

# EAST MELBOURNE 3002 community magazine JOLIMONT



**QUIZMAS  
TRIVIA NIGHT  
12 AUGUST**

*Creative East Melbourne*  

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*Heritage matters*



east melbourne group

**WINTER  
2016**



## EAST MELBOURNE JOLIMONT

### PRODUCED BY

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[www.emg.org.au](http://www.emg.org.au)

The East Melbourne Group first produced a local news magazine in 1980 with past editions held by the State Library.



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### COVER IMAGE

Crowds at the Robert Russell  
Hustle Laneway Party

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## A few thoughts from the President

BY MURRAY HOHNEN

**President East Melbourne Group**

*The leaf drop of the elms marks the mid-point in a year that seems to be racing away at record speed.*

At the same time, consistent with our charter, we have been having a bit of fun through the rolling program of social events intended to bring us together and strengthen our indomitable community spirit. We have been happy to add our weight to *Creative East Melbourne* conceived by Lisette from The East Melbourne General Store. And like the change of seasons Norm's is now undoubtedly Lisette's

Inevitably the main clouds on the horizon are the two towers proposed for the Freemasons Hospital site bounded by Albert, Grey and Clarendon Streets.

At the moment we are grappling with the first tower in Grey Street. Beyond knowing that it will sit atop an excavated car park in Albert Street, the height and design of the second tower has not yet been revealed.

What is proposed on the Grey Street side of the site is a four level podium fronting Grey Street and set back 4.65m from the title boundary. The podium height is 16.9m. The discretionary height under the Design Development Overlay 21 (DDO21) is 14m. Above the podium, a 6 level tower is proposed with a setback of 13.69m from Grey St. Overall the proposed tower height is 39.322m tall with building and services plant enclosures taking the total height to 42.922m. The discretionary height under DDO21 is 35m. And of course the whole area is subject to a heritage overlay.

The proposed Freemasons tower is the first encroachment of a tower beyond the fringes of EM and into the into its heritage heartland. It is like a battering ram broaching the human scale and high heritage value areas of East Melbourne and showing no respect at all for the built form in the area.

Like the now abandoned proposed tower at 10 Wellington Parade it would be the only free-standing tower in the area – out of any context, an oddity.

And the proposed tower is not intended to significantly increase the number of hospital beds.

The medical suites to be accommodated in the tower are for commercial use and can be considered to be part of the medical industry.

East Melbourne, already well-served with medical services, should not be burdened with opportunistic commercial facilities that diminish the heritage values of the suburb. In public policy terms, medical suites should be built in parts of Melbourne where they are needed more. There are, of course other issues concerning traffic and parking.

There is an interesting historical parallel. When the Sisters of Mercy sold the old maternity hospital to the Salta Group, they sold it with the benefit of a building permit for the site including the Gipps Street site east of the St Francis building. This area was redeveloped as the aged care facility and apartments. The original design was massive and unfriendly.

The EMG led the opposition to the development with Richard Williams as standard bearer. Despite the existence of the planning permit the Salta Group must be given full credit for responding to community concerns and changing the design to that which you see today. A building that is almost human scale and which reflects and respects the terraced form of much of Gipps Street.

It was not a perfect solution but a compromise that provided a much better alternative than the originally approved design.

There are mixed feelings around the suburb about towers. Some prefer hospitals to heritage. Others point to other towers like the Hilton and Victoria Parade towers where they feel a stand should have been made. All of the arguments have their force but it is my belief that the Freemasons tower proposal should be resisted.

We continue to argue that East Melbourne, with its high concentration of heritage properties provides the best chance Melbourne has to preserve a historical and heritage precinct that provides a quiet insight into the way things were. In most of the great cities of the world such areas are nurtured not eroded by developments that are just not right regardless of the planning laws.

## East Melbourne Group

Working together to keep 3002 the way you like it

### Why become a member?

- 1 To help preserve all you love about East Melbourne and Jolimont
- 2 To support the work of EMG to connect the community
- 3 To add your voice and influence decision makers

Membership fees are very reasonable at just \$50 single, \$100 household and \$30 concession but every contribution helps EMG and its committee achieve its stated purposes.



If you would like to have a chat about EMG membership and how you might become involved, please provide us with your details and we will be in touch soon.

Name

Email

Phone

Address

Mail to: 152 Powlett Street, East Melbourne 3002



# Eat meet & meander

BY LUCY BATTERSBY

*East Melbourne's first social event specifically targeted at young adults revealed just how many young people really do live in, or very close to, East Melbourne.*

Despite the cold, wet weather about 35 people gathered at a Powlett Street house for drinks and canapes generously supplied by the East Melbourne Group. And there was just enough time for a thrilling tour of the Morgans' beautiful Australian art and furniture collections before everyone headed to Hard Pressed for a delicious meal. That crackling!

Finally we landed at Tippler for another drink and some tiny but powerful desserts. Great way to spend a night out within walking distance of home. More please!



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## Quizmas Trivia Night

The 2016 East Melbourne Community Trivia Night will have a Winter Christmas theme. Can you beat The Yarra Park Possums, our 2015 champions?

**Friday 12 August**

**St Peter's Hall cnr Albert & Gisborne Streets** enter in Gisborne Street opposite St Patrick's Cathedral.

**Doors open at 7 and kick off is 7.30pm**

**Bring along some gold coins for silly games.**

There will be loads of great prizes all generously donated by local businesses like Kiwi Fish n' Chips, East Melbourne Cellars and George Street Cafe.

Prize for best decorated table and best 'daggy' Christmas outfit. Think Bridget Jones style Christmas jumper!!!

Simone will be back to test you with our Spicks and Specks style music questions.

**BYO everything you need in the way of food and drink including glasses.**

There will be homemade mince pies and shortbread for sale!

**Seating is at team tables of 10.** But don't worry if you can't make up a table of 10. You may book individually and we will allocate you to a team.

**You must book in advance as seating is limited. \$25 per person.**

Go to [emg.org.au](http://emg.org.au) to download the booking form and register now as we will book out.

Call Siusan on **0438 405 406** if you have any queries.



# Laneway Gathering

BY GUS MCALLISTER

*East Melbourne is always full of surprises. The history, people and streetscape all help to crown it as the most liveable suburb in Melbourne.*

*But can it do a street party? After the resounding success of the Robert Russell Hustle, it appears it can!*

Walking down Simpson Street on that beautiful April afternoon you would have been none the wiser about the festivities beyond. Turning into Robert Russell Lane, being careful to mind the cobblestones, and rounding the corner you would have found over 300 people enjoying East Melbourne's first laneway gathering.

The first thing to hit you was the music, the brick buildings providing the perfect amphitheater for Melbourne's own 'Flugilist' a beat boxing flautist. Three food trucks lined the perimeter serving artisan toasties, paella and waffle pops, a popular combination with the crowd.

Much of the action was concentrated around the two bars. Shaking up some delicious cocktails were the owners of Melbourne Moonshine. Their

popularity a mix of their bar - a 1937 Dodge Pick-up - and their Bootleggers Lemonade. Alongside them were The Barrow Boys - a local brewery serving their delicious craft beers on tap to thirsty residents.

As the day continued, so too did the great live music, the Senzza Quartet and then folk singer, Alice Cotton, took us into the evening. Residents brought their family members, friends and pets along to take part in the festivities.

It was evident that something special happened on that day in April. From the smiles on people's faces, the wonderment that a space like that exists and most importantly a great sense of community. Plans are already underway to host another street party this spring!





# Creative East Melbourne

BY LISETTE MALATESTA

Creative East Melbourne is the inaugural East Melbourne Community Art Show. It will display the creative talents of residents of postcode 3002 at the library in George Street between 4–31 August as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations.

## OPENING EVENT

**6:30 – 9:30pm, Thursday 4th August 2016**  
Come along and join the fun!

In my first year at the East Melbourne General Store I have been overwhelmed by the number of local artists I have met. My store's couches regularly host someone with a sketch pad and I often pass change to hands stained with ink or with paint under nails. This suburb has welcomed me and shared its secret that a wealth of creativity lives here. East Melbourne's tranquil, picturesque streets are a place where arts, culture and creativity flourish and I thought that should be put on show for us all to see and enjoy.

The recent East Melbourne Historical Society Newsletter highlighted East Melbourne's artistic traditions; President, Jill Fenwick writes;

'East Melbourne has always been a haven for artists. In 1862, Eugene Von Guerard built his house Little Parndon in Gipps Street. Three paintings now in the State Library collection remind us of his presence here; View of the Plenty Ranges from East Melbourne, View of the Dandenongs from East Melbourne and Dr. Howitt's Corner. In 1892, the Victorian Artist Society moved into its building at 431 Albert Street. The first exhibition, held in 1886, featured the work of resident artists Frederick McCubbin, Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts. In 1937, Melbourne's foremost modernist sculptor, Ola Cohn, bought the converted stables at 41-43 Gipps Street. In 1964 after Cohn's death, it became the home of the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors.'

The *Creative East Melbourne* exhibition has already attracted the interest of over 40 accomplished resident artists and we are eager to display more. All genres, mediums and techniques are represented and the exhibition includes work of artists exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery and State Parliament. It also includes Conde Nast fashion photography, sketches of award-winning architectural designs and ground breaking digital works. It incorporates everything from bold abstract expressionism to delicate botanical illustrations.

The *Creative East Melbourne* exhibition is a celebration of the suburb's artistic past and present, bringing local artists together for



*Lisette and some of our local artists. Read more about them on page 14*



the first time and sharing their incredible work with the community. It is an event not to be missed.

For more information visit the East Melbourne General Store in person at 53 Hotham Street or visit the library's website or Facebook Events page, or email your interest to exhibit or be involved to

lisette@eastmelbournegeneralstore.com. Submissions must close 26 July. Anyone from postcode 3002 is eligible to exhibit their talents as all works will be considered.

In the tradition of the Archibald Prize there will be a People's Choice Prize so make sure to come along to the exhibition, be impressed and cast your vote.

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# Heritage Policies Review

BY BARBARA PATERSON

*Over the last three years Melbourne Council has mooted changes to local heritage planning policies in the Melbourne Planning Scheme. The aim has been to introduce greater clarity and certainty in the assessment of applications under the provisions of the Heritage Overlay.*

The resulting changes, based on a 600 plus page report by Lovell Chen, heritage architects and consultants, and submissions made by heritage and residents groups, are significant. The outcome is a translation and update of the old heritage system (policies and grading) to a contemporary system and it is designed to be policy neutral. The new policies need to be read together and not in isolation. Change is urgently needed as Melbourne Council is the last Council in Victoria to adopt the new system.

I note the main changes as follows:

## Significant/Contributory grading system

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) cautiously welcomes the proposal to replace the current A-D grading system with one

where buildings that have enough heritage value are graded as either significant or contributory. The emphasis on contributory significance recognises that sometimes the alteration or demolition of a property will adversely affect the streetscape in a way that is disproportionate to the actual heritage value placed on the property. Our caution stems from the ill-defined and subjective nature of what constitutes contributory significance. EMG welcomes the inclusion in the new definitions of historical, social and spiritual values; they all acknowledge importance to the community.

**Streetscapes** The current 1-3 grading system is to be replaced by significant streetscapes (former level 1) which are more intact than other streetscapes. Arguably 2 levels should be retained – significant and contributory. Council says that level 2 and 3 streetscapes will remain protected to the extent that they are within historic precincts.

**Facadism** is the architectural practice whereby only the facade of a building is preserved with new buildings erected behind or around it. EMG rejects the tokenism of these 'stuck on' facades. We say that projects using facadism lose their integrity and value. The Report purports to discourage facadism by



an emphasis on maintaining some building depth with guidelines on setbacks and retentions when heritage sites are developed. This is welcome.

**Historic fabric** The revised policies include additional guidance on the degree to which the fabric for demolition contributes to the perception of the three-dimensional form and depth of the building. The revised policies also identify the need for a recording program in some instances. EMG is critical of the 'contribution to perception ...' argument. We say that all parts of the building that make up the significance of the heritage place should be preserved. Owners should be encouraged to maintain fabric in its present state or at least prevent deterioration. Ideally changes should be reversible. Developments and alterations which are not respectful of historic fabric should be refused a permit.

**Statement of Significance** EMG welcomes the creation of a formal Statement of Significance for East Melbourne, Jolimont. The aim of the Statement is to provide local context, thereby assisting with the assessment of planning permit applications. In particular, we favour a move away from the current approach of heritage controls over individual buildings towards a precinct approach over the whole historic area.

Amendment C258 implements the findings of the Heritage Policies Review. It is intended to be policy neutral and it will not, we are assured, reduce the level of protection of any building currently in the Heritage Overlay. The National Trust and Melbourne Heritage Action are generally in favour of the Review, inner city resident groups perhaps less so.

Melbourne Council unanimously approved C258 on 5 July. The Amendment now goes to a 2 month exhibition phase, when public views will again be canvassed, and then before an independent Planning Panel by the end of the year. These processes should allow ample time for various glitches to be resolved. Overall EMG believes that C258 provides greater certainty for residents and planners. We accept that the new gradings do not represent a lessening of protection of heritage buildings.



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# DARLING SQUARE ELMS

BY LOU DAWSON

Darling Square is so important to East Melbourne residents that it was a shock to see the signs put up by the City of Melbourne that two mature elm trees on its north-east corner were to be removed.

There was a large hollow in the trunk of each of the trees and the City Council commissioned an independent expert to report on the risks associated with their present condition. The report recommended the removal of both trees within six months, because internal rotting had so weakened their trunks as to make their collapse a threat to users of the park and vehicles passing or parked beneath them. The failure of the elms could, the report said, happen within the next few years and the damage could be severe, even catastrophic. The report recommended that trees of a similar species be planted after the removal of the two in question.

Friends of the Elms sought a second opinion from another experienced arborist who confirmed the advice given to the City of Melbourne by its expert and expressed the view that any mature trees in a public space, such as Darling Square, showing signs of failure, pose a considerable risk and should be removed.

Two trees have recently been removed and the City of Melbourne has confirmed that, within weeks, two young, well-grown elms will be planted to replace them during this planting season.

Thanks to research by Sylvia Black of the East Melbourne Historical Society, we now know that Darling Square was in 1880 gazetted as a recreation reserve and was by 1883 under the management of the Melbourne City Council. Before that, it may have been used as a casual cricket pitch. There was a suggestion at one time that it should be sold for building blocks or used as a site for a children's hospital.

Early photographs show that the elms in Darling Square were probably planted in the late 1890s so that they are now well over 100 years old (except for one much younger one on the Simpson Street edge). At one time there were Moreton Bay figs in the Square and some residents may remember a large Lombardy poplar in the centre. In 2003 the poplar failed during the night. No one was around at the time so there was no harm done.

It is inevitable that as trees get older they may have to be replaced. Their replacement in Darling Square means that we can look forward to another generation of marvellous elms.

## YARRA PARK ELMS

In 2015 the Melbourne Cricket Club undertook an extensive tree planting program of 115 new trees in Yarra Park. Of these, 92 were elm trees. The project was designed to fill sites left vacant from previous

tree removals, to extend or complete historical avenues and to replace some trees that were coming to the end of their lives.

Eleven elms were removed along the edge of the park adjacent to Jolimont Terrace as an ongoing renewal program for ageing elms and these were all replaced. The other elms were planted throughout Yarra Park.

In 2016, one year on, there have been some losses due to vandalism or poor growing conditions. We will not know how many trees have survived their first year until next spring when new growth appears.



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# SWAN STREET BRIDGE UPGRADE

BY JOHN STONE

Melbourne's iconic Swan Street Bridge is to undergo a \$30-million-dollar revamp that will provide an extra lane (giving it five traffic lanes), pedestrian and cycle paths and new lighting.

The Swan Street Bridge was begun in 1948 and took five years to complete. It was opened to the public in 1952. VicRoads on behalf of the Victorian Government will undertake the project to improve the Swan Street Bridge which crosses the Yarra between Alexandra Avenue and Olympic Boulevard formerly known as part of Swan Street.

The East Melbourne Group (EMG) attended VicRoad's first and only, consultation session held on 17 May at the Rod Laver Arena. The bridge is not actually in East Melbourne but residents walk, cycle and drive over it in large numbers. VicRoad's representatives demonstrated the overall design concept and what they envisioned for the bridge, given the allocated budget.

According to VicRoads the daily usage of the bridge is moderate to heavy: 30,000 cars per day, around 60 cyclists per hour, and about 1,300 pedestrians use the footpaths during major sporting events. There are, of course



the daily traffic jams and bottle-necks that we have all experienced in peak hour.

EMG outlined the importance of the upgrade but also sought to highlight that the bridge is a Melbourne icon and that the heritage and history of the bridge must be respected. VicRoad's representatives ostensibly appeared to acknowledge this concern, but it was clear that heritage preservation was not high in their priorities.

The tender process closed on 8 June and resulted in a shortlist of four designs which can be viewed at [www.consult.vicroads.vic.gov.au/swan-street-bridge](http://www.consult.vicroads.vic.gov.au/swan-street-bridge)

Although the public consultation process has been formally completed, if you have a

strong view in relation to any of the above designs, then I encourage you to contact VicRoads. Works are due to commence in December 2016 so it is important that any strongly held views regarding the above designs are put to VicRoads quickly.

Swan Street Bridge is a good example of post-war Art-Deco public works design and deserves an upgrade that is sensitive to its original period appeal. It would be a great shame to have this erased by poor design rushed through by a government agency which fails to appreciate the heritage significance of this public asset.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact EMG [admin@emg.org.au](mailto:admin@emg.org.au)

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# At the edges

BY CHARLIE HOHNEN

*A good brisk walk on a cold morning often gets one thinking about the issues of our suburb, especially those not involving ever higher and larger and more populous buildings. You might like to accompany me.*

Shall we begin at the top of Yarra Park? The intersection of Simpson Street and Wellington Parade is always problematic. There is no pedestrian crossing of Wellington Parade here. You must go back to the tram stop. People usually scurry across, dodging the traffic which can be quite heavy.

In spite of the No Right Turn sign plenty of traffic does turn right from Wellington Parade into Simpson Street and traffic from Simpson Street also turns right into Wellington Parade against the road markings. There have been some spectacular near-misses here, especially early in the morning when no one is quite awake.

People driving out of Vale or Berry Streets often turn right towards Bridge Road across the solid yellow lines. They can be heavily fined for that but otherwise they must go all the way down to Powlett Street to do a legal U turn at the lights.

Turn and look at the triangular plot of land on the corner of Vale Street that lies neglected and uncared for under the auspices of VicTrak. There used to be a police station on this site. It was hoped that the community garden could relocate here from Sinclair's Cottage but nothing seems to have come of this. Currently we have large advertising signs attached to the fence and facing down towards Bridge Road. The Free Cannabis Party also has numerous signs along the railway fence. Just recently Yarra Council voted against allowing a large electronic advertising sign on the east side of Punt Road. This decision is being appealed.

Walking down through the MCG with the proposed new dog off leash area along Vale Street to your left, past Betty Hall's tree (Betty was a well-known local dog lover and her ashes were scattered at the base of this tree), you come to the edge of the MCG apron. This seems to expand further outwards every season. At issue here is a proposed security fence to control access to the stadium. Will it be permanent or temporary? If there is an emergency at the MCG where will the people evacuated from the stadium go if the grounds are packed with cars? How would emergency vehicles gain access?

Cross the railway at the bridge to the south east of the stadium. A new non-slip surface has recently been applied, after walkers and cyclists alike slipped or fell when it was wet or frosty. The graffiti on the bridge is copious, mindless and replaced as soon as it is removed. Surely a security camera and a couple of police persons occasionally could have an impact there. Similarly the bridge across from Yarra Park to Powlett Street is constantly being cleaned up and then readorned with inanities. The cost of cleanup must far exceed the cost of a security camera and the occasional police visit.

The Swan Street bridge leading to Alexandra Avenue is about to be widened with outriggers hanging from the sides to take pedestrian and cycle traffic. Not necessarily an elegant solution although John Wardle's design seems less clunky than the others (I'm told it is very 'eighties' and dated so I stand corrected).

Round we go to the redevelopment outside the tennis centre where

fifteen trees have been removed. They will be replaced with well-grown new specimens when the work is completed.

Further towards Flinders Street as you dodge the cyclists who nowadays use footpaths rather than the marked cycle ways, the new bridge to the tennis centre from Birrarung Mar hasn't yet joined over the road. The flower meadow which has been so successful in the past couple of years seems to be in the process of a makeover to a permanent planting with trees. Walk on over the Exhibition Street Bridge, picking up some rubbish as you go, and continue around into Flinders Street.

The corner of Spring Street and Wellington Parade is always exciting with lots of cars trying to beat the lights and ending up blocking the pedestrian crossing to Treasury Gardens. Watch out here as the last car always comes at you after the Walk sign goes green.

Treasury Gardens are busy these days with lots of marquees and 'events'. Count the young ducks that have survived the tiny fluffy stage. Where do they all end up? Count also the fitness instructors and their struggling charges. Good to see people getting out and exercising, except when they hitch their equipment to the trees and then pull the branches or swing from them.

Cross Landsdowne Street which can also be a bit hazardous, given the speed at which the traffic moves either up or down this busy thoroughfare. Another set of lights may be needed before too long. Look south to Jolimont. The strip of land along Wellington Parade South is due for attention. But the row of heavy dark pines that dominate from the street side make it an uninviting space. It is 'against Council policy' to remove these trees but without that action the space will probably remain little used.

Up through Fitzroy Gardens we go, dodging the occasional cyclist who can't read. Fitzroy Gardens are always a pleasure to walk in. A great deal of hard work goes into keeping them looking good. They have a heritage listing so are not considered suitable for major recreational activities. Kicking footballs often damages trees and skateboarders are a hazard particularly during school holidays. An accident waiting to happen as it has been described.

At the top corner of the gardens the electricity substation has generated (sorry) recent controversy. After the people who were camping there took to lighting fires they were moved on. The substation is an active unit supplying power to the area. To keep out vandals in future the substation will be surrounded by a permanent fence. The building has recently been painted and looks quite attractive.

We walk down the side of the gardens along Clarendon Street where you can see how the heavy structure of high rise buildings cuts off the morning sun from the east. The low structure of Bishopscourt with its two acre block allows the sun through to the path. We pass Mosslenoch which is being given a new lease of life while there are more high rise apartments to be built next to it.

If you go down as far as Wellington Parade you can note the unkempt nature of the railway reserve with rubbish and weeds dominating the stretch between Clarendon Street and the point where we began this walk. A local group, Friends of Jolimont Station, is hoping to rectify this.

You can see that there are lots of local issues to engage with and walking around the suburb and its surrounds does tend to focus the mind. What issues are important to you?





## OUR LIBRARY OLD AND NEW

BY SYLVIA BLACK

**O**n 22 August 2006 East Melbourne's new library was opened. Architecturally it was a radical departure for East Melbourne where a conservative aesthetic is the norm and it was not without its detractors in the planning stage.

The previous library had opened on 29 May 1964 taking over the site of Alexander Balcombe's old house, Eastcourt. Balcombe was one of East Melbourne's first residents, erecting a prefabricated house in 1853-54. Later he built a grander house in front and the pre-fab became kitchen quarters.

As a child Alexander Balcombe had lived on the island of St Helena. A pavilion on the Balcombe estate became the home of Napoleon during his exile and he and the family became friends. Furniture used by Napoleon made its way to Australia and some items graced the rooms at Eastcourt. After Mrs Balcombe's death in 1907 the house was sold and it changed hands many times over the next half century. It was renamed Lanivet. In later years it became known as The Ghost House and stood shrouded in a tangle of untamed foliage.

The old cream brick library served its community well until the 1990s by which time it was looking shabby, and the IT age had arrived. The library could not answer the demand. Patronage was dropping. At the time the East Melbourne Library was part of the Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Corporation and members could use the libraries in both regions, so the Council's first response was to close the library. The theory was that patrons could go to Fitzroy or Richmond. The Council would then sell the land for housing.

As can be imagined the idea was not popular. The East Melbourne Group and the Friends of the Library, set up to liaise with the Library Corporation, got involved.

The Council organised funding for a survey to find out what people really wanted. Overwhelmingly it was a library that could accommodate a dedicated meeting space, expanded working area for staff, visitors' toilets and, of course, IT facilities including computers for public use. Len Connell, an architect living in Berry Street, drafted plans showing how the old library could be

extended, including a second floor. By this time the East Melbourne Historical Society had been established and space for it was added to the wish list of facilities to be included.

The upshot was that Council decided to demolish the old library and build a new one. Plans were drafted and re-drafted over a lengthy period of consultation with interested parties: the Friends, the Advisory Group and the East Melbourne Historical Society. Eventually a permit was granted in 2003. This might have meant no library for the period of construction but Elizabeth Cam suggested that the Council lease Trinity Hall for the duration. For two years



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- 1pm Illustrated talk by East Melbourne Historical Society
- 1.40pm Creative East Melbourne art show awards
- 2pm Cake cutting and refreshments

the library operated there in happy but constrained circumstances.

The library as it was finally designed has fulfilled most of our needs while at the same time being a pioneer in green architecture.



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# THE STATUE OF MEDITATION

BY ROSIE SMITH

*Have you ever wondered about the massive white marble statue found outside the rear doors to the Conservatory in Fitzroy Gardens?*

It looks like it should be in a church or a grave yard perhaps. If you have ever thought that you'd be pretty well correct. The pious looking marble lady is not on the site for which she was originally intended and here is the background story.

An Australian lady, who married a wealthy Frenchman, intended that the statue should be erected in memory of her father at Rheola, a small fruit-growing town in central Victoria. When this failed to transpire, apparently because the Rheola townsfolk did not wish to have such a huge statue in their little cemetery, it was presented instead to the Melbourne City Council in 1933.

The sculptor was Frenchman Robert Delandre. Just prior to its unveiling, the acclaimed sculptor Paul Montford complained in a letter to the mayor:

“In my opinion its artistic value is far below any other statuary in the Fitzroy Gardens, and it is probably the worst figure in any public place in Melbourne.”

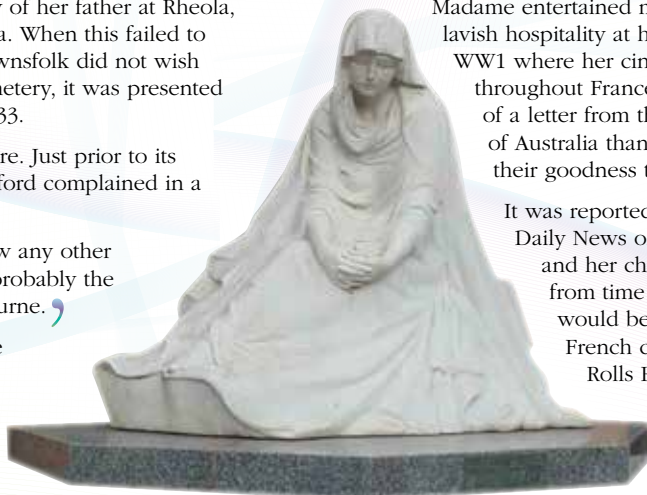
And who was the Australian lady? Her name was Elizabeth (Nellie) Gilmore and she was born in Bourke's Flat near St Arnaud. It's believed that in the late 1800s Nellie came down to Melbourne to work as

a barmaid, to send money home to help out the family that had moved to Rheola. Some reports say that Nellie's father was a grazier, or was he a fruit farmer?

Nellie was a beautiful girl by all accounts and whilst behind the bar she met a French carpet maker Gaston Saint who was visiting Australia to buy our premium wool. Nellie married her Frenchman and went back to France as Madame Gaston Saint, becoming one of the wealthiest women in France. The Gaston Saints owned two châteaux, one at Rouen and another at Deauville as well as a manor house in Dieppe. They had four children.

Madame entertained many Australian soldiers with lavish hospitality at her home in Rouen during WW1 where her cinema concerts were famed throughout France. She was the proud possessor of a letter from the then High Commissioner of Australia thanking her and her husband for their goodness to Australians.

It was reported in The Western Australian Daily News of 15 Feb. 1927 that Madame and her children would visit Australia from time to time and apparently she would be seen being driven by her French chauffeur in a luxurious Rolls Royce between the cottage she had built in St Arnaud and her town residence in Collins Street.



## The Victorian Artists Society, rich in Art and History

*There is no other place in Australia like the Victorian Artists Society for all people who love to view, learn about, create and exhibit art. Our historical surrounds date back to 1870, with impressive alumni including some of our nation's most revered artists, such as Charles Conder, Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin, William Dargie and Walter Withers.*

It was no easy matter for the handful of artists and art lovers of those days to establish the Society, an ambitious and costly venture.

Government support was limited to a grant of land in Albert Street, and the full costs of erecting the building had to be found. The completion of the permanent headquarters and art galleries was a significant reason for Melbourne becoming the art centre of Australia.

The present building was designed as a purpose-built gallery encompassing the original small bluestone studio erected in 1873. It was conceived by Richard Speight Junior who won the competition for its design. It was completed in 1892/93. The façade owed much to the American Romanesque tradition and impressively, the original interior remains essentially intact.

There have been many iconic artworks

painted within our walls that form the foundation of Australia's major public collections.

Many of these same works were purchased from Member exhibitions, in a proud tradition that has continued through to today. At the Victorian Artists Society, members from all walks of life and all levels of skill, continue to learn, paint and exhibit as the Society heads towards its 150th Anniversary in 2020.

For those many lovers of music, it is of interest that Dame Nellie Melba's Conservatorium became a tenant of the Society from 1898 to 1952.

The current Council's responsibility is one of ensuring that this 'Cradle of Australian Art' is preserved for another one hundred years and as such, we are now embarking on a series of urgently needed renovations and upgrades of services, such as electrical,

plumbing, heating and restoration due to water damage. This Heritage and National Trust listed building is a public asset and a learning centre for future generations and is open to the public and all of those who love art.

The Victorian Artists Society provides the community with exhibitions, an art school, workshops, gallery hire, plein air, life and portrait groups. We are in your neighbourhood and welcome visitors to our galleries.

We invite local residents to visit the building and view the ever changing exhibition of paintings and sculpture and to take a walk in the footsteps of some of Australia's most significant artists and citizens.

Check our website for Classes and Exhibitions [www.victorianartistsociety.com.au](http://www.victorianartistsociety.com.au)

Victorian Artists Society 430 Albert St, East Melbourne **Phone: (03) 9662 1484**



# Growing up in East Melbourne

BY LEIGH MORRISON



*The Pavlidis-Backhouses, a family of five, have been living here in East Melbourne since 1999. Jim and Megan have raised three kids here, now teenagers, and here they share their fond memories of growing up in our lovely suburb.*

Their vibrant art and plant-filled home sets the scene of how the kids have grown up and enjoyed the local surrounds of East Melbourne. From birthday parties just a block away in Powlett Reserve, to Wednesday book club with Carol the librarian. 'Everything seems a short stroll or

quick bike ride away, making it great for bringing up kids.'

Kostas adds, 'We used to ride our bikes everywhere, to school and into the city to take Dad to work on Sundays.' The bikes have been replaced recently with skateboards, as the boys have branched out to

Smith St and the city to ride with mates.

Polly remembers meeting piano teacher Wayne, and sitting with him weekly learning to play for six years, 'after Mum saw a brochure pinned up in the milk bar on Hotham St.' They'd meet up with his family and others in the library each Christmas; it was great to play with other local kids.

Bertie recalls a friendly man, Phoenix, who worked with the council, and used to mow the nature strips. 'He had a huge handle bar moustache and was really friendly. He gave me a booklet all about the mower he was using, I loved it.'

They all agree one of the best parts about growing up here is the great parks nearby. The dragon was a highlight in Fitzroy Gardens playground, as were the summer fairy shows, plus hours playing on the old horse cart and giant dome in Powlett Reserve (and cheekily admitting watching a drug bust go down one day).

Bertie remembers when the chooks got loose. Yes, they had chickens in the backyard, known for escaping into the laneways and street. Until one day a chicken was returned and it wasn't theirs and they realised there must be other runaway chickens living with other families in East Melbourne!

The sixth member of their clan, Claude, enjoys regular runs in the park at the MCG, but isn't one of the best behaved dogs. When the family headed away to Falls Creek he was housed with friends in Hawthorn, Claude managed to run away, all the way back home across Punt Rd. It was all the friendly neighbours who ensured his safe return. Delwyn (from the Chrysalis gallery) spotted him in her car on George St and followed him home, plus there were calls from other concerned neighbours that he was spotted on Powlett St. Thankfully the kind neighbours next door took him in for the remaining days. Claude is now never far from home when the family go away, plus he's taken up residence on the neighbours' verandah in the afternoon sunshine, as there is no fence between them out the front and he sneaks across there daily.

All the kids loved attending local childcare centre, the Coop, and attended Dame Nellie Melba kindergarten in Richmond. The journey to primary school in Hawthorn West was made easier by biking together. The family finds access to schools from East Melbourne great, Polly continued to ride her bike to Merton Hall, and now catches the train to Monash Uni. The boys attend Trinity, jumping on the 109 tram to Kew.

Why do they love living in East Melbourne so much? 'Everything is right on our doorstep. The accessibility to the city, the variety of delicious food from all over the world, galleries to visit (that also exhibit Dad's work), everything we do is nearby so we barely use our car.' They all agree, 'It feels really low-key, friendly and quiet, considering how close it is to city activity nearby.'

## All Creatures on Hoddle

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# FIRST URBAN SHED

BY TONY BRIGHT

*Andrew Stefanetti, chairperson of the Melbourne Men's Shed, recently invited a group of people for breakfast at the Melbourne Town Hall so the City of Melbourne could acknowledge their contributions in establishing a world first project, the urban men's shed.*



The drive for the project came from a mixed team, primarily based in East Melbourne. Marlene Mackintosh first raised the concept of a Shed for East Melbourne over coffee with the Lord Mayor at the George Street Café.

East Melbourne resident Doug Robertson pushed hard for a local site and later chaired a key meeting at the Multicultural Hub on Elizabeth Street where participants confirmed their support for a shared urban space. A committee of management was established and I was elected as inaugural chairperson, along with representatives from Kensington, Flemington, Southbank and East Melbourne.

Later an electronic survey was distributed to over a hundred people to gauge the level of support. The survey indicated that a

wide range of age groups of both genders, including working urban people would attend a well resourced facility.

A space became available at Federation Square and East Melbourne resident David Woodward got to work on the incorporation of the organisation. Alan Seale, a retired chemical engineer, designed a plan for compact woodwork and general purpose rooms that was submitted to the state government for funding. The proposal was successful. The City of Melbourne made a commitment to a five-year lease.

The now completed Shed was opened by the Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos and the Lord Mayor on 7 September 2015. The activities offered include a walking group, a workshop group undertaking woodworking projects and a kitchen where cooking skills are taught. Photography and computer skills are also shared.

Now we have a permanent place for people to meet. The site on the lower level of Federation Square adjacent to the Zinc function space is open Mondays 10-2pm, Tuesdays 10-2pm, Wednesday evenings and the third Saturday of each month. Perhaps call in and see how it works. You may even get involved with a great bunch of people.

## NEW CAFÉ BANKS ON EAST MELBOURNE'S HISTORY

*'He was one of the fairest and most just men to have ever breathed' gushed an employee at the National Bank upon the death of his boss in 1900. It's hard now to imagine a banker being so beloved that he earned not just an obituary in the Argus, but an entire stand at the MCG. The death of Mr Frank Grey Smith, a National Bank manager and keen supporter of the Melbourne Cricket Club, so moved the residents of Melbourne that they named what is now the Ponsford Stand after him.*

Co-owner Ben Blowers says he arrived at the name The Grey Smith while researching the history of the East Melbourne area. 'I felt as though the MCG, which really looms large in our front window, had stories to tell that were not always obvious, and I wanted the name to be a nod to that.'

The historical links between the Grey Smith and its namesake go even further. The café is on the site of a former bank branch, and the old vault is still visible. Owners, Ben Blowers and Phillip Gallo, have some cheeky plans for the steel-lined room. 'We're hoping to make it a real feature when we get our liquor licence,' says Phil. 'I can imagine slipping into the bank-vault for a 1920's style cocktail or a glass of red wine.'

The site of the Grey Smith has been through several changes in recent years. Many East Melbourne locals may remember the Il Duca Deli, and the new owners want to pay tribute to that past as well. 'When we expand our offering as a wine bar, we plan to offer more deli options,' says Ben 'This will add to our current deli fridge which already has quality ham, cheese and dips as well as essentials like bread and milk for sale.'

The Grey Smith, on Wellington Parade near the Post Office, is open 7 days a week from 7am Monday to Friday and from 8am weekends.



Phillip is all smiles in his new role as barista



THE

GREY

SMITH

CAFÉ &amp; WINE BAR



# PEOPLE & PETS

*you meet on the streets*



## GREG COURT & COOPER

Cooper is a four year old West Highland Terrier who enjoys the good life. He's Greg's fourth Westie. Sadly the previous dog was the victim of a snake bite. Cooper goes everywhere with Greg and is known as his 'wing man'. They divide their time between here and Angelsea. In both places people dote on their dogs and while Cooper loves being off lead on the beach he also enjoys inner city living. Most mornings Greg buys a paper and a coffee at the General Store and Cooper sits patiently out the front acknowledging everyone as they pass on their way to work. Cooper's favourite spot is Darling Square but many of his friends from there have gone over the past year and recently he was a bit disturbed by the trees coming down. He's definitely a big dog in a little dog's body.



## CATHERINA DE SOLIEUZ

Catherina works locally as a critical care nurse, something she has been doing for more than 40 years. Making art is her other passion. As a child her family would go on excursions to the beach and whilst other members of the family swam she was perfectly happy to pull out her easel and paint. She is currently studying a Visual Arts Degree where she is experimenting with print making, ceramics and drawing. She also has a Master's in Art Therapy and says her art is her own therapy. She photographs plants and traces the shapes they make with the help of a light box and then reconstructs them to become something totally different. Catherina will be part of the exhibition at the library in August and loves how it is bringing so many local creative people together.



## IAN KELLY

Ian is a retired computer consultant and now, apart from dog walking Jock, a West Highland Terrier, through the gardens of East Melbourne he devotes his time to a study of the Italian language and attendance at science lectures at the Royal Society of Victoria. He also loves to travel. Tuscany in Italy, where his wife Patrizia was born, is his favourite destination. He is a self-confessed cricket tragic and has travelled three times to Lords with the Melbourne Cricket Club to attend the Ashes Test. Being so close to the MCG and the whole sports precinct in this part of Melbourne make Ian feel he's living right at the heart of our city's major events. It was a good move nine years ago when he and Patrizia discovered this part of the city and new friends in the dog park.



## GOLNAR LUZZU

Golnar feels like she has lived in pretty much every street in East Melbourne over the past 12 years. Coming from St Kilda it took some getting used to but now she goes back and can't imagine living there, even though she still loves it. She finds it enchanting when people stop in the street to look at houses and it makes her feel like we are in a quaint, historic European village. Golnar struggled with the typical identity dilemmas most teenage girls' face.

This was bolstered by the fact that she had migrated to Australia from Iran and felt she just didn't fit in anywhere. What a pleasure it was then, that in creating art she found her place. Now as a teacher of meditation her art, which is resin on glass, is very much an expression of her own meditation – something she practices in her local studio called The Nurtured Mind.



## MARIZA AIRD

For Mariza the General Store is her office. She is a fixture on the comfy couch with a coffee answering her emails. Someone once accused her of being an ASIO spy she was such a regular there observing the comings and goings of Hotham Street. It is how she has got to know various local people. She says they are very unpretentious and eclectic - not homogenous like in some places. Mariza feels that in East Melbourne it is what you have to offer as a person that is most important. She recently bought an apartment in Abbotsford but now can't bring herself to leave this part of town. Mariza loves art and collecting porcelain and has done fine porcelain restoration. When life settles down she is looking forward to getting her hands dirty with ceramics.



## GARRY ANDERSON

Garry was introduced to East Melbourne 20 years ago when he was commissioned to paint a portrait. He has been coming back to visit ever since but has only been resident here for six months and is delighted that he timed it to be part of the *Creative East Melbourne* Exhibition. Garry studied as a figurative sculpture and one of the earliest pieces he did was a small bronze head of Bob Hawke. At the time he was working as a dental technician and supposed to be making teeth. He was selected to paint the official portrait of Premier Steve Bracks which now resides in Parliament House. One of his drawings *The Pea Eater* is part of contemporary art history studies and it is considered the most controversial piece in the Murdoch University collection. Garry is also currently exhibiting at Michael Fox's gallery in Collingwood.



150

## THE THIN BLUE LINE

*Bertram Wainer's Fertility Control Clinic in Wellington Parade has for nearly fifty years been the subject of protest. In the last twenty-five years protestors, usually the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, have been a regular fixture outside the Clinic. Their activities have become a source of complaint by local residents and people visiting the Clinic.*

A security guard was shot dead in 2001 by a pro-life protestor and until recent times the presence of the pro-life protestors has been a difficult issue as neither the City Council nor the police felt that they had adequate power to deal with it.

The Fertility Control Clinic took proceedings in March 2014 against the Melbourne City Council in the Supreme Court, requiring it to do something about the nuisance caused by the protestors, but the Court took the view that there was nothing it could do. Thus, the Court took

the view that there had been no failure by Council to perform the duties imposed upon it by the Public Health and Well Being Act. This was in spite of the fact that its advice that the clinic should attempt to settle its dispute with the protestors privately, by making a complaint to Victoria Police, was mis-conceived. Thus, there was no declaration given by the Court and this prompted Fiona Patten to act.

Leader of the Australian Sex Party, Fiona Patten MP, introduced a bill last year that made it illegal for anti-abortion protestors to harass or film people coming or going from the Clinic, with heavy penalties for those who broke the law. The bill, the Public Health and Well Being Amendment (Safe Access) Act (2015) has now come into law and there is a 150 metre exclusion zone around the Clinic.

Now the protestors must stay 150 metres from the Clinic, which is why you see the thin blue lines marking footpaths in Wellington Parade to the east and west of the Clinic.

The exclusion zones are serving not only to reduce the protestors' opportunity to harass people entering the Clinic but local traders have also reported a significant increase in foot traffic which is good for business.

## TOUR HOUSE OF DREAMS

curated by  
*Barking Spider  
Visual Theatre*

The Annual *House of Ideas*  
Exhibition-House tour

TUESDAY 12 JULY 2016 –  
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# Community Noticeboard



## EASY DATE LOAF

1 cup chopped dates  
60g butter chopped  
1 cup lightly packed brown sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
1 cup boiling water  
1 3/4 cups SR flour  
1 tsp bicarb soda

- Preheat oven to 180
- Grease and line the base of a large loaf tin.
- Put chopped dates, butter, sugar and vanilla in a bowl and stir in boiling water until butter has completely melted.
- Stir in flour sifted with bicarb soda
- Bake in a moderate oven for 45-50 minutes. Turn onto a cake rack to cool.
- Best eaten on the day it is made slathered with butter. An ideal winter Sunday afternoon treat.

## NEW PROBUS CLUB

New horizons, new adventures and new friends in retirement.

A new Probus Club that meets in Royal Parade Parkville at 10am on the first Tuesday of the month is seeking new members.

Contact Philip Morrissey  
**0417 387 268** or  
[philjm@bigpond.com](mailto:philjm@bigpond.com) for more information.



The joy of the fete

## WINTER NIGHT MARKETS

Melbourne's hottest foodies, makers, creators and performers will once again cosy up under the historic sheds of Queen Victoria Market for the Winter Night Market. Wednesday nights from 5pm to 10pm until the end of August.



Kids enjoy the animal farm at the childcare centre fete

## A FARMERS' MARKET IN TOWN

Goldsbrough Lane Gourmet Farmers' Market is your one-stop, convenient city shop for farm fresh, wholesome and organic and hand-made produce, with 25 proud and passionate stall holders eager to meet you.

Goldsbrough Lane near the corner of Little Bourke and William Street, **every Thursday 4:30 - 7:30 pm until 15 December.**



## Dear Reader

Dear Reader is a regular book talk-show podcast made by two chatty librarians, Justine and Natalie. Each episode reviews 6 books. Some episodes have special guest reviewers who drop in for a chat. Guests have included authors Emily Bitto and Toni Jordan. Some episodes are themed; Australian Women Writers, Books to make us laugh, Fireside reads and Regal Reads recorded especially for the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Episodes are released fortnightly on a Monday. There are currently 11 episodes available to listen to on the Melbourne Library Service's Soundcloud page.

<https://soundcloud.com/melbourne-library-service/sets/dear-reader>





## CONCERTS AT HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity will host monthly high quality, low cost concerts from August.

The majority will be on a Friday evening and admission will be \$25/\$20 including after concert refreshments. More information at [holytrinitymelbourne.org.au](http://holytrinitymelbourne.org.au)

## NEED A DOCUMENT WITNESSED?

Local Justice of the Peace, Jan Burke can help by:

- attesting the execution of a document
- witnessing an affidavit for use in court
- witnessing a statutory declaration
- certifying a true copy of an original document
- certifying a person's identity.

Call Jan on **0413 623 111**. She is available evenings and weekends.



Adrian and his election day snag



Installation of new gas pipes closed roads over winter

## CLASSICS AT FED SQUARE

Enjoy your favourite music held in the stunning surrounds of Deakin Edge. Held on the first Monday of the month these free concerts offer something for everyone, from classical and swing to big band and jazz – even contemporary pop. Noon - 1:00 pm.



Kids having fun at East Melbourne child care centre

# East-bourne and Bred Theatre Duo

*Graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2014, Tom Halls and Simone French formed immersive theatre company Hotel Now. Both living only two blocks apart in East Melbourne, their study and walks home from University meant the two were able to rehearse conveniently after their 40 hour week at drama school.*

The first work *Hotel Now* presented was an immersive theatre experiment, *SALIGIA*. Audience members were blindfolded and led through a ritual experience; 'we were inspired by the New York production of *Sleep No More* by Punchdrunk where audience members chose their own adventure' French said. Winning the Hannah Barry Memorial Award for this work, the two went on to co-create *Contra* with fellow company members at Melbourne Fringe 2014. This piece merged Christopher Hampton's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with George Orwell's *1984* to create a dystopian Australia where the state governs your career, rations food and orchestrates relationships.

French and Halls share a love for the spectacular and take much inspiration from filmmakers such as Baz Luhrmann and John Waters. They believe performance art can take audiences on journeys into alternative worlds, giving them experiences that feed the imagination and ignite the senses. Aware that live theatre can seem inaccessible to some people, the two decided that they wanted to make their performances an invitation to those who would usually choose to see a film instead.

'It can be daunting accessing a theatre and knowing the protocol of that space. To be honest, it's not that different to a cinema. Come in, take your seat and let us entertain you.'

*Nothing Special* is the brand new production for dynamic duo *Hotel Now*, premiering at the 2016 Melbourne Fringe Festival in September. It explores the desire for Generation Y to be "different and unique" and the effect this has on the larger population. A surrealist black comedy, *Nothing Special* brings visual art to life, taking the company to new horizons. *Hotel Now* will present this work at the SOKOL Club in North Melbourne and would love their East Melbourne neighbours to be there.

You can meet the very talented Simone when she next performs at East Melbourne's Quizmas.

### Nothing Special, Presented by Hotel Now Melbourne Fringe Festival 2016

**Date:** 22 Sep – 30 Sep, 8pm (No Show Wednesday)

**Venue:** SOKOL Club, 497 Queensberry St, North Melbourne

**To book tickets:** email [welcometohotelnow@gmail.com](mailto:welcometohotelnow@gmail.com) or call **0419 582 844**

**Full:** \$25 / Concession: \$16 / Cheap Tuesday: \$16 / Group 6+: \$16  
Follow *Hotel Now* at [www.facebook.com/welcometohotelnow](http://www.facebook.com/welcometohotelnow)





# Ride, Park & Walk



*The introduction of new bus and bike lanes has had a significant impact on residents and businesses in East Melbourne. This prompted us to ask the City of Melbourne to explain how its long term transport objectives will impact our suburb. This is Council's response. Please tell us what you think.*

## REDUCING CONGESTION IN THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

The number of trips to, from and within the municipality is estimated to increase from approximately 2 million per day (in 2012) to 3.3 million per day by 2030. This means it's important to encourage sustainable transport options to avoid traffic and parking congestion.

We are working on a number of projects that will help to alleviate the effects of increased traffic and parking congestion and while there may be increased pressure on parking and traffic in the short term, the long term benefits will be worth it.

Our work will focus on improving the safety and amenity of bike lane facilities, pedestrian paths and public transport movements to cater for the continuing increase in central city residents, workers and visitors.

Council has made improvements in the following areas:

### BIKE LANE FACILITIES

#### *Throughout the municipality*

Nearly 17 per cent of all vehicles travelling into the city centre during the morning peak period are bicycles and surveys have shown an increase of approximately 7000 cyclists during the morning peak hour period (7-10am) since 2007 – this is equivalent to adding around seven new trains or 140 new buses to the public transport network.

Since 2007, we have been working closely with surrounding councils on bike plan improvements, so it is likely that this has contributed to the increase in cyclists coming from further afield.

We have also recently released the Bicycle Plan 2016-2020, which outlines our plan to extend Melbourne's bicycle network by creating new local routes and key cross-city connections. This plan can be viewed at [Melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://Melbourne.vic.gov.au)

The Bicycle Plan aims to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injury crashes, increase bike use to one in four vehicles entering the city in the morning peak and for seven per cent of all trips to, within and from the municipality to be on a bike.

#### *Albert Street*

We have recently installed improved directional signage and infrastructure to promote the cycling connection between Albert Street and La Trobe Street in order to provide a continuous bike route through the city connecting Footscray and Docklands to the eastern suburbs.

We also recently approved the installation of bike lanes in the citybound carriageway of Albert Street, between Hoddle and Powlett Streets. This proposal will remove a critical missing gap from the La Trobe Street/Albert Street bike corridor. Works are expected to commence very soon.

The new section of bike lane will be similar to the bike lane in Clarendon Street, East Melbourne (see photo below). The design maintains full-time parking adjacent to the footpath to ensure that residents are not negatively impacted. Traffic modelling also predicts that traffic capacity should not be affected as this section of Albert Street is currently 'fed' by one lane from all directions at the intersection of Hoddle Street.

Despite the fact that this section of Albert Street currently does not include a bike lane, the number of city bound cyclists travelling from 7-10am has tripled since 2009. By providing a safe and comfortable bike lane in Albert Street, we expect to see more cyclists using this route.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT – VICTORIA PARADE BUS UPGRADE PROJECT

As part of the Victoria Parade Bus Upgrade Project implemented by Vic Roads, approximately 200 on-street parking spaces were removed from within the municipality of Melbourne (in addition to a significant number of spaces from the City of Yarra).

VicRoads is waiting to complete the installation of bus signal priority at intersections along Victoria Parade, particularly at Nicholson and Brunswick Streets, prior to undertaking a formal post-implementation review. The City of Melbourne will seek data from VicRoads once they have completed their review to better understand the extent of the improvements on bus travel times or increased patronage.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT – WELLINGTON PARADE TRAM PLATFORM

The City of Melbourne supported the construction of the platform tram stop adjacent to Jolimont Train Station by Yarra Trams on behalf of Public Transport Victoria (PTV).

The new sheltered stops are fully accessible and are designed to improve safety, amenity and storage capacity for passengers,

The location also maximises safety and connectivity for pedestrians connecting from Jolimont Train Station or the MCG and provides excellent service for local residents.

We successfully lobbied VicRoads (the authority for arterial roads such as Wellington Parade), on behalf of local residents, to maintain on-street parking adjacent to the tram platform during non-peak periods. We also installed short-term parking in Clarendon and Powlett Streets in order to assist short-term visitors and deliveries to local properties, following significant community consultation with local residents and businesses.

The locations of future tram platforms along Wellington Parade are still to be determined by Yarra Trams and will be designed in consideration with the Melbourne Metro Rail Project subject to further community consultation.

## PEDESTRIAN PATHS

In East Melbourne, we have been investigating potential pedestrian safety improvements, particularly at roundabouts. For example, in 2012, kerb extensions were constructed at the roundabouts of Powlett Street/Grey Street and Powlett Street/Hotham Street in order to enhance pedestrian safety by reducing vehicle travel speeds and reducing pedestrian crossing distances.

## CAR SHARE

Car share programs help reduce the number of privately owned cars on the road and in residential parking spaces, benefiting both new and existing residents.

Council recently approved a new car share policy that sets a target of 2000 total car share spaces within the municipality by 2021. This means more than 850 on-street car share spaces will be designated for car share vehicles.

While a new car share vehicle in the street may appear to remove an existing parking space, it will help to reduce the future overall number of vehicles parked in the street.

Research suggests that each car share vehicle will:

- Reduce the number of vehicles privately owned by residents by nine vehicles; and
- Reduce each member's private vehicle usage by 50 per cent.

There are currently 18 on-street car share spaces provided in East Melbourne and used by three car share providers - Flexicar, GoGet and GreenShareCar. For more information, including the locations of car share vehicles (on-street and off-street) please visit their websites.



# Brexit backlash – the fallout for investors

BY PATRICK BROUGHTON

*The mood in London is universally glum after last week's Brexit referendum was won by the "leave" party. Even the exiteers are feeling blue with many now regretting their vote. The reaction from the EU is also contributing to global market uncertainty and instability within the region, which may perpetuate slower economic growth worldwide.*

## The exit campaign leaders appear uncertain about what to do next

In fact, as they did not expect the win they appear to have no plan at all, setting the stage for massive political internal infighting. The Scottish National Party's Nicola Sturgeon believes that she may be able to block a Brexit, or failing that, is considering staging a second Scottish independence referendum that could allow the country to join the EU in its own right.

## A Brexit in some form remains by far the most likely outcome

There is a small chance however that the exit may not happen at all. There are precedents in this regard, not least the Danish public voting against the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, only to renegotiate and then ratify it via a second referendum in 1993. Given the referendum is advisory only, the government has the final say whether to implement. Interestingly, the majority of MPs appear to be in favour of staying, but there will likely be public dissatisfaction if they don't follow the wishes of their constituents.

## In or out, London will remain a pre-eminent financial hub

London straddles both the Asia and US time zones, allowing traders access to numerous markets. In addition, its mother tongue is English, it has strong existing laws, regulations and infrastructure, and London remains an attractive place to live. Furthermore, banks, fund managers and insurance companies are unlikely to spend money completely relocating staff who live, work and educate their children in London. And the city of London and the UK authorities will likely move heaven and earth to keep them.

## That said, there are a lot of issues to work through

The level of the fallout on whether the UK will really be missed in the EU remains to be seen, but the coming weeks and months will be filled with uncertainty that will no doubt create volatility. In our opinion, Europe (and for that matter the UK) still remain uninvestible at this stage and caution should be taken if considering investment in the region. The Brexit is not the only challenge on the EU horizon, the region is also battling sluggish economic growth and the immigration crisis on top of the need to implement significant structural reforms to stabilise the economy, the currency and the global share market.

## So what does the Brexit fallout mean for Australians, especially investors?

We will likely see more volatility, a flight to safety in the US dollar, central banks will flood markets with cash to attempt to stabilise, and global growth will likely slow as consumers keep their hands in their pockets and wait to see what will happen next. The UK and Europe may drop into recession in the short term. Beyond the financial market impact, there are also potential trade implications. On the upside, our dollar has rallied against the pound, which is good for travellers to the region. It is important to remember Britain is not leaving the EU immediately and this process will likely play out over the next few years.

## The investment outlook requires a lot of thought

For local investors, there are considerations to factor in now. While central bank

liquidity provision may support prices of risk assets in the near term, in our opinion this is not a compelling buy signal from a strategic perspective as key risks remain unresolved. For the last few years our general recommendation has been to avoid Europe, retain US dollar exposure, remain cognisant of the huge geopolitical risks in the world, maintain portfolio diversification and keep sufficient cash. In our view this general strategy continues to make sense as the situation will not play out quickly and patience is key. At some stage there may be opportunities generated by volatility.

For more Dixon Advisory Insights, please visit [www.dixon.com.au/EMG](http://www.dixon.com.au/EMG)

*As a general recommendation, this strategy does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. As always, your personal circumstances are critical when considering any financial strategy and seeking professional personal advice is highly recommended.*

## Free SMSF consult for East Melbourne residents Call this week

If you've been thinking of starting a self managed super fund, our free SMSF consultation can help you understand whether it's the right option for you. Alternatively, if you're an existing SMSF trustee a consultation with one of our dedicated SMSF experts might help you discover new ways of getting more from an SMSF.

Your local Dixon Advisory team has supported more than 6,000 Melbourne families establish and manage their own self managed super funds and we're confident that we can help you too.

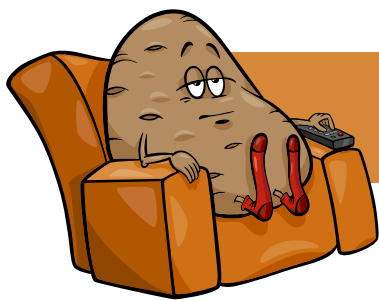
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# Get Off The Couch

*'It's winter' you tell yourself as you snuggle down on the couch.  
It's too cold to exercise today. 'I'll do something tomorrow'*

BY IVAN  
ETEROVIC

**T**omorrow never comes and your health and fitness falls behind another year.

Winter, not summer, is the best time to keep active outdoors. Winter UV levels are safe which builds resistance to summer levels.

Studies have shown that 10 to 20 minutes of exercise in the sun can boost libido and lower your risk of developing breast cancer. Getting outside to exercise lowers blood pressure and stimulates the vitamin D production necessary to fight inflammation, create hormone balance, stimulate fat loss, drive muscular and bone health, boost fertility and foetal brain development while lowering risk of gestational diabetes and pre-eclampsia during pregnancy.

Oh and if you want that second cookie guilt free, you got it!

**Pro Tip** – Exercising with a partner will give you the motivation and accountability necessary to stick to exercise.

**Avoid bone creak this winter!**

Walking is a great place to start if you've been inactive. However it may not be enough to stimulate the bone growth necessary to fend off osteoporosis as you age.

Inserting a 60 second run into your walk stimulates three times more bone growth than non-impact exercise like walking or cycling.

Not ready to take this step? Give 'zigzag walking' a whirl: side-to-side strides, or forward and suddenly backward steps. The

surprise change in direction may also help build stronger bones.

Age related conditions such as, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis incontinence and osteoporosis can be improved with exercise.

Here are four essential exercises for longevity and independence as you age:

1. Pelvic floor exercises – help prevent incontinence.
2. Hip bridges – build the muscles that fracture-proof your hips.
3. Wall slides – build leg muscles to prevent falls and reduce creaking knees.
4. Walking, raking leaves, mowing lawn and gardening – maintains endurance and heart health

**Pro Tip** – Pool walking is a great low impact alternative to improve heart health.

Fitnessxplosion is Ivan Eterovic and Darren King who share over 25 years boxing, pilates, nutrition and fitness coaching experience and have been helping your neighbours achieve results ranging from tight tummies to overcoming emotional eating.

We also run successful corporate health programs to get the office fit.

Get off the couch this winter with 'Nine Ways to Stick to Your Exercise Program'. Look us up on Facebook or contact us on [info@personaltraininf.com.au](mailto:info@personaltraininf.com.au) to grab your copy.



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# Do you want onions with that?

BY SIUSAN MACKENZIE

It seems that the election-day sausage sizzle is a highlight of polling day for some voters who go so far as to refer to [electionsausagesizzle.com.au](http://electionsausagesizzle.com.au) to determine where they will cast their vote. This year Twitter got on board too by alerting election tweeters to the closest barbecue.

The sausage is often associated with childhood memories, which might explain why we can't seem to resist the urge to indulge. For me the memory is the thrill of being allowed to light a fire in the backyard on which to scorch a sausage for lunch.

Sausage sizzles are uniquely Australian and have become very much part of election-day. Not only do they provide the opportunity for local community organisations such as the East Melbourne Group (EMG) to raise funds but they also help foster social capital as neighbours stop to chat over a sausage.

EMG strives to create social capital through the many events it hosts and supports each year, several of which are reported in this magazine.

Can you believe that on our recent election-day, there were 2094 sausage sizzle sites registered at polling places



Stuart & Tom serving up a treat

across Australia? This great Australian tradition is so culturally important that the website even had events registered at polling booths in Cambodia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands where it is rumoured ambassadors were spotted wielding tongs and offering sauce at barbecues outside their embassies.

Whilst EMG was proud to offer top quality lean snags from Bertie's butcher in Swan Street as well as vegetarian sausages from Coles, offerings at other inner city electorates included gluten-free options and cakes. We considered adding coleslaw for some pizzazz but call us late adopters, we kept it simple.

Judging by the steady stream of customers at our sausage sizzle outside the polling booth in Grey Street it must be almost un-Australian to vote without also buying a sausage on election-day.

Suzu Lee commented on the EMG Facebook site 'The best voting sausage I've ever had'.

## PROPERTY UPDATE

BY JACOB CAINE

Continuing last year's robust performance, the housing market in East Melbourne has begun 2016 with a flurry of activity and commanding results. Whilst bidding at auctions hasn't produced the same frenzied displays, successful auction campaigns remain high and prices continue to rise – perhaps at more sustainable levels. At the time of writing the median sale price in East Melbourne is an incredible \$3,600,000.

East Melbourne has enjoyed sixty-five property transactions thus far in 2016, nine of which were houses. The highest reported sale price of \$5,100,000 was achieved by local agency Caine Real Estate for the magnificent fin-de-siecle estate at 36-38 Hotham St.

The rental market in East Melbourne has continued to perform well throughout 2016. There has been a small contraction at the top end of the market with properties above \$1250 per week suffering from decreased competition. The current median rent for houses in East Melbourne is \$900 per week. The current median rent for apartments sits at \$495 per week. The highest reported rent achieved was \$1400 per week for a three-bedroom home on Gipps St, also by local agent Caine Real Estate.

As local residents are undoubtedly aware two (three) new developments have begun selling within the suburb. The Eastbourne, Mosslenoch/Parade projects will add more than two hundred and fifty luxury residences to the area.

The Melbourne market this year has been defined by comparatively low levels of housing stock. In many of the most sought after suburbs supply has decreased anywhere from 10-30 per cent compared with the same period last year. Record low interest rates are contributing to the increasing demand for quality properties, and intensifying supply issues.

The unprecedentedly lengthy Federal Election campaign failed to engage or distract activity in the property market. Interestingly, there isn't significant historical evidence to suggest election campaigns have any negative effect on the property market.

Other factors that may have a detrimental impact the property market, particularly apartments, are a tightening of lending by the major banks and increased stamp duty imposed by the Victorian Government on foreign buyers. However, the low Australian dollar will continue to make local property extremely attractive to both overseas buyers and ex-pats.

There is a common misconception that selling during winter months fails to deliver exceptional results. Whilst the number of properties offered for sale does decrease throughout the winter months, the number of people needing to buy doesn't.



26-28 August

**MelbourneEast Arts**

193 Hotham St, East Melbourne VIC 3002

[info@mearts.org.au](mailto:info@mearts.org.au)

Over the centuries churches have been in the forefront of support for the arts. This is personified in sponsored art and architecture as seen in churches and cathedrals in the form of soaring gothic arches, painting, sculpture, handicrafts and sublime music. It is in this tradition that Holy Trinity presents its annual Melbourne East Arts Festival on the weekend 26th-28th August. Preceded by canapés and drinks the Festival will be opened on Friday evening by Professor Geoffrey Blainey and he will be followed by an orchestral performance by La Fraternité de Solisti conducted by Gyula Cseszko.

During the weekend an exhibition of paintings by Julie Chiffey titled *In the Landscape* will be displayed in the church. *3-D Art*, an exhibition of felt maker Sarah Ricketts' works will also be displayed in the church, and from

2pm Sarah will lead an interactive felting workshop in the Parish Centre at 193 Hotham Street East Melbourne.

One of the aims of the Festival is to encourage and present young artists and this year students of Monash University Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music will offer a program of vocal and instrumental music. Other musical events will be by presented by Robert Lloyd and the Melbourne Women's Choir conducted by Faye Dumont.

For lovers of the dance, professional dance group DanceBourne Arts will perform *Balance*.

This is an exciting Bishopscourt ting and eclectic program that should appeal to all tastes.

Further information about pricing and the program at [holyltrinitymelbourne.org.au](http://holyltrinitymelbourne.org.au)



## Get inside East Melbourne

If you love history, architecture and design, you'll love Open House Melbourne on 30 & 31 July. It is a free event that offers a chance to explore the city's most historic, unique and significant buildings, religious structures and architectural monuments. The best part is you don't have to pay anything to tour these buildings and this year there is a huge selection to view without even leaving East Melbourne.

Grab a coffee and go for a stroll to check out these local buildings:

- Bishops court in Clarendon Street
- The tiny modern residential footprint in Hayes Lane
- Victorian Artists' Society
- The spectacular Johnston Collection Museum

- East Melbourne Synagogue
- Orica House
- St Peter's Eastern Hill
- The German Lutheran Church

All totally different and very significant local spaces. Go to **[openhousemelbourne.org](http://openhousemelbourne.org)** for more information about opening times and locations.



5x4 Hayes Lane Project



Bishops court

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## Creative East Melbourne Kids

Hey kids, if you are aged between 3 and 12 years and would like to win a \$50.00 Readings voucher, enter the East Melbourne Kids' Creative Competition.

All you have to do is draw or make a mystical decoration to place on the magical Fairies' Tree which will be in place at the East Melbourne library throughout August.

Entries accepted at the library from Monday 11 July to close of business on Friday 19 August. There will be prizes in two age categories 3 to 5 years and 6 to 12 years.



Littles at the East Melbourne Childcare Coop get creative



# Jim Hughes - A Man of Action

BY ROB MCCOLL

*Jim Hughes*, 86, usually walks his two dogs, Kimba, a toy poodle, and Sadie, a miniature poodle, three times a day. On one of these walks – the afternoon one – he congregates at Yarra Park, with other East Melbourne and Richmond residents, to talk about subjects ranging from AFL to community matters. One afternoon, however, a different subject was introduced. A fellow dog-owner asked if Jim had ever been in one of the wars. With a smile, Jim replied that he hadn't been in one. He'd been in four.

For his service in those four wars – Korea, Borneo, Malaya and Vietnam – Jim is highly decorated. He was awarded a Military Cross in 1951 and a Distinguished Service Order in 1972. He was also awarded an Order of Australia in 1982. In spite of these achievements, Jim is modest and discreet, so much so, that the extent of his successes often astounds even close friends. Ian Kelly, Jim's friend and neighbour, says he is sometimes enlightened about Jim's military contributions by history books. 'There's a book about the Vietnam War (titled 'In Good Company'), and there is a page describing a battle with an infantry platoon of Australian soldiers running out of ammunition, fighting against the North Vietnamese Army,' Ian says. 'And Jim, in those days Lt Col Jim Hughes, was the regimental commanding officer of 4 RAR. He flew to the battle location in the regimental light observation helicopter and ensured that ammunition was dropped to the troops under fire. One sentence reads 'Before long the commanding officer was overhead and hovering near our marker balloon'. Jim had never mentioned this incident to Ian in Yarra Park.

Jim seems to prefer sharing stories about his service that have a humorous touch. He recounts a circumstance in Korea. 'They were at long last letting a few Australians come into Brigade Headquarters,' Jim says, referring to his last month in the Korean War. Jim was eager to get into the Brigade Headquarters and fortunately Jim had a contact there. His previous Company Commander was now at the Headquarters and was pleased to welcome him. 3 RAR had just welcomed a new Commanding Officer; nine years older than Jim and his own brother, and he was happy for Jim to obtain the experience.



Now retired, Jim is still actively involved in the community as well as in military associations. Over the years, many residents and passers-by have borne witness to Jim watering the trees on Wellington Parade. 'It was a job that had to be done', Jim says. Evident, too, for all who have attended a Community Trivia Night at St Peter's Church is another of Jim's contributions; his work as co-chairman of the 'St Peter's Restoration Appeal'. When he began his stint on the committee, Jim says the church, built in 1834, was falling to bits. At

this early stage, Jim recalls a meeting with a heritage expert. Jim met the expert once and bizarrely, never heard from him again. Jim describes this as a lucky escape. The expert escaped the ten years it took Jim and the rest of the committee, to stop the leaks, re-fix the roof, and find the money to do so. 'My own approach to this is that I live in a community, and if I can contribute to make it better, then we're all better off,' Jim says.

Beyond the streets of East Melbourne, Jim has contributed to Legacy Australia, as a Legatee. 'We more or less do what we can for the widows of servicemen.' During his decades-long work for Legacy, Jim has helped some 285 widows who lost husbands in the Second World War; many who are elderly and in need of support. He expresses distaste and bemusement at the widows' absent children. 'Really they shake me,' Jim says.

Jim had wanted to contribute to Legacy since the sixties, but says it took him quite some time to be recommended. In fact, following decades of diplomacy and appeals, he was recommended after employing a different approach. 'I got two of them together,' Jim says, of two army friends. 'I said, 'You and you. Go. You're going to recommend me, aren't you?' And they did. Legacy has proved a rewarding enterprise for Jim; and brings a positive change to the lives of the widows. 'It makes it easier when you've got a family who's very supportive of them, and when you see that, you smile,' Jim says.

When asked why he received the prestigious Order of Australia in 1982, Jim says with a smile, 'I was a good boy'. That certainly seems to be the first impression of Jim. 'If you meet him in the park, you think, 'He's just a good bloke,' Ian says. 'But he's a man of action and he's done it all.'

## 3002: a green outlook

*East Melbourne is a special place. It's easy to see why East Melbourne was recently declared the most liveable suburb in the world's most liveable city: its green open spaces, heritage streetscapes, vibrant community and proximity to the city. There's so much to love about East Melbourne.*

And, along with neighbouring suburbs, East Melbourne is special as it is the first community to be represented by Greens in Federal, State and local governments.

With liveability of inner Melbourne increasingly coming under pressure, my Greens colleagues and I are working hard to protect the things we love about East Melbourne.

We are working to protect East Melbourne's parks and open spaces, including by

pushing to end car parking in Yarra Park so that residents can enjoy their local park, like I do with my dogs Max and Albi.

I will introduce a bill to help tackle increasing aircraft noise from unregulated aircraft over East Melbourne by lifting height limits and ensuring regulators take amenity into account.

And we'll continue our campaign to ban developer donations from politics, so that

Adam with his dogs Max and Albi



East Melbourne's liveability doesn't come under threat from developments that don't respect the local community.

These are just some of the ways we are standing up for East Melbourne. If there's an issue that is important to you, please get in contact at [adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au) or on 9417 0759.





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