planning Minister Richard Wynne by going public with its plans to develop the adjacent Munro site.

Considering that Mr Wynne has had a panel report into changing the planning rules in the market precinct (Amendment C245) before him since last August, the council's frustration is understandable. It is hamstrung without a decision on C245.

But, also considering that the council and its developer PDG are yet to actually APPLY for planning permission for their Munro site ambitions, the wisdom of attempting to pressure the minister this way is dubious.

The council has merely steered the public discussion into the merits of asking for a 200m tower in an area that had a 20m height limit when it bought the land in 2014. The C245 panel recommends 100 metres.

It has fuelled the growing public perception that the Lord Mayor is motivated to reward his developer buddies at the expense of salt-of-the-earth, battling market traders.

It also allowed the minister to regain some moral high ground in the wake of his scandalous involvement in gifting Crown Casino a massively non-compliant over-development at Southbank.

Mr Wynne went on to tell the media pursuing him over stonewalling on the C245



amendment: "The project doesn't have a lot of friends. Clearly, the traders don't support it and the customers don't support it."

And while the council was eager to show pretty pictures and talk about community benefit, it is still avoiding a frank discussion on the far less pretty matter of money.

The details remain unknown (perhaps even to the council itself!) but it's going to be ugly. The shorthand version is that the council has gone from expecting to make \$57 million from the Munro deal to later signing up with PDG for an \$80 million loss when Mr Wynne inevitably restricts the tower to the recommended 100 metres. The original figure of a \$250 million spend is now being reported at \$650 million.

The council's own-goal has buoyed its QVM redevelopment opponents who have been steadily building confidence since witnessing Robert Doyle's re-election last October with a mandate for the renewal.

The longer Mr Wynne has procrastinated on C245, the more encouraged they have become, with their chosen battlefield now moving to next year's state election.

The last five months have been a period of

phoney war. Having said nothing about the market for so long, the Lord Mayor would have been no-doubt surprised at the organised counter-attack from the anti-development forces when he finally left the trenches and ventured into battle with his ill-considered media strategy on March 6.

And the successful campaign by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to dump councillor and market trader Michael Caiafa offers a made-to-measure conspiracy theory which will further erode the case.

His alliances with Spring St will be sorely tested as the Labor Party considers its prospects in the five inner-city seats most directly influenced by QVM perceptions.

The Greens' position will be crucial.

In the absence of a sensible discussion about the long-term future of the market, votes will be cast on ill-informed, emotional grounds.

So, unless Cr Doyle can quickly and effectively communicate the benefits of the redevelopment, he will be set adrift.

Should the politics kill off the opportunity, the political and financial consequences for the council will be catastrophic.

Street violence is on the rise

Violent crime in the CBD soared by nearly 30 per cent last year.

The latest data from the Crime Statistics Agency shows that most crimes in postcode 3000 are violent.

Topping the crime list within our suburb is "crimes against the person", which include a variety of offences, including bodily harm, threats of bodily harm or other actions committed against the will of the victim.

In 2016, the total number of reports of crimes against the person was 3051 – a 28.2 per cent increase to the 2380 reports made in 2015.

The second highest-ranking crime in 2016 was "property and deception offences".

Property and deception offences include arson, property damage, burglary, breaking and entering, theft, deception and bribery.

There was only a 7.3 per cent increase in property and deception offences from 2015 to 2016, however the number of reports made were quite high with 13,095 in 2016 and 12,205 in 2015.

"Drug offences" were the third highest-ranking crime in the CBD. Drug offences include dealing and trafficking, manufacturing and use and possession.

In 2015, 1183 reports of drug offences were made. In 2016, there were 1189 reports, marking only a 0.5 per cent increase.

Other offences within the CBD include "public order and security offences", "justice procedures offences" and "other" which relates to driving and transport regulation offences.

In total, 23,715 reports of crime were made within postcode 3000 during 2016, up by 7 per cent from 2015.

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A profile of CBD hype

By Rhonda Dredge

The hospitality industry strutted its stuff in March with the opening of a new restaurant to much crowding and the closure of an old one with a nest egg of \$8.07 million.

The opening of Souk, just off Flinders Lane, attracted a crowd from the quarter's fusion culture while the closure of the Society Restaurant was attended by the old avant-garde from Bourke St hill.

New eateries are forced to hit the right note if they want to succeed. Guiseppe Codogno did it in 1932 by appealing to the family diner. A location at the end of a laneway helps in 2017, as do striking visuals.

Restaurant reviewer for *Time Out*, Delima Shanti, says she gets invites to four media launches a week, many in the CBD. "If I went to them all, I wouldn't have a life," she said.

The nature of the game is that although many aspire to the success of Chin Chin, with its regular queue of hopeful diners trailing along Flinders Lane, some will be out of business within a year.

Souk stage-managed its arrival on Melbourne's dining scene with a fleet of designers and PR consultants. The décor in



the split-level space on Bligh Place is pink, the menus are works of art featuring the lesser pictures of a famous photographer and the coasters are collectable. Everything has been thought through, including the wrap for the Kuwaiti fried chicken.

More than 100 people turned up for the media launch but even though the night was so successful, with a dozen chefs in the kitchen and sure-footed wait staff in overalls attending every need, reviewers will return incognito to sample the dishes again.

"Melbourne consumers are picky," Ms Shanti said. The perceived absence of a dipping sauce for the chicken ribs, for example, could make or break the review even if the PR people have got the opening onto TV.

By contrast, the Society Restaurant opened in more forgiving times when Melbourne's dining classes were pleased just to get out of the house. The Society ran for 85 years on this recipe, closing in January this year.



The two-storey building remains with its arched windows, brocade wall paper, burgundy carpet and frescoes of the Mona Lisa. Across the street are Pellegrinis and the Paperback bookshop, where existentialists still occasionally linger.

The timeless quality of the setting and the building's potential for development attracted 27 bids from three contestants at the March auction, selling for \$8.07 million to another family group.

Rita Wilcox, Guiseppe's daughter, was at the auction for the handover. She ran the restaurant during World War II.

"I'm the last of the Mohicans," she said. "My father started in Lonsdale St, then in Little Bourke St, then here."

The family had a big round table with white linen and kangaroo/emu backed wooden chairs. There was always bread and fruit on the table and other reminders of classical

Italian culture like frescoes in the toilets.

Property agent Ian Robertson, who bought the property on behalf of the new family, said "we want to breathe life back into it. We'll be looking for expressions of interest from restaurants or hospitality operators."

The building could be redeveloped with the addition of another two storeys but Mr Robertson said the family was keen to keep it in the hospitality industry. "Look at 189 Bourke St," he said. "4Fingers will be opening there in two months. That's good for Bourke St."

4Fingers is a Singaporean fast food chain that specialises in Korean crispy fried chicken. It has 13 successful stores already.

While the pundits argue over the question of chicken, consumers can have their say. The old family dining days when restaurants built a reputation over time by word of mouth have long since gone. Now reviews go up online immediately.

Some commentators see this instant feedback economy as a generational thing yet, according to figures from Yelp, more than half their reviewers are over 35, some 76 per cent have a university degree and 69 per cent earn more than \$60,000.

If that is the case, then someone is being lazy. It could be one of those university-educated critics. Despite all of the hype, as we went to print, no-one had yet posted a review on the Souk site.



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HAILEYBURY

No room for riverboats

By Khiara Elliott

The Federation Wharf-based riverboat businesses have seemingly been forced out of their offices to make room for more hospitality venues.

City River Cruises, Melbourne River Cruises and Williamstown, Bay and River Cruises are currently located in the vaults along Federation Wharf between hospitality venues Riverland Bar and Pilgrim.

Melbourne Passenger Boating Association (MPBA) President Jeff Gordon told *CBD News* that riverboat operators were denied the opportunity to tender for their vaults.

Mr Gordon questioned the legitimacy of the process. He said management told operators it had previously sent them a document regarding the tender process, but the operators never received it.

"It looks like they are going to take the whole thing over and bring in another hospitality venue here. That decision has been made by the Federation Square committee."

The owner of Williamstown, Bay and River Cruises, Mark Davy, said Federation Square would normally send a renewal proposal towards the end of the leasing period.

However, he said, this time the only



Jeff Gordon and pooch at Federation Wharf... Melbourne needs to decide if it wants a local riverboat industry.

correspondence received was a letter telling them to vacate by the end of March.

He said that, while it would be good to have a ticket booth nearby, the business needed shore-side facilities to be able to operate.

"We haven't found anything else and we don't know what we are going to do," he said.

Fed Square's general manager of commercial and public engagement, Caroline Pitcher, told *CBD News*: "Fed Square has managed this tenant with the appropriate process and within its obligations."

According to Mr Gordon, management has offered Riverboat operators sites along Princes Bridge for their ticket booths.

"I think pressure was put on the State

Government which put pressure on Federation Square to say 'Yes, okay you can have your ticket booths up there but we don't want you down here because we get more money out of the restaurants,'" he said.

Mr Gordon is upset by the way operators who are, for the most part, family businesses, are being "pushed out" of Federation Wharf.

"At the moment, we're feeling like there's no support from the City of Melbourne or from Parks Victoria," he said.

"I think the people of Melbourne, particularly the people in charge of Melbourne need to make a decision on whether they want a viable boating industry or whether they don't."



Armed laneway robbery

Police are searching for three men who allegedly assaulted and robbed a victim in a laneway off Little Bourke St last year on Saturday, July 16.

Five men held a piece of glass to the victim for an hour while stealing his belongings and using his bank cards.

Two of the five men have been charged but police are still searching for three others. They are described to be African in appearance and in their late 20s to early 30s.

If you have any information, contact Crime Stoppers confidentially online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au or call on 1800 333 000.

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Brag about this!

By Shane Scanlan

While it's nice to delude ourselves that we live in the "world's most liveable city", Melbourne's ranking fell last year in Mercer's annual Quality of Living Survey to 16th place.

The Mercer ranking is one of a number of international surveys that are designed to help multi-national companies compensate employees they send to undesirable locations.

We Melburnians like to think that the Economist Intelligence Unit's rankings is where global measurement of quality of life starts and finishes. That's because we keep winning it.

Have you ever listened to a Robert Doyle speech which doesn't have at least one reference to the world's most liveable city?

Mercer ranks Vienna on top. In fact, Vienna, Auckland and Vancouver generally score well in all the rankings.

As mentioned, Melbourne comes in at 16 with Mercer – down one place from last year's 15th place. When it comes to infrastructure, Melbourne ranks 34th, behind Sydney (eighth) and Perth (32nd) – which probably rings true with those of us who drive or commute.

On an alternative Numbeo measure, Melbourne is ranked 10th for quality of life, behind Canberra (best in the world!) and Adelaide (sixth). Sydney is 39th on this list.

Making news in Melbourne last month was that real estate company Savills had ranked us the best in Australia for "tech" (14th place globally). Savills ranked us eighth on its measure of "buzz and wellness".

There's no doubt that, compared with many other places in the world, Melbourne is a great place to live. But, if we were the best city in the world, wouldn't you think we'd have less need to brag about it?



Members of CAPA, GSA and the Australian Greens Party at the Fares Fair Rally.

Students fight for fair fares

Postgraduate students rallied at the State Library on March 14 to protest the lack of public transport concession fees.

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations Incorporation (CAPA) joined forces with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to push the "Fares Fair" campaign and to call on Premier Daniel Andrews to grant Victorian postgraduate students public transport concessions.

The rally saw speeches made by local, national and international students, as well as speakers from the City of Melbourne and the Australian Greens party.

The *Fares Fair* policy paper states there has been a significant growth in full-time enrolments in Victorian universities and the number of enrolments by domestic students has more than doubled.

However, Victoria is the only state in Australia that does not offer concessions to postgraduate students.

Smriti Ghimire is an international student from Nepal and is currently undertaking a PhD in engineering.

Due to her intensive study schedule, Ms Ghimire makes a one-hour commute to university every day, does not receive semester breaks and is unable to find full-time work.

Ms Ghimire says she pays up to \$1500 in public transport fees per year.

Greens MLC for Eastern Metropolitan, Samantha Dunn also attended the rally to continue her party's support for the Fares Fair campaign.

Ms Dunn said that both she and her colleague Sue Pennicuik had raised the issue of concessions for postgraduates in Victorian Parliament and had been very disappointed in the response from the Minister for Public Transport, Jacinta Allan.

"She thinks it's quite reasonable that concessions should only be extended to those on healthcare concessions. We think that's not acceptable," she said.

Swathi Shiva is an international student from India and also the south east branch manager of CAPA.

Ms Shiva told *CBD News* she believed post-graduate concessions were needed, especially for international students. She also said that in India, the average cost of public transport was around 70 – 80 rupees, or \$1.40.

"We're paying hundreds of dollars just to move around a city that already has a concept of concession in place, so I think it's a question worth asking."

The Fares Fair campaign has received statements of support from the City of Melbourne, the Public Transport Users Association and the Rail Tram and Bus Union.

Trees culled for construction

Up to six trees along Exhibition and LaTrobe streets have been, or are in the process of being removed for tower construction.

In October 2015, a local resident noticed the removal of a tree on LaTrobe St. The resident contacted Hickory Group, the builder responsible for the removal.

Hickory Group said the tree was removed to accommodate construction deliveries and that a new tree would be reinstated upon completion. But, after one year and four months, it has not been replaced.

Hickory Group project manager Ben Turner said it was the City of Melbourne's responsibility to replace the tree.

CBD News emailed the City of Melbourne about this but received no reply.

More recently, up to five plane trees along the west side of Exhibition St have been marked for removal, again to accommodate tower construction.

Residents 3000 vice president Sue Saunders contacted City of Melbourne's urban forester Phillip Russell regarding the necessity of the removals, as the trees are located on the outer edge of the footpath, away from the construction site.

Mr Russell said that approval for tree removal was only granted once all options for their retention had been exhausted, as per the council's tree retention and removal policy.

"In this instance the removal of the trees is required to facilitate the construction of a development at 80c Collins St," Mr Russell said.

"Unfortunately, the requirements to maintain the cycleway and pedestrian access, which requires construction of a gantry, construction loading areas and traffic management requirements, have resulted in the necessity to remove trees."

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LEASING MELBOURNE
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Historic club celebrates women

On March 8, the Kelvin Club held "Be Bold for Change" - a luncheon hosted by influential female speakers in celebration of International Women's Day.

Organised by Kelvin Club vice president Su Baker, 100 diners, both male and female, enjoyed a lunch and an open conversation with musician Ecce Vandal, co-founder of Aubrey Management, Lynne Thornton and host Esther Anatolitis.

Guests included Melbourne Forum chair Andrea Hull AO, Lifeview CEO Madeline Gall and Film Victoria director Debra Allanson.

Ms Vandal is a successful female artist in heavily male-dominated genres such as rap and hip-hop.

She has, of course, come across competitiveness from other female artists within the music industry but she spoke of the need to include and encourage other women in what she labelled "the sisterhood".

Ms Thornton is an entrepreneur, investor and business manager who has lived and worked in America, England and now Australia.

She spoke about women in the financial and investment sectors. According to her, many women feel that networking is not one of their stronger skills and she encouraged the ladies in the room to introduce themselves to one another.

Ms Anatolitis is the chief of Regional Arts



Guests enjoying "Be Bold for Change" at the Kelvin Club on March 8.

Victoria, a successful writer, critic and curator with a particular interest in public space. Her passion for professional and social collaborations was evident as she led an interesting and open conversation

between the two speakers and their audience.

Ms Baker noted the Kelvin Club's proudly inclusive history and how it was a fitting

setting for the International Women's Day celebrations, as it was the first private social club in Melbourne to welcome women as members.

Formally incorporated on January 13, 1853, the Kelvin Club wanted to extend an invitation of membership to women in 1968 but legislation made this impossible until February 14, 1995.

The club has held a few CBD locations before finally settling into its current home in Melbourne Place.

Originally named the Fitzroy Bowling Club, it was located at the centre of Victoria Parade just east of the CBD.

In 1927 it was renamed the Kelvin Club after Lord Kelvin, a mathematical physicist and engineer. It was also during this year that the club moved to 53-55 Collins Place.

The club moved again in 1936 to 360 Little Collins St before moving to its current location in 1947.

Interested in joining? The Kelvin Club will be launching a new members drive during April with special joining opportunities for young entrepreneurs and diverse communities. Go to www.kelvinclub.com for more information.

Enhancing links with Asia

From page 1

"I want children to engage with fun technology that would really teach them about wild life and nature," Ms Kyriacou said.

"I realise children can have a high level of engagement with environmental issues and all they need is for us to provide the tools and resources so they can continue fighting for nature and sharing their experience with others," she said.

Ms Kyriacou was one of the four Australians selected to be part of Asialink's eight-day Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP), which last month in Melbourne and Sydney attracted great young minds across Asia and Australia to build their networks and present their business ideas.

Asialink provides information, training and professional networks and aims to strengthen ties between Australia and South East Asian countries.

Some 15 A2ELP participants were chosen from 600 applicants from all 10 ASEAN countries and Australia. All participants are founders of their own social enterprises that advocate for and address issues surrounding poverty, health, education, technology and the environment.

Ms Kyriacou and other participants engaged in discussions with Asialink CEO Jenny McGregor at the CBD-based Henley Club on International Women's Day.

Erin Watson-Lynn, Asialink director, led the talk at the Henley Club, where A2ELP participants asked Ms McGregor questions on: building social enterprises; lessons she

learnt from her past experiences; and female entrepreneurship.

Consistent with the theme on International Women's Day, the session focused on women entrepreneurs and the challenges they potentially faced in starting and expanding their businesses.

According to Ms Kyriacou, the A2ELP offered a platform for young entrepreneurs like herself to connect with like-minded peers, learn from others' successes and challenges and gain more understanding of the cultural differences between Australia and Asia.

"My goal is to be able to deliver our services to children across Australia and eventually Asia, with support from the government, corporates and non-for-profit organisations," she said.

Ms Kyriacou is also involved in local animal-welfare organisations in Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

"I think it's absolutely imperative that Australia and all the ASEAN nations work together to address issues like climate change, species extinctions and animal abuse," she said.

The A2ELP received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is supported by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

"I congratulate all participants on their selection for this program, which will forge new partnerships with businesses and other organisations, and further enhance Australia's relationships with the countries of South East Asia," Minister Bishop said.

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MELBOURNE CBD

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Providing a comprehensive service from project marketing to the final phase of renting, Enrich Property Group tailors its services to suit its clients' every needs.

Located on Victoria St, director Hubert Jahja and his team pride themselves on understanding every aspect of the CBD and its community.

"We know the majority of the buildings here because we've been very much involved with developers prior to construction," he said.

Knowing every street and laneway of the CBD is key to working at Enrich Property Group, but so too is understanding and working within the global market.

The CBD is multicultural and Enrich is proud to work with clients from all over the world. It deals with clients from Thailand, India, Hong Kong, Brunei, England, China and Malaysia, just to name a few!

The relationships and knowledge that Enrich Property Group holds have allowed it to sell properties off the plan.



Property Managers Gwendolyn Wong, Daniel Duong, Director Hubert Jahja and Administration Assistant, Jamie Lee.

Building and maintaining lasting relationships with clients and stakeholders is a key value of Enrich Property Group. So much so, in fact, that it has a role within its team solely dedicated to maintaining client relationships.

"The relationship doesn't end when you sign the paperwork," Mr Jahja said.

"We like to maintain our relationships. Every 12 months we'll send you a card just to congratulate you on owning your property for a year or two years."

In such a digital age, Enrich Property Group sets itself apart by offering a high level of care mixed with a personal touch.

Looking after your property as if it were their own, team members at Enrich often pick up

the phone just to call past and present clients for a quick chat on the property.

"Our relationships are very important. From time to time we even get clients coming in just for a coffee," Mr Jahja said.

Bringing first hand experience to the table as well, Mr Jahja, as well as a majority of the Enrich Property Group team, have lived in apartments for most of their adult lives.

They understand and enjoy apartment living, so you can rest assured that they will find you the perfect apartment fit.

If you're looking for property in the CBD, look no further than Enrich Property Group. Give Mr Jahja and his esteemed colleagues a call today on **9277 3999** or email info@enrichproperty.com.au



High-end handbag theft

Police are searching for a man who stole a victim's handbag valued at \$2200 on Saturday, December 17, 2016.

The man stole the handbag and its contents from a business on Little Bourke St, before using the victim's bank cards to conduct fraudulent transactions of over \$1000 all around the CBD.

Police are wanting to speak to a man who is perceived to be Southern European or Caucasian, in his early 30s, of medium build with short brown hair and a moustache.

He was wearing a patterned woollen jumper and khaki pants.

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女王市场规划 市长举步维艰

由于错误信息和边缘措施，导致维多利亚女王市场（QVM）更新的价值已经跌入了政治沼泽底部。

3月份墨尔本市政试图打破与州规划厅长理查德·温恩(Richard Wynne)之间的僵局，公开了其开发邻近的Munro场地的规划。

由于去年8月以来温恩先生已经有了一个评审小组的报告，要求更广泛地改变该市场区域的规划细

则（C245修正案），因此市政的沮丧或许是可以理解的。对C245没有一个决定等同于该规划陷于瘫痪。

但是考虑到市政及其开发商PDG对开发Munro场地的意愿尚未提出实际的规划许可申请，试图以这种方式对厅长施加压力至少是有问题的。

市政只是将公众的讨论引向建造一座200米高楼的讨论，

在2015年购买该土地时的建筑高度限制为20米。对此C245修正案评审小组的建议是100米高度限制。

这件事情引发了公众有这样的看法，即市长有动机要奖励他的开发伙伴，而不惜牺牲那些在该市场以做生意为生的经商者。

从策略上来说，也让厅长有机会让他挽回一些道德上谴责，因为有这样的丑闻，他参与了送给工

党的皇冠赌场伙伴一个大礼，即在南岸(Southbank)开发一个大规模而不合规的过度开发项目。

在媒体追问他对C245修正案的阻碍时，温恩先生说道：“该项目没有很多支持者。很显然，市场经商者不支持它，消费客户也不支持它。”



墨市幸运之日

墨尔本市刚刚有幸得知尼古拉斯·弗朗西斯·吉利(Nicholas Frances Gilley)有机会成为第11位市政议员。

令人印象最深的是对这位社会企业家的“入选”市政议员是纯属偶然，但又幸运。这个奇怪的事件链在去年10月市政议会选举之前就开始了。

弗朗西斯·吉利先生与其竞选伙伴布鲁克·万丁(Brooke Wandin)从来没有真正期望当选，而只是为前议员理查德·福斯特(Richard Foster)争取副市长和市长职位来拉选票。

然而，由于一个简单的错误使得他们进入了错误的选举过程，导致了福斯特先生的惨败。因为万丁女士的选举注册住址问题，福斯特先生和万丁女士还面临着刑事指控。此事还在法庭审理之中。

万丁女士曾当选为市政议员（主要来自意向投票），但后来明

确了她不符合当选资格，而被剥夺了议员职位。

3月14日维多利亚民事和行政仲裁庭（VCAT）主裁判官葛莱格·伽得(Greg Garde)宣布，弗朗西斯·吉利先生当选市政议员，取代万丁的职位。

弗朗西斯·吉利先生自25岁起就担任首席执行官，曾被任命为英国圣公会牧师，1998年来到澳大利亚之前，就获得了英国的慈善成就MBE（大英帝国成员）奖。来澳后担任圣劳伦斯兄弟会的执行董事。

他进入市政议会，他写书，在国际舞台上讲话，并与世界经济论坛有很好的联系。他活跃于环境保护的世界舞台上。

在市政议会里，他对我们城市发展方向的想法将是令人振奋的。

对于这些显而易见的无家可归和环境问题，也就是他能作出最多贡献的领域，他谦虚地说道，“我有一定的技能”。

墨市中心 暴力上升 加强亚洲联系

去年市中心的暴力犯罪猛增了近30%。

来自犯罪统计局的最新数据显示，在邮政编码3000的区域内，大多数犯罪是暴力犯罪型的。

该区域内的犯罪表上第一高发是“侵犯人身罪”，包括各种不同的罪行，其中有身体伤害、威胁身体伤害或其他违反受害者意愿的犯罪行为。

2016年侵犯人身罪的总数统计报告是3051起，比2015年的2380起增加了28.2%。

2016年列为第二高发的犯罪是“财产和诈骗罪”。

财产和诈骗罪包括纵火、财产破坏、盗窃、非法闯入、偷盗、诈骗和贿赂。

从2015年至2016年，尽管财产和诈骗罪仅增加了7.3%，但

是从数量上来说2016年的统计报告为13095起，2015年是12205起。

“毒品犯罪”在市中心是第三高发犯罪。它包括毒品的交易和贩运、生产、使用和拥有。

2015年有1183起毒品犯罪统计报告，2016年是1189起，仅增加了0.5%。

市中心的其它犯罪还包括“违反公共秩序和安全的犯罪”、“违反司法程序的犯罪”和涉及违反驾驶和交通管制规定的“其它”犯罪。

2016年在邮政编码3000区域内总共有23715起犯罪的统计报告，比2015年增加了7%。

Sunny Liu 撰稿

市中心居民娜塔莉·凯瑞亚库(Natalie Kyriacou)由于注意到了儿童与自然界的脱离，因而创立了社会企业 - “我的绿色世界”。

“我的绿色世界”是一个儿童教育计划的提供者，专注于自然环境和野生动物的保护。

该组织推出了一个“野生世界”的手机游戏，其主题是保护和拯救野生动物，与那些流行的狩猎和射击的游戏主题相反。

凯瑞亚库说：“我想让孩子们参与那些能真正教会他们有关保护野生动物和大自然的有趣技术”。

她说“我意识到孩子们可以高度参与有关环境的问题，我们只需为他们提供相关的工具和资源，使他们照样能自然竞争，并

与他人分享他们的经验”。

凯瑞亚库女士是入选亚洲连线(Asialink)澳大利亚-东盟新兴领导者项目(A2ELP)的四名澳大利亚人之一，这个八天的项目吸引了亚洲和澳大利亚的优秀年轻人，来建立他们的网络并向行业专家介绍他们的工作理念。

Asialink提供信息、培训和专业网络，旨在加强澳大利亚和东南亚国家之间的联系。



LUNCH TIME
AFTER WORK
THE WEEKEND



LUNCH TIME

VERY BIG LAUGH OUT

From March 31 – April 23, enjoy a bellyful of laughs at Federation Square for the very funny and totally free, “The (Very) Big Laugh Out!”

Presented by the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, The (Very) Big Laugh Out has you covered for all your comedic needs with shows running from midday onwards almost every day.

Boasting great acts from right here in Melbourne, to the rest of Australia and even Japan and America, The (Very) Big Laugh Out is sure to tickle everyone’s funny bone. Local talent and hula-hoop extraordinaire Anna Lumb has been dubbed Anna Pocket Rocket and the nickname could not be more fitting.

Anna Pocket Rocket will be exciting Fed Square audiences with her hula-hoop, trapeze, balance, acrobatic, circus and theatre skills, so bring the family along and enjoy the show.

Another showcase of Melbourne’s talent is award-winning entertainment company Head First Acrobats.

With a style defined by a “unique mix of old-school slapstick comedy with new-school death-defying acrobatics”, Head First Acrobats are sure to shock and stun The (Very) Big Laugh Out audiences.

The Daredevil Chicken Club from America will MC a lot of the main stage shows. Owners Anne Goldmann and Jonathon



Taylor met at a circus audition and have been travelling and performing together ever since.

Trained in physical theatre and comedy, The Daredevil Chicken Club will have you and the whole family in stitches!

Hailing all the way from Argentina, manoAmano Circo is an acrobatic group that blends what it calls a “master piece of precision, vertigo and comedy”.

manoAmano Circo members are seasoned professionals, performing more than 550 shows in more than 60 festivals in 23 countries. Its show is not one to miss.

Japanese unicycle world champion Daiki and acrobatic clown Cheeky aka Witty Look are also bringing their unique unicycling

circus theatre to The (Very) Big Laugh Out. The duo has received eight international awards for its performance piece and has had expressions of interest from Cirque du Soleil, so make sure you check them out.

Also coming all the way from Japan is the witty and wonderful Mr Moriyasubanbanbigaro.

With a list of talents almost as long as his surname, Mr Moriyasubanbanbigaro entertains his audiences with a mix of juggling, unicycling, big balloons, magic and more!

A full daily program as well as more information on performers can be found at www.comedyfestival.com.au



WITH KHIARA ELLIOTT
 khiara@cbdnews.com.au
 To be featured in this section call 8689 7980

HIGHLIGHTS



Finding Families

Discover your family tree in this family history workshop, or delve into library’s family history collection.

Thursday, April 13, 10.30am - 12.30pm.
 State Library of Victoria.



Footy Fan Club

A morning of footy talk and fun, hosted by writers Alicia Sometimes, Nicole Hayes and Collingwood recruit Emma King.

Tuesday, April 4, 11am - 12pm.
 The Wheeler Centre Books Writing Ideas.
 176 Little Lonsdale St.



Infome

This exhibition by Jamie Hall and Tara O’Conal questions the relationships between artist, object and viewer.

April 19 - May 5, 12pm - 6pm.
 Blindsight Gallery, 14/7 Nicholas Building.



Mr Snot Bottom

Kid’s comedian Mr Snot Bottom is back with seriously stinky songs. A crazy musical about snot and smells!

April 8 -15, Tuesday – Sunday, 1pm - 2pm.
 Melbourne Town Hall
 \$15 - \$19.50



Dome to Dungeons Tour

Take a behind the scenes look at the State Library from the very top of the dome all the way down to the basement.

Friday, April 28, 1.30pm - 3pm.
 State Library of Victoria.



Tel Aviv

A recent renovation saw this restaurant go from a New York style lunch spot to an ode to Tel Aviv’s delicious delicacies.

Monday – Friday, 7.30am - 3pm.
 123 Hardware St.



AFTER WORK

FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival from March 31 – April 9 at various locations across the city.

From humble beginnings in 1993 with just 12 events, the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival has grown to now include a program of more than 200 events.

The festival attracts more than 250,000 visitors each year, so come and experience the best produce Melbourne has to offer. Although the festival spans to locations all over our fair city, some of the best will be held right here in the CBD!

Taste the island delights of Journey Through Sardinia on Friday, March 31. Head chef Dusty Treweek and the team at Bottega, 74 Bourke St, is putting together a menu of the best Sardinia has to offer.

Tickets are \$120 per person and dinner is from 5.30pm – 10pm, so make sure you leave yourself (and your stomach) some room! Call **9654 2252** to book.

Continuing the international tastings is Arbory Bar and Eatery just outside Flinders St Railway Station. From Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 3, Arbory will host Mercado de la bar and eatery.

Arbory head chef Nick Bennett has teamed up with wine expert Raúl Moreno Yagüe to bring you a Spanish market right here in the

CBD! Call **8648 7644** for more information. Take a step back in time to the roaring 20s, as 270 Flinders St restaurant Platform 270 is transformed into an intimate 1920s salon on Friday, March 31.

Each meal is designed and served at your table and pays tribute to the surrealist artists of the decade.

Tickets are sold in pairs and are \$242. There are two sessions, one beginning at 6pm and the other at 9pm. For further information, call **9654 6888**.

Travel to Copenhagen without leaving the CBD at the CPH Street Food Festival!

At 6pm on Saturday, April 1 and 1pm on Sunday, April 2, dance to Nordic DJ tunes, stuff yourself full of delicious Danish delectables and wash it all down with a Danish beer or wine at Dansk, 428 Little Bourke St.

Tickets are \$93 per person. Call **9600 4477** to book or for further information.

Immerse yourself in a world of indulgence and decadence at the Best of Victoria High Tea.

With two daily sessions beginning at 12pm and 3pm daily between Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 9 and featuring Mount Martha oysters, Port Phillip scallops, wattle seed lamingtons, Chandon Brut and Hickenbotham sparkling chardonnay, you're sure to taste the very best of Victoria.

The Best of Victoria High Tea will be held at The Westin Melbourne, 205 Collins St in the Lobby Lounge. Tickets are \$70 per person. Call **9635 2222** for further information.



HIGHLIGHTS



The Policy Pitch

Top minds come together to discuss some of the most important problems our country is facing.

Tuesday, April 11, 6pm - 7.15 pm.
State Library of Victoria.



Thursday Night Book Club

Grab a bean bag and discuss *The Healing Party* with author Micheline Lee.

Thursday, April 6, 6pm - 8 pm.
State Library of Victoria.



The Premier and the Pen: John Spencer

Political cartoonist John Spooner chats about his work and some of Australia's most memorable political artworks.

Thursday, April 27, 5pm - 5.45pm.
State Library of Victoria.



Rouge - The Sexy Circus Cabaret

Immerse yourself in the era of 1930s cabaret theatre for a smoke-filled, sultry show.

Friday, April 7, 8.30pm - 10.30pm.
Speakeasy HQ, Apollo Theatre
\$25, VIP packages also available.



Young and Graphic

Take a look at the work of some of Melbourne's best young graphic novelists and artists.

Official launch: Thursday, April 6. 6pm.
City Library



Nereids: Underwater Nudes

A photographic exhibition inspired by the supernatural sea nymphs of Greek mythology.

Opening night, Thursday April 13, 6pm.
The Atrium, Federation Square.
Free.



THE WEEKEND

ABSEIL FOR ANGLICARE!

Looking for an exciting way to support disadvantaged Victorians? Why not try abseiling down 27 storeys of our iconic St James Building at Altitude Shift!

Presented by Anglicare Victoria, Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 will see 200 Melburnians abseil down the St James building to raise money for young people living in and out of home care.

The only event of its kind in Melbourne, Altitude Shift gives participants a spectacular view of the CBD skyline before they abseil 113 metres back down the ground. Zenith Events is a company that creates adventure and adrenaline-based events for fundraising purposes and staff will be on hand throughout the entirety of the event to prepare and guide participants.

CEO of Anglicare Victoria, Paul McDonald, is calling on all thrill-seekers to enjoy a weekend dedicated to a great cause! "We need Victorians' help to raise funds for young people living in and out of home care, and in return we can provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience you'll never forget," he said.

Anglicare Victoria is the largest foster care provider in the state. Currently, it houses more than 400 children a night who are unable to live with their families. As well as home care, Anglicare Victoria offers emergency relief, parenting and family

services and financial and legal services too. The organisation also produces one of Australia's only reports that compares the outcomes of children in care with children from stable homes in the community. The latest report states that 42.1 per cent of children in foster care were scored as "abnormal" when it comes to emotional and behavioural difficulties, compared with 10.2 per cent of children in stable home environments across Australia. Anglicare Victoria aims to ease and nurture the lives of these young people, so dig deep and register or donate!

There are only 200 spots available for this event, so make sure you get in quick! Registration costs \$150, but you must raise a minimum of \$850 in order to participate in the abseil.

Anglicare Victoria invites all groups and individuals over the age of 16 to travel out of their comfort zone (113 metres outside of their comfort zone, in fact) and to raise money for our disadvantaged.

There are prizes up for grabs for the most funds raised too. Visit www.altitudeshift.org.au for more information and to register today!



HIGHLIGHTS



Sweet Alley

Treat yourself with three days worth of ice cream, chocolate, doughnuts and all the naughty (but oh-so-good) stuff!

Friday, March 31 - Sunday, April 2.

Signal, Northbank.

Free entry.



Boho Luxe Market

Bringing Byron to Melbourne, the market showcases over 100 designers and their exclusive jewellery, henna, ceramics, nutrition and beauty products.

Sunday, April 9, 10am - 5pm.

Federation Square, The Atrium.

Free.



Family Footy Zone

Bring the kids and enjoy inflatable goals, a specky section, footy arts and crafts, handball challenges and appearances from AFL and AFLW!

Saturdays and Sundays until April 30, 10am - 2pm.

Queen Victoria Market.

Free.



Fed in French

Delight in the finest French cuisines, right in the heart of Melbourne for the opening weekend of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

Friday, March 31 - Sunday, April 2.

Federation Square.

Free entry.



Collective Design Market

Shop the latest fashion, art and homewares from emerging local independent designers.

Sunday, April 23, 10am - 5pm.

Federation Square.

Free.



Frankie Says Relax, Just Do It

Learn about the perfect taste, toppings and tossing of pizza from chef Frankie! Masterclass followed by lunch, drinks and a goodie bag.

April 1 - 8, Saturdays, 12pm - 3pm.

Terra Rossa Restaurant and Bar.

87 Flinders Lane.

\$83 per person.

Double duty furniture

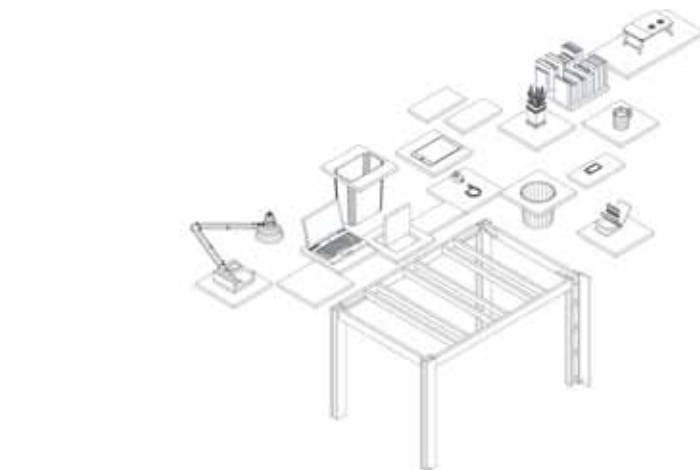
“Vertical living is more than suburbia turned on its side”, so says Mond Qu, a Melbourne-based designer and creator of the DEBLE – a DEsk taBLE combo.

Architecturally trained in Melbourne and London, Mond was the 2016 recipient of the Credit Suisse Scholarship at The Wade Institute where he studied for a masters of entrepreneurship.

Described as “the MBA for the entrepreneurial age”, The Wade Institute aims to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs. This is the dream of Ormond alumnus, Peter Wade who believes that, while we are a smart nation, “still too few of our great ideas are generating the future of our economy”.

It is this future focus that appealed to Mond, as his interests lie with the merging worlds of the virtual and physical, which he sees as slowly becoming one. Acting upon the belief that designers need to grab hold of these opportunities and bridge the gap between changes in culture and technology, Mond is currently involved with two ventures – United Make and Prymari (pronounced primary).

United Make is an experimental think-tank and multi-disciplinary studio where Mond works alongside a graphic designer, a virtual reality technician and a fabrication technician and, together, they “explore design through the act of making”. United



The innovative DEBLE by Melbourne based designer Mond Qu.

Make has been operating for three years and boasts clients such as Zumbo, Law Advisor and YouTube.

But Mond also wanted a more practical outlet and, hailing from a family of interior designers, he believed that his biggest impact would be through designing sustainable furniture which responded to people’s real life needs. This was the reason behind the launch of his second venture, Prymari, a custom design furniture company that combines innovative design, craftsmanship and technology.

And Prymari’s first offering is the DEBLE – a customisable, modularised table-and-desk in one. Consisting of a chequerboard-like surface, each square is a separate module which can be swapped out for either a flat surface or a specialised unit. Currently there are modules for such things as computer

equipment, lighting and storage (such as for craft materials).

In terms of sustainability, the DEBLE is manufactured locally in Blackburn and the frame is made of sustainably-sourced mountain ash timber. The individual modules vary in terms of their composition and a range of other materials can be used in the DEBLE such as medium density fibreboard, bluestone, marble, Perspex and even material comprised of recycled coffee granules.

Regarding vertical living, the idea behind the DEBLE is that when living in a small space, it’s helpful to make every piece of furniture pull double duty.

DEBLE achieves this through its switchability, which offers several benefits to vertical dwellers, the first being adaptability. If there is more than one person needing

working space, as long as they don’t need it at the same time, the DEBLE can be configured to suit the particular needs of each user.

This means that several different people can tailor the one area to suit their different needs by swapping in the modules they need for their particular tasks (e.g. craft making, studying, drawing). Also, as our interests change over time, new modules can be obtained and older ones retired or, even better, recycled. This goes to the second benefit which is that Mond envisions offering a repair and/or recycle service which is also part of his drive for sustainability. So, if a module needs updating or repairing, simply take it back to Prymari.

In terms of availability, currently there are 10 prototypes with 30 beta testers putting DEBLE through its final paces. Already Mond is taking on suggestions, such as for a side unit for module storage and he is also examining the idea of a quick release leg system which would aid in shipping and delivery (especially when elevators are involved).

A crowd-funding campaign is planned for mid-2017, so if you are interested in getting your own DEBLE, stay tuned for its launch on Kickstarter.



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

SKYPAD
LIVING

Heritage

Questions on heritage QVM response

Plans have finally emerged of the City of Melbourne’s (CoM) development scheme for the Munro site opposite Queen Victoria Market, giving us a glimpse of a proposal with some broader merits, but mixed result for heritage at best.

Only slithers on edges of the site are to be retained, making way for new community facilities, a 700-space car park, new walkways, a new brick podium along Therry St, and most controversially a 196m apartment tower in a block that currently has a height limit of 20 metres.

This is despite the entire site falling under a heritage overlay for decades and its heritage status confirmed again in 2015 when the CoM adopted all findings of its own City North Review, which found the entire streetscape along Therry and Queen streets, with its character brick facade and 1940s shopfronts with arched brick interiors to be contributory to the market precinct and worthy of heritage listing.

Why those shopfronts can now be completely demolished leaving only the facade of the Merkat corner, including in some sections for a new podium of similar

height and volume, hasn’t been justified, and a better heritage solution where the shopfronts and their eclectic mix of cafes, pop-up stores, and the iconic Soapbox shop are retained in front of any new development clearly hasn’t been given enough thought.

Thankfully, it seems a pair of laneway warehouses at the rear of the site which MHA successfully lobbied to have heritage listed as part of City North are to be retained at least to some extent, but a closer look past them reveals an amalgam of sheds and warehouse structures across the site which, if studied for adaptive re-use, could be a treasure trove of industrial character to co-exist alongside new facilities and buildings on the large site.

While the scheme may contain other benefits such as community facilities, some affordable housing, an improved

public realm and some arbitrarily positive economic numbers, no solid argument has yet been given to the public for why it needs to be built to such a large scale to fund revitalisation of the markets, nor indeed why that “revitalisation” is even needed in the first place – a topic for another time. Further to this, we’ve seen little justification for the extent of demolition even if a development of this scale does need to go ahead.

A better heritage solution for the Munro site could involve retained shopfronts anchoring a modest tower behind, rising above and through retained character shed spaces and materials, with multiple paths snaking around nooks and creative space towards the rear warehouses and A’Beckett St. This would provide a truly unique and very Melbourne gateway into the Queen Victoria Market, instead of what we may end up with instead

– a mixed use development and token facadism like any other city in the world. If the council takes the easy route of minimal retention and a clean slate on this important site, rather than being stewards of a more creative and long term re-use of the Munro block’s built form, what message is being sent about commitment to its own findings in future heritage studies and what message is being sent to owners of other sensitive heritage sites across the city?



Tristan Davies
President
Melbourne Heritage Action

CBD Local

There's no place like home

By Khiara Elliott

Although he is an extensive traveller, Matthew Taylor always comes back to the CBD.

Born here in Melbourne, Mr Taylor took his first major trip on his first birthday when he and his family moved to Saudi Arabia for his father's engineering job.

It was four years later when Mr Taylor and his family fled Saudi Arabia to escape the first Gulf War.

Mr Taylor had already begun studying in the international schooling system before returning to Australia.

At 16 years old, Mr Taylor participated in an exchange program. He lived and studied in sister-city Tianjin, China.

After six and a half years of law and commerce studies, Mr Taylor graduated and took off again, this time to Europe. He spent nine months travelling and living in Paris.

"Before starting my legal degree I'd always said I wanted to live overseas and I've always had a great affinity for Paris," he said.

Upon his return, Mr Taylor hopped off the plane and began working in the CBD the very next day.

He moved into an apartment on McKillop St and found the location perfect for balancing his personal life with a demanding work schedule.

"Everything was on my door step, rather than having to travel. It meant that I got more sleep, I had the time to exercise and look after myself and spend with my partner at the time."

After a year on McKillop St, Mr Taylor moved into another apartment near the Queen Victoria Market where he has been for the last two years.

He said that although the move was really just a few blocks, the transition felt much bigger.

"Being on the very northern outskirt has really changed my view of feeling like I'm still in the city. We look over the northern suburbs where there's no buildings, so you don't really feel like you're still in the CBD after work."

Taking full advantage of being so close to the market, Mr Taylor said he did his grocery shopping there on weekends and tried to pop in at least once during the week. He described the quality of produce as a "blessing".

An active member of the arts and culture working group of private social organisation



Mr Taylor has lived and studied all over the world, but always returns to the CBD.

Henley Club, Mr Taylor pursues his creative passions of painting and writing in his (rarely found) spare time.

He has found a way to combine these passions through social enterprise MET, where he is the co-founder and director.

MET creates products such as bags and t-shirts that are inspired by classic works of literature. 100 per cent of its profits goes towards helping disadvantaged children learn to read.

Planning

Munro site plans revealed

Last month, the City of Melbourne finally revealed their plans for the former Munro site, to be developed by PDG Corporation into a mixed-use development comprising a 58-storey Bates Smart-designed tower of 308 dwellings and a 300-room hotel, after the developer was awarded the rights to develop the site on CoM's behalf.

The Munro site represents the first stage of the larger Queen Victoria Market renewal project, the council will sell the site which covers 93-151 Therry St, 452-468 Queen St and the rear 128-130 Franklin St, to VG Property Holdings No. 6 Pty Ltd for \$33m to help offset the cost of development. According to council, in addition to the 196m tower, the Munro site will also accommodate 56 affordable housing units, a 120-place childcare facility, a maternal, child health and family services centre, a community centre and kitchen, artist spaces and a gallery which add up to

approximately \$90 million in community benefits.

Elsewhere, local developer Caydon is developing a 23-storey, boutique 4.5-star hotel at 1 Queen St, which is expected to start construction this year with an anticipated completion during early 2019. The building will include 204 hotel rooms, plus an indoor heated pool, gym facilities and retail spaces to street level. TOGA Group will be the operator of the hotel development, under its Vibe brand.

In the northern reaches of the CBD, along Elizabeth St, another of the northern giants has topped out with the 69-storey Light House following hot off the heels of Eq. Tower, which topped out late last year. Joining Lighthouse in having its jump form removed is the 62-level Empire. Also along Elizabeth St, the distinctly green Victoria One is approaching the 200m mark, on its way to an eventual floor count of 75 and the mantle of Elizabeth St's tallest building. Aurora Melbourne Central - the area's biggest build - is progressing at a rapid pace, with the podium structure for the 88-level Goliath at its mid point. Also marching along is Scape Student Living's first Melbourne project at 393 Swanston St. Regular floor plates and a pre-cast exterior, which is installed with windows in situ, has allowed construction on the 42-storey building to rocket along. Further toward the CBD's north-east corner,



The Munro Site forms part of the City of Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market renewal project

both Conservatory and 42-50 LaTrobe St are at early stages of their construction life, with both projects being undertaken by the builder, Hickory Group.

With 308 Exhibition St, Queens Place, 111 A'Beckett St, RMIT's new mixed-use A'Beckett St tower and Scape Student Living's reworked 97 Franklin St on the horizon, the northern CBD will continue to see further transformation.



Laurence Dragomir

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

Eyes wide open ...

As you walk around this beautiful city what do you see? What do you enjoy?

There is Federation Square with its many cultural events, a gathering place for people to see, hear and enjoy. Shady trees that save us from the unpleasant heat that is amplified by concrete and asphalt. High-class shops, restaurants and cafes that vie with the best in the world. Hidden laneway retreats where the coffee and company are superb. We the residents, the visitors and the daily workers want to preserve this lovely environment – naturally!

Melbourne has surprises. As you are walking along, you turn a corner and see a wonderful newly-finished example of street art such as the one here, taken along Russell St just near the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

But all is not roses. Imagine how a visitor from Vienna (#2 most liveable city) or Vancouver (#3) feels when they come across another scene shown here from the northern end of Swanston St?

Can we feel proud of disfiguring graffiti, cigarette butts everywhere on the pavement and piles of camping equipment from the people who choose to sleep rough in our city streets? Surely the 37,000 people who reside in the CBD want this vexing problem solved? As a community we have to do better to recognise that this is a serious problem. It concerns real people who are struggling at the fringe of our society. Residents recognise that it is hard to solve but solve it we must! We have to pressure our governments – both local, state and federal, to do more to address this issue. We have to call on people with special skills who know of ways to bring these unfortunate people back into mainstream society.

There are many stories of people who have successfully changed their lives after enduring homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness and the like and who have later on turned to help others in the same predicament.



An example of Melbourne's street art found on Russell St.



One of the many homeless camps of the CBD.

Homeless people need help, they need counselling and they need jobs. At the next Residents 3000 event, on

Thursday, April 6, (at the Kelvin Club from 6pm) we have invited three people who work in the field to speak on the topic and who will inform us of what is being done and what is planned to improve the situation. Continuing our walk, early in the morning in Little Collins St between Russell and Exhibition we come across a bad example of air pollution. The smoke is being ejected into the street from two backup generators presumably being run according to their maintenance schedule. What to do? Well, we send a report to the City of Melbourne via our smart phone app called *Snap, Send, Solve*. Already its health and safety division is in action and hopefully this problem will be solved.

Was it that the building manager was not aware that the generators were ejecting thick smoke? Sometimes these impediments to our city environment are not deliberate. Vigilant residents can help by drawing attention to the problem.



Air pollution clouding Little Collins St.

So you see, in this walk about our city, whilst there are wonderful things to do and see, sometimes problems arise. Collectively we need to be responsible citizens and take an active role in helping to solve problems as they come up.

This is how Melbourne can maintain its status as the most liveable city in the world. We can do it.

If you would like to share your views about living in the city or if you have any concerns, Residents 3000 would like to invite you to complete our new survey here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3000survey



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



Critic

Cultural propaganda

If you are in the mood for a dark and not so gloomy experience, don't go to St Francis in Lonsdale St. Nostalgic photographs of old factories are on display.

And the Japanese Consulate, which is showing fine sculptural pieces by Leigh Sloggett, is difficult to find. Right in the centre of town, close to Swanston St in the Capitol Arcade, is a gallery that is always reliable. The paintings on display at Fort Delta are often dark, irreverent and uplifting for their ironic presence.

Director James Bowen is into paint. His stockroom is legendary, leaning towards being a repository of sweet works with a Gothic edge. Mr Bowen labels the work of Nick Ives, currently showing with two other artists, as contemporary portraiture. He denies being ironic, despite the fact that the artist draws heavily on Goya and that one of his subjects is a block of cheese. Parody features heavily in the 13 character studies on display. Some are carnivalesque, more pig than human, or wearing funny fur coats. The best, such as *The beginning is the end* and *Half moon*, appear to grow and bubble out of faces and their disguises. Ives explores the intersection between the sinister and the playful, delving back into the pantheon of historic power brokers and ignoble figures from fantasy environments.

The exhibition is "asking the viewer to consider the more menacing ideas attributed to our civilization such as cultural propaganda while inviting them to revel in the fancifulness of the imagination". References aside, the brushwork is fluid and the imagery blunt. Ives is a Melbourne-based painter whose works are popular amongst New Zealand buyers. Nick Ives' *An arbitrary device in the belly of a whale* is showing at Fort Delta until April 29.

Rhonda Dredge
rhonda@cbdnews.com.au



"The beginning is the end" by Nick Ives.

Pet's Corner

Friendship ambassador in Flagstaff Garden – the girl Gir

By Melissa Chung

Gir, an eight-year-old Multi-Pug from Footscray, has been spending a great deal of quality time with flatmate Zoe.

English-born Zoe has been living with Gir for more than a year.

Since Zoe is soon returning to England, she decided to quit her job and spend more time with Gir.

“We love to take her to the beach when it’s nice and warm. She loves to paddle in the sea even though she has little legs,” she said. According to Zoe, Gir interacts better with humans than dogs – Gir is easily intimidated by over-excited dogs.

“People she’s really good with, but dogs, she’s just a bit scared of,” she said. “She really thinks she’s a human.”

With a special talent of sitting on her bum, Gir has brought happiness to her family and people around.

As described by Zoe, Gir is also a friend of two little cats. She always messes around in their litter tray, which Zoe finds really funny!



Right: Gir performs for Zoe in Flagstaff Gardens.

History



Yarra Turning Basin, 1906

This elevated view, looking west along the Yarra River and Flinders St, taken from the Commercial Travellers’ Club (now the Rendezvous Hotel), shows (left to right): Banana Alley (beneath the railway yards), the railway viaduct (connecting Flinders St and Spencer St stations), Queens Bridge with the Yarra Turning Basin beyond.

The Turning Basin (also known as the Swinging Basin) was the furthest point that ships could navigate up the river. It was a natural river washout as the tides slapped against a natural bluestone barrier across the Yarra at Market St, which maintained fresh water on the upstream side.

The washout was progressively widened and deepened so that boats could turn around at the wharves in the vicinity.

It holds a busy program of lectures, exhibitions and events.

For further information: www.historyvictoria.org.au
239 A’Beckett St. Ph: 9326 9288



Kate Prinsley

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

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They're on a roll!

This month, we showcase Shaun Hossack and his street art management agency, Juddy Roller.

Shaun is the creative director of this Fitzroy-based company that he established about six years ago. Walls commissioned through Juddy Roller can be seen around Melbourne and regional Victoria. In fact, the agency's reach is nation-wide, with pieces recently completed in New South Wales. Juddy Roller utilises the talent of internationally-acclaimed, Australian-born artists, many of whom choose to reside overseas – the crème de la crème of the street art mural scene.

In a previous incarnation, Shaun wielded a spray can himself but these days it's very much the admin and entrepreneurial side of the agency that keeps him off the streets!

Juddy Roller's projects are too numerous to enumerate, so I'm just focusing on some of the major and most lauded ones.

Its most recent commission was for Melbourne Polytechnic's Prahran campus. Its four, seven-storey columns have been transformed into concrete canvases by Sofles, Guido van Helten and Reka11. These murals are helping to increase the visibility and acceptance of an art form that is no longer clandestine, but are rapidly becoming the fastest growing movement in Australia.

Towards the end of last year we saw a new approach to street art in Fitzroy.

Commissioned by the owners and with the council's blessing, seven street art heavy hitters transformed the much-tagged rear wall of Fry's Storage on Cecil St. The panels, one by each artist, pay tribute to local people. They include portraits of a Sudanese graff remover and Auntie Viv, an indigenous Smith St busker. With a budget of \$25,000, the Victorian Department of Justice sees the painting of the wall as an investment against vandalism (working on the theory that the artists are well respected and therefore taggers may leave the wall alone). So far, it seems to be working with only one instance of tagging reported.

In June 2016, internationally-renowned, Sydney-born street artist SMUG, returned to Melbourne to paint two murals. SMUG specialises in large photo-realistic portraits, some are up to 15 storeys high and often



Street Artist SMUG's tribute to his grandparents on the corner of Latrobe and Spencer streets.

with a "wild" use of colour.

The piece pictured here depicts his grandparents and was cleverly designed to blend into the cityscape. Commissioned by Citipower for its four-storey wall of a former power station, it is situated near the corner of Latrobe and Spencer streets. I photographed the piece when it was being given its protective, anti-tagging coat. Last year turned out to be an event-filled year for the Juddy Roller agency. It saw the inaugural and much lauded silo painting at Brim by Guido van Helten. The first of six such projects will become a "Silo Art Trail". The trail will cover 200km, thus creating an outdoor gallery that's attracting tourism, boosting local economies and morale in these drought-stricken communities and showcasing towns throughout Victoria's north-west.

To quote Shaun: "We are going to create

some of the most significant public art projects ever undertaken. With world-wide exposure, the incredible success of Guido's silo has turned the small Wimmera town of Brim into a tourist destination". Towns to be included in the venture are Patchewollock (Fintan Magee), Lascelles, Rosebery, Sheephills (Adnate) and Rupanyup. It has just been announced that Siberian-born artist Julia Volchkova is to paint the Rupanyup silo.

And finally, there's the Wall to Wall Street Art Festival, in Hossack's home town of Benalla. Shaun left Benalla 12 years ago. It was during a speaking engagement for Benalla Small Business Awards, that the seed for the idea was sown. With the support of local businesses, a street art committee was formed and Victoria's first regional street art festival was born.

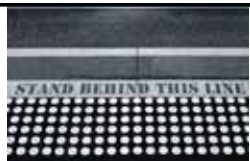
The festival, now in its third year, has seen

this basically conservative community, embrace street art with enthusiasm. On festival weekend there's a great vibe, sense of pride and camaraderie in the town – creating an exciting environment and giving inspiration to this generation of rural kids. The Wall to Wall festival runs from April 7, 8 and 9. For more details visit www.walltowallfestival.com



Lorraine Ellis

If you are interested in Melbourne street art there is more on my Facebook page, [StreetsmART](https://www.facebook.com/streetsmart)



An Inconsistent Look | Photography Exhibition

Thursday, April 6 | at Magnet Galleries 2/640 Bourke St.

Barry C. Douglas, Carlo Oggioni and Felipe Devoto all have a very individualised take on the things they see, with themes that focus on the uneasy and distract from the norm.

The artists' work is online at:

Barry C. Douglas www.instagram.com/barry.takes.photos/

Carlo Oggioni www.instagram.com/behind_this_line/

Felipe Devoto www.theloop.com.au/felidevoto/portfolio/auto-opsy/258580

An Inconsistent Look will run until April 27.



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195 Swanston Street, Melbourne

*Not combinable with any further discount.

We Live Here

Airbnb: facts and smokescreens

Founded in San Francisco in 2008, Airbnb has been promoted as an online booking platform that supports young creatives and people on low incomes, hoping to make extra money out of spare rooms.

Initial acceptance in various cities depended on local laws and legislation, but by late 2016 Airbnb had more than three million listings worldwide and was valued at \$US30 billion.

With the availability of research data, a growing disparity has emerged between the image Airbnb portrays and the reality of who is profiting from its site.

InsideAirbnb is an independent, non-commercial set of tools and data utilising public information compiled from the Airbnb website that allows you to explore how Airbnb is really being used.

Data is now available for all the major cities of the world, where Airbnb has a presence, including Melbourne and Sydney.

We have analysed Airbnb data for nine cities: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, London, Melbourne, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Sydney, with the following results: Airbnb listings by type of accommodation (Chart 1) show that overall 62.9 per cent of listings are for entire homes or apartments with only 37.1 per cent for private or shared rooms (range 49.5 per cent for New York to 87.5 per cent for Paris).

For Melbourne and Sydney the results were 56.6 per cent and 61.9 per cent respectively for entire homes or apartments.

Airbnb's business model is based on hosts renting out spare rooms in their private homes. How then does Airbnb, by its own criteria, account for 62.9 per cent of all its listings being illegal?

Airbnb listings by host (Chart 2) show that, although 67.8 per cent were "Mums and Dads", almost a third (31.3 per cent) were commercial operators (range 20.8 per cent for Paris to 57.5 per cent for Barcelona).

For Melbourne and Sydney, with 12,174 and 23,615 listings respectively, the results showed that 38.8 per cent and 30.8 per cent were commercial operators.

The results for Melbourne, coming third out of the nine cities in this study with almost 40 per cent being commercial operations, are particularly disturbing - confirming that short-stay operators, whether using Airbnb or not, are well entrenched in this city - not paying taxes, or contributing to job creation, just lining their own pockets.

Occupancy rate per month and income per month (Chart 3) shows San Francisco, Berlin and New York with the highest occupancy rates and San Francisco and New York also having the highest income per month. Melbourne had the second lowest occupancy rate of 23.3 per cent but was fifth in income per month.

The stand-out result was Sydney with the lowest occupancy rate per month of all the cities (14.2 per cent) and the lowest income by a big margin.

One explanation for the Sydney result could be that the NSW Government recently gave the (yet to be ratified) green light to Airbnb, and may indicate investors jumping on the bandwagon with the lure of immediate riches creating an oversupply, thus depleting the rental market. If so it has back-fired with very few making any money, and supports reports coming in from around the world of a shortage of affordable rental accommodation, attributable to Airbnb and

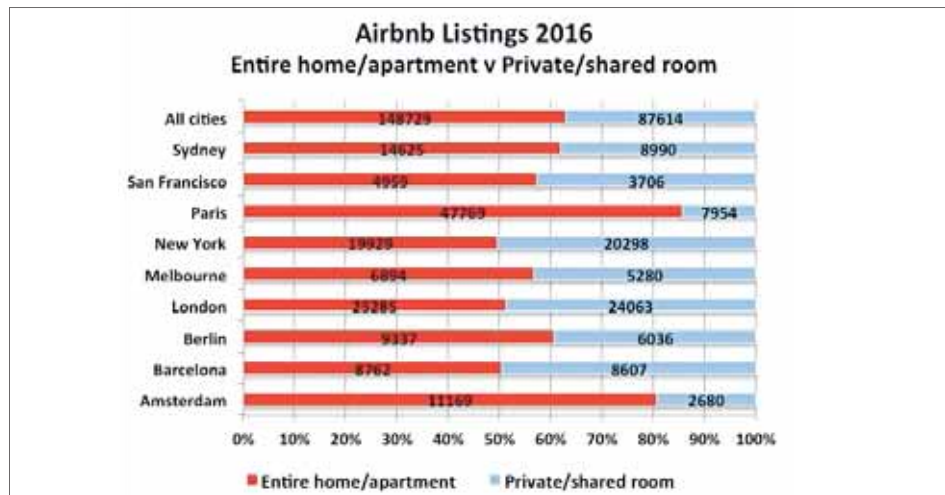


Chart One

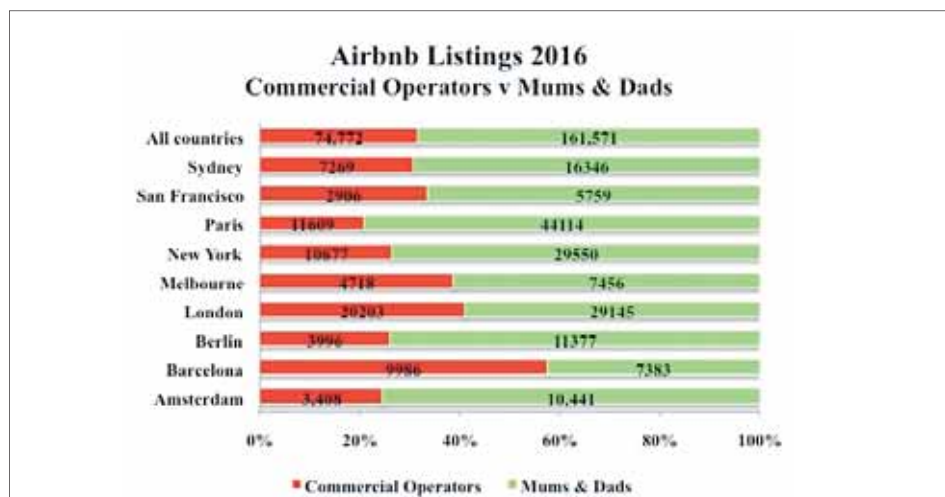


Chart Two



Chart Three

other similar platforms. There are some lessons here for the Victorian Government, which has also been quick to embrace Airbnb.

On May 23, 2016, the day before the Owners Corporation Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016 was to be introduced into the Victorian Parliament, AirbnbAction released a statement entitled "Airbnb welcomes new rules in Victoria to stamp out party houses" and included a photograph of the former Minister for Consumer Affairs shaking hands with the Airbnb country manager on the steps of Parliament House!

We Live Here has stated before that this legislation is a smokescreen, that owners corporations already have the powers to deal with unruly parties and bad behaviour, and we are pleased that a Parliamentary inquiry

into short-stays is about to commence as a consequence of the Bill being defeated in the Legislative Council.

We would like to work with the government in coming up with a Bill that recognises all parties to the debate equally - including Airbnb and residents - so there is a level playing field for all. We want Melbourne to retain its rating as one of the most liveable cities in the world and doesn't end up as a city of ghettos in the sky.

Please send your feedback to campaign@welivehere.net. Donations are also very welcome.



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

Fashion



Autumn palette

Summer may have left us for another year, but its bright colours will see us through another season!

Hold onto the fun of summer with the following four colours that dominated the autumn/winter fashion weeks.

RED

Seen on the runways of Fendi and Giorgio Armani, red will break up the cooler end of autumn.

You're either all in with this trend (like the oversized button-down trench from the latest Jil Sander collection) or just testing the waters by accessorising with red shoes or a belt. Experiment and see what's best for you!

PINK

The pastel pink hues emerged around this time last year, but this season it's back - bigger, bolder and brighter.

Alexander Wang showcased the brighter pink palette with a 90s-inspired, neon pink cropped jumper paired with green shorts. Forget the pretty, demure floral patterns. This autumn is about standing out.

METALLICS

Nothing grabs attention quite like a bit of sparkle. All eyes were on the Dolce and Gabbana Milan show earlier this year as models strutted the runway in sequin dresses, complete with embellished shoes and even the occasional tiara!

Try this style in a shift dress or skirt, making sure it's the focal point of your outfit.

MILITARY GREEN

When it comes to the cooler months, this colour is a no-brainer. It's stood the test of time and this season is no different.

Seen in the 2017 autumn/winter collections of Vera Wang and Hugo Boss, the military green jacket pairs perfectly with light wash jeans for a casual day look, or skinny-leg black jeans and boots for an authoritative night outfit. It's an autumn staple that everyone needs.



Khiara Elliott
khiara@cbdnews.com.au

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB | MAR | **APR** | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN

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

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

ROTARY CENTRAL SUNRISE

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

rotaryclubcentralmelbourne.org.au

10.30am to 2pm Wednesday – Friday – Sunday

MEET UP WITH FRIENDS

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

326 Lonsdale St, 9663 2495

11am - 5pm Saturdays @ Fed Square

BOOK MARKET

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

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

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Meet outside Melbourne Visitor Centre at the flag, Fed Square, From 11am, Free



Join our Events Drinks Night on the first Thursday of each month - 6pm at the Kelvin Club, 14 Melbourne Pl.

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

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

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

MELBOURNE CITY SOUTHBANK LIONS CLUB

Contact: chengji1214@gmail.com

Sunday, April 2, 11am
St Michael's Gallery, 120 Collins St

UNDER THE SEA - EXHIBITION OPENING

By artists Rebecca Coulter, Gina Fishman and Katie Westle.
www.stmichaels.org.au/gallery

March 6 – April 11
Art at St Francis, 326 Lonsdale St

INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND

A photographic exhibition by Michael Kluge focused on industrial landscapes.

Contact: bwremmen@bigpond.net.au



Third Tuesday of each month

EASTENDERS COFFEE CLUB

Come along and join the company of friends and neighbours. Meet new people and be informed. 10am, Pomodoro Sardo Restaurant, 111 Lonsdale St.

eastendersinc@gmail.com

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

SUNRISE PROBUS CLUB

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

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

Every Sunday from 2:30pm @ The Hub,
506 Elizabeth St

FILM CLUB

Come along to our weekly film club at The Hub, opposite the QVM. We have some of the best film noir classics including 1962 French Classic and two time Cannes winner "Sundays and Cybelle". Admission is free, coffee provided.

Contact John on 0459 398 358

✚ PRAYER TIMES

St Michael's
120 Collins St, Melbourne, 3000
Ph: 9654 5120
Church times:
Sunday Service at 10.00am
Free organ recitals at 1.00pm on Thursdays.
For more information please contact the office during office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm).

Chabad of Melbourne
Suite 301, 343 Lt Collins St
Ph: 9525-9929
Chabad of Melbourne CBD hosts regular lunchtime lecture series on various topics.

City on a Hill
Sundays at 9am, 10.30am and 6pm.
Hoyts Cinemas, Melbourne Central

Collins Street Baptist Church
174 Collins St
Ph: 9650 1180
Sundays services: 10.30am and 5.00pm

Hillsong City Youth
Krimper Cafe, 20 Guildford Lane,
Melbourne - Every Friday 7pm-9pm

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

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

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

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

St. Augustine's Catholic Church
631 Bourke St. Melb
Ph: 9614 1722
Sundays Mass: 10.30am & 8.00pm
Mon - Fri Mass: 1.05pm
Mon - Fri Confessions: 12.30pm

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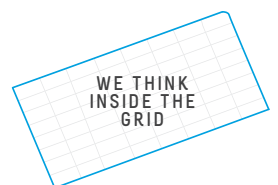
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Traffic light gender equality

Traffic lights at the corner of Swanston and Flinders streets are now displaying a female figure in a push for gender equality.

The 12-month trial has been labelled the "Equal Crossings Initiative" and is a project of the Committee for Melbourne's business and civic leadership program, the Future Focus Group.

The Equal Crossings Initiative was financed by donations from companies Camlex and M1 Traffic Management.

Committee for Melbourne CEO, Martine Letts, said the Equal Crossings Initiative would draw attention to Melbourne's "unconscious bias" in a positive way.

"We have been voted the world's most liveable city six times in a row, and we should also aim to be the world's most equal city," she said.

Victorian Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson also expressed support for the initiative, stating it was "a wonderful way to make public space more inclusive of women".

Public response to the initiative has been mixed. Facebook users have deemed the change as "unnecessary" and "stupid", while others pointed out that they believed the



Traffic lights at the corner of Swanston and Flinders streets.

current lights were already gender neutral as women do, in fact, wear pants.

Some opponents of the initiative have sent aggressive and rather personal emails to Ms Letts.

"What's very concerning to me is when groups such as Future Focus do step up and do more and instead of being encouraged, we do see some pretty aggressive behaviour and criticism that I think does cross the line," Ms Richardson said.

However, Ms Letts said that she had also been receiving great support from influential female figures such as Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau and chair of the Women's Leadership Institute Australia, Carol Schwartz.

The Equal Crossings Initiative aims to have 1:1 male and female representation at traffic lights. This will be achieved by replacing currently broken or malfunctioning lights with the new, female lights.



Collins St sexual assault

Police are searching for a man who allegedly assaulted a woman in a bar on Collins St.

The incident took place on Tuesday, December 27 last year at approximately 1.30am.

The man was suspected of touching a woman inappropriately while she was standing at the bar.

The man was described as a medium-built, African or Middle-Eastern, in his mid-30s with a bald, shaved head and thin face.

He wore a dark coloured suit with a purple shirt and a tie.

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